

Sunday Platforms

Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) will be meeting twice a month, usually when Hugh is scheduled for the platform. In January, those dates are the 8th and the 22nd. If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, nick@phillyethics.org

Sunday, January 8, 11:00 AM Memorial Sunday Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society



At our first Sunday platform of each year, we at the Philadelphia Ethical Society remember those who have died. Members and guests are invited to share memories of loved ones and historical heroes no longer with us. Such memories can inspire us to bring out our best. This year you are encouraged to share a few words



regarding how those we have lost help us live closer to our ethical ideals. How have those no longer physically here inspired you to be the best person you can be?

Sunday, January 15, 11:00 AM Criminal Injustice in the Age of Trump Adam Benforado, Professor of Law, Drexel University

The failures of our criminal justice system have gained great attention over the last couple years, and with a new president set to take office we are at a pivotal moment. To make progress in our fight against abuse, unequal treatment, and wrongful convictions, Adam Benforado argues that we must move beyond the conventional accounts that place blame on bigoted police officers, corrupt prosecutors, and other evil actors. Rather, we must consider the hidden psychological biases that shape all of our behavior, and accept that good people – judges, jurors, witnesses, and cops – can create terrible injustice.



Adam Benforado is professor of law at Drexel University and the best-selling author of *Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice*. His research is focused on applying insights from psychology and neuroscience to legal issues. A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, he served as a clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and an attorney at Jenner & Block. He has published numerous scholarly articles in law reviews and scientific journals, and his popular writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Scientific American*, *Slate*, and *The Atlantic*.

Sunday, January 22, 11:00 AM The Oath of Office and the Light of Inspiration Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin pointed at the back of the Convention president's chair, on which was painted a sun at the horizon, and said, "I have often... looked at that sun behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun." As President Trump swears to support and defend the Constitution, is our national sun still rising? How can the light of Ethical Culture help inspire optimism for the future of our country?

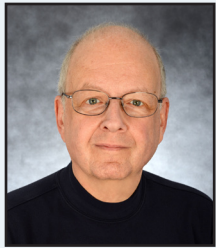


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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



A New Year with New Challenges

Bob Bueding

First, I'd like to wish all of our members and friends a happy and healthy new year.

Now that 2017 is upon us, we have many challenges ahead. As Ethical Humanists we have an obligation to work to make our country and world a better place for all. In 2017, and moving forward, there is anticipation of an uncertain future in our government. What can we Ethical Humanists do?

We can work together with other congregations in groups like POWER to help advance the agendas of the less fortunate. As individuals, we have to pay close attention to positions of candidates in future elections, and strongly support those that manifest values consistent with building an ethical culture. Then maybe we can start to rebuild our broken government.

The next area of concern for us is to continue to build our Society. We offer a lot because we work to make our planet a better place for all. We need all of our members to talk to their friends and really tell them what we are all about.

Hopefully, in a month we will have business cards for you to give to your friends; they will have a link to our new website and our Facebook page. Please be proactive, talk about what we offer at 1906. In December the Board of Trustees welcomed three new members to the Society. Let's continue to grow our numbers.

There is a lot of excitement at our Society – let's promote it!

The last item for my January column is another plea for your participation. Most of our committees have only a few members, who happen to be the same people who serve on other committees. In addition, there are many ways to share the load (and joys) of participating, such as hosting on Sundays, helping with coffee hours, and volunteering for Camp Linden workdays. We need more HELP!

I would like to recognize John Marshall, who has taken on many roles and would welcome your assistance. John is coordinating our weekly hosts as well as the First Sunday coffee hour. Please step forward and help John. If you have not been involved in any activities, please consider participating in 2017.

I hope you are enjoying our Society; there is something for everyone. As always, if you have suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

– Bob

bbueding@phillyethics.org



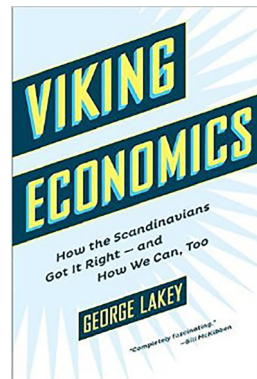
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Sunday, January 29, 11:00 AM How Scandinavians Challenge Us with an Ethic of Equality and Freedom George Lakey, author, professor, and social change activist

The Scandinavian countries have reached the highest point, so far achieved, in some values most Americans share. We can learn not only how their economies make that possible, but also their struggle in getting there.

George Lakey recently retired as professor at Swarthmore College and published his ninth book, *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right – and How We Can, Too*. He has led over 1,500 social change

workshops on five continents. He was first arrested in the civil rights movement, then most recently with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT). Other leadership was in the peace, gay, economic justice, and men's anti-sexist movements.



LEADER'S COLUMN



Gratitude for Caregivers

*Hugh Taft-Morales,
Leader
Philadelphia
Ethical Society*

I look forward to being back with the Ethical Society community in 2017! I am sorry that I cannot be there with you to usher in a new year that will offer plenty of ethical challenges, I am sure – from personal challenges to the political and social issues that are already clouding our horizon. It is, however, easier to face the future as a part of a caring community like the one at 1906 S. Rittenhouse.

This Leader's column comes at a time when I am personally very grateful for caregivers. Three days after having full left hip replacement surgery, I am back at home managing the narcotic medication necessary to mask the pain. My wife Maureen has taken time off from work to help me recover and to remind me not to overdo things or take unnecessary risks. Her sympathy and support have been invaluable. I hope it all pays off by allowing us to return to our ballroom dancing classes by the spring!

I am, of course, grateful to Dr. Antoni Goral and the other doctors, nurses, and staff at Holy Cross Hospital near my home in Maryland. Dr. Goral is both professional and casual, and made this procedure seem less dramatic than what I had whipped up in my imagination upon first hearing details of it. My gratitude to him, and to three of his past patients who recommended him, is now

free of the pre-operative anxiety, and buoys my spirits as I begin the arduous road back to the Ethical Society through physical therapy. The friendly and personal care offered by the hospital staff was a far cry from some of the horror stories one hears about hospital stays. It's so easy to feel caught up in an uncaring bureaucracy that seems oblivious to our inherent worth.

In general, one of the hardest things for anyone facing serious challenges – whether medical, financial, or emotional – is the sense of helplessness. For someone like me, lucky to have avoided that sense of helplessness for much of my life, a temporary period of helplessness is somewhat easier to process. There is



comfort in knowing that soon I will be back up on my feet and feeling relatively independent.

We know, of course, that total independence is a bit of a myth. We live in an interdependent web, constantly relying on each other to provide the basics of life. It is one of the reasons why, at so many Thanksgivings in humanist homes and institutions, we share appreciation for each other and for all those who support our lives. We shared much appreciation at our

Ethical Humanist Thanksgiving this past year. At our community Thanksgiving we shared many “non-theist blessings.” I will share just one, sent to me this fall by Temma Fishman. From TheHumanist.com website, Paul Diamond offers these simple words:

I offer my deepest appreciation and my most profound apologies to the plants and animals whose lives were forfeit for our good health this day. We give thanks to the ranchers and the farmers, their workers and their hands whose skill, sweat and toil have brought forth this bounty from the Earth. We are grateful to the workers in the fields who pick our food, the workers in the plants where our food is processed, the teamsters who carry it to market and the stockers and the checkers who offer it up for our selection. We are particularly appreciative for those at this table who have prepared this food with love and affection for our enjoyment and nourishment this day.

Awareness of this interdependent web offers humanists plenty to be thankful for without having to reference some supernatural deity. We are, after all, social creatures. Our sense of identity is wrapped up in our relationships – relationships with those close to us personally, and those with whom we simply share a group affiliation, whether that's a sports franchise or a nation, an ethnic group or an Ethical Society.

I hope that in the New Year we here at 1906 will be able to knit our community more closely together in many ways, but particularly through re-invigoration of our Caring Team. Henry Pashkow has volunteered to

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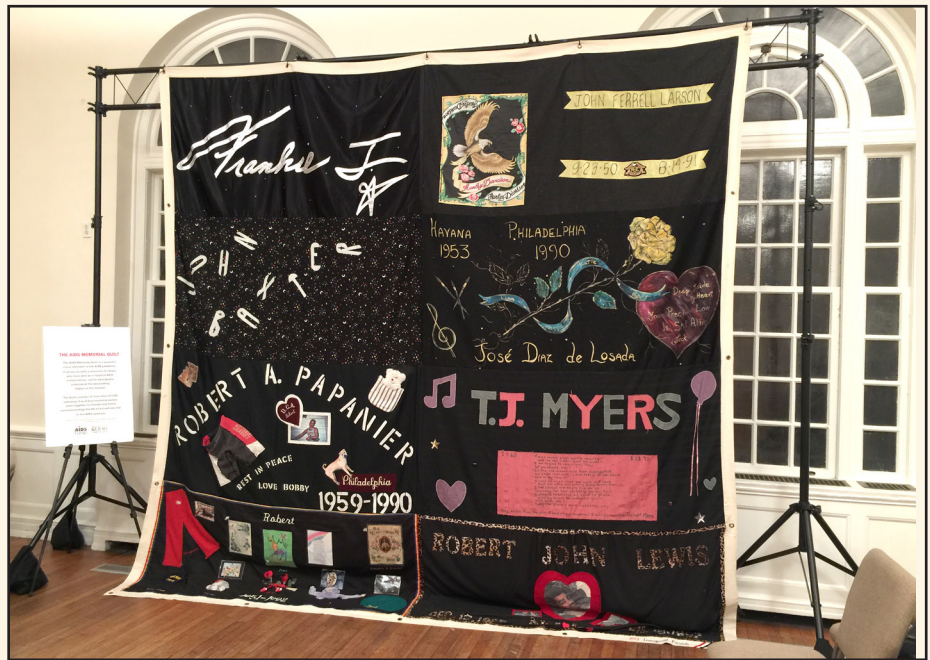
HAPPENINGS

World AIDS Day, December 1

On World AIDS Day, December 1, the Ethical Society Building hosted an awareness and outreach program co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's HIV Prevention Research Division, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Posse Project, (promoting HIV awareness). The highlight of the evening was a House Ball fashion show developed in collaboration with students from the Art Institute of Philadelphia.

AIDS Fund (aidsfundphilly.org), another event partner, brought one of the many 12 foot by 12 foot sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to display for the event. AIDS Fund graciously allowed us to have the section on display in the auditorium for a week around AIDS day, so that it could be viewed by attendees at platform and other programs during early December.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt provides a creative means for remembrance, illustrates the enormity of the AIDS epidemic, and increases the general public's awareness of HIV/AIDS. More than 47,000



individual 3-by-6 foot memorial panels – most commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS – have been sewn together by friends, lovers, and family or loved ones. The last time the entire quilt was displayed with all its panels was in 1996 on the National Mall.



Photo courtesy N.I.H.

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a powerful visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic.

It serves as both a memorial for those who have died as a result of AIDS complications, and to help people understand the devastating impact of the disease.

The Quilt consists of more than 47,000 individual 3-by-6 foot memorial panels, sewn together by friends and family commemorating the life of a loved one lost to the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS Fund is proud to partner with The NAMES Project Foundation to present panels of The AIDS Memorial Quilt.

**AIDS
FUND**

**THE
QUILT**
THE NAMES PROJECT FOUNDATION

Capitalism In Crisis at PES - Final event in the series held on December 5th.

Joseph M. Schwartz, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Temple University and leader in the Democratic Socialists of America, discusses Democratic Socialism with Leader Hugh Taft-Morales at the last event in the Society's Capitalism in Crisis series on December 5.

Photo by Dan Hoffman



HAPPENINGS *continued*

The Tree of Knowledge Returns to the Ethical Society Building, December 4th

On Sunday, December 4, after platform and a mini-concert by pianist Rollin Wilber, PES members joined friends from the Freethought Society in an annual celebration of openness, freedom of conscience, and knowledge – decorating the Tree of Knowledge in the Ethical Society Building lobby.

The Tree's "ornaments" consist of laminated copies of the covers of participants' favorite books. A second tree, the Tree of Knowledge for Young Freethinkers, introduced last year, again featured books for, and selected largely by, young readers.



Leader Hugh added what might be called a "Tie of Knowledge" – a necktie depicting banned books, which also served as an illustration for his platform talk, "Freethought and Free Press in Trump Times."



Making Cards for MANNA on December 4th

MANNA is a non-profit organization that cooks and delivers nutritious, medically appropriate meals and provides nutrition counseling to Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey neighbors who are battling life-threatening illnesses.

On Sunday, December 4, inspired by the presentation of MANNA at the PES Humanist Thanksgiving, member Kim McKay led the Navigators scouting group in a service project to make cards for MANNA to include in their meals. The children sent messages of love and hope. Here's an example of their work.



coordinate his team of volunteers, supported by Susan Brotherton, the chair of the Community Committee, which oversees the Caring Team.

The Caring Team is responsible – as far as its volunteer resources allow – for staying in touch with members, especially those less able to attend our programs due to distance, illness, or infirmity. This could include continuing our tradition of sending members birthday cards thanks to Irene, to home visitations with those unable to attend platform, to supporting those in crisis. One big unanswered question is just how far our volunteer resources will reach. Will you consider joining the Caring Team?

Of course, while human compassion is a natural part of our animal nature, some training can help us be more effective. For example, while Dr. Goral's friendly persona helped me feel reassured, it was his medical training and expertise that mattered the most to me!

Offering support to those in crisis can be challenging, especially when our natural empathy pushes us to want to fix any situation. Often we cannot. If enough volunteers join the Caring Team, perhaps we can arrange some training and workshops. It's one thing to visit someone once who is stuck at home recovering from hip surgery. It's another to open oneself up to the suffering of someone struggling to manage more chronic physical, emotional, or financial challenges.

Sometimes the most important training involves knowing when to seek expert advice. Any long-

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Leader's Column, continued from page 5

term caregiver knows that it is in the best interests both of those they are helping and of themselves to manage healthy boundaries. Caregivers need to know what they can offer; what they cannot; and how, when necessary, to refer those in need to others with more time, resources, or expertise. We are, for example, improving and updating a list of social workers, therapists, and public service agencies available to support our members.

As your pastor, I can offer pastoral counseling, but I am not a certified counselor. I am not the best choice to offer long-term guidance concerning chronic psychological issues. I am also not equipped to help those struggling financially, a percentage of our population that continues to grow as the American middle class is squeezed. And, as your pastor recovering from surgery, I cannot be there all the time.

That's why I hope you will consider volunteering for the Caring Team. What personal interests or strengths do you have that could make a difference to someone else's life? Can you share some social time with an isolated member, or lend an empathetic ear to someone struggling? Can you help organize a few meals created and delivered by our members to others stuck at home due to illness? Who has skills or services that might help out a member while knitting our community closer together?

Please let **Henry Pashkow** (hpashkow@gmail.com) or **Susan Brotherton** (susan.a.brotherton@gmail.com) know if you would be willing to join the Caring Team. Caregiving offers the experience of gratitude both to those who give and to those who receive. It really brings out the best in us all.

CONFRONTING RACISM

Standing Rock Environmental Racism 101

*PES Anti-Racism Task Force member
Christian Hayden writes:*

When we look at recent events at Standing Rock, North Dakota, depending who we are we may hone in on different narratives. From a legal historian's perspective we may see a continuity of this nation's standoff with the indigenous people over treaties and land settlements. For the environmentalist this is another example of choosing the development of fossil fuels infrastructure over investment in cleaner and renewable energy. For some attuned to viewing and critiquing the legacy of this nation legally and environmentally from the perspective of social justice, something else is evident – racism. The first proposed route for the Dakota Access Pipeline ran near a water supply for Bismarck, the second largest city in North Dakota and a mostly white community considerably wealthier than that through which the pipeline was subsequently diverted – north of Standing Rock, a community with a poverty rate three times the national average.

Decisions such as these are not uncommon, and would never have been made for communities that are white and wealthy. For instance, Brentin Mock, a journalist who writes for *The Atlantic's CityLab*, points out how, with Freddie Gray and Michael Brown, the socio-economic conditions familiar to us in terms of their respective cities' job and educational opportunities also contained environmental dimensions. Freddie Gray's exposure to lead, and the toxic emissions that cloud the air breathed by the residents in Michael Brown's community of Ferguson, add another layer to how injustice can be a consequence of how we treat our environment. Who should bear the burden of the contamination of our communities?

Though the protests at Standing Rock resulted in a victory of sorts, with redirection of the pipeline on the table but not cessation of construction, there are many other battles brewing that offer an opportunity not only for engagement of the question, how do we fairly bear the burden of our environment, but also for a conversation on how we should be treating our environment in the first place. We may learn from Destiny Watford, a high schooler from Baltimore, which suffers from the most deaths from air pollution in the country. She led a campaign over four years which stopped the construction of an incinerator. EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Team) has been organizing around environmental issues across the state of Pennsylvania. <http://www.eqat.org>



They led a successful campaign for PNC Bank to divest from mountaintop removal companies. This opportunity for solidarity must not be missed; in fact, it is urgent, as the air we breathe and the water we drink concern and connect us all. We may soon enough be screaming in unison – 'We Can't Breathe.'

Editor's note: *This month, don't just read the message on confronting racism – be part of it! Please see the Announcements section for Sylvia Metzler's invitation to PES members to dinner and a personal discussion of Black Lives Matter on January 27.*



NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

PES member Temma Fishman writes:

For years, I've found solace in our Philadelphia Ethical Society community. But of late, my need for it has become more imperative and essential to my mental well-being.

In these troubling times, trying to deal with the coming administration's tilt to the far right toward white supremacy, I'm more than ever feeling the need of support from our Humanist, ethical, and progressive community.

In the face of the threat of diminishing social, racial, and environmental justice, I give thanks for the words of our leader, Hugh Taft-Morales, and our rational, forward-looking community. While we do face forward, we have not forgotten the lessons of history engraved in our culture by slavery, Jim Crow laws and lynchings, the genocide of Native Americans, and the internment of Japanese-American citizens, to name a few. We do not ignore the reality of racial hatred that still infects our society and informs the fervor of some who support this new administration.

The rallies held by the president-elect have the flavor of Klan events, eliciting chilling cheers and playing to the worst impulses within our fellow citizens. The call for a registry of Muslim citizens, which hopefully will not be realized, recalls the horrors of the Nazi regime and heralds a trend we do not ignore. The declaration that flag-burning citizens should be jailed does the same. Threats to break immigrant families apart and

build walls to keep others out, even if not brought to fruition, betray an ugly nativism.

In some states, women are denigrated by proposed draconian laws requiring the funerals and burials of aborted fetuses, not to mention the increasingly certain reality of losing access to safe, legal abortions and birth control. What dedicated activists have fought so hard for is soon to be curtailed and in some states, lost entirely. This tragic state of affairs will be cemented by a reactionary Supreme Court.



Health care, especially for the poorest and sickest among us, is threatened with severe cuts. Medicaid benefits will be diminished and perhaps lost entirely for those who now receive them.

Environmental protections are being gutted by plans to roll back regulations and increase fossil fuel infrastructure. This new administration's disregard of climate change's looming disaster is unforgivable and endangers the entire planet. Instead of leading us into the future, where alternative, renewable energy would provide jobs and safety, this administration hearkens back to earlier days that can never return.

Misogyny, racism, xenophobia, and science denial are the

currents underlying much rhetoric and play to deeply-ingrained fears and prejudices. Truth and compassion are casualties. Instead of calling forth our best selves, as would be expected of one who is about to assume the most powerful position in our country and in the world, our worst selves are encouraged.

I'm hoping we can explore together what prompted a significant portion of our electorate to take the risk required to vote for what our new president represents. To me, this is the most challenging aspect of this election – to understand the impetus that drove this administration to victory, and how to respond in ways that bring us all closer to a just world.

It is for these reasons, and others that I'm sure many of you could add, that I am grateful for our community. We work to lift our hearts and bring hope, compassion, and reason to this grim state of affairs.

We offer guidance and wisdom in this time of unusually grave challenges. We shine a strong light through these dark times. We proclaim to the world at large that we are here proudly bearing our enlightened message of freedom for all to see, and are definitely not going away.

We remain vigilant to injustices of all kinds. We educate, speak out and protest. Although presently there are countervailing forces, because of us, I have great hope for a future in which we celebrate our differences, nurture equality, lift up the poor, respect scientific truth, and love the planet that sustains us all. This is what we stand for, and we will not back down. This is why I am here.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 8, 7:00 PM

Introduction to Ethical Humanism – Focus on Inherent Worth

Newcomers and visitors are encouraged to attend an Introduction to Ethical Humanism. Philadelphia Ethical Society Leader Hugh Taft-Morales and member Christian Hayden will host a discussion from 7:00-8:30 PM focusing on the inherent worth of each and every person, a cornerstone of Ethical Culture's approach to living. This is the first of five consecutive Introductions each focusing on a different aspect of what it means to be a member of an Ethical Society.

Come enjoy a relaxed 90 minutes. Please RSVP to leaderhugh@phillyethics.org.

ETHICS AS A RELIGION

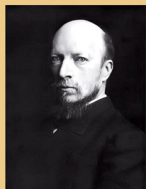
David Saville Muzzey
INTRODUCTION BY JAMES F. HORNBECK



FELIX ADLER AND ETHICAL CULTURE

Memories and Studies

BY HORACE L. FRIESS



EDITED BY FANNIA WEINGART

The Humanist Way

An Introduction to Ethical
Humanist Religion



EDWARD L. ERICSON
Foreword by Isaac Asimov

Sunday, January 15, 9:30 AM
Confronting Racism Task Force meeting All are welcome. More details from Sylvia Metzler:

sylmetz@juno.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, NOON (AFTER PLATFORM)

MEMBERS' PLEDGE LUNCHEON – SHINING OUR LIGHT

At our Members' Pledge Luncheon we celebrate shining our light out to the world! For over 140 years Ethical Culture has offered our country a new form of inspiration – one that puts aside supernaturalism and asks us to bring out our best by bringing out the best in others. Come for community, conversation and a renewed commitment to the Philadelphia Ethical Society!

Shining Our Light!



PLEDGE 2017



**MUSIC at
ETHICAL**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 3:00 PM

A RUSSIAN SOIRÉE, WITH A TOUCH OF MYSTICISM
a program of Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Schnittke, Prokofiev, Arno Part, and Shostakovich

Music and poetry expressing artists' loves, despair, fight, and resistance played out in 20th century Russian lives, and continuing today. Our program travels through deeply Russian piano and voice works of Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and Prokofiev; Scriabin's exquisite and dark *2nd Piano Sonata*; Schnittke's powerful *Five Preludes for piano*, and viscerally compelling cello works by Arvo Part. Works of the Russian people's poets, Marina Tsvetayeva, Anna Akhmatova will be read aloud.

Performing artists:

Tatyana Rashkovsky, mezzo-soprano;
Yoni Draiblate, cellist;
Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski, pianist;
Rollin Wilber, pianist;
Inna Lobanova-Heasley, poetry reader
**Tickets: \$25/general; \$15/members;
\$20/seniors; \$10/students**

Fineartmusiccompany.ticketleap.com

Information: 215-803-9725

info@FineArtMusicCompany.com

The program will also be performed the previous evening, January 21, at 7:30 PM at Ivy Hall, 6331 Lancaster Ave., 19151.

Monday, January 23, 7:00 PM
Is America Possible?

Co-sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Thinking Society and the Philadelphia Ethical Society, this dialogue is stimulated by an article by Vincent Harding found on Krista Tippett's *On Being* website (www.onbeing.org/program/vincent-harding-is-america-possible/79).

It poses to us the question of whether America, which is always

striving to fulfill the promise of its vision, can respond to recent surges of intolerance and bigotry. In the context of the black freedom struggle, how can we maintain an inspiring vision of inclusion and justice in light of our political realities? RSVP via the Philadelphia Ethical Society Meetup page (www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Philadelphia) where you will find more information and links.

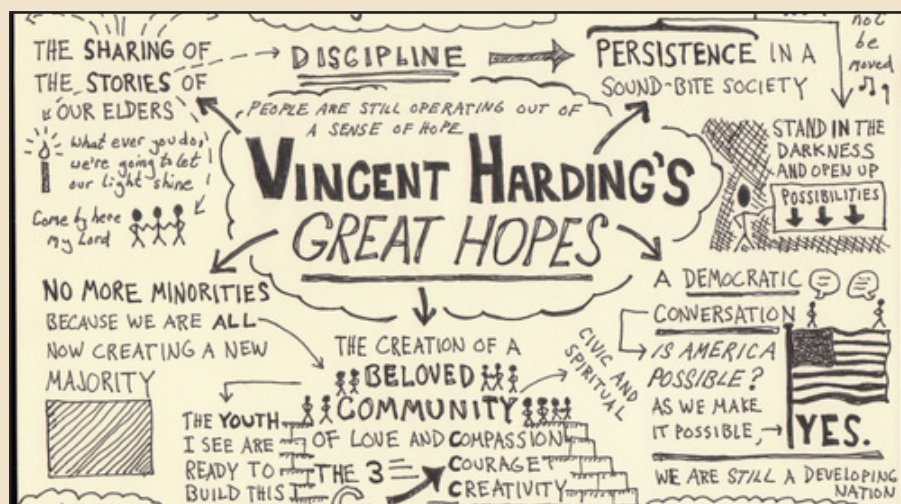
over the picket lines to evade an injunction. The film, which runs 94 minutes, is followed by a 15 minute documentary about the "Hollywood Ten," who served prison sentences for standing up to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Film \$5; free admission to 8:00 PM screening for students with ID.

Dinner and film \$20, reservations required.

Proceeds support the Camp Linden Summer Children's Program, introducing inner-city children to the wonders of nature.

Film tickets and dinner reservations from <https://camplinden.ticketleap.com/salt-of-the-earth/>. Click on 'About' for more information about the film and the event.



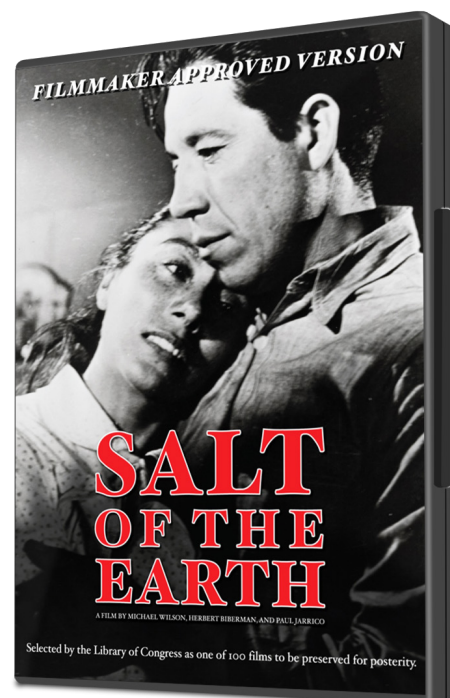
Friday, January 27, 6:30 PM
Black Lives Matter – Dinner and Discussion

PES Confronting Racism Task Force member Sylvia Metzler invites all PES members to her home for dinner and a discussion of the Black Lives Matter vision for Black lives.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact Sylvia: sylmetz@juno.com

Sunday, January 29
Salt of the Earth and The Hollywood Ten
Film screenings at 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Made by blacklisted Hollywood film professionals, and banned from American theaters when originally released in 1954, *Salt of the Earth* is now recognized as a classic. It is based upon an actual strike by Mexican American miners, and most of the parts are played by local people portraying themselves. The drama focuses upon the community's struggle with gender expectations, when wives take



INSIDE THE BELTWAY

Ethical Action Committee co-chair Kate Esposito writes:

In early November I was asked by Rev. Greg Holston, newly chosen Executive Director of POWER, if I would consider going with him to Washington, D.C., to participate in the PICO National Network's effort to meet with members of the incoming administration's transition team, in order to communicate our concerns and to forge a working relationship. As we know, the then anticipated outcome of the election was different than what transpired on November 8, when the agenda suddenly became much more urgent.

From November 28 through December 1, I was privileged to work with many fine people of faith from around the country in learning about the campaign to ask President Obama to grant a pardon to the eleven million undocumented immigrants for unlawful entry, presence and employment, and clemency for those in federal prisons for low-level non-violent drug offenses. On November 28, we heard a theological and political reflection by Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, who talked about our being on the verge of what he called a "pre-genocidal" period where groups are forced to register, criminalized, then imprisoned, deported, as well as demonized, threatened and harassed without consequences. He asked us to "materialize good" in response; if not, we will be working from a rearguard position. He said that privatization is the use of public money to make individuals and corporations wealthy at the expense of the poor, and that

evil is force perpetrated on the bodies and spirits of those who are most vulnerable. If "stop and frisk" policies continue and spread, it will create wealth for the prison-industrial complex while destroying families and communities. And we must create a sanctuary movement, both for those who are undocumented and for the Muslim community. He wears a safety pin – not just to identify himself as a safe person, but to say, "I will protect you from the forces of evil." He challenged all of us to register as Muslims if compulsory registration is implemented. He said that the concept of race blocks the bridges of empathy among us. We participated in a very useful media training and were briefed about what to expect in the early portion of the Trump Administration. We discussed the possibilities of mass deportations, mass incarcerations, Muslim surveillance and profiling, repealing the Affordable Care Act, block-granting Medicaid, and privatizing Medicare.

After tears and prayers, as the information was devastating, we were assigned visits to Capitol Hill, charged with asking members of Congress to support the pardon effort by contacting the president and asking him to take action. Rev. Holston and I visited the offices of Pennsylvania Representatives Brady, Evans and Boyle, and spoke with staff. Bishop Dwayne Royster, (now PICO's Political Director), Rev. Holston and I spoke at length with Sen. Bob Casey, (D-PA). I also had a quick conversation with Sen. Ed Markey, (D-MA), asking him to contact the president. Various members of the group met with staff from Sen. Warren's, Rep. Pelosi's and Sen. Udall's offices.

We all made the case that our families were at risk and that these were our incarcerated and immigrant neighbors who were in need of a path to citizenship and reunification.

On the morning of December 1, we ended our time together by going public via a press conference. PBS and Univision were there, with other print media. Before the conference, we did a short theater piece based on the *First They Came For...* poem by Martin Niemöller, ending with a "web of mutuality," stating that we would stand for each other and would protect these vulnerable communities. The theme was *Not On Our Watch!*

There is so much more that I could say. I had been feeling rather hopeless, and being in D.C. with these people restored my faith in the importance of action as an antidote to despair. The days to come will be challenging. I invite you to work with POWER in response to what lies ahead. The urgency of now is fierce.

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

***First They Came For...
poem by Martin Niemöller***



JANUARY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 No Platform <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 PES MEETING: 6:30 PM Education Committee	5	6	7
8 11:00 AM <i>Memorial Sunday</i> 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i> Hugh Taft-Morales	9	10	11 PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	12	13	14
15 9:30 AM Confronting Racism Task Force meeting 11:00 AM <i>Criminal Injustice in the Age of Trump</i>	16 Martin Luther King Holiday	17	18 6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	19	20	21
22 11:00 AM <i>The Oath of Office and the Light of Inspiration</i> 12:00 PM Members Pledge Luncheon 3:00 PM Music at Ethical <i>A Russian Soiree</i>	23 7:00 PM <i>Is America Possible?</i>	24	25 PES MEETING 7:00 PM Camp Linden Committee	26  7:00 PM Amnesty International Meeting	27 7:00 PM Black Lives Matter Dinner/Discussion (at Member's home - see page 9)	28
29 11:00 AM <i>How Scandinavians Challenge Us with an Ethic of Equality and Freedom</i> see announcement for times <i>Salt of the Earth and The Hollywood Ten</i>	30	31				

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
 For those that here we see no more;
 Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
 Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
 And ancient forms of party strife;
 Ring in the nobler modes of life,
 With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
 The faithless coldness of the times;
 Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
 But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
 The civic slander and the spite;
 Ring in the love of truth and right,
 Ring in the common love of good.

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson, from *In Memoriam*
 A. H. H. OBIT MDCCCXXXIII: 106

Editor's note: If "MDCCCXXXIII" confuses you as much as it confuses my spell checker, then be advised that it says 1833. Tennyson's sentiments are strikingly appropriate to MMXVII (2017).



SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER

THROUGH JUNE

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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 Marshall.



Coffee Hour Coordinators

Jan 8 - John Marshall
Jan 15 - Ken Greiff
Jan 22 - Garry O'Rourke
Jan 29 - Harry Thorn



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

10	Carol Love
11	Sandy Coffey
14	Lyle Murley
21	Ken Greiff
30	Lelah Marie

Flowers Coordinated by David Ralston



Jan 8 - Javad Mohsenian, M.D.
Human beings are members of a
whole,
in recreation of one essence and
soul.

If one is afflicted with pain,
other members uneasy will remain.
If you've no sympathy for human
pain,
the name of human you can not
retain.

- Saadi, 13th century Persian poet

Jan 15 - Harry Thorn, "Those who
still work for civil rights."

Jan 22 - "Very happy 9th birthday
wishes to our granddaughter Zoey
with love from Temma and Arnold
Fishman.

Jan 29 - Nick Sanders, "In memory
of my father, Earl L. Sanders."

For suggestions regarding this
newsletter, contact Steve Bremner:
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