



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2011



CSH Affiliate

## Secular Coalition's Executive Director in Connecticut April 2-3

Do you care about religious freedom of conscience? Between April 2 and 3, there are four opportunities to see Sean Faircloth, Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America. The event hosted by the Humanist Association of Connecticut on Sunday, April 3, will begin at 4:30 p.m. with refreshments followed by the main program at 5:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

The Secular Coalition for America is the first organization representing secular Americans to engage in a formal briefing with White House officials. About five years old, the Coalition is an organization of organizations, working on their behalf to increase visibility and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the United States and to protect and strengthen the secular character of the U.S. Government. Advocating that American politics espouse the complete separation of church and state as established by the Constitution, the Coalition holds reason and science as its guiding tenets for public policy.

Sean Faircloth was hired as the Secular Coalition for America's Executive Director in June of 2009. He served a decade in the Maine State Legislature and in his last term was elected Majority Whip by his colleagues. Faircloth was an accomplished legislator, successfully spearheading over thirty pieces of legislation.

On Saturday April 2, at 7:30 p.m., see Sean present "Sex, Morality, and the Law" at the Unitarian Church in Westport, 10 Lyons Plains Road in Westport.

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [meetup.com/cthumanist](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### APRIL, 2011

Sun., 3	Sean Faircloth, Executive Director of the Secular Coalition for America: <i>Our Secular Decade: A Strategic Plan for Secular Government</i> For SSA at Yale: Lindsey-Chittenden Hall, Room 102, 63 High Street, New Haven	2:00 p.m.
	Official HAC Event: Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	4:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Thu., 7 - Sun., 10	American Humanist Association Conference in Boston, MA	
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: Rev. Douglas Peary — "David Hume, Humanist Hero"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 23	Board meeting	3:15 p.m.
Thu., 28	Social dinner: Avon Indian Grill, 320 West Main St. (Route 44), Avon. (860) 284-4466	7:00 p.m.

### MAY, 2011

Sun., 1	Connecticut Food Bank's Walk Against Hunger at East Rock Park	1:00 p.m.
Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: "The Great Pink Scare"	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	Book discussion: Sharing Poetry and Prose	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Anniversary Meeting Main program: Rev. Douglas Peary — "My Life and Beliefs"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Social dinner: Avon Indian Grill, 320 West Main St. (Route 44), Avon. (860) 284-4466	7:00 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

On Sunday, April 3, Sean will present "Our Secular Decade: A Strategic Plan for Secular Government" in three venues:

- 10:00 a.m. - Hosted by the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County, to be held at Bedford School, 88 North Avenue in Westport.
- 2:00 p.m. - Co-hosted by the Secular Student Alliance at Yale and the Humanist Association of Connecticut, to be held at Yale University's Lindsey-Chittenden Hall in room 102, 63 High Street in New Haven.
- 4:30 p.m. - Hosted by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, to be held at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

For more information about the Secular Coalition for America, visit [www.secular.org](http://www.secular.org). To preview Sean Faircloth, google "Faircloth YouTube Corporal" or "Secular Coalition YouTube."

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

**Email List**

To join, send an email addressed to: [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.

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## A Special Book Discussion

Manny Ratafia is arranging a special discussion of Stewart Brand's book, *Whole Earth Discipline: Why Dense Cities, Nuclear Power, Transgenic Crops, Restored Wildlands, and Geoengineering Are Necessary*. The discussion will be held Monday, May 9, at a private home. If you're interested and are sure you can read the whole book before the meeting, contact Manny at [manny@ratafias.com](mailto:manny@ratafias.com) for more information.

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## David Hume, Humanist Hero

Join us Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when the Humanist Association of Connecticut's vice-President, Rev. Douglas Peary, will return with the latest in his "Humanist Heroes" series. This month his subject will be the Scottish Enlightenment thinker, David Hume.

David Hume was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1711. His father was an attorney and a gentleman farmer. His mother's father was President of the College of Justice. The family was Calvinist Presbyterian. He was educated at home by his mother to age 12, attended a school of Classical education until he was 18, and then received higher education majoring in Philosophy. He found the Bible replete with fiction and said there are no miracles. He soon began questioning religion, the Bible and belief in God, but held an agnostic position because he believed that atheism stands on the same dubious ground of speculation that religious belief stands on. The founding fathers of the United States of America based some of their views of Democracy on the writings of Hume. Hume died in his mid 60's.

Join us Monday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and Doug's talk at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

## Book Group to Share Poetry

Our next Book Group meeting will be held May 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Instead of reading a book, we will be sharing poetry. George Brenner will be leading a discussion to bring out the human in humanism by inviting us all to bring and share a poem or short selection of prose. Please bring a copyable version of the piece and some explanation of its import. Refreshments will be served.

## Walk Against Hunger

This year's Connecticut Food Bank "Walk Against Hunger" will be on Sunday, May 1, at East Rock Park in New Haven. Registration starts at 1:00 p.m. with the walk at 2:00 p.m.

The Connecticut Food Bank reports nearly fifteen percent of Connecticut residents surveyed for the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index said there were times in the past twelve months when they did not have enough money to buy food they needed for themselves or their family. Feeding America's Map the Food Gap reports fifty-two percent of food insecure people in Connecticut are not poor enough to qualify for food stamps.

If you'd like to join the HAC team as a walker or sponsor one of our walkers, sign up at any HAC meeting in April or contact Richard Siddall at [webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org).

06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org).

Please include a SASE to have material returned. We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic

strips, news items, cartoons and other illustrations related to humanism.

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<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
Adult . . . . .	\$35
Family . . . . .	\$50
Newsletter Only . . . . .	\$10
Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	
In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	
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