

Ethical Views



February 2012 Vol. 126, No. 6 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Varieties of Valentines: The Many Shades of Love

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

What are we celebrating on Valentines Day anyway? Is it all about the sappy Hallmark cards full of heterosexual couples gazing into each other's eyes? Who defines what love is worthy of poetic praise, and what love stays hidden in the shadows of shame? And what's sex got to do with it all? Join Leader Hugh Taft-Morales as he explores a world way beyond the comfort zone of his Puritan New England upbringing.

Sunday, February 12, 2012

The Importance of Cultural Identity for African Americans

Karen Warrington

The history of Blacks in America did not start in America. Blacks were not slaves, they were enslaved Africans, with complex histories, culture, religions and languages.

Karen Warrington is a communications expert, a broadcast journalist and a performing artist. She is the Director of Communications for Congressman Robert A. Brady. Previously she was press secretary to Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode, an award-winning news director at WDASAM/FM Radio, host and producer of weekly television programs, and the lead dancer and a choreographer with the Arthur Hall Afro American Dance Ensemble. She lectures and writes about the challenges facing the African American family and the need for African Americans to embrace, and educate themselves, about African traditions and culture. Her enduring interest in world cultures

has taken her to China, Senegal, Ghana, Morocco and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria.

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Is it Time for Reparations?

Ron Peden

America is at a crossroads, facing serious and seemingly unprecedented threats to its viability both at home and abroad. Author/activist Ron Peden sees addressing the persistent racial divide, through Reparations, as a critical path forward for the country, in order to definitively coalesce and come together to solve the serious challenges ahead.

Ron Peden is a native of Philadelphia and current resident of Cambridge, MA. A graduate of Temple University (BBA) and New England Law/Boston (JD), his background is in community organizing and neighborhood development with various CDC's and non-profits in both the Philadelphia and Boston areas.

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Langston Hughes

Ralph Hunter

Ralph Hunter will talk about his archive of historical material. His collection includes signed first editions of some of the best-known



Langston Hughes

works of the American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist Langston Hughes. These items are now housed in the African-American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey.



Darwin Day Celebration!

Saturday, February 4, 2012

7:00-10:00 PM

Don't be the only primate on your block to miss out on this fun-filled evening devoted to remembering Charles Darwin, born February 12, 203 years ago. Come enjoy music, jokes, games, prizes, refreshments, and other fun ways to honor "the heretical theory of the development of life on earth over millions of years by means of spontaneous genetic mutation!"* Contact Hugh Taft-Morales at the Society if you have a Darwin-related song to sing, joke to share, or game to play so that he can work it into a program that will bring alive the wonder of evolution. We may even have friends from other humanist groups joining us for the fun!

♥ Image from Birthday Homage to Darwin by Thomas Theodor Heine, German Biologist

*From lyrics by satirist and musician Roy Zimmerman, "Creation Science 101"

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***Behind the
Scenes - Part II:
Or, A Look Be-
hind the Curtain***
(Continued from
December 2011 issue)

Temma Fishman

As I look at the view out my window in beautiful Medford Lakes, I see the earth sleeping as it waits for spring. Not so at the Ethical Society, however.

There's the Ethical Action Committee, chaired by the dynamic **Kate Esposito**, whose passion for social justice has turned a small committee into one with a big heart. Encouraged by leader **Hugh Taft-Morales**, Kate has promoted many social justice actions in her short time as EAC chair. Hugh, Kate, **Sandy Coffey**, **Arnold Fishman** and I had the best time bringing dictionaries to the third graders at the Frederick Douglass School. At this writing, we're looking forward to feeding the homeless on the Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 16th. See our December newsletter, in which Kate described the work of this committee, so central to our mission.

You would think EAC is a large committee, but there's room for you on it. Just contact Kate and tell her you're interested in social justice, too.

Dedicated chair of the Camp Linden Committee **Jeffrey Dubb** visited the Camp almost every day this past summer with Leader Emeritus **Richard Kiniry**, working to get the season underway for the children from Philadelphia's inner city. They gathered a staff of excellent counselors. **Marta Guttenberg**, **Kate Esposito**, **Sharon Wallis** and others helped prepare the garden so the children could eat food grown from the soil (washed and cooked first!). **Leonard Weeks** is presently seeking funding to expand the reach of our beautiful camp on the Brandywine. There's an attractive new roof on the bathhouse. Already, Jeff and his team are gearing up for the coming camping season by dealing with the myriad details necessary for another successful summer session. Look for an opportunity to participate

in the next work, fun, and eat-lunch day at the Camp. And donate!

Do you enjoy our newsletter? Be sure to thank **Janice Moore**, layout editor who creates those eye-catching color graphics and pictures that impel us to read on. Editor **Pat McGeever** cracks the whip (in a loving way) to make sure the material for the newsletter he must scrutinize is submitted when needed. We want to hear from our members and friends, so perhaps you'd like to write an article for the **Ethical Views**. Be sure to email it to Pat at patethical@gmail.com by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Have you visited our website, phillyethics.org, lately remodeled and constantly updated by **Nick Sanders**? Information on classes and platforms greet you. Leader Emeritus **Richard Kiniry**'s platforms have been added recently. You'll find building rental information with attractive photos and downloadable newsletters. Link to a Camp Linden video. (I don't want to spoil your visit by telling you everything!)

As you probably know from our December newsletter, our new leader, **Hugh Taft-Morales**, will be officially installed at a ceremony in the late afternoon on April 15th. **Betsy Lightbourn**, chair of the Installation Team, has been hard at work organizing this celebration to honor Hugh in "words, music and camaraderie," as Betsy put it. She and her team meet frequently to wrestle with the details essential to doing justice to this momentous occasion and to our connection with Hugh. Mark your calendar and plan to be there.

Betsy dons another hat when she composes and distributes press releases and flyers to local publications on Hugh's installation and many other exciting events like our classes, platforms and EAC activities. Her work as our unofficial, unsung, but very busy Communications person gets the word out there about us and brings new people to our doors.

Aren't those Sunday morning bagels and breads from Metropolitan Bakery

absolutely delicious? **Ken Greiff** and his Community Committee arranged for these to be ready for pickup every Sunday by our volunteers who prepare the lunch. Ken provides oversight of the many pieces of the lunch program and tends to emergencies. COM COM plans and assists our celebrations like the Humanist Thanksgiving meal, the Darwin Day Party on February 4th, Kate Esposito's fabulous birthday and Camp Linden fundraiser party on April 22nd, our Annual Picnic at Camp Linden (June 3rd), as well as the Get to Know Us Socials for newcomers and old-timers. Look for details and mark your calendars. Ken also has the job of drafting the greeters. Want to be one? Let Ken know – we need you!

One of the several ways **Doris Dabrowski** serves our Society is as chair of the Personnel Committee. This committee is working on standardizing practices regarding all Society personnel. It's creating a Personnel Policy that deals with vacation time, hours of work, compensation, job descriptions, and other employee concerns. Doris also serves on our Finance Committee.

Be sure to say hello to **Antuan Heath**, who has been serving as one of our custodians since the end of November. The Personnel Committee, in consultation with **Dotti Wesley**, our office manager and custodian Erich Coopersmith, led the search for a new custodian. They heartily endorsed Antuan, who has been busily painting, helping out in crises, and looking after our beautiful old building.

Our Board of Trustees, with the leadership of **Hugh Taft-Morales**, is responsible for oversight of all committees. Matters that can't be resolved at committee level come before the Board. According to our bylaws, the Trustees must "represent the spirit of the Society by supporting committees, the financial structure, and organizational integrity of the Society."

New leader **Hugh Taft-Morales** graces us with many talents including his delightful singing and guitar playing. In the short time he's been with us,
(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

Hugh has connected with many in the progressive community, like the AHA, the Freethought Society, Reverend Jesse Jackson, leaders in the Occupy movement and in the religious community. Hugh worked with **Margaret Downey** of the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia to get that beautiful Tree of Knowledge erected in our lobby during the holidays. Hugh's platforms are expressions of Ethical Culture at its best, with effective organization, fine poetry, readings, and talks. He readily makes himself available to members and friends seeking his counsel, who are then rewarded with his wise, gentle insight.

I'm sure I've left many people and efforts unrecognized, but I probably shouldn't take up the whole newsletter. This has been but a glimpse of what's going on behind the scenes in our vibrant Society. Together, we're growing, learning from each other, laughing, even at times disagreeing. We're not perfect, but we're rowing in the right direction toward making a better world. We invite you to get on board.

COMMITTEES (continued from December 2011 issue)

Camp Linden Committee

Members: Jeffrey Dubb, Chair; Kate Esposito, Arnold Fishman, Marta Guttenberg, Chuck Hinson, Ed Kirlin, Charles Loomis, Carol Love, Chariss McAfee, Linda Richardson, Nick Sanders, Sharon Wallis, Leonard Weeks

Community Committee

Members: Ken Greiff, Chair; Arnold Fishman, Marv Friedman, Irene Putzer, Nick Sanders

Ethical Action Committee

Members: Kate Esposito, Chair; Ron Coburn, Marta Guttenberg, Doris Leicher, David Ralston

Flower Tributes

David Ralston

AN INVITATION

I am pleased to introduce the following invitation from Morris Dees, founder of The Southern Poverty Law Center, to our members and friends. Throughout this month, we will be having a membership drive at EHSoP to further their work. The Law Center was our Elliott-Black Award nominee last year and, as such, we feel honor bound to support them.

—Kate Esposito



Dear Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia Members,

I want personally to invite you to join with me and the Southern Poverty Law Center in our fight against hate and bigotry in America today. Your moral and financial support will help us preserve equal justice and equal opportunity – values that you and I share, as is evident by the fact that for more than 125 years your Society has worked to honor the inherent worth of everyone and to create a more humane society.

When I founded the SPLC more than 40 years ago, we were implementing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Many members of Ethical Culture supported this work then through marches and other forms of advocacy. Today, the SPLC continues to use litigation – as well as advocacy and public outreach – to defend the rights of society's most vulnerable: victims of hate crimes; immigrants facing rabid bigotry in the Deep South; impoverished children of color facing an uncaring and broken juvenile justice system; and many, many others.

We track and expose potentially violent hate and extremist groups – many with the ability to wreak havoc in today's uncertain political and economic climate. That's why our free Teaching Tolerance materials are so valuable for students and teachers. We're reaching young hearts with important lessons of understanding before they become hardened with hate.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for all you do to change things for the better in Philadelphia. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Morris Dees, Founder
Southern Poverty Law Center

Installation Team

Betsy Lightbourn, Chair; Marta Guttenberg, Hugh Taft-Morales, Linda Richardson, Sharon Wallis, Leonard Weeks

Personnel Committee Members

Doris Dabrowski, Chair; David Ralston, Nick Sanders, Jeff Dubb, Garry O'Rourke, Linda Richardson

* * *

(Leader Hugh Taft-Morales and President Temma Fishman are ex-officio members of every committee.)

So why am I joining the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)?

Maybe it's because I read American history. Maybe it is because I know how racism and bigotry has been taught to children in this country for generations. Maybe it is because I believe that systematic degradation of entire races for the sake of profit seared itself into our nation like so many branding irons. Maybe it's because I see it as the job of every citizen to end racial hatred. Maybe it's not just the job of those committed few who put their lives on the line day after day to track down hate mongers and bigots. Maybe it's because SPLC leader Morris Dees [see above] is becoming my hero. Maybe it's all these reasons and more. So, why will you join SPLC?

Sincerely,

Hugh
(Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia)





MAKING IT OFFICIAL

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS APPROVED BY CONSENSUS:

"THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA SUPPORTS THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT IN ITS QUEST FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE."



Thanks for the Ushering --Betsy Lightbourn, Coordinator

The following members have recently served in the important role of ushers: Ron Coburn, Bill and Sandy Coffey, Marta Guttenberg and Harry Thorn. Thanks, folks. You make us proud and please keep up the good work.

Quote-Unquote

"The infliction of cruelty with a good conscience is a delight to moralists. That is why they invented hell."

--Bertrand Russell



February "Get-to-Know-Us Social" Monday, February 6, 7:30 PM

The social offers interested visitors and newcomers the opportunity to mingle over wine and cheese with established members as we discuss some of the ideas central to Ethical Culture and the life of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.

After a brief 15-minute presentation by Society Leader Hugh Taft-Morales, there will be informal Q&A and conversation about our individual and collective journeys toward a more fulfilling and ethical life!

Sunday, February 19, 7:30-9:30PM

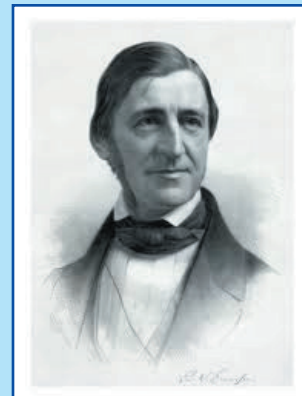
"The Day the Universe Changed" A philosophically fun video and discussion series



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 sixth installment on **Sunday, February 19:** "Credit Where It's Due: The Factory & Marketplace Revolution." Free and open to the public.

GREAT THINKERS DISCUSSION SERIES



"Emerson and the Conduct of Life"

Monday,
February 20, 7:00 PM

A discussion with
H. G. Callaway, Ph. D.
Second installment of the
Great Thinkers Discussion Series

Stimulating conversations about some historical American thinkers connected to the 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.

WORLDLY WISDOM:

Freud's "Civilization & Its Discontents"



Tuesday,
February 21, 7:00 PM

Presented by Ron Coburn

Mark the Dates!



ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA



Saturday, April 7th - 10:00AM to 3:00PM

Workshop: Peace Building Initiatives that Spell Success

Presented by



Dr. Dorothy Maver

Director of the National Peace Academy
Educator, Peace Builder, Coach and
Community Organizer

and



Martha Gallahue

American Ethical Union Leader
and representative to the United Nations

RSVP to 215-735-3456 by April 1st

\$25 per person

Please make checks payable to the EHSOP
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Bring your own lunch; coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.



Additional Appearance:

Sunday, April 8th at 11:00AM

Dr. Maver will speak at our platform

Our platforms are free and open to the public

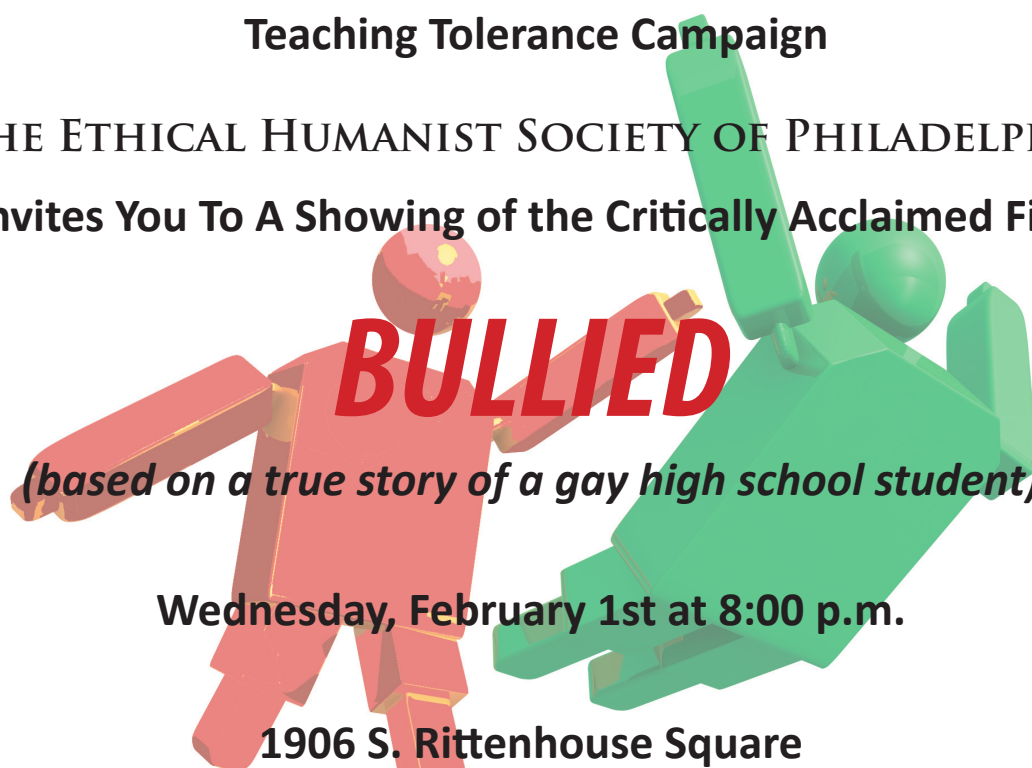


“How Harassment and Homophobia
Nearly Destroyed a Child
Because He Was Gay”



**In Support of the Southern Poverty Law Center's
Teaching Tolerance Campaign**

**THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA
Invites You To A Showing of the Critically Acclaimed Film**



(based on a true story of a gay high school student)

Wednesday, February 1st at 8:00 p.m.

1906 S. Rittenhouse Square

Philadelphia, PA 19103

www.phillyethics.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!



For More Information Contact:

**Kate Esposito at
kmesposit@gmail.com**

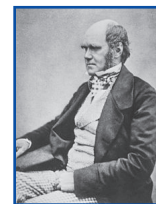
or 609-273-0170


**Visit the Southern Poverty Law
Center site at**

www.splcenter.org



February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Meeting 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 8:00 p.m. - Film: BULLIED <i>Sponsored by the EAC</i>	2	3	4 Darwin Day Celebration 7-10:00PM
*5 11:00 a.m. <i>Varieties of Valentines: The Many Shades of Love</i> Hugh Taft-Morales	6 Get-to-Know-Us Social 7:30PM	7	8 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Community Committee	9	10	11
*12 11:00 a.m. <i>The Importance of Cultural Identity for African Americans</i> Karen Warrington	13	14 <i>Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Meeting</i> 7:00pm	15 Meetings 6:30 p.m. EHSOP Board	16  Amnesty International 7:00 p.m.	17	18
*19 11:00 a.m. <i>Is it Time for Reparations?</i> Ron Peden 7:00 p.m. The Day the Universe Changed Hugh Taft-Morales	20 7:00 PM Great Thinkers: Emerson & the Conduct of Life	21 7:00 PM WORDLY WISDOM: Freud's Civilization & Its Discontents Ron Coburn	22 Meeting 7:00 p.m. Camp Linden Meeting	23	24	25
26 11:00 a.m. <i>Langston Hughes</i> Ralph Hunter	27	28	29			



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



February 3 Arnold Fishman, Esq.
 February 6 Bob Marley
 February 12 Charles Darwin
 February 12 Abraham Lincoln
 February 16 Mary Scholl
 February 21 George Washington

*Child care provided during all platforms

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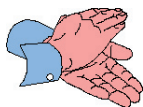
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(215) 735 - 3456
office@phillyethics.org
www.phillyethics.org



SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS



**Flower Dedications - David
Ralston, Coordinator**

February 5 - Temma
Fishman, "Wishing
husband Arnold a
happy birthday"

February 12 - Carole
Love, "Happy Birthday to Mom
and Bob Marley " (They share
the same birthday February 6.)

February 19 - TBA

February 26 - TBA

**Ushers - Betsy Lightbourn,
Coordinator**

February 5
February 12
February 10
February 26



Greeters - Ken Greiff, Coordinator

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26



**Coffee Hour Lunch
Cleanup**



February 5 - Groups P-Z
February 12 - Groups A-D
February 19 - Groups E-K
February 26 - Groups L-O

P.S. from Ken: The easiest way to
even out the groups for now is to shore
up some groups with new people. So
John McCormick will be assigned to the
A-E group, and the Coffeeys will go into
the F-K group.

Remember, this is a simplified process. If
you want to get fancy, I encourage you
to make a home-made spread or bring
fruit/veggies. Cookies are nice.

***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

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Philadelphia, PA 19103