



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2014



CSH Affiliate

## *An American Scientist on the Streets of Tehran*

Please join us on Monday, September 15 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, when John Pawelek will be our featured speaker.

A prominent USNH member and a long-time cancer investigator at the Yale School of Medicine, John has fascinated us in the past with presentations on his work focusing on the skin cancer melanoma. Author of more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, he is a frequent lecturer in the US and abroad. John has very recently returned from a lecture tour of Iran. He will tell us about the many people he met there, and their surprisingly warm feelings toward the United States.

As usual the evening will start at 7:30 p.m. with an informal half hour of conversation and refreshments. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m. with a few announcements followed by John's talk. There will be ample time afterward for Q&A and a full discussion. Come and bring a friend!

## *Humanist Conversations*

Nick Hanauer is a venture capitalist who is calling for a rise in the minimum wage and an end to trickle-down economics. Eric Liu is an educator who sees a very great need to educate the rank and file about the inner workings of power – what it is, how it operates and why some people have it.

Come hear them make their cases for their visions of a successful America in two short TED talks at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 6, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Refreshments will be served.

## *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).

### SEPTEMBER 2014

Sat., 6	<b>Humanist Conversations: Power and Economics</b>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 8	<b>Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002</b>	7:00 p.m
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m
	<b>Main program: John Pawelek – <i>An American Scientist on the Streets of Tehran</i></b>	8:00 p.m
Sun., 28	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

### OCTOBER 2014

Sat., 4	<b>Humanist Conversations: TBA</b>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 6	<b>Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002</b>	7:00 p.m
Sat., 18	Book discussion: “Dog Whistle Politics”	2:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m
	<b>Main program: Chris Stedman of Yale Humanist Community – <i>Finding Our Common Humanity: Building Community and Building Bridges</i></b>	8:00 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

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

## *People's Climate March: NYC*

In order to “galvanize and catalyze climate action,” United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for a Climate Summit at the UN starting September 23, 2014. He writes, “In 2014, we must turn the greatest collective challenge facing humankind today – climate change – into the greatest opportunity for common progress towards a sustainable future.” This links to information about the UN Climate Change Summit: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/>

In support of this meeting, the People's Climate March has been organized for Sunday, September 21, 2014. The purpose of the People's Climate March is to let international leaders know that ordinary people want their governments to take action to curb global warming. The sponsors of the march are a very disparate group of organizations including 350.org, the Sierra Club, various unions, the Ethical Culture Society, Occupy Sandy, the Union of Concerned Scientists as well as various faith-based organizations. This links to all kinds of additional details: <http://peoplesclimate.org/march/>

The organizers are anticipating 250,000 people from all over the country. It is expected to be a peaceful, family-friendly march with no speeches! (The organizers have decided not to have any rallies or speeches as part of the march because they don't want to single out particular groups or their leaders.) The march will begin at Columbus Circle, proceed over on 59th Street to 6th Avenue, down 6th Avenue to 42nd Street, then right on 42nd Street to 11th Avenue. The march will start in the early afternoon and cover 2 – 3 miles. Many Humanist groups will join American Ethical Union groups to march together, meeting at 66th Street and Central Park West at 10:30 am.

Please contact Dan Blinn for more details about getting there from here with fellow humanists at [danblinn@gmail.com](mailto:danblinn@gmail.com).

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

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

# Connecticut Secular Leadership Summit

The Connecticut Coalition of Reason is sponsoring a leadership summit on Saturday, September 20, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Current secular leaders and those interested in being a future secular leader are invited to attend. There will be a leadership workshop in the morning, followed by lunch (pizza with vegan options), and then an afternoon of brainstorming and networking.

The leadership workshop will be led by Michael Werner. It will provide suggestions for starting a local secular group and for how to increase participation in already existing groups. Suggestions and discussion will focus on group style, group promotion, factors for success, and successful organization models.

Michael has served as president of the American Humanist Association (<http://americanhumanist.org>), vice-president of the Fellowship of Religious Humanists (now the Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association: <http://humanists.org>), and an adjunct faculty member of the Humanist Institute (<http://humanistinstitute.org>). He has taught at several major universities and is a founder of SMART Recovery (<http://smartrecovery.org>).

Donations towards the pizza will be gratefully accepted. Please join us to learn together, share ideas, and work with others around the state to advance the secular movement in Connecticut!  
(HAC is a member of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason.)

## Book Discussion: Dog Whistle Politics

Join us on Saturday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for a discussion of “Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class” by Ian Haney López. The John H. Boalt Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, his research emphasizing the connection between racial divisions in society and growing wealth inequality in the United States has resulted in this eye-opening guide to the coded racial messages in today’s political discourse.

Bill Moyers found professor López’s book so compelling that he dedicated two full episodes of his show to the topic. The first episode is available here: <http://billmoyers.com/episode/ian-haney-lopez-on-the-dog-whistle-politics-of-race/>

Refreshments will be served.

## Social Cinema, Friday September 5

Free Pizza at 6:30 p.m. – Film at 7:15 p.m.

In the Social Hall at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

“The Gospel According to The Simpsons.” Join us for pizza, 3 Simpsons episodes, and a lively discussion of religion, irreverence, family and pop culture in 21st Century America.

Hosted by HAC member P.J. Deak for the USNH Adult Religious Education Committee. (Did we mention the pizza is free?)

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
! Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
! Family . . . . . \$50	_____
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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, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
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