



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

May 2018

UU Humanists Local Group

Strange Archaeology

Join us for this special presentation on Monday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike! Ken Feder, Ph.D. returns with a talk entitled "Strange Archaeology: A Field Guide to Some of the Oddest Archaeological Sites in North America."

Did the ancient people of Utah live among dinosaurs and did they depict them in their rock art? Did some of those same ancient people encounter visitors from other planets, painting images of those extraterrestrials on canyon walls in the American Southwest? Have archaeologists discovered evidence of the presence of wandering Jews in ancient America, explorers who left their mark by engraving the Ten Commandments in Hebrew on rocks in New Mexico? And Ohio? And Tennessee? Finally, have archaeologists discovered the existence of the far western outpost of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh, not in Africa, but in Guadalupe, California? If you've been paying attention to Ken Feder's many lectures to the Humanist Association of Connecticut, you've already guessed that the answers to all of these questions is a resounding "No!" Join him as he provides a preview of some of the extraordinary claims about American antiquity that he explores in his upcoming book, *Strange Archaeology: A Field Guide to Forty of the Oddest Sites and Claims in North America*.

Ken is a professor of Archaeology at Central Connecticut State University, author of seven books and the co-author of another. He has been on BBC's *Horizon* and National Geographic's *Is It Real?*

We will start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Followed by our main presentation after 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.

MAY 2018

Sat., 5	Explorations: Virginia Lee Burton; A Sense of Place	2:30 p.m
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting Main program: Ken Feder - Strange Archaeology: A Field Guide to Some of the Oddest Archaeological Sites in North America	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 27	Board meeting	3:30 p.m
Mon., 28	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: Should HAC take the Pro-Truth Pledge?	7:00 p.m

JUNE 2018

Sat., 2	Explorations: The Triangle Fire	2:30 p.m
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: "One Nation Under God" by Kevin Cruz	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sat., 23	Annual Picnic at Gayle Walter's home in New Haven	4:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m
Sun., 24	Board meeting	3:30 p.m
Mon., 25	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: TBA	7:00 p.m

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Explorations: The Triangle Fire

In March, 1911, one hundred-forty six textile workers died in a massive fire as a result of negligence on the part of the factory owners and managers. The events of 1911 are worth considering in light of rollbacks of worker protections and other current shenanigans. For example, in April 2010, A mine disaster in Kentucky killed thirty-eight mine workers. Don Blankenship, the executive in charge, was convicted in federal court of responsibility for the tragedy. He is now running for the US Senate in West Virginia.

We'll watch a documentary and discuss The Triangle Fire at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We'll have refreshments; feel free to bring something light to share.

Hunger Walk

Seven members of HAC participated in the Connecticut Food Bank Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, April 29. Thanks to some generous donations, we raised more than \$1000, which can provide more than 2000 meals.

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Email List

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. 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.

Discussion: Should We Pledge Pro-Truth?

You may recall that our March monthly meeting was a presentation on the Pro-Truth Pledge by Dr. Gleb Tsipursky. Should the Humanist Association of Connecticut sign the pledge as an organization? What would it mean to our organization? Please review what the pledge is all about at <https://www.protruthpledge.org/>. The menu item “public figures” includes organizations that have signed the pledge. The blog page even includes links to YouTube videos of elected officials taking the pledge! We will discuss this option at our next discussion dinner at 7:00 p.m. on May 28 at the Wood ‘n’ Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden.

Dining Out for Life

Thanks to all who made our Dining Out Event at Café Bravo a success! Thirteen members and friends of HAC and Yale Humanists raised about \$250 for AIDS Project New Haven. This was achieved through the restaurant’s donation of 25% of their sales, plus several individual donations from our diners and two others who could not attend.

On top of this, the food was delicious, and the company was great! Let’s try to make this an annual event!

“One Nation Under God” in June

As many of you know, scheduling does not allow a book discussion this May. We will resume on June 16 with “One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America” by historian Kevin M. Kruse.

From the cover: “We’re often told that the United States is, was, and always has been a Christian nation. But in ‘One Nation Under God,’ historian Kevin M. Kruse reveals that the idea of ‘Christian America’ is an invention—and a relatively recent one at that.

“To fight the ‘slavery’ of FDR’s New Deal, businessmen enlisted religious activists in a campaign for ‘freedom under God’ that culminated in the election of their ally Dwight Eisenhower in 1952. The new president revolutionized the role of religion in American politics. He inaugurated new traditions like the National Prayer Breakfast, as Congress added the phrase ‘under God’ to the Pledge of Allegiance and made ‘In God We Trust’ the country’s first official motto. Church membership soon soared to an all-time high of 69 percent. Americans across the religious and political spectrum agreed that their country was ‘one nation under God.’

“Provocative and authoritative, ‘One Nation Under God’ reveals how an unholy alliance of money, religion, and politics created a false origin story that continues to define and divide American politics to this day.

“Kevin M. Kruse is a professor of history at Princeton University and the author or coeditor of four books, including the award-winning ‘White Flight’ He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.”

On July 21 we’ll discuss “Lincoln in the Bardo” by George Saunders.

MEMBERSHIP		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"/>		