



THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

March 2019

UU Humanists Local Group

The Road Less Traveled

Join us on Monday, March 18, in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for our monthly meeting.

At our March monthly meeting, Steve and Susan Boshi will present a guide to some less well-known travel destinations in Italy and France. Steve says "While European cities like Paris, London, and Rome are well known travel destinations, there are numerous more intimate locations with much to offer in terms of art, history, and natural beauty. Three of these places in Italy and one in France fit this description perfectly. Join us for an armchair travelogue to Ravenna, Bolzano, and Lago Maggiore in Northern Italy, and Nancy, in the Lorraine District of France, for a unique perspective of the continent."

We will start with thirty minutes of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m., followed by brief announcements and our presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Feel free to bring a friend!

Calendar of Events

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

MARCH 2019

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: Sexual Victimization	7:00 p.m.

APRIL 2019

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Explorations: "Dreamland"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting Main program: Anita Peters: "Building Community within a Secular Life"	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sat., 20	Book Discussion: "Barabbas" by Pär Lagerkvist	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	3:30 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.
Thu., 25	Dining-Out for Life to benefit AIDS Project New Haven. Caffè Bravo, New Haven	6:00 p.m.

30th Anniversary

HAC will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, May 19, 2019. If you would like to make suggestions for how to celebrate or join the planning committee, please email president@cthumanist.org.

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

Dining Out for Life

Members and friends of HAC will be gathering at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, at Caffe Bravo at 794 Orange Street in New Haven to participate in this year's Dining Out for Life to benefit AIDS Project New Haven. Caffe Bravo will donate 25% of the evening's proceeds to APNH.

Explorations: Dreamland

Join us at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, April 6. Before there was "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn" Mark Twain was a newspaperman. In 1867 he traveled to Europe and the Holy Land, writing of his experiences and thoughts on human nature, and the underlying foibles and hypocrisy of his fellow travelers. The book that he wrote documenting his experiences, "The Innocents Abroad," was a first, and remains one of the best selling travel books ever written. Join us to explore this wonderful story, laced with Twain's humor and his deep insight into human nature.

Book Discussion: Barabbas

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.

Our book for Saturday, April 20, is *Barabbas* by Pär Lagerkvist. From Wikipedia:

[The 1950 novel] tells a version of the life of Barabbas, the man whom the Bible relates was released instead of Jesus. [Barabbas is] skeptical about the Holiness of Jesus, but he is also fascinated by his sacrifice. He seeks out different followers of Jesus in trying to understand him, but finds that their exalted views of Jesus do not match his down-to-earth observation... More important, since Barabbas has never been the recipient of love..., he finds that he is unable to understand love and, hence, unable to understand the Christian faith. He says that he "wants to believe," but for Barabbas, understanding is a prerequisite for belief, so he is unable to.

The novel is built on antithesis: Jesus dies first among the three crucified – Barabbas dies last. Jesus dies among several of his friends – Barabbas dies alone. Jesus talks to God – Barabbas talks to the darkness. The novel starts with Jesus' crucifixion and ends with Barabbas' crucifixion in Rome.

"As a parable, "Barabbas" is open to many interpretations. As a picture of a human soul, with or without parable, it is moving and convincing."

– *Time*

Dinner Discussion: Victimization by Both Genders?

Many powerful men have recently been taken to task for sexual victimization. In October, *Scientific American* reported that sexual victimization by women is more common than previously known (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/sexual-victimization-by-women-is-more-common-than-previously-known/>). Is it possible for society to tackle sexual victimization by both genders? Would an attempt to do so distract from recent successes? What would be gained or lost by such a change in focus? Do you think it would be a good idea? Why or why not?

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