



Ethical Views

MARCH 8TH



SPRING AHEAD

March 2015 Vol. 129, No. 7 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Phila.

Sunday Platforms March 2015

If you wish childcare during Sunday Platforms, please notify Nick Sanders at nick@phillyethics.org or 215-662-5636 by the previous Thursday at 5:00 P.M. He will notify you by noon Saturday whether arrangements are in place.

Sunday, March 1, 11:00 A.M.

Humanism in Deed

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



Ethical Culture, and much of humanism in general, promotes living a life of ethical action. Leader Hugh Taft-Morales promotes activism through Ethical

Humanism because: it is reasonable; it promotes values that resonate; it offers inspirational experiences; it connects with other people and groups; and, most importantly, it emphasizes deed before creed. With eyes wide open, Hugh urges humanists to confront with courageous commitment the stark realities of a brutal world. In the words of the founder of Ethical Culture, Felix Adler: "In the deed is the pledge of the sacredness of life; in the deed is the reward of our activities in health; in the deed our solace, and our salvation even in the abysmal gulfs of woe."

MARCH 8TH



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Sunday, March 8, 11:00 A.M.

Hope for the Future: Creative Communities

Eileen Flanagan



Through her work with Earth Quaker Action Team, Eileen Flanagan has become convinced that small groups of people working together creatively are doing the most to address climate change. She'll tell the inspiring

stories that give her hope, from women farmers in Kenya to the local group taking on a national bank to stop its financing of mountaintop removal coal mining.

Eileen Flanagan is a Quaker writer, speaker, and activist. Her new book, *Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope*, tells the story of her midlife realization that she was not living up to her potential or her youthful ideals, and the engaging journey that led her to handcuff herself to the White House fence. Her previous book, *The Wisdom to Know the Difference*, was endorsed by the Dalai Lama. A graduate of Duke and Yale, Eileen leads the board of Earth Quaker Action Team, which uses nonviolent direct action to work for a just and sustainable economy.

Sunday, March 15, 11:00 A.M.

Spring Festival

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



Come to our annual festival celebrating the spring equinox in words and music! As birds sing, butterflies frolic, and children enjoy being freed from winter's icy confines, this year's festival theme is *play!* Readings about spring and music from guest artist Jay Ansill will help us celebrate brighter sunshine and warmer days.

Jay Ansill is a composer and multi-instrumentalist from Bucks County. His central instrument is the Celtic harp, but he also plays the violin, guitar and mandolin. Jay has been a staple of the folk music scene locally and nationally since the early 80s and has toured extensively. As his interest in composition has expanded, he's had work performed by the Maryland Symphony, the SW Michigan Symphony and smaller ensembles in the US, UK and Spain. Accompanying him will be his wife, Claudia Balant.

Sunday, March 22, 11:00 A.M.

Catholic Ethical Humanism?

Richard Kiniry, Leader Emeritus Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

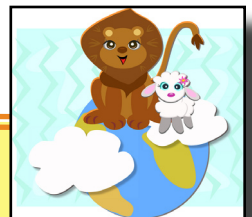


Is it possible that Ethical Culture could be more attractive to disaffected Catholics, and if so, would

we Ethical Humanists want to go there? Pope Francis is creating excitement in Catholic and non-Catholic circles, but can he make enough substantive changes to satisfy progressive Catholics? An additional question that might sound far-fetched is, can Ethical Humanism learn something from an examination of Catholicism?

Richard Kiniry is Leader Emeritus of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, a humanist religious fellowship. He spent his college years in a Catholic seminary, raised chickens in India with the Peace Corps for two years, and had his own Stained Glass business for many years.

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President's Column

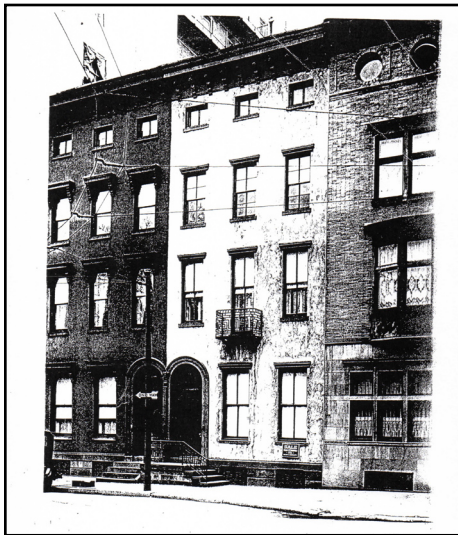


Our Dear Old Building

Nick Sanders

The home of the Philadelphia Ethical Society (also known as the “Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia” or just “EHSOP,” and originally known as the “Society of Ethical Culture of Philadelphia”) is a certified historic building at 1906-08 South Rittenhouse Square. It has been the home of the EHSOP since 1927, when two row houses at 1906 and 1908 were purchased and demolished, and our building was constructed in the configuration we know now.

Even in 1927, buildings on Rittenhouse Square area were expensive. The location was then, as now, quite prestigious. But some members of the Ethical Society were very high in the Social Register: the Fels, the Pews, and other movers and shakers. In fact, Jennie Fels was a very active board member who was Society president for a while. And it was she who provided the money to buy 1906 and 1908 and to create a home for us.



Leader Emeritus Richard Kiniry told me that the original interior was quite ornate, with gold-framed, full-length

mirrors! Society member and architect Mike Black-Smith (whom I thank for his research I have used in this column) shared with me that gold-framed, full-length mirrors would indeed be likely because the architect who designed our building was Ralph Bowden Bencker, a prominent architect of numerous Art Deco buildings that emphasized “bold geometry and colors.” Mike said that our current interior appears more restrained, but closer inspection in spots reveals some blue paint and bronze fixtures painted over. Further, Richard said that early on a couple was employed as live-in custodians, who formally served coffee after Platforms. Imagine that!

On April 28, 1970, our building was entered on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Aside from the status this designation implies, an implication of this certification is that we need to apply to the Historic Commission as well as the City for approval of any modification to our externally viewed façade. I learned that when we were working to make our building more accessible to those with mobility challenges, and we needed to add a ramp to the Manning Street entrance of our building.

Having an historic home with a prestigious address certainly is nice, but it does carry with it some negatives. We are left with the responsibility to maintain the building. The plumbing system is original, and we occasionally have had some messy and costly problems with it. We have also been prompted by safety inspectors to make some expensive upgrades to our electrical system. Richard Kiniry told me that in the 1980s part of the ceiling over the second floor landing separated from the wall. And just in 2011, the Society had to borrow money to take advantage of the City of Philadelphia’s partial matching-funds GreenWorks program, in order to replace original and leaky windows on the front and back of the building and to increase the efficiency of our vintage heating system. If you look around, I am sure you will see other signs of an aging structure. The 1927 gift of this home definitely comes with ongoing responsibilities.

At times the weight of those responsibilities is great enough that some of us have considered selling our home and moving to a building with more up-to-date amenities, with more easily accessible rooms, and possibly with a lot nearby for families and others to park their cars when they come to Platforms and other events. We agree that we likely could get enough from the sale to buy quite a nice, new home for our community. But we have never gotten to the point of serious study of the real estate market or considered other possible locations. Our grand old building is just too dear to many of us to consider moving. We keep coming back to the hope that between members who value being at 1906 and renters who provide dollars that we use for basic maintenance and for an attractive appearance, we will be able to continue to get by, continuing to call our classic building “our home.”

There are some of us, though, who want to do more than just “get by.” We have been exploring opportunities for improvements. In early 2014 Ruth Redlener, an interior design professional and daughter of Society member Sally Redlener, surveyed the rooms on the first and second floors. Thanks to Jeffrey Dubb, who was one of the people who was present during Ruth Redlener’s survey, we have excellent notes on her suggestions—some of which we have been able to implement.

Also in 2014, following the suggestion of architect and EHSOP member Mike Black-Smith, we met with Partners for Sacred Places, a nonprofit organization that advises congregations on effective use of spaces in the congregations’ buildings, internal and external promotion of those uses, and identification of capital campaign opportunities. (See <http://www.sacredplaces.org/who-we-are>.) Staff from that organization also made a brief visit to our building, to obtain some basic information in preparation for working with us. We have paused in our talks with them—due to a need to direct attention to other issues—but we anticipate planning how we might want their organization to help us.

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Finally, a couple of us have done some envisioning of what the EHSOP could be ten years in the future. Some of that was about use of spaces below and above the very familiar first and second floors of 1906-08. As you might image, addition of an elevator was important in that “blue-sky” envisioning. Ah... maybe some day.

I believe we can all agree that our old building at 1906-08 South Rittenhouse Square is a great asset to our EHSOP community. I hope you will join in efforts to care for it and improve it as much as we current residents can. <>

Platforms (Continued from page 1)

Sunday, March 29, 11:00 A.M.

Raising Powerfully Ethical Kids

Dale McGowan, National Director of Ethical Education, American Ethical Union



Everyone seems to agree that raising ethical kids is an essential part of good parenting. But ask how it's done, and you'll usually get an answer that directly contradicts current research. Author/educator Dale McGowan describes the current state of our understanding of ethical development, shares his own experiences as a parent, and shows how communities like Ethical Societies can help parents raise kids who go beyond merely “good” to become powerfully ethical.

* * * * *

Dale McGowan is founding executive director of Foundation Beyond Belief, a humanist non-profit that supports charities and encourages volunteerism in the nontheist community. He is also the author or editor of eight books, including *Parenting Beyond Belief*, *Raising Freethinkers*, *Atheism for Dummies*, and *In Faith and In Doubt*, the first book on marriages between religious believers and nonbelievers. Dale is managing editor of the Atheist Channel at Patheos.com and National Director of Ethical Education for the American Ethical Union. He and his wife Becca live in Atlanta with their three children. <>

Ethics Inaction?

Steve Bremner

Ethical Action Committee Chair



In an episode of the BBC TV series *Yes, Prime Minister*, the following exchange takes place on the subject of subsidizing the arts, between rookie Prime Minister Jim Hacker and his seasoned Cabinet Secretary, Sir Humphrey Appleby:

Sir Humphrey: The point is, we have a great heritage to support. Pictures no one wants to see, music no one wants to hear, plays no one wants to watch. You can't let them die just because nobody's interested.

Jim Hacker: Why not?

Sir Humphrey: Well, it's a bit like the Church of England. People don't go to church, but they feel better because it's there. The arts are just the same. As long as they're going on, you can feel part of a civilised nation.

The good news: *Yes, Prime Minister* is satire.

The bad news: Sometimes I feel like a cross between Jim Hacker and the arts.

Everyone knows Steve Bremner is chair of the Society's Ethical Action Committee (EAC). And everyone apparently knows, and occasionally tells him, that he's doing something importantly ethical. Beware lest he corner you after Platform and ask you just what it is that he does.

I would remind you – or, if you haven't guessed it, bluntly inform you – of the main reason for my being EAC chair. Our *semper fi* Kate Esposito needed and deserved a rest, and the probability of anyone else doing it was vanishingly small.

The small, if happily never quite vanishing, band of people who make

up the EAC each tend to pursue their own schtick. Drones, fracking, Amnesty, Planned Parenthood, whatever. Hey, it's nice to have – sorry, can't resist the pun – a monthly “Schtick Exchange.” However, when it comes to representing the Society's membership as a whole, and reflecting the unique fundamental values of Ethical Humanism, we might as well be building a model railroad in the Weston Room, and nobody would notice unless our HO scale oil train derailed during Sunday coffee hour.

And on the occasions when the Society as a whole comes out and does something together, it often just sort of happens, with little or no direct connection to the EAC.

With this in mind, I put the following into a recent Ethics In Action platform announcement, flyer, and email to everyone on the Listserv:

How can the Ethical Action Committee best represent and promote the fundamental values of Ethical Humanism? In what ethical action projects should the Society engage? All members are invited to join in the discussion.

Response? None whatever.



Do we as an Ethical Society really not give a hoot about corporate ethical action that reflects our organization's unique fundamental values? Or do we not give a hoot about the EAC? Is the true function of the EAC to provide Sir Humphrey-esque assurance that as long as it's going on, members can feel part of a civilized, *ethical* Ethical Society?

Let's make us a more ethically active ethical society! Come to the talkback after Hugh's March 1 “Humanism in Deed” Platform, to share your ideas, please! <>

Happenings

More Voices from the DARE March!

Hugh Taft-Morales

There were many voices raised in protest at the January 19 DARE march in honor of Martin Luther King Day. It was organized by a group called "MLK DARE Coalition, Philadelphia" ("DARE" stands for Days of Action, Resistance and Empowerment"). If you haven't read Kate Esposito's article about it in the February edition of the American Ethical Union's *Ethical Action Report*, you can find it at <http://aeu.org/resource/ethical-action-report-february-2015/>. Or, just go to the AEU website and search under "Resources." It's important to connect with the American Ethical Union, our federating organization, so that the many voices of Ethical Culture can sing with greater strength and harmony.

What follows are the voices of members who make up the chorus of ethical activism at 1906 Rittenhouse Square. Thanks to all those participants who sent in their reflections about the march. Enjoy!

"I joined the recent march here in Philadelphia for reform among the police to eliminate unjustified homicide of young black men and discriminatory enforcement practices in the black community, while at the same time maintaining respect for the police and gratitude for the protection they provide." - Leonard

"Jim Crow is alive and well in Philadelphia, never more so than since 2008 when Stop & Frisk was permanently embedded by the new administration. Putting an end to Stop & Frisk DEMANDS (my) civil disobedience - it is a violation of our Fourth Amendment and an offense on legal, moral, ethical, and humanist grounds." - Linda Benowitz

"I had a feeling of solidarity because all races were acting together. At the rally there was a great variety of speakers from various organizations." - John Marshall

"We heard greetings from time to time, like 'Happy Martin Luther King Day, or Happy MLK' but the day means so much more than remembering a great leader for civil rights and human dignity. We marched to honor his work, to continue raising our collective consciousness about social justice, ending mass incarceration, raising the minimum wage and treating our fellow human beings with fairness and equality, just as we would want to be treated. It was a meaningful experience we shared with friends from the Ethical Humanist Society." - Don & Adriana

"It was great to see people from so many different organizations (POWER, environment, left politics, religious, disability rights, Middle East justice) sharing the rally and really demonstrating the interconnectedness of the issues. The non-littering/recycling ethic was great! I was able to pick up only 3 plastic water bottles from the grass

despite constant vigilance. The sound system was excellent, and we had contributed to funding it. Sylvia Metzler was articulate, brave and touching as she submitted to the razor." - Marta

"Five of us had our heads shaved at the conclusion of the program at the Constitution Center. We were expressing our outrage and grief at the loss of too many Black lives in our society." - Sylvia

"I marched to honor my father, treasurer of his International Brotherhood of Pottery (IBOP) union local and WW II Marine. He worked in the kiln room at American Standard. I marched because skin color should not be probable cause for police harassment and nobody who is unarmed should be killed by police. I marched because our schools should provide ample resources to every child, making it possible for kids to succeed in an increasingly improbable world. And, if I don't exercise my First Amendment Rights, they might go away!" - Kate

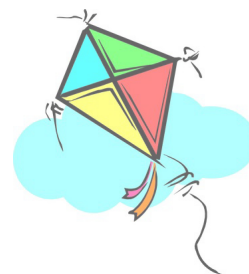
"I will borrow two sentences from Rev. Mark Tyler, (of Mother Bethel A.M.E., MLK D.A.R.E. coalition and POWER): 'While we recognize the importance of service, Dr. King was not assassinated because of his charity work. We only do honor to his memory if we continue to fight the same fight.' Amen!" - Steve

"A day of service and a march for social justice, all with a great group of dedicated people. Can't think of a better way to celebrate MLK." - John McCormick



Left to Right:

EHSOP members Linda Benowitz, Nick Sanders, Steve Bremner, David McDevitt, Ken Greiff, John Marshall, Betsy Lightbourn, Sharon Wallace, Leonard Weeks, John McCormick, and Lauren Strong, with Leader Hugh Taft-Morales and visiting Leader-in-Training Paulo Rebeiro.



Announcements



**Sunday, March 1, 3:00 PM, "Music
@ Ethical:
Oppression & Transcendence**

This performance follows a theme of struggles within the human condition as seen through the lens of various composers' lives, and draws on the power of their music which transcends it all. It features the incandescent *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber (performed within its original setting of his *String Quartet*) and Robert Schumann's inimitable *Piano Quartet*. Tickers are \$25 general, \$15 for members, seniors, and students. All ticketing is through www.FineArtMusicCompany.ticketleap.com.



Sunday, March 1, 7:00 PM.

Intro to Ethical Culture

- 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.



Monday, March 2, 7:30 PM "Ethics and the Aging Brain"

As better medicine and healthier lifestyles extend our lives, we confront more issues at the crossroads of ethics and aging. Dr. Jason Karlawish, a leading expert on Alzheimer's and dementia, visits the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia to discuss how the medical establishment and society in general approach longevity, our quality of life, and the challenges of mild to severe cognitive changes. How do we diagnose and monitor these changes in ways that honor the autonomy and privacy of patients? How greatly does capacity have to be compromised to justify paternalistic restrictions in the home or in nursing facilities? How can society

better understand when aging ends and diseases begin? Join host Hugh Taft-Morales as we explore these questions. *Free and open to the public. Registration is preferred: e-mail LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org*

Jason Karlawish is a Professor of Medicine, Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the [University of Pennsylvania](http://www.upenn.edu). He cares for patients at the [Penn Memory Center](http://www.pennmemorycenter.org) and directs the Neurodegenerative Disease Ethics and Policy Program. He has investigated the development of Alzheimer's disease treatments and diagnostics, informed consent, quality of life, research and treatment decision-making, and voting by persons with cognitive impairment and residents of long-term care facilities. He has been an international proponent of mobile polling, a method of bringing the vote to long-term care facilities that minimizes fraud and maximizes voter rights. Karlawish is also author of *Open Wound: The Tragic Obsession of Dr. William Beaumont*, a novel based on true events along the 19th century American frontier. It tells how emotion and passion together with social and political pressures slowly corrupt the scientist's character and ethics.

For more information about Dr. Karlawish, go to <http://jasonkarlawish.com>.



Sunday, March 15, 3:00 PM, Nuclear Weapons: Their Danger, Cost, & Elimination

A panel discussion at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.

The discussion is free and open to the public. Refreshments and dialogue are available.

Panelists include:

Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,
EHSOP Leader - Moderator

Daniel Wolk - Physicians for
Social Responsibility -
"The Medical and Environmental
Consequences of Nuclear
Weapons"

Tammy Murphy - Project for
Nuclear Awareness - "Monetary
Costs; Negotiation and Non
Proliferation: Iran and North
Korea"

Elisabeth Leonard - Women's
International League for Peace
and Freedom - "Current US
Missile and Warhead
Modernization"

Ed Aguilar, J. D. - Coalition for
Peace Action - "The Republic
of Marshall Islands Goes to
the World Court for a Nuclear
Weapons Ban"

Joseph Gerson - American
Friends Service Committee -
"Increased Superpower
Tension and What We Can Do
to Eliminate Nuclear
Weapons"



Save the Dates!

Ethical Humanism 201 with Richard Kiniry

Thursdays April 2, 9, 30,
7:00-8:30 PM



This three-part workshop is offered as an opportunity for members of the Society to go deeper into Ethical Humanist philosophy. Leader

Emeritus Richard Kiniry will offer his version of that philosophy and participants can develop their own approach to EH as a way of living.

For a hundred and forty years the Ethical Culture Movement has been evolving through the challenges of philosophic and ethical advancements. Now that we are Ethical Humanism, there is much in that philosophic evolution that offers us things to talk about. This three-part workshop will first examine that intellectual history and the core beliefs we hold dear. Then we will focus on what those ideas mean in our personal lives and in the area of social justice.

Ethical Humanism offers a sensible but inspiring understanding of life's journey. It has a history situated on the fringe of religion and its approach is of use to both the confused and to the know-it-alls. This workshop, designed for the curious, whether Society members or newcomers, will offer an opportunity to examine the philosophy of Ethical Humanism while questioning the "big issues" such as God, faith and morality. We will relate the philosophy to practical ideas: economic and social justice, capitalism vs. socialism, the environment, abortion and minority rights.

Free for members. \$15 for all three classes for non-members. Register directly with Richard by emailing him at rlkiniry@sbcglobal.net no later than Sunday, March 29.

Coming soon: The 2015 EHSoP Service Auction

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO PROVIDE?

WHAT IS IT? Members and Ethical Society friends offer items that will be displayed on tables in the Assembly Room at Sunday coffee hours during the spring months. These are presented in the form of dioramas to interest purchasers. In 2014, we had 20 items presented, including: Hugh's sing-along at a member's home, a Canoe Carnival @ Medford Lakes, NJ, animal care, historical trips, dinner parties at members' homes, sports events, concerts, movie events and many more.

WHERE ARE THE EVENTS? HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE? Each event is scheduled on a particular day and if you are interested, you sign up and make a bid. There is usually a limit to the number who can attend. You make a starting bid that is given. If it goes over the limit of persons attending, you can make a higher bid to attend.

WHO BENEFITS? All monies raised go to our Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. The Administrator bills you for the total events that you sign for. We ask that when you sign for an event/events, you commit to paying for it even if you cannot attend.





LIST OF ITEMS: We are again asking for items from our members and friends to be submitted to Chair Sally Redlener:

sredlener@comcast.net
[215.964.9861](tel:215.964.9861)

or

Co-Chair Adriana Munson:
damunson@comcast.net
[856.858.0134](tel:856.858.0134)

The following information is needed:

-  Service Auction item;
Description of Event
-  Host/Hostess Name,
Address, Phone or E-Mail
-  Date, Time of Event or
Appointment
-  Max. # of Persons to attend
Minimum Bid amount

THANK YOU!



Quote-Unquote




"Ten men in our country could buy the whole world and ten million men can't buy enough to eat."

-Will Rogers, 1931. Quoted in *Lies My Teacher Told Me; Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, James W. Loewen, Simon & Schuster, 1995, p. 201.



March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 AM <i>Humanism in Deed</i> Hugh Taft-Morales 2 3:00 PM Music @ Ethical 7:00 PM Intro to Ethical Culture Hugh Taft-Morales	2 7:30 PM Ethics and the Aging Brain Hugh Taft-Morales	3	4 Meetings 6:30 p.m. Education Committee 7:45 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	5	6	7
8 MARCH 8TH  11:00 AM <i>Hope for the Future: Creative Communities</i> Eileen Flanagan	9	10	11 Meetings 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:00 PM Community Committee <i>(If needed, check with J Dubb: jeffrey.dubb@gmail.com)</i>	12 6:30 PM Hearing Loss Assn.: P. McGeever	13	14
15 11:00 AM <i>Spring Festival</i> Hugh Taft-Morales 3:00 PM NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION H. Taft-Morales, Panel	16	17 	18 Meeting 7:00 p.m. EHSOP Board of Trustees	19	20	21
22 11:00 AM <i>Catholic Ethical Humanism?</i> Richard Kiniry Meeting: 7:00 PM Camp Linden Committee	23	24	25	26 7:00 PM  Amnesty International Ron Coburn.	27	28
29 <i>Raising Powerfully Ethical Kids</i> Dale McGowan	30	31				

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



COMING IN APRIL!

Ethical Humanism 201

Richard Kiniry

Thursdays: April 2, 9, 30
7:00 PM

Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

Editor, Pat McGeever
Layout, Janice R. Moore
Production, Ingrid Schafroth
Web Master, Bob Moore

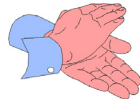
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of Philadelphia**

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



SUNDAY SERVICES

**Hosts - Coordinated by
Leslie Williams**



March 1 - Vince Rizzo and Harry Thorn

March 8 - Sylvia Metzler and John
McCormick

March 15- Arnold and Temma
Fishman

March 22 - Janet Cooke and Garry
O'Rourke

March 29 - Bob Bueding and Nina
Diamond



**Flowers Coordinated
by David Ralston**

March 1 - Doris Leicher and Howard
Peer in honor of their daughter
Monica as congratulations for her
graduation.

March 8 - Mike and Morgen Black-
Smith

March 15 - Ken Greiff in honor of
David Ralston who does our flower
dedications

March 22 - T.B.A.

March 29 - T.B.A.



Coffee Hour Coordinators

March 1 - John McCormick

March 8- Ken Greiff

March 15 - Garry O'Rourke

March 22 - Harry Thorn

March 29 - T.B.A.

***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103