



ETHICAL VIEWS

September 2017

Vol. 132, No. 1

Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society



Sunday Platforms

During September the Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) will be meeting during platforms on the 3rd and the 17th. If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, nick@phillyethics.org

Sunday, Sept. 3, 11:00 AM
Humans, Nature, and the Eclipse of the Sun,
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,
Philadelphia Ethical Society

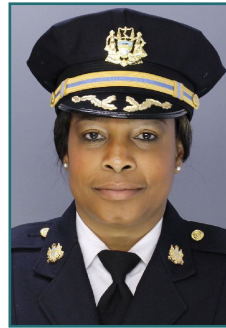


In the past solar eclipses have generated fear and been seen as evil omens. Thanks to science, humanists know that an eclipse results from the ceaseless ticking of our celestial clockwork. But while we no longer cower in fear when darkness descends at noon, we may fail to appreciate the humbling lessons of an eclipse. How can we better appreciate the beauty and awe nature offers? Can we learn from our environment how to act less like masters of nature and more like stewards of earth?

Sunday, Sept. 10, 11:00 AM
From Co-Victim of Homicide to Trauma-Informed Policing,
Altovise Love-Craighead,
Inspector, Central Police
Division, Philadelphia

Altovise Love-Craighead will discuss the impact of her brother's murder on her and her family which allowed her to take a closer look at the law enforcement profession and how police engage those in crisis.

Altovise Love-Craighead has been with the Philadelphia Police Department since 1994, and throughout her career has received many promotions and much recognition for her accomplishments. In 2002, Love-Craighead received an award for her efforts on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force from the United States Attorney's Office. In Oct 2010 she was promoted to Lieutenant ranking No. 1 out of 195 candidates, and the first woman in Philadelphia Police Department history to rank No. 1 on any Lieutenant promotional list.

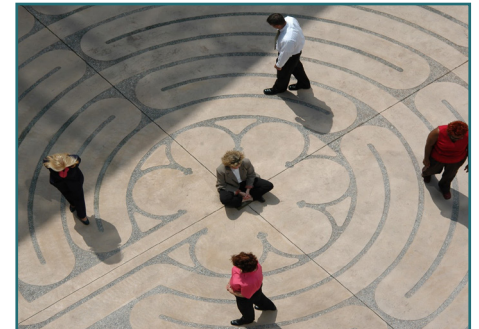


Currently an Inspector in the Central Police Division of the Philadelphia Police Office, she commands approximately 600 Police Officers and Supervisors. The Central Police Division is comprised of the entertainment area of the city which includes 158,000 residents as well as businesses and cultural institutions, including the Philadelphia Ethical Society.

Despite all her accomplishments, she was plagued by the tragedy of her brother, Emir's murder in 1997 and found a way to help others who had lost loved ones to murder. In 1999 she helped found EMIR (Every Murder Is Real), now the EMIR Healing Center. In March 2009, Love-Craighead was selected to work with Deputy Commissioner Charlotte's Council in The Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Services.

Sunday, Sept. 17, 11:00 AM
Mindful Activism and Peace,
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,
Philadelphia Ethical Society

Building peace is not only an act of compassion. To be sustainable, peace building must also be guided by equanimity and thoughtfulness. When advocating for peace, however, we are often confronted by hostile proponents of violent methods and brutal militarism. How can Ethical



Humanists and others strongly resist these proponents while practicing "ahimsa," or non-violence toward all living things? This program kicks-off PES's involvement in Peace Day Philly 2017. The platform music will be performed by jazz bassist Dave Brodie, a longtime stalwart on the Philadelphia jazz scene, passionate educator and musical ambassador; and on tenor saxophone, Victor North, who has performed at venues like Chris' Jazz Cafe for many years.

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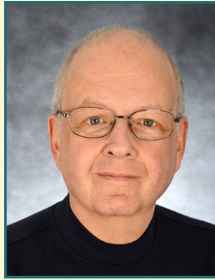
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Year Ahead – Engaging More Members

Bob Bueding



I hope everyone had a good summer and that you enjoyed time with friends and family. In terms of our national politics, it's been a daily surprise. Our future work is cut out for us; it's going to be a busy year.

First, I'd like to announce our new officers and board members. David Ralston is our new treasurer, and John Marshall our new secretary; Mike Black-Smith and Susan O'Connell are new board members. Now the eight-member board is ready to work to build our society and represent our membership during this coming year.

At the end of June your board held its annual, day-long Board Retreat. We discussed many items important to how we can continue our growth and get the word out about who we are and what we do. To grow we need to do a better job of spreading the message. Looking back at the programs we had just this past year, it's amazing to me that we're not attracting a larger audience. Our Education committee does an excellent job bringing us high profile speakers and first rate programs. In addition, we offer other programs that should attract larger audiences. Our *Capitalism in Crisis* series featured some very high-profile participants who presented programs with our leader Hugh Taft-Morales. So how do we proceed to attract more folks to 1906 Rittenhouse Square?

Much of our Board retreat focused on the organization of our committees to make them more efficient. Part of the problems with our committees is that we have a pool of maybe 20 members who serve on multiple committees. The answer is to build our membership and try to engage our new members to participate in various functions. We are in the process of looking for a way to become more efficient and build our society. It's not an easy task so if you have suggestions, please let me know, or speak with any of our board members.

As we look for new members, it would be wonderful if we could engage young families. Our programs and outreach activities should be attractive to younger folks. We are trying to get our Sunday school going, so that families with children can enjoy and benefit from Sunday School activities. Kim McKay and Nick Sanders are dedicated to make this program work. If you just look out the Society's front door you see so many kids and their families playing in Rittenhouse Square. We need to tap that resource.

Another wonderful aspect of our society is the fantastic music we offer. Our Sunday pianist Rollin Wilber offers a wonderful selection of music. In addition, The Fine Arts Music Company offers concerts during the year and should attract larger audiences; they offer first class ensembles with very reasonable ticket prices. Some of our members have expressed a desire to have a little bit of diversity in our music, so we have formed a very small group of members to help us come up with a bit of variety. On September 17, at our platform we'll have Dave Brodie, jazz bassist, joined by Victor North on the tenor saxophone.

As you can see we have some outstanding programs and music planned. I hope you will tell your friends about what we offer here at 1906 Rittenhouse Square. Ask them to come and see. We have an interesting group of members and friends from a variety of backgrounds. Come, learn, and spread the word. All are welcome!

~ Bob

bbueding@phillyethics.org



Thanks to all the board members, new and old, who attended the June board retreat. Left to right are PES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales, David Ralston, Garry O'Roarke, Kate Esposito, Susan O'Connell, Michael Black-Smith, Bob Bueding, John Marshall and Vince Russo. Photo by Nina Diamond

LEADER'S COLUMN

Timothy Snyder's Lessons About Tyranny



Hugh Taft-Morales,
Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society

One Sunday at the Ethical Society this past summer I asked those attending, “How worried should we be? How worried should we be about the potential for the growth of tyranny in the United States, the land of the free and home of the brave?” According to Yale historian Timothy Snyder, we should be more worried than we are.

In his pocket size book *On Tyranny*, Snyder offers twenty concise lessons drawn from the 20th century. His area of expertise, Eastern and Central European history, led him to study autocratic bullies very successful at killing the democratic spirit and ruling by fiat. For many, the parallels to current political realities in the U. S. are too strong to ignore. Before being accused of hyperbole and hysteria, I want to offer six general lessons I drew from Snyder's list.

The first lesson is that the path of history is not fixed. In 25 years of teaching I had to constantly remind students that it was not inevitable that the north won the civil war and the allies won WWII. Despite cultural narratives reinforcing belief that good always triumphing over evil – from Superman through Harry Potter – there are no guarantees. The path history takes is determined by many factors, including luck and the dogged determination of individuals. To help ensure that good will triumph, we must act to support the good in our world.

The second lesson is that we shouldn't assume that “our institutions” will survive assault unless we act to keep them strong. Remember that the Nazis used the press and democracy to destroy the press and democracy. Our institutions will only survive if we contribute to good causes and defend professional organizations that have their own noble and idealistic codes of ethics.

The third lesson is that humans are malleable – we are easily controlled especially when pressured by authority figures. Snyder references the infamous 1961 experiments by Stanley Milgram, another Yale professor, in which supposedly average people were capable of horrific acts of cruelty when encouraged by seemingly authoritative people. When the



“unthinkable happens,” such as catastrophic events or terrorism, people are even more open to manipulation by tyrants. We must avoid being hapless victims of “terror management.”

A fourth lesson is that we should be careful with language. We should not repeat phrases tossed out by politicians or the media simply to inflame or control, something Hannah Arendt warned about in her book, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Don't throw around “fake news” just because the president has. Don't accept mantras about “terrorism” and “extremism.” And for goodness sake, we must defend the concept of truth. Snyder warns that entering the time of “post-truth” means we've entered the “pre-fascist” era.

The fifth lesson seems almost obvious: beware of concentrations of power. The novelty of Snyder's

approach is that he points out how power can be concentrated in many ways. Power concentrated in an oligarchy of incumbents from both parties kept in power, not by free voters, but by moneyed interests. Power concentrates in privatized security forces both overseas and at home. Power concentrates in gatekeepers who threaten to change the Internet from open to closed. To avoid tyranny we must lead freedom ring in the U. S.

A final lesson from Snyder I'll emphasize is that we should be wary of polarization and dehumanization of “the other.” This is something people all along the political spectrum are guilty of, myself included. We must do better. Instead of interacting in the world through social media, we should practice corporeal politics by getting out into public sphere. Build relationships with people you don't know. Make eye contact and small talk. This is, Snyder tells us, how the Solidarity labor movement in Poland was able to topple a tyrant. It's also the heart of what some call our “religion of relationships” - Ethical Humanism.

I will end my first column of the 2017-2018 program year by pointing to a lesson not from the 20th century, but a lesson that seems timeless: “inequality breeds tyranny.” Since the United States is now led by a businessman more dedicated to “the art of the deal” than the art of democracy, we must condemn glorification of economic greed. Given the historically unprecedented economic inequality of our nation, Snyder's lessons are more important than ever. Ethical Humanists, inheriting a legacy of demands for more just distribution of resources, should redouble our efforts. Only if we help society rise above greed, fear, and the dehumanization of others will Snyder's Twenty Lessons save us from ourselves. The choice is ours.

~ Yours, Hugh



Announcements

Sunday, Sept. 3, 7:00 PM

**Introduction to Ethical Humanism
– Our History and Philosophy**

Hugh Taft-Morales will lead the Introduction to Ethical Humanism discussion on September 3rd. He will offer an overview of Ethical Humanism's history and philosophy. Please RSVP to LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org so Hugh knows you are coming!

Friday, Sept. 15, 6:00 PM

**Confronting Racism Task Force
Philly**

The Task Force will be holding its monthly pot luck dinner and discussion on Friday Sept 15 at 6PM. Our topic will be "Reparations". In preparation please do some reading on the subject - especially the book by Randall Robinson - THE DEBT. To RSVP and obtain more info about readings and location, please contact Sylvia Metzler at sylmetz2@gmail.com or call 215 423 9375..

**Wednesday, Sept. 20,
5:30-7:30 PM**

**Mindful Activism Workshop
Peace Day Philly**

Supported by the Ethical Society, the Church of the Holy Trinity, and the Philadelphia Rotary Club - offers a workshop on "Mindful Activism" with Annalisa Castaldo, a Zen Buddhist priest and Associate Professor of English at Widener University, and Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. This free event will take place in the nave of the Church of the Holy Trinity, 1904 Walnut St. Enter the main doors of the Rittenhouse Square entrance. Come explore how to nurture compassion for oneself and others through

disciplined but simple mindfulness practice. These techniques can improve our ability to stay calm and caring in the middle of tense political talk or public protest. We will discuss: how to engaged with the world but retain a sense of inner peace; how to deal with social and political conflict in a healthy and mindful way; and how to be an activist who remains compassionate and doesn't burn out.

host a "Concert for Philly Peace," featuring world fusion artist and humanitarian Farah Siraj, as well as local musician Ben Arnold. PES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales will warm the audience up with some peace sing-alongs. Local peace groups will offer literature and information at the concert. For organizations wanting table space and information about your group at this event, please contact



**Thursday, Sept. 21, 11:30 AM
PDP in Rittenhouse Square**

Starting at 11:30am, a short Peace Day Philly program will occur in the middle of Rittenhouse Square with music, readings, meditation, and a global minute of peace at 12noon, something that takes place in all time zones on the 21st of September. All are welcome!

**Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:00-6:45 PM
Sing Along for Peace**

Hugh Taft-Morales will facilitate the 7th annual Sing Along for Peace outside Rittenhouse Square. Songbooks for the occasion will be provided - all welcome!

**Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:00-9:00 PM
Concert for Peace**

The Philadelphia Ethical Society (PES) and Peace Day Philly (PDP)

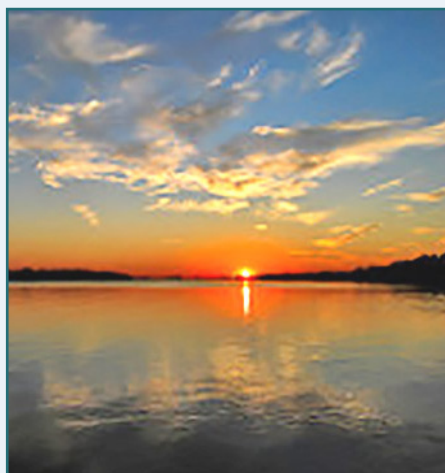
Hugh Taft-Morales at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org. Refreshments will be available. (Donations appreciated to support Peace Day Philly.)

More on the Musicians: Named *Jordan's Musical Ambassador*, virtuoso Farah Siraj has offered the Middle East, Europe, India, South America and the United States diverse music. Farah focuses on raising awareness about the consequences of war and violence, and advocates for women's rights, refugee rights and animal rights. Ben Arnold has toured throughout the United States and Europe with various line-ups both solo and with his rollicking live band. His songs explore strong emotions while his music draws on rock, folk, R&B and all genres in between.

Continued from page 1

Saturday, Sept. 30, 5:00 PM Gathering in Medford Lakes

Want to get to know Ethical Society friends better while enjoying a sunset swim, wine, beer, conversation, canoeing, and light fare? Twelve lucky PES members are welcome to the Fishman's home in Medford Lakes, NJ, on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 5:00PM. If you'd like to attend, contact Hugh at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org no later than Sept. 14th. If more than 12 ask to attend, we'll draw names.



Saturday, October 14, 9am-7pm with additional Friday & Sunday activities: AEU Skills Summit 2017 - Sponsored by: AEU Communications, Ethical Education, Membership Committees. Share skills, best practices, ideas, and questions about improving your Society's Communications, Ethical Education, and Membership. Learn about what the AEU offers Societies and develop a supportive network of members. More details and registration coming this summer.

Schedule (subject to change):
Friday, Oct. 13th:
Dinner & Activity (optional)
Saturday, Oct. 14th:
9:00-9:15 - Breakfast & Check-in
9:15-9:45am Welcome & Announcements
9:45-10:45am - Improving Committees
10:45-11:45am - Committee Chats
12:00-1:00pm - Lunch
1:00-5:00pm - Workshops
5:00-6:00pm - Sharing & Planning
6:00pm Dinner & Activity

Thursday, November 9 - Sunday, November 12 - YES Teens in NY, Frost Valley, New York

The Youth of Ethical Societies (YES) will connect teens from throughout the Ethical Culture Movement for another full weekend of discussion, play, brainstorming, performance, campfires, and bonding. For more information: 212-873-6500

Email : lmiller@aeu.org
<https://aeu.org/our-community/youth-of-ethical-societies/>

Additional details coming soon.
 Thursday, November 9, 7pm at New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023. Friday-Sunday at Frost Valley: 2000 Frost Valley Rd, Claryville, NY 12725.



Sunday Platforms continued

Sunday, Sept. 24, 11:00 AM ***I FEEL Good: The Best Human Condition*, Jé Hooper, Leader in Training and Mosler Fellow**

I FEEL Good!! This proclamation is best expressed by a song written by James Brown. Feeling good and doing good are two different kinds of motivational modalities that inform and affect each other. Doing good is not necessarily 'the above all and end all' in approaching social justice work and ethical engagement: it is an action that is best felt. Let us explore our emotional intelligence and evoke our deepest human capacity to not only serve people with our hands but our heart. I invite you to feel good!

**I FEEL
Good!!**

The Revolutionary Jé Hooper is a preacher, producer, and performer. He is a member of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, where he has served as the Director of Family for Ethics for Children program. Jé is currently a leader-in-training with the American Ethical Union and a 2017 recipient of the Mosler Fellowship Fund that will assist in the production of a film, *Humanitas: Coloring with W.E.B. Dubois and Felix Adler*. Along with these ambitious leaps into our Humanistic community, Jé is attending Ohio University for a Ph.D in Interdisciplinary Arts, where he will focus on Preaching in Africa: a creative exegetical response to the AIDs/HIV epidemic. He is supported creatively by his life-partner Storæe Michele and his two dogs Milo and Shilo.

**From the PES
Confronting Racism Task Force:
AND CITIES' RIGHTS?
submitted by Kate Esposito**

Philadelphia, albeit a great city, is no longer "The Workshop of the World" where mills churned and unions organized the workers. You name it, Philadelphia made it: textiles, shoes, iron and steel, hardware, locomotives, rugs, furniture, ships, hats, clocks, etc. at firms like Baldwin Locomotive, Cramps Shipyard, Stetson Hats and countless smaller family-owned factories and businesses. There were the great publishing houses of Curtis (*Saturday Evening Post*) and J.B. Lippincott (*To Kill A Mockingbird*) and the department stores Gimbels, Lit Brothers, Strawbridge and Clothier's and of course Wanamaker's. In 1953, 359,000 Philadelphians were employed in manufacturing jobs, 45% of the workforce. In 1970, one third of the jobs were in manufacturing, but by 2010 only one in ten were.

Needless to say, even before these jobs disappeared, the black and brown populations here experienced higher rates of unemployment and poverty than the white population. During the Depression, the black unemployment rate was 50%. In the 1950s, unemployment for black people was double that for whites. In 2010 the poverty rate for the Hispanic population was 44%. Today, of the families surviving on less than \$10,000 a year, 57% are African-American.

So, as the scrapers have surpassed Billy Penn's hat, Philadelphia has morphed into a very different city. We watched the Pope tool around in his modest Philly Fiat and Hillary Clinton accept her ill-fated nomination at a near flawless (by production standards) convention at the Wells Fargo Center. Center City has become a locus of

corporate dominance with Comcast as king. The Convention Center draws major events. Philadelphia was recently designated the nation's first "World Heritage City." We are known for our great restaurants, sports teams, hospitals, our historical importance and cultural institutions, making Philadelphia a top tourist destination. Job growth now is in the hospitality and service sectors, which are largely underpaid and not unionized.

Meanwhile real estate values and rents have skyrocketed in Center City and are rapidly spreading to other

The proposed Trump budget, if passed, promises devastating impacts on cities.

So when Candidate Trump asked poor people of color in struggling communities, "What the hell do you have to lose," by voting for him, we have his answer now.

neighborhoods, displacing untold numbers, in the wake of hospitals, universities and stadium expansions. "Ah, well" one might say, "that's progress."

For some few. But hidden in all of this "progress" is another story: The fact that Philadelphia is the poorest large city in the country. More than 25% of our population live in poverty and most of those suffering in deep poverty are black and brown people. This is explained succinctly in the POWER-generated report *Black Work Matters*, which is a must read for a fuller understanding of where this deep poverty exists and who is most affected. For our kids, the public schools have been profoundly impacted by substandard state funding

for years. Now statistically proven by POWER member David Mosenkis, Philadelphia and many other districts have been victims of what POWER describes as "educational apartheid," less per student funding in districts with majority black and brown students. In Philadelphia, it's about \$2,000 per student per year.

Our City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection also has an extremely high incarceration rate, taking many presumed innocent black and brown people, charged with low level, non-violent crimes, out of their families and keeping them jailed since they cannot afford to post a cash bail.

The Commonwealth's response to these issues includes keeping the state minimum wage at \$7.25, preempting Philadelphia from raising the wage on its own, only putting the small increases in school funding through the newly approved fair funding formula that addresses state funding disparity based on race, and continuing tough on crime measures like life sentences without the

possibility of parole and a cash bail system that disproportionately affects communities of color. Additionally, the federal government is doing its level best to eliminate and incapacitate the programs that provide needed services and opportunities for the poor.

The proposed Trump budget, if passed, promises devastating impacts on cities including the total elimination of the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Home Investment Partnership Program, the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program and the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Deep cuts in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutritional program, SNAP (food stamps), CHIP (Children's

Health Insurance Program), Medicaid (\$877 billion over 10 years), and a \$21.7 billion cut in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) over 10 years are proposed. Also threatened are cuts in Unemployment Insurance, the Earned Income Tax Credit, SSI, SSDI, Medicare and Social Security. So when Candidate Trump asked poor people of color in struggling communities, “What the hell do you have to lose,” by voting for him, we have his answer now.

Add in the DOJ’s threats to punish Philadelphia as a Sanctuary City for trying to provide undocumented residents some level of security. As a Sanctuary City, the immigrant community would be less afraid of deportation and more likely to cooperate with the police in reporting crime, thus making the city safer. While corporations and developers benefit from tax subsidies and publicly funded development grants for their gentrification efforts, our residents pay a high sales tax, transit fares, real estate taxes, wage taxes and now a beverage tax, all making it very difficult for the poor to even survive, especially those living in neighborhoods that are food deserts. So in this morass of inequality and unfairness, do cities have any say in response to “states rights” and a malevolent, racist/nativist federal budget and policies?

Some organizations think so. The Right To The City Alliance (RTC) emerged in 2007 as a unified response to gentrification and a call to halt the displacement of low-income people, people of color, marginalized LGBTQ communities, and youths of color from their historic urban neighborhoods. They are a national alliance of racial, economic and environmental justice organizations.

Through shared principles and a

common frame and theory of change, RTC is building a national movement for racial justice, urban justice, human rights, and democracy. Their platform includes: Land For People vs. Land for Speculation, Land Ownership for Public Use, Economic Justice for working class communities of color and LGBTQ people, Freedom from Police and State Harassment, Immigrant Justice, Services and Community Institutions, Environmental Justice, Reparations, Democracy and Participation.

The National League of Cities was founded in 1924 as a national organization to strengthen local

“The nation’s cities are united in the fight for the principles of local authority. Local authority embodies the idea that local elected leaders have the responsibility—and are in the best position—to make decisions that affect their residents and communities.”

NLC’s Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony

government. Today 1,600 cities, towns and villages along with 18,000 communities participate through their state municipal leagues. The mission of the NLC is to strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. They believe in municipal authority over municipal issues, representative, participatory local government and the value of diversity throughout their organization and communities. Among their goals is to pro-actively drive federal policy on behalf of cities, on issues that directly impact them.

NLC’s Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony, in response to North Carolina HB2, put it plainly, “The nation’s cities

are united in the fight for the principles of local authority. Local authority embodies the idea that local elected leaders have the responsibility—and are in the best position—to make decisions that affect their residents and communities. Whether it’s standing by our values of inclusiveness, setting wage levels that actually match the costs of living, or affirming the importance of immigrants in the fabric of our communities, local governments play a critical role in creating an environment where cities—including all of our residents, and the businesses they use and own—are able to thrive. That’s the reason why local governments are the most trusted level of government—because we know our residents best, and they depend and rely on us in our fight toward progress. Cities will not stand down as states aggressively seek to undermine the fundamental rights of localities to determine their own destinies,” added Anthony. “North Carolina’s HB2 is the latest in a deeply disturbing series of actions taken by states to preempt local control in favor of partisanship and politics. As a nation founded on the principles of equality, we have proven time and again that unity—not division—makes our nation stronger.”

As the nation’s poorest large city, with so many people of color losing hope in their communities, we need to find the political will, progressive initiatives and bold strategies to gain the autonomy to stand up to federal and state abusive dominance. **So, Philadelphia... “Get Up, Stand Up...Stand Up For Your Rights!”**

Statistical Sources: Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/ “Workshop of the World”, Walter Licht, Black Work Matters Report (POWER). Budget Source: Washington Post, May 23, 2017 by Kim Soffen and Denise Lu.

Happenings

PES and students discuss biomedical ethics



This summer undergraduate and graduate students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), and their Professor Alban Urbanas, travelled from Wesley College in Dover, DE, to the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. They participated in the Collier Gallery thoughtfully in 2 hours of presentations by, and discussions with, PES members Kim McKay and Marta Guttenberg on topics in biomedical ethics. (Photo by Professor Urbanas, not pictured)

PES joins POWER in Harrisburg



On June 21st a PES contingent traveled to Harrisburg to join POWER representatives in demanding funding for ALL Pennsylvania schools and students. In the photo Nick Sanders, Kate Esposito, Sylvia Metzler and Marta Guttenberg, joined Leader Hugh, PES friend Eugene Carrington, and ally State Sen. Sharif Street at the State Capitol. After our rally under the dome we wandered down to the office of Education Chair Senator Eichelberger for discussion with a POWER group of three made more effective by much chanting and singing outside his office by hundreds of POWER members.

**SERVICE AUCTION EVENT:
Fun on the Lake ~
2017 Medford Lake Canoe Carnival**



On Saturday August 5th, a group of Philadelphia Ethical Society members joined our hosts Temma and Arnold Fishman at their beautiful home at Medford Lakes for the annual Canoe Carnival. Every year local groups decorate their canoes and travel around the lake to compete for "best in show". If you've never experienced this parade of elaborate canoes you've missed a fun evening. Thank you, Temma and Arnold, for this wonderful experience and fund raiser for the Philadelphia Ethical Society.

Photos by Nina Diamond

Fine Art Music Company

**2017-2018
SEASON**

FINE ART MUSIC
in conjunction with
the PHILADELPHIA
ETHICAL SOCIETY

is presenting four classical music programs for the 2017-2018 season. The season's theme will speak to an overall idea exploring the evolution of music growing out of the 18th century into the 20th. Each concert touches on styles and directions in classical music as composers sought to express their own voice, culture, and times. Music composition during these enormously fertile years became a source of fierce opinion and disagreement, particularly in the later 19th century. The history of the philosophical divide will become the framework for our following 2018-2019 season, which we are titling *THE WAR OF THE ROMANTICS*.

We open our season with *FRENCH REBELLIONS: Music of LES SIX*, on October 15th at 3pm. It features music written by six French composers nicknamed together for 'rebell' against musical ideologies of Wagner, and even of their own French compatriots, Debussy and Ravel. Our concert comprises delightful music of Poulenc, Milhaud, Honegger, Auric, Durey, and Tailleferre, plus a piece for four-hand piano by Erik Satie, who was an original inspiration for this group.

FRENCH REBELLIONS – MUSIC OF LES SIX

October 14, 2017 at 7:30 pm – Ivy Hall

October 15, 2017 at 3:00 pm – Philadelphia Ethical Society

THE MIGHTY HANDFUL – the Russian Five

January 27, 2018 at 7:30 pm – Ivy Hall

January 28, 2018 at 3:00 pm – Philadelphia Ethical Society

FANTASIAS! – Two Solo Pianists In Recital

March 24, 2018 at 7:30 pm – Ivy Hall

March 25, 2018 at 3:00 pm – Philadelphia Ethical Society

BEETHOVEN TO BRAHMS ... & ETA HOFFMAN

- a literary and visual chamber concert

May 19, 2018 at 7:30 pm – Ivy Hall

May 20, 2018 at 3:00 pm – Philadelphia Ethical Society

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!

Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 7:30 PM –

Venice Island Performing Arts Center, Manayunk

FINE ART PIANO DUO in concert

Music for two pianos by Rachmaninoff, Piazzolla, Brahms, and the *Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky.

<http://fineartmusiccompany.com>

FROM THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

TOWARD REPAIRING THE HARM OF RACISM

The following is an excerpt of the Resolution passed by the 102nd Assembly of the American Ethical Union, June 15, 2017. The full resolution is available:

<https://aeu.org/resource/2017-toward-repairing-the-harm-of-racism/>

. . . Therefore, we affirm efforts to study the lasting effects of the heritage of enslavement and racial discrimination especially on living African Americans, but also on other people of color, and on American society as a whole. We also affirm efforts to study ways that such lasting negative effects can be repaired, and to be involved in actions to repair such effects.

Further, we call on our national bodies, member Societies, and people who are part of those Societies, to study the effects and consider ways to repair such effects. We urge Societies, in addition to studying the overall problem, to find one or more areas to focus on where such injustice is experienced: educational opportunities, income and wealth, housing and food access, environmental racism,

cultural erasure and exploitation, the criminal justice system including incarceration, and health care.

We understand the need to center the participation and voices of people of color in such efforts, so that no solutions are prescribed without the active consensual participation and accountable partnership of those most affected. We recommend as one aspect of this commitment that Societies and their members study proposals and legislative efforts which originate in communities of color, with an intent to identify initiatives the Society will focus on and support.²

We also urge that Societies and their members create or support programming to examine institutions we are part of, both as Societies and as individuals, to study effects of past complicity with enslavement and with de facto and de jure discrimination, to discuss and identify appropriate actions, sometimes local and with partner organizations, to move towards repair of such effects, and then to participate in such appropriate actions.

We ask that the Ethical Action Committee of the American Ethical Union provide educational resources to local Societies and members of those Societies that will help with such study and action, and that the American Ethical Union support such action with necessary financial resources and administrative support. We urge the American Ethical Union to plan an Assembly on racial justice within the next three years.

¹The Supreme Court held many times after 1865 that laws discriminating by perceived race were constitutional, and even held that civil rights laws were unconstitutional. For example, see cases involving the Civil Rights Act of 1875, establishing the state-action doctrine, permitting private discrimination, and see *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896, not overturned until 1954.

²Examples of proposals the Society and members may wish to study include “Reparations” from the Movement for Black Lives (<https://policy.m4bl.org/reparations>) and H.R. 40 (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr40/text>)

RACIAL JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION

This is a partial transcript of the Platform address by Hugh Taft-Morales at the BMore Ethical AEU Assembly on June 11th. The full transcript is available here:
<https://aeu.org/2017/07/racial-justice-and-transformation/>

Good morning. In Ethical Culture, there are a lot of ways to grow. We take care of each other through life’s ups and downs. But at this time in history we are called on to confront systemic racism. This is not easy. Just ask our friends of color in this room who’ve been doing it all their

lives. For those of you, this is for you—thanks for being my teachers.

Another teacher, Michael Eric Dyson, used to say in church, “If the sermon ain’t making you a little bit uncomfortable, it ain’t effective.” In his book, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*, Dyson explains, “...if it doesn’t cost you anything, you’re not really engaging in change; you’re engaging in convenience. You’re engaged in the overflow.” At our best Ethical Culture can do better than that. We are all at different points on this journey, but

we have this much in common—we all have much more work to do, as individuals, as Ethical Societies, and as a nation. And I suggest that those of us who identify as white, as I do, have the most work to do.

For people of color, the wounds of racism are painful, often fatal. But racism has infected us all and wounded us all—psychologically and ethically—in manners profound and subtle and obvious and mundane. We must transform those wounds into corrective action and redemption.



SEPTEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 11:00 AM <i>Humans, Nature, and the Eclipse of the Sun</i> 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism – Our History & Philosophy</i>	4	5	6 6:30 PM PES MEETING Education Committee	7	8	9
10 11:00 AM <i>From Co-Victim of Homicide to Trauma- Informed Policing</i>	11	12	13 PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	14	15 6:00 PM <i>Confronting Racism Task Force Philly Force Potluck</i>	16
17 9:30 AM <i>Confronting Racism Monthly Planning</i> 11:00 AM <i>Mindful Activism and Peace</i>	18	19	20 5:30 - 7:30 PM Mindful Activism Workshop 6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	21 PEACE DAY PHILLY <small>www.peacedayphilly.org</small> 11:30 AM 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM Peace Day Rally activities	22	23
24 11:00 AM <i>I FEEL Good: The Best Human Condition</i>	25	26	27 7:00 PM PES MEETING Camp Linden Committee	28 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 7:00 PM Amnesty International Meeting	29	30 5:00 PM <i>Gathering in Medford Lakes</i>

The Philadelphia Ethical Society

has a new web site:

<http://phillyethics.org>

Check it out and let Nick,

nick@phillyethics.org,

know what you think.

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

“Sometimes I wonder
whether the world is being
run by smart people who are
putting us on, or by imbeciles
who really mean it.”

– M. Twain



SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER
THROUGH JUNE

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Flowers Coordinated by Sally Redlener



September 3 - , Ken Greiff-
"In honor of anyone who had marched
for a social cause this year"

September 10 - Bob Bueding
"For Peace and Calm in our world of
turmoil"

September 17 - , Nina Diamond
"In celebration of the birth of
Mirabelle Catherine"

September 24 - , Harry Thorn
"Dedicated to summer vacations with
family"

Coffee Hour Coordinators



September 3 - Kate Esposito.
Last names: A-E

September 10 - Ken Greiff
Last names: F-K

September 17 - Garry O'Rourke
Last names: L-R

September 24 - Harry Thorn
Last names: S-Z

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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 David Mc Devitt

14 Tom Carroll

18 Susan O'Connell

For suggestions regarding this
newsletter, contact Bob Bueding
bbueding@phillyethics.com

What's Goin' On?

Other public events at the Ethical Society Building in September FOUR Fringe Festival Productions in Our Spaces This Month!

- Iron Age Theatre presents two revolutionary plays at the Ethical Society for the Philly Fringe. On the eve of Marx's 200th birthday, Howard Zinn's *Marx in Soho* returns! "Inspiring, relevant, powerful" *Marx in Soho* shows a humane alternative to the capitalism that rules our government and our world. A Deb Miller Pick for One of the Best of the Fringe 2017 in DC Metro.
More info and tickets: <http://fringearts.com/event/marx-soho-howard-zinn/>

- Iron Age also presents the world premiere of *To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton* tells the story of Fred Hampton, Black Panther, Founder of the Rainbow Coalition and victim of police violence. Hampton was murdered at 21 in his home by Chicago police as he lay next to his pregnant lover. Frozen between life and death, Hampton shares his unique vision, his hope-filled dreams and brilliant analysis of American issues of race, economic justice, and human dignity.
More info and tickets: <http://fringearts.com/event/unborn-child-love-letter-fred-hampton/>

- Jennifer Blaine and Karen Getz present *The Vicissitudes of Travel*. A funny, and evocative, new, multi-character, solo performance starring Jennifer Blaine. Climb aboard *The Vicissitudes of Travel*, a chartered tour bus through brain surgery, art and subjective memory, as we try to capture the essential "stuff" in the beloved patient's head, before they close it up.
More info and tickets: <http://fringearts.com/event/the-vicissitudes-of-travel/>

- *The Gorgeosity - The Army of Love and Art* presented by Karen Getz and Dawn Falato. A play-romp for grownups. Have a beer and a yummy snack. Draw a picture and make a new friend. Join the play; a musical in which you are already perfectly cast. Sing old songs. Remember your secret dances. Grow up with us and help SAVE THE WORLD. Also, geese!!
More info and tickets: <http://fringearts.com/event/gorgeosity-army-love-art/>