



Ethical Views

September 2013 Vol. 128, No. 1 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms September 2013

Sunday, September 8 - 11:00 AM
Women, Unions and Radical Change
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



If it's true that "women hold up half the sky," then why are they still paid only 77% of what men are paid for the same work? Why is this so half a century after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act? And why are women working 9 to 5 still burdened with a disproportionate share of family duties? Answers to these questions help explain the fact that women have often been at the forefront of organized labor's most radical manifestations. Come explore the role of women in the labor movement from the textile strikes of the early 19th century through Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's broad and radical agenda to the intersection of feminism and labor today.

Sunday, September 15, 11:00 AM
The Future of Ethical Culture
James Croft, Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training

At the start of the 21st century the human species faces unprecedented challenges: climate change, a global economic crisis, and political instability all cry out for a Humanistic response. At the same time, the religious landscape in America is shifting radically, with more people than ever turning away from traditional religions. Ethical Culture stands poised to capitalize on this unique moment, offering a hopeful vision of the human



future unfettered by the dogmas of the past. James will suggest ways in which the Ethical movement can seize this opportunity, offering a vision which may spark a revival, and secure the future, of Ethical Culture.

James Croft is a Humanist activist, public speaker, and Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training. At Harvard, while pursuing his doctorate in the philosophy of education, he works on the Humanist Community Project, helping build communities for nonreligious people. He is an in-demand public speaker, an engaging teacher, and a passionate activist for human rights. Croft was raised on Shakespeare, Sagan and Star Trek, and is a proud, gay Humanist. His upcoming book, *The Godless Congregation*, co-authored with New York Times bestselling author Greg Epstein, is being published by Simon & Schuster.

Sunday, September 22 - 11:00 AM
Fall Equinox Platform
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



Come celebrate the advent of autumn with stories, music and poems! We come together to reflect on the beginning of the harvest season. Hugh Taft-Morales will ask you to consider what seeds have you recently planted in your life; what new projects, hobbies, habits, or perspectives have you tried to initiate over the past year? Have they germinated, flourished, and/or flowered? Why or why not?

Sunday, September 29 - 11:00 AM
Changing Philadelphia, One Relationship at a Time
Julie Greenberg, Rabbi, Congregation Leyv Ha-Ir

Rabbi Julie Greenberg will speak about the work of POWER: Philadelphians

Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild, a multi-faith social justice group focusing on



quality education for all and on living wage jobs for Philadelphians. POWER is three years old and has been building relationships among congregations and with government and civic leaders all over the city. The group now encompasses over 40 congregations from all geographic, racial, religious and economic strata of the city. Greenberg will focus on the value of slow, deep building of relationships and knowledge to influence lasting change.

Rabbi Julie Greenberg serves Congregation Leyv Ha-Ir, Heart of the City which is nestled into the wonderful communal space of the Ethical Society in center city Philadelphia. Greenberg is a rabbi, family therapist and author of the forthcoming book, *Just Parenting: Building the World One Family at a Time* to be published this fall by Story Bridge Books. She can be reached at JulieGberg@gmail.com or at <http://www.rabbijuliegreenberg.com/> ◇

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Leader's Column



The Mutual Democratic Unions of America at 1906 Rittenhouse

Hugh Taft-Morales

Every Sunday at about 5:00PM a community of activists gathers in the Collier Room accompanied by farm fresh products, tasty food, and lots of interesting ideas. I wanted to let the EHSoP community know more about this friendly group in case you want to join their work.

About a year ago the EHSoP Board passed the following resolution: "The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia supports the Occupy Movement in its quest for economic justice." In order to follow through in a more concrete way, we opened up our building to groups that were participating in the Occupy Movement. The group most actively using 1906 Rittenhouse these days is called *The Mutual Democratic Unions of America* (MDUA or MDU), once also known as the *Long Term Organizing* working group for Occupy. As much of the rest of Occupy has faded organizationally, however, MDU lives on.

Ernest Orr, one of the organizers, explains that MDUs exist around the country primarily as forums for everyday people to organize and work toward common goals. Ideally individuals would attend MDUs that are within walking distance of their homes. This supports the "think global, act local" mindset I witnessed in the group. They have minimal formal structure, considering themselves less of an "organization" and more of an "organized movement." But they maintain enough order to move their projects forward.



MDUs exist around the country primarily as forums for everyday people to organize and work toward common goals. Ideally individuals would attend MDUs that are within walking distance of their homes.

MDUs look for everyone in the group to stand up, take leadership, and suggest a project or action. The hope is that everyone will learn to lead and contribute to a more engaged citizenry. Clearly this is a big part of what was behind Occupy Wall Street: opposing the rule of profits over people. It takes courage for people to stand up against moneyed interests, but MDUs offer encouragement. Two other members of this group, Iwanka and Thomas, were part of the contingent that worked on rebuilding in Occupy Sandy, an effort that the MDUs wholeheartedly supported for being very real and immediate, touching people's lives where they had genuine need of the community of humankind.

MDUs have three "philosophical pillars:" **critical thinking, independence** (financial, cultural, personal) and **unity/community**. They encourage the wisdom that comes from evidence-based research and reasoning concerning sustainability and democracy. Having access to the necessary material and civic resources is the first step. MDUs help generate the ways and means to achieve relative independence from systems designed to exploit us, and then they share them far and wide. This in turn helps create a sense of **unity or union**. Ernest pointed out that often the left tends not to be very organized and is easily splintered into many groups.

More concretely, three of the issues important to this particular MDU are fighting the GMO tidal wave, general sustainability and true democracy. In recent meetings the group developed the idea of supporting the sale of books reporting on the dangers of GMOs by passing out flyers outside Barnes & Nobles, promoting those worthwhile

books. At one Sunday meeting in July the sustainability efforts were in view all over the table where farm fresh eggs were for sale or barter to those attending, and an angora rabbit named "Little Bit" relaxed in a playpen as its owner Rio explained a possible angora fur-harvesting project. Helping members understand how to eliminate the "middleman" in accessing food and materials offers a step toward greater sustainable and relational living. Not only are corporate controllers pushed out of the picture, but relationships between suppliers and consumers are nurtured on a human level!

Regarding reviving democracy, the MDU is most passionate about getting money out of politics and achieving electoral process reform. They have supported petition drives for Move to Amend (see <https://movetoamend.org>) and are closely aligned with "Rootstrikers," a group trying to hit at the root of our political problems: corruption. They recommend reading about the work we need to do as laid out by Harvard legal scholar Lawrence Lessing. I hope to learn more about Rootstrikers and plan to write about it in future newsletters. This MDU group urges that you take a look at the *New York Times* bestseller *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot - A Citizen's Call to Action* by renowned author Naomi Wolf.

For now, however, if the MDU is of interest to you, you are invited to stop by any Sunday at 5pm, or contact Ernest (ernestphl@mdua.us) for information about upcoming meetings. They are a friendly and welcoming group of people trying to find a better way to live!



Quote-Unquote

Portion of religious
Americans who believe in
reincarnation: 1/4

Portion of nonreligious
Americans who do: 1/4

-Harper's Index, June, 2013

Happenings

Summer Ethical Sundays Success

By Betsy Lightbourn

W.C. Fields once said "I'd Rather Be in Philadelphia," to which we could add "at the EHSOP" to describe the enthusiastic response to our Sunday Summer programs. Our August 11 Celebration of Robert Ingersoll's 180th Birthday with a Virtual Tour of the Freethought Trail presented by Margaret Downey and cosponsored with the Freethought Society attracted 65 people. But the real laurels go to our wonderful group of new young adult members who contributed four bonus programs to our Summer Sunday schedule: Geoff Baker, Christian Hayden, Meghan Westlander, and Leslie Williams.

And again many thanks to our seasoned presenters: Lyle Murley, Rollin Wilbur, Jack Schwar, Kate Esposito, Richard Kiniry, Ken Greiff, Pat McGeever, Betsy Lightbourn, and our inspiring Leader, Hugh Taft-Morales. [And aove all, thanks to Betsy for kick-starting the new summer programming. - Ed.]

Our programs were well supported by the Sunday hosts, identified below, who greeted visitors, set-up refreshments and managed the house. ◇

Sunday Hosts During Summer 2013

Thanks much to the members who set up before, welcomed attendees at, and cleaned up after our very full summer program:

- * Bob Bueding (2x)
- * Steve Bremner
- * Janet Cooke (2x)
- * Ken Greiff
- * John McCormick (2x)
- * Sylvia Metzler (2x)
- * Garry O'Rourke (2x)
- * Henry Pashkow (2x)
- * Linda Richardson
- * Nick Sanders (2x)
- * Harry Thorn
- * Leslie Williams (2x)
- * Brian Westlander (2x)
- * Meghan Westlander



Community-Building Meeting: Caring for Members

The Philadelphia Ethical Society (aka ESHoP) was in a huddle during the summer. On July 28, we gathered to review elements of our strategy for the upcoming game / year. Thirty-two people attended. (It was a big huddle!) We discussed our usual community-building topics--hosting the Sunday platforms, coffee hours, parties, caring for member who were sick or otherwise unable to come to events at 1906--but we also considered a couple of new topics.



One new topic is becoming more welcoming to those with hearing loss. Pat McGeever volunteered to coordinate a task force on the issue, and at least six others agreed to join him to come up with what can be done (see below). Their first meeting was August 18--about a week after the deadline for this newsletter. Check with Pat if you want him to include you in future hearing-loss task force communications.

We also heard from Vince McKenna and Nick Sanders about planning for a new EHSOP web site. It will have some member-only pages (such as members' profiles and directory), a blog for sharing reactions to articles in the newsletter and to what's happening in the outside world, and a word-processor-like facility for certain individuals (like Leader Hugh and various committee chairpersons) to add content to the web site without needing to know any special web programming language.



Also from that meeting Nick Sanders, chairperson of the Community Committee, says that 15 members and 3 other frequent platform attendees have filled out an Interest Form to tell him the kinds of community-building interests they have. He plans to follow up with them and other members to continue to build a welcoming and supportive EHSOP community for members and others who visit. ◇

Welcoming all comers

EHSOP's Community Committee (see above), as part of its effort to become a more welcoming community to people with physical disabilities, is reviewing its provisions for people in wheelchairs and for those who are hard of hearing (HOH).



Members and visitors in wheelchairs are reminded that at the back of the building on Manning St., there is a gentle ramp leading to an entrance with an electric lift. To get in and make use of the lift, they must use the keypad/speaker to summon staff assistance, usually Antuan. It's also a good idea to call in advance (215-735-3456), so you are expected.

A Hearing Task Force has been appointed to study those situations where it is difficult for some of our members to hear what is being said, so that we may, among other things, make better use and possibly enhancements of our new public address system. We have hand-held devices to assist hearing in the auditorium; if you're interested, ask one of the ushers. A questionnaire has been circulated online to identify problems. If you've not had the opportunity to fill one out (confidentially, of course), please contact Pat McGeever at patethical@gmail.com or 317-345-3124. ◇





Temma Fishman honored at AEU Assembly

Temma Fishman was this year's Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award winner at the AEU Assembly in Fairfax, VA. Named after the 19th century feminist icon and first female clergy of Ethical Culture, this is the only internal award of the AEU as a whole, and celebrates outstanding effort and commitment of resources to the work of the American Ethical Union. Congratulations, Temma!

Temma received the Anna Garlin Spencer award from Jeff Dubb, EHSOP President and Richard Koral, AEU President.

Announcements



**Healthcare for All? Well, DUH!
Sunday, Sept. 8, 9:30-10:30 AM
1906 Rittenhouse**

Everyone is invited to a program about the Drive for Universal Healthcare (DUH). The local group, Health Care for All Philadelphia (HCAP) is hosting DUH on their east coast bus tour to promote universal single-payer health care.

The speakers will be Laurie Simons and Jerry Sterenberg, documentary film makers of "The Health Care Movie" which will be shown Saturday evening at William Way, 1315 Spruce St.

Dr. Walter Tsou will also speak about what HCAP is doing to promote health care in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and nation wide.

Linden wraps another successful camp season.



[T]o mark the end of another successful season of the Children's Program at Camp Linden, Leonard Weeks and Sharon Wallis hosted an overnight event for mostly young members of the Society, some of whom had volunteered during the summer. It was on the high-energy side, with kayaking and swimming, but it indicates we are a well-rounded Society. Sharon and Leonard deserve enormous thanks for, as volunteers, organizing and administering this Society program that serves hundreds of children each summer. From hiring and supervising staff to gardening and cooking, they have given over a big part of their lives to the mission of the Camp and the Society.

--Richard Kiniry (EHSOP Leader Emeritus)



Introduction to Ethical Humanism

Sunday, September 8, 7:00PM



Leader Hugh Taft-Morales discusses the history and philosophy of Ethical Humanism. Members and visitors will share questions and reflections over wine and cheese. Open to the public, bring your friends!

Please RSVP to:
LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org



YES! SEX-ED FOR GROWNUPS!



Come to all or any of this free four-part series co-sponsored by the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia and First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, at the Ethical Society, offered by member Kimberly McKay and hosted by Hugh Taft-Morales. Please register for single sessions by emailing Kim at owl@philauu.org.

Parents as Sexuality Educators, Sunday, September 8, 3:00-5:00 PM, 1906 Rittenhouse Square (*Please register by Sept. 2*)

There is no such thing as only one BIG talk. Parents and other adults are constantly teaching children through their words and behavior. This workshop is designed to provide parents and adults with skills and tools to utilize the everyday teaching moments to educate children about facts, information, as well as their personal values and beliefs.

Sexuality and Young Adults: Communication and Expectations, Sunday, September 22, 3:00-5:00PM, 1906 Rittenhouse Square (*Please register by Sept. 2*)

The workshop is designed to explore the sexuality issues and joys of young adulthood: including developing intimacy in both friendships and sexual partnerships, sexual safety, STD prevention, and communication.

The final two workshops are Sunday, October 6, "Sexuality and Aging" (register by Sept. 30) and Sunday, October 20, "Sexuality and Variety: Identity, Orientation, and Behavior" (*register by October 14*).

Worldly Wisdom Series Offers Insight into "The Art of Living." _ Second Thursdays, September through February.

Love and Reason in Plato's *Symposium* (First session) September 12, 7:00-9:00 PM

Facilitated by guest C.J. Fearnley and hosted by Hugh Taft-Morales, this portion of our Worldly Wisdom discussion group is based on the Stanford University program called "The Art of Living." It asks us to consider questions such as, "What is it that I should do? Who should I become? Toward what highest value ought I aspire?"

Prior to each meeting, participants are encouraged to read the texts, and/or watch parts of an on-line video course featuring professors R. Lanier Anderson, Kenneth Taylor, and Joshua Landy. At the start of each Thursday discussion, C.J. will offer a summary of the topics, especially as they are presented in the videos.

For the Sept.12 session, you can access all or any of three video lectures about Plato's *Symposium* by going to the following links:

<http://vimeo.com/20384948> - Prof. Taylor speaks on: "Visions of Love"

<http://vimeo.com/20940852> - Prof. Landy speaks on: "It is not Hard at all to Challenge Socrates"

<http://vimeo.com/20941632> -Prof. Anderson speaks on: "A Life of Reason? Socrates v. Alcibiades"

The rest of the sessions will cover the following topics:

Oct. 10 - Defiance, Madness, and Authenticity in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Nov. 14 - Faith in Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*

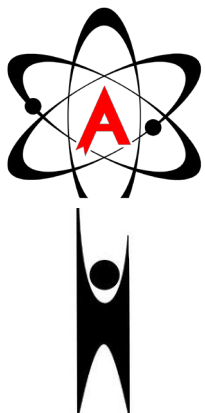
Dec. 12 - Artistry & Science in Nietzsche's *The Gay Science*

Jan. 9 - Self and Community in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*

Feb. 13 - Engaging the Project of Our Lives

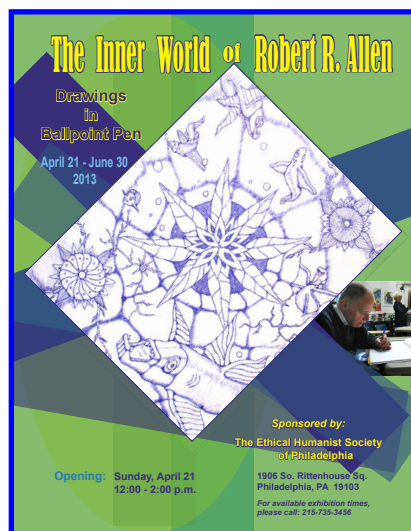
Come join us and some members of the Thinking Society for lively, deep conversation!





Pennsylvania State Atheist/Humanist 2013 Conference, September 13-15

It's not too late to sign up for this conference at the Embassy Suites Airport Hotel. Scheduled speakers include Rep. Mark Cohen, Fred Edwards, David Silverman, A.J. Johnson, Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training and Fellow at Harvard Humanist Community, James Croft, and your own Leader Hugh! For more information, go to <http://atheistpa.org/>.



Peace Day Philly Sing-Along and Other Programs, Saturday, Sept. 21

Peace Day Philly Sing-Along and Celebration. For more complete details, go to Twitter at <http://www.peacedayphilly.org>

Here at the Ethical Society, there will be a Peace Walk in Rittenhouse Square beginning at about 4:00 PM. At 5:30 PM, we will again celebrate the United Nations International Peace Day with a sing-along led by Hugh Taft-Morales in front of 1906 Rittenhouse Square.

After the singing dies down, we are inviting participants to "break bread" together with refreshments in honor of the Global Feast for Peace initiative (see <http://cultureofpeace.org/dayofpeace/item/408-feast> for more information). If you are willing to help set up, clean up, and provide some snacks or drinks, please email Hugh at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org right away!!



Community Circles, beginning Monday, Sept. 23, 6:00 PM

Hugh Taft-Morales is hosting a series of hour-long small group sharing experiences where members share their own personal joys and challenges of understanding and acting as an Ethical Humanist. Sessions will include brief guided meditation, introduction of a topic, conversation, deep listening and appreciation. These circles are not "group therapy," but they do rely on trusting relationships. Members who sign up with Hugh at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org (email is preferred, but you can also call 301-590-1481) should strive to come on time and attend regularly. Dates for this series are 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, and 12/2.

ART EXHIBITIONS AT EHSOP

Robert Allen's most unusual artwork will remain displayed in the Collier Room, our recently created EHSOP Gallery. You can see his exhibit through September.

Our next exhibitor, Bob Bueding, will open his show of photographs -- beginning in October and continuing through December of this year.

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 7:45 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	5	6	7
*8 11:00 a.m. Women, Unions and Radical Change Hugh Taft-Morales	9	10 7:00 p.m. Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Meeting	11 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Communications Committee	12 7-9:00 p.m. Love and Reason in Plato's Symposium CJ Fernley	13 14 All day PA Atheist/Humanist Conference Airport Embassy Suites	
Big Sunday - see below						
*15 11:00 a.m. The Future of Ethical Culture James Croft All day PA Atheist/Humanist Conference Airport Embassy Suites	16	17	18 Meeting 6:30 p.m. EHSOP Board	19	20	21 5:30 p.m. Peace Day Philly Sing- Along and Programs H. Taft-Morales
*22 11:00 a.m. Fall Equinox Platform Hugh Taft-Morales	23 6:00 p.m. Community Circles	24	25 Meeting 6:30 p.m. Camp Linden Meeting ???	26  Amnesty International 7:00 p.m.	27	28
*29 11:00 a.m. Changing Philadelphia Julie Greenberg, Rabbi	30					

*Child care provided
during all platforms

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



14 – Tom Carroll
18 – Susan O'Connell

Big Sunday - Sept. 8th

9:30-10:30 a.m.
Drive for Universal Healthcare

11:00 a.m.
Platform (see calendar)

3:00-5:00 p.m.
Parents as Sexuality Educators
Kimberly McKay

7:00 p.m.
Intro to Ethical Humanism

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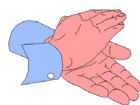
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SUNDAY SERVICES



Hosts - Coordinated by Nick Sanders

Sept. 8 - Ken Greiff and Ron Coburn

Sept. 15 - Janet Cooke and Garry O'Rourke

Sept. 22 - Harry Thorne and Steve Bremner

Sept. 29 - Vince Russo and Nick Sanders



Flowers Coordinated
by David Ralston

Sept. 8 - Ken Greiff

Sept. 15 - Terry Martin-Murley and
Lyle Murley: "In honor of our eldest
son's birthday"

Sept. 22 - Pat McGeever: "For today's
WALK4HEARING by HLAA-PA

Sept. 29 - T.B.A.

Coffee Hour, Coordinated by Ken Greiff



(Alphabetically by last
name)

Sept. 8 - Group A-E

Sept. 15 - Group F-K

Sept. 22 - Group L-O

Sept. 29 - Group P-Z

***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

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