



ETHICAL VIEWS

February 2017

Vol. 131, No. 6 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society



Sunday Platforms

In February, the **Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK)** program will be meeting during platform on the 12th, (for Darwin Day), and the 19th, (for Presidents' Day). If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, nick@phillyethics.org

Sunday, February 5, 11:00 AM
Love, Paranoia and the Limits of Community in a Multiracial Society John L. Jackson Jr., Dean, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania

John L. Jackson Jr. will talk about how and why America's racial landscape in the 21st century is not easily reducible to any of its pre-Civil



Rights incarnations, arguing for an institutionalized understanding of "love" that is different from many of the ways in which people are taught to make sense of the term.

John L. Jackson, Jr., is Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice and Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Jackson received his BA in Communication (Radio/TV/Film) from Howard University and his PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University. He is the author of *Thin Description: Ethnography and the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem* (Harvard University Press, 2013); *Racial Paranoia: The Unintended Consequences of Political Correctness* (Basic, 2008); *Real*

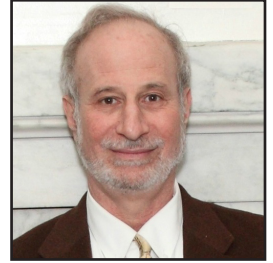
Black: Adventures in Racial Sincerity (University of Chicago Press, 2005); *Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America* (University of Chicago Press, 2001); and *Impolite Conversations*, co-written with Cora Daniels (Atria/Simon & Schuster, 2014).

Sunday, February 12, 11:00 AM
'Gerontia': A Dramatic Reading Walt Vail, playwright and winner of the Philadelphia Ethical Society's 2016 One Act Playwriting Contest

In this farcical comedy, Jimmy has married a personable, level-headed and attractive woman without noting that she is quite a bit older than himself. Only when his friend and mentor Mark comes over to meet the new bride does Jimmy learn that her name, "Gerontia," does not derive from geranium. When he does, this sets in motion a hilarious series of misunderstandings that seem to be leading either to catastrophe or to new understandings. Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Ethical Society has picked a winner in its annual playwriting contest that will allow you to decide which is which. Is that perfectly clear? We thought not.

Walt Vail, the author, is known in Philadelphia theater circles as the dean of Philly-area playwrights. He came to Philadelphia with his Penn State degree in theater in 1951, and has been a teacher and a prolific, much honored playwright ever since. He has worked with Young Playwrights for years, and is the director of Philadelphia Dramatist Center's Writers Circle. His best known publication is *Betsy's* (Ross, that is) *Flag*, by Eldridge Publishers.

Sunday, February 19, 11:00 AM
In Search of A Wider Deeper Richer Humanism (Video Presentation)
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, NY Society for Ethical Culture and Bergen Ethical Society



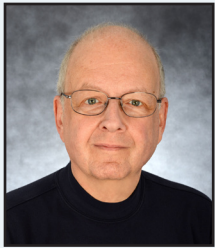
In his first appearance here since he delivered the keynote address at Leader Hugh's installation ceremony in 2012, Leader Joe Chuman will present his first ever virtual address at PES. Humanism is intrinsic to Ethical Culture. In his thought-provoking platform, Chuman will discuss the history of humanism, the rejection of "humanism" by Felix Adler, and its later acceptance into Ethical Culture thought and practice. He will speak about his own embrace of humanist ideas and how they have made it possible for him work with diverse groups of people, including serving along with Catholics on the Ethics Board of a Catholic Hospital.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 Sunday Platforms
- 2 President's Column
- 3 Leader's Column
- 4 - 5 Happenings
- 6 Announcements
- 7 Calendar, Quote
- 8 Sunday Services, Birthdays

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Vigilance in the Age of Truthiness

Bob Bueding

It used to be that everyone was entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. But that's not the case anymore... Truthiness is what I say is right and nothing anyone (else) can say could possibly be true.

– S. Colbert

As a nation, we are in very uncertain times. We now have a president in the White House who did not win a majority of the votes cast, and has no clue how to govern. During the campaign, he kept saying he

was going to “drain the swamp,” but he has actually surrounded himself with people who are accustomed to swamp-dwelling. The next four years are going to be trying times for Ethical Humanists, and for our belief in making the world a better place for all humankind. Because none of us can foresee the future, I’m going to reluctantly wait and see what happens, but I’m not going to sit on my butt while I’m doing it.

As Ethical Humanists, how do we move forward? What can we do to fix our broken government? How can we restore the Founders’ concept of the common good? What can we bring to the fight?



Here are some weapons:

- Don’t give in to the temptation to stop paying attention. The daily news may be ugly but it needs to be heeded.
- Find an area that strikes a chord with you and do something in response.
- Phone your representative, write a letter to the editor, tweet (if you must), march, donate, vote.
- Consider the next four years one big wake-up call.

Please consider what Ethical Humanists stand for and get up and help. We need everyone’s commitment.

– Bob

bbueding@phillyethics.org

Continued from page 1

Sunday, February 26, 11:00 AM Reproductive Health Care and Rights Under Trump Dayle Steinberg, CEO, Planned Parenthood, PA

For years, backward politicians in Congress and statehouses across the country have attacked Planned Parenthood’s patients’ access to care. This year, a war on Planned Parenthood’s services will be directed from the White House. Donald Trump has pledged to appoint anti-abortion judges to the Supreme Court, doubling down on his vision of a country in which Roe v. Wade is overturned and millions of women are forced to travel out of state for an abortion, or forgo care altogether.

Donald Trump has also declared

that he’s committed to defunding Planned Parenthood, and Mike Pence has for years sought to cut off Planned Parenthood’s access to federal money. On January 5, House Speaker Paul Ryan announced

Dayle Steinberg was appointed president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania (PPSP) in 2001. Dayle began her tenure with PPSP in 1978 as a graduate intern and became a full-time staff person in 1981. She is responsible for the overall management of PPSP’s operations and for representing the organization to the public. Dayle serves on the board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and is vice chair of the board of Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates.



that the budget reconciliation bill repealing the Affordable Care Act will also include a provision to defund Planned Parenthood. Dayle Steinberg, CEO of Planned Parenthood Philadelphia, will address the urgency of fighting back for the care that patients need.

The Philadelphia Ethical Society will “split-the-plate” as our contribution to the excellent work of Planned Parenthood. This means that half the cash contributions and any checks written to Planned Parenthood will go directly to Planned Parenthood.

LEADER'S COLUMN



WHERE TO INVADE NEXT

Hugh Taft-Morales, with help from Michael Moore!

(Thanks to Lori Broesamle for suggesting the viewing and discussion of this film!)

If you missed the Ethical Society's January 15 screening of *Where To Invade Next*, Michael Moore's most recent film, I urge you to gather some friends together to watch it and discuss. If you did see the film, consider encouraging others to see it. As usual, Moore is upfront about his progressive orientation and his skepticism about those with money and power – this might wear thin on some of you who have heard it all before. But I found it a powerful and important film.

What intrigued me most is how well Moore fulfills his goal of visiting other western countries, capturing great social and political ideas, and delivering them back to us, the U.S. viewer. The great ideas include generous worker benefits in Italy, great school lunches in France, less pressured and more effective primary education in Finland, free college education in Slovenia, worker inclusion and ownership

in Germany, decriminalization of drugs in Portugal, low prison recidivism in Norway, democratic activism and women's health care in Tunisia, and women's political and corporate power in Iceland.

It was disheartening to see Moore's comparison of these great ideas with some ugly aspects of U.S. society, like our racially-biased prison-industrial complex, our pay-to-play political game, and our lax prosecution of corporate malfeasance. I relentlessly resist beating up my nation of birth. I want to see the best in our country. The film wasn't making it easy. At least Moore admitted that he was

to the United States – like legally mandated paid maternity leave or the end of capital punishment – *had their roots in U.S. history*. The Norwegian prison warden points out that his own rejection of the death penalty is connected to our own nation's two-century old constitutional ban on "cruel and unusual punishment." Defending the nobility of labor and demanding rights to limited hours and paid vacation were a part of the 1886 Haymarket uprising in Chicago. Tunisian women demanding health clinics and Icelandic female CEOs were inspired by our own American suffragists and the nearly successful campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment.

GREAT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IDEAS:

- Generous worker benefits in Italy, great school lunches in France
- Less pressured and more effective primary education in Finland
- Free college education in Slovenia
- Worker inclusion and ownership in Germany
- Decriminalization of drugs in Portugal
- Low prison recidivism in Norway
- Democratic activism and women's health care in Tunisia
- Women's political and corporate power in Iceland.

Near the end of the film Moore explains that, despite the ugly aspects of our nation obscured by blind patriotism, there are many compassionate, progressive ideas that are a part of our national heritage. They are ideas that, when honestly and broadly embraced, can help bring out the best of our country. They make Moore, and myself, proud.

Many of us are still reeling from the results of November's election. I will admit that watching *Where To Invade Next* made me reel a bit more. But it also reminded us of our revolutionary ideals of human dignity, democratic

cherry-picking the best ideas from these foreign lands.

There were moments of relief when some of the foreigners Moore interviews point out how many good ideas Moore wanted to bring

government and equal justice under law. Let's pull ourselves together and get on to the hard work of finding concrete and pragmatic steps to realize these ideals.

HAPPENINGS

PES AT THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Temma Fishman shows her funny side for a serious cause ...



... and her other side, which turns out to be even funnier and much photographed.

Photos by Bob Bueding



Nina Diamond by Betsy Lightbourn ...



... and Betsy Lightbourn by Nina Diamond

HAPPENINGS

continued

MEMBERS' PLEDGE LUNCHEON – SHINING OUR LIGHT



About 50 members of the Philadelphia Ethical Society enjoyed food, fun, and friendship at the January 22 Members' Pledge Luncheon. This year's theme of "shining our light out to the world" manifested itself in some silliness and seriousness. We had fun while recommitting our important form of inspiration – one that uses our hearts, our heads, and our bodies to bring out the best in others and the world, and thus in ourselves.

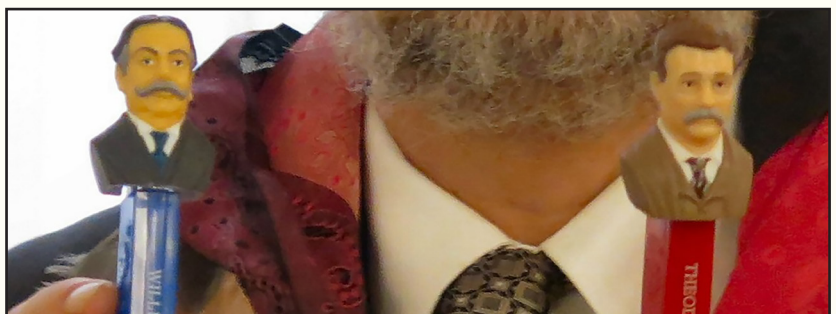
Most concretely, the pledge luncheon asks members to submit a financial pledge – a confidential intended contribution to the society for 2017 so that the Board can responsibly craft a budget for next year.

Many thanks to Pledge Chair Vince Russo and to all the volunteers who made this event possible!



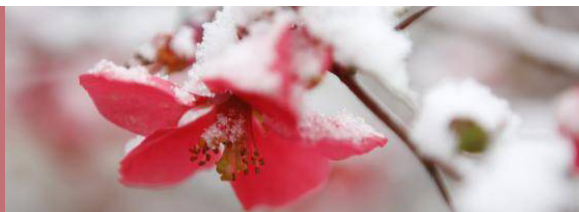
Above: Member Robert Steinfort leads the singing of Pete Seeger's Turn! Turn! Turn! at the platform before the luncheon.

Below, left to right: Nina H. Diamond presents William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (oops, no 'H' in that one) to H. Taft-Morales. Bottom: A close-up of Leader Hugh with Great-Grandad William and his colleague Teddy. PES ... Pez ... ya get it?





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday, February 5, 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 a unique aspect of our alternative to traditional religion: the importance of nurturing ethical relationships. Come enjoy a relaxed 90 minutes with wine, cheese and conversation. RSVP to chayden423@gmail.com



WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

A look at some other public events at the Ethical Society Building in February

February 24 & 25 – Lindy and Blues 10th Birthday Party – LaBLove 2017!

Workshops, live music, & dancing on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Saturday night. Info and tickets: <http://www.lindyandblues.com/lablove/>



MUSIC at
ETHICAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 3:00 PM
Johannes Brahms and the Schumanns
– A Story of Music and Love

Johannes Brahms and the Schumanns



A Story of Music and Love

In the mid 1800's, a powerful, tragic and altogether remarkable crossroads occurred, involving three of classical music's greatest composer-musicians. Composer-pianist Robert Schumann; his wife and stunning virtuoso pianist (and composer), Clara Wieck-Schumann; and Johannes Brahms, a mega-force in musical composition for the next half-century – all intersected at life's youth, mid-point and end, sharing in a virtual crisis of need, love, human reactions, and poetic outpourings of music.

PERFORMING ARTISTS:

Jonathan Moser, violinist; Adelya Shagidullina, violist;
Michal Schmidt, cellist;
Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski, pianist; Rollin Wilber, pianist;
I 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, March 25, at 7:30 PM at Ivy Hall, 6331 Lancaster Ave., 19151.



FEBRUARY 2017



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 PES MEETING: 6:30 PM Education Committee	2	3	4
5 11:00 AM <i>Love, Paranoia and the Limits of Community in a Multiracial Society</i> 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i> A Focus on Relationships	6	7	8 PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	9	10	11
12 11:00 AM <i>Gerontia – A Dramatic Reading</i>	13	14	15 6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	16	17	18
19 11:00 AM <i>In Search of A Wider Deeper Richer Humanism</i>	20 Presidents' Day	21	22 PES MEETING 7:00 PM Camp Linden Committee	23 7:00 PM Amnesty International Meeting	24	25
26 11:00 AM <i>Reproductive Health Care and Rights Under Trump</i>	27	28				

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

“ I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. [...] I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up. [...] I still believe that We Shall Overcome!”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 1964

Editor's note: The full text of Dr. King's undeservedly little-known speech is at https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-acceptance_en.html including a link to a video, which can also be viewed at <https://youtu.be/5r98tT0j1a0>).



SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER

THROUGH JUNE

Ethical Views is published monthly
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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



Feb 5 - John Marshall
Feb 12 - Ken Greiff
Feb 19 - Garry O'Rourke
Feb 26 - Harry Thorn

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Sally Redlener
3 Arnold Fishman, Esq.
18 Vince Russo
18 Lauren Strong

Flowers Coordinated by David Ralston



Feb 5 - Sally Redlener, "In memory
of Elisabeth Leonard, that her
devotion and tenacity will be our
driving force for action for Peace
and Justice in our country"

Feb 12 - Betsy Lightbourn, "In
loving memory of my mother,
Marion Valentine Lightbourn, born
on Feb. 14, 1903"

Feb 19 - "For all who fight for a just
world"

Feb 26 - Vince Russo, "Philadelphia
Ethical Society"

For suggestions regarding this
newsletter, contact Steve Bremner:
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