



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

February 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

Darwin's Ecological Experiment

Join us on Monday, February 20, in the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) Social Hall to celebrate Darwin Day with a fascinating talk by HAC president Richard Siddall.

When Dr. David Wilkinson visited Ascension Island in the South Atlantic, he was amazed by its ecosystem. "I remember thinking, this is really weird," he said. "There were all kinds of plants that don't belong together in nature, growing side by side." Charles Darwin had visited Ascension on the return leg of the Beagle's voyage in 1836. In his diary, he recorded it as an arid, volcanic island. The lush cloud forest Wilkinson found on Ascension Island in 2003 was the product a collaboration between Darwin and his closest friend, Joseph Dalton Hooker.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Learn all about Darwin's experiment right after some brief announcements at 7:30 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.

FEBRUARY 2017

Sat., 4	Explorations: <i>Out of my Dreams</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: <i>The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart</i> by Bill Bishop	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting Main program: Darwin's Ecological Experiment	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

MARCH 2017

Sat., 4	Explorations: 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
Mon., 13	Secular Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Sign up at http://ct.secular.org/	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: <i>The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World</i> by Andrea Wulf	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting Main program: Tom Krattenmaker "Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower"	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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"Humanist Experience" Kickstarter Socks!

The Humanist Experience (<http://www.humanistexperience.com>) is a video podcast that examines life from a humanist perspective.

In partnership with the Foundation Beyond Belief (FBB), the producers have started a crowd-funding campaign at Kickstarter to produce a 10-episode second season that will visit communities where Foundation Beyond Belief volunteer networks are at work. The podcast will highlight issues being addressed by organizations receiving FBB grants. If you find you enjoy the first series, you may want to contribute to the campaign at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/humanistexperience/humanist-experience-radio>. If they don't make their funding goal, your money will not be collected.

Socks are the item of clothing most needed at shelters in New Haven, and the least often donated. Gayle Walter will be collecting socks at all of our February events for the New Haven Free Public Library's ongoing collection.

Gayle collected 20 pairs of socks at our December meeting at very short notice. Thank you to all who donated!

Walk Against Hunger: April 23

This year we will participate in the New Haven Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. Walkers and donors will be needed. This happens to fall within the 2017 Week of Action: The Week of Action initiative was started by Humanist Rabbi Adam Chalom in 2010 as a single day of good deeds in response to the National Day of Prayer and National Day of Reason. Details to follow.

www.cthumanist.org

www.facebook.com/cthumanist • www.meetup.com/cthumanist • www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Email List

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.

Membership Renewals

Thank you to all who have joined or already renewed their membership for 2017!

Book Discussion: "The Big Sort"

Our book for February is "The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart" by journalist Bill Bishop, a timely topic after the recent national election. (Mr. Bishop was a reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman* when he began research on city growth and political polarization with the sociologist and statistician Robert Cushing.) The discussion will take place Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

"Jam-packed with fascinating data, *The Big Sort* presents a provocative portrait of the splintering of America." – Boston Globe
Refreshments will be served.

In the event of snow, please come on Saturday, February 25.

Darwin Day Activities

9th Annual Darwin Day Dinner

Saturday, February 11, 6:00 p.m. in Darien.

This year's presentation is "Chasing Birds with Satellites: Taking the Pulse of the Planet." Yale Professor Walter Jetz, Director of the new Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change, will showcase work by his group in collaboration with NASA and biodiversity monitoring efforts worldwide.

Details, including how to register, are at <http://darwindayct.org/>.

How to Hunt for Aliens: Finding Darwin beyond Planet Earth

Sunday, February 12, 1:00 p.m. at the Grove, 760 Chapel Street, New Haven.

Evolutionary biologist and NASA astrobiologist Lynn Rothschild introduces her talk as follows: "Darwin utterly changed our understanding of the source of the diversity of life on Earth, and with it, our origin. But is our origin story one of a multitude — or are we unique or, indeed, alone in the cosmos?" Sponsored by the Yale and New Haven Humanist Community, the event is free and open to the public. For further information, visit:

<https://www.meetup.com/Yale-and-New-Haven-Humanist-Community/events/237144572/> or <https://yalehumanists.com/>

USNH Social Cinema: Love and Mercy

The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the documentary *Love and Mercy* at 7:15 p.m. in the USNH Social Hall at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Saturday, February 25.

"The rise and fall and rise and fall and rise of genius musician Brian Wilson... A story that's hair-raisingly watchable and frequently moving, regardless of what you believe you might already know of Wilson's life... genuinely heart-rending" —RogerEbert.com

For more information contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

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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Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO	
I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO	
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