



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



AHA Chapter

February 2018

UU Humanists Local Group

## Darwin Day is YUGE! Believe me!

Join us on Monday, February 19, in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Darwin Day is celebrated around the world on or near February 12 every year. It is a celebration of science and reason. Yet it is ignored, and even scoffed at, by many. In his talk entitled "Darwin Day is YUGE! Believe me!" Pat McCann will explore Darwin, evolution, and why humanists participate in celebrating Darwin Day.

Pat McCann has been an atheist and practicing humanist for 40 years but officially discovered humanism only 10 years ago. He began his activism for the secular community of Connecticut in 2012 after attending the first Reason Rally. Pat is a past President of the Hartford Area Humanists, chair of the Secular Coalition for Connecticut, and a past co-chair of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason.

Pat earned a BS in Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University, an MS in Molecular Biology from Rutgers University, and an MBA in Marketing from UConn. He holds a 3rd degree black belt in Washin-ryu Karate-do.

## Explorations: Typhoid Mary, Personal Liberty versus Public Welfare

At the turn of the twentieth century an Irish immigrant found to be a carrier of typhoid fever was unwittingly spreading the disease in New York City. The issue of public health safety rose to the forefront and resulted in the protracted isolation of Mary Mallon. This documentary deals with the issues resulting from this problem. There will be time for what promises to be a lively discussion.

Join us for this enlightening documentary at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, 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).

### FEBRUARY 2018

Sat., 3	Explorations: "Sacred Cod"	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>The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion</i> by Jonathan Haidt	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting Main program: Pat McCann "Darwin Day is YUGE! Believe me!"	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 25	Board meeting	3:30 p.m
Mon., 26	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: What is Treason, Anyway?	7:00 p.m

### MARCH 2018

Sat., 3	Explorations: Typhoid Mary	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>Margaret Fuller: A New American Life</i> by Megan Marshall	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting Main program: The Pro-Truth Pledge	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 25	Board meeting	3:30 p.m
Mon., 26	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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We will start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Pat's talk will follow brief announcements at 7:30 p.m.

## United Coalition of Reason News

Effective February 1, the Secular Coalition for America Education Fund has assumed management of the programs of the United Coalition of Reason, the umbrella group of which the Connecticut Coalition of Reason is a member. HAC is a member of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason. The Secular Coalition for America Education Fund is the 501c3 arm of the Secular Coalition for America.

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

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**Officers**

President Richard Siddall  
 (203) 264-2182  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)  
 Vice-President June Schafer  
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**Committee Chairs**

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

**Newsletter**

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

**SMART Teens**

A new teen-oriented SMART Recovery meeting has started at the Children's Center of Hamden, 1400 Whitney Avenue, on Monday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. along with a Family & Friends meeting.

**Discussion: What is Treason Anyhow?**

If you search for the term "treason" on Google, you can find out who was accusing President Obama of treason in 2005 as easily as you can find the last time President Trump used the term (and then claimed it was a joke). It's one of those terms that gets used too frequently without full understanding of its meaning.

Treason is addressed in the Constitution as well as in a law. Here are three readings of commentary to explain the American legal application of the official charge of treason.

The one with no irritating advertisements is from The Heritage Foundation: (<https://preview.tinyurl.com/y854zt2l>). Legal Dictionary has an informative article: (<https://preview.tinyurl.com/y9z7cb5p>). Thefreedictionary.com also has a nice explanation: (<https://preview.tinyurl.com/y9r254fp>).

Does the law on treason seem too strict or too broad? Does it matter that the legal definition departs from popular understanding? Is it important to do something about it, and if so, do you have any ideas about what we might be able to do about it? Come and talk this over with your friends on Monday, February 26 at the Wood-n-Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden at 7:00 p.m.

Because we need to make sure we can all sit together, please RSVP to [programs@cthumanist.org](mailto:programs@cthumanist.org) or at [meetup.com/cthumanist](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

**Book Discussion: "The Righteous Mind"**

Our book for February is "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion" by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. The discussion will take place Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon:  
 "As America descends deeper into polarization and paralysis,...Haidt has done the seemingly impossible – challenged conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to everyone on the political spectrum. [H]e shows how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. He shows why liberals, conservatives, and libertarians have such different intuitions about right and wrong, and he shows why each side is actually right about many of its central concerns. In this subtle yet accessible book, Haidt gives you the key to understanding the miracle of human cooperation, as well as the curse of our eternal divisions and conflicts."

"A landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself... Haidt is looking for more than victory. He's looking for wisdom. That's what makes The Righteous Mind well worth reading." – New York Times Book Review

Our book for the Saturday, March 17 discussion will be "Margaret Fuller: A New American Life" by Megan Marshall. Pulitzer Prize winner Marshall recounts the trailblazing life of Margaret Fuller, Thoreau's first editor, and Emerson's close friend.

**MEMBERSHIP**  
 i Adult . . . . . \$35  
 i Family . . . . . \$50  
 i Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10  
 i Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.  
 i 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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