



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2004



CSH Affiliate

## Business Meeting and Winter Solstice Festival

You are all cordially invited to take part in our annual gala Humanist celebration of the Winter Solstice at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. Winter will arrive punctually on the 21st. At 7:30 p.m. We'll start off appropriately with seasonal pot-luck refreshments, continuing through the evening, so bring something to share.

After a brief business meeting to elect officers for the year 2005 CE, we'll begin our traditional welcome of winter by reading Lois Woodrow's poem, "Ode to the Tilt." Folk music will be provided by the Wild Notes ensemble. There will be singing, dancing, merry-making, and possibly even a bit of frolicking.

Remember to bring items for the silent auction! This is held teacup-style, where participants purchase tickets to be placed in "teacups" to be drawn from at the end of the night. We will be able to accommodate more valuable items via either a traditional

## Nominations

The Nominating Committee's nominations for the year 2005 are as follows:

### Officers

President: Richard Siddall  
Vice-President: Douglas Peary  
Secretary: June Schafer  
Treasurer: Cynthia Harvey

### Committee Chairs

Programs: David Schafer  
Membership: Cynthia Harvey  
Development: Manny Ratafia  
Publications: Carol Stone  
Publicity: June Schafer  
Hospitality: Randy Olear  
We would like to extend a special thank-you to Nominating Committee: June Schafer, Joan Rafford and Helene Goward.

## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER, 2004

Mon., 13	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a>	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Annual meeting & Solstice Party, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee, conversation, and potluck dinner	7:30 p.m.
	Elections and Solstice Party	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 25	Brunch at Shangri-Lee Chinese Restaurant, 965 South Main Street, Cheshire. (203) 250-8888	11:30 a.m.
Wed., 29	CANCELED: Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , Waterbury.	

### JANUARY, 2005

Sat., 8	Humanist Conversations: what would be in a Humanist orientation course?	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Dinner at Contrassegno, 4137 Whitney Ave Hamden. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a>	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: an update from adventurer, entrepreneur, and environmentalist, Jon Miceler	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 26	Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

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

silent auction sheet with a minimum bid for very expensive items and separate tables with different-colored tickets for more and less valuable items, as

determined by the donor.

It's all great fun, so bring a friend to 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.

## Dinners

Join us for dinner at Pasta Fair on Monday, December 13 and at Contrassegno on Monday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. We would appreciate the effort, if you would RSVP via [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com) in order to maintain our presence as the New Haven humanism presence at [meetup.com](http://meetup.com).

Join us on December 25 at 11:30 a.m. for brunch at Shangri-Lee Chinese Restaurant, 965 South Main Street, Cheshire. (203) 250-8888. Shangri-Lee, reputed to have dim sum as good as you'll find in any Chinatown, is on Route 10 in the Cheshire Shopping Center, which is on the west side of the road a little south of the intersection of Routes 10 and 42. The restaurant is all the way on the south side of the shopping plaza and may seem hidden around the corner of the building. Please RSVP to Carol Stone (203) 264-8546 by December 24.

We erroneously announced a dinner at Lisboa for the end of December. Lisboa is closed that week. Please join us Wednesday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. when we will enjoy another authentic Portugese meal at Lisboa Restaurante, 19 Lafayette Street in Waterbury.

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

**-mail List**

To join, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **unsubscribe announce** in the body of the message.

**Officers**

- President Richard Siddall  
(203) 264-2182  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)
- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary June Schafer
- Treasurer Robert Quint

**Committee Chairs**

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Joseph Stachelek
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Stone
- Publicity June Schafer
- Hospitality Randy Olear

**Newsletter**

- Editor Carol J. Stone  
(203) 264-8546  
[editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org)
- Production: Richard Siddall  
(203) 264-2182  
[webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org)

Copyright © 2004, Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 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: 120 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

## Renewal Time

Time to renew your HAC membership! You'll find enclosed with this newsletter a form and a postage-paid envelope.

## Conversations

How does your humanism affect your life? What is your understanding of Humanism? Upon what is that based? What are the best books or articles that explain the ideas of humanism? Bring any relevant reading material to share. Join us at 2:30 p.m. on January 8 at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Refreshments will be provided.

For basic background information try visiting <http://www.jcn.com/manifestos.htm> for the Humanist Manifestos, <http://www.jcn.com/humanism.html> for the AHA answer to the question, "What is Humanism?", or visit the national organizations' websites at <http://www.americanhumanist.org> and <http://www.secularhumanism.org>.

## The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements

Manny Ratafia has been kind enough to invite us to his home in Woodbridge on Saturday, January 15 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the fascinating and enlightening classic, *The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements* by Eric Hoffer.

"One of the most provocative books of our immediate day." — *Christian Science Monitor*

"Its theme is political fanaticism, with which it deals severely and brilliantly...." — *The New Yorker*

From the back cover: "Eric Hoffer (1902 — 1983) was self-educated. He worked in restaurants, as a migrant fieldworker, and as a gold prospector. After Pearl Harbor, he worked as a longshoreman in San Francisco for twenty-five years. The author of more than ten books, including *The Passionate State of Mind*, *The Ordeal of Change*, and *The Temper of Our Time*, Eric Hoffer was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983.

"*The True Believer* — the first and most famous of his books — was made into a bestseller when President Eisenhower cited it during one of the earliest television press conferences. Completely relevant and essential for understanding the world today, *The True Believer* is a visionary, highly provocative look into the mind of the fanatic and a penetrating study of how an individual becomes one."

If you purchase from Amazon.com by following the link to the book at <http://www.cthumanist.org>, HAC will receive a small percentage of your purchase.

More information about Eric Hoffer and his work is available on the internet at <http://www.erichoffer.net>.

## Social Action

As you know, June Schafer works extensively with the residents and especially the children at Waverly. This is the time of year when she is collecting donations to provide a small gift certificate to a store for each of the teenagers.

Your tax-deductible donation check can be made out to USNH and either given to June directly or mailed to her at 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. If you would like to help in other ways, you can phone June at (203) 281-6232.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
Family . . . . . \$50	_____
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
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.	E-Mail Address: _____
	_____
	Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
	Comments: _____
	_____