



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

September 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

## What's Next for Civil Liberties?

Join David McGuire, executive director of the ACLU of Connecticut, for a discussion about the future of civil liberties under the Trump administration and to learn more about the ways in which the ACLU of Connecticut will be working to advance liberty, justice, and equality in the Constitution State.

Please join us on Monday, September 18, at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

David J. McGuire is the executive director of the ACLU of Connecticut, a statewide non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization that defends, promotes, and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut Constitutions in the courts, at the legislature, and in the state's 169 towns and cities. David joined the ACLU of Connecticut in 2007. His primary areas of legal interest are prisoner rights, digital privacy and free speech issues. He has also taken a leading role in pressing for police accountability legislation and was instrumental in passing laws to reform police complaint procedures and police use of Tasers. McGuire received his B.A. in history from Purdue University in 2003 and graduated cum laude from Western New England College School of Law in 2006. After law school, he clerked for the judges of the Connecticut Superior Court.

The evening will start at 7:00 p.m. with conversation and refreshments. The main talk will begin after brief announcements at 7:30 p.m. Come with a friend!

## Explorations: Humane Executions

If a State is going to kill people, shouldn't it do so as humanely as possible? In this 2008 *BBC Horizon*, former conservative MP Michael Portillo investigates the science of execution and questions why the current methods used are not the most humane possible. Join us for this enlightening documentary at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 7, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

## 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).

### SEPTEMBER 2017

Sat., 2	Explorations: More on <i>Guns, Germs &amp; Steel</i>	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	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: David McGuire of ACLU of Connecticut: What's Next for Civil Liberties?	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 23	Book Discussion: <i>Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies</i> by Jared Diamond.	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 25	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: The President's First Pardon. RSVP on Meetup or to <a href="mailto:development@cthumanist.org">development@cthumanist.org</a>	7:00 p.m

### OCTOBER 2017

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Explorations: Humane Executions	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: TBA	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>American War: A Novel</i> by Omar El Akkad	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Mon., 23	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic TBA	7:00 p.m

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

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## Game Night September 23

The Hartford Area Humanists and Connecticut Valley Atheists are teaming up to raise funds for the October 19th Light The Night, a walk to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Hartford County. A September 23 game night has been planned at the home of Rebecca & Matthew Williams to raise funds. For details and to RSVP, please see [www.meetup.com/Hartford-Humanists](http://www.meetup.com/Hartford-Humanists). To donate and/or walk, please visit <https://hartfordhumanists.org/walk>.

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

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To join, send an email to:  
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Published monthly by the **Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321**. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org). We welcome humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry, news items, cartoons, and illustrations.

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.

**Social Dinners**

Please join us on the first Monday of each month for our social dinner at 7:00 p.m. at the Turkish Kebab House at 1157 Campbell Avenue in West Haven!

**Book Discussion: “Guns, Germs, and Steel”**

We will discuss “Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies” by geographer and anthropologist Jared Diamond at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

From Amazon: In this “artful, informative, and delightful” book, Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world. Societies that had had a head start in food production advanced beyond the hunter-gatherer stage, and then developed religion — as well as nasty germs and potent weapons of war — and ventured on sea and land to conquer and decimate preliterate cultures. A major advance in our understanding of human societies, “Guns, Germs, and Steel” chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history. (William H. McNeill, *New York Review of Books*)

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science, the Rhone-Poulenc Prize, and the Commonwealth Club of California’s Gold Medal!

Note the Date: The Sept. book discussion will be the 4th Saturday of the month, Sept. 23 (instead of Sept. 16).

Our book for October will be *American War: A Novel* by Omar El Akkad.

**Dinner and Discussion: The President’s First Pardon**

On August 25, 2017, President Trump granted a Presidential pardon to Joe Arpaio, former Sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona (<http://tinyurl.com/ybcs3brj>). This is the first and only pardon granted by this president to date (<http://tinyurl.com/y76vh828>). Glenn Beck’s media outlet provides a montage of outraged quotes from a list of people and reports Trump’s response that Joe Arpaio kept Arizona safe (<http://tinyurl.com/y8lpbmtr>). One supporter seems to credit Arpaio’s tough stance on drunk driving with scaring him sober (<http://tinyurl.com/y7jjbum3>). But there’s some question that Arpaio kept anyone safe. *East Valley Tribune* writers Ryan Gabrielson and Paul Giblin won a Pulitzer Prize for their series showing Arpaio’s priorities endangered public safety (<http://tinyurl.com/yc8ho7ud>). Additionally, two articles in the local *Phoenix New Times* clearly display evidence of incompetence and bullying by Arpaio’s men (<http://tinyurl.com/y6vjlgxz>) and (<http://tinyurl.com/pcnvxt6>). Still, his tenure as elected Sheriff lasted 24 years. And finally, if you didn’t know Presidential pardons could be challenged, *The Washington Post* explains quite a bit (<http://tinyurl.com/y9nrucwa>). So what do you think of all of this? Is he an old man getting flack for being good at his job? Is he a jerk who deserves a taste of his own medicine? Join the discussion at the Hamden Wood ‘n’ Tap on Monday September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP on Meetup or to [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org)

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