



Vol. XXXIX No. 10
October 2025

HUMANIST Monthly

A Publication of the Capital District Humanist Society
Connecting the Secular Humanist Community of Upstate New York, Western Massachusetts, and Southern Vermont

Sunday, October 12th, 2025

In Person at 12:30 PM and Online at 1:00 PM

What's So Funny About Humanism?

Who says humanists don't know how to laugh?

Join award-winning stand-up comedian and Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, Fish Stark, for a stand-up comedy presentation that lets us laugh at ourselves just as much as we laugh at the Christian Right. Covering humanist history, ethics, and of course the loyal opposition - and referencing the comedy styles of American humanist humorists from Mark Twain to Quinta Brunson, George Carlin to Kurt Vonnegut, and even a Brit or two - come ready to laugh at the state of the world and our struggle to strive for humanity within it."

Prior to coming to the AHA, Fish was the Head of Program + Curriculum at Legends, an educational technology startup, where he led research and implementation teams to create products that helped children build self-confidence, positive mental health, and critical thinking skills.

Previously, Fish served as the Director of Programs at Peace First, a global nonprofit that provides training and funding to youth social justice activists, where he led a global team of organizers who empowered thousands of youth grantees in 140+ countries to make lasting change in their communities, and worked with organizations such as the Red Cross and Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation to develop youth leadership programs.

Fish's other professional experiences include managing progressive political campaigns, leading a mentorship program in the West Virginia coalfields with the American Friends Service Committee, building a nationally recognized peer-to-peer bullying prevention program, and teaching students from pre-school to high school.

A self-proclaimed developmental psychology nerd who is passionate about giving everyone the tools to live lives of meaning, service, and self-determination, Fish holds a Master's degree in Education with a concentration in child development and psychology from Harvard University, and a Bachelor's degree from Yale University with a certificate in Education Studies. While at Yale, Fish served as a student board member of the Yale Humanist Community and received a Dean's Prize for his work to build a stronger relationship between Yale and New Haven. He moonlights as an award-winning stand-up comedian and has performed in 13 states.

The program will take place both in person (at 12:30 PM) and online (at 1:00 PM) via Zoom. The in-person event will be held at Pinnacle Living at 45 Forts Ferry Road in Latham, NY. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available at the in-person meeting before the speaker's presentation, but **please bring your own beverage**. Current paid CDHS members will automatically receive an invite to the on-line meeting via email. If you are not a current paid CDHS member, please see the paragraph below to request an email invitation to attend.

This event is free and open to the public. It will be held at Pinnacle Living at 45 Forts Ferry Road in Latham, New York and via Zoom. If you are not a current paid CDHS member, please follow the instructions below to request an email invitation to attend.

ANYONE WHO IS NOT A CURRENT PAID MEMBER of CDHS can attend. Send an email request to: CDHS.Albany@gmail.com. Please send the request several days prior to the meeting.



Fish Stark

The Capital District Humanist Society provides a supportive community for exchanging ideas, heightening our knowledge of the world and ourselves, fostering moral and ethical growth, and promoting the principles of secular humanism. CDHS is a member organization for people with humanist values. Our values include commitment to free inquiry, rational thought, lifelong education, democracy, social concern, and fellowship.

Capital District Humanist Society, Inc.

Established 1986

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CapitalDistrictHumanistSociety>



CDHS is affiliated with:

The American Humanist Association (AHA)

Center for Inquiry (CSI)

Humanists International (HI)

The Secular Coalition for America (SCA)

On Sunday, November 9th, 2025, 12:30 PM (In Person) and 1:00 PM (Online)
The Capital District Humanist Society Presents:

“Particulars that I have Been eye & ear witness to”: How Nathaniel Bacheller Changed History



Eric Schnitzer War

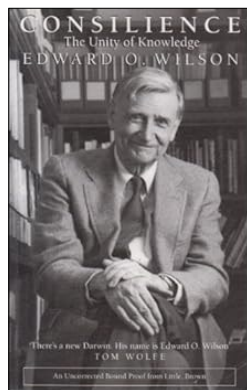
Benedict Arnold, although relieved of command, rode out to take charge of the faltering American attack against the British on October 7, 1777, thus bringing our troops to victory! Or did he? This program explores an epic example of Revolutionary evidence-driven revisionist history!

Eric Schnitzer has worked at Saratoga National Historical Park since 1997, becoming Park Ranger/Historian in 2000. He has dedicated his life's study to the organization, personnel, and material culture of the British, German, and American armed forces of the American War for independence, particularly as relates to the Northern Campaign of 1777. He lectures and writes extensively on the subjects and has written articles for journals such as The Hessians, The Brigade Dispatch, and The Fort Ticonderoga Bulletin. He's also created illustrations for books such as *Philadelphia 1777*; *Wives, Slaves and Servant Girls: Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers, 1770–1783*; *British Soldiers, American War: Voices of the American Revolution*; and *The Revolution's Last Men: The Soldiers behind the Photographs*. He and his wife, Jenna, live in an 18th-century house in the White Creek Historic District near Bennington Battlefield, NY, where they spend much of their time sewing reproduction 18th-century garments for living history and museum applications.

This program will take place both in person (at 12:30 PM) and online (at 1:00 PM) via Zoom. The in-person event will be held at Pinnacle Living at 45 Forts Ferry Road in Latham, NY. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available at the in-person meeting before the speaker's presentation. Current paid CDHS members will automatically receive an invite to the on-line meeting via email. If you are not a current paid CDHS member, please see page 1 to request an email invitation to attend.

Reminder: December Meeting — Sunday, December 14, 2025

CDHS Book Group is reading *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge* by Edward Osborne Wilson. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.



Contact Frank Robinson if you would like to join the spirited and informative discussion.

CDHS Executive Council

Executive Director	Don Porterfield
Secretary	June Hendricks
Treasurer	Roland Tozer
Programs, Publicity	Fred Levine
Publications	Carol Quantock
Social Activities	Candace Fuller
Membership, Telephone	Heather Drinkwater
Meetup Coordinator	Fred Levine
Compliance	Vacant
Member at Large	Vacant

Appointed Positions

Hospitality	Sue Parry
Room Arrangements	Frank Robinson
Caring Network	Rosina Ansaldo

CDHS Executive Council Election Results

General information: Election process started at: September 1, 2025 at 8:00 am; Finished at: September 16, 2025 at 11:00 pm; Time zone: Eastern Time (US & Canada); 44 of 85 ballots cast.

Candidate: Executive Director — Don Porterfield: 43 votes 100.00%

Don Porterfield wins. Votes tallied: 43; Abstentions: 1

Candidate: Treasurer — Roland Tozer: 44 votes 100.00%

Roland Tozer wins; Votes tallied: 44; Abstentions: 0

Candidate: Editor, Humanist Monthly Newsletter — Carol Quantock: 44 votes 100.00%

Carol Quantock wins; Votes tallied: 44; Abstentions: 0

Candidate: Membership — Heather Drinkwater: 44 votes 100.00%

Heather Drinkwater wins; Votes tallied: 44; Abstentions: 0

Candidate: Socials — Dee Fuller: 44 votes 100.00%

Dee Fuller wins; Votes tallied: 44; Abstentions: 0

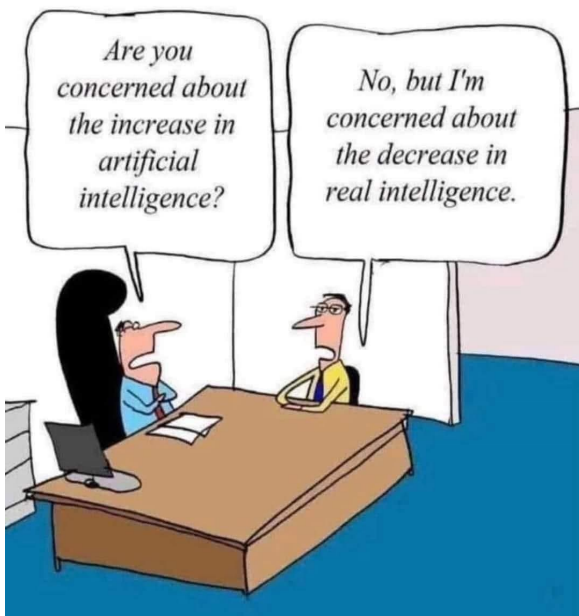
Candidate: Secretary — June Hendricks: 44 votes 100.00%

June Hendricks wins; Votes tallied: 44; Abstentions: 0

***Congratulations to the winners and
many thanks to Judith Herbert for her help
and hard work on membership over the last
few years.***

Volunteer Opportunities On the CDHS Executive Committee

EC Positions still open: Even though the Executive Council election is over, the need still exists for the following vacant positions: Compliance Officer and Member-at-Large. These positions require a minimal amount of work done on a monthly basis. Neither position is difficult, but necessary for records and reporting purposes. Contact Don Porterfield at CDHS.Albany@gmail.com.



Join the bunch for lunch! We will gather at Diner Time, 813 Loudon Road, Latham, on October 16th at 12:00 Noon. The date for the November Lunch Bunch get-together is November 20th. Please let Rosina Ansaldo know by Wednesday evening if you'll be joining them.

NOTE: If you know of a great local eatery, please don't be shy; recommend it! We'd like to give our local restaurants a chance by rotating them every few months and returning to the ones that get enthusiastic thumbs up. Please send ideas to Rosina Ansaldo. Thanks!

RECAP OF OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER'S TALK

by Frank Robinson

Dr. Joseph Gerson spoke about U.S. policy on China. He called it "U.S.-China Relations 101," tracing the historical background, the current issues, and prospects going forward.

Gerson sees intense competition for supremacy in military, geopolitical, and economic spheres, and likens the global picture to the rules of the game among Mafia families. He sees parallels between today's situation and that which led up to World War I.

Gerson said that China's thinking is still heavily influenced by what it sees as its past "Century of Humiliation," with "hegemonic forces" (meaning America, mainly) trying to hobble its rightful place at the forefront of the world. And he said China has in fact risen, drawing more or less even with the U.S. on measures like GDP, manufacturing capacity, military might, technology, etc.

While Trump is actually shredding America's power and influence, his path is defined by enriching his family and cronies; promoting white supremacism; with an attitude of "Sovereignism," meaning doing what we want, and to hell with others. He undermines the reasons why America previously commanded respect and admiration — its rule-of-law institutional foundations, with an anti-foreigner gestapo-like force, attacks on science and universities, etc., and bludgeoning our former friends with tariffs and other hostile policies. All this reduces our influence and increases China's.

While China strives to build a neighborhood sphere of influence, pushing its way into nearby seas, this is still countered by what Gerson called a "lattice-work" of U.S. alliances — centered upon Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Australian with Taiwan a particular hinge-point. The island has been effectively independent since 1949, but China irrationally insists on "reunification," to be achieved militarily if nothing else works (and nothing else will). This will come to a head in not too many years; the confrontation will be decisive.

A recording of this presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/TfloK271aj8>.

October Social — ALL ABOARD THE DUTCH APPLE CRUISE BOAT!!!

Saturday, October 25, 2025

We'll be taking a 1-1/2 hour tour on Albany's tour boat, the Dutch Apple. It will leave the dock at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 25th for a narrated ride on the Hudson River. Boarding begins at 12:30 PM. The cruise has general admission tickets, with an open seating policy. Seating is selected on a first come, first served basis. There is a range of ticket pricing: Senior tickets are \$26.99 each, plus a small processing fee. Please note that tickets are non-refundable, so please arrive on time so you don't miss the boat!

All cruises are rain or shine events. Inside and outside seating is available; please dress for the weather conditions. We also suggest low-heel and/or flat-soled shoes.

Please remember to:

- 1) Present your admission confirmation at the boarding gate from your receipt or e-ticket on your phone
- 2) Bring a valid ID
- 3) Bring cash or credit card to purchase concessions and/or drinks. ***NO OUTSIDE FOOD or DRINKS are allowed on the cruise*.** Ice water is available free of charge.



Parking is free for passengers. The dock is located at the Port of Albany, next to the USS Slater. If using your GPS, enter 141 Broadway, Albany, NY 12202.

To purchase your ticket(s), please go to <https://www.dutchapplecruises.com/public-cruise-calendar> or call 518-463-0220 as soon as you can to secure a seat on the boat.

Eat lunch before you board or purchase hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. on the boat. A full bar is available.

Often eagles, ospreys, and various waterfowl species are sighted along the way with other interesting points of interest, so bring a pair of binoculars if you can.

Email Dee Fuller at candacelf13@gmail.com by October 22 if you plan to attend.

Holding Our Collective Breath

Time to level up, exhale, and remain clear-eyed, clear-headed and determined

(from The Status Quo, by Jay Kuo, Substack, September 29, 2025)

In a year marked by chaos, violence and uncertainty, the past weeks have been particularly unnerving.

It's easy to feel confused, perhaps even powerless, when barraged by the news of late. At times like these, when the zone truly is flooded, it's always helpful to seek higher ground and a higher vantage.

Let's start by acknowledging that people are understandably anxious about what they're seeing and hearing. There's the chaos coming from the Trump regime itself, from threats of troops in Portland to displays of federal force in Chicago, from prosecution of his political enemies to an unprecedented, in-person meeting of all the nation's generals called for Tuesday—with no announced agenda. What's that all about?

Political and targeted violence has dominated the news, from Charlie Kirk's assassination to shootings at an ICE detention facility in Texas, at a dock in North Carolina, and at a Latter Day Saints church in Michigan. The latter three all happened within the last week.

To top things off, the entire federal government may shut down at midnight tomorrow without a continuing resolution to fund it. Congressional leaders are meeting today at the White House but still remain dug in and far apart. Federal workers are understandably feeling stressed about when they will get paid and whether they will still have jobs.

Deep breath moments, for sure. But if we climb up from the flood zone, there are some commonalities to what's happening. And that can help us put things into perspective and not allow the Trump White House to paralyze us into fear and inaction.

A chaos agent's M.O.

While most normal people try to avoid chaos and uncertainty, a narcissistic chaos agent like Trump thrives on it. When everyone else is thrown off their game, then Trump can be exactly where he wants to be: at the center of the storm, grabbing all the attention.

The tariffs are a great example of this principle in action. Trump made it seem like he holds all the cards and can control the world economy by throwing wrenches into its machinery whenever and however he feels like. This worked for a time—until our trading partners got so used to his threats and pronouncements that they stopped giving them so much weight. Then our big trading rivals like China called his bluff, causing him to back down, which he then did repeatedly.

The markets even priced this uncertainty in by presuming the TACO effect: Trump Always Chickens Out.

It's helpful to keep this in mind for Trump's non-economic pronouncements and threats, too. Whenever Trump says something crazy ("We're going to war in Chicago! I'm ordering Pam Bondi to prosecute my enemies! I'm sending troops into Portland!"), we should first hit pause. Begin from the presumption that Trump is saying something to grab attention, and that he relishes how everyone jumps and scrambles to deal with whatever consequences will flow from his words.

Whether he will follow through—and if he does whether it will be effective—are different questions entirely. In the case of invading Chicago or Portland with the "full force" of the military, he backed down over Chicago and last night apparently backed down over Portland after Gov. Tina Kotek actually spoke with him and explained that what Fox News was showing him wasn't the reality on the ground.

What we get instead are displays of force meant to demonstrate power without actually seizing it. We saw this in the McArthur Park display in Los Angeles, on the streets of downtown Chicago yesterday, and around D.C. with the National Guard. The White House knows it has to be careful not to cross the line, however, or it could face adverse judicial rulings as in California. Indeed, even while Gov. Kotek was defusing the situation, she and the mayor of Portland filed a lawsuit on Sunday to challenge the troop deployment.

The fact is, as Pete Buttigieg noted on social media, in a post seen by over five million users, Trump is not as popular as he wants us to believe, and we are far more powerful than he wants us to think. This is particularly true in the blue states, where his ability to deploy troops is constrained by our federal system and the Posse Comitatus Act.

When Trump threatens a city within a blue state, it gives another governor and another mayor a crack at reasserting the limits of his power. Each time he does it and backs down—in Los Angeles, California; in Chicago, Illinois and now in Portland, Oregon—another pair of blue angels earns their wings. That means the important thing isn't that Trump has threatened another city, as he will continue to do just to grab attention and freak people out. The important thing is to look at and appreciate how effectively the leadership and the citizens of that city stood up to him and helped shore up our system.

Are they gathering the generals together to declare martial law?

I want to briefly address the all-hands meeting of generals called for Tuesday by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, which Trump has now said he will crash. Some readers emailed with concerns about "martial law," and I want to dispel this fear with some basic facts.

First, the President doesn't actually have this power. At most, he can declare under the Insurrection Act that there is an active rebellion or insurrection that justifies using the military to conduct police action. That isn't happening anywhere in the country, so any such declaration would face immediate judicial pushback.

But even under the Insurrection Act, we would endure more of a "police state" than "martial law." For the U.S. to come under true martial law, the military would need to assume all of the activities of the civil government, including all judicial functions. It isn't equipped to handle this on a national scale. Indeed, it is overextended already.

Also, as Gen. Mark Milley reminded the nation in a speech for the ages, our military leaders swear an oath to the Constitution, not to the President. If Trump tries to issue orders that violate the Constitution or demand fealty to him, he risks a mass military revolt. He is already facing internal opposition within the Justice Department and our intelligence services, and the last thing he wants or needs is a military that tells Trump to get lost.

The most likely thing Trump wants out of Tuesday's gathering is a chance to be the center of attention again, forcing career officers to endure yet another campaign-style, rambling address. And for his part, Pete Hegseth likely knows that his hold on the Pentagon is slipping due to his own incompetence and inexperience. Forcing the generals to gather at huge expense and inconvenience, all to deliver a pep rally that could have been an email, will only confirm his weak leadership.

Casting about for who to blame

Americans have endured the horrors of political and targeted violence in recent days, all from disturbed white men with easy access to firearms. The Trump White House has sought not to unify the country but to capitalize on the violence by sowing division and assigning blame, often long before any real motive is known.

The left has grown suspicious in response. With FBI Director Kash Patel tweeting out unsubstantiated news about suspects and evidence, including alleged bullet casings with on-the-nose text written on them, and Donald Trump leaping to blame the "radical left" and to claim that "Christianity" is under attack, the political agenda of the White House has become painfully obvious. It's hard to know what is true and what is propaganda in such moments.

(Continued on Page 6) **5**

The left has responded by trying to prove that a given shooter was one of “theirs” rather than one of “ours.” I have felt the same immediate pressure, with my first thought often being “I hope it wasn’t a Muslim/minority/trans” shooter.

I’ve been reminded rather quickly, however, that the truth doesn’t really even matter to the White House, and therefore to the far-right. They will believe whatever the propagandists tell them. And even if we prove definitively that a shooter actually was a crazed right-wing Trumper, they’ll shift to blaming something else, from the mental health of a “lone wolf” to too many video games. Then they’ll simply wait till the next mass shooting, which statistically is just around the corner, to push again with the whole “radical left” narrative.

In any case, all it ever takes is a single example for them to make their case and have their next cause. We saw this with Laken Riley’s murder at the hands of a Venezuelan migrant, which they leveraged into a wholesale immigration crackdown. We saw it with the horrific fatal railway stabbing of a Ukrainian girl, Iryna Zarutka, by a crazed Black passenger, which the right is now using to scare their base into thinking crime is out of control everywhere. The burning of a handful of Waymo cars in Los Angeles was on loop at Fox, leading people in rural red states to conclude the entire city was a burning hellscape.

The MAGA mind is more susceptible to this kind of broad brush, where the actions of one can be used to paint an entire community as criminals and culprits. On the left, we don’t do this as naturally. Indeed, we are often skeptical of efforts to draw connections or blame whole groups. If we were less so, we would want to racially profile every young white male gamer or veteran to make sure they aren’t tomorrow’s mass shooters.

That makes it hard for us to compete in the blame game. In fact, I would advise that we not spend much time and effort trying to change MAGA minds on this. No amount of counter examples will ever overcome the power of a single one on repeat.

For the sake of our own mental health, it’s better to predict and understand the likely outcome of any background investigation of a killer: If he’s white and conservative, it will be forgotten among the thousands of examples we have of such shooters; if he’s Muslim/minority/trans, we won’t hear the end of it for a long time, if ever. This will happen no matter what we assert or even prove in any single case, so it’s better just to accept this than to argue over whether any given killer was “theirs” or “ours.”

We shouldn’t fear the find out part

Most Democrats were already at the point, back in March when a government shutdown first loomed, where we would have understood and supported our leaders if they’d stood up to Donald Trump and Elon Musk and refused to be complicit in the dismantling of our federal government.

Instead, what we got was a capitulation by Senate Democrats with nothing to show for it.

That, I hope, was the low point for the Democrats. The sense at the time and for a long time to come was that we simply didn’t have leaders willing to fight and make the kinds of calls needed to exercise what little power they still had.

Six months later, we’re up against another government shutdown. But this time the Democrats appear to have learned at least one lesson: Never give in for nothing in return. In exchange for the eight or nine Democratic votes in the Senate that the GOP will need to keep the government open, Democrats now have a list of demands, some realistic and some less so.

At the top of that list are Affordable Care Act subsidies that are set to expire at the end of this year. Should that happen, millions will see huge spikes in their monthly insurance costs. A lot of people will be forced to go without insurance at all. And the GOP will own that damage and face the fury of voters around it.

This possibility has swing state and swing district Republicans nervous. And that in turn means that extension of the ACA subsidies is a rare area of possible agreement. Given the appetite on both sides for an extension, Democrats shouldn’t keep the government open without at least getting this concession out of it.

Another demand that seems objectively reasonable is that the White House should have to undo its illegal rescissions of expenditures, including for things like funding for public broadcasting. After all, if the White House and the GOP can simply come back and undo things as they want later, what is the point of even negotiating the budget in good faith now?

The rescission power isn’t something Republicans would want a Democratic White House to have, were the roles reversed. And there is a highly principled and self-preservative reason for Democrats to stand firm on undoing the rescissions today as part of any deal to keep the government open.

As to the remaining asks, we also need to be realistic. There is no universe, for example, where the Republicans, who passed their budget through reconciliation, would undo a cornerstone of that: the deep cuts to Medicaid. Less still is the chance they do so in exchange for just a seven-week extension to pass the remaining appropriation bills. It’s simply too big an ask for too little in return.

We should understand that this Democratic wishlist item is based on principle, one that shows Democrats are not done fighting to get Medicaid cuts restored. But if they don’t get that in these negotiations (and they won’t), we shouldn’t act like they failed. In the end, it is pretty plainly a term they can offer up as a concession during negotiations. We should go into this knowing we’ve already lost the Medicaid funding fight and aren’t going to win suddenly it over the next two days.

This raises a larger question, however. At some point, MAGA voters need to understand that there are real economic consequences for supporting the GOP. Democrats have put themselves in the unenviable position of coming to the rescue of white working class and rural families time and again, all to try to blunt the pain of terrible GOP policies. At some point though, hard as it may be to witness, we may need to let MAGA voters face the “find out” part.

Indeed, we often say “elections have consequences,” then spend the next two years trying to limit those consequences for the very voters who chose them. Yet, sadly, many of these same voters only seem to awaken to the danger of the GOP’s policies when their own livelihoods are on the line, as the Medicaid cuts with their expected closures of rural hospitals will likely prove.

The GOP has rather cynically sought to put off the pain of Medicaid cuts until after next year’s midterms. But the reality of the cutbacks will hit long before then as hospitals adjust to and plan for the loss in funding.

For our own sanity, and to win elections going forward, we need to begin to let the chips fall where they may with the Trump economy and GOP budget. If that means a government shutdown and even mass firings of federal workers (which is happening anyway even without a shutdown), then we need to make peace with that. Even if it means acceleration of Project 2025, it’s time for the Christian Nationalists to show their true agenda more plainly for the electorate to see and experience. If we are going to face it all anyway, we might as well force their hand now before even more of our remaining guardrails are gone.

When we screw our courage to the sticking point, and we hold fast to the truth that the only way out is through, we will also discover what we have sorely lacked till now: a true fighting spirit. We need deep clarity of purpose in our resistance to the fascist takeover. We cannot blink, we cannot falter, we cannot capitulate.

So that breath you’ve been holding under this barrage of scary headlines? Push it all out, and inhale a deep new one. Then it’s steady as we forge ahead, through the swirl and the storm.

Calls to Action/Get Involved

- ✓ Thursday, October 2, 7:00 PM: 'Deepfakes, Dirty Tricks, and the Future of Trust' with Perry Carpenter: From ghost photos to UFO sightings, people have always been drawn to illusions. Deepfakes are the modern version—sharper, faster, and designed to exploit trust at scale. They're already fueling disinformation campaigns, powering scams, and giving cybercriminals a powerful new playbook. Skeptical Inquirer Presents livestream with cybersecurity and deception expert Perry Carpenter. His book, *FAIK: A Practical Guide to Living in a World of Deepfakes, Disinformation, and AI-Generated Deceptions*, provides a crucial breakdown of the potential risks of generative AI and outlines strategies to avoid falling victim to its more sinister uses. Carpenter will pull back the curtain on how synthetic media manipulates belief, show live demonstrations of the latest tricks, and reveal what's at stake for the future of truth and trust. This live, online event is FREE, but advance registration is required. Sign up today! (<https://skepticalinquirer.org/video/deepfakes-dirty-tricks-and-the-future-of-trust-perry-carpenter/?emci=431d4a8e-1f9a-f011-b485-6045bda9d96b&emdi=948d705b-4d9d-f011-8e61-6045bdeb8ba4&ceid=2851992>)
- ✓ **Saturday, October 18**, Times vary by location: No Thrones, No Crowns, No Kings. Millions of us are rising again to show the world: America has no kings, and the power belongs to the people. To find a No Kings rally near you, please go to (<https://www.nokings.org/>)
- ✓ Ongoing: Indivisible, Take Action Now: This website provides several current issues and contact information to take action. Indivisible is a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. (<https://indivisible.org/take-action-now?emci=b8f0ca40-1e97-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=029c456a-f597-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=2453808>)
- ✓ Ongoing: Support Indivisible; send a donation by going to: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/indivisible-action-1?refcode=facebook20250928directpost&source=facebook&fbclid=IwY2xjawNHYw5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFLVUxJRlInT1lBYWo1b29yAR6ecSkmE182Bbq1JusPO9rov9ki4lLhJEkaLW6Xwc7EGUel-oMB7ph1_v0kRw_aem_gEdcb4AhGibo3ZbUEa8ftw.
- ✓ Ongoing: Card Campaign: The Card Campaign researches and then writes cards based on the information retrieved from verified sources. Sources can include articles from unbiased legacy media and independent media that are factual and impartial. Also, journalists who are producing work independently, and articles from independent writers who are following the administration's implementation of a dictatorial government. (<https://cc4democracy.com/>)
- ✓ Ongoing: Contact Speaker Johnson: Mike Johnson continues to delay the swearing-in of the House seat won by Adelita Grijalva in Arizona's special election. His reasoning is suspect as he has not done this with other recent winners of special elections. Note that Representative Grijalva included in her campaign platform the needed signature to release the Epstein files. (https://mikejohnson.house.gov/contact/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNHRgZleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFFamN0SGpzajBGNTA0TKr4AR6JPnYGuBpuGsQXsQXGmplwVmjlTjmZX4pc14JtoWx1x1GK2_9Zq-eOsJY9EOQ_aem_DU_vfszdtV-Dv7q4hqZR2g).

Editor's note: Each month, this column will highlight events, action items, or other items of interest to CDHS members. If you are aware of any other volunteer opportunities that would be a good fit for CDHS, please contact Don Porterfield at CDHS.Albany@gmail.com, and type in **Community Events** in the subject line.

Capital District Humanist Society, Inc. PO Box 11209, Loudonville, NY 12211-0209

(518) 533-2666 E-mail us at cdhs.albany@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at humanistsociety.net

The Capital District Humanist Society (CDHS) is an independent, non-profit (and non-prophet), non-partisan and strictly non-religious educational and social organization for those who share humanist values: commitment to education, rational and free inquiry, democracy, social concerns and fellowship. CDHS is affiliated with the four major humanist organizations - the American Humanist Association (AHA), the Council for Secular Humanism (CSH), the Secular Coalition for America (SCA) and the Humanists International (HI).

There are five types of CDHS member support: Individual, \$50/yr.; Family, \$80/yr.; Sustaining, \$100/yr.; Patron, \$150/yr.; and Lifetime Member, one contribution of \$1000 or more.

Members receive our publication, *The Humanist Monthly*, and vote each September on the make-up of the governing Executive Council. Members are eligible for election to the Executive Council and may also serve as appointed officials. Members are welcome to attend Executive Council meetings.

The IRS recognizes CDHS as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, all donations, both cash and materials with established "fair market value", qualify as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Donations are gratefully accepted to help speed our growth. CDHS is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the IRS Code. Financial disclosure information and our annual report are available upon request.

If you know of someone who may be interested in CDHS, please pass this newsletter along or give us the name; we will send a sample copy or two with no obligation.

We value your input. In the best humanist tradition, CDHS has no rigid picture of itself. We ask you to join us, not follow us. What activities and services would you like CDHS to provide its members? Send us your suggestions, questions, and comments.

Tell the House to Support Church/State Separation

(via email from the American Humanist Association/Center for Freethought Equality)

Representative Yassamin Ansari (3rd Congressional District, AZ) and Representative Jared Huffman (2nd Congressional District, CA) – both proud members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus and supporters of freethought – are gearing up to introduce a resolution that clearly and proudly proclaims congressional support of the separation of church and state.

That's where your support comes in – contact your Representative in the House and urge them to sign on as an original cosponsor of this important resolution before it is introduced on September 29, the 150th Anniversary of President Ulysses S. Grant's September 29, 1875 speech in which he underscored the importance of free thought, free speech, and religious liberty for all citizens.

The more support the resolution gets, the bigger impact it will have.

More than ever before, we must demand that the people who represent us in government reaffirm their commitment to the First Amendment and Constitution, and take actions that protect and strengthen the secular nature of our government.

Take just one moment now to tell your Representative to become an original cosponsor of this resolution (<https://americanhumanist.org/actionhq/?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f130331%2fRespond>).

Sincerely,
Isabella Russian
Policy Manager



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<https://www.humanistsociety.net>

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CapitalDistrictHumanistSociety>

MEMBER SUPPORT FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP Code _____

Email _____ Fax _____

How did you hear about the Humanist Society? _____

All this information will be included in our Directory, which is distributed to members only, unless you request otherwise by checking and signing here: ☐ I do not want to be listed in the CDHS Member Directory _____

Levels of Member Support	Annual Payment	Date _____/_____/_____
☐ Individual Membership	\$ 50	_____
☐ Family Membership	\$ 80	_____
☐ Sustaining Member	\$100	_____
☐ Patron	\$150	_____
☐ Life Member	one-time contribution of \$1000 or more	_____
☐ Additional tax-deductible donation	\$ _____	_____

Please make checks payable to CDHS

☐ Please send me additional information