



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
 of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

May 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

Why We Need Humanism Now

Join us on Monday, May 15, in the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) Social Hall for a final talk from Yale Humanist Community Director Chris Stedman before he moves to Minneapolis to help build the Humanist Center of Minnesota.

Chris Stedman is the incoming founding Director of the Humanist Center of Minnesota and outgoing founding Director of the Yale Humanist Community. A Fellow at Yale University, Chris was previously a Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University and a content developer and trainer for Interfaith Youth Core. He currently serves as a Fellow at the Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship at Augsburg College.

Chris is the author of *Faithless: How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious*, "an intimate and deeply affecting portrait... [that] proves [he is] an activist in the truest sense and one to watch" (*Booklist*, Starred Review). He has appeared on *CNN*, *msnbc*, *PBS*, and *Fox News*, has spoken at numerous conferences and universities, and has written for many publications including *Salon*, *CNN*, *msnbc*, *The Advocate*, *USA Today*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Rumpus*, and *The Washington Post*. *Details* named him one of "five next-gen gurus who are disrupting

Explorations: "Verna, USO Girl"

With Memorial Day just behind us and the anniversary of the Normandy Invasion just ahead, this is a great time for the story of a young woman whose dreams and hopes for her future take place in the last months of the Second World War. Based on a story by Paul Gallico, the screenplay by Albert Innaurato, this film illustrates how life's choices inform the fragility and evanescence of our days.

Join us to experience this charming and thought-provoking tale at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 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.

MAY 2017

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 6	Explorations: The Hermitage	2:30 p.m
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting	7:00 p.m
	Main program: Chris Stedman "Why We Need Humanism Now"	7:30 p.m
Sat., 20	Book Discussion: <i>Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower</i> by Tom Krattenmaker	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

JUNE 2017

Sat., 3	Explorations: <i>Verna, USO Girl</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 17	Book Discussion: <i>White Trash: The 400-Year Old Untold History of Class in America</i> by Nancy Isenberg	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sat., 24	Annual Picnic at Gayle Walter's home	4:00 p.m
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

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religion's status quo" and *Mic* called him, "the millennial who's busting every stereotype about atheists." He holds a summa cum laude B.A. in Religion from Augsburg College (with minors in English and Social Welfare) and an M.A. in Religion from Meadville Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00

p.m. The main program will follow some brief announcements at 7:30 p.m.

Research Project

Kathleen Green is board chair for the Yale Humanist Community and a UU Minister. She is also finishing a doctorate, and has been touring humanist organizations in Connecticut to ask for assistance with her D.Min. research project. Since we were unable to come up with a mutually convenient time for Kathleen to visit and give us a 30 minute presentation on her project, she has asked us to request HAC members visit her web site at <http://www.kathleenagreen.com/projects-events-etc.html> to complete two surveys, watching a 19 minute video of background information after completing the first survey.

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Email List

To join, send an email to:
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Officers

President Richard Siddall
 (203) 264-2182
president@cthumanist.org
 Vice-President June Schafer
 Secretary Carol Siddall
 Treasurer Rebecca Williams

Committee Chairs

Program David Schafer
 Membership Frank Avitable
 Development Carol Siddall
 Publications Richard Siddall
 Publicity Lisa Candido
 Hospitality Randy Olear

Newsletter

Editor Carol Siddall
 (203) 264-8546
editor@cthumanist.org
 Production: Richard Siddall
 (203) 264-2182
webmaster@cthumanist.org

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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.

Book Discussion: “Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower” with author Tom Krattenmaker

Our book for May is *Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower: Finding Answers in Jesus for Those Who Don't Believe* by Yale Humanist Community Board member and award-winning *USA Today* columnist Tom Krattenmaker. The discussion will take place Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

>From Amazon:

In *Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower*, [the author] shares his surprising conclusion about where input and inspiration might best be found: in the figure of Jesus...

Drawing on sociological research, personal experience, and insights from fifteen years studying and writing on religion in American public life, Krattenmaker shows that in Jesus, nonreligious people...can find unique and compelling wisdom on how to honor the humanity in ourselves and others, how to build more peaceful lives, how generosity can help people and communities create more abundance, how to break free from self-defeating behaviors, and how to tip the scales toward justice.

In a time when more people than ever are identifying as atheist or agnostic, *Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower* is a groundbreaking and compelling work that rediscovers Jesus—and our own best selves—for the world of today.

“In a book rich with meaning for believers and nonbelievers alike, Tom Krattenmaker offers insightful analysis of American culture and makes a uniquely compelling case for the transformative nature of Jesus.” – Kirsten Powers, *USA Today* columnist, author of *The Silencing*

Reminder: As a special treat, Tom will join us to discuss his book! So don't miss this great opportunity to “ask the author.”

Our book for June will be *White Trash: The 400-Year Old Untold History of Class in America* by historian Nancy Isenberg.

Refreshments will be served.

Walk Against Hunger Results

Thanks to some generous donations and energetic fund-raising, the HAC walk team raised \$820 for this year's Connecticut Food Bank Walk Against Hunger, which was held at New Haven's Light-house Point Park on Sunday, April 23.

Chris Stedman Farewell Reception, May 28

You are cordially invited to join us at the farewell reception for Chris Stedman, Yale Humanist Community's first Executive Director, who has led the organization during its founding years from 2013 to 2017. The reception is Sunday, May 28, 2017, immediately following Humanist Haven, where Chris is the featured speaker. Humanist Haven begins at 1:00 p.m. Both events take place in the Clubhouse at The Grove, 760 Chapel Street, New Haven. **Please RSVP** to yale.humanists@gmail.com.

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! 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
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