



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2014



CSH Affiliate

Darwin vs Hitler: Why Evolution Makes No Comment on Ethics

Paul Chiariello last spoke for HAC in November. We're bringing him back as our special Darwin Day speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, February 17.

Paul says of his talk: "In Ray Comfort's recent farcical introduction to Darwin's Origin of Species he makes a claim often repeated by Christian fundamentalists: the tragedies of Nazi Germany were inspired, fueled, and made possible by Darwin's 'theory' of evolution. If evolution is true, we're nothing but animals! Survival of the Fittest implies we ought not give a helping hand to those in need. In fact, so the argument goes, we should speed up the process. But is this what we should learn from what scientists claim about Natural Selection? And if not, what moral guidance if any might we glean from it?"

Paul Chiariello is the current Director of Operations and Co-founder of the Yale

Humanist Conversations

At 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will watch and discuss the December 13, 2013, Bill Moyers episode featuring historian Richard Slotkin on the topic of the role of guns and violence in our society.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

FEBRUARY 2014

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: Bill Moyers episode with Richard Slotkin on guns and violence	2:30 p.m
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 15	Book discussion: "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn	2:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: Paul Chiariello — "Darwin vs Hitler: Why Evolution Makes No Comment on Ethics"	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

MARCH 2014

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: Arthur Saxon — "P. T. Barnum"	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
www.facebook.com/cthumanist
www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Humanist Community. In addition, Paul works with the Rutgers Humanist Chaplaincy, mostly with their blog AppliedSentience.com, as well as Camp Quest as the Program Director for Camp Quest New

England and the Director of the Humanism and Philosophy Curriculum at Camp Quest Inc. Paul earned his MSc in Comparative and International Education from Oxford University.

We will begin with our customary half-hour of refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. followed by Paul's presentation at 8:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Bring a friend!

Email List

To join, send an email to:
hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org
with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an email to:
hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org
with the subject **unsubscribe**.

Officers

- President June Schafer
(203) 281-6232
president@cthumanist.org
- Vice-President Carol Siddall
- Secretary Deidre Kennedy
- Treasurer Carol Podgwaite

Committee Chairs

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Halina Platt
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Richard Siddall
- Publicity Dan Blinn
- Hospitality Randy Olear

Newsletter

- Editor Carol Siddall
(203) 264-8546
editor@cthumanist.org
- Production: Richard Siddall
(203) 264-2182
webmaster@cthumanist.org

USNH Potluck/Cinema February 7

USNH will hold its monthly potluck, film, and discussion on Friday, February 7th, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. and the film at 7:00 p.m. This month a collection of short films will include: Idle No More; Honor The Treaties; The Elsipogtog Mi'kmaq resistance to fracking; and The Mayan Zapatista Silent Mobilization. Discussion will follow.

Book Group: "Ishmael"

The Book Group will meet at USNH at 2:00 p.m. on February 15 to discuss "Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit" by Daniel Quinn. In case of bad weather, we will meet on February 22.

The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. "You are the teacher?" he asks incredulously. "I am the teacher," the gorilla replies. Ishmael is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard. It is a story that extends backward and forward over the lifespan of the earth from the birth of time to a future there is still time to save. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man's destiny to rule the world? Or is a higher destiny possible for him — one more wonderful than he has ever imagined?

The book is widely available at public libraries and at on-line and retail bookstores. Refreshments will be served.

www.cthumanist.org

www.facebook.com/cthumanist • www.meetup.com/cthumanist • www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Copyright © 2014, Humanist Association of Connecticut.

Articles may be reproduced without written permission, providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27

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. 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.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

MEMBERSHIP

- Adult \$35
- Family \$50
- Newsletter Only \$10

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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO

I want my newsletter electronically only (circle one): YES NO

Where did you hear about us? _____

Comments: _____