



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2015



CSH Affiliate

## Our 26th Anniversary!

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 2:30 p.m. on **Sunday, April 19**, when we will celebrate our 26th anniversary with David Niose.

The immediate past president of the American Humanist Association, David Niose currently serves as the legal director of the Appignani Humanist Legal Center, running the AHLC's Massachusetts office. Having practiced law in Massachusetts since 1990, Niose has also worked in print and broadcast media, taught both history and law, and written extensively on a wide array of issues. We issued David a challenge for our anniversary: tell us what good things are going on in the humanist movement. We think he's well-placed to know, and look forward to a talk that will encourage us in this time of seemingly endless negative news reports.

We will gather for coffee and conversation at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike on **Sunday, April 19**, with the main presentation starting after brief announcements at 3:00 p.m.

## Conversations

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 to view and discuss the *Frontline* episode, aired October 28, 2014, that investigates the miscalculations and mistakes behind the brutal rise of ISIS.

Refreshments will be served.

## Thank you for Renewing!

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

Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

## 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).

### APRIL 2015

Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 18	Book Group: "Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion" by Sam Harris	2:00 p.m
Sun., 19	26th Anniversary Meeting Main program: David Niose - Good News in Humanism	2:30 p.m 3:00 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

### MAY 2015

Sat., 2	Community Health Center Race for Mental Health at Hubbard Park, Meriden.	8:30 a.m
Sat., 2	Conversations: <i>Frontline</i> on ISIS	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sun., 17	Walk Against Hunger for Connecticut Food Bank at East Rock Park, New Haven	1:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: Ken Feder	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 24	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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## Week of Action: April 30 to May 6

Help us participate in the Week of Action! Join other humanists from the New Haven and Hartford areas in supporting the Community Health Center Race for Mental Health on Saturday, May 2, at 8:30 am. We are working out the logistics of whether they need us to volunteer and/or walk, but we encourage everyone to register for the walk. Registration is \$30 (feel free to ask a few friends to help with the registration) and can be done at <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=4915>. The walk is in Hubbard Park in Meriden just minutes from I691. Watch for the Meetup posting coming soon.

## 2015 Walk Against Hunger

The Humanist Association of Connecticut will again be walking in the Connecticut Food Bank's 2015 Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, May 17, at East Rock Park, located at the corner of Cold Spring and Orange Streets in New Haven.

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

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

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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**

On April 3, an optional pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the award-winning documentary film, *Diamonds In The Snow*, at 7:15 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The filmmaker will even appear!

**Book Discussion: Waking Up**

Rescheduled due to a late spring snowstorm, we will have our discussion of Sam Harris' "Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion" on April 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. 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." Harris expands on the last chapter of his earlier book, "The End of Faith," and does his best to explain his statement: "Mysticism is a rational enterprise. Faith is not."

We are very pleased to announce David Niose will join us in May via Skype to moderate our conversation about his recently published book, *Fighting Back the Right: Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason*. (We have no copies left for sale.) Further details of this event will be printed in the May Newsletter and posted on-line.

**Humanism at Yale Week!**

Chris Stedman and the rest of the Yale Humanist Community team have a full week of humanist activities at Yale the week of April 5 - 12, 2015. Highlights include: A celebrant training for people who want to learn how to officiate Humanist weddings, funerals, baby-naming ceremonies, and more, with the Connecticut Coalition of Reason and the Humanist Institute; a talk on Humanism and hip hop by Dr. Monica Miller; an interfaith service project with Saint Thomas More to address hunger and inequality in New Haven; a panel on what atheists *do* believe with Dr. Laurie Santos, Leighann Lord, and Ryan Bell; a talk at Yale Divinity School on "burying the dead in a secular age;" a board game night with prizes; discussion groups, dinners, and more.

Please visit <http://yalehumanists.com/week2015> for more details.

**April Yale Humanist Haven**

On Sunday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m., the April Yale Humanist Community's Humanist Haven will feature Melanie Brewster and Chris Johnson on the diverse narratives of nonreligious people.

This month Melanie Brewster, author of "Atheists in America" and professor at Columbia University's Teachers College, will explore the importance of narrative construction and storytelling in identity development and "coming out" for diverse atheists, including implications for mental health and community building. Then Chris Johnson, photographer and creator of "A Better Life: 100 Atheists Speak Out on Joy & Meaning in a World Without God" (one of highest-grossing publishing projects in the history of Kickstarter), will talk about how atheists find joy and meaning—and take some photos of members of our community! Q&A will be facilitated by Susan Campbell, former Hartford Courant columnist and author of "Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl." Refreshments and conversation will follow.

This event will take place on Sunday, April 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse 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? _____
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