



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

July 2018



UU Humanists Local Group

Connecticut's Healthcare Advocate

Join us on Monday, July 16, at 700 Hartford Turnpike, when we welcome Connecticut's Healthcare Advocate, Ted Doolittle. Ted will tell us about the work of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA).

A graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law (J.D.) and Harvard University (A.B.), Ted's career has spanned healthcare, legal practice and law enforcement. He's been a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut, Associate General Counsel in the Legal & Regulatory Affairs Department at UnitedHealthcare, and more recently was Deputy Director of the Center for Program Integrity at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service.

As Connecticut's healthcare Advocate, Ted oversees a team of specialists who provide free assistance to Connecticut Healthcare consumers with plan selection, education, enforcement of healthcare rights, and improving healthcare access. OHA helps educate employers, healthcare providers, and others about the procedures and regulations of managed care. OHA also works with the Connecticut and National legislatures to improve access to the healthcare system.

If you've ever had (or known someone who has had) any kind of problem getting or using healthcare, you'll wish you had known about this sooner.

We will start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. followed by this timely and informative talk at 7:30 p.m. Please bring anyone you think may benefit from learning about this!

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

JULY 2018

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| Mon., 2 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 | 7:00 p.m |
| Sat., 7 | Explorations: The Sweetest Sounds | 2:30 p.m |
| Mon., 16 | Monthly Meeting
Main program: Connecticut's Healthcare Advocate | 7:00 p.m
7:30 p.m |
| Sat., 21 | Book Discussion: "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders | 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m |
| Sun., 22 | Board meeting | 3:30 p.m |
| Mon., 23 | Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663.
Topic: Can Humanists Use the Word Spiritual? | 7:00 p.m |

AUGUST 2018

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| Sat., 4 | Explorations: TBA | 2:30 p.m |
| Mon., 6 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 | 7:00 p.m |
| Sat., 18 | Book Discussion: "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren | 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m |
| Mon., 20 | Monthly Meeting
Main program: TBA | 7:00 p.m
7:30 p.m |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting | 3:30 p.m |
| Mon., 27 | 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 Sweetest Sounds

The evolution of the creative mind and the understanding of the human predicament is the focus of this biography of one of America's great composers, Richard Rodgers. From his schooldays at Columbia University, to his extended relationships with two brilliant lyricists, Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein, Rodgers plumbed the mind in innumerable ways and created musical plays for The Broadway Theater that still have a lasting impact today. Join us for this enlightening film, most appropriate for the current holiday.

We'll watch a documentary and discuss Richard Rodgers's life and works at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 7, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We'll have refreshments; feel free to bring something light to share.

(Editor's note: You may recall we watched a film on Oscar Hammerstein in February of 2017. This presentation will give us the rest of the story of the Rodgers and Hammerstein duo.)

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 The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

Can Humanists Use the Word Spiritual?

“Yale scientists have identified a possible neurobiological home for the spiritual experience — the sense of connection to something greater than oneself,” begins this <https://tinyurl.com/ybuzlu8t> *Yale News* article reporting on a paper published in the May 29th issue of the journal *Cerebral Cortex* <https://tinyurl.com/y8gm4mkn>. A more thorough reporting of the paper can be found at *Quartz* <https://tinyurl.com/yb3k7wn3>. What the paper made clear was that what one calls a “spiritual experience” is unique to each person. Contrast that with Pew Research defining the term by reading their questions under the heading “Spiritual concepts embraced by some, rejected by others in Western Europe” in this <https://tinyurl.com/ybrgzr7p> article. If you google the dictionary definition of spiritual you will find five entries at Merriam-Webster and a full dozen at dictionary.com.

So how do *you* handle the word “spiritual?” Do you use the term? Do you feel you’re understood when you do? Can you define what you mean when you use it?

Join us to discuss this over dinner on Monday, July 23 at the Wood ’n’ Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden. Please RSVP via [meetup](https://www.meetup.com/development@cthumanist.org) or development@cthumanist.org.

July 2018 Book Discussion: “Lincoln in the Bardo”

Our book for July is “Lincoln in the Bardo” by George Saunders. The discussion will take place Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon:

From that seed of historical truth [during the Civil War], George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state – called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo – a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie’s soul.

“A luminous feat of generosity and humanism.”—Colson Whitehead, *The New York Times Book Review*

“An extended national ghost story . . . As anyone who knows Saunders’s work would expect, his first novel is a strikingly original production.”—*The Washington Post*

“Saunders’s beautifully realized portrait of Lincoln . . . attests to the author’s own fruitful transition from the short story to the long-distance form of the novel.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

“Devastatingly moving.”—*People*

“Profound, funny and vital . . . the work of a great writer.”—*Chicago Tribune*

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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"/>