



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2004



CSH Affiliate

Corliss Lamont, Humanist Hero

Join us on Monday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when Douglas Peary will introduce us to Corliss Lamont.

Lamont may be the most important figure in 20th century Humanism. He was a philosopher, a poet, and the equivalent of a humanist minister, who wrote and performed wedding ceremonies, funerals and other services. Most importantly he fought in the highest courts in the land for the civil rights of all Americans, winning famous court decisions over Senator Joseph McCarthy and the CIA.

Lamont was born and raised in great financial wealth which lasted his lifetime and beyond. All of his family donated funds and land to colleges, libraries and needy causes. He was involved in politics and raised a family. He was director of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1932 to 1954. He wrote several books on Humanism. "The Philosophy of Humanism," published in 1949, has become the standard text on the subject. He was Honorary President / President Emeritus of the American Humanist Association in the 1980s and 1990s. He taught at Columbia, Cornell, and Harvard. He exposed the "moral majority" and was a champion of equality of the sexes. Corliss Lamont died peacefully in his garden overlooking the Hudson River in 1995 at age 93. That summer HAC held a memorial service for him. His wife, Beth drove up from her home in New York to share with us photographs, mementos, and a tape of him singing familiar folk songs.

As is our custom, we'll start off with half an hour of informal conversation and refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Doug Peary's talk will begin promptly at 8:00.

Calendar of Events

APRIL, 2004

Sat., 10	Book discussion at Doug Peary's home, 63 Forest Hill Road, North Haven	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Main program. Doug Peary — <i>Corliss Lamont, Humanist Hero</i>	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 24	Humanist Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Tpke, Hamden — <i>Between Iraq & a Hard Place</i>	3:30 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 28	Dinner at the Curtis House, 506 Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.

MAY, 2004

Sun., 2	15th Anniversary meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	3:00 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	3:00 p.m.
	Main program. Joseph Gerstein, MD, president of the Humanists of Massachusetts — <i>Cultural Cycles and Humanism.</i>	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Main program. M. Terry Sullivan, RN, MSW, MSN, CMC — <i>Independence and Aging: It's all about being informed</i>	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 26	Dinner at the Curtis House, 506 Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 29	Humanist Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://www.cthumanist.org)

15th Anniversary Speaker Named Humanist Pioneer by the AHA

This May the American Humanist Association will be honoring Barbara and Joseph Gerstein as Humanist Pioneers for their work introducing Dr. Gerstein's SMART Recovery around the world. The conference will take place May 6-9 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Visit <http://www.americanhumanist.org/conference> or phone (800) 837-3792 for more information.

Mark your calendar to join us at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 2, at 700 Hartford Turnpike when Dr. Gerstein, who is also the president of the Humanist Association of Massachusetts, has agreed to be our Anniversary speaker. More about Dr. Gerstein, SMART Recovery and Dr. Gerstein's talk will be in the next newsletter.

www.cthumanist.org

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Book Discussion April 10

Join us Saturday, April 10th, when Manny Ratafia will lead a discussion of the book, "Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill" by Jessica Stern.

Doug Peary and Gabriella Brand have been kind enough to open their home at 63 Forest Hill Road in North Haven for this event. Their number is (203) 288-5852.

If you are coming from 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, take a left out of the parking lot onto Hartford Turnpike. At the traffic light, turn left onto Skiff Street. At the next traffic light, turn right onto Ridge Road. Take your first left onto Buell Street and then your first left again onto Forest Hill Road. The third house before the end of the street, number 63 is a white single-story home with black trim.

If you are coming from New Haven, you can get onto Skiff Street from State Street. The intersection of Skiff and State streets is near the Montessi Volkswagen dealership. You will cross Hartford Turnpike at a traffic light and turn right onto Ridge Road at the next traffic light.

If you are coming from Hamden, Skiff Street intersects with Dixwell Avenue near the Hamden Mart, goes past Stop & Shop and then crosses Whitney Avenue. You will need to take a left onto Ridge Road off Skiff Street at a traffic light before the crest of the hill. If you miss Ridge Road, you should recognize Hartford Turnpike at the following traffic light and know to turn around.

If you know the area, you may realize that you can get onto Ridge Road from Dixwell Avenue. Buell Street would then be a right off Ridge Road before you intersect with Skiff Street.

A map is available from our website: <http://www.cthumanist.org>. Refreshments will be provided.

Humanist Conversations

At the next Conversations meeting David Schafer will present for discussion a further consideration of "Between Iraq and a Hard Place," focusing on highly significant aspects of the past, and more especially the future, history of the Bush foreign policy that somehow remain unknown to the general public, in spite of recent revelations. Below are three web sites, dating from April 2002 to March 2004, that shed considerable light on today's news. They show that not only after 9/11, but also long before it, the Bush administration was obsessed not with terrorism as an independent, i.e., transnational, movement, but with the real or imagined role of states dating from the Cold War. The question of greatest urgency to us in this election year is: What do we learn here about Bush's real, unspoken intentions beyond Iraq (assuming that there is anything beyond)?

- http://newyorker.com/fact/content/?020401fa_FACT1
- http://www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m1111/1829_305/92589441/p1/article.jhtml
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49759-2004Mar11.html>

The conversation will take place Saturday, April 24th at 3:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. As usual, refreshments will be served.

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06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to 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: 120 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership. The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

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