



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

March 2020



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly Meeting:

*"Before You Know It: What Science has Revealed about Unconscious Influences on Everyday Life"*

*- Monday March 16, 7 PM / USNH*

John Bargh is James Rowland Angell Professor of Psychology and Professor of Management at Yale University. Before coming to Yale he was on the faculty of New York University for over 20 years. Bargh was one of the early founders of the field of "social cognition" which takes a scientific approach to important life topics such as emotions, the meaning of life, and free will. His talk will focus on the last 40 years of research on the basic question of how much we control the workings of our mind in everyday life.

The HAC book group read Bargh's book of this title in August of 2019.

Coffee and snacks will be served.

### *Upcoming Social Action*

Make a note that March 9-16 is the week that USNH will operate an Overflow Shelter, "Abraham's Tent," in the Social Hall. HAC will assist with the Tuesday evening shift on 3/10 and provide breakfast for the following morning. See Gayle for details.

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [meetup.com/cthumanist](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist).

### MARCH 2020

Mon. 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 7	Explorations, "Rodin's The Gates of Hell"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 16	Monthly Meeting, "Before You Know It" Speaker John Bargh	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 21	Book Discussion: "The Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 22	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 23	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden Topic: Religious Exemptions to Vaccines	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 29	Music of David Schafer	3:00 p.m.

### APRIL 2020

Sat. 4	Explorations, "TBD"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 18	Book Discussion: "Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth" by Resa Aslam	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 20	Monthly Meeting, "Diversity: Retraining Our Biases", Speaker Wendy Mcleod	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 23	Dining Out for Life, APNH, Café Amici 1670 Whitney Av., Hamden	6:00 p.m.
Sun. 26	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 27	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden -- Topic: TBD	7:00 p.m.

## *It's a Good Time to Renew Your HAC Membership*

Please support our programming by renewing your membership for 2020. Mail your check to the Humanist Association of CT at

Humanist Association of Connecticut  
700 Hartford Turnpike  
Hamden, CT 06517-2214

Or bring your payment (cash accepted) to the next event you attend and give it to any Board member present.

\$35 individual, \$50 family, \$10 for the postal newsletter only.

You can use this form to opt out of receiving a printed copy in the mail or to make changes to your personal information:

<https://www.cthumanist.org/documents/membership-form-2019.pdf> (or you can just tell us)

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist) . [www.facebook.com/cthumanist](https://www.facebook.com/cthumanist) . [www.twitter.com/cthumanist](https://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

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contributed to this issue.

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### *The Beautiful Music of David Schafer*

Come listen with us!  
Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 P.M.

David Schafer is a retired medical physiologist,  
a Humanist, and a brilliant composer. David  
has long been the unofficial composer-in-  
residence at USNH. David and June Schafer  
were founders of the Humanist Association of  
Connecticut in 1989.

In May of 1993, the choir of USNH presented  
a concert of David Schafer's Music. We now  
have a CD recording of that concert, which  
will be played for your listening pleasure with  
the excellent acoustics of the USNH Sanctuary.  
The CD "Concert" will be held in the  
Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the  
Social Hall.

Copies of the CD will be available to order for  
purchase for \$10. Proceeds beyond costs will  
be used toward obtaining loan materials for  
the USNH Library, including Humanist  
reference publications and copies of David's  
music.

This event is co-sponsored by the USNH  
Music Department and Humanist Association  
of Connecticut. It is free and open to all.

## *Explorations: Rodin's The Gates of Hell*

-- March 7, 2:30 p.m.

Commissioned in 1880 for a Paris museum, which was never built, Rodin worked on this massive Architectural Sculpture until his death in 1917. This work, composed of 180 figures and a massive gate nearly twenty feet in height, was never cast in bronze in Rodin's lifetime. A casting was finally produced in 1980 with funding from the philanthropist B. Gerald Cantor. This is the story of how this monumental task was realized.

## *Book Discussion: Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett*

-- March 21, 2:30 p.m.

"The Pillars of the Earth" tells the story of Philip, prior of Kingsbridge, a devout and resourceful monk driven to build the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has known . . . of Tom, the mason who becomes his architect—a man divided in his soul . . . of the beautiful, elusive Lady Aliena, haunted by a secret shame . . . and of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state and brother against brother.

"...[An] historical novel of gripping readability, authentic atmosphere, and memorable characterization. Beginning with a mystery that casts its shadow, the narrative is a seesaw of tension, suspense, impeccable pacing . . . action, intrigue, violence, passion, greed, bravery, dedication, revenge, and love. A love that entertains, instructs, and satisfies on a grand scale." —*Publishers Weekly*

Snacks will be served.

## *Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion: Religious Exemptions to Vaccines*

-- Mar 23, 7 p.m., Hamden

Do you think abolishing religious exemptions to vaccines is a good idea? Here are some articles on the issue. This one

<https://journalistsresource.org/studies/society/public-health/child-vaccinations-religious-exemption/> is an article about California's experience.

This one ( <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx> ) is a summary of states with exemptions (dated January 2020). This one (

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5141457/> ) is a scholarly article investigating the validity of religious exemption claims. Come prepared to share your thoughts and reasoning.



*Humanism is an approach to life based on reason  
and our common humanity, recognizing that  
moral values are properly founded on human nature  
and experience alone.*

*- The Bristol Humanist Group*