

Ethical Views

June 2011


Vol. 125, No. 10

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Calendar—Summer 2011

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
5th Picnic at Camp Linden	3rd Colloquy	7th Discussion
12th John Updike's "A&P": A Discussion led by Ellen Rose	10th Eschatology for Humanists 101: A Discussion led by Ken Greiff	14th Colloquy
19th Colloquy	17th Colloquy	21st Discussion
26th "Collateral Murder": A DVD and Discussion led by Pat McGeever	24th Discussion	28th Colloquy
	31st Colloquy	

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NO

Did you know that the *Ethical Views* newsletter issues come in **full color** and with **live web links**?

If you get your issues by way of our e-mail list, you know they do. That's **two** reasons to get your copy via an e-mail address.

Another reason is to get your copy at least a week before you would receive it through the postal mail.

To top it off, your individual postal mail copy costs the Society an estimated \$8 per year to produce and mail to you. The e-mail version costs us essentially \$0. (Every little \$8 savings adds up...)

Aren't these really excellent reasons to receive your copy of *Ethical Views* by e-mail?

ACTION: If you are not yet subscribed --

To join the e-mail readers of *Ethical Views*, e-mail Nick Sanders (aka "Nick on Earth") sanders508@earthlink.net.

However =====>>> We are substantially revising the current postal mailing list for the newsletter...



YES

ACTION: If you wish to receive the postal version, notify Dorothy Wesley at the Society office, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA 19103, or leave a message for her at (215) 735-3456. Be sure to include your complete mailing address. We will add your name and address to new postal mailing list for one year beginning with the September issue.

Thank You!

P. S. Current and past newsletters are available on our web site: phillyethics.org/newsletter.php

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Summer Sunday Events

Colloquies and Book Discussions

The **59th Annual Camp Linden Picnic** will take place on **Sunday, June 5**, 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 a.m. Directions to the Camp are available on our website, www.phillyethics.net/cl-directions.php

On **June 12**, **Ellen Rose** will discuss John Updike's much-anthologized short story, "A & P," first published in 1961 in the *New Yorker*, which raises complex ethical questions under the guise of a simple character sketch. The story is available online at <http://www.tiger-town.com/whatnot/updike/>

On **June 26**, **Pat McGeever** will show the video "Collateral Murder" from Wikileaks (in which US helicopter gunships in Iraq killed a dozen people on the ground including two Reuters News employees and severely wounded two children) and share the stories of three US soldiers on the ground that day who have subsequently become anti-war activists.

On **July 10**, **Ken Greiff** will lead a discussion on End of Days Prophecy, which he has titled Eschatology for Humanists 101. It's designed for those who are all agog about Gog, Magog, Armageddon, the Antichrist, the Rapture, the Tribulation, a Beast with Seven Heads, Seals, Vials, Trumpets and 666. Don't miss it. <>

Members--and Others, too: Services Available

These are not just for Society members. Newcomers and others interested in the Society are welcome, too. In fact, non-members can get a better sense of the society's community through participating.



Here are the events:

- **June 11**, late morning & afternoon (backup, **June 12**)—Howard Peer's sailing day trip, around Pea Patch Island from Delaware City, DE (\$25)
- **June 11** (rain date, **June 12**) evening—Richard Kiniry's famous Garden Party, at his home in the 700 block of Bainbridge St. (\$25)
- **June 12**, early afternoon—Ken Greiff's play reading party, at the Ethical Society (\$15)
- **August 6**, evening—Temma and Arnold Fishman's front row party at the Medford Lakes Canoe Festival, at their home in Medford Lakes, NJ (\$25)
- **August 13**, late morning & afternoon (backup, **August 14**)—Howard Peer's sailing day trip, around Pea Patch Island from Delaware City, DE (\$25)

Also, there are other services available:

- Dog walking or cat care in home in Center City area—Marta Guttenberg (\$5 per time)
- Custom-made limericks—Doris Leicher (\$25 per limerick)
- Chocolate Kahlua biscotti—Betsy Lightbourn (\$7 per half-dozen)

To find out more or to sign up, contact Dotti at the Society office:

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

(Usual office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 AM - 4:30 PM)

SUMMER MEETINGS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday

June 1

6:30 p.m.

ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday

June 1 *and* August 3

7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Sunday

July 10

11:15 a.m.

Sunday

August 7

11:15 a.m.



Thursday

June 23

7:00 p.m.

Thursday

July 28, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday

August 25, 7:00 p.m.



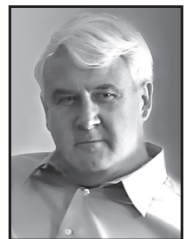
President's Message

Big Changes

—Temma Fishman

Big changes are occurring in “my” neighborhood—and yours, too, I suspect. The Society is like a second home to me, so I consider it, in a sense, “my neighborhood.” As our retiring leader Richard Kiniry rides off into the sunset, or more accurately boards a plane for Ireland, he leaves his erstwhile charges staring wistfully after him. Richard’s familiar presence, the one we’ve come to depend upon on a Sunday morning to prod and advise us as we set up for the platform, or to attend to the myriad and sometimes annoying details that are sure to present themselves, won’t be there. Like a conductor or director, Richard always took charge and orchestrated a beautiful event, while some of us sat back and enjoyed it. Nor can we expect Richard to be present online to soothe our troubled minds as we wrestle with problems in emails *ad infinitum*, or should I say *ad nauseum*, awaiting his words of wisdom. Nor will we be able to call him at a moment’s notice for a consultation on some particularly knotty problem. Most importantly, Richard’s reminders that have kept us focused on what it means to live Ethical Culture will be just a memory, though still an influence. We will certainly miss him.

Now we will have only each other for comfort as we trudge through the dark night alone holding hands. “Okay,” I can hear you saying, “Get a grip! All things must end. It’s time for Richard and the rest of us to move on!” The hoopla celebrating Richard’s retirement is pretty much ended. We gave him a lively and loving send-off at his party in May. We laughed, hugged and shed some tears. Some of us masked our deeply-felt affection for Richard with sarcastic roasts and hearty toasts. In a joint resolution, the boards of the American Ethical Union and Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia conferred the title of Leader Emeritus upon him. We really do love you, Richard, and wish you well in your retirement, which we hope will eventually include us. After you’ve had a chance to get away for a while, and we learn to function without you, we look forward to seeing your familiar face around the old Society again—prodding us, advising us and even making us feel a little guilty for not doing enough to make our Society and world a better place.



Richard L. Kiniry



Hugh Taft-Morales

Although our new leader, Hugh Taft-Morales, won’t know about the little things like finding the candelabras or toilet paper, we can figure those things out for ourselves. We can expect that we will all have to serve greater roles as lay leaders. We will work with Hugh on the big things like envisioning the future of Camp Linden and the Society as we move forward under his leadership. Hugh will take us in new directions, having his own take on living the Ethical Humanist life. He has much to bring to us because of his invaluable experience promoting continued adult growth and learning, compassionate interpersonal relationships, meaningful platforms, social justice initiatives and expressing the Society’s mission through the work of its board and committees. I’m sure I’ve left much out, which Hugh’s service as our leader will surely demonstrate. Hugh is a well-respected force in the Ethical Culture movement for good reason. He has shown sincere devotion to our movement at the national level as well as in the Societies he has served.

Hugh Taft-Morales will be coming on board as our leader in July. Many of us have already benefited from and appreciated his talents, insight and kindness during his service with us as AEU leader intern last year. We can expect that he will urge us to activate our potential to be an even stronger voice for Ethical Humanism nationally and in the local community. Hugh believes in joining forces with local groups that are consonant with our values to get our message out and to effect change. We can plan to welcome him joyfully into our midst and to think about all that that means for us. Yes, we can expect some big changes. Working with our new leader, Hugh Taft-Morales, we have a great opportunity before us to shape the future of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.



Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

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of Philadelphia**

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