



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

March 2015



CSH Affiliate

## Humanists Tour Great Britain

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, when we will escape the winter weather with a trip to the other side of the Atlantic, presented by our very own travel guides, Steve and Susan Boshi.

Steve says, "Great Britain, the island that comprises England, Wales and Scotland, is rich in history, art, and natural beauty, far beyond its relatively small size. From the cities of London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh to the bucolic countryside of Cornwall, the Cotswold Hills, and the wild and rugged Scottish Highlands, there exists incredible beauty and diversity. Join us for a colorful journey through this wonderful land of both reality and imagination."

We will gather for coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, March 16, with the main presentation starting after 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](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### MARCH 2015

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Discussion of proposed "Aid in Dying" Legislation in Connecticut with Tim Appleton of Compassion & Choices.	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Travels to England, Wales, & Scotland - Susan & Steve Boshi	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Wed., 18	Branding meeting at United Way, Waterbury	6:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	Book Group: "Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion" by Sam Harris	2:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

### APRIL 2015

Sat., 4	Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sun., 19	26th Anniversary Meeting Main program: David Niose	2:30 p.m 3:00 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

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

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist)  
[www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist)  
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## USNH Cinema: Friday, March 6th

USNH Cinema returns to the first Friday of the month. An optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the documentary film, *CowSpiracy: The Sustainability Secret* (2013), at 7:15 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. A groundbreaking environmental documentary which uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations do not talk about it. This shocking yet humorous documentary reveals the devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet, and offers a path to global sustainability for a growing population.

## Proposed "Aid in Dying" Legislation in Connecticut

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, when we will hear from Compassion & Choices' Connecticut Campaign Manager, Tim Appleton, on this year's attempt to pass an aid in dying bill similar to those in Oregon and Washington states. He will show the film, "The Last Campaign of Governor Booth Gardner," tell us more details about the Connecticut version of the bill, tell us where we are in the legislative process, and give us lots of opportunities to get involved. Please bring your questions and concerns! Refreshments will be served.

## Membership Renewal Time

Thank you to all who have already renewed or joined for 2015!

Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. If you have not already renewed your membership for 2015, please mail in your payment with a form from any newsletter, or give your payment to an officer at any HAC event. This month, your newsletter may have an extra renewal form.

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

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**Email List**

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

To unsubscribe, 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.

**Lobby Day**

The ACLU of Connecticut will be holding a lobby day starting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24 in the Old Judiciary Room in the Capitol building at 210 Capitol Avenue in Hartford. <http://www.acluct.org/events>.

**Book Discussion: Waking Up**

Join us on March 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss “Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion” by Sam Harris. Like John Horgan’s “Rational Mysticism: Spirituality Meets Science in the Search for Enlightenment,” Harris seeks to trace and understand the neuroscience behind what we traditionally refer to as “mysticism.” As Harris notes in his earlier book, “The End of Faith,” “Mysticism is a rational enterprise. Faith is not.”

From the jacket flap: “From Sam Harris, neuroscientist and author of numerous New York Times bestselling books, ‘Waking Up’ is for the twenty percent of Americans who follow no religion but who suspect that important truths can be found in the experiences of such figures as Jesus, the Buddha, Lao Tzu, Rumi, and the other saints and sages of history. Throughout this book, Harris argues that there is more to understanding reality than science and secular culture generally allow, and that how we pay attention to the present moment largely determines the quality of our lives. ‘Waking Up’ is part memoir and part exploration of the scientific underpinnings of spirituality. No other book marries contemplative wisdom and modern science in this way, and no author other than Sam Harris—a scientist, philosopher, and famous skeptic—could write it.”

“The fact is that ‘Waking Up’ lends a different picture of Harris (at least to me): an intelligent and sensitive person who is willing to undergo the discomfort involved in proposing alternatives to the religions he’s spent years degrading. His new book, whether discussing the poverty of spiritual language, the neurophysiology of consciousness, psychedelic experience, or the quandaries of the self, at the very least acknowledges the potency and importance of the religious impulse—though Harris might name it differently—that fundamental and common instinct to seek not just an answer to life, but a way to live that answer.” (Trevor Quirk, *The New Republic*)

Copies of the book are readily available in area libraries.

**Vanessa Zoltan at March Yale Humanist Haven**

On Sunday, March 8, at 1:00 p.m., the March Yale Humanist Community’s Humanist Haven will feature the Assistant Humanist Chaplain at Harvard, Vanessa Zoltan, on secular spirituality.

Once we leave the world of religion, where can we turn for comfort, connection, and wonder? Vanessa will tell her story about practicing secular faith by using Charlotte Bronte’s “Jane Eyre.” Vanessa is the Assistant Humanist Chaplain at Harvard and the author of a forthcoming book on Humanism and Jane Eyre. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and has worked in the nonprofit/education sector for over ten years as a teacher, community developer and education policy advocate.

This Yale Humanist Haven event will take place on Sunday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m. at The Grove, 760 Chapel Street, New Haven. Parking is available on the street (free on Sunday) or in nearby lots.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		Name(s): _____
! Adult . . . . .	\$35	Address: _____
! Family . . . . .	\$50	_____
! Newsletter Only . . . . .	\$10	Telephone: _____
! Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.		E-Mail Address: _____
! 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
		Where did you hear about us? _____
		Comments: _____