



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2021



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly Meeting "Darwin Day Celebration"

With James Prosek

Friday February 19, 7:00 p.m.

This month, rather than our usual Third Monday meeting, we will be joining the statewide celebration of science and nature. CTCOR (Coalition of Reason) is honored to welcome as this year's speaker naturalist, conservationist and internationally acclaimed artist James Prosek. Prosek is a unique visual artist who is attempting to build bridges with the worlds of natural science and the arts. He has been an artist-in-residence at numerous institutions including the Yale University Art Gallery, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Addison Gallery of American Art. In 2002 he won a Peabody Award for his documentary on 17th-century author and angler Izaak Walton and his book *The Compleat Angler*.

Prosek is the author of eleven books for both adults and children, including *Ocean Fishes* (Rizzoli, 2012) and *The Day My Mother Left* (Simon & Schuster, 2006). He has written for the *New York Times* and *National Geographic Magazine*.

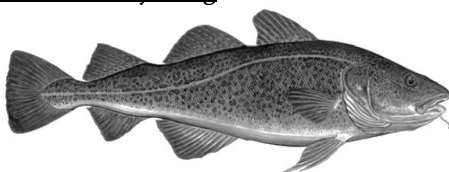
At the meeting, we will continue the tradition of the annual Science Quiz. Usually done at a venue by table at the dinner, this year we will use Zoom Breakout Rooms to form teams.

The event is free and open to all. However, registration is required. Register at:

<http://bit.ly/DarwinDayCT2021>

For further information, you can visit

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



## Calendar of Events

RSVPs are welcome at [meetup.com/cthumanist/events](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist/events). You can view the latest newsletter at [www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org).

Programs are held ONLINE this month.

### FEBRUARY 2021

Mon. 1	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 6	Explorations Topic: Fake News	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fri. 19	Darwin Day Celebration Speaker: James Prosek	7:00 p.m.
*** <i>Special note: The above event is a Friday</i> ***		
Sat. 20	Book Discussion: "Cotton Comes to Harlem" by Chester Himes	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 21	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 22	Monday Discussion Zoom Topic: Open Meeting	7:00 p.m.

### MAR 2021

Mon. 1	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 6	Explorations	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 15	Monthly Meeting Speaker: TBD	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 20	Book Discussion: "Blueprint" by Nicholas Christakis	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 21	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 29	Monday Discussion Zoom	7:00 p.m.

## IRIS Run for Refugees

This is our second year sponsoring a Team in the Annual IRIS Fundraiser. It is a virtual event this year! We are still running/walking the 5K on our own.

Participation is easy: Use this link to get directly to our Team info:

<https://runsignup.com/humanistassociationofct>

Register to walk/run/use your treadmill; wear your Run T-shirt (it comes in the mail after you sign up) and then send in a photo if you like.

You can make a donation to help our Team reach its goal. Please give as generously as you can. Thanks to those who have already donated.

The IRIS Virtual Run is ongoing through February 14. So far, we have raised \$172 toward our goal of \$500.

[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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## Topics of Interest

### Two Humanist Studies

USNH's Small Group Ministry Program is offering two options focused on Humanism during the Spring Semester: Humanism: History & Heroes, facilitated by Doug Peary with Christine Durham assisting; and Humanist Thought & Perspectives, facilitated by Gayle Walter. Groups meet via Zoom, and are open to all. History & Heroes will meet on Second Thursdays, 7-9pm; Thought & Perspectives will meet on Fourth Wednesdays, 7-9pm. The Spring Semester runs from March through June. You are invited to sign up for one or both. Contact Gayle Walter at [gaylecwalter@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecwalter@gmail.com) to register or with questions.

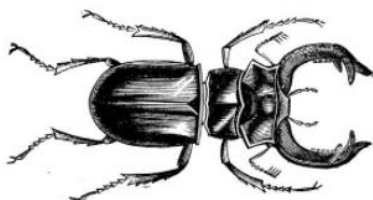
### Another Darwin Day Event

Annual Celebration of Darwin and Evolution - Rob Boyd: A Different Kind of Animal - How Culture Transformed our Species. The ability to transmit information through time is a key human evolutionary innovation.

Sun 2/7/2021 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

An online event, read about it here:

<https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Society-of-Greater-Phoenix/events/275034753/>



## Monday Social

- February 1, 7:00 p.m.

Join us online for our Virtual Social Dinner, and discuss a wide range of topics with like-minded people.

Link to event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83132656752>

## Humanist Explorations: Fake News

- Sat. 6 - 2:30 p.m.

Did the United States write the playbook for fake news and use it to overthrow a government? This article breaks it down. Can you think of any countermeasures a country could use to protect itself from tactics like these? Read the article in advance of the meeting at: <https://narratively.com/the-literally-unbelievable-story-of-the-original-fake-news-network-full/> and join our zoom meeting to discuss it. Here is the Zoom link for Saturday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86886923216>

## Book Discussion: "Cotton Comes to Harlem" by Chester Himes

- February 20, 2:30 p.m.

A genre novel by one of the great Black writers of the 20th Century, author Chester Himes is sometimes referred to as the "Black Raymond Chandler" because much of his writing is in the detective genre.

"Cotton Comes to Harlem" is one of [Himes's] hardest-hitting and most entertaining thrillers. Flim-flam man Deke O'Hara is no sooner out of Atlanta's state penitentiary than he's back on the streets working the scam of a lifetime. As sponsor of the Back-to-Africa movement, he's counting on a big Harlem rally to produce a massive collection --for his own private charity. But the take is hijacked by white gunmen and hidden in a bale of cotton that suddenly everyone wants to get his hands on. As NYPD detectives "Coffin Ed" Johnson and "Grave Digger" Jones piece together the complexity of the scheme, we are treated to Himes's brand of hard-boiled crime fiction at its very best. -- Amazon Join the meeting at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85250334590?pwd=OGJoQ2FXUmtCUG9aT1NueU5>

## Monday Discussion

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Is climate change bad enough yet?

Join us as we discuss recent reporting that global ice loss is aligning with worst-case climate models.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/25012021/global-ice-loss-sea-level-rise/>

See this Washington Post article: <https://tinyurl.com/y5mkreln>

Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83782952532>

## Tech Tip

It looks like we will be meeting in the ether for a while longer. Continue to make efforts to remove background distractions, such as TVs, and keep your computer or phone speaker volume as low as you are still comfortable. If you are using two devices, make sure the speaker is off on one of them.

The Darwin Day event will introduce a new (to most of us) feature, the Zoom Breakout Room. The host will manage this, either by pre-assignment or by providing "room" pop-up windows to join. Easy-peasy! Duck soup! I am hopeful.

## Membership

It's time to restart your HAC membership for 2021! Thanks to those of you who have already signed up and sent your check in. HAC memberships run on the calendar year, with courtesy to new members who join for the first time during the last 3 months of the previous year. Your membership dues help us meet expenses such as honorariums for speakers, postage, printing and mailing supplies, and monthly space rental payments.

In addition, the strength of numbers can enhance the impact of any public statements, in letters to the editor, in testimony at the State Capitol in support of bills supporting humanist values, and, in general, in our strength as a local stakeholder group.

Please mail in your check as soon as you are able. Membership checks are being sent directly to our Treasurer's home during the pandemic.

Complete the attached form with your updated contact information and enclose it with your check. It is OK to mail this entire page or you may cut out the form and mail it. You may download a separate copy of the form at our webpage to share with friends:

<https://www.cthumanist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/membership-form-2020.pdf>

Thank you.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
!Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
!Family . . . . . \$50	_____
!Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
!Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	E-Mail Address: _____
!In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to	Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of	<b>You will be receiving your newsletter electronically unless you indicate that you require a paper copy by checking here <input type="checkbox"/></b>
Connecticut, c/o 380 Hitchcock Road #272, Waterbury, CT 06705.	As a chapter of the American Humanist Association we share your information with AHA.

➔ Beginning next month, paper copies will be mailed only to registered members who have requested paper copies. Members can always ask to be added back to the paper mailing list by sending a note to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org) and we will cheerfully comply.