



Ethical Views

December 2015 Vol. 130, No. 4 Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

Sunday Platforms December 2015

Sunday, December 6, 11:00 AM
The Integrity and Humility of Science
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



On the 10th anniversary of the "Intelligent Design" court case *Kitzmiller v. Dover School District* (Dec. 20, 2015), humanists appropriately celebrate the liberation of science education from religion. But this single victory has not ended the culture wars. Despite efforts to establish fruitful co-existence, religion and science continue to be portrayed as mortal enemies. Creationist museums are as popular as ever and research is still hampered by religious dogma. Hugh Taft-Morales reflects on the Kitzmiller decision and the need to reinforce both the integrity and the humility of science.

Sunday, December 13, 11:00 AM
The Best Response is No Response?
The Ethics of Responding to Hate Speech
Billie Murray, Professor of Communication, Villanova University



Instances of hate speech in public spaces have increased in recent months around the United States.

Traditionally, free speech advocates, police, government officials, and even the general public have promoted "quarantine policies" as the only suitable method for dealing with such hate. The advice is usually to ignore it, to not give the groups additional publicity, and to avoid spaces where

such hate is espoused. What are the ethics of such a stance? Is the best response, no response? Or do we, as members of diverse communities, have a responsibility to respond to hate speech? What do community responses to hate speech look like in the contemporary moment? This address will engage these questions and serve as a starting point for dialogue about the tensions between free speech and hate speech in public spaces.

Billie Murray began her career as a professor of Communication at Villanova University in 2010 after completing her doctorate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Originally from South Carolina, Dr. Murray earned her B.A. in communication studies and political science from the College of Charleston, and her M.A. from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Her research focuses on the rhetoric of social protest, specifically on the relationship between public space and democracy. Her ethnographic and activist work has focused on human rights and peace organizations, and her current project explores community responses to hate speech.

Sunday, December 20, 11:00 AM
EHSOP Winter Solstice Festival
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



All are welcome to our Winter Solstice Platform, EHSOP's traditional celebration of warmth and

light that helps us get through the cold and dark of winter months! Words of wisdom, music, and candles will help kindle hope and inspiration.

December 27
No 11:00 AM Platform, but much peace & joy in the new year



**Sunday, Dec. 6,
12:15 PM**
Tree of Knowledge

Come help decorate the Tree of Knowledge in our lobby after Platform. We join our friends from the Freethought Society for this celebration of

openness, freedom of conscience, and knowledge. Everyone is welcome. If you have a book cover you want to contribute to the tree, email a scan of it to Hugh at leaderhugh@phillyethics.org or bring him TWO color copies of your book cover by Dec. 6 and we will try to laminate them that day so they can adorn our tree! This year we add the Tree of Knowledge for Young Freethinkers, featuring books for young readers and selected largely by them.

Sunday, December 6, afternoon **Kitzmiller Program**

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the "Intelligent Design" court case on Sunday, December 6! RSVP for the 1:00 PM luncheon, the 2:30 PM panel discussion, and a 5:30 PM closing ceremony followed by a happy hour (cash bar, free snacks) for only \$30 (or \$15 for the panel discussion and happy hour). *Reservations required* at <http://bit.ly/1Md20hU> or by check payable to Delaware Valley Americans United, with "DOVER TICKETS" in the memo line, mailed to DVAU, P.O. Box 142, Clayton, N.J., 08312-0142. (See *Hugh's Leader's Column* in this newsletter for more information!)

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Leader's Column



**Music,
Navigators,
and
Science
Education**

Hugh Taft-Morales

This December's Leader's column highlights a couple of exciting events and projects demonstrating the vitality and energy of our community. They also make me feel like celebrating!

The first event is a December 6 luncheon and panel discussion of an important victory for science education co-hosted by the Ethical Humanist Society, the Freethought Society, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Rarely have believers in science, advocates of reason, and defenders of the principle of separation of church and state had so clear a reason to celebrate. On December 20, 2005, Judge John E. Jones III, a Republican (appointed in 2002 by none other than George W. Bush) ruled in the landmark case *Kitzmiller v. Dover School District*. In a nation full of climate change deniers and young-earth creationists, Jones' ruling reaffirmed the integrity of science education in America.

The brief background about this case involves a school board in the borough of Dover, Pennsylvania, that was stacked with science skeptics. It voted to insert into the public school curriculum "intelligent design"—the then-favorite manifestation of pseudo-science favored by the creation science crowd. To counter this nearly Orwellian effort at distorting truth, students, parents, and teachers reached out to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Americans United for

Separation of Church and State (AU) and the law firm of Pepper Hamilton, and the trial was on!

What happened then is part of a rich and fascinating story that culminated in a ruling that reverberated across the nation. Judge Jones wisely concluded that intelligent design is not science. He said the school board could not promote intelligent design or "denigrate or disparage the scientific theory of evolution." Lauri Lebo, a reporter for the York Daily Record and author of *The Devil in Dover*, a book praised as the insider account of the trial, appreciated the national implications of this trial. Lebo wrote, "What happened in Dover is a tiny sliver, a broken shard of glass mirroring what plays out across the country. A war of fundamentalist Christian values versus secularism. A battle between evangelical fanaticism and tolerance. And for those who must live in both worlds, we are caught in between."

Even though the principles involved seem pretty clear to me, in a way Ethical Humanists are caught in between. We're not caught between science and intelligent design; we are firm defenders of science. Rather we are caught between our desire to reach out to others with diverse views and our desire to protect science education from the corrosive anti-intellectualism that masquerades as piety. In reaching out to others, in focusing on deed before creed, we cannot sacrifice reason in exchange for "getting along." And back in 2005 Ethical Humanists could rejoice in the Kitzmiller decision. We can agree with Lebo in concluding, "Something beautiful played out here."

Ten years later we can all celebrate this beauty – the beauty of a judicial system that worked; the beauty of an educational system that, at least in this case, was saved from dogma; and the beauty of science itself – a way of looking at the world that both elevates and cautions us about human limitations. That will be the topic of my platform talk on December 6, entitled *The Humility and Integrity of Science*. And on that day, we will all be able to participate in a celebration

of the Kitzmiller decision along with our friends in the Freethought Society and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

There will be plenty of flyers and announcements about the program following our Tree of Knowledge decorating, so I will only briefly emphasize what an incredible program it is. Not only will we be able to hear from Lauri Lebo about her personal and professional experience covering the trial from the very beginning, but three speakers from Pepper Hamilton—attorney Steve Harvey, partner Eric Rothschild, and associate Hedya Aryani—will share their stories and be available for a Q & A session! Don't miss this incredible opportunity.

This program will occur after a luncheon and the whole day will conclude with a cash-bar happy hour with snacks. See me, or refer to any of the emails that will continue to be sent out until the RSPV deadline of December 3 to register for the whole afternoon (\$30), or just for the panel discussion and happy hour (\$15). Register now because seats are limited. The meal will be delicious so please join us for the whole afternoon!



Another reason I feel like celebrating is the fact that this November, EHSOP became the organizational sponsor for the secular scouting program, Navigators USA. We will be "Chapter 120, Philadelphia, PA!" EHSOP member Kim McKay and Amy Hillier Fraatz from the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia will be the co-leaders for this chapter this year. Currently the target age group for our EHSOP chapter is 6-10 year olds.

Five families have committed to being involved in starting this chapter, including Manny and his parents, EHSOP members Susan Brotherton and Dan Hoffman. If you know of others who might like to be involved, please speak to Kim. We look forward to many activities of learning together

(Continued next page 3)

Leader's Column (Continued from page 2)

how to be better citizens, neighbors, and environmental stewards.

The mission of Navigators is "...to teach future generations how to navigate the challenges of living outdoors while navigating the conflicts that arise through human interaction. By teaching the young that by thinking for themselves while collaborating with others they can achieve anything."

The "moral compass" that Navigators learn aligns nicely with Ethical Humanist values. They encourage the young Navigators, "...to do my best to create a world free of prejudice and ignorance, to treat people of every race, creed, lifestyle and ability with dignity and respect, to strengthen my body and improve my mind to reach my full potential, to protect our planet and preserve our freedom." My heartfelt thanks go out to Kim for initiating this project, and for sharing words for my Leader's column!



The last event I want to mention may be more exciting to me than to you, depending on whether you are a fan of combining folk music with fundraising for good causes. It is also tentative, pending sufficient support from the EHSOP community.

In part because of my own quest for creative outlets, I am offering, sometime in January, an Ethical Folk Night.

While this is still in the planning stage, here's the idea: I will invite a small local non-profit doing work that reflects the goals and values of Ethical Culture to an informal evening at 1906 Rittenhouse. All who attend will get a chance to socialize, share some food and drink, and be treated to an hour of folk music by yours truly. This will not be your typical music event, like many other sing-alongs I offer. I will perform my favorite songs that you may not know, but that express my passion for music.

The non-profit group will have ten minutes in intermission to share about their group and the good they do. We will pass the hat with all proceeds going to the non-profit. In addition, a suggested donation of \$5 at the door will cover food and drink for all. So, if you want to see Hugh pour his musical soul out publicly and have the chance to get to know other small communities trying to make the world a better place, see Hugh ASAP to volunteer and help make this dream a reality. <>

Quote-Unquote

"No longer can we afford a world organized to prevent aggression only if all the great powers wish it to be prevented. ... We face a choice between one world or none."

-Freda Kerchwey, editor of The Nation, discussing in its pages the implications of the atomic bomb, August 18, 1945.

Happenings

Our Leader Hugh in Concert at the Kimmel Center

On United Nations Day (October 24), Hugh joined in concert with five other leaders from various religious groups to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in recognizing the importance of religious tolerance in the conceptual foundation of the U N.



The panel members' presentations, which preceded a "Harmony for Peace" musical concert in the Kimmel Center, provided a rich variety of commitment to the U N. In true Hugh style, his presentation was energizing and concluded:

"Not only are religious minorities persecuted in all too many places, but so too are atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and freethinkers. If we are to support the inclusive, respectful and democratic vision of the United Nations 70 years after its birth, we must create relationships that enhance understanding and nurture tolerance."

Hugh received enthusiastic applause.

Announcements

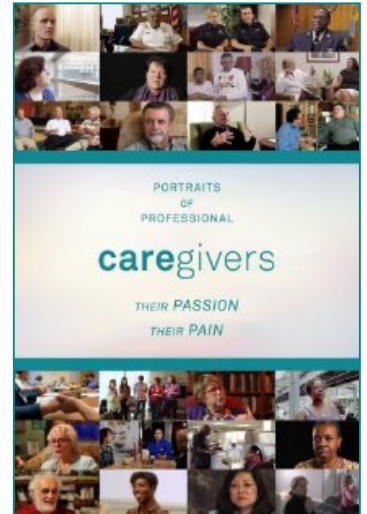


**Sunday, December 6,
7:00 PM - Introduction to
Ethical Humanism**

**Want to know more about
the history, philosophy
and community of Ethical
Humanism? Join Hugh
Taft-Morales, Clergy
Leader, and share wine,
cheese, and conversation
in a relaxed environment.
RSVP to
leaderhugh@phillyethics.org.**

Monday, December 7, 5:00 PM Film and dialogue at Free Library: “Portraits of Professional CAREgivers”

Please join Hugh at a free screening of the documentary film: “Portraits of Professional CAREgivers: Their Passion, Their Pain” at the Free Library of Philadelphia in the Skyline Room at 5:30 P.M. (Light Refreshments at 5:00). The CAREgivers film depicts the dramatic stories of care providers and public servants we call on in crisis. It asks “Who helps our helpers?” Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey will be the guest of honor. Some of you know the documentary’s producer and director, Vic Compher, who is active with the Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation and joined Hugh in creating the Interfaith Peace Dialogue at EHSOP this past September. Hugh will leave the Ethical Society at 4:45 P.M. to walk to the Free Library (in case you want to join him). More information about the film is at www.caregiversfilm.com.



Discussions on How Mass Incarceration Impacts Black Families beginning Dec. 8, 7:00 PM



Please join us to discuss Ta-Nehisi Coates’ article from the October 2015 issue of *The Atlantic*, “The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration.” Members Linda and Aissia Richardson, Yumy Odom of the Frator Heru Institute and Kate Esposito will be leading small-group guided discussions. As part of our commitment to more fully understand the Black Lives Matter Movement, it is essential that we engage in ongoing study, dialogue and discernment. Hard copies of the article will be available at the Society after Platforms, or you can access the article online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/10/theblackfamilyinthe-incarceration/403246/>. Please try to read the entire (long) article, but certainly be prepared for the evenings you come. RSVP to Kate at kmesposit@gmail.com or 6092730170. The article is divided into 9 sections. Discussions will be at 1906.

Sections I and II Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.
Sections III and IV Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Sections V, VI and VII Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.
Sections VIII and IX Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

American politicians are now eager to disown a failed criminal justice system that has left the U.S. with the largest incarcerated population in the world. But they have failed to reckon with history. Fifty years after Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s report “The Negro Family” tragically helped create this system, it is time to reclaim his original intent. Ta-Nehisi Coates is an American writer, journalist, and educator. He is a National Correspondent for *The Atlantic*, where he writes about cultural, social and political issues, particularly as regards African Americans, and one of this year’s recipients of a Genius Grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Announcements

(Continued)



Thursday, December 10, 6-9:00 P.M.

Celebration of Human Rights Day

Today celebrates the 67th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The title of this program is "Global Refugee Crisis: Philadelphia's Response." It is being organized by the UN Association of Greater Philadelphia. The program includes talks by leaders from different organizations in Philadelphia working with refugees. It emphasizes that refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers have inalienable rights, provides general information on the scope of the refugee/immigrant/asylum seeker crisis, globally as well as locally, and possible responses. There will be free food and drink at 6:00 PM. The program will start at 6:30 PM and run to 8:30 PM. The venue is the Assembly Room.



Sunday, December 13, noon to 3:00 PM: HumanLight Celebration

The Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia invites you all to this year's local HumanLight celebration on Sunday, December 13, at the Giant Superstore Community Room on the second floor at 315 York Rd. in Willow Grove. The cost is \$25.00/person. Everyone is welcome whether an HAGP member or not. RSVP by December 6 by emailing Bob Lennon at hagpbl@gmail.com. Children under 14 are free.

The Fine Art Music Company along with the Ethical Society will present two diverse concert events before year's end. Top musical players are joining us to participate in the rich selections being performed.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, at 3:00 PM: *MUSICAL MIGRATIONS*, with pianists Rollin Wilber and Kasia Salwinski; Jonathan Moser and Megumu Kajino, violinists; Geoffrey Baker, violist; and we welcome guest artists Douglas McNames, cellist, and clarinetist, Gi Lee. Works by Armenian/Soviet composer, Aram Khachaturian, and Hungarian composers Zoltan Kodaly, Bela Bartok, and Erno Dohnanyi, provide an fascinating and exotic array of emotional colors in original and folk-influenced music.



NEW TIME!!! WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, at 7:30 PM, *IN RECITAL: SCANDINAVIAN ACCENTS*, with flutist Elivi Varga, and pianist Rollin Wilber. Scandinavian-related composers and compositions are explored (Sibelius, Grieg, Hanson...) culminating in the extraordinary *Variations on a Theme* by Edvard Grieg, written by the great pianist Walter Gieseking, for flute and piano. It is believed this could be the first time this composition has ever been performed in Philadelphia, and it is a thoroughly enjoyable major work.

These concerts also are repeated (Nov. 28 & Dec. 6) at a second venue in Overbrook Farms ("Ivy Hall"). Visit www.FineArtMusicCompany.com for all concert details. More of these one-of-a kind concerts will continue in 2016!

Announcements

(Continued)



Save the Date!



Sunday, **January 17**, noon, EHSOP

Pledge Luncheon

Mark your calendar for a most important annual event at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia right after our platform service. That's when we will gather for our Community Pledge Luncheon to celebrate and recommit ourselves to growing Ethical Humanism in Philadelphia! Come for a delicious lunch courtesy of the Pledge Team and help support our jewel of a community here at 1906 Rittenhouse Square.



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Meeting 6:30 PM Education Committee	3	4	5
6 11:00 AM BIG SUNDAY (See below)	7 6:30 PM Free Library Film: "Portraits of Caregivers"	8 7:00 PM The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration Discussion Group #1	9 Meetings 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	10 6:30 PM Center Cty Philly HLAA P. McGeever	11	12
13 11:00 AM <i>Responding to Hate Speech</i> Billie Murray	14	15 7:00 PM The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration Discussion Group #2	16 7:30PM MUSIC @ ETHICAL: SCANDINAVIAN ACCENTS	17  7:00PM Amnesty Intl.	18	19
20 11:00 AM <i>EHSOP Winter Solstice Festival</i>	21	22	23 Meeting 7:00 PM EHSOP Board	24	25	26
27 NO PROGRAM	28	29	30	31		

BIG SUNDAY

11:00 AM - *Integrity and Humility of
Science* - Hugh Taft-Morales

12:15 PM - Tree of Knowledge

1-5:30 PM - *Kitzmiller* Luncheon,
Discussion, etc.

7:00 PM - Intro to Ethical Humanism

JANUARY 17
NOON

PLEDGE
LUNCHEON

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Jack Schwar
4 Xavier Mack
5 Josh Bickford
7 Bill Coffey
10 Ron Coburn
14 Ann Gay Freed
14 Richard Kiniry
16 Elizabeth Leonard
21 Bertha Stovall Waters
23 Bob Moore

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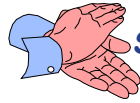
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(215) 735 - 3456
office@phillyethics.org
www.phillyethics.org



SUNDAY SERVICES



Hosts - Coordinated by
Lelah Marie

Dec. 6 - Jeffrey Dubb and Ruthann
Dubb

Dec. 13 - Garry O'Rourke and Mike
Black-Smith

Dec. 20 - Richard Kiniry and Marta
Guttenberg

Dec, 27 - CLOSED



Flowers - Coordinated by
David Ralston

Dec. 6 - Kate Esposito, "To my
friend James Wells who was deep
like a well and lived life to its
fullest."

Dec. 13 - Irene Putzer, "In honor of
my mother."

Dec. 20 - Garry O'Rourke, "To
welcome the winter solstice"

Dec. 27 - No flowers



Coffee Hour Coordinators

Dec. 6- John Marshall

Dec. 13 - Ken Greiff

Dec. 20 - Garry O'Rourke

Dec. 27 - No cookies

***Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia***

1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103