



Ethical Views

October 2004 Vol. 119, No. 2 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

October Platforms

Sunday, October 3

Platform: Richard Kiniry, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, will speak on *“War and the Future.”* Richard observes that if you have an army, you are tempted to do something with it. And if you have hundreds of thousands of under-educated young men, you have to do something with them. But if your only enemies are a few thousand terrorists, why do you need an army?

Sunday, October 10

Platform: Dr. Jacqueline Leonard, Associate Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology in Education at Temple University’s College of Education, will speak on *“Still Not ‘Saved’: The Power of Mathematics to Liberate the Oppressed.”* Dr. Leonard says that Jeremiah 8:20-22 can be used to describe the dilemma of Black children in an educational system that fails to provide them with the tools to gain access to higher education and higher paying jobs. She will argue that literacy in mathematics can empower and liberate these disadvantaged students.

Sunday, October 17

Platform: Richard Kiniry, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, will speak on *“The Future of Marriage.”* As Gays and Lesbians fight for Marriage status, the entire institution comes under the microscopic. We know it is often an unequal way of living but even with a high divorce rate, men and women continue to want to tie the knot. We will reflect on the ethical issues in marriage and whether it should have a future.

Sunday, October 24

Platform: Dr. Craig Eisendrath, senior fellow at the Center for International Policy in Washington D.C. and co-author of *Bush League Diplomacy: How the Neoconservatives are Putting the World at Risk*, will speak on *“The United States and the United Nations: Building a Better Future.”* Dr. Eisendrath will show why it is in our long-term interest and that of the world that the US support the United Nations, and what specifically such support will give us.

Sunday, October 31

Platform: Dr. Marc Sageman, adjunct professor of psychology at Penn’s Solomon Asch Center for Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict, will speak on *“Understanding Terror Networks,”* based on his book by the same title, published in May 2004 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. A former CIA case officer who has advised the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the National Laboratories, Dr. Sageman will explore the historical and political context of the Islamic revivalist movement that spawned the global jihad and trace the terror network from its roots in Egypt to its furthest worldwide branches.



President’s Message

Welcome Back

by Howard Peer

There are many things I like about the Ethical Society, not the least of which is that we have the collective good sense to take the summer off. I for one am firmly convinced that humans were never intended to work the way we do, it goes against our innate programming. Taking time off helps us to be more productive when we come back. And back we are with a full schedule of programs and activities.

I expect this year to be a little different than normal because of the General Election. I know that many of our members are planning on expending significant efforts to assure their desired outcome. This will be time well spent.

In a strange way the electioneering might pose an opportunity for us to widen our audience and our membership. Although I don’t always remember I try to always mention the Society when people come soliciting at my door. In my neighborhood they are generally related to some liberal cause such as Clean Water Action or a Get Out the Vote drive. I think it’s only fair that if they want a few minutes of my time and some of my money, I might as well take the chance

**Platforms at 11:00AM, Sundays
Coffee Hour & Discussion
follow the Platforms.**

**Musical interludes performed by
Pianist Tim Ribchester.**

**Childcare provided at no charge.
All are welcome!**

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to tell them about something near and dear to me in return. Also, I consider them to be pre-screened as people who are likely to be interested in the Society and our work. The same may be true of political activists we encounter. We can't be said to be proselytizing if they come to us, can we?

Also, we are considering having an **Election Night** get together at the Society. If we can rig up the TV to get sufficient coverage out of the networks then we can pull it off. I'm thinking we can all either celebrate wildly or provide mutual support for our collective depression. Anyway, stay tuned for details on our progress. P.S. I like red wine.

Joe Monte has kindly loaned us a lap top computer that we hope to use to make up a graphic presentation for the lobby. It will take a little work to figure out the details but we hope to have it running in a couple of months. The idea would be to provide a dynamic presentation that would run on a monitor with the computer locked up somewhere safe. It would be an endless loop that hits our high points: philosophy, history, activities, parent organization, web site, etc.

The Board continues to look into ways to improve **building access**. The current thinking is to try to make incremental improvements. The first would be to get a **chair lift** installed around the circular staircase. We are looking for quotes and ideas for a fund raiser. Initial investigation suggests something on the order of \$30,000 for this first project. We have some money set aside and are looking for a benefactor to provide the rest. You will likely see a campaign thermometer soon in the lobby.

Two members receive special recognition this month. As you know we lost **Elizabeth Goldsmith** last year. Elizabeth kindly remembered the Ethical Society in her will by

leaving us a generous bequest. Also, **Sidney Frankel**, has made a generous donation to the Ethical Society. Sydney has for many years been an astute engineer and entrepreneur. He had his own business (Web Controls) which supplied custom equipment to manufacturers such as Charmin Paper. I had the opportunity to see some of the items Sydney created and to talk to some of the people who used his equipment. It is clear that Sydney conducted his business life by the same high principals expressed by Ethical Culture. He is admired as much for his integrity as for his ingenuity.



Sydney Frankel seated at last year's PES Thanksgiving

Farewell Letter from the Frankels

Dear Friends,

It is with both joy and sadness that I sit down to write this letter. Joy—in the many fond memories Sydney and I have been privileged to share with you over these past nearly seven years. Sadness—in the realization that these warm and enriching experiences with all of you are coming to a close. You have been wonderful in your thoughtfulness and steadfast consideration of Sydney as he has aged and his once brilliant mind has clouded and moved into another realm—and also, of me and my deviant Christian perspective. Although I must say, you have changed my

BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOUR CHILDREN

Children don't become good people without working at it. The Philadelphia Ethical Society offers an Ethics for Children program that encourages an open search for personal values.

- Age appropriate curriculum
- Community service opportunities
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vision of the world considerably and, I believe, given me a much broader view of life in our day. Now, however, while Sydney does still have some lucid days when he is quite himself; our days of being able to join with you in the Sunday Platform Meetings and the ensuing Talk Backs (as well as, the summer parties and picnics) are, I'm sorry to say, a pleasure we will no longer be able to share with you. Sydney is definitely failing, and I am giving up my car and driving license. The medications I'm told I must take tend to make me dizzy (no comments, please) and not safe on the road.

So, both Sydney and I wish to extend our most heartfelt thanks to all of you for so graciously sharing your journey through life with us. We wish we had a great inheritance to leave you, but we have given you what we have, in the hope that it may be of some benefit to you and the movement which you represent.









Farewell dear friends, may the years be kind to you and bring you good fortune.

Very sincerely yours,

SYDNEY and BARBARA FRANKEL



OCTOBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | |  | 1 Carol Kaufmann Eli Shneyer | 2 |
| 3 11 AM <u>Platform</u> War and the Future <u>Book Talk:</u> 2:00 PM Sam Pizzigati <i>Does America Need a Maximum Wage?</i> | 4 | 5  Jeffrey Dubb | 6 <u>Meeting</u> 7:30 PM Camp Linden Board of Trustees at the Society  Thurmon Bullock | 7 | 8  Cherin Silver | 9 |
| 10 11 AM <u>Platform</u> Still Not 'Saved': The Power of Mathematics to Liberate the Oppressed | 11 7:30PM Weston Rm. <u>Class Intro</u> to Ethical Humanism | 12 | 13 <u>Meetings</u> 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee 7:30 PM Education Committee | 14 7:30PM Weston Rm. <u>Class</u> History of Ethics  Doris Leicher | 15 SOCIAL EVENT 7:00P.M. MIDDLE EASTERN NIGHT | 16  David Collier |
| 17 11 AM <u>Platform</u> The Future of Marriage | 18 | 19 | 20 <u>Meetings</u> 6:30 PM Executive Committee 7:30 PM Board of Trustees | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 11 AM <u>Platform</u> The United States and the United Nations: Building a Better Future | 25 | 26 | 27 7:30PM Weston Rm. <u>Class</u> The Qur'an and Islam | 28 | 29  Gladys Huber | 30 |
| 31 11 AM <u>Platform</u> Understanding Terror Networks 1:30 PM: MEMORIAL for Elizabeth Goldsmith and Selma Toth | | | | | |  Birthdays |

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Philadelphia Ethical Society

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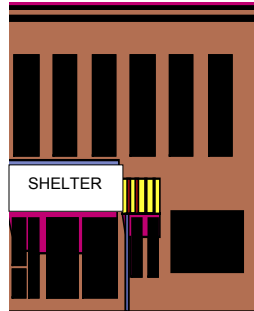
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In Memoriam

On Sunday, October 31st
at 1:30 P.M.,
The Philadelphia Ethical Society
will hold a loving tribute for

Elizabeth Goldsmith
and
Selma Toth,

who have recently passed away.
They are both greatly missed
by our members.



Volunteers Needed for Homeless Men's Shelter

The Ethical Society provides dinner for 12 to 24 homeless men one night a month from November through March. We cook at home and deliver the food to Trinity Episcopal Church, Spruce and 22nd Streets. We heat it on their stove, set the tables, and serve. If you can spare a few hours to help prepare and/or serve dinner at the homeless shelter, please call **Judith Will** at **215-551-1476**.

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