



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

January



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly Meeting "Ranked Choice Voting"

With Caleb Kleppner

Monday January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Caleb Kleppner is our speaker this Monday night. He has drafted legislation to implement or allow ranked choice voting at both local and state levels. He has worked with election officials to address all aspects of election administration. He lives in New Haven.

- Caleb is co-founder and principal of MK Elections, which provides comprehensive election administration and consulting services to a variety of institutional clients.
- He was a senior analyst at the Center for Voting and Democracy (now called FairVote), one of the nation's leading advocacy groups for redistricting, voting and election reform.
- He has made presentations on electoral reform to numerous audiences, including students, local Leagues of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, political groups and other civic organizations.
- Prior to joining FairVote, he was the executive director of a small non-profit organization that educates the public about the systemic causes of environmental degradation. As part of this work, he organized a conference on electoral reform with the Center for Voting and Democracy and Californians for Proportional Representation.

He holds an M.S. in natural resource policy from Cornell University and a B.S. in mathematics from Yale University.

## 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.

### JANUARY 2021

Sat. 2	Explorations Topic: What Was Your Silver Lining for 2020? by Everyone who shows up	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 4	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: "The Shallows" by Nicholas Carr	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting: Ranked Choice Voting Speaker: Caleb Kleppner	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Monday Discussion Zoom Topic: Bad News! A game	7:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 2021

Sat. 7	Explorations Topic: TBD by TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 8	Monday Social Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 20	Book Discussion: "Cotton Comes to Harlem" by Chester Hines	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fri. 19	Darwin Day Celebration Speaker: James Prosec	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 21	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 22	Monday Discussion Zoom Topic: TBD	7:00 p.m.

## Humanist Explorations: What Was Your Silver Lining for 2020?

- January 2 - 2:30 p.m.

2020 was an awful year, right? The year started out with Australia on fire and just got worse, with lockdowns, job losses, a multi-country locust attack, people being killed by police, riots, did I mention 300,000 people dead in the U.S. of Covid-19 ... you would think there was nothing good about 2020. 2020 will definitely go down in the record books as a terrible year, but now that it's over, was there a silver lining in it for you? Did anything good happen in your life in the last year? Let's get together, share some good fortune and maybe feel a little better about the year that we just got to say goodbye to. Join us online on Saturday, January 2, at 2:30 p.m. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000286654>

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

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Approximate circulation: 180 copies.

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Topics of Interest

RESCHEDULED USNH Climate Change Workshop

January 27, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Join us in a climate change workshop. To sign up, email [melinda.tuhus@gmail.com](mailto:melinda.tuhus@gmail.com) and put CLIMATE WORKSHOP in caps in the subject line.

The Annual Meeting and Solstice Event

Thank you to all who made our special Zoom event such a success! Almost 30 people attended. The Board slate was elected unanimously as presented. Thanks to the Nominating Committee, to Gayle Walter, and to Nina Stein for their reports. Special thanks to all who contributed to the Virtual Food Drive. HAC sent \$700 to the Connecticut Food Bank.

Donations can still be made at:  
<https://p2p.onecause.com/connecticutfoodbank>

Kudos to all our Solstice presenters: Doug Peary, Wild Notes, Mickey Koth, Margaret Ariori, Carol Siddall, Jim Ritter, Marlene Taevs, and Suzanne Greene, plus our welcome walk-ons, John Connell and Bea Maslowski. Last but not least, much appreciation to Richard Siddall and Carol Siddall for masterfully Zoom Hosting the evening. Happy New Year to us all!

Darwin Day Connecticut Celebration

Save the date: February 19, 2021, 7 PM  
Read about it and register at  
[www.darwindayct.org](http://www.darwindayct.org)

Monday Social (Turkish Kebab House)

- January 4, 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/88032651877>

Book Discussion: "The Shallows: What the Internet is doing to Our Brains"

by Nicholas Carr

- January 16, 2:30 p.m.

In this ground-breaking and compelling book, Nicholas Carr argues that not since Gutenberg invented printing has humanity been exposed to such a mind-altering technology. "The Shallows" draws on the latest research to show that the Net is literally re-wiring our brains inducing only superficial understanding. As a consequence there are profound changes in the way we live and communicate, remember and socialize - even in our very conception of ourselves. By moving from the depths of thought to the shallows of distraction, the web, it seems, is actually fostering ignorance. "The Shallows" is not a manifesto for luddites, nor does it seek to turn back the clock. Rather it is a revelatory reminder of how far the Internet has become enmeshed in our daily existence and is affecting the way we think. - Amazon

"Silent Spring" for the literary mind. - Slate

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83698090020?pwd=VW52M2krNzIINNmZZYWl2MmMkcmVEOT09>

Monday Discussion (Wood-n-Tap) Bad News!

January 25, 7:00 p.m.

Not really. This is a game. <https://www.getbadnews.com> Play a round and come prepared to discuss it with us on Monday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83973034236>

Topics of Interest continued:

CONNECT

Please remember the presentation by our November speaker, Kenny Foscue. On Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7 pm, CONNECT will have its January Legislative Assembly via Zoom. The major legislative issues will be our continued struggle to pass Clean Slate legislation, and to support legislative efforts regarding health care and racial disparities. Other issues will be presented and discussed.

You can sign up (right now!) at <https://tinyurl.com/y93he8ju>. Go down to "Congregation / Institution", scroll down to Guest and put in "Friend of USNH".

**Tech Tip:** Avoid feedback. This may be one of the most difficult aspects of online group meetings. What is it? When you speak a word into your microphone, it is broadcast on everyone's speakers. Loud speakers send that sound into remote microphones and the sound comes back over your speakers and back into your microphone. The cascading sounds are like a hall of mirrors. If the echoing sound follows the original utterance closely enough, you will get a screeching effect. Solution: Reduce speaker volume. Better, wear headsets if you've got 'em!