



## HAC Monthly Meeting A Voice for Vulnerable Children: The CASA Approach

Monday Sept. 20th, 7:00 p.m.

Josiah H. Brown is inaugural executive director of a statewide Connecticut Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organization for children facing abuse and/or neglect and in need of court-appointed special advocates. He has experience in university administration, public schools, philanthropy, government, and community partnership. He is (since July 1, 2021) executive director of Connecticut CASA (<https://www.connecticutcasa.org/>) -- after having in 2019 launched CASA of Southern Connecticut, part of the national CASA network for children facing abuse and/or neglect and in need of court-appointed special advocates.

In earlier roles, Brown was an aide to U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro. He worked for UConn Upward Bound and has volunteered with various urban youth organizations and public schools.

As a volunteer, he is a former president of Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven. He is a founding board member of, and now chairs, the Literacy Coalition of Greater New Haven. He coaches youth basketball during winter. At Yale, since 2008 he has been an associate fellow of Saybrook College and adviser to students there. He is an occasional contributor to the Good Men Project, New Haven Independent, and Times of India, and to a blog at [www.josiahbrown.org](http://www.josiahbrown.org). He has a B.A. with distinction in history from Yale and a master's in public policy from Harvard.

The online meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/81444530449>

## Calendar of Events

RSVPs are welcome at [meetup.com/cthumanist/events](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist/events). You can view the latest newsletter and calendar at [www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org) with new and improved format. Thank you Richard!

Some programs are held ONLINE this month.

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Sat. 4	Explorations – Hedy Lamarr, Film Star with Hidden Talent	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 6	Monday Social Zoom – Join Us Online <a href="https://www.cthumanist.org/#events">https://www.cthumanist.org/#events</a>	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 18	Book Discussion: “Quicksand” by Nella Larsen	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sat. 18	Walk Against Hunger in Hartford	8:45 a.m.
Mon. 20	Monthly Meeting – A Voice for Vulnerable Children: The CASA Approach	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 26	Board Meeting (all members are welcome)	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 27	Wood-N-Tap Discussion – TBD	7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER 2021

Sat. 2	Explorations – TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 4	Monday Social Zoom – TBD	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: The Evolution of God By Robert Wright	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting – TBD	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting (all members are welcome)	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Wood-N-Tap Discussion – TBD	7:00 p.m.

### *HAC Explorations – Hedy Lamarr, Film Star with a Hidden Talent – Sat, Sept. 4, 2:30 p.m.*

Film producer Louis B. Mayer promoted Hedy Lamarr as: “The world's most beautiful woman” and her work in thirty films over as many years established her as that for many of her fans. There was, however, a little known side of her that never received much attention. She was also an accomplished scientist and inventor, and her work in that capacity has had a major impact on history and on our lives today. Join us for this fascinating story, which pays homage to an underestimated woman of our age.

This event is held in the Social Hall at USNH. The Boshis will host.

[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)

## Contact

President--Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546  
president@cthumanist.org

Newsletter Editor--Jim Ritter  
editor@cthumanist.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit  
<https://www.cthumanist.org/mailman/listinfo/hac-announce/>

Approximate circulation: 180 copies.

Copyright © 2021 Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission, providing attribution is given.

## Notices and Events of Interest

### USNH Event of Interest

Special Service on Humanism

Sunday, October 24, 10:30am.

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, USNH Minister, will speak, and USNH members who identify as Humanist will participate.

Contact [GayleCWalter@gmail.com](mailto:GayleCWalter@gmail.com) with questions.

Get involved with IRIS! The need is great.

<https://iristc.org/volunteer-application/>

Get the IRIS response to the Afghanistan debacle:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ak40A9V8OXsqzxH2TDCOb7Z7Hgvo?e=MOLPIY>

## Save the Date

*Walk Against Hunger* - Connecticut

Foodbank and Foodshare have merged. This year's Walk Against Hunger will be held at the Dunkin' Donuts (Yard Goats) Stadium, 1214 Main Street, Hartford, on Saturday, September 18 with registration starting from 8:45 AM. The after-walk ceremonies should be concluded by noon.

The team web site is live, so you can donate, or join the HAC team at:

<http://site.foodshare.org/goto/cthumanist>

## Tech Tip - The Monty Hall Problem

There are three doors, with a goat behind each of two doors and a car behind the remaining door. What is the probability you will pick the grand prize? – 1 in 3. You select a door. The game show host then opens one of the other two doors and shows you the goat behind that door. So now you know that there is a goat and the car prize left. Monty now asks, would you like to change your choice? Remarkably, this is a good idea, as your chances for success will double if you do.

If there is meaning to this paradox, or if it has some real life significance, I don't really know what it is, but economist Paul Samuelson recalls that John Maynard Keynes (a self-proclaimed heretic and probably a humanist) once said "When my information changes, I change my mind. What do you do?" Intuition sometimes fails us.

## Book Discussion: "Quicksand" by Nella Larsen

Hosted by Kevin & Paula – Sat, Sept. 18th, 2:30 p.m.

Nella Larsen introduces the educated mixed-race protagonist, Helga Crane, who struggles to find her identity in a world of racialized crisis in the 1920s....The novel gives us a glimpse into the dichotomy of being mixed raced and the divergence into two vastly different worlds as the protagonist travels through uniquely different cultural spaces from 1920's Jazz Age Harlem, NY to Copenhagen, Denmark.

When in Harlem...Crane happens onto a store-front revival and has a charismatic religious experience. After marrying the preacher who converted her, she moves with him to the rural Deep South. There she is disillusioned by the people's adherence to religion. In each of her moves, Crane fails to find fulfillment. She is looking for more than how to integrate her mixed ancestry. – Wikipedia

"[Nella Larsen's novels] open up a whole world of experience that seemed to me, when I first read them years ago, absolutely absorbing, fascinating, and indispensable. They do that still." – Alice Walker

Upcoming:

Saturday, October 16: "The Evolution of God" by Robert Wright

Saturday, November 20: "The Wordy Shipmates" by Sarah Vowell

We will meet in the Social Hall at USNH.

## Wood-N-Tap Discussion: - Urban Parks - Equality, Diversity and Public Health

Mon. Sept. 27th, 7:00 p.m. indoors at the Hamden Wood-n-Tap

This is our monthly dinner discussion group. We have returned to meeting in-person in the Middle Room at the restaurant.

With more of the world's population living in cities, urban parks are becoming more and more important as the only green spaces many of us see on a daily basis. During the Covid-19 lockdown, they took on a special role. Our discussion will be based on this presentation by Mitchell Silver, the outgoing commissioner of the NYC Parks Department (starts about 3:12 minutes in): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g28aqeXBsdM>