



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2014



CSH Affiliate

The Bermuda Triangle: Anatomy of a Mystery

We're pleased to announce Ken Feder, Ph.D., will give another of his popular talks at our May monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Monday, May 19.

This talk is sponsored by a generous donation from Joyce Wolf in memory of her late husband and former HAC board member, Nat Wolf.

There is a wide swath of the Atlantic Ocean that harbors a terrifying mystery. Hundreds of boats, dozens of aircraft, and perhaps thousands of people have plied its waters or flown through its airspace only to disappear, with no evidence left behind of the tragedy that befell them. I am referring, of course, to the Bermuda Triangle. But is there really any mystery at all? Are the disappearances extraordinary or inexplicable? Ken Feder will examine some of the most famous stories told about the Bermuda Triangle, focusing on the most notorious: Flight 19 and the loss of five Avenger Torpedo bombers and the subsequent disappearance of one of the planes sent out to search for the five. The prosaic explanation for this 1945 tragedy is, as it always has been, visible in plain view. In other words, there's no need to cancel that cruise or visit to the Bahamas. You'll be fine.

Ken is a professor of Archaeology at Central Connecticut State University, author of five books and the co-author of another. He has been the token skeptic on several TV programs.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. Ken's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events

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

MAY 2014

Sat., 3	Humanist Conversations: <i>Your Inner Monkey</i>	2:30 p.m
Sun. 4	Connecticut Food Bank Walk Against Hunger	1:00 p.m
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting Main program: Ken Feder — <i>The Bermuda Triangle: Anatomy of a Mystery</i>	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m
Sat., 31	Book Discussion: "Thinking, Fast & Slow" by Daniel Kahneman	2:00 p.m

JUNE 2014

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Andrew Schneider of ACLU/CT	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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2014 Walk Against Hunger

It's not too late to donate to support the Humanist Association of Connecticut's team of walkers in the Connecticut Food Bank's 2014 Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger. The walk will be held on Sunday, May 4, at East Rock Park, located at the corner of Cold Spring and Orange Streets in New Haven.

You can join our team of walkers, or donate to support our team, by going to our team page on the Connecticut Food Bank's site at <http://cthumanist.org/walk>. You can also make donations by mail to HAC, or in person at our Humanist Conversations on May 3. Please make checks payable to Connecticut Food Bank.

Humanist Conversations

In May, 2008, our book group enjoyed reading "Your Inner Fish," by Paleobiologist Neil Shubin, exploring how our anatomy is shaped by our ancient animal ancestors. This year PBS has produced a fascinating three-part presentation of his work, exploring what our ancient ancestors can tell us about our modern bodies. On Saturday, May 3, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will watch and discuss the third and final episode of this series, entitled "Your Inner Monkey," in which Shubin takes us on an odyssey of our primate ancestors to introduce us to ourselves. Refreshments will be served.

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To join, send an email to:
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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.

USNH Cinema, Friday May 2

This month’s Humanist Cinema will be held Friday, May 2, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will be back to the traditional potluck dinner format, but will be showing a full-length movie, Lee Daniels’ *The Butler*. This 2013 Hollywood release was inspired by the true story of Eugene Allen, who served in the White House for 34 years under eight presidents, from Truman to Reagan. The movie is set against the historical events of Allen’s childhood on a plantation in the early 1920s, and his interactions with several presidents. Allen and his wife, Helene, are fictionalized as Cecil and Gloria Gaines, and are played by Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey.

The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the movie promptly at 7:00 p.m. Discussion follows.

“Thinking, Fast and Slow”

The Book Discussion Group will next read and discuss *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. We will meet on Saturday, May 31 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to discuss the book. In this international bestseller, Kahneman, the renowned psychologist and winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, takes us on a groundbreaking tour of the mind and explains the two systems that drive the way we think. System 1 is fast, intuitive, and emotional; System 2 is slower, more deliberative, and more logical. The impact of overconfidence on corporate strategies, the difficulties of predicting what will make us happy in the future, the profound effect of cognitive biases on everything from playing the stock market to planning our next vacation — each of these can be understood only by knowing how the two systems shape our judgments and decisions. Engaging the reader in a lively conversation about how we think, Kahneman reveals where we can and cannot trust our intuitions and how we can tap into the benefits of slow thinking. He offers practical and enlightening insights into how choices are made in both our business and our personal lives — and how we can use different techniques to guard against the mental glitches that often get us into trouble. Winner of the National Academy of Sciences Best Book Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and selected by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the ten best books of 2011, *Thinking, Fast and Slow* is destined to be a classic. The book is available in many public libraries. Refreshments will be served.

Thank You for Renewing Your Membership

Last month’s HAC newsletter included a renewal form and return envelope. Our 2014 renewal reminder went out a little late.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their renewal. If you haven’t managed to get yours in the mail yet, you’re welcome to bring in your renewal and hand it in at any HAC event.

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! In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to		Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
! Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street,		I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
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