



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2011



CSH Affiliate

## Rev. Douglas Kenneth Peary

*“From Fundamentalist  
Christian to Evolutionary  
Humanist: My Life and  
Beliefs as I Grow Nearer to  
My Own Death.”*

Join us Monday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when the Humanist Association of Connecticut will celebrate its 22nd anniversary with a pot-luck dinner and cake! Our vice-president, Rev. Douglas Peary, will be our featured speaker with a talk based on autobiographical material from his forthcoming sequel to “Humanist Heroes.”

Doug was raised a Conservative Baptist Fundamentalist Christian on a Maine potato farm by loving parents. Terrified of eternal hell, he suffered an emotional breakdown in his 20’s. After attending Starr King School For Religious Leadership, he was ordained as a UU Minister in 1979, and was certified as a Humanist Celebrant the following year. Doug served as a Federal Labor Investigator with the National Labor Relations Board for 30 years, retiring at the end of March, 2010. During that time he began to research and write presentations on Humanist Heroes, many of which were published in book form in 2004. A founding member of the

## 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).

### 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	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> “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 <b>Main program:</b> 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.
Mon., 30	Memorial Day Cookout at Crystal Lake, 100 Livingston Road in Middletown	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

### JUNE, 2011

Sat., 4	Movie, “The Pledge of Allegiance Blues,” followed by conversation with the filmmaker, Lisa Seidenberg.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 11	Picnic at the Raffords’ home in Middlebury	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	Humanist Conversations: Forgiveness	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 30	Social dinner	7:00 p.m.

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

Humanist Association of Connecticut, he has been its vice-president for many years and took a turn at president in 2000. His first wife, Joyce, died of cancer in 1996. He has two children, Brett and Brita, by that marriage, and a grandchild, Jayse. He married Gabriella, a retired educator, in 2008. Doug says, “As I near my own death, I am unafraid and at peace.”

## Walk Against Hunger

This year the Connecticut Food Bank’s “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.

If you’d like to join the HAC team as a walker, go online at <http://www.blueskycollaborative.com/cfb/register.asp> and select the New Haven walk. If you would like to sponsor one of our walkers, <http://ctfoodbank.blueskycollaborative.com/cfb/participants.asp> will allow you to find us by team name. Look in the list of teams for “Humanist Association of Connecticut.” You can also contact our team captain, Richard Siddall, at [webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org) or (203) 264-2182.

Thank you to everyone who has already registered or donated!

## Book Group to Share Poetry

Our Book Group will meet next on May 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

We will be sharing poetry or short prose selections. George Brenner will lead the meeting. Please bring a copyable version of the selection(s) you will share. Refreshments will be served.

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

**Email List**

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

To unsubscribe, send an email to:  
[hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org)  
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**Newsletter**

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## Movie & Discussion with Director

On June 4, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will view the 72-minute documentary, "Pledge of Allegiance Blues," about Michael Newdow's quest to remove the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. Lisa Seidenberg, the director of the film, will lead a discussion following the viewing. Refreshments will be served.

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## The Great Pink Scare ... Finally!

You haven't missed "The Great Pink Scare." (Also known as the perpetually snowed-out movie.) We will view the movie on Saturday, May 7, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

This movie is based on Barry Werth's biography, "The Scarlet Professor: Newton Arvin: A Literary Life Shattered by Scandal." The film tells the moving and shocking story of the arrest of fifteen men in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1960.

After the movie, Steve Boshi will lead a discussion on the issues. Refreshments will be served.

## Memorial Day Cookout

Brian Ditter and Tara McLaughlin invite HAC to a cookout and pot luck on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Crystal Lake Park, Middletown.

Please RSVP: Brian Ditter: (860) xxx-xxxx (voice or text), (860) 704-0439 or Tara McLaughlin: (860) 545-5065.

If you have a little extra time to help set up that morning, please be sure to let Brian know when you call.

Brian and Tara will provide burgers/dogs, beverages, chips, and fixings. Please bring a dish to share. Tell the attendant you're there for the cookout at the pavilion to avoid paying the entrance fee.

**From New Haven:** take I-91N to exit 15 for CT-68 toward Yalesville/Durham. In 0.3 mi. turn right onto CT-68. In 0.9 miles route 68 takes a left. Follow 68 for 4.2 miles, when you will turn left onto CT-17 (Main St.) Take your 2nd right (0.5 mile) onto Haddam Quarter Rd. In 1.7 miles turn left at Arbutus St. In 1.4 miles bear right onto Livingston Rd. The entrance to the park will be on your left in 0.6 mile. The pavilion will be on your left.

**From Hartford:** Take I-91 S and take exit 22S on the left to merge onto CT-9 S toward Middletown. Take exit 11. At the end of the exit turn left onto CT-155 (Randolph Rd.) toward CT-17/Durham. In 0.7 mile, turn left at Millbrook Rd. (there's a traffic light and a fire station on your left). In 1.4 miles turn right onto Livingston Rd. and then turn right into the park. The pavilion will be on your left.

**From 84:** Take I-691 E toward Meriden and continue onto CT-66 (eastbound). In 2.0 miles turn right onto CT-147 S. In 2.3 miles turn right and continue on CT-147 and CT-157. In 2.5 miles the road takes a sharp left (Middlefield Rd.). At the end of the road, turn right onto CT-17 (Main St.) and then take your first left onto Haddam Quarter Rd. In 1.7 mi. turn left at Arbutus St. In 1.4 mi. bear right onto Livingston Rd. The entrance to the park will be on your left in 0.6 mile. The pavilion will be on your left.

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. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

<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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