

Ethical Views




Summer 2010 Vol. 124, No. 10 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Calendar - Summer 2010

Although our regular Platforms will be in abeyance until after Labor Day, we will have Sunday morning events almost every Sunday during the summer. **All will start at 10 a.m.** and will be held in our air-conditioned meeting space with coffee following. Members are taking responsibility for the Colloquies (meditative, reflective events on a different theme each time) and for leading discussions on books or topics of general interest. They will be looking for helpers, so check your schedule and be ready to volunteer when asked.

(More information on next page.)

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
6th Richard L. Kiniry on Justice	4th No Service	1st Richard L. Kiniry on Justice
13th Picnic at Camp Linden	11th Richard L. Kiniry on Justice	8th Colloquy led by Henry Pashkow
20th Colloquy led by Kate Esposito	18th Colloquy	15th Henrik Ibsen's <i>The Wild Duck</i> : A Discussion led by Lyle Murley
27th The Jewish Creation Story: A Discussion led by Ken Greiff	25th James Joyce's "The Dead": A Discussion led by Ellen Rose	22nd Colloquy
		29th No Service

Summer Sunday Events

Colloquies and Book Discussions



The **58th Annual Camp Linden Picnic** will take place on **Sunday, June 13**, starting at Noon. Lots of Friends. Lots of Food. Lots of Fun. Think of what picnic favorite you'd like to contribute—desserts, salads or side dishes like baked beans and deviled eggs. The Society will provide beverages, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers. The cost of the picnic is \$10 if you bring something and \$15 if you don't (but please pitch in and bring something). Please tell the office if you need a ride or can provide one to others. Rides will meet in front of the Society at 10:30 AM. Directions to the Camp are available on our website, www.phillyethics.net/cl-directions.php

On **June 6, July 11** and **August 1**, **Richard Kiniry** will lead discussions based on Harvard professor Michael J. Sandel's book, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* and Sandel's course on justice, which was broadcast on PBS and is available online at <http://www.justiceharvard.org/> Excerpts from Sandel's book are available, free, at http://www.amazon.com/Justice-Whats-Right-Thing-Do/dp/0374180652/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1274296816&sr=1-1

On **June 27**, **Ken Greiff** will lead a discussion of the Jewish creation story, found in Genesis, chapters 1 through 3, which Ken asks you to read carefully beforehand. He plans to focus on topics like good, evil, temptation, sin and death. What does it say about God that he put into His creation a tree containing the knowledge of good and evil? Adam and Eve disobey God when they eat of the tree, but did they do wrong? Can they do wrong before they've eaten the apple and know what wrong is? Or, is sin introduced not by the action but by its consequence, since afterwards they know what wrong is? Is this a fortunate fall, or do we wish humanity were forever ignorant of the knowledge of right and wrong?

On **July 25**, **Ellen Rose** will redeem a promise she made last summer and lead a discussion of James Joyce's "The Dead," thought by many (including Ellen) to be the greatest short story in the English language. It is available in libraries, bookstores and online at <http://mockingbird.creighton.edu/english/micsun/IrishResources/dead.htm>. Please read it beforehand so that you can appreciate the craft with which Joyce traces his protagonist Gabriel Conroy's path from smug narcissism to moral and spiritual redemption.

On **August 15**, **Lyle Murley** will lead a discussion of Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*, a play in which life lies come in conflict with claims of the ideal and in which ambiguities in communication both illuminate and confuse personal relationships. The play is available at libraries, bookstores, online and in various film adaptations.

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INSERT - Camp Linden Adopt-a-Kid

EHSOP Summer Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 9
6:30 PM
Education Committee

*Pennsylvanians
Against
the
Death
Penalty* Summer Meetings at the
Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia
Thursday evenings - 6:00 p.m.
June 10, July 8 and August 12
in the Weston Room



Summer Meetings at the
Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia
Thursday evenings - 7:00 p.m.
June 24, July 22 and August 26
in the Weston Room



President's Annual Report

--Temma Fishman

We've had some successes this year at the Ethical Society. We've upgraded our electrical system, purchased two new stoves for our kitchen and installed beautiful new carpets in our lobby and on the stairs. Perhaps our greatest achievement is the completion of the handicap accessible ramp; our long-term project is finally finished thanks to the generosity of members and friends with the determination and hard work of those shepherding the venture. Our Society has grown, too. Seven new members joined us this year. And, thanks to the work of treasurer Nick Sanders and the Finance Committee, we have a balanced budget.

We were lucky to have had newly certified Ethical Culture leader Hugh Taft-Morales with us while serving his internship. He led two exciting, well-attended series of classes entitled *Moral Mondays* and *Exploring Felix Adler* and delivered excellent platforms. He attended many committee meetings and offered his insightful observations of our work.

As you know, our leader Richard Kiniry is considering retirement in the near future. The Leadership Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees will be participating in a workshop facilitated by AEU Leader Joy McConnell, who will guide us through the beginnings of the transition process. It will probably be the first of several training sessions as we plan for the future of the Society and consider the options before us. This workshop, scheduled for Saturday, June 12th, is open to all interested members.

I know this has been a troubling year for many of us. We've struggled with some very challenging issues even as we worked together and did our best to listen to each other. One thing I know for sure, the Ethical Society will prevail, no matter how our differences are resolved. As George Patton said, "If everybody is thinking alike, then someone isn't thinking." That's never a problem here. One of our greatest strengths is that we freely exchange ideas and challenge each other to come up with ethical, creative solutions to problems and opportunities.

I want to thank our Board of Trustees, Henry Pashkow, Ken Greiff, Irene Putzer, Lyle Murley, Dorothea Leicher, Jeffrey Dubb, Nick Sanders and especially my husband Arnold Fishman for his unflagging support, and offer my gratitude to all the trustees for sharing perspectives in intelligent debate, willingness to stay incredibly late at meetings and most of all, for their devotion to our Society. I am especially grateful that, once made, our decisions

are supported by all. Through it all, we've been very lucky to have had the able guidance of our leader, Richard Kiniry.

We look forward to a brighter year in the coming season with much participation from our members. Our Education Committee arranges Sunday platforms and is always looking for excellent speakers. The Ethical Action Committee leads outreach projects such as feeding the homeless and promoting awareness of the pressing environmental and human rights issues that demand attention. Community Committee members work on membership growth, such as hosting socials for newcomers and planning parties and celebrations we can enjoy together. This is just a brief sketch of what each committee does. We do much more. Come to our events. Come to our meetings. Join a committee, share your ideas and lend a hand. You can bring a fresh perspective to us. The Society needs you to get involved so we can keep moving forward. ◇



Summer Birthdays

June

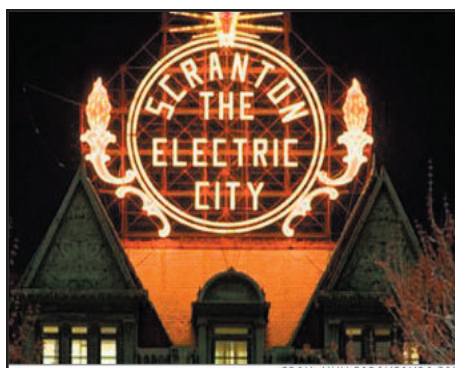
- 3 - Ellen Rose
- 3 - Temma Fishman
- 7 - Janice Moore
- 10 - Monica Peer
- 18 - Robert Allen
- 19 - Sylvia Bornkoff Polizzi

July

- 9 - Harry Thorn
- 23 - Carole Erb
- 23 - David Ralston
- 24 - Jim Erb
- 26 - Elisabeth Lightbourn
- 28 - Ramona Ward

August

- 9 - Amber Anderson
- 12 - Carole Karash



SAVE THE DATE

June 17-20, 2010

AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

95th Annual Assembly

To be held at

The University of Scranton
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Camp Linden 2010 Adopt - A-Kid



For the 20th straight year we will be welcoming children to beautiful Camp Linden - 54 acres of fields and wooded trails. Working with four inner-city Monday to Friday day camp programs, we provide nature lessons and teach the children how to swim. Over 200 campers will participate -- each child for one day a week for seven consecutive weeks.

Camp Linden offers hikes through woods and fields, led by knowledgeable and well-equipped staff, and discussions about insects, animals, trees or habitats. Camp Linden offers swimming lessons at our beautiful outdoor pool, allowing every child to learn. Camp Linden supplements the lunches provided by our city partners with freshly harvested produce from our own organic raised-bed garden.

We offer a challenging and healthy environment. Children can learn self-reliance, integrity and a broader view of their place in the natural world. Over the last 20 years we have opened up the wonders of nature to thousands of children. We are committed to providing a loving, educational, safe and fun program to our deserving young campers.



You can invest in our wonderful and deserving young campers through your tax-deductible gift to Camp Linden. We invite you to offer this opportunity to family, friends and co-workers.

Complete the form below and return it with your check to Camp Linden.

If you could see the smiles on their faces, you would adopt them all!

Yes, I will Adopt-A-Kid!

Please check one: one kid for \$25 ____, two kids for \$50 ____, three kids for \$75 ____, more kids for \$ ____.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to Camp Linden.

Name _____

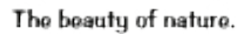
Address _____

Camp Linden, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

215 - 735 - 3456; www.phillyethics.org





Our administrative and maintenance costs are kept low because of the tremendous support we receive from volunteers.

Camp Linden, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia,
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103

