

Humanist Association of Connecticut Book Discussion – Upcoming Books 2018

Saturday, October 20: *Brother, I'm Dying* by Edwidge Danticat

From the age of four, award-winning writer Edwidge Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph as her “second father,” when she was placed in his care after her parents left Haiti for America. And so she was both elated and saddened when, at twelve, she joined her parents and youngest brothers in New York City. As Edwidge made a life in a new country...she and her family continued to fear for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorated...In 2004, they entered into a terrifying tale of good people caught up in events beyond their control. *Brother I'm Dying* is an astonishing true-life epic, told on an intimate scale by one of our finest writers.*

“Powerful. . . . Danticat employs the charms of a storyteller and the authority of a witness to evoke the political forces and personal sacrifices behind her parents' journey to this country and her uncle's decision to stay behind.” – *The Washington Post Book World*

Saturday, November 17: *The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and Their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World* by Charles C. Mann

From the best-selling, award-winning author of *1491* and *1493*: an incisive portrait of the two little-known twentieth-century scientists, Norman Borlaug and William Vogt, whose diametrically opposed views shaped our ideas about the environment, laying the groundwork for how people in the twenty-first century will choose to live in tomorrow's world.*

“Without taking sides, Mann delivers a fine examination of two possible paths to a livable future.” —*Publisher's Weekly* (starred review)

“An insightful, highly significant account that makes no predictions but lays out the critical environmental problems already upon us.”—*Kirkus* (starred review)

Saturday, December 15: *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve* by Stephen Greenblatt

...Greenblatt uncovers the tremendous theological, artistic, and cultural investment over centuries that made these fictional figures so profoundly resonant in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim worlds and, finally, so very “real” to millions of people even in the present...[He] explores the intensely personal engagement of Augustine, Dürer, and Milton in this mammoth project of collective creation, while he also limns the diversity of the story's offspring: rich allegory, vicious misogyny, deep moral insight, and some of the greatest triumphs of art and literature.

The biblical origin story, Greenblatt argues, is a model for what the humanities still have to offer: not the scientific nature of things, but rather a deep encounter with problems that have gripped our species for as long as we can recall and that continue to fascinate and trouble us today.*

“[A]lmost dizzying in its scope; Greenblatt draws from history, religion, art and science, and he writes about all of these fields with infectious enthusiasm. It's a strikingly intelligent book, but it's also accessible; he's a clear, unpretentious writer who can hardly hide his fascination with the subject.” – Michael Schaub, *NPR Books*

UPCOMING

Saturday, January 19, 2019: *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History* by Jeanne Theoharis

Saturday, February 16: *The Denial of Death* by Ernest Becker

Saturday, March 16: *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God* by T.M. Luhrmann

Saturday, April 20: *Barabbas* by Pär Lagerkvist

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