



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

August 2015

UU Humanists Local Group

Understanding Climate Change

David Schafer will be the featured speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, August 17, with a talk on climate change. David gave a shorter version of this talk as a service at USNH in early July. As usual, the meeting will be held at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 7:30 p.m.

David says he will begin with some history, starting with several Ice Ages (thousands of years ago) and their explanation, by scientists from the early and later 19th century, in terms of low levels of “greenhouse gases,” notably carbon dioxide and methane, in Earth’s atmosphere.

Next he will turn to the exact opposite effects of recent times: potentially catastrophic warming of Earth’s atmosphere and solid and liquid surfaces due to rapid, steady accumulation of the same greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide, the major product of fossil fuel combustion. He will discuss the evidence for these changes and the associated arguments presented by climate scientists and others, including some politicians, who question their validity.

He will go on to present the most probable scenarios for future climate trends according to current predictions, without and

Calendar of Events

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

AUGUST 2015

Sat., 1	Conversations: “The Loving Story”	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	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: David Schafer — Understanding Climate Change	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 22	Book Discussion: “Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty” by John M. Barry	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sat., 5	Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 19	Book Discussion: “Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel” by Max Blumenthal	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: TBA	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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with various proposed solutions to the problem. He will close with some practical suggestions as to how each of us can contribute to these solutions.

David was a Fulbright Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at Calcutta University, India,

with a concurrent appointment to conduct basic cholera research for the Johns Hopkins Center for Medical Research and Training from 1963-66. From 1966-68, he joined the

Continued

Humanist Conversations: The Loving Story

At our August Humanist Conversations meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, we will watch and discuss the 2011 HBO documentary “The Loving Story.”

On June 2, 1958, a white man named Richard Loving and his part-black, part-Cherokee fiancée, Mildred Jeter, traveled from Caroline County, VA to Washington, D.C. to be married. At the time, interracial marriage was illegal in 21 states, including Virginia. Back home two weeks later, the newlyweds were arrested, tried and convicted of the felony crime of “miscegenation.” To avoid a jail sentence, the Lovings agreed to leave the state. Living in exile in D.C. with their children, the Lovings missed their families and dearly wanted to return to their rural home. At the advice of her cousin, Mildred wrote a letter to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who wrote her back suggesting she get in touch with the American Civil Liberties Union. Two young ACLU lawyers took on the Lovings’ case. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in their favor on June 12, 1967, which resulted in sixteen states being ordered to overturn their bans on interracial marriage.

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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.

“Selma”

USNH Social Cinema will be showing the film “Selma” on Saturday, September 12th. The potluck will start at 6:00 p.m. and the film will start between 7:00 - 7:15. A discussion will follow.

Climate Change, Continued

Rockefeller Foundation in Bangkok, Thailand, where he was acting physiology chair, new medical school, Mahidol University. The Rockefeller Foundation also supported two years of cholera research and six Bengali post-graduate students as teaching assistants. Not one to waste an opportunity, during those five years David also engaged in advanced study in Hinduism and Buddhism. After returning to the U.S., David spent the rest of his scientific career with the US

Veterans Administration, concurrently with Yale when he came to Connecticut from Minnesota. He also co-founded the Humanist Association of Connecticut and served as its president, after which he became national president of the Unitarian Universalist Humanists, 2003-2010.

We'll gather for coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, August 17, with David's presentation starting at 8:00 p.m.

Book Discussion: Roger Williams & the Creation of the American Soul by John Barry

Our book for August is “Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty” by noted author and historian John M. Barry.

Per the jacket:

For four hundred years, two fault lines have divided America: one is the proper relationship between the church and state, and the other is the balance between the rights of the individual versus the power of the state. In this extraordinary book, award-winning New York Times best-selling writer John M. Barry examines the origins of these fault lines. What he finds is as relevant today as it was when they first emerged in the seventeenth century.

From long-time *Harper's* editor and humanist Lewis Lapham: “Democracy assumes conflict not only as the normal but also as the necessary condition of its existence, the structure of the idea resembling a suspension bridge dependent upon the balance between countervailing forces. The project collapses unless the stresses oppose one another with more or less equal weight—unless enough people have enough courage to sustain the argument between the government and the governed, capital and labor, men and women, matter and mind. We squander the truth of our inheritance if we don't know how or why it was accumulated, against what odds, with what force of the human imagination and which powers of expression...John M. Barry's recent biography, ‘Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul,’ offers an impressive proof of the hypothesis.”

The book is readily available in numerous libraries around the state.

Note that the date of the discussion is the fourth, not third, Saturday in August.

Refreshments will be served.

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.	
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