



Ethical Views

September 2011 Vol. 126, No. 1 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Ten Years After: How Our Response to 9/11 Has Affected Our Civil Rights. Speaker: Frank Corrado, Esq., President of the ACLU-NJ

The opening Platform at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia will take place on Sunday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m., the tenth anniversary of 9/11. The Platform, delivered by Frank Corrado, Esq., will focus on how the country's response to the events of September 11, 2001 has, in many instances, corroded and weakened our civil liberties, with no corresponding gain in our safety. "Security and liberty are not incompatible," Corrado says. "In fact, properly understood, they complement each other. We are in danger of forgetting that essential truth."

The ACLU of New Jersey is the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, the nation's leading organization dedicated to the defense of the Bill of Rights. Located in Newark, the ACLU-NJ works throughout the state to defend civil liberties by engaging in litigation, legislative lobbying and public education.



This Platform will be the first of the Society's 2011-2012 season under the new leadership of Hugh Taft-Morales. The Society is located at 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia. There is no charge for this event, but a free-will offering is collected. Fellowship and discussion of the address immediately follow the Platform.

The 125-year-old Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia is a religious

humanist fellowship dedicated to the belief in the worth and dignity of the individual, seeking "always to elicit the best in others, thus bringing out the best in yourself," according to the Founder of the Ethical Culture Movement, Felix Adler, in 1876.

Sunday Platforms continue through May of 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Information about the Society can be accessed at our website www.phillyethics.org or by calling 215-735-3456.



Sunday, September 18, 2011

Leadership, Hope, and Courage

Speaker: Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

The new Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, shares his contention that to flourish in the 21st century, humanity needs diverse and shared leadership. That's why we need Ethical Culture. Ethical Culture asks each of us to be a leader, and that requires hope and courage - hope which understands often grim reality, but sees a better day; courage that admits our fear, but faces it with resolve. For over 125 years the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia has nurtured such leadership. The future asks us once again to rise up and live out the true meaning of our creed through deed.

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will focus on nature and will consist of four sets of responses to autumn: the beauty people see in nature; the knowledge

some try to derive; the reveries that engage some minds; and the calls to action the season can engender. The

program will use poetry, photography, and music to explore human responses to the season.

A.C. Grayling's *The Good Book: A Humanist Bible* indicates that, "All wisdom begins in first following nature, the best of guides." <>

The Day the Universe Changed: A philosophically fun video and discussion series



Come to the Ethical Society for viewings and discussion of a video series by James Burke, **The Day the Universe Changed**. Burke explores links between knowledge and reality through stories of important discoveries and new ideas in the history of western civilization. Burke guides us with wit and wisdom from the Middle Ages to the present.

Join Ethical Culture Leader Hugh Taft-Morales in the Weston room from 7:30-9:30PM on the third Monday evening of every month, September through May.

The first installment is on Monday, September 19: "The Way We Are: It Started with the Greeks".

In This Issue

- 1 *Sunday Platforms, The Day the Universe Changed*
 - 2 *Leader's Message, Richard Kiniry Declared Leader Emeritus*
 - 3 *Walking the Walk; Kiva; Summer Thanks*
 - 4 *New Editor; Flower Dedications, Sunday Morning Volunteers*
- INSERT - Inauguration Invitation; Calendar; Lunch Information*



Leader's Message

Hugh Taft-Morales

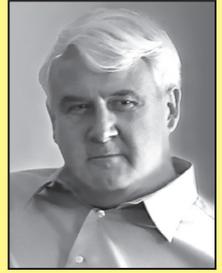
It was a beautiful March afternoon when I knocked on Lyle and Terry's front door. Inside awaited members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia Leadership Search Committee, most of whom I got to know while serving as your intern. But neither this familiarity, nor the warm sun above, was why I felt so good. Rarely had I felt as intuitively certain that I was doing the right thing. Applying for the position of Leader of this community was easier than I thought it would be, given my situation.

What situation am I talking about? Well, I don't live in Philadelphia. I live in Takoma Park, Maryland, with a family that I love being around. My children, Sean (24), Maya (19) and Justin (16) are wonderful, thoughtful, caring kids. Even though the older two spend more time outside our house than in it, they often bring great joy home. And our youngest, Justin makes me laugh every day, and watching him run and swim for his high school teams is a highlight of my week. And I adore more every day my wife of 29 years, Maureen. (Cue the violins!)

So why would I consider a job that would pull me away from such domestic bliss? Well, as I shared with Lyle, Linda, Ron, Kate, and Betsy, there is great potential in your Society. Before I even applied, I felt the vibrancy of Philadelphia and the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood. I sensed a deep yearning of many Society members to see the Society flourish. I saw the determination of lay leaders managing transitions so that the EHSP could continue to serve its Ethical Humanist mission. And all of

Richard Kiniry Declared Leader Emeritus

Out of love and respect for our leader, Richard Kiniry, who retired in June of this year, the Board of Directors of the American Ethical Union and the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia unanimously adopted the following resolution. This resolution, granting Leader Emeritus status to Richard, was read to the attendees at his retirement party on May 1st and to the American Ethical Union Assembly in Columbus, OH in June:



Richard L. Kiniry

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has fostered the moral spiritual and intellectual growth of the members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has never shirked his responsibility to minister to the members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia in their times of need; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has been a driving force in the revitalization of Camp Linden as a place where inner city youth can find respite, learn to swim and enjoy the beauty and bounty of nature; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has been an active member of the National Leaders' Council, having served it in many capacities including as its President; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry been instrumental in refining the philosophy and the thinking of Ethical Culture Leaders and members; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has for many years served on the AEU Leadership Committee and its Leadership Training subcommittee; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has acted as mentor and module advisor for countless Leaders in training; and

Whereas, Richard L. Kiniry has for many years served as Chair of the AEU Ethical Action Committee; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia has petitioned the Board of Trustees of the American Ethical Union to bestow upon Richard L. Kiniry the title of Leader Emeritus:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Board of Trustees of the American Ethical Union that because of long and devoted service to a member Society **and** to the AEU that Richard L. Kiniry be and he is hereby granted the title **Leader Emeritus**.

this is rooted in an impressive heritage, recently so enriched by Richard's warmth of character, generosity of spirit, and eloquent passion for Ethical Humanism.

It helped that the family I brag about, which now would be without me around for parts of every month, understood my passion for the work before me. They encouraged me to pursue Ethical Culture Leadership, which for me is not just a job, but a calling. In a world aching for a new way of living, Ethical Humanism offers me a chance to be in community with others dedicated to deed before creed. And Philadelphia's Ethical Society offers me a chance to help all of us help the world. I am grateful that the Leadership Committee, and then the Board, and then the membership, chose me to be Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. I hope I can honor your trust by nurturing a flourishing humanist spirituality that supports ethical living.





The Ethical Action Committee

The Ethical Action Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Society. We plot, plan and execute great things, many of which are quite fun and empowering, like marching in the Pride Parade or helping our local Amnesty International chapter distribute literature outside City Hall calling on Mayor Nutter to do the right thing for our immigrant community. All are welcome to attend. We wanted to inform you of some important upcoming actions so that you can get involved and help change the status quo, which appears to be trending negative.

Our Board has taken a position to endorse the upcoming protest on Wednesday/Thursday September 7 and 8 dubbed Shale Gas Outrage! It will counter the Marcellus Shale Coalition Conference that will be held in Philadelphia on those days. This gas industry lobby is proposing ongoing "fracking" for natural gas along in the Delaware watershed, putting our drinking water in peril and negatively impacting sensitive natural habitat areas. A rally is scheduled for 12:00 noon on Wednesday and there will be a march through Center City at 2:00 p.m. A concert on the river will be held that night at 6:30 and on Thursday there will be a counter conference from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.shalegasoutrage.org.

A few of us were ready to go the Congressional Progressive Caucus Speak Out Tour, focusing on the need to create more jobs in this economy, but the recent debacle on the debt ceiling resulted in cancellation of the Philadelphia event. The EAC wanted to publicly support the People's Budget, which it endorsed, as a way to

restore fiscal responsibility while not abandoning poor and working people. If the event is re-scheduled, we will let you know. Please go to www.cpc.grijalva.house.gov to read the People's Budget and consider signing on to it. It can't hurt.

We continue to be involved with Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, promoting passage of legislation that would end the death penalty in the commonwealth. There is an ongoing postcard campaign and coordination with Amnesty International.

We have helped the Camp Linden Committee by organizing work days and planting the garden and will continue to go to committee meetings.

Wednesday, September 21 is the United Nations International Peace Day. We are thinking of doing something before the Board Meeting that evening outside or on the Square, so SAVE THE DATE.

On Saturday September 24, there will be a full day event at 1515 Cherry Street (Friends Center) sponsored by Moving Planet, part of a national day of events being supported by 350.org. More info at www.moving-planet.org/events/us/philadelphia.

Looking to the winter, we will again be helping with the dinners at the Men's Shelter at Trinity Church. So get those pots and pans ready. We usually take the first Sunday of the month starting in December and will be looking for volunteers.

We are looking forward to working with the Southern Poverty Law Center, our Elliott-Black nominee, and have been in touch with them. More to follow.

And yet another horrible narrative unfolds in Somalia. We will be active in fundraising to help alleviate the suffering, so please be as generous as possible when the plea goes out.

-- Kate Esposito



We are helping people around the world through our involvement in KIVA, an international micro-lending organization.

Currently we have outstanding loans between \$25 and \$50 in Pakistan, Uganda, Iraq, the Philippines, Viet Nam, El Salvador, Senegal and Nicaragua to individuals and groups involved in agriculture, sewing, fishing, food vending, and animal husbandry. Recently, I was very happy to invest in a medical clinic in Iraq. I am just a little unhappy to report that our \$25.00 loan to a Dominican Republic Beauty Salon cooperative defaulted by a mere 25 cents, but other than that I am gratified that all the loans I have overseen have been fully repaid or are being repaid as of this reporting.

Looking over the many requests is a daunting task, so I try to stick to some criteria that help me be somewhat discriminating. I tend to invest more in countries that have been damaged by U.S. intervention or have been negatively impacted by natural disasters. There are some opportunities opening up in Iraq, but I have not yet found anywhere to invest in Haiti. I usually loan \$25.00 to individuals and \$50.00 to groups, leaning more heavily to women, since they are primarily responsible for providing for the children and tend to invest in food/food distribution activities, since hunger is such a pressing problem. Over the course of our history with KIVA 68% of our loans have been to women and 32% to men. Our total outstanding loans now amount to \$662.50

Please contact me (Kate Esposito [www.kmesposit@gmail.com](mailto:kmesposit@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or wish to know more detail about KIVA, where such a small amount of money can make such a huge difference to people in the developing world.



Summer thanks

Kudos to the 12 intrepid individuals who stepped up to offer either a book discussion or colloquy during the EHSOP summer program: Ellen Rose, Lyle Murley, Pat McGeever, Marta Guttenberg, Ken Greiff, David Ralston, Abraham Davidson, Kate Esposito, Betsy Lightbourn, Terry Martin-Murley, Hugh Taft-Morales, and Nick Sanders. We wouldn't have a program running in the summer without members generously volunteering their time and effort to this project. Thank you.

Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

Editor, Pat McGeever
Layout, Janice Moore
Production, Dotti Wesley
Web Master, Nick Sanders

**Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia**

Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader

Board of Trustees

Temma Fishman, President
Jeffrey Dubb, M.D., Vice President
Linda Richardson, Treasurer
Nick Sanders, Secretary
Kate Esposito
Arnold Fishman
Ken Greiff
Marta Guttenberg
Betsy Lightbourn
Garry O'Rourke

(215) 735 - 3456
office@phillyethics.org
www.phillyethics.org

New Editor With this issue of the newsletter, I'll be taking, with considerable trepidation, the assignment of editor. Trepidation because I'm succeeding Ellen Rose, whose blue pencil, not to mention wit, is far sharper than mine, and whose contributions to the intellectual life of this Society are enormous. Thanks, Ellen, and I'll do my best. Fortunately, Janice Moore will continue to take the newsletter copy each month and format it into an appealing layout. (Items are due to me at patethical@gmail.com the 10th of each month.) Lyle Murley has volunteered to step in if ever I can't make deadline. Thanks, Lyle, and if any egregious errors should appear, I'll claim they're yours.

--Pat McGeever

**SUNDAY MORNING
VOLUNTEERS**



**Flower Dedications - David
Ralston, Coordinator**

September 11 — Carol Love:
"To all of my friends from
the Ethical Society, past
and present."

September 18 — Betsy Lightbourn:
"To new beginnings."

September 25 — Carol and Jim Erb:
"In honor of our daughter, Jamie Erb
Acosta, who turned 30 on the 23rd."



**House of Ushers -
Betsy Lightbourn,
Coordinator**

Sept. 11 — Nick Sanders & Jim Cummings

Sept. 18 — Ron Coburn & Garry O'Rourke

Sept. 25 — Temma & Arnold Fishman



**Greeters - Ken Greiff,
Coordinator**

September 11 T.B.A.

September 18

September 25



Coffee Hour Lunch Cleanup

September 11 - Groups A-D
and E-K

September 18 - Groups L-O

September 25 - Groups P-Z

**Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia**

1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103