



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

February 2019

UU Humanists Local Group

Darwin's Apostles

Note the date change! Join us on Sunday, February 17 in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for our Darwin Day presentation, featuring Dr. Abby Hafer.

When the discovery of evolution by natural selection was announced to the world, neither of the scientists who discovered it were present at the announcement! When evolution was debated and insults traded at the notorious 1860 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the co-discoverers of evolution weren't there, either! Who did the hatchet work on behalf of evolution? Why, Darwin's apostles, of course! Charles Darwin was famously a recluse in later life. He wrote earth-shattering books but preferred to have others defend them. Fortunately, scientists like Thomas Huxley, Joseph Hooker, Asa Gray, John Draper, and evolution's co-discoverer Alfred Russel Wallace were all willing to go to bat on evolution's behalf. They were colorful, distinguished, and tenacious. Come find out more about them!

Dr. Abby Hafer is the author of "The Not-So-Intelligent Designer—Why Evolution Explains

Calendar of Events

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

FEBRUARY 2019

Sat., 2	Explorations: "Left Behind America"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 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: "The Denial of Death" by Ernest Becker	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: Dr. Abby Hafer on Darwin's Apostles	3:30 p.m. 4:00 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: Black History Month?	7:00 p.m.

MARCH 2019

Sat., 2	Explorations: "Let There be Light"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 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: "When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God" by T.M. Luhrmann	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: Steve and Susan Boshi: "The Road Less Traveled"	7:00 p.m. 7:30 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.

the Human Body and Intelligent Design Does Not." She has a doctorate in zoology from Oxford University and teaches human anatomy and physiology

at Curry College.

We will start with coffee and conversation at 3:30 p.m. followed by Dr. Hafer's presentation at 4:00 p.m!

www.cthumanist.org

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

Save the Date!

Save the date! HAC will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

Socks!

We're still collecting new socks for the New Haven Free Public Library's sock drive for the homeless.

Thank you!

Thank you to all who renewed your membership!

Explorations: Let There be Light

Join us at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, March 2. In the days of high technology and the internet, it is easy to forget the concept of artistic creation by the human mind and hand. This video essay about the artist Rowan LeCompte, and his work designing many of the stained glass windows in the Washington National Cathedral, will pique your interest in the art and craft of a time long gone by.

As usual, there will be light refreshments.

Book Discussion: When God Talks Back

Our book for March is *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God* by anthropologist T.M. Luhrmann. The discussion will take place Saturday, March 16, 2019, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon: "Through a series of intimate, illuminating interviews with various members of the Vineyard, an evangelical church with hundreds of congregations across the country, Tanya Luhrmann leaps into the heart of evangelical faith. Combined with scientific research that studies the effect that intensely practiced prayer can have on the mind, 'When God Talks Back' examines how normal, sensible people—from college students to accountants to housewives, all functioning perfectly well within our society—can attest to having the signs and wonders of the supernatural become as quotidian and as ordinary as laundry. Astute, sensitive, and extraordinarily measured in its approach to the interface between science and religion, Luhrmann's book is sure to generate as much conversation as it will praise."

"The most insightful study of evangelical religion in many years... 'When God Talks Back' is remarkable for combining creative psychological analysis with a commitment to understanding evangelicals not merely as scholarly specimens, but on their own terms."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A simultaneously scholarly and deeply personal analysis of evangelical communities in America...An erudite discussion both profoundly sympathetic and richly analytical."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Dinner Discussion: Black History Month?

Now that we have two independent Darwin Day events in the state, should our local groups be putting more emphasis on Black History Month? Do you think it would help us attract a more diverse membership or encourage a chapter or two of the Black Freethinkers? Is there another commemorative month we should be giving attention to? (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_month-long_observances)

Join us for this discussion at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25 at the Wood-n-Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden. Please RSVP via meetup or programs@cthumanist.org.