



The Humanist Association of Connecticut

Newsletter for January, 2024

Welcome to 2024

If you missed our annual meeting in December, Pat Williams joins the HAC board as Secretary, replacing Malcolm Staddon. Nina Stein stepped down as Treasurer after four years of service. Aaron Goode moved back to publicity and Carol Siddall took over programs.

Our January board meeting has been postponed at week to Sunday, January 28.

We had to postpone our planned Humanist Explorations on *The Art of Charles and Margaret Mackintosh* to the first Saturday of February.

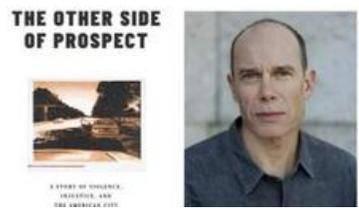
There are three book discussions and a panel discussion on *The Other Side of Prospect* coming up on four days in January and February. The regular HAC book discussions at the Wilson branch of the New Haven Free Public Library continue on the third Saturday of the month.

The annual Darwin Day Dinner in Southern Fairfield County continues with a talk by Matthew Eisaman of Yale University on *Using the Oceans to Address Climate Change*. It will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the same venue as last year, The Inn at Longshore in Westport. Tickets are \$69 until February 5, slightly more if you register online. There's more information at <https://darwindayct.org/>

Calendar for January, 2024

Mon, 1	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT
Sun, 14	12:00PM to 2:00PM	The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion
Mon, 15	6:30PM to 9:00PM	Monthly Meeting - Melinda Tuhus Explains Cop City
Sat, 20	2:30PM to 4:30PM	"Poverty, by America" by Matthew Desmond at Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT
Tue, 23	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Northern Social Dinner at Butterfly at Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT
Sun, 28	12:00PM to 2:00PM	The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion
Sun, 28	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Board Meeting (online)

The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion



Sunday, January 14, 2024
12:00PM to 2:00PM

The Unitarian Society of New Haven and the Humanist Association of Connecticut will be holding three book discussions prior to the author-led panel discussion on Nicholas Dawidoff's *The Other Side of Prospect*. The panel discussion will be on Sunday, February 25, 2024. The book discussions will be held on Sundays from 12 noon to 2 PM in the USNH library on January 14, January 28 and February 18. Gayle Walter and Becky Sandman will co-

facilitate and hope to have a different focus at each discussion.
USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Monthly Meeting - Melinda Tuhus Explains Cop City



Monday, January 15, 2024
6:30PM to 9:00PM

The Atlanta Police Foundation and City of Atlanta are creating a 100-acre training center in Atlanta's Weelaunee Forest. The campaign to prevent the project calls itself "Stop Cop City." Arrested protesters

have been charged with everything from misdemeanors to domestic terrorism, and at least one apparently unarmed activist has been killed over this so far.

For our monthly meeting this January, New Haven-based independent journalist Melinda Tuhus will tell us what this is all about, and bring us up-to-date with the situation, including how it affects at least one local resident.

Melinda has over 40 years of experience in print and radio, including in *These Times*, *The New York Times*, *Free Speech Radio News* and public radio stations. Her articles on this topic have been published

in the *Connecticut Post* and *Connecticut Mirror* papers, and on radio programs *Between the Lines* and WPKN's *Mic Check*, among others. Melinda has a special interest in environmental coverage, women's issues and criminal justice/prison issues. She has won several state, regional and international awards for her work.

We will start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 6:30 PM, followed by the main program after brief announcements at 7:00 PM.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

"Poverty, by America" by Matthew Desmond



Saturday, January 20, 2024
2:30PM to 4:30PM

Our book for January is *Poverty, by America* by sociologist Matthew Desmond.

From Amazon: The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty

than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?

In this landmark book, acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor. Those of us who are financially secure exploit the poor, driving down their wages while forcing them to overpay for housing and access to cash and credit. We

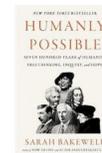
prioritize the subsidization of our wealth over the alleviation of poverty..Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem.

"Desmond's book makes an urgent and unignorable appeal to our national conscience, one that has been quietly eroded over decades of increasing personal consumption and untiring corporate greed." – Claire Messud, *Harper's*

Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT



"Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison
February 24, 2024



"Humanly Possible" by Sarah Blakewell
March 16, 2024

Northern Social Dinner at Butterfly



Tuesday, January 23, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM

This month we're going to try the Butterfly Chinese restaurant on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford. Join us for some friendly and interesting conversation!

Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT

The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion

THE OTHER SIDE OF PROSPECT



A STORY OF COURAGE,
HUMANISM, AND
THE AMERICAN WEST



Sunday, January 28, 2024
12:00PM to 2:00PM

Other events

Social Dinner: Monday, January 1, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave,
West Haven CT

Board Meeting: Sunday, January 28, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM



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facilitate and hope to have a different focus at each discussion.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Revised COVID policy

We request that you be as fully vaccinated as possible

To join HAC or renew your membership, visit our membership page.

HAC is a chapter of the American Humanist Association, a member of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason, and a UU Humanists local group.

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c/o USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT 06517-2214