



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2013



CSH Affiliate

## Common Cause: Citizens United & 2012 Elections

On Monday, February 18, Kim Hynes of Connecticut Common Cause will talk to us about how the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court in 2010 affected the 2012 election. She will specifically speak to the issue of secretive and special interest spending on political advertising.

Connecticut Common Cause is a nonprofit, nonpartisan citizens lobby dedicated to improving the way state government operates. Whether it is advocating for opening committee meetings to the public or compelling the passage of the strongest campaign finance law in the nation, Connecticut Common Cause has been a leading voice in reforming state government.

Kim joined Common Cause in January of 2008. As its senior organizer, Kim is responsible for outreach to Connecticut residents in an effort to increase civic engagement and enable people to have a voice in the political process. Kim coordinates citizen activism in support of legislation intended to increase government accountability and transparency, as well as voting rights. She also runs voter registration drives, coordinates rallies and marches, and manages social media for Common Cause in Connecticut.

Kim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Mount Holyoke College and worked as a molecular biologist for Bayer Corporation before her transition to civic education and activism.

Join us Monday, February 18 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will begin with refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by plenty of time for discussion.

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [meetup.com/cthumanist](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### FEBRUARY

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: Incredible Edible Community Building.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 16	United Coalition for Reason Publicity Workshop with Fred Edwards.	2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Kim Hynes of Connecticut Common Cause on the effect of the Citizens United decision on elections.	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 23	Book Discussion: "The Better Angels of Our Nature" by Stephen Pinker.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 26	Hartford Area Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444	6:30 p.m.

### MARCH

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Ken Feder "Lye Stones, Cider Presses, and Sacrificed Virgins: Converging Evidence at the Mystery Hill Site in NH"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 23	Book Discussion: "The Plague" by Albert Camus.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 26	Hartford Area Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444	6:30 p.m.

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

## Conversations: Incredible Edible Community Building

Pam Warhurst cofounded Incredible Edible, an initiative in Todmorden, England dedicated to growing food locally by planting on unused land throughout the community. In her August, 2012 TED talk she explains, "We started with a simple question: Can we find a unifying language that cuts across age and income and culture that will help people themselves find a new way of living?" Throw away all of your preconceived notions of what the term "community gardening" means and join us on Saturday, February 2, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to discover this revolutionary experiment.

## USNH Cinema — February 1

On Friday, February 1 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, Frontline's controversial 2012 "Climate of Doubt" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. The optional potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

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## Membership Renewal Time

Because your newsletter editor is a bit pressed for time, we haven't gotten envelopes and renewal forms in with your newsletter yet. We plan to enclose those next month. If you would like to contribute to newsletter editor laziness (and save us a stamp), please feel free to mail in your renewal sooner! Any board member will also gratefully accept your renewal in person at any of our events.

We would like to extend a special thank-you to all members who have already renewed!

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## "How to Get Media Attention and Promote Your Group"

On Saturday, February 16, Fred Edwards will be holding a public-ity workshop at USNH from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fred is the national director of the United Coalition of Reason. He has over 35 years experience in freethought leadership, having served as executive director of the American Humanist Association, editor of the Humanist magazine, and president of Camp Quest. The event is sponsored by the Connecticut Coalition of Secular Organizations, of which the HAC is a member.

In this intensive training workshop, participants will be taught the ins and outs of :

- writing effective letters to the editor;
- writing effective press releases;
- holding press conferences and carrying out publicity stunts;
- preparing talking points for media appearances; and
- handling yourself on radio, TV, and with print reporters.

The program will also address powerful ways to use online social media. Because Fred will be bringing an extensive packet of materials for every attendee, please make sure you RSVP for this event.

RSVPs are being accepted at meetup.com or you can contact Dan Blinn at danblinn@ctsecular.org.

## Speaker at Hartford Area Dinner: Buy Local/Fair Trade

Our Guest Speaker for our Hartford Area Dinner in February will be Dan Finn, Director of Pioneer Valley Local First. Dan will tell us how consumers can strengthen their communities by buying local and will also talk about the growing Fair Trade movement. Join us on Tuesday, February 26 at the Wood-n-Tap restaurant at 12 Town Line Road in Rocky Hill. Drinks and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and our speaker at 7:00 p.m.

## Book Group to Read "The Better Angels of our Nature" by Steven Pinker

For our Saturday, February 23 meeting we will read "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined," by Steven Pinker. We will meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Plenty of copies are available in Connecticut public libraries as well as in book stores and online.

Refreshments will be served.

The book for March 23 will be "The Plague" by Albert Camus.

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org). We welcome humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry,

news items, cartoons, and illustrations. Please include a SASE to have material returned. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

### MEMBERSHIP

i Adult . . . . .	\$35
i Family . . . . .	\$50
i Newsletter Only . . . . .	\$10

i Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.

i In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to

i Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.

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