



# Ethical Views

April 2014

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

## Sunday Platforms April 2014

**Sunday, April 6, 11:00 A.M.**

***Good Things About Capitalism***  
**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia**



While socialists and anarchists might think the admission that “capitalism is not perfect” is the understatement of the century, this is where Leader Hugh Taft-Morales begins his defense of some good things about capitalism. What aspects of capitalism are easiest for an Ethical Humanist to embrace: competition, incentives, merit pay, the freedom that still exists in the free market? Can some moderate restraints and regulations bring out the best from a system that centuries ago overthrew feudal dictatorships, built the middle class, and set the stage for the ideals of democracy to flourish? What truth is there in free-market advocate Paul L. Poirot’s claim that, “He gains most who serves best”?

[“See also “Sell-out Sunday” on page 6 -Ed.]

**Sunday, April 13, 11:00 A.M.**

***Who Are the Lenape?***

**Shelley DePaul, Administration and Education Chief, Lenape Nation of PA**



Shelley DePaul will speak about the long winding history and culture of the Lenape Native Americans who remained in Pennsylvania, and how they continue

today as active caretakers of their homeland and the Delaware River. She will describe their amazing River Journey and Treaty Signing which occur every four years. The next one is scheduled for August, 2014.

Shelley DePaul has worked for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania since 2004 as Genealogy Researcher, Historical Researcher, Lenape Language Specialist, and Educator, and has served as Assistant Chief since 2009. She has developed the Lenape Language Curriculum for use in educational institutions. She has also transcribed a variety of works into the Lenape language and composes original music and poetry in that language. She is co-curator of the exhibit displayed at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, “Fulfilling a Prophecy: The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania” that relates long-hidden story of the survival of the Lenape in their homelands and features never before displayed objects from the private collections of Lenape people in Pennsylvania. Shelley has a B.S in education, M.A. in history and is a Pennsylvania State certified teacher. She has taught English, History and Music in public schools and universities throughout Eastern PA. She also teaches private music lessons in piano, guitar and Native American flute. Shelley is currently teaching courses in the Lenape language at Swarthmore College.

**Sunday, April 20, 11:00 A.M.**

***Members’ Platform: Reflections on Change***

**Led by Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia**



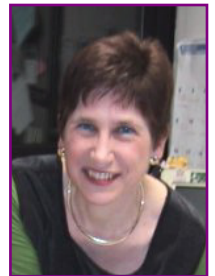
Every year we offer a handful of members the opportunity to share some reflections on a common theme. This year’s platform theme is *change*: personal, professional, familial, societal, you name it! As a humanist community we support each other in managing the change in our lives and in the world in ways that bring out our best. Come hear members share their thoughts about change, as well as Hugh’s hopes for the change that is inevitably a part of our life at 1906 Rittenhouse.

**Sunday, April 27, 11:00 AM**

***The Ethics of Poetry***

**Anne Klaeysen, Leader, New York Society for Ethical Culture**

Once upon a time, everyone loved and recited poetry. It was the language of life. The meter and rhythm of poems helped people to remember them and thus pass along their images, stories, and values from generation to generation. Poetry’s meaning isn’t obscure, but it isn’t simple either; sometimes it takes a lifetime to understand and appreciate a poem, other times an instant. Join Leader Anne Klaeysen in an exploration of the ethical aspects of poetry and celebrate National Poetry Month, established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets to promote the presence and accessibility of poetry in our culture.



Dr. Anne Klaeysen is leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Ethical Humanist Religious Life Adviser at Columbia University, and Humanist Chaplain at New York University. A graduate of the Humanist Institute (Class X), she also co-mentored Class XV and is now co-Dean of the Institute. Dr. Klaeysen was Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island from 2002 to 2008. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hebrew Union College, Master’s degrees in Business Administration from New York University and in German from the State University of New York at Albany, and studied at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany. <img alt="A small decorative symbol consisting of two triangles pointing towards each other." data-bbox="910 690 935 705"/>

## In This Issue

### Page

1 *Sunday Platforms*

2-4 *President’s Corner - “Our Kate: The Evolution of an Activist”*

4-5 *Happenings*

6 *Sell-out Sunday*

7-10 *Announcements*

11 *Calendar*

12 *Sunday Service*





## President's Corner

### Our Kate: The Evolution of an Activist

By Jeffrey Dubb, EHSop President

I had two objectives when I decided to write a profile of Kate Meredith Esposito, the Chairperson of our Ethical Action Committee. Before joining the Ethical Society, I had limited experience in action for social justice, so I wanted to understand the background of someone who has been active for a long time. Are these individuals with strong motivations to work for a more just society born or made? Second, I think any effort to understand the experiences of others, especially fellow members of our Society, will make us a stronger community.



**Kate reads at a Winter Solstice Celebration.**

Kate's history in the Trenton-Philadelphia area began when her maternal grandfather, Isidor Michaloski, emigrated from Poland in 1917. He was soon successful in his new country, starting a construction business which specialized in excavation for large building projects. Kate has a picture of a lot filled with her grandfather's giant earth-moving machines. Isidor married Kate's maternal grandmother, Florence, when she was 16. "Florie" would make payroll rounds with her German shepherd, Molly, by her side in a Ford convertible.

Isidor once promoted a black worker to operate a crane, but the local union objected that he didn't have a union card. Of course: it was denied him because he was "colored." So Kate's grandfather operated the crane himself, with the black worker seated next to him. The union relented and let

the black man operate the crane by himself. The man's name was Aloysius L. Higginbotham, and his son, A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. went on to become a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. When Isidor died, the Higginbothams, father and son, came to the wake.

Kate's mother, Irene, had planned to attend the University of Pennsylvania to become a veterinarian. But when the Great Depression hit, she had to choose between going to college and paying off the family debts. She took a job as a bookkeeper in a Princeton dairy and continued this occupation for the rest of her long working life. Most of her aunts lived at one time or another in the family house. Kate remembers her mother as a very stylish person who regularly took her two daughters to New York City on shopping trips. Kate's mother married Anthony Esposito, the son of a groundskeeper on the big Princeton estates. He promptly moved into the family house. Kate's father served in the Pacific during WWII. When he returned to Trenton, he took a job in the American Standard plant and worked there for over 30 years. Anthony and Irene had three children, Kate being the youngest. Her brother went on to become a surgeon, while her sister, Courtney, gained a full scholarship to the University of Chicago. She now works as a therapist at the Joint Base, Dix, McGuire, Lakehurst. Courtney has played an important role in Kate's life.

1968 was a year of social turmoil, and events of that time had a big influence on Kate. She recalls that her first demonstration of civil disobedience occurred when she was in eighth grade at a parochial school. Martin Luther King had been assassinated on April 4. On April 5, her class was scheduled to make the Stations of the Cross, but it had been canceled because of fears of rioting in the area. Kate, sitting in class, put on her mantilla anyway, in preparation for the ceremony. The nun in charge asked why. Kate replied, if they were not going to stations on this occasion, would there ever be a better one? Later that year Kate called into a local radio station and spoke against the

death penalty. She had listened to the Gospels and was sensitive to poverty, racism, and the injustice of the death penalty.

Kate's brother Joseph loved jazz and took the family to concerts. He became friendly with many major artists, especially Ray Charles. Kate tells of visiting in the band's hotel rooms, riding in the limos to the concert halls, and then having front-row seats. She remembers downing Shirley Temples with the Raelettes. Since much of Kate's career was to be in the theater, these experiences with musical greats left a permanent mark.

Kate completed four years of Catholic high school in Lawrenceville and then majored in sociology at Rutgers. Kate says she was pretty inactive during this period. She demonstrated against the Viet Nam War and the bombing of Cambodia. But she was becoming dissatisfied with the attitude of the Church in its turning away from Vatican II, its failure to embrace women as equals, and its teachings about contraception.

In 1977, Kate went on a trip that changed her life and made her the person we know today. She and her sister, Courtney, drove across the country and landed in San Francisco. She stayed there for over three years and witnessed some of the most tumultuous events in the city's history. At first, she worked in a pink smock at the Safeway in the Castro. George Moscone had become Mayor of San Francisco in January 1976, with the help of Jim Jones and the People's Temple, whose members canvassed the city for Moscone. He repaid the favor by appointing Jones Chairman of the San Francisco Housing Commission. Moscone also appointed a number of gay and lesbian activists to city posts. San Francisco became a laboratory for social change. But in 1978, the bottom fell out. In Jonestown, Guyana on November 19, U.S. Representative Leon Ryan was shot and killed, followed by the mass suicide of over 900 Jones followers. Nine days later, Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated by Supervisor Dan

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White (who was acquitted of first-degree murder by way of the “Twinkie Defense”: eating Twinkies is a sign of depression).

In 1979, Kate joined the Bernal Heights Community Foundation as a community organizer. The BHCF was an engine of social activism. One of its great accomplishments was preserving the Bernal Heights Public Library with its famous murals. Kate was also a fan of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, the legendary political theater company that satirized the state of the country during the Reagan years. Her passion for drama and the theater was born at this time and has stayed with her ever since.

In 1981, Kate returned to Trenton to take care of her father in his final illness. Her first job was with the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group at Rutgers. NJPIRG is still going strong, and its web site reads: “NJPIRG is a consumer group that stands up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security or our right to fully participate in our democratic society. For decades, we’ve stood up for consumers, countering the influence of big banks, insurers, chemical manufacturers and other powerful special interests.”

In Trenton Kate continued her theater work with the Mushroom Players, a group patterned on the S.F. Mime Troupe. As Kate says, “The 80’s were a bad time with the country tilting to the right. I had to get out and have some fun.” Her involvement with the Mushrooms lasted eight years. The troupe included children players, “The Spores.” Kate helped produce and performed many musicals including an annual performance at the George School. Kate remembers this period of administrative work in progressive organizations during the day and political theater at night as the happiest in her life.

In 1985, Kate took a new job at ISLES. Founded in 1981, it is still a Trenton community development and environmental organization. Its

mission is to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities. One of her vivid memories from this period is the homeless march on Washington. In October 1989, the group, “Housing Now” organized a march on Washington on behalf of the nation’s homeless population. 250 homeless people marched from New York City to join thousands more in Washington, D.C. Kate was in charge of the Trenton-Princeton leg of the march. A hurricane struck the marchers prior to their arrival, and they were in bad shape. Kate did not sleep for three days, gathering up the bedraggled marchers, finding accommodation and food for them, and pulling them together to continue on to Washington.

But Kate’s heart was divided between social service and the theater. And so in 1990, she took a full time job as the general manager of the Passage Theater Company. Passage was founded in 1985 and has been performing new works ever since. Kate recalls a huge production of Jim McGrath’s play *Roebing Steel*, which was performed in one of the cavernous factories of the defunct steel company. In 1994 she organized the Ernie Kovacs Festival to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Trenton’s famous comedian.

Around this time Kate made contact with the Philadelphia Ethical Society. Her first visit did not go particularly well. She was denied admittance to the platform by Charlie Barnes and Al Israel. (It must have been a members-only event.) But Charlie made her promise to return, and she did. In 1991, Richard Kiniry popped the question: “Will you become a member?” Kate did, and hit the ground running. She served on the Board together with Susan Joe Klein. She worked on the Sunday School and organized festivals. She was in the first class to attend the Summer Lay Leadership School in North Carolina.

In 1998, Kate left the theater to return to community work. Her sister Courtney helped her get a job as a case manager at the Woman’s Space Domestic Violence Shelter in Trenton, where she counseled victims and their children on abuse and safety planning. In 2003, she organized

Trenton Peace Action and demonstrated against the Iraq war in the middle of traffic. She had to stop when a gawker rear-ended the car in front of her. Then in 2004, she was arrested in NYC while demonstrating against the Republican Convention. In 2005 she moved to her current position in group counseling at Catholic Charities. She works with clients in the mental health program. She describes them as “Beatitude People”: blessed are the poor in spirit.

In January 2011, Kate moved back to Philadelphia and into the 2101Co-op, the “Ethical Culture dormitory.” One of the main reasons for the move was to be close to her beloved Society where in June 2011, she took over as chairperson of the Ethical Action Committee. But the cost of this move has been the stress of commuting over an hour each way to Trenton.



**In Harrisburg, Betsy Lightbourn and Kate at a day of action (Apr. 15, 2013) for Planned Parenthood to protest HH 818**

One has only to look at all the items on the EAC agendas to see what a big heart she has: abolishing the death penalty, Peace Day Philly, equal rights for the LGBT community, the deplorable state of our city schools, the men’s shelter, MLK Day of Service, KIVA, Planned Parenthood, Voter ID Coalition, Rally for Trayvon Martin, just to name a sample. In 2013, Kate spearheaded the effort to have EHSOP join POWER. With 25,000 members in the city and 40 congregations participating, POWER can raise social justice action to a new level and may just get results on some of our intractable problems. At this writing, the most pressing issue for POWER is to pass the ballot measure to raise the minimum wage for city contractor employees. There is no

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At a Sunday morning platform, Kate reports on EAC activities.

question that Kate has been one of the most energetic and effective of our EAC chairs and that EHSOP has been inspired by her work and commitment to social justice.

I close with Kate's own words:

*I grew up in a family with profound progressive values. I worked in a porcelain factory, like my grandmother, father, and great aunts. I also grew up steeped in Catholicism: the rituals, the catechism and the guilt. But there was something about the Jesus portrayed in the Gospels that I think gave me a certain sense of affinity for the poor and disenfranchised. I was taught that Jesus was born homeless and was executed because he defied authority. Didn't he stop the execution of a prostitute and call those who hunger and thirst for the sake of justice, and the peacemakers, blessed? And what about the rich guy who doesn't get through the eye of the needle, but the camel makes it to heaven? :) Seriously though, the Catholic traditions of service to the poor and peacemaking – Dorothy Day, the Franciscans, Archbishop Romero, and the Berrigan Brothers – are all testaments that there is much to be said for "living the Gospel." Even today, I work for Catholic Charities in Trenton, my hometown, and it is truly "right and just."*

*Now I'm home in Ethical Culture where Humankind is the highest ideal to serve. We find intolerable injustice, poverty, war, and environmental degradation, where we ourselves are the authors of our destiny, where we are called to act as a principle of our faith in each other.* ◇

First and last photos of Kate by Janice R. Moore; Harrisburg photo by a kind passerby.

## Happenings

### *Demonstration Against Proposed XL Pipeline* (*"Sweeping Away Corruption"*)

EHSOP members participated in the March 10 demonstration at the Philadelphia Federal Building to try to convince President Obama that the Keystone XL Pipeline is an idea whose time has not and never will arrive. They joined with Rabbi Julie Greenberg and members of her Leyv Ha-Ir congregation and some 300 others, 24 of whom were arrested for civil disobedience at the event. The pictures tell the story. (Photos by Temma Fishman and Steve Bremner)



"Dil-Bit" (diluted bitumen), a personification of an oil spill.



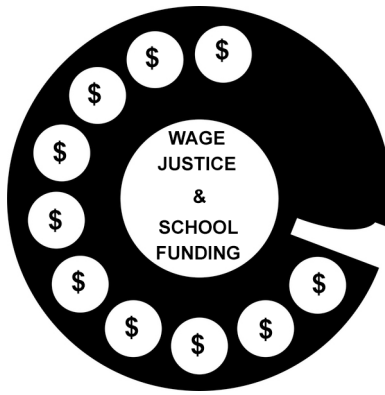
About 300 'sweepers.'



Marta in the Middle  
(Marta Guttenberg)



Elisabeth Leonard & Steve Bremner, ready to 'sweep away corruption.'



## **Time to Dial It Up for Wage Justice and School Funding**

One of the most important movements taking hold in the country today is that for wage justice. The minimum wage, and substandard wages in general, have created a class that has come to be known as the “working poor” in an economy where wealth is disproportionately concentrated in a very few hands, corporations get huge tax breaks and “too-big-to-fail” financial institutions walk away from nearly causing another great depression, barely chastised. The \$7.25 federal minimum wage should not be tolerated and demands correction.

It doesn't seem Congress is going to act any time soon to raise it. But we have an opportunity to pass a City Charter change to mandate that any company contracting with Philadelphia pay their workers a minimum of \$10.88 an hour. This especially affects people working at the airport.

As a congregation, we have joined POWER, Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild. See: <http://www.powerphiladelphia.org/news/power-clergy-leaders-speak-out-for-living-wages> . Congregation Leyv Ha Ir, Heart of the City, is also a member. POWER is largely responsible for organizing to get this charter change on the ballot for a vote this May 20th. With Leyv Ha Ir, we are joining together to phone voters to inform them of the measure and attempt to get them to a YES for this important vote. And for a charter change, we need 67% to vote YES, so it will require quite a push. During the calls, we will also be gauging public sentiment for a full, fair funding formula for all of PA's schools.

So please join us with your cell phones and chargers on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in either the Collier or Weston Room upstairs at the Society. We'll make it fun and we'll have SNACKS!

Now, I know that some folks may have reservations about talking to strangers and trying to get them to make a commitment about how they'll vote, but this is a campaign, and building towards a victory that will positively impact so many can be very exciting. There is nothing like being part of a WIN, which in this case will mean much to many of our fellow Philadelphians.

Let me know you can come on at least one, and hopefully more than that, Tuesdays.

Help tip the economic scale, ever so slightly, towards justice.

My phone is [609-273-0170](tel:609-273-0170) and e-mail is [kmesposit@gmail.com](mailto:kmesposit@gmail.com).



[Cf. "Sell-out Sunday" on page 1 in this edition. –Ed.]

## Sell-Out Sunday April 6, 2014<sup>1</sup>



*A week or so before the despicable Tax Day, everything has a price at EHSOP.  
Hugh gives a Platform topic chosen by the highest bidder, and:*

### Arnold's valet parking

When Arnold Fishman has his car valet-parked, it's no big deal. But when he parks yours in front of the Society, YOU are the big deal. If you win the bidding, put a nameplate on the vehicle so others will be appropriately envious.

### Nick's Shoe Shine Stand (former site of the Tree of Knowledge)

Yet another talent of Ethical Nick. \$25 per shoe. Arriving late for Platform? No time for a shine? Just leave your wing tips with Nick and when you come out, they will be gleaming with Old Nick's spit shine.

### Hellfire Steamroom (formerly the first-floor restroom)

The high bidder is seated on the throne. BOT members Jeffrey Dubb, Ken Greiff and Betsy Lightbourn stand nearby with fans and aromatherapy. When you emerge, you're ready to believe anything (pro-capitalist) at the Platform.

### Admission is free. Seating is not.

If you want to sit, we have seats for every budget, from the \$5 Backbenchers' Special to the \$75 front-row seats. And the ultimate: The Skybox on stage with 2 plush seats by the piano, \$100 each. Tickle Rollin while he tickles the ivories.

### Auditory Delights

If you're one of those hard-of-hearing people and would actually like to hear the Platform rather than just nodding and grinning, we have devices and the devices have prices. \$50 a pop on Sell-Out Sunday includes a fitting by Pat McGeever.

### Hugo's Hauling

Trouble getting up all those stairs after Platform? Wish there were an elevator? Just buy a little simian assistance. Gorilla Hugo, a Darwin Day dropout, will haul your butt for just \$5 a step. Allow time for a costume change after Platform.

### Luncheon El Primo

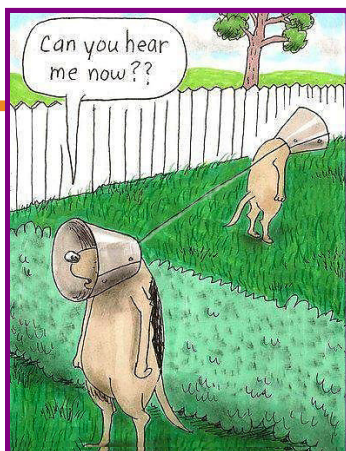
Is standing in line for the \$4 grub not for you? \$250 gets you a split of champagne, chateaubriand and tea service by the Murleys on their very own china. We even throw in the Sunday flowers from the podium, at your table for two.

### We kid you not!

Have you noticed the incomes not to mention wealth of the one-percenters? If we sign just one of them and they fork over, our financial troubles are over too. Two of them, and we start acquiring other Societies. Capitalism rocks!

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<sup>1</sup> Publication date: April 1, 2014



Thursday, April 10 - 7:00 PM  
Monthly Meeting

**Center City Hearing Loss Association of  
America**

**BEYOND HEARING AIDS**

For more information, contact Pat McGeever  
at [patethical@gmail.com](mailto:patethical@gmail.com).

# Announcements

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1:30 P.M.**

## **WITNESS TO HISTORY: MEMORIES OF THE NUREMBERG TRIALS**



Come listen to EHSOP member Dr. George Sakheim share his experience as an interpreter and translator for the Nuremberg trial of war criminals in 1945-1946. He had a front row seat, literally, to a parade of some of Nazi Germany's most notorious war criminals including Hermann Goering. Free and open to the public!

George Sakheim was born in Hamburg, Germany and fled with his mother from Nazi persecution to Palestine in 1933, and in 1938 settled in the United States.

During World War II he served in military intelligence, prisoner of war interrogation with the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Division in France, Holland, and Germany. From October, 1945 to May, 1946 he was an interpreter at the main Nuremberg War Crimes Trial.

Dr. Sakheim joined the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture in 1947 and served as an Assistant Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. Since 2000, he and his wife Ilse have been residents of Foulkeways Retirement Community at Gwynedd, PA.



**Sunday, April 6, 7:00 PM**

### **Introduction to Ethical Humanism**

Hugh Taft-Morales

Come enjoy an *Introduction to Ethical Humanism*. 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 but please RSVP to [leaderhugh@phillyethics.org](mailto:leaderhugh@phillyethics.org).

Ethics on the Square Program presents:  
**Explorations in Bioethics and Medicine**  
Interviews and Q&A with area ethicists and philosophers,  
hosted by Hugh Taft-Morales



**Monday, April 7, 7:30 P.M.**

*Reproductive Justice: The Movement to Expand our Understanding of Reproduction, Equality, Justice and Rights*  
**Prof. Kimberly Mutcherson, Rutgers University**

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.

Our three other sessions will be:

**May 5:** Prof. Miriam Solomon, Temple University: "Understanding Medical Controversies"

**May 19:** Prof. Jonathan D. Moreno, U. of Penn: "The Politicization of Bioethics" (previously postponed due to snow)

**June 2:** Prof. Hans Oberdiek, Swarthmore College: "Environmental Stewardship and Feeding a Hungry Planet"

"Roy Zimmerman simultaneously inspires me and makes me laugh my ass off!" - Paul Krassner

# roy zimmerman

Ethical Society of Philadelphia  
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square

Wednesday, April 16 - 7:30 pm  
\$18 general / \$15 students, seniors



funny songs about peace and justice

Come hear Roy Zimmerman perform in "The Blue Dot Tour." \$18 general admission, \$15 students/seniors. Roy's high-energy comic songs about peace and justice are not to be missed. Leader Hugh Taft-Morales says, "Roy Zimmerman is the best satirical singer-songwriter alive, and a darn good musician to boot! I will be there with bells on!" [FOR EHSOP MEMBERS ONLY: Special meet-and-greet BYOB reception for Roy in Hugh's Office 6:45 P.M.!]

Monday, April 21, 8:00 P.M.

## Hugh speaks at William Penn House

Thanks to an invitation from Evelyn Alloy, Hugh will be speaking about "The Injustices of our Criminal Justice System" at the William Penn House at 1919 Chestnut Street. Space is limited but if you would like to attend, please RSVP to Hugh at [LeaderHugh@gmail.com](mailto:LeaderHugh@gmail.com) so he can clear it with our host.



Friday, April 18, 7:00 P.M.



It seems with Lyle Murley's platform on African-American poets, Anne Klaeyen's upcoming Platform on poetry, and the Dylan Thomas centenary, there is a revival of interest in poetry. The famous Nobel-winning Mexican Octavio Paz was born 100 years ago and we are planning to celebrate at the Society. The Mexican theme will be easy for our pot-luckers: plenty of easy dishes to prepare. We'll play a little Mariachi but we promise: no Mexican Hat Dance! So get out your red, green, and white and celebrate our neighbors to the south. And maybe we'll tell you a little more about poet, ambassador, essayist and activist Octavio Paz! Bring your favorite poetry to share after dinner!

*This is perhaps the most noble aim of poetry, to attach ourselves to the world around us, to turn desire into love, to embrace, finally, what always evades us, what is beyond, but what is always there: the unspoken, the spirit, the soul.*

--Octavio Paz (1914-1998)



**Sunday, April 20, 12:15 P.M. or so: Art for Justice Opening in the Collier Room**

**1:00 to 2:30 P.M.: Interactive Learning Experience**

**Art for Justice comes to 1906 Rittenhouse with Ann Marie Kirk and Hugh Taft-Morales.  
The exhibit, "Dignity and Worth in the Era of Mass Incarceration" will open right after Platform.**



**"Life in Suspension"**  
by Charles Zafir Lawson

## **Art for Justice**

Promoting Justice and Humanity through Art

In 1997 Ann Marie Kirk co-founded Art for Justice with Charles Zafir Lawson, who is serving a sentence of life without parole at Graterford Prison. **Art for Justice** has made it possible for Zafir's art, and the art of other incarcerated individuals, to reach beyond the prison walls. The art has been displayed over 68 times in public venues, primarily in the greater Philadelphia area. It's intended to give greater meaning to the artists' works, revealing the humanity behind bars and reflecting the artists' struggle for dignity and worth in this era of mass incarceration.

The artists from Graterford and Greene State Prisons are self-proclaimed as wrongly convicted or guilty seeking redemption. The artists who share their works aim to give to their communities something of positive value. Working in sparse quarters with poor lighting and limited supplies, these artists have produced art that touches us to the core.

Ann Marie hopes that the exhibition of prisoner art will stimulate public dialogue on ways to prevent crime, reduce levels of incarceration and find effective, humane ways to improve the criminal justice system. She explains, "We display prisoner art that reaches across deep divides in our society in an effort to engage viewers in conversations about collective justice and individual worth."

Art for Justice hopes to raise public awareness of critical issues and systemic flaws in the Criminal Justice and Corrections Systems such as: the death penalty, solitary confinement, juveniles serving sentences of life without parole, poor access to quality legal representation, incarceration of individuals with mental illnesses, mandatory sentencing laws, and wrongful convictions. We hope citizens, policy makers, and professionals in the criminal justice system will work to remedy unjust and inequitable laws, policies and practices to achieve a more functional, accessible system of justice.

**April 20, 1:00-2:30**

### **Experience, Reflect, Respond to Art by Incarcerated Artists: An Interactive Learning Experience**

We will look closely at the artworks in the exhibit to understand them in the context of the confined, restricted space where they were produced. Through their art, we will be having a dialogue with the artists.

How do we experience these works? What reflections and insights are generated within us from seeing the art? What is our human response to the art? How do our personal responses to the art translate to our understandings of collective justice and individual worth in the criminal justice system?

Creating art while incarcerated can be an act of self-expression, communication, social commentary and protest. What are the individual artists saying with their works?

Members will have the opportunity to process their responses to the art through narrative, poem, sketch, song, or a combination.

Space is limited and registration is required. Please register by contacting Hugh Taft-Morales at [LeaderHugh@phillyethics.com](mailto:LeaderHugh@phillyethics.com) or calling [301-580-1481](tel:301-580-1481).



The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia's  
Fourth Annual One-Act Play Contest  
2014

The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia is pleased to announce its fourth annual One-Act Play Contest. Playwrights residing in the greater Philadelphia area are invited to submit scripts. A panel of readers will select one winner and two runners-up. The winner will receive an honorarium of \$100 and a rehearsed reading of the play at one of our Sunday Platforms during the 2014-15 season. The playwright retains all rights to the script beyond the reading. There is no submission fee.

#### Rules and guidelines

- The playwright must be a current resident of the greater Philadelphia area.
- Only one submission per playwright.
- No previously submitted (to us) plays.
- Scripts must be in the standard format, with page numbers.
- The script must read in 25-35 minutes. Shorter or longer scripts will not be considered.
- Maximum number of characters: 4.
- Electronic submissions only. The email should be titled "ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST SUBMISSION [title of the play]," and the message must contain the name, address, telephone number and email address of the playwright. The script, in an attached .doc or .pdf file, must include the title of the play, but nothing to identify the playwright. Send this email, and any inquiries, to Pat McGeever at [<patethical@gmail.com>](mailto:patethical@gmail.com).
- Submissions will be accepted beginning March 2 and concluding May 2.
- The winning playwright must be present at the reading and the discussion which follows. If this is not feasible, the play of one of the runners-up will be chosen instead.
- When possible, runner-up scripts will be given in-house readings at the Ethical Society's Sunday meetings. Playwrights will be notified.
- No particular theme or genre is required. But playwrights should keep in mind that the winning play will take the place of one of our Sunday Platforms, and that the Society is a non-theistic, ethical, religious and educational organization, which seeks to bring out the best in ourselves, in others, and in all of human society. Playwrights are strongly encouraged to visit our website, <http://phillyethics.org> for further information. We seek plays that will entertain and stimulate lively, meaningful discussion.



#### Previous Winners

2011: FAMILY ALBUM by Diana Cavallo tells the story of two sisters embroiled in personal and professional controversy after one of them writes a book about the suicide of their father.

2012: NOVEMBER WOMEN by Kate McGrath features two women, a social worker and a client, as they face different demons as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches.

2013: MARKED by Cassandra Lewis is a dark comedy between a mother and son that explores the connections among love, insanity, and social responsibility.



**May 1-4, Skokie, IL:  
99<sup>th</sup> 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](http://aeu.org).

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

**A. E. U.  
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!***



# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Phone Banking</b> re: <b>Minimum Wage</b> Kate Esposito	<b>2</b> <b>Meetings</b> 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 7:45 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>*6</b> 11:00 AM <b>Good Things About Capitalism</b> Hugh Taft-Morales Witness to History George Sakheim 7:00 PM <b>Intro. Ethical Humanism</b> Hugh Taft-Morales	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM <b>Reproductive Justice</b>  Kimberly Mutcherson	<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Phone Banking</b> re: <b>Minimum Wage</b> Kate Esposito	<b>9</b> <b>Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM <b>CC HLAA Beyond Hearing Aids</b> Bill Best	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>*13</b> 11:00 AM <b>Who Are the Lenape?</b> Shelley DePaul	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Phone Banking</b> re: <b>Minimum Wage</b> Kate Esposito	<b>16</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Roy Zimmerman Concert</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Potluck Party for Paz</b> Carol Love	<b>19</b>
<b>*20</b> 11:00 AM <b>Members' Platform: Change</b> Hugh Taft-Morales 12:15 PM <b>Art for Justice Opening</b> 1:30 PM <b>Art for Justice Interactive</b> AnnMarie Kirk, Hugh Taft-Morales	<b>21</b> 8:00 p.m. Wm. Penn House: Criminal Justice H. Taft-Morales	<b>22</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Phone Banking</b> re: <b>Minimum Wage</b> Kate Esposito	<b>23</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6:30 p.m. EHSOP Board of Trustees	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM  <b>Amnesty International</b> Ron Coburn.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>*27</b> 11:00 AM <b>Ethics of Poetry</b> Anne Klaeyesen	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Phone Banking</b> re: <b>Minimum Wage</b> Kate Esposito	<b>30</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6:30 p.m. Camp Linden Committee			

\*Child care provided during all platforms

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

7: Meghan Westlander  
14: Aissa Richardson  
21: Henry Pashkow  
22: Kate Esposito  
22: Christian Hayden  
29: Nina Diamond



## Save the dates!

- 5/2 Submissions end in our play-writing contest. Pat McGeever
- 5/1-4 AEU 99<sup>TH</sup> 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

**Ethical Humanist Society  
of Philadelphia**

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**SUNDAY SERVICE**

**Hosts** - Coordinated by  
Leslie Williams



April 6 - Nick Sanders and Lelah  
Marie

April 13 - Garry O'Rourke and  
Don Munson

April 20 - Sandy and Bill Coffey

April 27 - Leslie Williams and  
Nina Diamond



**Flowers** - Coordinated by  
David Ralston

April 6 - Garry O'Rourke, "In  
honor of my mother's 90<sup>th</sup>  
birthday"

April 13 - Linda Richardson,  
"Birthday tribute for Aissia  
and my sister Sheila"

April 20 - tba

April 27 - Bob Bueding, "For a  
friend's birthday"



**Coffee Hour Coordinators**

April 6 - John McCormick  
April 13 - Ken Greiff  
April 20 - Garry O'Rourke  
April 27 - Harry Thorn

***Ethical Humanist Society  
of Philadelphia***

1906 South Rittenhouse Square  
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