



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

January 2008



CSH Affiliate

## Stephen Jay Gould *Humanist Hero*

Join us on Monday, January 21, when Douglas Peary presents the latest chapter in his Humanist Heroes series. Rev. Peary is an ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister and a Certified Humanist Celebrant.

Stephen Jay Gould was a paleontologist at Harvard who wrote a number of books on science issues in language for the lay person. He helped develop a newer view of how evolution takes place called Punctuated Equilibrium, where evolution takes place by a more rapid change and longer periods of stability. He believed non-dogmatic religion is more about ethics and morals than about God. *Nonoverlapping Magisteria* is the title of a 1997 essay in which he explained why he believes science and religion do not need to be in conflict.

In 1981 Gould's testimony in a court case helped overturn an Arkansas State law requiring the teaching of Creation Science in public schools. In 1999 his testimony in Kansas defeated a law, which banned the teaching of evolution in public schools.

Bring a friend to 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m for refreshments followed by Doug's presentation!

## Calendar of Events

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

### JANUARY, 2008

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Short Movie: <i>Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot</i>	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 12	<b>Book discussion:</b> George Lakoff's <i>Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think</i>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 14	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> Douglas Peary: <i>Stephen Jay Gould, Humanist Hero.</i>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 31	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY, 2008

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 11	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> TBA	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 28	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.

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

## January Book Discussion

There's still time to read *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think* (or an earlier edition, *Moral Politics: What Conservatives Know that Liberals Don't*) by George Lakoff. This classic book is available from public libraries, bookstores and online.

We will meet to discuss this book on Saturday, January 12, 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

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

**E-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 June Schafer  
(203) 281-6232  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)
- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary Richard Siddall
- Treasurer Douglas Peary

**Committee Chairs**

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

**Newsletter**

- Editor Carol 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 © 2008, 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).

# Conversations: Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot

We are pleased to announce that we will watch and discuss "Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot" from Season Two of the ACLU's *The Freedom Files*, by acclaimed filmmaker Robert Greenwald on Saturday, January 5, 2008. This short (26 min 46 sec) DVD has been made available by courtesy of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut.

Voter ID initiatives, designed to eliminate voter impersonation, threaten to disenfranchise the 16% of the nation's elderly voters and 25% of African Americans who do not have current government-issued IDs.

"The program begins in Georgia, where a law was passed in 2005 requiring government-issued photo IDs as a condition of voting. Rosalind Lake, an Atlanta native who has been voting for 30 years, talks about the frustrations she experienced when she tried to get a photo ID. After making the trip to the Division of Motor Vehicles, she was told that she needed to produce documents that she could not afford to obtain. Lake, who is elderly and African American, chose to challenge the law because of the unconstitutional hurdles it creates for legitimate voters." — <http://www.aclu.tv/>

Humanist Conversations take place at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

## Membership Material Enclosed

Because our membership year runs from January through December, it's renewal time! In order to ease the process, we are enclosing self-addressed stamped envelopes with this newsletter for all current, potential and lapsed members, along with a membership form, recycled off the back of extra newsletters printed during the year.

Memberships pay for speakers and newsletters throughout the year along with the occasional extra perk. Any money left over at the end of the year is saved for the occasional more-expensive speaker. We also have a separate fund for speakers which accepts donations.

We would like to thank all of our members for their loyal support of our programs over the years!

<p align="center"><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>i Adult . . . . . \$35</p> <p>i Family . . . . . \$50</p> <p>i Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10</p> <p>i 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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
---	--