

# Ethical Views

June 2012

Vol. 126, No. 10 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

## Sunday Meetings



### JUNE

**Sunday, June 3, 2012**

#### *Picnic at Camp Linden!*

(cars depart Society at 10:15 A.M.)  
Details on Page 4.

**Sunday, June 10, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Progressive political issues in 2012*  
Harry Thorn, EHSOP member

An update on Occupy and sources of inequality. What is happening in our economy and what could Obama be doing? As the election nears, how can we respond? The discussion continues, with resources.

**Sunday, June 17, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Morning Musicales*  
Stephen Tanzer, flutist

A short musical program from Stephen Tanzer's classical repertoire.

**Sunday, June 24, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Bill McKibben's "Eaarth"*  
Hugh Taft-Morales, EHSOP leader

A discussion of an important environmental call to arms: Bill McKibben's book *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* (2010). Get informed and get engaged in saving our planet!



### JULY

**Sunday, July 1, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Colloquy, subject TBA*  
Kate Esposito, EHSOP member and chair of Ethical Action Committee

**Sunday, July 8, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*"Where's Hitler?" Play Reading*  
Pat McGeever, EHSOP member

Boy meets girl and it starts looking real. Then religion (or not) rears its head. What are they going to do? As an audience member, you help to decide.

## Summer Edition

**Sunday, July 15, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*"Time to Go," Play Reading*  
C.E. McClelland, author of runner-up play in our 2011 Playwriting Contest

When should they pull the plug on a comatose patient? Oh, yeah? What if it's your child? EHSOP members read a gripping drama.

**Sunday, July 22, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Colloquy, subject TBA*  
Temma Fishmann, EHSOP Immediate Past President

**Sunday, July 29, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Mindfulness; A Colloquy*  
Hugh Taft-Morales, EHSOP leader

Hugh will offer some short readings by Buddhist Thich Nhat Hahn, offer some simple exercises in breathing meditation, and solicit reflective comments from the audience.



### AUGUST

**Sunday, August 5, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*What's New with the AEU?*  
Tim Barger, EHSOP member

Tim Barger has the opportunity to attend the American Ethical Union's Lay Leadership Summer School this year. For this colloquy, Tim will share a few stories and discuss leadership and ethical education.

**Sunday, August 12, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Jesus' Parables*  
Ken Greiff, EHSOP member

The parables of Jesus are enigmatic and evocative. This colloquy will endeavor to provide understanding of some of them.

**Sunday, August 19, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Colloquy: Creativity*  
Betsy Lightbourn, EHSOP member

**Sunday, August 26, 2012, 10:00 A.M.**  
*Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow"*  
Hugh Taft-Morales, EHSOP leader

Come discuss with Leader Hugh Taft-Morales one of the most important social justice works of our time: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander. Hugh will offer some introductory comments and guide discussion of Alexander's main arguments. ◇



## for your service

Kudos to all of you who have volunteered to serve as ushers this year, namely **Steve Bremner, Diann Brown, Ron Coburn, Sandy and Bill Coffey, Jim Cummings, Kate Esposito, Ken Greiff, Marta Guttenberg, Terry Martin-Murley, Lyle Murley, Garry O'Rourke, Henry Pashkow, David Ralston, Sally Redlener, Nick Sanders, Harry Thorn, Sharon Wallis, and Leonard Weeks**. Thank you again for serving as stage hands for our wonderful Sunday mornings.

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## President's Message

### Stepping Up to the Plate

As I write this, I am almost at the end of two terms (4 years) serving as president of the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. I was very hesitant to take the job back when then President **Howard Peer** asked me if I would step up to the plate. I was vice-president at the time and it really is expected that the veep will take the job when the current president steps down. In addition, my husband Arnold, who had presided over the EHSOP Board of Trustees before Howard, and who also served two terms as president of the Board of Directors of the American Ethical Union, was urging me onward. He said I wouldn't be sorry if I took the job and that it would be an opportunity to grow. I was hoping he wasn't talking about my waistline!

Well, he wasn't entirely right. There were times when I was indeed sorry. In my first two years of service, the Society went through some very tumultuous times, requiring that we do serious thinking about how lay leaders should be serving the Society. The resultant solutions required a major re-ordering of roles and a transition to a more equitable distribution of authority among the members and lay leaders. I must confess I shed some tears during that time.

But the wisdom and determination of the Board and membership prevailed. We pulled through, emerging stronger and healthier than ever. Then, just when everything seemed nice and calm, our Leader of 22 years, **Richard Kiniry** announced his desire to retire. Another transition loomed on the horizon. However, our Search Committee, led by **Lyle Murley**, did a fine job. The committee snagged **Hugh Taft-Morales**, one of the stars of the Ethical Culture movement, to be our Leader. Fortunately, Hugh wanted to be snagged and we are thriving in this wonderful relationship recently honored in an inspiring Installation Ceremony on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

I must admit Arnold was right that serving as president is an opportunity to grow. My waistline did get bigger, but so did my perspective. I had to turn my attention to the business of the Society and to organizing my efforts efficiently. Probably the troubling times taught me more than the peaceful ones about the importance of listening and responding respectfully when I least wanted to do either. It was a chance to foster the art of compromise and the patience to rework solutions that didn't go well the first time around.

There is amazing talent for leadership on our board and in the membership as well. It seems to me that governance is best served by encouraging others to be leaders, by being a cheerleader. Listen, Listen, Listen, then step out of the way and support others in doing what they do best. And, if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it. Here's a chance to truly bring out the best in others and in yourself. The efforts and talents of members will come together to get the important work of the Society done.

As you look around the Society, I'm sure you can see the results of all this work and spirit. Our Sunday morning attendance is greater than ever. Our platforms are lively events that have us arguing and agreeing with great enthusiasm as we learn from our speakers and each other. New people and members attend our discussion series. Our Leader **Hugh Taft-Morales** continues to forge relationships with social justice movements in the community and beyond, making us a stronger force for the good than we would be working alone. Our Society is growing in membership and in purpose.



If you have a chance at leadership, my advice to you is to say, "Yes!" You won't be sorry (except maybe a few times). But you will grow in the experience, and when it's over, you'll be very glad you stepped up to the plate. You will be richer for having done it. You may not have a bigger waistline, but you'll have more brain cells and a broader perspective on your own life and that of the Society than you would have had otherwise. And, you will be working to make the world a better place.

I am honored that I had the chance to work with so many ethical people engaged in moving our Society forward. I can hardly say I've been successful at all aspects of the job of president, but I learned a lot. If I ever felt sad or lonely when I walked into a meeting, I felt much happier and more engaged in a meaningful life when I left. I've been lucky to have the benefit of the best teachers: two leaders, the trustees, the rest of the membership, our office manager, **Dotti Wesley**, and the best of all cheerleaders, my husband Arnold.

I am grateful for their dedication, advice and inspiration. All of you taught me much. Without you, I could not have done the job. The support I needed was always there. I feel very hopeful about the future of our Society. Our sun is rising and getting brighter every day.

--Temma Fishman,  
Outgoing EHSOP Board ◇

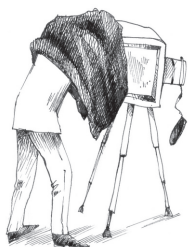
## Harrisburg Update

Leader **Hugh Taft-Morales** drove to Harrisburg, Monday, May 7, with EHSOP members **Betsy Lightbourn** and **Steve Bremner** to rally for saving the General Assistance



State Capitol

(GA) programs that support the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. GA provides a subsistence benefit level of aid to disabled or sick adults without children, domestic violence survivors, adults participating in alcohol and other drug treatment programs, children living with an unrelated adult, and others. The end of GA will worsen already severe hardship. We need a Pennsylvania that cares for all. We need a state smart enough to choose economical ways to make a more ethical world by helping those in crisis. This is just such a program, but because those it serves are often marginalized, it is on the chopping block. We hope the tiny contribution of ESHoP in terms of our presence and chanting at the rally will contribute to broader public outrage at the proposed cuts. ◇



## EHSOP Online Update

Photos from "Our Splendid Day: April 15, 2012," Hugh's Installation Ceremony, will be available on the Society Facebook page beginning June 1.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Execute Art Not People Friday, June 1, 6:00 P.M.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia is honored to host the annual event of Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (PADP), "Execute Art Not People." This year's the focus is on **restorative justice**. 6:00 P.M.: Gathering and outdoor activity. 7:00 P.M.: Screening of *Concrete, Steel and Paint*, followed by a panel discussion with director Tony Heriza. Come support the shared values of PADP and EHSOP on June 1!

### "THE DAY THE UNIVERSE CHANGED"

**Sunday, June 3  
7:00 PM**



Come view and discuss the final installment of a video series by James Burke, "The Day the Universe Changed." Ethical Culture Leader Hugh Taft-Morales leads the discussion. This installment is called, "Worlds without End: Changing Knowledge, Changing Reality."

Open to the public.

## Book discussion of "Bloodnight"

**Monday, June 4, 7:00 PM.**

*Discuss Bloodnight with the author, James Rahn, the founder of Rittenhouse Writers' Group. Join Hugh Taft-Morales as he hosts a discussion with Rahn about both the art of writing and about Bloodnight, a vibrant, engaging literary journey into the tough adolescent world of a New Jersey shore town.*



## Walking the Talk of Ethical Culture

**Wed., June 6 & Wed., Aug. 1,  
7:45 P.M.**



The Ethical Action Committee will be meeting over the summer on Wednesday, June 6th and Wednesday, August 1st at 7:45 p.m. in the Weston Room at the Society. The Committee has been extremely productive over the past year working with Amnesty International, Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and bringing the important work done by the Southern Poverty Law Center to the attention of our members and the greater Philadelphia community.

The EAC endorsed the People's Budget as proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. We've led the EHSOP initiatives to march in last year's Pride Parade, participate in Peace Day Philly, work with the Occupy Movement, and take a position against fracking for natural gas. We developed a "brigade" on Martin Luther King Day of Service to participate in feeding the homeless at Chosen 300 Ministries.

More recently EHSOP has signed onto the coalition taking a stand against ending General Assistance in Pennsylvania which led to a delegation going to Harrisburg to protest safety net budget cuts (see page 2). We monitor many situations including voter registration, women's health, civil rights, peace and environmental concerns and inform Society members, asking them to take action on urgent issues via e-mail alerts or from the podium at Platform. We help with Camp Linden and invest in KIVA, our micro-lending project to individuals and collectives in developing countries.

Come to our summer meetings. This is when we "walk the talk of Ethical Culture." Put your ethics out there in the world! I can be reached at:

**kmesposit@gmail.com.**  
Or call: **609-273-0170**



### It's Philly Pride Time, So...LET'S MARCH! Sunday, June 10

We will be marching again in the Pride Parade this year on Sunday, June 10th. The parade kicks off at noon from 13th and Locust Streets. We had a great time last year carrying our banner and got a big shout-out at Independence Hall from the grandstand. This year's theme is "Pride Links Us Together." We'll "link up" through e-mail and cell phones. So get your rainbow on and contact me at: **kmesposit@gmail.com**. Or call: **609-273-0170**. We'll have a gay old time! (Straight marchers welcome also!)

### Quote-Unquote

"If you don't have a seat at the table, you're probably on the menu."

--Barney Frank, Member of Congress and its first openly gay member



### Meet Up for Ben Franklin Thinking Society

**Sunday, June 17 2:00-4:00 P.M.**

Come to the upstairs assembly room for a meet up with members of the Ben Franklin Thinking Society to explore the philosophical principles of the Constitution. We will discuss the requirements necessary for a harmonious, well functioning, free society, as well as the various political philosophies that help guide our social evolution.





## LINDEN WEEKEND, 2012

This year Camp Linden will host an entire weekend of activities to delight and enliven the EHSOP community. Come and be part of it!

### Day One

Saturday, June 2 (the day before the EHSOP Picnic) will be a day of activities at Camp Linden, followed by overnight camping. A donation of \$20 per person supports Camp Linden.

Meet at Camp Linden any time after noon or meet at Rittenhouse Square at 11:00 A.M. to carpool. Bring your own lunch. We will provide cook-out dinner and breakfast Sunday.

RSVP to: [sharonkwallis@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonkwallis@yahoo.com) or tel: 267-250-6552. We will provide camping equipment, by prior arrangement.

### Day Two

A Wonderful Day in the Country!

Sunday, June 3  
is the Annual EHSOP Picnic  
at Camp Linden.

Lots of Friends -- Lots of Food -- Lots of Fun !  
\$10 for anyone contributing a dish  
\$15 for anyone who is not.

We leave from the Society about 10:15.

Please e-mail: [jeffrey.dubb@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.dubb@gmail.com)  
to let us know if you can drive or  
if you need a ride  
or to check in case of rain.

# June 2012

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Please note:</b> this calendar covers only June. For July and August, and for updates to other information in this edition of the newsletter, consult the online version of the newsletter at: <a href="http://www.phillyethics.org">http://www.phillyethics.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Notice of ongoing change:</b> The meetings of the Camp Linden Committee will continue to be on the fourth Wednesday of each month, but they will now begin at 6:30 P.M.</p> |  |  |   |  | <b>1</b><br>6:00 p.m.<br><i>Execute Art, Not People</i> | <b>2</b><br>10:00 a.m.<br>Camp Linden activity day, overnight camping |
| <b>3</b><br>10:30 a.m.<br>Camp Linden Picnic<br>7:00 p.m.<br>The Day the Universe Changed, final installment  | <b>4</b><br>7:00 p.m.<br>"Bloodnight" discussion | <b>5</b><br>7:00 p.m.<br><i>Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Meeting</i> | <b>6</b><br>Meetings<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Education Committee<br>7:45 p.m.<br>Ethical Action Committee | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br>10:00 A.M.<br><i>Progressive Political Issues</i><br>Harry Thorn<br><br>Noon<br>Philly Pride March<br>13th and Locust  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>17</b><br>10:00 A.M.<br><i>Morning Musicale</i><br>Stephen Tanzer, flutist<br>2:00 P.M., Benjamin Franklin Thinking Meetup   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br>Meeting<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Camp Linden Meeting  | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>24</b><br>10:00 A.M.<br><i>Bill McKibben's "Eaarth"</i><br>Hugh Taft-Morales   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br>Meeting<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Board of Trustees  | <b>28</b><br><br>Amnesty International<br>7:00 p.m. | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   |

## Kate Esposito's B'Earth Day Partaay April 22nd

A large turnout!



Kate Esposito



Bertha Waters does the Electric Slide

Photographs by Carol Love



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**Ethical Humanist Society  
of Philadelphia**

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

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## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

### *June*

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

### *July*

9 - Harry Thorn  
9 - John McCormick  
12 - Sylvie Mulvihill  
13 - Elit R. Felix II  
20 - Bill Goldberg  
22 - Marvin Liebman  
23 - David Ralston  
23 - Carol Erb  
24 - Jim Erb  
26 - Elisabeth Lightbourn

### *August*

9 - Amber Anderson  
12 - Carole Karash

***Ethical Humanist Society  
of Philadelphia***

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