



## Sunday Platforms

**Sunday, Sept. 2, 11:00 AM**

***A Colloquy Marking the End of Summer***

**Ken Greiff, Member, Philadelphia Ethical Society**

A colloquy with readings of poetry and prose selected by Ken Greiff. The selections will be philosophical and spiritual and should help members and attenders sharpen their individual position on these deep topics.



**Sunday, Sept. 9, 11:00 AM**  
***Should Humanists Proselytize?***

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



Many people like Ethical Culture because it tries to make the world a better place while defending freedom of thought and the uniqueness of every individual. How do we recruit people to help us in our ethical mission without crossing the thin line between advocacy and manipulation? For example, should humanists proselytize? Hugh Taft-Morales explores how we can promote our values, grow our movement, and protect individual dignity and autonomy.

*Figures: City Hall is adorned on every side with sculptures inspired by history, allegory, mythology, philosophy and humanity, created by Alexander Milne Calder and his assistants in the late 1800's.*

**Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:00 AM**  
***American Indians and Sustainability – Paul Rosier, Professor of American History, Villanova University***

Paul Rosier will offer an overview of American Indian environmental politics, practices and philosophy, with an emphasis on post-World War II events, including how American Indians engaged broader environmental movements in the United States and the world. Paul holds the Mary M. Birle Chair in American History, at Villanova University, and is the author of four books including *Serving Their Country: American Indian Politics and Patriotism in the 20th Century* (Harvard University Press, 2009).

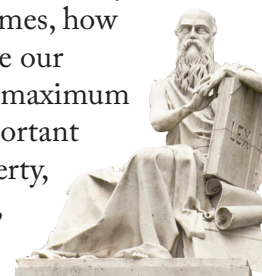
**Sunday, Sept. 23, 11:00 AM**  
***Inner Peace and Self-Loathing***  
**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society**

If we are going to build world peace, mustn't we start by looking within? Often we are at war with ourselves. We amplify the inner voices telling us that we are not good enough, not ethical enough. We can fall into an unproductive cycle of self-loathing. How do we readjust our attitude to escape from self-criticism on the one hand and indifference on the other? How do we take a heroic stance against injustice, while admitting that we usually fall well short?



**Sunday, Sept. 30, 11:00 AM**  
***POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild) at the Intersection of Ethical Culture***  
**Kate Esposito, Co-Chair POWER'S Economic Dignity Team**

Ethical Culture has a long tradition of social justice activism. Founder Felix Adler was involved in establishing free kindergartens, settlement houses and visiting nurses in New York City. In these urgent times, how can we leverage our power to have maximum impact on important issues like poverty, racial injustice, educational disparity and healthcare beyond attending rallies and marches? How does working with a theist social justice organization strengthen our voice and broaden our perspective?



Kate Esposito has been a member of PES since 1991 and presently serves on the Board. She chaired the Ethical Action Committee for several years and introduced the Ethical Society to POWER. POWER's Economic Dignity Team fights for a living wage, workers' rights and ending poverty in Philadelphia, the country's poorest large City.

***Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) will meet during platforms on September 9th and 23rd. If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, [nick@phillyethics.org](mailto:nick@phillyethics.org)***

# LEADER'S COLUMN

## WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS

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



This past August I visited the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. If you haven't made this trip, I recommend it highly. As a practical tip, access it from Liberty State Park in Jersey City and you'll miss all the crowds and traffic of Manhattan. There, on a small island, nearly in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, more than 12 million immigrants arrived between 1892 and 1954.

With the notable exception that the original inhabitants, the Lenape Indians, were no longer able to harvest food from the tidal flats around the island, in the context of U. S. immigration policy Ellis Island was a place of welcome. In fact, it helped make America great.

Millions arrived with energy, skills, hope, and optimism about life in this new land of liberty. Our country flourished because of their energy, skills, hope, and optimism. And, "they" are actually "us." Some estimate that 30-40% of Americans today can trace their ancestry to immigrants arriving at Ellis Island.

It's true that there were dehumanizing moments for many immigrants. As a U. S. History teacher I didn't hide times when people felt treated like cattle. They were ushered into long lines, inspected for physical and mental problems, and had their coats marked in chalk indicating how they might be a threat to the health of the nation. Some were deported immediately due to judgments about disease, deformity, poverty, mental illness, depression, and even homosexuality. Some had to stay for days or weeks, sleeping in the main hall wooden bunks.

And life after Ellis Island could be rough too, as documented by Lewis Hines and Jacob Riis. Their photographs were part of the immigration museum displays. To humanize the plight of the recent arrivals, Felix Adler worked with both men in sharing photographs with health inspectors and government committees. They documented the unhealthy conditions in tenement houses and factories, and stimulated progressive reforms aimed at freeing immigrants to flourish and contribute to society.

Despite the tough conditions, immigrants kept coming to Ellis Island, and they kept being welcomed. More than 95% managed to get through the long lines and crowded benches in about a half-day. Many were helped by immigration officers or comforted by immigrant

aide organizations. There was at least a recognition that these immigrants should be accorded dignity, and that these tired, poor, huddled masses should be given the liberty to breathe free. Felix Adler, who himself landed in New York harbor in 1857, was impressed with the welcoming embrace of his new home.

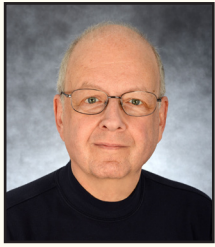
Beginning in the 1920's Americans were less welcoming. They expressed their liberty to spew xenophobic anti-immigrant rhetoric. Today it's not much better. Demagogues capitalize on fear of difference to get elected, whipping up concern about the "illegals" as being only good for gangs and prison.

*New York Times* reporter Nicholas Kristof admits that xenophobia and demagoguery stigmatizes refugees throughout the world, but we can expect better from the United States. I admit that there are dangerous people in the world drifting in the ebb and flow of the refugee sea. But bigotry and overly restrictive policies were not, and are not the solution. In general, people coming to our country bring to us more than they take from us. In fact, they are us. That's what I was reminded of during my summer visit to Ellis Island





## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



*Bob Bueding,  
President,  
Philadelphia  
Ethical Society*

### *Opportunity Knocks*

Summer is almost over and now it's time to look forward to another great season of programs, learning, and fun. First, I'd like to thank Richard Kiniry and Christian Hayden for stepping in to lead our society during Hugh's vacation. Both Richard and Christian presented some wonderful programs during the summer and were available for support to our members and guests. As you know by now, Christian is a "Leader-in-Training." Those of us who know him think he'll be an excellent leader for some lucky society.

Now it's time to look ahead. I'm in my second (and final) term as your president but my goals are still the same. We have a vibrant membership and I'd like to increase its numbers. We can do a better job in some areas. The first is our social media presence. We have formed a Communications Committee that is working to present our society and achieve maximum exposure on social media.

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, we will hold a Committee Fair during our coffee hour. Each committee will have a table and a representative. We are hoping you

will visit the committee tables that interest you and volunteer to join that group. We would love to have some new blood, fresh ideas, and energy. The Long-Range Planning Committee has been dormant. In the days to come, this group will come together to start looking at the future of our society and how to move forward. What we have to offer here at 1906 is truly unique, so please consider giving of your time and talent to help us grow.

During the summer I attended the AEU Assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was my third Assembly and each time I come home with new ideas and new friendships. The AEU (American Ethical Union) is our anchor organization. They provide information and support in so many ways and help get our message out to folks not in our geographic area. The new alliance with Momentum, a PR firm, will aid us in spreading the message. During the Starbucks situation here in Philadelphia, Hugh (and the Society) got some exposure in several national publications. I believe that if more folks hear about Ethical Culture our ranks will expand.

My involvement with the Philadelphia Ethical Society has broadened my horizons. Even though I'm in my 70s, I can still learn much from our speakers and more from our membership. Our members have a wealth of knowledge and life experiences. Let's share it. As I've said before, if you have suggestions, or even constructive criticism, my door is always open. I truly value your input.

~ Bob

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



### **PEACE DAY PHILLY 2018**

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-8:00 pm**  
**Compassion and Wisdom: Peace in Ourselves and in the World.**

**1906 Rittenhouse-ALL WELCOME!!!**

This program will include an hour for yoga and an hour for mindfulness meditation/discussion. Participate in either or both yoga and meditation/discussion. Focus on the connection between finding peace within and creating peace in the world.

**Friday, Sept 21, 11:30am- 12:30 pm**  
**Push for Peace—**

**Philadelphia City Hall Courtyard**

Student led local coalition program in conjunction with the International Day of Peace at the City Hall Courtyard. Anti-violence/peace resources available 10AM - 1PM.

**Friday, Sept 21, 6:00-6:45 pm-**  
**8th Annual Sing-Along for Peace -**  
**1906 Rittenhouse-ALL WELCOME!!!**

Join Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society, for a sing-along of new and old peace songs.

**Friday, Sept 21, 7-8:30 pm-**  
**Peace Day Philly Benefit Concert**  
**1906 Rittenhouse-ALL WELCOME!!!**

Join us for an evening of music performed by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as immigrants and former refugees. This special Peace Day event will benefit refugees served by [HIAS PA](http://HIASPA.org). Suggested Donation: \$15

**For other events in center city, go to [peacedayphilly.org/events](http://peacedayphilly.org/events).**

FROM LEONARD WEEKS,  
MANAGER, CAMP LINDEN

## ***This is what is called “Meeting a Bug”***

One of the oft repeated scenes at Camp Linden occurs when campers enter the boy's and girl's bathrooms in the morning only to emerge frantically scattering in all directions, screaming in the highest pitch obtainable: A SCARY BUG!!!!

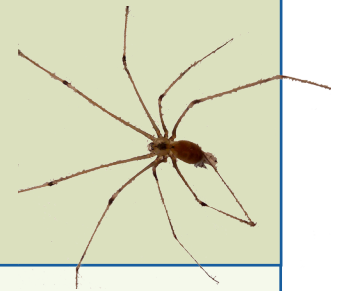
I have yet to be convinced that such screams inflict serious trauma to the nervous systems of such young children. But be that as it may, we decided to create a “bug program” that would include some basic information about insects and spiders with an opportunity for campers to capture and release them. Personally I also hoped to spark a bit of calm, scientific curiosity to replace, or

at least mitigate, the automatic repulsive reaction to bugs that I was witnessing. So in the off-season I set out to prepare myself for such a responsibility. I immersed myself in Donald Stokes' *Observing Insect Lives*, Gullon and Cranston's *The Insect*, a college level outline of entomology, several children's books about “bugs,” and various internet articles on such matters as insect evolution, etc. You can imagine how little of this learning I was able to effectively include in a brief presentation that would have at least some passing interest to a group of restless campers.

Nevertheless I was somewhat dismayed to discover that my teachings seemed to have little if any effect in creating the hoped for change of attitude. The screaming and frantic running for your life continued week after week. The campers did, however, engage in the bug capturing with great enthusiasm

and excitedly brought their prizes to show me, asking, “What is this?” And then we would happily watch as we let the moths fly free.

But on one occasion a camper, who had captured a Daddy Long Legs, asked if released would it crawl harmlessly on your hand. I assured him that it was indeed harmless and would he like to try. He hesitated so I asked, “Would you like me to go first?” He thought that was a good idea, so I released it and permitted it to crawl up my arm before recapturing it. Without a hesitation he followed my example and then released it. Joy bloomed in my heart! Here at last was at least one camper who actually demonstrated the wonder and scientific curiosity I had so longed to stimulate.



FROM THE EDITOR

## ***Planting the Seed***

As I read through Leonard Weeks' article on Camp Linden, I remembered watching Sylvia Metzler dress up as a bee and give a talk in cross pollination to a group of young children in the Camp Linden Nature Center a few years ago. She spoke in easily understood terms, and I was as captivated by the pleasure she took from it as I was by how closely some of the kids listened. Not all were avid listeners but some were, and their eyes were luminous. If I ever thought kids weren't stimulated by their surroundings and the desire to know I was disabused of that notion right there.

Just a couple of weeks ago, there was a group of kids from Wilmington's poorest neighborhood at the Camp. Leonard Weeks gave me a preview of his talk on insects found on the Camp grounds (please see his article above). You should have seen the light in his eyes! As I listened I thought about the kids who got interested and the commitment of those who work at the Camp to get them so. Their connection to and support of inquiring young minds at the camp is a worthy thing. Awakening the senses and the mind to the wonders around us is a source of joy to me.

Residing in children is a wellspring of curiosity that awakens in human consciousness a desire to make connections. Let's take the example

of the kid Leonard was talking to and use our imagination a bit. He might wonder about the similarity between bugs at the Camp and those in his neighborhood. How are they different and why do they act the way they do and where do they sleep? What's the connection between their striving to survive and the unending cycle of strife and resolution among the people where he lives?

Questions and more questions, brimming over with possibility. I wonder how he'll respond as an adult faced with the urgency of life's most stubborn and unrelenting problems. Perhaps he'll become an active thinker and warrior, due, perhaps in part, to the support he got at the Camp.

For more information about Camp Linden, please visit [www.phillyethics.org](http://www.phillyethics.org) and click on the Camp Linden link



**From the PES  
Ending Racism Task Force:**

## **BLACK-GREEN HISTORY AND GROUNDSWELL**

**submitted by Nick Sanders**

“Survey finds a disconnect on climate change and Latinos.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 27, 2018. Page B3.

Maybe you saw this recent *Inquirer* article. The survey revealed that although Latinos have been found to be more likely than any other major ethnic group in the U.S. to care about climate change and be informed about it, they are far less likely to act politically on it. Further evidence suggested that the reason has been that governmental and nonprofit organizations did not attempt to engage Latinos in working on the issue. The survey’s director was quoted as saying, “The common wisdom then, and even today, is that it’s an issue that only ‘upper-middle class, white, latte-sipping liberals’ care about.”

As someone who considers himself to have been an active environmentalist all his adult life (reading lots on environmental organizations; writing many letters to newspaper editors and politicians about the problems with fossil fuels and the promise of

solar power; conserving water and electricity; and managing recycling collection points in neighborhoods and recycling in the School District of Philadelphia), I would have to say that I, too, have considered global warming and other big environmental issues to be so abstract that only those of us who were not so burdened by everyday cares were the ones to raise the alarm. I thought that those who bore the brunt of poverty and discrimination just did not have the time and attention to act on big environmental concerns.

Of course, this was pretty shallow thinking. I had realized that the poor and people of color were often the ones most impacted by environmental degradation. Some examples: EPA scientists reported in the *American Journal of Public Health* (2018) that non-whites in the U.S. were 1.28 times more likely than the overall population to be exposed to air pollution in the form of very small particulate matter generated by industrial and other commercial activity. Blacks, specifically, had 1.54 times this burden! A compilation of other recent studies by the Center for American Progress revealed negative environmental impacts on Blacks and others of color from air and water pollution, waste processing plant location, adverse climate change, and lead poisoning. But I wondered: Where

are the Black environmental activists and organizations raising this issue of these greater negative environmental impacts on Blacks and other people of color? Then I came across *Black-Green History*.

*Black-Green History* is the title given to many actions and actors in Black communities ... for much longer than the time-span initiated in 1970 as Earth Day. It is a term that the nonprofit organization *Groundswell* coined in its effort to focus public attention: “Black-Green leaders don’t sound like ‘greens’ because they don’t fit the mainstream profile of what being green is. ... The climate leaders in the black communities aren’t those leading pipeline protests or organizing divestment campaigns for humankind’s collective benefit. They are community organizers and ministers working on everyday energy equity to help struggling families keep the lights on. They are environmental justice advocates organizing people around the disproportionate threat that pollution-fed cancer alleys pose to working families and communities of color. They are former civil servants and academics fostering thought-provoking and transformative environmental justice policy inside and outside of government.” [Groundswell’s website](#) goes on to present short biographies of 28 of these “Black-Green” leaders. Quite enlightening...



*Here’s Henry and Richard engrossed in their usual discussion apropos of nothing in particular, and suddenly Hugh pops up! Is that really him? We thought he was supposed to be someplace else. Next you see us looking off in the distance utterly nonplussed.”*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, Sept. 2, 7:00 pm**

## **INTRO TO ETHICAL HUMANISM**

Join Christian Hayden for an overview of Ethical Humanism and learn more about what the Philadelphia Ethical Society does. Christian will be providing readings of works from various Ethical Culture leaders (clergy of Ethical Societies). Bring questions and criticisms. And yes, there will be wine this time. To RSVP, contact him at [chayden423@gmail.com](mailto:chayden423@gmail.com)

**Sunday, Sept. 9, ART OPENING - immediately following platform**

**Mina Smith-Segal, painter -**

See page 7 for details



**Sunday, Sept. 9, 5:00-6:00 pm**

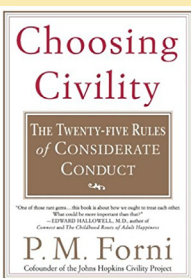
## **MY TRIP TO TANZANIA**

Join Hugh Taft-Morales at 1906 Rittenhouse Square for a slide show of his first trip to Africa, a safari in Tanzania. Wine and cheese provided.

**Monday, Sept. 10, 7:00 -8:30 pm**

## **Book Discussion:**

**CHOOSING CIVILITY, P. M. Forni**



In these days of discord, is there still room for civility in social interactions? Come for an informal discussion of P.M. Forni's work, led by Hugh Taft-Morales. You can read his short book or, for more information, visit his [Civility Web Site](#), hosted by Johns Hopkins University.

**Thursday, Sept. 20 and**

**Friday, Sept. 21 -**

**PEACE DAY PHILLY 2018 -**

See page 3 for details on activities and times.

**Sunday, Sept. 23, Noon-1:00 pm**

## **COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE FAIR**

After platform during our coffee hour representatives of various PES Committees will be available to speak to you about the important work committees do to promote the values of Ethical Humanism. Details on the

committees are provided [HERE](#).

While suggestions about the work of the committees are always welcome, this Committee Fair is designed to help you see where you could best join in our community life, programs, and ethical action projects. See you there!

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:00 pm**

## **THE LAST MAN WHO KNEW**

**EVERYTHING, - an Interview of Author David N. Schwartz**

The Freethought Society and the Philadelphia Ethical Society (PES) invite you to a free and open-to-the-public event. PES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales will interview David N. Schwartz about his new book, *The Last Man Who Knew Everything*. Come learn about the fascinating life and incredible work of Enrico Fermi, who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1938.





Schwartz holds a PhD in political science from MIT and is the author of two previous books. He has worked at the State Department Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and at Goldman Sachs in a variety of roles in both London and New York.

**COFFEE  
HOUR  
COMMITTEE  
FAIR**

**BE YOUR LARGEST SELF**

# SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b>  11:00 AM <i>Colluquy</i> Ken Greiff 7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  PES MEETING: 6:30 PM Education Committee	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 11:00 AM <i>Should Humanists Proselytize?</i> Hugh Taft-Morales Right after Platform Art Opening - Mina Smith-Segal	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Book Discussion - <i>Choosing Civility</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 11:00 AM <i>American Indians and Sustainability</i> Paul Rosier	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	<b>20</b> 6:00 -8:00 PM <i>Beginning of Peace Day Rally</i>  7:00 PM Amnesty International	<b>21</b> <i>Peace Day Rally</i> - see Page 3 	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 11:00 AM <i>Inner Peace and Self-Loathing</i> Hugh Taft-Morales Right after Platform Coffee Hour Committee Fair	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Hugh Interviews David N. Schwartz PES MEETING 5:30 PM Camp Linden Committee	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 11:00 AM <i>POWER at the Intersection of Ethical Culture</i> Kate Esposito						

## QUOTABLE

You can't depend on  
your eyes when your  
imagination is out  
of focus.

Mark Twain

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**11** David McDevitt  
**14** Tom Garroll  
**18** Susan O'Connell

## Sunday, Sept. 9, Art Opening

Mina Smith-Segal, painter:  
 "For 22 years I have devoted myself to my painting. I paint from life using outdoor scenery and costumed models during the winter months. Watercolor is my medium of choice and the surface I prefer is polypropylene (Yupo). Working "en plein air" is the method I use to paint my favorite subject – scenes of Center City Philadelphia."





## SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M.

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

*Executive Editor*, Henry Pashkow  
*Copy Editor*, Betsy Lightbourn  
*Web Master, Copy Editor*, Nick Sanders  
*Layout*, Celeste Hardester  
*Production*, Cheryl Desmond

**Philadelphia Ethical Society**  
1906 South Rittenhouse Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader  
**PES Board of Trustees**  
Bob Bueding, President  
Garry O'Rourke, Vice President  
David Ralston-Treasurer  
John Marshall-Secretary  
Kate Esposito  
Susan O'Connell  
Michael Black-Smith  
Vince Russo

(215) 735 - 3456  
office@phillyethics.org  
www.phillyethics.org

## Coffee Hour Coordinators



September 2 - Kate Esposito.  
Last names: A-E  
September 9- Ken Greiff  
Last names: F-K  
September 16 - Garry O'Rourke  
Last names: L-Q  
September 23 - Harry Thorn  
Last names: R-Z  
September 30 - TBD

## 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.

## Flowers Coordinated by Sally Redlener



September 9 - From Bob Bueding:  
Welcome back, Hugh

September 16 - From Harry Thorn:  
A remembrance of vacations with  
family

September 23 - From Nina Diamond:  
Welcome back, Hugh, and thank you  
for helping us to branch out.

September 30 - From Sally Redlener:  
Congratulations to Sharon & Leonard  
for the children's wonderful  
Summer Camp experiences at our  
Camp Linden.



Linden Flower

For suggestions regarding this  
newsletter, contact Henry Pashkow  
[hpashkow@gmail.com](mailto:hpashkow@gmail.com)

## Outside Groups

What other presenters are doing at the  
Ethical Society Building in September

- Author talk, "Four Noble Truths of Love."

September 13, 6:30-8:00 pm

New York Times best-selling author and meditation teacher Susan Piver reads  
from her new book and offers insights into love and loss.

Info and tickets [HERE](#).

- 2018 Philadelphia Fringe: Sage Wisdom

2018 Philadelphia Fringe, Tribe 12 Performing Arts presents, "Sage Wisdom." A town  
full of fools stands on the brink of collapse! With the economy in peril and crime on  
the rise, the townspeople of Chelm, Poland, look to the Wise Sages for help. Three  
performances, September 12, 13 and 19.

Tickets \$15 at the door or visit: <http://fringearts.com/event/>

- Ecstatic and Free Form Dancing Event.

Dance Medicine Philly Presents: Ecstatic and Free Form Dancing Event. Sunday,  
September 16 at 6 pm. Admission charge.

For tickets and info: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/DanceMedicinePhilly/events/>

- Mighty Writers presents Nikole Hannah-Jones

Nikole is an award-winning investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial  
injustice for The New York Times Magazine. Tickets \$100.

Tickets are tax-deductible and all proceeds support the

Mighty Writers Recreation Center Initiative

[EVENT BRITE](#)