

Ethical Views

MARCH 9TH



SPRING AHEAD

March 2014

Vol. 127, No. 7 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms March 2014

Sunday, March 2, 11:00 AM

Eleanor Roosevelt and Ethical Humanism

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



"The important thing is neither your nationality nor the religion you professed, but how your faith translated itself in

your life." – Eleanor Roosevelt, *My Day*, September 16, 1943. Few people have done more to support humanist values than Eleanor Roosevelt. During the longest term ever served as first lady, she demonstrated courageous independence, championing racial and gender equality. Later she served as delegate to the UN, oversaw the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and started the Encampment of Citizenship with Ethical Culture leader Al Black. Come explore why she is a role model for Ethical Culturists today.

Sunday, March 9, 11:00 AM

Beyond Green: How Can Authentic Sustainable Design Transform Our Lives?



Rob Fleming, Professor, Architecture, Philadelphia University

Rob Fleming will consider ways to lay the groundwork for new and transformative approaches to sustainable design that are ambitious, authentic, and ultimately lifesaving. Growing numbers of people are embracing greening as a core behavior in the 21st-century economy. But are we doing enough? Given the increasing threats of human-induced global warming, sea-level rise, catastrophic weather patterns, and habitat destruc-



tion, designers are under pressure to make significant developments in sustainable design.

Rob Fleming is a LEED® Accredited Professional and a registered architect with over 15 years' experience in teaching, research and practice in sustainable design. He is the co-creator and Director of the award-winning Master of Science in Sustainable Design Program at Philadelphia University. His new book, *Design Education for a Sustainable Future*, will be released by Routledge/Earthscan on March 15. Rob is a Sustainability Fellow at Re: Vision Architecture in Philadelphia where he consults and facilitates integrated design charrettes [collaborative designing].

Sunday, March 16, 11:00 AM

Spring Equinox Festival

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



Come to our annual festival celebrating the spring equinox in words and music! This year's festival theme is *water* in all of its life-giving

forms, from the snowmelt that feeds bubbling brooks and swells rivers to the April Showers that bring May flowers. Little is more crucial for life on earth than water. Sustaining, refreshing, and powerful, it is both evocative and precious. Join us to explore what you know about H₂O!

Sunday, March 23, 11:00 AM

Beyond Marches and Rallies

Daniel Hunter, Trainer, Training for Change

Movements and campaigns become less effective when we fail to be creative with tactics that vibrantly tell a story of what we want changed. In this session we will hear alternatives to sometimes overused tactics, such as marches and rallies, and provide



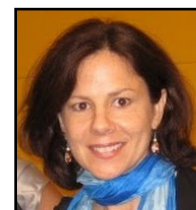
some tools for choosing strategic tactics for more powerful movements.

Daniel Hunter is a trainer with Training for Change, an activist training center with roots in West Philly and branches all over the world. Daniel has led diversity, non-violence and strategy training in over a dozen countries: from Australian environmentalists, to Sierra Leonean pastors, to democracy activists in Myanmar/Burma. He recently completed a book on direct action campaigning, *Strategy and Soul: a campaigner's tale of fighting billionaires, corrupt officials, and Philly casinos*.

Sunday, March 30, 11:00 AM

Peace Day Philly: Possibility and the Path So Far

Lisa Parker, Founder, Peace Day Philly



Lisa Parker will share how she unexpectedly became inspired to found Peace Day Philly, a grassroots initiative that recently became a non-profit.

Peace Day Philly focuses on increasing participation in the United Nations International Day of Peace, observed on September 21, and on encouraging local organizations and communities to use the platform of this global day to take meaningful action for peace on personal, local and/or global levels.

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Leader's Message



Federation, Affiliation, and Coalition: Different Ways to Work Together

Hugh Taft-Morales

"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." This phrase, attributed to Aristotle, tells what makes working together so rewarding. When done well, laboring with others can achieve more than laboring alone. Members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia have the opportunity to test this claim in the coming months through three types of collaboration: federation, affiliation, and coalition.



For EHSOP, the most intimate of these three forms is our federation with the American Ethical Union (AEU). The AEU is, if you will, our "denominational home." Twenty-five Ethical Societies support and benefit from the American Ethical Union in many ways. We donate money, volunteers, and ideas and in return the AEU staff and Board do for its members what no member organization could do alone. For example, they train and certify Leaders, for which I am deeply grateful. My years of preparation for Leadership here in Philadelphia and in Baltimore were valuable and rewarding in many ways.

The AEU, now staffed with a part-time Executive Director, Bart Worden, also seeks to connect Ethical Societies so they can support each other and speak with one voice about important national ethical issues. And, since 1947, we have been represented at the United Nations by our advocates in National Ethical Service (NES). The AEU also supports all Societies through the *AEU Dialogue* newsletter, the *Ethical Action Report*, and the National Leaders Council.



Two opportunities created by our federation that excite me the most await your participation: the *AEU Annual Assembly* this year in Chicago on May 1-4 and the *AEU Lay Leadership Summer School* (LLSS) in the beautiful hills of North Carolina July 12-19. Our Assembly will offer the chance to network, acquire skills and knowledge about helping EHSOP grow, and to learn about an issue important to many of us represented by the 2014 Assembly theme: *Vitalizing Democracy: Money, Power and Politics*. You will also be able to meet our new National Director of Ethical Education, Dale MGowen, author of *Parenting Beyond Belief* and the *Foundation Beyond Belief*. I hope many of you come to Chicago for this event. Register soon by pasting the following into your URL: <https://www.regonline.com/1445280>.



Lay Leadership Summer School, while more of a commitment than attending the Assembly, was a challenging, transformative, and deeply rewarding experience for me. It pools tremendous talents and energies of our federation for the benefit both those attending and the Ethical Societies to which they return ready to step more fully into lay leadership positions. If you are interested in this opportunity, please speak to me about it. I will be returning for a second stint as a faculty member for the LLSS. There are brochures and applications in the EHSOP office.

Regarding our affiliation with the American Humanist Association, for minimal commitment EHSOP receives some wider exposure in the humanist community through the AHA's website that currently receives 400,000 hits a month. We also have access to advice through pamphlets,

magazines, books, speakers, and bimonthly field action packets. And this summer, from June 5-8, 2014 right here in Philadelphia, the 73rd Annual AHA Conference, "*Let Humanism Ring!*" will bring together hundreds of humanists and freethinkers for lectures, book signings, celebrity guests, networking opportunities, and fun. Visit the AHA website at "<http://conference.americanhumanist.org>" (this is to be pasted in your search) to get more information or register.

Perhaps for greater immediate impact on EHSOP is the status of our coalition with Philadelphia's Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild, otherwise known as POWER. On December 18, 2013, the Board voted to join this powerful and effective local organization. POWER is a member of the PICO National Network that practices faith-based community organizing through advocacy and direct service to support people in our community suffering from injustice and disempowerment. I have attended POWER's clergy caucus twice, and joined other members at a rally in 2013 and a workshop this past January. Members have attended these and other events as well.

At an EHSOP platform last fall, Rabbi Julie Greenberg spoke about the powerful effect joining POWER had on her *Leyv Ha-Ir* Congregation, bringing a new sense of purpose and energy to those congregants most invested in ethical action. Kate Esposito and our Ethical Action Committee considered what it means to join POWER. It will require financial and volunteer commitment from EHSOP (see below), and the willingness to strengthen our relationships with the interfaith community. But the potential rewards that come from working in coalition with others to affect real change in our city is exciting.

Not only are we eager to be a part of activism promoting better local public education, broader voter participation,

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and sensible immigration policy; we are pleased to bring our humanist voice into this faith-based coalition. On paper POWER has a theist orientation, but the work they do is fundamentally directed at social justice issues here in Philadelphia. We look forward to introducing ourselves to the local progressive religious community through POWER.

Personally, I have been very welcomed by POWER's Executive Director, Bishop Dwayne Royster. EHSOP members Leonard Weeks and Sharon Wallis have been impressed with their participation in POWER through Leyv Ha-Ir. Our intrepid Ethical Action chairperson, Kate Esposito, was immediately attracted to what POWER had to offer. In Kate's words:

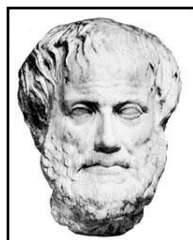
POWER is impressive in that it identifies achievable "wins" through energizing the progressive congregational base in Philadelphia. Because of their consistent mobilization towards gaining a living wage in the city, we now have an opportunity to change the City Charter to achieve, on the May ballot, a minimum of \$10.88 an hour for people working for contractors and sub-contractors hired by the City of Philadelphia. This will require us to do our part in getting out the vote, now that we are plugged into a "movement," something bigger than us, enabling us to do more than we could ever do on our own. I look forward to this and the fight to achieve full and fair funding for our schools, and a hospitable city for undocumented immigrants. These are values that we hold deeply. Participating in POWER will enrich us as humanists, I am sure.

Of course, as is the case with any significant ethical action work, this will require investment of resources. Financially it is not great, with dues for an organization our size being about \$800. Given our tight budget, however, we are seeking your support through a split the plate collection at platform this month. More challenging, however, is

the human capital that POWER will seek from us. New EA Committee member Sylvia Metzler puts it this way, "I believe working with POWER will enable us to reach some important goals in education and jobs but it will require a pretty big commitment from many of us regarding our time and talents."

I hope many of you will be inspired to contribute your time and energy to the initiatives of POWER. Look for more information and updates about POWER in future newsletters, Ethical Action Committee meetings, and as part of our Sunday Morning Ethical Action updates. Come to some rallies, house meetings, workshops, and local government hearings. Our wonderful little community at 1906 Rittenhouse may find work with POWER connects us more with Philadelphia faith communities working for justice.

To connect more with humanist communities, plan to attend the AHA Assembly in June. I'll be there, along with many individuals and groups with whom we seek deeper relationships: the Coalition of Reason, the Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia, and the Freethought Society. And please consider investing in our own Ethical Culture network through the AEU Assembly in Chicago or the Lay Leadership Summer School in July.



Aristotle

No one has to feel isolated and intimidated by the ethical problems confronting us all. There is strength in numbers. Let's contribute to a whole greater than the sum of its parts through these exciting opportunities at federation, affiliation, and coalition!



**May 1-4, Skokie, IL:
99th Assembly of the
American Ethical Union**

The Assembly will be sponsored by the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago. The theme of our Assembly this year is: "Revitalizing Democracy! Money, Power & Politics." For more information, go to aeu.org.

**July 12-19, 2014, in North
Carolina's hills: AEU Lay
Leadership Summer School**



Created in 1996 to promote the evolution of Ethical Culture, the Summer School provides a special opportunity for committed leaders and members to strengthen skills, share ideas and ideals, and broaden inter-Society connections.

The Board of each Society may recommend up to four active members and staff, age 21 or older, who want to deepen their commitment to living Ethical Culture in their personal lives and to assist in the development of their Ethical Societies. If you are interested in this opportunity, speak to Hugh or any Board member.

We have a wonderful staff this year. It includes: Jan Broughton, AEU Board Secretary and member, Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle (NC); Mary Herman, Leader, Washington Ethical Society; Diane Kirschner, Ethical Leader-in-training, Brooklyn Ethical Cultural Society; Paulo Ribeiro, Ethical Leader-in-training, Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County; Bart Worden, AEU Executive Director; Leader, Ethical Culture; Society of Westchester; and Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia and Baltimore Ethical Society.

Invest in yourself! Invest in Ethical Culture!

Look it up, kids

By Temma Fishman

The Ethical Action Committee of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia sponsors an annual Dictionary Project whereby we distribute dictionaries to children attending an inner-city school. This year, we targeted the third graders in Ms. Perna's class at the Spring Garden School, 11th and Melon Streets. So on Tuesday, December 17th, members Nina Diamond, Bob Bueding and I went off to deliver the dictionaries.

As usual, the children were more intrigued with the pages showing the planets, the longest word in the English language, American Sign Language symbols, maps, paragraphs about the presidents, facts about each state in the Union, the multiplication table, and other delights found in the back of the books, than in the dictionary section itself. But most of all, they were excited to have their very own dictionary to keep. The EHSOP label is inside every book, so the children know that the members of our Society donated these books to them.

The children enthusiastically competed to offer their insights about the dictionaries during the brief lesson we presented. The challenge was to be sure to give everyone a chance to speak. Since these pictures taken by photographer Bob Bueding tell the story well, I'll let them do that. For more information about this nation-wide effort to increase literacy among school children, visit dictionaryproject.org. If you'd like to be involved in 2014, be alert to announcements in the fall and contact me at: temmafish@aol.com.

Navigator on Board Geoff Baker



Not yet enrolled in health insurance through the marketplace, or know someone who isn't? Feeling confused by www.healthcare.gov? Contact new Ethical-Humanist Society member Geoff Baker, a certified health insurance enrollment navigator with Resources for Human Development. RHD, a national social services non-profit headquartered in Philadelphia, received Pennsylvania's largest federal grant to assist residents with signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). For more information, call RHD's navigator program at [855.668.9536](tel:855.668.9536), visit their website at www.rhd.org, or contact Geoff at work, at [267.250.3424](tel:267.250.3424) or geoffrey.baker@rhd.org.



Top Left: Temma Fishman
Top Middle: Nina Diamond
Ms. Perna's Class Members
Photos by Bob Bueding

A Philadelphia native, Lisa grew up in Germantown and was a social worker in the city for at-risk children and families. She also has experience in non-profit consulting, expressive arts performance and programming and anti-bullying research. Lisa founded Peace Day Philly in 2011. For the past 2 years, she has also served as Co-Chair for the CITIES Peace Team, a global group of Peace Day organizers who share ideas, challenges and best practices. Lisa also served as a United Nations Representative for a non-profit that educates youth about the UN with an emphasis on video conferencing.



Announcements



Sunday, March 2, 7:00 PM

Introduction to Ethical Humanism

Leader Hugh Taft-Morales discusses the history and philosophy of Ethical Humanism. Members and visitors share questions and reflections over wine and cheese.

Open to the public but please RSVP to:

leaderhugh@phillyethics.org.

Please note: any member wishing to act as "member host" for any of these Intro's, please contact Hugh!

Monday, March 3, 7:30 PM

The Politicization of Bioethics

Prof. Jonathan D. Moreno



A discussion of the historic and contemporary role of government in biotechnology and science, the role of "dignity" and "commodification" in affecting public attitudes, and a fascinating political realignment surrounding these issues that defies the traditional left/right polarity will be discussed. Our three remaining sessions will be:



Jonathan D. Moreno

April 7: Prof. Kimberly Mutcherson, Rutgers University

Reproductive Justice: The Movement to Expand our Understanding of Reproduction, Equality, Justice and Rights

The Reproductive Justice movement creates space for much broader discussions about women, "choice" and feminism. It expands discussions about reproductive oppression beyond abortion, argues for both negative and positive reproductive rights, and stresses that justice in the context of reproduction should encompass conception, pregnancy, childbirth choices, and choices about parenting.

May 5: Prof. Miriam Solomon, Temple University

Understanding Medical Controversies

Why do medical experts sometimes disagree about the effectiveness of a medical intervention? If they are all following "the scientific method," wouldn't they agree with one another? Miriam Solomon shows why the experts can disagree, how they manage their disagreements, and how patients can navigate the uncertainty produced by conflicting recommendations.

June 2: Prof. Hans Oberdiek, Swarthmore College

Environmental Stewardship and Feeding a Hungry Planet

The pace of technological innovation seems to outpace the growth of ethical responsibility in creating sustainable public policy. The planet is being poisoned and warmed, seas are rising, and hunger, while potentially eradicable, continues to haunt billions of people. What are the greatest ethical challenges and opportunities confronting us today?

Thursday, March 13, 7:00 PM

Alan Kutner: Rights of Hard-of-Hearing Persons



[Re-scheduled from February] At its monthly meeting, the Center-City Philly Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America will host Alan Kutner, a nationally prominent leader in the campaign to actually enforce the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. This Act mandated equal treatment in public venues for hard-of-hearing persons, among others. Admission is free and open to all; wine and cheese will be served. For more information, contact Pat McGeever at patethical@gmail.com.



Saturday, March 15
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Amnesty International Gathering

This event is organized by Pennsylvania chapters of **Amnesty International**. There will be multiple talks on human rights at this meeting and we expect 100 attendees.

Free lunch.

Everyone invited to attend.



Sunday, March 16 6:00 PM Ethics Through Video Class

THE GATEKEEPERS, the Academy Award-nominated documentary about Israeli leaders' conduct in the Arab-Israeli conflict, will be followed by discussion led by J Street, the political home of pro-Israel pro-peace Americans. This program is part of the "2 Campaign," J Street's effort to show that a constituency for peace supports efforts to negotiate a two-state solution. Admission free. To register, please email EthicsThroughVideo@phillyethics.org.

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 PM

UPenn: Church-State Relations; HTM Moderates



Barry Lynn

Jay Sekulow



Hugh Taft-Morales

Attend a debate between Barry Lynn, Executive Director of [Americans United for Separation of Church & State](http://AmericansUnited.org), and Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the [American Center for Law and Justice](http://AmericanCenterforLawandJustice.org), moderated by Hugh Taft-Morales. It will be in the Hall of Flags, Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, 3417 Spruce Street.

Sponsors are the [Delaware Valley Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church & State](http://DelawareValleyChapter.org) and the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism.

Topics will include legislative prayer, contraception in health insurance, and politics from the pulpit. Ample time will be allowed for interaction with the audience.



Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 PM

Roy Zimmerman's "Connect the Blue Dots" Tour

Zimmerman, a satirical songwriter in the Tom Lehrer/Phil Ochs tradition, is coming to 1906 Rittenhouse Sq.! Admission is \$18 general / \$15 students and seniors. Come enjoy funny songs about fracking, creationism, marijuana laws, government shutdown, same-sex marriage, guns, taxes and abstinence across the country.







Quote-Unquote



"The world would never amount to a hill of beans if people didn't use their imaginations to think of the impossible."

-Pete Seeger, quoted in [The Nation](http://TheNation.com) magazine, Feb. 17, 2014, p. 5.

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
*2 11:00 AM <i>Eleanor Roosevelt and Ethical Humanism</i> Hugh Taft-Morales	3 7:30 PM Politicization of Bioethics	4	5 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 7:45 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	6	7	8
5:00 PM Intro. Ethical Humanism Hugh Taft-Morales	Jonathan D. Moreno					
MARCH 9TH  11:00 AM <i>Beyond Green: Truly Sustainable Design</i> Rob Fleming	10	11	12 Meeting 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee	13 7:00 PM Hearing Loss Assn.: Alan Kutner Pat McGeever	14	15 9 AM-5 PM  Amnesty International PA Gathering Ron Coburn.
*16 11:00 AM <i>Spring Equinox/Water</i> Hugh Taft-Morales 6:00 PM Ethics Through Video Class Sharon Wallis	17	18	19 Meeting 6:30 p.m. EHSOP Board of Trustees	20 7:00 PM  Amnesty International Ron Coburn.	21	22
*23 11:00 AM <i>Beyond Marches and Rallies</i> Daniel Hunter	24	25	26 6:00 PM Church/State Debate, UPenn Hugh Taft-Morales Meeting 6:30 p.m. Camp Linden Committee	27	28	29
30 <i>Peace Day Philly: The Path So Far</i> Lisa Parker	31 					

*Child care provided during all platforms

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 James Cooke
4 Terry Martin-Murley
9 Garry O'Rourke
11 Lew Wilkinson
20 Vince McKenna
20 Hugh Taft-Morales
23 Susan D'Alessio
26 Ruthann Dubb
28 John Marshall



Save the dates!

4/16 Roy Zimmerman:
7:30 PM Connect the Blue Dots
5/1-4 AEU 99TH Assembly, Skokie, IL
6/5-8 73rd Annual AHA Conference, Philadelphia,
7/12-19 AEU Leadership Conference, NC

Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

Editor, Pat McGeever
Layout, Janice R. Moore
Production, Dotti Wesley
Web Master, Bob Moore

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of Philadelphia**

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SUNDAY SERVICE



Hosts - Coordinated by
Leslie Williams

Mar. 2 - Ken Greiff,
Terry Martin-Murley and Lyle
Murley

Mar. 9 - Garry O'Rourke, Rita
Verbin, and Joel Benjamin

Mar. 16 - Bob Bueding and Sandy
and Bill Coffey

Mar. 23 - Bob Kay and Steve
Bremner

Mar. 30 - Janet Cooke and Ronald
Coburn



Flowers - Coordinated by
David Ralston

Mar. 2 - Lyle Murley: Happy
Birthday to Terry Martin-Murley,
"maturity is on the horizon."

Mar. 9 - Harry Thorn: "To all
those who work for sustainability."

Mar. 16 - Arnold and Temma
Fishman: "To honor our son Craig's
birthday."

Mar. 23 tba

Mar. 30 tba



Coffee Hour Coordinators

Mar. 2 - John McCormick
Mar. 9 - Ken Greiff
Mar. 16 - Garry O'Rourke
Mar. 23 - Harry Thorn
Mar. 30 - Pas Moi

***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

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