



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

October 2019



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly Meeting— Mark Davis / Final Exit Network - Monday, October 21- 7:00 PM

Final Exit Network, Inc. (FEN) is an American nonprofit right-to-die group incorporated under Florida law. Final Exit Network was founded in 2004 by former members of the Hemlock Society, including that organization's co-founders Derek Humphry and Dr. Faye Girsh, Ed.D. It was named after Humphry's 1991 book "Final Exit." Mark Davis will be providing information about Final Exit Network's efforts to provide immediate, painless and peaceful relief for screened, suffering members with intractable conditions seeking to end their lives. Mark was a businessman who, throughout his life, found the topics of death and dying to be difficult and uncomfortable. When his mother's health led her to request his assistance in ending her life, it was more than unsettling. His research led him to the book, "Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying." After sharing the book's then recommended method for self-deliverance with his mother, she changed her mind, as many do. As aging forced him to confront his own mortality, he resumed his research on issues related to aging, dying and death and became a hospice volunteer in Danbury. Later Mark became a speaker

## Calendar of Events

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

### OCTOBER 2019

Sat. 5	Explorations, "Color with Stephany Cousins"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 21	Monthly Meeting: "Final Exit Network" Presenter Mark Davis	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 26	Book Discussion: "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 27	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 28	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden Topic: "Polarization"	7:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 2019

Sat. 2	Explorations, TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: "Assassination Vacation" by Sarah Vowel	TBD p.m. to TBD p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden	7:00 p.m.

for Final Exit and he is currently trained to be an Exit Guide. He combines his hospice experience, the principles of Final Exit, personal experience and research into his presentations and discussions.

We will discuss the history of the movement and its future directions. We will try to take a look at efforts to get the Connecticut legislature to pass a law providing doctor-assisted suicide for qualified individuals, and what such a law would and wouldn't provide.

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

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contributed to this issue.
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Transportation Survey

Do you need transportation to and
from any of the HAC events
described in this newsletter or can
you provide transportation?

Please take this simple survey:

- I need a ride
OR,
I can provide a ride for
someone within a couple of
miles on days I am going to
the event myself

Please drop your survey off at the
membership table at the monthly
meeting with your name, address
and phone number, or discuss with
Carol Ritter. Thank you!

Explorations: Color with Stephany Cousins

--Oct 5, 2:30 p.m.

Join us for an introductory workshop on Albers color theory
with our very own artist, Stephany Cousins. A professional color
expert and educator, she has taught at Albertus Magnus College.
Please wear a shirt that is a solid color (or a very small pattern
with one predominant color), and try to remember to bring a
pair of scissors in case we don't have enough for everybody.

Book Discussion: The Hate U Give by
Angie Thomas

--Oct 26, 2:30 p.m.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the
poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep
school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is
shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her
childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.
Khalil was unarmed. This book is a novel about love and
reconciliation in the undervalued lives in our society.

Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion: Keeping
Conversation Alive in a Polarized World

--Oct 28, 7 p.m., Hamden

America seems to be growing more and more divided every day. We
feel right and righteous and certain about our agenda. How can we
still find ways to compromise with others who may not agree with us?
How do we all work together?

Facilitator and author Jason Jay from MIT Sloan explores what
happens inside ourselves when conversations go off the rails and offers
a tool to help people harness polarization as a source of creative
energy.

We will discuss this 17-minute video from the MIT Sloan
Sustainability Initiative:

https://mitsloan.mit.edu/sustainability/video/how-to-keep-
conversation-alive-in-a-polarized-world-jason-jay-tedxbocaraton.

We need you!

There are many opportunities available to support this group, such as:

- Arrive early before any of the 3 monthly HAC events at USNH to
- Make coffee and set up the refreshment table
- Provide hospitality to unfamiliar faces, offering name tags and the newsletter
Stay after to help cleanup and return equipment, chairs and supplies to their proper places