



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



AHA Chapter

December 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

## Annual Meeting and Solstice Party

Join us on Monday, December 18, as we celebrate the winter solstice in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. First we'll enjoy a delicious pot luck dinner at 7:00 p.m., with folk music accompaniment by Mickey Koth's musicians. Next we'll have a short business meeting and elect officers for 2018. Merry-making will resume with our traditional reading of Lois Woodrow's solstice poem, "To The Tilt."

Violinist Linda Beers will treat us to a performance of the soundtrack to her animated *Song of Spring* ([tinyurl.com/yaj3rmxm](http://tinyurl.com/yaj3rmxm)), an environmentally-inspired metaphorical short film about saving species from extinction. We'll enjoy more music and a raffle for all — half of which one of us will win, and the other half of which will go to the group's treasury. (Tickets are \$1 each, \$5 for seven or \$10 for fifteen.) So let's all come and celebrate the solstice together with our Humanist friends!

## 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).

### DECEMBER 2017

Sat., 2	Book Discussion: "Evicted: Poverty and Property in the American City" by Matthew Desmond	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 4	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Annual Meeting & Elections Potluck dinner Business meeting & elections Winter Solstice Party	7:00 p.m 7:00 p.m 8:00 p.m 8:15 p.m
Mon., 25	Dinner at the Kennedys' home in Shelton	4:00 p.m

### JANUARY 2018

Mon., 1	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 6	<b>Explorations: "Sacred Cod"</b>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program: Steve &amp; Susan Boshi</b>	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 20	Book Discussion: TBA	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Mon., 22	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)

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist)  
[www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist)  
[www.twitter.com/cthumanist](http://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

## Book Discussion: "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari

We will discuss "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon: "From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution...that explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be 'human.'"

"One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one – homo sapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us?"

"Sapiens tackles the biggest questions of history and of the modern world, and it is written in unforgettably vivid language." – Jared Diamond

## 2018 Slate of Candidates

### Officers:

President — Richard Siddall  
Vice President — June Schafer  
Secretary — Carol Siddall  
Treasurer — Rebecca Williams

### Committee Chairs:

Membership — Frank Avitable  
Hospitality — Randy Olear  
Program — Carol Siddall  
Development — Gayle Walter  
Publicity — Lisa Candido  
Publications — Richard Siddall

### Nominating Committee:

Joan Rafford  
June Schafer  
Gayle Walter

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

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**Email List**

To join, send an email to:  
[hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org)  
 with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an email to:  
[hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org)  
 with the subject **unsubscribe**.

**Officers**

President Richard Siddall  
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 Secretary Carol Siddall  
 Treasurer Rebecca Williams

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

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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.

**Socks!**

Gayle Walter is again collecting new socks to donate to local homeless shelters as part of the New Haven Free Public Library's annual drive. Please bring your donation to any HAC meeting.

**Explorations: Sacred Cod**

We will show the 2016 documentary film, "Sacred Cod: The Fight for a New England Tradition," on January 6 at 2:30 p.m.

As employment in coal mining disappears in West Virginia, an analogous situation exists in the New England cod fishery. This in-depth documentary examines a multi-pronged problem with few easy answers and predicts what the future may hold in store.

Some snacks will be provided; a bite to share is welcome.

Although this event is free and open to the public, we will be providing an opportunity to donate to offset the cost of licensing of this current film.

Join us for this enlightening documentary at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

**USNH Social Cinema**

The next USNH Social Cinema will take place on Saturday, January 20, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The optional potluck dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. will be followed at 7:15 p.m. by the documentary "I Am Shakespeare: The Henry Green Story," which tells the story of 19-year old Henry Green – living a dual life as a brilliant young actor and inner-city gang member in New Haven – who was shot and left for dead shortly after his inspiring performance in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". There will be a Q&A with Filmmaker Stephen Dest after the screening.

For more information contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email [office@usnh.org](mailto:office@usnh.org)

**Six Hundred Thanksgiving Dinners!**

Thank you to all who donated! IVCG is always in need of donations, so if you didn't get a chance before thanksgiving, it's not too late to give a check to a board member.

— June Schafer

**Humanist Dinner, December 25**

Tom and Deidre Kennedy have kindly offered to host an early evening dinner at their home in Shelton at 4:00 p.m. Here's a chance to get out of the house on a day when most of the country is closed and spend some time with like-minded friends! Tom and Deidre will provide an Italian menu with items suitable for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. Please bring a desert and a canned good for a local food pantry. Dress is casual. Please RSVP for an address by phone at 203-922-1548 or email at [deidre.kennedy@gmail.com](mailto:deidre.kennedy@gmail.com)

**Green Light Project**

Please join the Yale Humanist Community on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. on the New Haven Green near the corner of Church and Elm for this year's dedication of their sculpture known as the Green Light Project! The installation will be followed by reflections and a reception at The Grove, 760 Chapel Street.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		Name(s): _____
i Adult . . . . .	\$35	Address: _____
i Family . . . . .	\$50	_____
i Newsletter Only . . . . .	\$10	Telephone: _____
i Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.		E-Mail Address: _____
i 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
i 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
As a chapter of the American Humanist Association we share your information with AHA. Please check this box if you do <u>not</u> want to be contacted by the Secular Coalition for Connecticut about legislative action <input type="checkbox"/>		