



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2019



UU Humanists Local Group

## *Annual Meeting and Winter Solstice Celebration with Potluck Dinner* Monday, December 16, 7:00 PM at USNH

*Musical entertainment provided  
by Wry Bred*

We will begin by sharing a meal and conversation, with music from Wry Bred, led by our own Mickey Koth. Please bring a dish to share.

Following dinner, there will be a Brief Annual Meeting for Election of Officers, with remarks from our President, Carol Siddall.

The annual reading of Lois Woodrow's "Ode to the Tilt" will be done by past President Doug Peary.

Participate in a Humanist/Solstice Trivia Contest at your table! (You may win a prize!)

There will be an opportunity for song and dance, led by our own Sue Greene, with Board member Jim Ritter on fiddle.

Please remember to bring SOCKS to contribute to the New Haven Public Library's ongoing Sock Drive for persons using Homeless Shelters - there is a significant unmet need for new socks for all ages, sizes, and genders.

## *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).

### DECEMBER 2019

Mon. 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 7	Explorations, "Hobson's Choice"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 16	Annual Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 21	Book Discussion: "The Soul of an Octopus" by Sy Montgomery	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 23	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden Topic: "Little Ice Age lessons," from Aeon Magazine	7:00 p.m.
Wed. 25	Annual December Brunch	12:00 p.m.

### JANUARY 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: TBD by TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 20	Monthly Meeting, "Traveloque", Steve and Susan Boshi	7:00 p.m.
Mon. 27	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden	7:00 p.m.

### *Note to Renew*

Please take a minute to send in your 2020 dues to the HAC mailing address (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT 06517-2214): \$35 individual, \$50 family, \$10 postal newsletter only. You may always bring your cash or check payment to the annual meeting or to any HAC meeting. The fee will be waived in case of hardship. Just let us know.

### *December 25<sup>th</sup> Brunch*

Join us for the annual brunch at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 25 at Pacific Buffet and Grill, 20 Ives Rd., Wallingford.

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

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

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### *USNH Programs of Interest (An HAC Courtesy Posting)*

#### *Social Cinema*

The movie "Brightness of Noon"  
explores compassion for immigrants  
and refugees and includes content  
about Sujitno Sajuti of recent 2 year  
sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist  
Church in Meriden.

Join us on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. The potluck is at  
6:30 and film is at 7:15. Bring a dish to  
share!

#### *USNH Book Discussion*

"Invisible No More: Police Violence  
Against Black Women and Women of  
Color", is presented by Adult Religious  
Education, in cooperation with the  
Women's Empowerment & Anti-  
Racism Task Forces".

A detailed study guide is available free  
on line if you cannot read the book.

### *Explorations: Hobson's Choice*

- Dec 7, 2:30 p.m.

A good laugh and something uplifting is in order for the upcoming holiday season. This 1954 film from the director David Lean (Brief Encounter, Great Expectations, Doctor Zhivago, Lawrence of Arabia) tells the tale of Henry Hobson, an overbearing, chauvinistic, and patriarchal owner of a boot shop in Victorian England, and his three daughters. While he rules with an iron hand over the two younger girls, he is less than successful with Maggie, the eldest, who has a will and mind of her own. Join us for this beautiful story and all the surprises it holds, appropriate in this time of ascendant feminism.

### *Book Discussion: The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery -- Dec 21, 2:30 p.m.*

"In pursuit of the wild, solitary, predatory octopus, popular naturalist Sy Montgomery has practiced true immersion journalism. From New England aquarium tanks to the reefs of French Polynesia and the Gulf of Mexico, she has befriended octopuses with strikingly different personalities...Montgomery chronicles the growing appreciation of this mollusk as she tells a unique love story. By turns funny, entertaining, touching, and profound, The Soul of an Octopus reveals what octopuses can teach us about the meeting of two very different minds."

--Excerpted from goodreads.com

### *Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion: "Little Ice Age lessons" -- Dec 23, 7 p.m., Hamden*

Digital magazine Aeon presents essays and video documentaries with the intent of asking the big questions and provoking critical thinking on a variety of topics. This month, that topic is global warming. What did we learn from the recent climate cooling period from about 1200 CE through the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century? The effects of this "Little Ice Age" were not lost on the sea-going Dutch whalers. How does this contrast with our current warming trend? Read the article and join us for a lively discussion.

<https://aeon.co/essays/the-little-ice-age-is-a-history-of-resilience-and-surprises>

### *We need you!*

There are many opportunities available to support HAC, such as:

- Arrive early before any of the 3 monthly HAC events at USNH to
  - Assist with making coffee and setting 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