



ETHICAL VIEWS

November 2016

Vol. 131, No. 3

Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society



Sunday Platforms

Children's Sunday Programs:

Beginning each Sunday at 10:55 AM and continuing during our platforms, we have an ethical topics program designed for children ages 5 through early teens. Also, child care for younger children may be provided with at least two days' prior notice. Interested persons may contact Nick Sanders, nick@phillyethics.org

Remember, clocks fall back on Sunday, November 6

Sunday, Nov. 6, 11:00 AM
The Ethics of Sports: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society



As a lifelong sports fan, Hugh Taft-Morales is challenged to address the many ethical issues that arise around athletics in the United States. His experience playing football, hockey, and lacrosse led him to believe that it all helped him to effectively channel his aggression. But is this just an excuse to justify his current habit of watching sports? Are some sports less ethical than others? What are the greatest ethical issues surrounding sports: The violence? The abuse of college athletes as a tool for raising revenue? The diversion of resources away from more important priorities such as the health and education of our children? What's wrong with being a fanatical sports fan? What are the rights of transgender individuals? What personal biases or resistance should allies of transgendered people identify and neutralize?

Sunday, Nov. 13, 11:00 AM
Getting to the Toilet on Time
Angelita Fasnacht-Cuellar, Water and Community Health Activist

In recognition of International Toilet Day November 19, "Getting to the Toilet on Time" will focus on the lives of many women and girls who don't have the ability to reach a toilet. It is also a journey to get to understand how puberty plays an awful role in the lives of those who lack privacy or toilets. Fasnacht-Cuellar will tell the story of her own personal experience of living without a toilet.



Angelita Fasnacht-Cuellar has 19 plus years of experience in Environmental & Civil Engineering, Grant Management and Engineering Management, specializing in Water and Community Health. Her professional & academic experience includes managing and supporting projects for Safe Water Network, Aguayuda, International Rural Water Association, Catholic Relief Services, Pan-American Health Organization, and Water Aid through Kosovo-Addis consulting group. She is Vice President of Philadelphia Global Water Initiative, and lectures at the University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering, School of Nursing, and at the School of Public Health of Drexel University. She has represented Millennium Water Alliance and has negotiated and managed grants and contracts with several donors in the USA and Colombia, including UNICEF,

USAID. She has also worked for CARE's Senior Advisor for WASH, and participated on his behalf on El Salvador's national water agenda planning meeting. In Colombia, she managed development projects for a local NGO in Huila. Currently she is working as an Engineer with American Water Military Service Group.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:00 AM
Humanist Thanksgiving Celebration

Come to our Ethical Society Thanksgiving gathering as we share expressions of gratitude and celebrate nature's bounty with music, readings, and poetry. Please bring \$15 to contribute, or \$10 if you contribute a dish. We will also pass a collection plate and half the sum contributed will go to the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance, known as MANNA. Each month MANNA delivers 65,000 warm and nourishing meals, all free of charge, to our ill neighbors in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. **RSVP by November 13** by contacting Jeff Dubb or Ken Greiff in person, on the phone, or by email. For non-members, RSVP to Hugh Taft-Morales at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org

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LEADER'S COLUMN



*Hugh Taft-Morales,
Leader,
Philadelphia
Ethical
Society*

The Sad State of “Locker-Room Talk”

Given the bizarre nature of this year's Presidential campaign, I am taking a risk in writing about this moving target. Who knows what weird twists will occur before our *Ethical Views* publication date. But I must address this sad instance of “locker-room talk.” This is more than a political or partisan issue – this is an ethical issue.

As someone who, before my arthritis kicked in, considered himself an athlete, I have an inside perspective. From middle school gym class through participation in Division One NCAA lacrosse, I've overheard a lot of what is said in locker rooms. Honestly I didn't say anything in those locker rooms to be ashamed of, but I did overhear misogynist comments and remained silent. I'm not proud of that. I wish I had condemned them.

But in my locker rooms I *never* heard comments that so appallingly combined sexism and abuse of power as those spoken by Donald Trump. This was not lost on one of the moderators who had to speak to the candidate like a second grade teacher admonishing a student. At the start of the October 9 debate Anderson Cooper asked Trump, “You described kissing women without their consent, grabbing their genitals. That is sexual assault. You bragged that you have sexually assaulted women. Do you understand that?” He obviously thought that Trump did not.

The fact that Trump could so blithely dismiss and excuse his statements because “boys will be boys” nauseates me. This is not hyperbole. What have we come to in our country that someone aspiring to the highest office in the land could, with a straight face, offer future misogynists cover? Misguided high school athletes will now have the opportunity to say similar things and think, “If a major party candidate can get away with it, so can I.”

After a few moments of denial and contextualization, Trump turned to the misdeeds of President Bill Clinton to distract from his own behavior. But Trump is not running against Bill Clinton. To cite the former president's behavior to criticize Hillary is wrong, and a sign of how far Trump will go.

I will not attempt to deny or contextualize what Bill Clinton did. To my thinking, his relationship with a White House intern was sexual harassment. His position of power over an intern makes a sexual relationship totally inappropriate. While the impeachment trial was greatly a political gambit, Bill Clinton's behavior cannot be condoned. For too long men have gotten away with harassment and abuse with a nod and a wink. Let me be clear: the problem is, and has for a long time been, something about men. Men, men, men, men, men. Is that clear?

I am glad to see that a series of male professional athletes have pushed back. These include Philadelphia 76ers' guard Kendall Marshall, who offered a public service announcement via twitter: “Sexual advances without consent is NOT locker room talk.” Portland Trailblazers' guard C.J. McCollum said that he hadn't heard any “locker-room talk” like that before. Oakland A's pitcher Sean Doolittle agreed: “As an athlete, I've been in locker rooms

my entire adult life and, uh, that's not locker-room talk.”

Besides, over the past 44 years since the passage of Title IX, things have changed. Trump obviously doesn't know that. Since it became illegal to discriminate between male and female athletes, more women have benefited from what athletics offers. They are due equal athletic programs and facilities, including locker rooms. And I bet the talk in those locker rooms is a far cry from the grotesque sexism demonstrated by Trump.

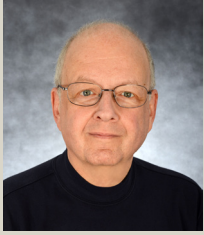
Editor's note: *Among the numerous absurdities of the election seasons was the plagiarism of a speech by Michelle Obama, giving rise to quips such as, “I'd like to thank my speechwriters, CTRL-C and CTRL-V.” (For the less-than-geeky, these are the computer keyboard shortcuts for COPY and PASTE).*

Please note that Hugh submitted his message several days before Mrs. Obama spoke on the same subject at a rally in New Hampshire. No plagiarism here, just a strikingly similar degree of ethical shock and dismay, moving each to speak out!

The Philadelphia Ethical Society does not endorse election candidates, but as Mrs. Obama put it, “[I]t doesn't matter what party you belong to — Democrat, Republican, independent — no woman deserves to be treated this way.” The following link to a video and transcript of her speech is intended purely as a means of sharing a powerful message from a female perspective that complements Hugh's male view:

<http://www.npr.org/2016/10/13/497846667/transcript-michelle-obamas-speech-on-donald-trumps-alleged-treatment-of-women>

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Bob Bueding

A Time for Thanksgiving

My friends, in the coming Thanksgiving holiday season, let's try to cultivate an "attitude of gratitude."

The first thing for which we can be grateful is that in the USA we only elect a president every four years. Maybe the next go-round will be more palatable.

There are so many good things we share that rarely earn a second thought: inexpensive, reliable public transportation; clean, abundant water; air conditioning and central heating; fresh,

nourishing food; freedom and the rule of law; the right to vote our conscience; the support and encouragement of family and friends, and our gift of membership in the Ethical Society.

That being said, we have much work to do. We have amazing resources in the USA, so we need to learn how to use our abundance to help others and to make our world a better place for all of us. The first thing we need to do is to learn how to work together. Recently I heard someone say, "I can't fix things by myself." If we don't learn how to interact with others we are missing an opportunity to make our world a better place for everyone.

At the Philadelphia Ethical Society we honor the worth of every individual and strive for social justice through our most distinguishing characteristic – the emphasis on building strong relationships so as to bring out the best in each one of us. We at our Society strive to live

our lives by living up to our motto of building relationships.

Our Ethical Action Committee is a prime example of our commitment to building a better world. Our members are out and on the front lines fighting to make our world a better place. Our relationship with POWER is another example. By partnering with other groups we multiply our efforts to improve our planet.

If you are not involved in what we do, please consider joining us. By joining in, you will make new friends and strengthen your relationships with our members. We have many members from all walks of life: doctors, lawyers, educators, and even a few photographers in our midst.

Please join us, we need your talents. Your reward will be stronger personal relationships and a better world for all of us.

– Bob

bbueding@phillyethics.org

Continued from page 1

Sunday, Nov. 27, 11:00 AM

Journeys: An Experiment in Dialogue and Reflection

Christian Hayden, PES member and recipient of the American Ethical Union's Mossler Fellowship

As the year comes to end and winter comes upon us, it is helpful to think of where we have been, as well as where we wish to go. Christian Hayden will lead an evolving exercise that explores how we can become more grounded and leave a space feeling more connected than we were on entering it. Christian will employ techniques of exchange from Ethical Culture's own colloquy, (meditative reflection that uses music); and from Theatre of the Oppressed, (an assortment of movement games that explore social justice). If you want to be a part of this experience, come open minded in comfortable clothes and ready to explore with others.

AN EDITOR WONDERS:

Whatever Happened to HAPPENINGS?

When Catch-22 author Joseph Heller published his long awaited second novel, *Something Happened*, it elicited the terse review: "Nothing did." Curiously, it would appear that nothing happened at the Ethical Society lately. There have been few submissions for Ethical Views, and in particular none at all for the Happenings section. It's a tad hard to believe that nothing happened at PES, especially when the Announcements section has been packed with advance notice of just about everything except cancellations!

So how about sharing your take on what's been happening – or what should be happening – at PES? Your words and your photos are always welcome. If you'd like to contribute, please contact the Editor, Steve Bremner, at stevebremner@fastmail.fm

– Thanks!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 6, 7:00 PM
– Introduction to Ethical Humanism

Newcomers and visitors are encouraged to attend an Introduction to Ethical Humanism. Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, will offer a brief presentation and host a discussion from 7:00-8:30 PM. Come learn about Ethical Culture's unique brand of humanism and what it could mean to you during a relaxed 90 minutes. Please RSVP to leaderhugh@phillyethics.org.

CAPITALISM IN CRISIS SERIES

Monday, November 7, 7:00 PM
**Philanthrocapitalism:
 The Dark Side of Charity**



Lynne Andersson
 Associate
 Professor of
 Business &
 Society, Temple
 University Fox
 School of Business

Does democracy allow the wealthy few to advance their favorite causes and shape local societies?

Guest **Lynne Andersson**, in conversation with host **Hugh Taft-Morales**, explores the main competitor to NGOs and nonprofit organizations in the realm of international development: philanthrocapitalism. Can entrepreneurs and venture

capitalists help improve impoverished areas more effectively than nonprofits, or does self-interest end up corrupting development efforts?

Andersson's research focuses on the dark side of business organizations as well as the role of social activism in countering capitalist barriers to sustainability. She is currently on the Board of Directors at the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia.

Presentation, discussion and questions from the floor. All programs are free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Ethical Society, the Fox School of Business at Temple University, and the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia.

FINAL CAPITALISM IN CRISIS EVENING WILL BE:
December 5, 7:00 PM
Why Not Socialism?

Joseph Schwartz, is a progressive political activist, Professor of Political Science at **Temple University** and leader in the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) www.dsausa.org



Thursday, December 8 ,
Education as a Human Right
City Council Member -at-
Large Helen Gym, plus others
5:30 PM: Networking and refreshments;
Program begins 6:15 PM

Celebrating the U.N. General Assembly's adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948, the Ethical Society will host and co-sponsor a United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia program highlighted by City Council Member-at-Large Helen Gym.

Watch for more information during November.

PLEDGE



Save the Date – Sunday, January 22, 2017 – Pledge Luncheon

Mark your calendar for a most important annual event at the Philadelphia Ethical Society: January 22 at high noon, right after a shortened platform service. We're having our Community Pledge Luncheon to celebrate and recommit ourselves to growing Ethical Culture in Philadelphia! Come for a delicious lunch courtesy of the Pledge Team.

Continued on page 5



MUSIC at ETHICAL CONCERTS ON THE SQUARE

**Sunday,
November 6, 3:00 PM**

A reminder that Rollin Wilber and the Fine Art Music Company will present the opening concert of our third *Music at Ethical* season at 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square.

American Classical Spirit: Celebrating composers who expressed the spirit of our land in iconic works that show the remarkable palette of our uniquely American sound.

Program:

Aaron Copland
– *Duo for Flute and Piano*
Charles Ives – *Violin Sonata #4, for Violin and Piano*
William Grant Still – *Suite for Violin and Piano*
George Gershwin – *Rhapsody in Blue for four-hand piano*
Performing Artists:
Jonathan Moser, violinist
Elivi Varga, flutist
Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski, pianist
Rollin Wilber, pianist

Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$20 seniors, \$15 PES members, \$10 students from
www.FineArtMusicCompany.com or call 215-803-9725

Wanted and Welcomed: Words of Inspiration . . for the Winter Solstice Celebration on Sunday, December 18

Each year the Winter Solstice Celebration at the Ethical Society presents a program of music and readings (poetry and short prose selections) as we move with the season from darkness into light. To keep the Celebration evolving, we introduce some new readings each year, and we are soliciting members' submissions. The readings should in some way fit one of the following themes:

- **Nature**
- **Light (physical and/or intellectual)**
- **Community (our lives together in dark days)**



The deadline for submission to the Society Office (Education mailbox) is Sunday, December 4. No submission will be accepted after that date. On December 11, members and friends will be invited to select and sign for the item they would like to read at the Solstice.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? *A look at some other public events at the Ethical Society Building in November*

Solarize Center City. Learn about solar opportunities at this community meeting. **Sunday, November 13, 3:30 PM.** Sponsors: Center City Residents' Association, Judy Wicks, Clean Air Council, and Solar States.

Philadelphia Performances for Autism. Free, autism-friendly, professional concert. **Sunday, November 20, 3:00-4:00 PM.** More info: <http://www.arlenhlusko.com/ppa/>

Annual Tibetan Fair, Friday & Saturday, November 25 & 26, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Free event. More info: <http://phillytibetans.com/>

HAPPENINGS . . .

CHENEY'S EPIPHANY – October 9th platform



Ethical Society thespians offer a suddenly benevolent Dick Cheney following a heart transplant in Gordon Bennett's "Cheney's Epiphany," the runner-up in the 2016 One Act Playwriting competition organized by PES member Pat McGeever. From left to right: Jeff Dubb (Dick Cheney); Carol Love (daughter Missy Poo); Gordon Bennett; and Pat McGeever. Not pictured are Barbara Silver (wife Lyndsey Poo); and David Ralston (Colin Powell).

Photo by Betsy Lightbourn



HUGH ELECTED PRESIDENT . . . OF THE NATIONAL LEADERS COUNCIL

The National Leaders Council (NLC) of the American Ethical Union recently met over the course of four days, October 12-15. The Leaders Council is the organization of all certified Ethical Culture Leaders. It meets three times a year, each time including a business meeting, but also with a seasonal focus: in the fall it focuses on planning how to help Ethical Culture flourish; in the late winter it concentrates on rejuvenation and deepening the bond between Leaders; and in the summer it focuses on educational sessions. This fall, at the NLC Business meeting, the Philadelphia Ethical Society's own Hugh Taft-Morales was elected to serve as president of the NLC! Good luck to Hugh as he offers his services to the cause of the national Ethical Culture movement.

INSTITUTIONAL RACISM: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Sylvia Metzler shares more food for thought on racism:

In Bryan Stevenson's New York Times bestseller *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* we read:

Between 1990 and 2005, a new prison opened in the United States every ten days. Prison growth and the resulting 'prison-industrial complex' – the business interests that capitalize on prison construction – made imprisonment so profitable that millions of dollars were spent lobbying state legislators to keep expanding the use of incarceration to respond to just about any problem. Incarceration became the answer to everything – health care problems like drug addiction, poverty that had led someone to write a bad check, child behavioral disorders, managing the mentally disabled poor, even immigration issues generated responses from legislators that involved sending people to prison. Never before had so much lobbying money been spent to expand America's prison population, block sentencing reforms, create new crime categories, and sustain the fear and anger that fuel mass incarceration than during the last twenty-five years in the United States.

As members and friends of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, what can we do about institutional racism? To share your ideas, or for more information, please contact Sylvia Metzler and the Ethical Action Subcommittee on Racism.

– Thanks,
Sylvia
sylmetz@juno.com

Q NOVEMBER 2016 Q

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 PES MEETING 6:30 p.m. Education Committee	3	4	5
6 11:00 a.m.: <i>The Ethics of Sports</i> Hugh Taft-Morales 3:00 p.m. <i>Music at Ethical</i> 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i> Hugh Taft-Morales	7 7:00 p.m. <i>Capitalism in Crisis: Philanthrocapitalism: The Dark Side of Charity</i>	8	9 PES MEETINGS 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee 6:30 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	10	11	12
13 11:00 a.m. <i>Getting to the Toilet on Time</i> Angelita Fasnacht-Cuellar	14	15	16 PES MEETING 6:30 p.m. PES Board of Trustees	17 7:00 p.m. Amnesty International Meeting	18	19 7:00 p.m. <i>Laughing Liberally</i> Scott Blakeman
20 11:00 a.m. <i>Humanist Thanksgiving Celebration</i>	21	22	23	24 11:00 a.m. <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 	25	26
27 11:00 a.m. <i>Journeys: An Experiment in Dialogue and Reflection</i>	28	29	30 PES MEETING 7:00 p.m. Camp Linden Committee			

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bob Bueding
- 7 Irene Putzer
- 21 Linda Waters Richardson
- 29 Howard Peer

GET OUT THE VOTE. GET INTO ACTION.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER

THROUGH JUNE

Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

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Hosts Coordinated by John Marshall

Sunday hosts greet
and orient members
and visitors and make a
valuable contribution to
the community. If you'd like to help
out, please contact John.



Coffee Hour Coordinators

Nov 6 - John Marshall
Nov 13 - Ken Greiff
Nov 20- Garry O'Rourke
Nov 27- Harry Thorn



Flowers Coordinated by David Ralston

Nov 6 - "From Temma &
Arnold in celebration of
their grandson Robin's 7th
birthday!"

Nov 13 - Terry Martin-Murley and
Lyle Murley, "In honor of our 40th
Anniversary (Oct. 11)"

Nov 20 - Anonymous,
"Happy Thanksgiving to All"

Nov 27 - Doris Leicher,
"Happy Birthday to my
wonderful husband Howard"

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

**As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the
highest appreciation is not
to utter words, but to live by
them.**

**Let us therefore proclaim our
gratitude to Providence for
manifold blessings - let us be
humbly thankful for inherited
ideals - and let us resolve
to share those blessings and
those ideals with our fellow
human beings throughout the
world.**

— John F. Kennedy,
November 5, 1963: *Proclamation*
3560 – *Thanksgiving Day, 1963*

For suggestions regarding this
newsletter, contact Steve Bremner:
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