



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

October 2011

## Baruch Spinoza, Humanist Hero

Join us Monday, October 17, 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 Dutch philosopher, Baruch Spinoza.

Albert Einstein has been quoted calling himself a follower of Spinoza. Officially excommunicated from his Jewish community for his views, Baruch Spinoza supported himself by grinding optical lenses. His critique of his contemporary, Descartes, was vilified, and the rest of his writings were not published until after his death.

Doug Peary was raised a Conservative Baptist Fundamentalist Christian on a Maine potato farm by loving parents. 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. A founding member of the Humanist Association of Connecticut, he has been its vice-president for many years and took a turn at president in 2000. Doug's first book of presentations on Humanist Heroes was published in 2004, and he's now

## 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).

### OCTOBER

- |          |   |                             |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| Sun., 9  | Social walk in Woodbridge, with optional group lunch to follow                      | 10:30 a.m. to<br>12:00 noon |
| Mon., 17 | Monthly Meeting<br><b>Main program:</b> Doug Peary: "Baruch Spinoza, Humanist Hero" | 7:30 p.m.<br>8:00 p.m.      |
| Fri., 21 | Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789                       | 7:00 p.m.                   |
| Sat., 22 | Social walk in Woodbridge, with optional group lunch to follow                      | 10:30 a.m. to<br>12:00 noon |
| Sat., 22 | Book discussion: Russell Shorto's <i>Descartes' Bones</i>                           | 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.           |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting   | 2:30 p.m.                   |

### NOVEMBER

- |          |  |                             |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| Sat., 5  | <b>Humanist Conversations:</b> TBA   | 2:30 p.m.                   |
| Mon., 7  | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002   | 7:00 p.m.                   |
| Sun., 13 | Social walk in Woodbridge, with optional group lunch to follow   | 10:30 a.m. to<br>12:00 noon |
| Sat., 19 | Social walk in Woodbridge, with optional group lunch to follow   | 10:30 a.m. to<br>12:00 noon |
| Mon., 21 | Monthly Meeting<br><b>Main program:</b> John Hooper, President of HUUmanists — The Future of Unitarian Universalist Humanism | 7:30 p.m.<br>8:00 p.m.      |
| Sun., 27 | Board meeting  | 2:30 p.m.                   |
| Tue., 29 | Dinner at Imperial Caribbean Restaurant, 51 Shunpike Rd., Cromwell. (860) 613-0005   | 7:00 p.m.                   |

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

working on his second volume.

Join us Monday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and Doug's latest Humanist Hero at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

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

**Email List**

To join, send an email to:  
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# Woodbridge Walk

Join us Sunday, October 9, Saturday, October 22, Sunday, November 13, and Saturday, November 19 from 10:30 a.m. until noon for a walk on a walking/jogging trail in Woodbridge followed by optional lunch. Fitzgerald Trails is located at 100 Center Road in Woodbridge, Connecticut, and there's plenty of parking at the Woodbridge Town Library at 10 Newton Road. *We will meet on the trail next to the intersection of Center Rd (Route 114) and Beecher Rd.* If you arrive after 10:30 a.m., just wait at this location and you will see us in a few minutes, or you can call one of the mobile numbers below. The event will be canceled in the event of rain. Contacts: Manny Ratafia: e-mail: [manny@ratafias.com](mailto:manny@ratafias.com), home (203) 387-7348, cell (203) 901-9553; or Nina Stein: home (203) 757-2539, cell (203) 215-0022; or Marsha Zellner: home (203) 393-2816, cell (203) 494-3856.

# Dinner at Lisboa

After numerous requests, we're returning to Lisboa, located at 19 Lafayette Street in Waterbury, on Friday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. You can preview their menu and specialties and also get directions on their website: <http://www.lisboarestaurant.com/>.

# Book Group: "Descartes' Bones"

The next HAC book discussion will be on Saturday, October 22, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. We will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is "Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict between Faith and Reason" by Russell Shorto, and Dan Blinn will be the moderator. Lots of copies are available in Connecticut public libraries.

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.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____                  Address: _____                  _____                  Telephone: _____                  E-Mail Address: _____                  Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO                  Where did you hear about us? _____                  Comments: _____                  _____                  _____</p>
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