

# ETHICAL VIEWS

March 2018

Vol. 132, No. 7 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society



## Sunday Platforms

**Sunday, March 4, 11:00 AM**  
***Making Room for Conservatives***  
**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,**  
**Philadelphia Ethical Society**



For over 140 years Ethical Humanism has promoted progressive solutions to social problems - solutions that try to ease human suffering through collective action

and civic engagement. At times this leads Ethical Societies to appear exclusively dedicated to liberal perspectives. What do these political labels mean? Is there room for conservatism in Ethical Humanism? How do we encourage free thought and civil debate while remaining true to our heritage? Hugh Taft-Morales explores the challenge of balancing diverse perspectives and group cohesion within Ethical Culture.

**Sunday, March 11, 11:00 AM**  
***The Trust Gap: Hidden Barrier to Successful Poverty Policy***  
**Judith A. Levine, Associate Professor, Sociology, Temple University**

Judith A. Levine will draw on findings from her book, *Ain't No Trust: How Boyfriends, Bosses, and Bureaucrats Fail Low-income Mothers and Why It Matters*, to evaluate the current state of poverty policy. The book is based on in-depth interviews with low-income mothers and documents their high levels of distrust in a variety

of areas of their lives. Levine's talk will focus on how distrust undermines policy incentives, particularly around benefits, child care, and employment. She will also argue that distrust among those in poverty represents an important form of inequality.

Judith A. Levine is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program at Temple University. She is also Chair of the Faculty Board of Review of Temple University Press.



Professor Levine graduated *magna cum laude* in Sociology from Harvard University and earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University.

**Sunday, March 18, 11:00 AM**  
***Spring Equinox Celebration***  
**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,**  
**Philadelphia Ethical Society**

Come celebrate the arrival of spring with music and poetry at our annual Equinox Celebration. Ethical Humanists honor the cycles of life, including the rhythm of the seasons. We come together to express our gratitude for our amazing earth, and to recommit to being good stewards so that our children, and our children's children, can breathe clean air, drink clean water, and joyously dance on the planet we call home.

**Sunday, March 25, 11:00 AM**  
***Building a Peace Economy: Local, Green and Just* – Judy Wicks**

Local self-reliance in food, water and energy not only reduces

carbons by decreasing our reliance on long-distance supply chains, but it also helps prepare our communities for climate change, while building the foundation for world peace. With examples from her own life and business career, Judy Wicks shows how cooperation, sharing, and making economic decisions from a place of love are necessary to address the urgent challenges of our times.



In 1983 Judy Wicks founded Philadelphia's iconic White Dog Cafe, a pioneer in the "farm to table" movement. Working to build a sustainable regional food system, she founded Fair Food Philly in 2000. In 2001 she founded the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia and the nation-wide Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE). Judy's 2013 memoir *Good Morning, Beautiful Business* won a national gold medal for business leadership and has been translated into Chinese and Korean.

***Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) will meet during platforms on March 4th and 18th. If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, [nick@phillyethics.org](mailto:nick@phillyethics.org)***

## LEADER'S COLUMN



### *A Clear and Present Danger: Faith- Based Medical Advice*

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

As an Ethical Culture Leader, I do not always take time to criticize supernaturalism. I invest most of my energy inspiring humanists to honor worth, grow relationships and build social justice. My highest commitment is to bring out the best in others and thus in myself. And, as an individual, I tend to embrace moderate positions and diplomatic language. This month, I will criticize one particular aspect of supernaturalism. Please excuse what might strike you as extreme, combative words.

I will use my Leader's column to criticize one particularly deplorable and dangerous effect of supernatural beliefs during this flu season. At the time of this writing in mid-February, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 14,676 people have been hospitalized with influenza since October, the highest in generations. At least 53 children have died, and flu season is far from over. Even at this late date, the CDC is urging the unvaccinated to get a flu shot.

How many innocent people will die because instead of listening to the CDC, they listen to people

like televangelist Gloria Copeland, co-founder the Fort Worth, Texas-based Kenneth Copeland Ministries? In a video she posted on Facebook on January 31, she denied the reality of this epidemic: "Listen, partners, we don't have a flu season." Copeland went on to promote her hocus pocus: "I'm asking you Lord with your supernatural power to heal them now from the top of their head to the soles of their feet. Flu, I bind you off of the people in the name of the people! Jesus himself gave us the flu shot.... Inoculate yourself with the word of God."

*"Jesus himself  
gave us the flu  
shot.... Inoculate  
yourself with the  
word of God."*

These words enraged me. I admit that perhaps Copeland's comments triggered me because people I know are suffering from the flu, including my daughter. But I think most of my anger was due to the fact that, while our administration and Congress slashes the CDC budget and attacks science, Copeland is, according to *ABC News*, a member of President Trump's faith advisory council. What exactly this council is, however, is unclear. I see little evidence that the "White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership," which was active under Obama, still exists.

Perhaps Copeland is a part of nothing more than the so-called "advisory council" of 1000 religious

leaders that Trump cynically put together to help him get elected. Nate Walker, Executive Director of *1791 Delegates* and an expert on religion in public life, told me that the advisory council in previous administrations was full of experts in law and religion dedicated to upholding the appropriate distance between church and state. He said that Trump's advisors seem to be "merely a lobbying group." Mr. Walker will be speaking at PES platform on April 8.

According to *Christianity Today*, Copeland joined people on the council like James Dobson, founder of *Focus on the Family*, who attacked transgender rights, abortion rights, and access to contraception. Dobson disingenuously embraced Trump in exchange for Trump's cynical promise to support such intolerant policies, calling our current misogynist bigoted president "a baby Christian", someone who has "really made a commitment."

Copeland joined people on the advisory council like Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University and one of the first evangelical leaders to endorse Trump. He had the gall to say that Trump "lives a life of loving and helping others as Jesus taught in the Great Commandment." He even said that Trump "reminds me so much of my father." What?! Did his father spew the kind of words Trump sanitized as mere "locker room talk"? Did Jerry Falwell Sr. brag about sexual assault and grabbing women?

How far from reality must these

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

particular “religious leaders” stray? Plenty of dedicated, compassionate religious leaders see reality clearly – they condemn both misogyny and anti-science nonsense. When less-thoughtful religious leaders like Copeland ignore the moral failings of our current president to advance intolerant social agendas, however, that’s bad. But it’s even worse when their supernatural beliefs lead them to encourage ignorant and life-threatening behavior, like slashing budgets and attacking inoculations. As humanists we must speak up. We must defend rational and evidence-based policies that make real our commitment to the worth of every person.

Get your flu shot!

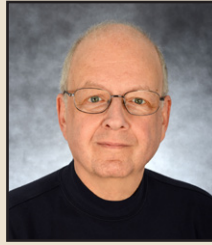


**Sunday March 4,  
Noon -1:30 at PES  
PLEDGE LUNCHEON**  
**It takes a hive to build  
an Ethical Society!**  
**Make your  
reservation today.**

All PES members should show up for food and fun and doing what we need to do to keep our humanist hive alive!

Send your RSVP to  
[bbueding@phillyethics.org](mailto:bbueding@phillyethics.org)  
or  
[vincer333@aol.com](mailto:vincer333@aol.com)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



### *Help Wanted*

*Bob Bueding,  
President,  
Philadelphia  
Ethical Society*

Rumor has it that the U.S. economy is chugging along at almost full employment, but I can think of at least two areas where help is still wanted. On the national scene there are volunteer programs working on re-districting and a need for fresh faces to run for public office. The immigration issue can benefit from folks who'll march in demonstrations, call their representatives, or teach an English class (ESL).

On the local scene, The Society's work continues. I'd like to thank all the members who serve on the Board of Trustees, plus all those who serve on one or more committees. Your efforts don't go unnoticed. Our Society could not function without your dedication.

Now comes the ask. We need more volunteers to serve on our committees. How can you help? There are various areas that might be of interest to you. Consider serving on the Education Committee, which plans the platforms and programs we offer weekly. Do you have

ideas? Jump in and present them to the Committee.

The Ethical Action Committee plans events with the Ending Racism Task Force. They also work with POWER, an inter-faith group on the front lines of social justice issues. There's the Camp Linden Committee, the Finance Committee, the Communications Committee. How about the Building Committee, the Caring Team and the Social Team, which are parts of the Community Committee?

We have something for everyone. If you have an interest, come to a meeting to see what goes on. Committee meetings are open

to all; most of them happen on Wednesday evenings. Check near the back of your copy of *Ethical Views* for the calendar listing dates and times. New faces and innovative ideas are the lifeblood of The Society. Help us grow – get involved.

One last item, I want to thank all our members for their generous financial support, without which we wouldn't be able to offer the wonderful programs and activities that go on here at 1906. If you haven't yet made your pledge, please consider doing that now. We depend on your time, talent, and treasure.

Because of you, 2018 will be a year to remember!

~ Bob

[bbueding@phillyethics.org](mailto:bbueding@phillyethics.org)

**Social  
Caring  
Camp Linden  
Communications  
Ethical Action  
Education  
Building  
Finance**



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Sunday, March 4, Noon-1:30 PM** **Hear the Buzz about the Pledge Luncheon?**

Tasty free lunch, great company, some silly fun – what's not to like? All members are encouraged to attend the 2018 Pledge Luncheon! If you haven't already done so, hand in your pledge cards at this members only event so that the Board can know how much honey we have in our hive. Help make our humanist home ever more active and strong!



## **Sunday, March 4, 7:00 PM** **Intro to Ethical Humanism**

Hugh Taft-Morales invites you to come for an informal discussion of Ethical Humanism and life at the Philadelphia Ethical Society. He will review the philosophy and history of the Ethical Culture movement over wine and cheese, and answer any and all questions about our alternative to traditional religion. Please RSVP to [LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org](mailto:LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org) so Hugh knows you are coming!

## **Monday, March 5, 7:00 PM** **Book discussion – *Creating Change through Humanism*, Roy Speckhardt**

Join Hugh Taft-Morales for a book discussion of *Creating Change through Humanism* by Roy Speckhardt,

Executive Director of the American Humanist Association. What does Speckhardt offer that might

be of use to our efforts to support ethical behavior in civic life? Come find out what one of our most important humanist allies thinks about how best to change society for the better.



## **Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 PM** **William Howard Taft and the Constitution**

The National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Philadelphia  
 Tickets: \$18 online at

<https://constitutioncenter.org/debate/upcoming-town-hall>

After serving as President of the United States, William Howard Taft was able to fulfill a long-term ambition – to become Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, the only president to hold both offices.

Join PES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales at a special event at the National Constitution Center where Jeffrey Rosen, CEO of the National Constitution Center, explores Taft's crucial role in

shaping how America balances populism with the rule of law, the subject of Rosen's new book for The American Presidents Series. Rosen will be interviewed by Judge Douglas Ginsburg, who calls Taft "the most under-appreciated constitutional figure since George Mason."

If you would like to attend the event with Hugh and PES members, purchase your ticket online at <https://constitutioncenter.org/debate/upcoming-town-hall>. If you would like to go for an informal dinner afterwards at a nearby restaurant, please email Betsy at [elisalight726@gmail.com](mailto:elisalight726@gmail.com) by Wednesday, March 14.

**PRESIDENTS COME  
 AND GO BUT THE  
 SUPREME COURT  
 GOES ON FOREVER.**

– WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT



# FROM THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

**Sunday, March 4, 5:00-6:00 PM**  
**Self-Compassion Meditation**  
**Call in by phone: 641-715-3580**  
**(Access Code: 366348)**

We need to be kind of ourselves so that we can go and do good work in the world, and to be compassionate with people in our lives. Self-compassion meditation gives us the opportunity to provide good care for ourselves. No experience is needed for Community Meditation and you can't do it wrong. You just need to join us and be prepared to be as kind to yourself as possible. The meditation will start at 10 minutes after the hour and will last for about 20 minutes. Following the meditation, we'll have opportunity for discussion looking at meditation from an Ethical Culture perspective. For more information, go to <https://aeu.org/event/community-meditation-1/>

**Sunday, March 11, 7:00-9:00 PM**  
**Living Ethics: the Core of Ethical Communities Webinars**  
**by Jone Johnson Lewis, Leader of Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture & Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture**

Do you want to know more about the Ethical Movement and the ideas and history and how it all works? Here's an opportunity to learn more from the comfort of your own home. You'll meet others who share your interest, contribute your ideas, learn from each other. Register for this 5-session in-depth orientation and introduction to Ethical Societies and the Ethical Movement. Or, register just for the session or sessions you're interested in. For more information, go to <https://aeu.org/event/living-ethics-seminars/>

**Thursday, June 7- Sunday, June 10**  
**What a great excuse to see New Mexico!** Come to the AEU Assembly in Albuquerque and take a few extra days to tour one of the most scenic areas in our country. *Seeds for the Future: Environmental Justice and Ethical Culture* will offer great keynote speeches, workshops on both environmental justice and congregational development, and social events to meet Ethical Culturists from all over. Ethical Culture Leader Curt Collier and Director of National Youth Programs for *Groundwork USA* will give the Sunday platform talk. You can register for this event at <https://aeu.org/event/aeu-103rd-assembly/>. On that same webpage you can donate to the "Voices at the Table Fund" to help assure diverse representation. Whether you are attending the Assembly or not, consider donating to this worthy cause!

*Fine Art Music*

**March 25th, 3:00 PM**  
**Musical Fantasies**  
**Two Pianists in Recital**  
**Rollin Wilber**  
**Katarzyna Salwinski**



This is our third performance this season in the *Concerts at Ethical* series, presented by Fine Art Music in collaboration with the Philadelphia Ethical Society. This concert is a shared piano recital, focusing on the musical form known as *Fantasy*, a classical composition free in form that offered an inspiring venue for 18th- and 19th-century composers, and helped unlock what became the Romantic spirit within the art of music.

Our program begins and ends with exceptional four-hand piano works by Mozart and Schubert, and will alternate performing powerful solo fantasy works –Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Chopin's *Fantasy*, Mendelssohn's *Fantasy in F# minor*, and Brahms' great op.116 *Fantasies for Piano*. This concert is also being given on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 7:30pm, Ivy Hall, 6551 Lancaster Ave, Philadelphia 19151. Tickets and information at [www.fineartmusic.com](http://www.fineartmusic.com)



FROM THE PES ENDING  
RACISM TASK FORCE  
**WOMEN HOLD UP  
HALF THE SKY**

submitted by Erik Younge

March is National Women's History Month. We do not really need a special month to honor the women in our lives; everyday is women's day. But it helps to focus our attention on the many women, known and unknown, who have sacrificed so much, who have shared and continue to share their integral, essential minds, bodies; their wisdom, talent, their creativity, their compassion and their love for our world.

It took me too long to understand and appreciate my mother Rose and her sacrifices and courage and determination to raise 7 children. Her notion of "family" included "immediate family" and "expanded family", which meant taking in other children when their parents couldn't cope with them for various reasons. We were not allowed to see these children as step-children, foster children, etc. To Rose, they were blessed children who deserved the best we could offer. I was raised to see them all as my sisters and brothers.

More than 50 years ago, Chinese leader Mao Zedong pronounced that famous quote that "women hold up half the sky". Zhang Yue, host of a popular Chinese talk show *-Half The Sky-* recalls how her mother worked "all day and into the night....Women labored outside the home, just like men, but when they got home they had to do everything else....women discovered that equality meant a double burden."

In this country, women have had to fight for equality against the patriarchy

of domination, fight for control over their bodies, minds, desires.

African-American women also had the burden of not only the fight against sexism, but the added fight against racism and white supremacy. They have always been on the front lines. Black Women have had to keep the family together, against inconceivable violence, discrimination, and then told to take the back seat, while the men took center stage and held up the trophy.

Karen Attiah is the *Washington Post* editor of Global Opinions. In a recent article, she states, "Black women helped send white men into space. And won back-to-back tennis titles.



**"Women hold up half the sky"**

And changed the makeup industry. We have even made our way into the White House. But lately it seems those in power would rather have Black women around the world sit down and shut up, especially about the racism, sexism and white supremacy that threatens our daily lives."

In January of this year, members of the ERTF (Ending Racism Task Force), a committee of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, hosted a discussion about the mostly unheralded women that spearheaded the US Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's. Their contributions and struggles are seldom discussed and acknowledged. It cited mostly Black women, but included women of all classes and races and colors who participate and lead the fight for freedom and equality.

Today, in this "dark winter of our discontent", women in general, and Black Women in particular, are leading the struggle for full equality. The Immigration Struggle is lead mainly by women. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) struggle against the wanton murder of young, unarmed Black people was started by 3 young Black Women. The #MeToo movement against sexual assault of women was started in 2006 by local activist Tarana Burke, an African-American woman who faced considerable abuse and adversity.

And I want to remember Anita Hill, who 26 years ago reluctantly challenged powerful men, black and white, and found her charges marginalized. It must seem like bittersweet vindication for her now.

On another personal note, I have a very selfish reason in this global fight against racism/sexism/classism/etc.- My three daughters and two granddaughters (they have promised a grandson next time.lol). I get angry when my daughters- Erika, Deirdre, Malika- reluctantly relate to me how, despite their wisdom, beauty, brilliance, and their genius, they still have to prove themselves to others, to men who refuse to see their shining lights, men who refuse to see their individual inherent worth - simply due to their gender. It just isn't fair or right. It must end if our future, our world is to survive and progress.

Women hold up half the sky. Racism, sexism, white supremacy is an unnecessary added burden that we all take apart and end. "And for the movement that gives us hope, and the families in whose name we serve, we will not stop pushing for a world in which we can raise our children in peace and with dignity." – Patrisse Khan-Cullors & Asha Bandele, founders of Black Lives Matter.

# MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 11:00 AM <i>Making Room for Conservatives</i> Noon: <i>Pledge Luncheon</i> 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i>	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM <i>Creating Change through Humanism, Roy Speckhardt</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> PES MEETING: 6:30 PM Education Committee	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 11:00 AM <i>The Trust Gap Judith A. Levine</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  11:00 AM <i>Spring Equinox Celebration</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM <i>William Howard Taft and the Constitution The National Constitution Center,</i>	<b>21</b> 6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	<b>22</b>  7:00 PM Amnesty International Meeting <a href="http://amnestyeastpa.com">http:// amnestyeastpa.</a>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 11:00 AM <i>Building a Peace Economy: Local, Green and Just Judith Wicks</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> PES MEETING 5:30 PM Camp Linden Committee	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## QUOTABLE

**The self is not  
something ready-  
made, but something  
in continuous  
formation through  
choice of action.**

John Dewey

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 JAMES COOKE  
 4 FERRY MARTIN-MURLEY  
 9 GARRY O'ROURKE  
 20 VINCE MCKENNA  
 20 HUGH TAFT-MORALES  
 23 SUSAN D'ALESSIO  
 26 RUTHANN DUBB  
 28 JOHN MARSHALL

Are members of our congregation interested in a tour of the Mother Bethel AME museum and church in the spring? If so, please contact me by email, [sylmetz2@gmail.com](mailto:sylmetz2@gmail.com). Once I get a list, Stan Horowitz and I will conduct a Doodle Poll to find the best date and time. Please indicate if you prefer a week day or a Saturday.



## SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M. September  
through June

*Ethical Views* is published monthly  
except July and August.

*Editor*, Henry Pashkow  
*Layout*, Celeste Hardester  
*Production*, Cheryl Desmond  
*Proofreader*, Betsy Lightbourn  
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## Coffee Hour Coordinators



March 4 - Kate Esposito.  
Last names: A-E  
March 11- Ken Greiff  
Last names: F-K  
March 18 - Garry O'Rourke  
Last names: L-Q  
March 25 - Harry Thorn  
Last names: R-Z

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Org Central

The Philadelphia Ethical  
Society participates in the  
Amazon Smile program.  
When you complete Amazon's  
easy sign up, a small  
percentage of every  
purchase you make is  
returned to PES.  
Shop at our link here:  
[smile.amazon.com/  
ch/23-1356235](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1356235).

## Flowers Coordinated by Sally Redlener



March 4 - From Garry  
O'Rourke: "Looking toward  
Spring."

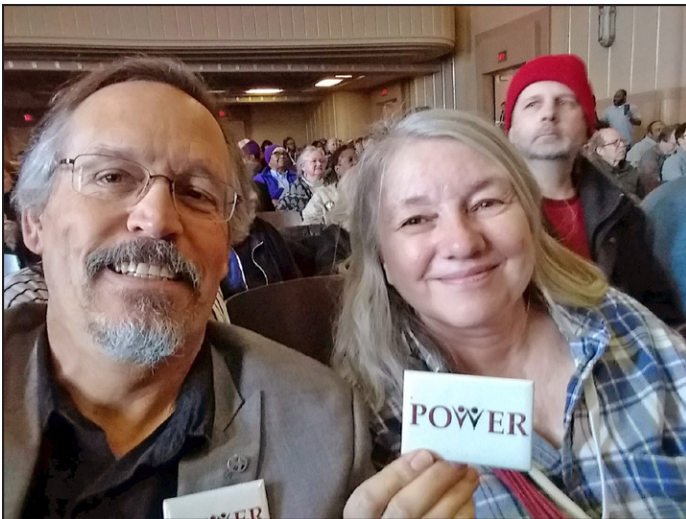
March 11 - From Sally Redlener:  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY on St. Patrick's  
Day to my sweet & loving daughter  
Nicole

March 18 - From Bob Bueding:  
"Dedicated to new life  
and a bright future."

March 25 - The Floral Dedication is  
"In memory of the first  
anniversary of the passing of  
Elizabeth Leonard, who  
selflessly devoted her actions to  
PEACE."

## 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.



*Hugh Taft-Morales and Kate Esposito with POWER  
on Martin Luther King Day.*

Did you ever think about  
writing about an experience  
that caused you to re-think  
and re-assess the principles you  
stand by? Why not give it a try?  
Consider it a challenge. 400  
words or less. Please submit to:

[hpashkow@gmail.com](mailto:hpashkow@gmail.com)

*(Submissions are limited to PES Members-only.)*