



Ethical Views



January 2012 Vol. 126, No. 5 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms

Sunday, January 1, 2012

No service

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Memorial Sunday: "Thanks for the Memories"

Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Those people in our lives who have died leave us precious gifts: memories of our relationships with them. We are left to tend to those memories, keeping them alive in our head and heart. Come share a caring thought for someone you miss in your life. At this annual Memorial Sunday tradition our community demonstrates the truth behind the words of A. Powell Davies: "...as long as memory endures, the touch of the one we loved will be felt...the love we have known remains a part of our lives."



Sunday, January 15, 2012

Going to Court, but not for Justice
Michael Coard, Esquire

Meet an attorney who says he goes to court not to get justice—because there's very little there—but to expose injustice. A criminal defense attorney in Philadelphia with more than 15 years' state and federal trial experience, he specializes in murder cases. He formerly worked at the Charles W. Bowser Law Center after serving as Legal Counsel for State Senator Hardy Williams. He successfully litigated a historic case for a murder prosecution of a white police officer who killed an unarmed Black teen. He is certified to represent indigent defendants in death penalty cases and has served as local counsel for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Nearly half his criminal cases are pro bono. He received the Philadelphia Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award and the Philadelphia NAACP's Cecil B. Moore Award. He received his law degree from Ohio State University and his undergraduate degrees in Eng-

lish, Education and Political Science from Cheyney University.

Meet also an activist and founding member of Avenging The Ancestors Coalition (ATAC), the organization that forced the federal government to memorialize the African descendants enslaved by President George Washington at the first "White House," here in Philadelphia, next to the Liberty Bell Center. Michael hosts the Radio Courtroom show on WURD900-AM and teaches Hip Hop at Temple University, where he is an adjunct professor of African Studies and Urban Studies. He is a member of the Occupy Philadelphia Legal Defense Team, the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, and the Philadelphia Millions More Movement. For more information, log onto the "In The News" section at www.avengingtheancestors.com.

Sunday, January 22, 2012

When Children Lead: Bringing out our best in Birmingham

Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Few moments in the civil rights movement were as critical or risky as the Children's Crusade of May 1963. Martin Luther King Jr., perhaps at the low point of his civil rights leadership, opposed involving children in protests – and tragedy could have occurred. As history has proven, however, the roadblock to justice that was Birmingham was overcome with the courage, singing, and smiles of thousands of children. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Hugh Taft-Morales speaks on this incredible moment in history, how it brought out the best in the human spirit, and how it motivated Ethical Culture to go to Birmingham. (This Platform is intended to complement the January 29 presentation by Marsha Levick, member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and to encourage attendees to join the SPLC.)

(Continued on page 3)

Monday, January 9,

7:30-9:30PM

"The Day the Universe Changed"

A philosophically fun video and discussion series



Come view and discuss a video series by James Burke, *The Day the Universe Changed*. Burke explores with wit and wisdom links between knowledge and reality through stories about the history of Western Civilization.

Join Ethical Culture Leader Hugh Taft-Morales for the fifth installment on **Monday, January 9**: "Infinitely Reasonable: Science Revises the Heavens." Free and open to the public.

In This Issue

Page

- 1 *Sunday Platforms; "The Day the Universe Changed"*
- 2 *Leader's Message: My Lunch with Rev. Jackson*
- 3 *Thanks for the Ushering; The Ethical Humanist Society Proudly Supports the Southern Poverty Law Center*
- 4 *EHSOP Participates in MLK Day of Service; Viva Camp Linden!; Members Gather at Thanksgiving*
- 5 *Classes: Intro to Ethical Humansim; Great Thinkers*
- 6 *A Bubba Meinsa?*
- 7 *Calendar*
- 8 *Flower Dedications, Sunday Morning Volunteers*



Leader's Message

My Lunch with Rev. Jackson

by Hugh Taft-Morales

"God works in mysterious ways," said Hollister Knowlton, my wonderful new Quaker friend who is helping me connect with others working with Occupy Philadelphia. Knowing my non-theistic perspective, she gave me a reassuring smile. I smiled back and said, "Or maybe I just got lucky!"



Taft-Morales with Jackson at an Occupy Philly Interfaith press conference.

That is how I felt about my lunch with the Reverend Jesse Jackson – I lucked out. I had made a couple of trips to Occupy Philly with donations of fresh fruit and other food, but I had just begun visiting the Interfaith Tent at Dilworth Plaza. After our Humanist Thanksgiving at 1906 Rittenhouse Square, I returned to the tent and Hollister welcomed me heartily, saying that Reverend Jackson was planning to visit. In preparation, I swept the sidewalk and straightened things up a bit. Suddenly Rev. Jackson emerged from a cab and came right up to me and shook my hand.

"I had the pleasure of knowing your sons at St. Albans School where I taught decades ago, Rev. Jackson," I said, hoping to make a special connection with him. He just nodded and continued greeting the others in the growing crowd. I was satisfied with my brief brush with the famous civil rights leader, two-time candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination,

and current leader of Rainbow/PUSH. Rev. Jackson had come to the Interfaith Tent to offer guidance on how best to connect the Occupy Movement with the social justice efforts of African American clergy in Philadelphia. Rev. Jackson suggested that a good start would be a press conference the next day, Monday, November 21st, with Interfaith Tent organizers and black clergy.

The next day at noon, Rev. Jackson returned and directed a press conference with cameras and microphones all around. In urging the Occupy Movement to keep its eyes on the prize, he wove together his signature catchy phrases, emphasizing the importance of not sweating the small stuff. On the eve of being evicted from Dilworth Plaza, he said to keep the faith because, "...the Occupy movement is not about this space. It's about the space between rich and poor, the space between those who have access to medical care and those who don't, the space between the 1% and the rest."

Then he brought some clergy into the Interfaith Tent for a prayer and further discussion about coalition building and moving forward. After that, when all the news trucks and reporters were



Jackson (center) conferencing in the Interfaith Tent with local clergy including Taft-Morales (2nd right)

gone, I got my biggest surprise. As Rev. Jackson was stepping into his cab, he called me over and invited me and a couple of others from the tent to lunch. I didn't feel I had earned the thrill of lunch with such an inspirational leader. Hollister, Rev. Peter Friedrichs, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware Valley, Quaker Joyce Haru



Taft-Morales receiving an invitation from Jackson to join him and three others for lunch following the Interfaith press conference.

Moore, Rev. Jackson and I had an hour to talk. I was struck by his calm, almost soft-spoken, manner. He spoke gently about President Johnson's genius in de-racializing the civil rights debate. He noted that the president began his "War on Poverty" in predominantly white rural Appalachia, assuring the broadest support possible. In the same way, today the Occupy movement must work in broader and broader coalitions, avoiding the splintering that so often plagues progressive movements. This will take, he said with a wry smile, convincing the black clergy that Occupy can be more than a "white hippy and derelict movement." It's about inclusion.

I am grateful that I had this opportunity to meet with Rev. Jackson and fellow clergy. As I contribute what I can to this work, I am in awe of the many individuals I am just getting to know working long hours to assure that Occupy Philly survives the winter and returns in the spring on stronger, more diverse and inclusive footing. It will be made easier thanks to the inspiration and guidance of Rev. Jackson.

Near the end of our meal, Rev. Friedrichs asked Rev. Jackson, "What sustains you?" A part of the answer that I will never forget went something like this: "Well, we've had some victories. It excites me. And you young guys here at this table right now - you are my 'angels.'" I know full well that I have not earned such metaphorical wings. So many others have paid a much higher price than I for speaking truth to justice – they are the angels. But Rev. Jackson's humbling words challenge me to do more to earn his faith. And for that I am grateful, and I feel very lucky. <>

Photographs on this page by Betsy Lightbourn.

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Why Support the Southern Poverty Law Center?

Marsha Levick, Legal Director of the National Juvenile Law Center

The Southern Poverty Law Center's work today is even more significant than when it was founded in 1971 by Morris Dees. Ms. Levick will make the case as to why ethical humanists should support them and will talk specifically about her work in the field of juvenile justice.

Marcia Levick co-founded the national Juvenile Law Center (JLC) in 1975 and served as its first executive director until 1982. In her 30-year legal career, she has been an advocate for the rights of juveniles and women, and is a nationally recognized leader in juvenile law. In 1995, Levick became the JLC's legal director and now manages its litigation and appellate docket. From 1982 to 1988, she worked for the National Organization of Women Legal Defense and Education Fund, serving first as legal director and then as executive director. ◇



**Thanks for the Ushering
--Betsy Lightbourn,
Coordinator**

The following members acted as ushers in recent weeks. Thanks!

Sharon Wallis, Leonard Weeks, Linda Richardson, Temma Fishman and Arnold Fishman, Bill Coffey and Sandy Coffey.

**The Ethical Humanist Society
Proudly Supports the Southern
Poverty Law Center**



Last year I was honored to present to our Board, as our Elliott-Black Award nominee, the Southern Poverty Law Center. Without hesitation, the Board passed the resolution by consensus without anyone standing aside or blocking.

Since then I have been working with the Law Center to develop a deeper more supportive relationship, and over the next two months the Society will learn much more about their important work and hopefully come to respect them as much as I have.

The Law Center was founded in 1971 by Attorneys Morris Dees and Joe Levin. Morris Dees is still their lead trial attorney. Their first president was civil rights activist Julian Bond and he remains on the Board of Directors.

Over the past forty years they have worked to shut down some of the most dangerous hate groups by winning multimillion-dollar verdicts on behalf of their victims, dismantle institutionalized racism in the South, reform juvenile justice practices and shatter barriers to equality for women, children, the LGBT community and the disabled. They are at the forefront of protecting low-wage immigrant workers from abuse and winning justice for abused prison inmates. They have won numerous landmark legal victories on behalf of the exploited, powerless and forgotten.

Their Intelligence Report magazine reports on hate groups throughout the country and they have identified and track over 1,000 active groups nationally, assisting law enforcement efforts to monitor them.

They've established the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, AL, honoring those who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement.

As a result of seeing how hate and intolerance can poison society, they initiated Teaching Tolerance, a program designed for educators to reduce prejudice, improve intergroup relations and support equitable school experiences for our nation's children. Teaching Tolerance Magazine and resource kits are distributed free to any educator who asks.

During the month of February, we will be presenting information to Society members and friends about the SPLC in the hopes of raising funds through memberships and financial support. On January 22 after Hugh's Platform and Dialogue, we will be showing their Academy Award winning film: "Mighty Times, The Children's March," an astounding documentary on that famous Civil Rights Movement chapter in Montgomery, AL. On January 29, Marsha Levick, one of their Board members will be presenting a platform at the Society, talking about her work in the field of juvenile justice and why we as Ethical Humanists should support them.

I urge you to visit their website at www.splcenter.org to learn more about them, why we nominated them for the Elliott-Black Award and why they deserve our continuing support.

--Kate M. Esposito, Chair of
the Ethical Action Committee ◇



Civil Rights Memorial- Montgomery, AL



EHSOP PARTICIPATES IN MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

For years I have thought about participating in a community service project to honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. But I've always managed to sit it out and felt afterward like I really missed out on "walking the talk," fully accepting the challenge of Ethical Culture.

But not this year!

The Day of Service was started by PA Sen. Harris Wofford and GA Rep. John Lewis and signed by President Bill Clinton in 1995. Since 1996, the Greater Philadelphia Day of Service has grown into the largest such event in the nation.

Please consider joining me at The Homeless Feeding Project at 1116 Spring Garden Street from **5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16th** where we will assist in serving meals to approximately 350 homeless people and helping to set up chairs and tables and wiping them down after the meal.

Letmeknowat kmesposit@gmail.com by Monday, January 9th.

*--Kate Esposito, Chair,
Ethical Action Committee*



VIVA CAMP LINDEN!

During the off season, work continues at Camp Linden. The bath house now sports a brand new steel roof. Any time any of you want to visit Camp Linden for a closer look, please write or call Jeffrey Dubb: jeffrey.dubb@gmail.com or 215-327-4579.



MEMBERS GATHER FOR REFLECTION, CHOWING DOWN AT THANKSGIVING TIME

We celebrated a humanist Thanksgiving a bit early, on Sunday, Nov. 20, upstairs. As Carole Love, our turkey-baster extraordinaire, put it, "A wonderful time was had by all with great songs sung to Hugh's guitar and amazing readings - not to mention the fine food prepared by our members."

Photographs by Carol Love

CLASSES



Introduction to Ethical Humanism

Sunday, January 8, 7-8:30 PM

Come learn about the history and philosophy of Ethical Humanism. Leader Hugh Taft-Morales will offer about a 30-minute presentation followed by reflections from members on what Ethical Humanism means to them. We will then open it up to a lively question and answer period. The evening offers those new to ethical humanism a chance to learn more about it in a relaxed atmosphere. Wine and cheese will be served! Open to the public - please RSVP to leaderhugh@phillyethics.

Quote-Unquote

Portion of recently-pollled Americans giving a positive job-performance rating to God: 52%.

--Harper's Index

NEW!

Great Thinkers Discussion Series at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Stimulating conversations about some historical American thinkers connected to humanism and freethought. Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, hosts a series of dialogues with local groups and authors, followed by comments and questions from the audience. Free and open to the public.

7:00 PM Monday, Jan. 23

"The Curiosity of Ben Franklin: Freethought and Citizenship." A discussion with Roy E. Goodman, Curator of Printed Materials, Library, American Philosophical Society, co-sponsored by the Benjamin Franklin Thinking Society.



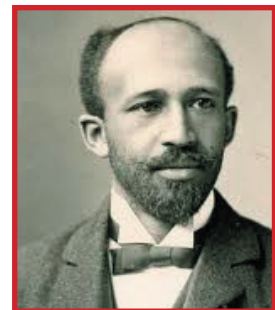
7:00 PM Monday, Feb. 20

"Emerson, Adler, and Transcendence." A discussion with H. G. Callaway, Ph. D.



7:00 PM Sunday, March 18

"W. E. B. Du Bois, Inclusion, and Power." Guest to be announced soon.



7:00 PM Monday, April 16

"Ethical Relationships and Jane Addams." A discussion with Prof. Allen Davis.



A Bubba Meinsa?

by Arnold Fishman

I may not be a member of the one percent. But - as the guy who was struck by a car said to the person who put a coat under his head and asked, "Are you comfortable?" - "I make a living." My house is not under water; my kids are well educated without the dreaded student loans; my wife long ago traded her teacher's chalk for a volunteer hat; and if my car were any larger, I would need a commercial driver's license. And I support the Occupy Movement in its quest for economic justice.



A great deal of attention has focused on the failure of the Movement to enunciate a list of demands. With all the wrongs visited upon the ninety-nine percent, the fact that they have determined not to articulate a platform is extraordinary. Marking down the principal due on mortgages to match market value, a miniscule tax on stock trades held less than a few days ... budgets that would restore the shredded safety net, rehire our laid-off teachers, fire fighters and police officers, repair our deteriorating infrastructure, and stimulate job creation - these are some demands that spring readily to mind. With such a menu to pick from, why would the Occupiers make a conscious decision to remain mute on the subject?

I suspect the answer is that each of these ideas has already been debated and rejected by our government at all levels. ... The Occupy Movement then is accommodating the shared reality that government, so dominated by me-first greed, is impotent to address the needs of the vast majority of the people. As one Occupier's sign read, "I could not afford to buy a politician so I bought this sign."

The burning question is, will this strategy produce anything substantial? If consciousness-raising qualifies, then they already have. ... They have, for the moment, changed the terms of the debate. But this Movement ... has the capacity to reverse the trend of "I got mine, now I want yours," and start us toward a more humane society. What is missing is a direct appeal to the one percent; what is needed is one hundred percent if real and lasting change is to occur. Not a petition directed to our elected representatives, but an honest full-throated plea to the dominant voices of civilization. Everyone wants a better world.

I would like to believe that there are many who, like me, have had the good fortune to enjoy a bountiful life, but would be amenable to such an entreaty. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am neither delusional nor naive. I do not expect that ... Bill Gates, sitting peacefully, stoically, and unflinching, will be pepper sprayed multiple times from canisters the size of fire extinguishers. But, the presence of voices that wield real muscle would curb those excesses. (Does anyone really believe Bill Gates would have been pepper sprayed?) And statements made by those with influence endorsing the dream of a system of wealth distribution more equitable than winner-take-all would give legitimacy to the endeavor. Those who would resist must be enlisted into the cause of restoring America's promise of equality, prosperity and freedom, at this critical time in our planet's history.

The national, indeed the global, economy demands our coming together in the fulfillment of the common good. The mentality of "us against them" has to be jettisoned in favor of the "We are all in this together" paradigm. ... The politics of hope must triumph over the politics of fear. Absent such a vision, this Movement, like so many that have long been forgotten, will be remembered only by those who participated in it, as a good story to tell their grandchildren - a *bubba meinsa*.

P.S.: The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia - where I am proud to be a past president and continue to serve as a member of its Board of Trustees - at its November meeting, adopted a resolution supporting the Occupy Movement in its quest for economic justice. And the American Ethical Union, the national organization of the federation of Ethical Culture Societies - where once again, I am proud to be a past president and continue to serve as a member of its Board of Trustees - has adopted economic justice as its theme for its annual assembly to be held in Albany, NY this coming June.


--Excerpted from the Camden County Bar Assn. *Barrister*; January, 2012



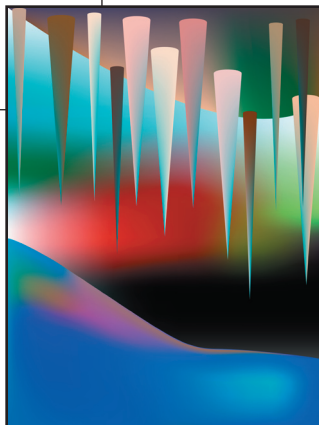
Following the January 22nd Platform,
"When Children Lead" by Hugh Taft-Morales,
the Academy Award winning
"Mighty Times, The Children's March"
will be shown, beginning at approximately 1:15p.m..

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*1 <i>No Platform</i>	2	3	4 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 7:30 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	5	6	7
*8 11:00 a.m. <i>Thanks for the Memories</i> Hugh Taft-Morales	9 7:00 p.m. Philosophy Fun #5: Infinitely Reasonable Hugh Taft-Morales	10 <i>Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Meeting</i> 7:00pm	11 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Community Committee	12	13	14
*15 11:00 a.m. <i>Going to Court, but not for Justice</i> Michael Coard	16 MLK Day of Service 5:30-8:00 p.m.	17	18 Meetings 6:30 p.m. EHSOP Board	19  Amnesty International 7:00 p.m.	20	21
*22 11:00 a.m. <i>When Children Lead</i> Hugh Taft-Morales Approx. 1:15PM: Showing of Academy Award winning "Mighty Times, The Children's March"	23 7:00 PM Discussion: The Curiosity of B. Franklin Roy E. Goodman	24	25 Meeting 7:00 p.m. Camp Linden Meeting	26	27	28
29 11:00 a.m. <i>Why Support SPLC?</i> Marsha Levick	30	31				

*Child care provided during all platforms



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 10	Carol Love
January 11	Sandy Coffey
January 14	Lyle Murley
January 18	Victoria Kent
January 21	Ken Greiff
January 29	Jordan Orange, M.D.

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**

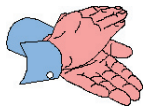
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader
Richard L. Kiniry, Leader Emeritus

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



SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS



**Flower Dedications - David
Ralston, Coordinator**

January 8—Irene
Putzer

January 15—For Lyle Murley.
Happy Birthday from his adoring
wife.

January 22—In honor of Rachel
Maloney McGeever, late wife of
Pat McGeever.

January 29—In honor of Ken's
21st Birthday.

Ushers - Betsy Lightbourn, Coordinator

January 8 T.B.A.
January 15
January 22
January 29



Greeters - Ken Greiff, Coordinator

January 8 T.B.A.
January 15
January 22
January 29



**Coffee Hour Lunch
Cleanup**

January 8 - Groups P-Z
January 15- Groups A-D
January 22 - Groups E-K
January 29 - Groups L-O



***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103