

Humanist Association of Connecticut Book Discussion – Upcoming Books 2018

Note: There will be no book discussion in May.

Saturday, June 16: *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America* by Kevin M. Kruse

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 belief that America is fundamentally and formally Christian originated in the 1930s...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.*

“Prepare yourself for a startling and important discovery: ‘Christian America’ is not a legacy of the nation's founders or a construct of the Cold War Era. Rather...it was the deliberate invention of conservative corporate leaders who allied with like-minded clergymen in the 1930s to fight the antichrist they most feared: Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. – Lizabeth Cohen, author of *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in America, 1919-1939*

Saturday, July 21: *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders

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.*

Named One of the Ten Best Books of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and Maureen Corrigan, NPR; a *New York Times* Notable Book

Saturday, August 18: *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren

Geobiologist Hope Jahren has spent her life studying trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. *Lab Girl* is her revelatory treatise on plant life – but it is also a celebration of the lifelong curiosity, humility, and passion that drive every scientist... Warm, luminous, compulsively readable, *Lab Girl* vividly demonstrates the mountains that we can move when love and work come together.*

“Engrossing. . . . Thrilling. . . . Does for botany what Oliver Sacks's essays did for neurology, what Stephen Jay Gould's writings did for paleontology.” – *The New York Times*

Saturday, September 15: *Fantasyland: How America went Haywire: a 500-Year History* by Kurt Anderson

In this sweeping, eloquent history of America, Kurt Andersen shows that what's happening in our country today—this post-factual, “fake news” moment we're all living through—is not something new, but rather the ultimate expression of our national character. America was founded by wishful dreamers, magical thinkers, and true believers, by hucksters and their suckers. Fantasy is deeply embedded in our DNA. *

“A frighteningly convincing and sometimes uproarious picture of a country in steep, perhaps terminal decline that would have the founding fathers weeping into their beards.” – *The Guardian*

All discussions are from 2-4 pm at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT.

* Description from Amazon.com website

** Description from wikipedia.org website