



# ETHICAL VIEWS

October 2018 Vol. 133, No. 2 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society



## Sunday Platforms

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 11:00 AM**  
***Is Civility Always Good?***  
**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,**  
**Philadelphia Ethical Society**



In today's tempestuous times commentators bemoan the apparent loss of civility in social discourse. On TV, radio, and on-line, sometimes it seems that people are competing to be rude. Discussion of "hot button issues," like politics, religion, and the #MeToo movement, often provoke mean-spirited shouting matches. Can we revive our respect for basic civility, both in the media and in our everyday interactions? Hugh Taft-Morales explores "civility" and the ways Ethical Humanists can best embrace it as a virtue.

**Sunday, Oct. 14, 11:00 AM**  
***More than just business as usual: The psychological effects of the Zero Tolerance Policy on the children themselves and on us as witnesses***

**Dana Sinopoli, Psychologist**  
When the Zero Tolerance Policy came out in May, the response was primarily focused on its policy aspects and what this said about the current administration. In this address, Psychologist Dana Sinopoli will focus on the direct and long-lasting psychological effects of this policy on the children themselves and the intergenerational transmission of trauma, demonstrating how

this policy will affect subsequent generations. She will also address what it means to be a witness to what is happening around us and how outrage and helplessness can be turned into agency.

Dr. Sinopoli has been in private practice for over five years in Philadelphia and works with people who present with a desire to more fully understand themselves, their histories, and their relationships through an in-depth and collaborative process. She has taught a graduate school course on psychological trauma, presented workshops to law enforcement and attorneys on trauma-informed forensic interviewing, and most recently, been interviewed in print and on air on the psychological effects of this administration's Zero-Tolerance Policy.

**Sunday, Oct. 21, 11:00 AM**  
***What's Wrong with Selfishness?***

**Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,**  
**Philadelphia Ethical Society**  
People scold children for being selfish, and yet children are constantly encouraged to excel, win, and "be #1". Besides confusing our kids, what's wrong with selfishness? For traditional religions selfishness is often caused by one of the deadly sins, like lust, greed, gluttony. From an Ethical Humanist perspective selfishness is bad not just because of what it does to others, but what it does to the person acting selfishly. Come hear Hugh Taft-Morales critique the self-destructive nature of selfishness.

**Sunday, Oct. 28, 11:00 AM**  
***The Increasingly United States***  
**Daniel J. Hopkins, Professor,**  
**Political Science, University of**  
**Pennsylvania**

In a campaign for state or local office these days, you're as likely today to hear accusations that an opponent advanced Obamacare or supported Donald Trump as you are to hear about issues affecting the state or local community. This is because American political behavior has become substantially more nationalized. American voters are far more engaged with and knowledgeable about what's



happening in Washington, DC, than in where they live, whether in the South, the Northeast, or the Midwest. Gone are the days when all politics was local.

Daniel J. Hopkins is a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studies American politics. He also writes periodically for *FiveThirtyEight*. He has previously taught at Georgetown University and worked for the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences Team as well as the City of New York. He received a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

***Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) will meet during platforms on October 7th and 21st. If you have questions, please contact Nick Sanders, [nick@phillyethics.org](mailto:nick@phillyethics.org)***

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

After my deep investment of time and energy at the American Ethical Union Assembly in Albuquerque, my first trip was mainly for physical and spiritual rejuvenation. Hiking with my wife through the vastness

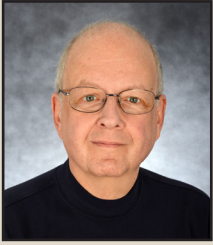
The second trip – a long anticipated journey to Africa with my wife and three adult children – was eye-opening in many ways. From the modest and gentle hospitality of the Maasai to the skilled expertise of our guide Filbert, the Tanzanian people embraced us warmly. We



But nothing will compare to the wonders of the animals that strode around us majestically in the protected Serengeti, Rauha, and Selous areas. I've spoken often about how my humanist spirituality is colored by a respect for non-

Of course little felt as timeless as the joining of two people in marriage. As I told the group

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



*Bob Bueding,  
President,  
Philadelphia  
Ethical Society*

### SOMETHING

There was a time when our politicians were able to work together. That time has passed. Washington can't seem to get anything done.

With the election of our current president, members of his own party have become spineless. We've hit a real BUMP in the road. Nowadays our politics

is almost entirely money-driven. Groups like the NRA pump so much money into politics that they can buy the candidates who will vote the way the gun advocates want. Just imagine what it would be like if we were able to eliminate the lure of the dollar.

When I look back, the last administration that could get things done was the Clinton administration. Then there were more politicians who could reach across the aisle and forge a compromise. None of that exists now. But I digress.

What can we do now? How's this for obvious – get out on November

6 and VOTE. But don't stop there. Get involved in helping to get the vote out. When Obama was elected in 2008, it was largely due to the grass-roots effort, and social media played a huge role. Talk to your friends, communicate by email, snail mail, Facebook, twitter. Buy a sticker, make a poster, do something. Tell everybody you know that this election is life-defining.

We need change and we need everyone to do his/her part. "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good (wo)men to do nothing."

~ Bob

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

*Continued from page 2*

assembled in a brewery decorated for a wedding party, "we all share this moment together as people in every age and culture have celebrated the joining of two people into one shared life." I was honored that Kate LaClair, a young woman epitomizing the values of Ethical Culture, asked me to officiate. Her work as chair of the Ethical Action committees of Baltimore and the American Ethical Union, along with both her openness to the world and her gentle, caring interpersonal manner, was a big part of the reason why I love being an Ethical Culture Leader so much.

As the summer ended and I flew back from Germany on Labor Day, I turned myself back toward the work of ministering to the Philadelphia Ethical Society, renewed and refocused. I look forward to another wonderful program year.

## MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO



As part of POWER's Integrated Voter Engagement Program, we here at the Society are striving to achieve a 100% commitment from

our members that they will VOTE on Tuesday, November 6th.

That means that, **before Oct. 9th**, you will make sure that your voter registration is updated that if you are unable to get to the polls you will secure an absentee ballot, that you will get to your polling place and that you PLEDGE to VOTE. Here is what you will be asked to commit to: **YES! I commit to my family and my community to vote on November 6th: To hold our elected officials accountable to stand for justice and human dignity.**

So either sign the card after Platform on Sunday mornings, or if you get a call or email, please make the **PLEDGE to VOTE**.

Too much is at stake and there is no more important a civic duty.

**Be a Citizen and VOTE!** Kate Esposito

Pennsylvania registration info is [HERE](#). New Jersey is [HERE](#).)



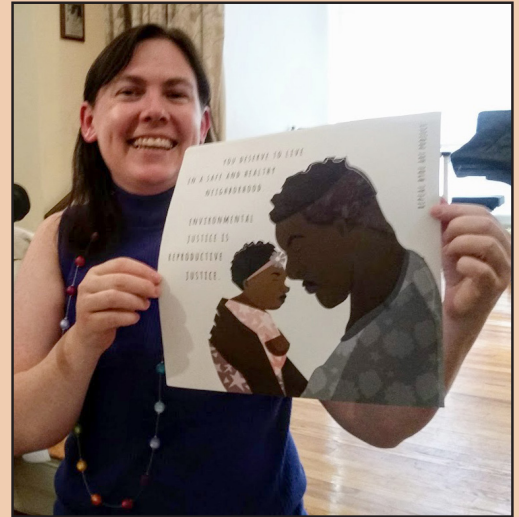
BY BETSY LIGHTBOURN,  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

## SUMMER SUNDAYS SIZZLING POTPOURRI

When I became a member of PES back in the late 1990s, summer Sunday programs were small – book discussions and colloquies usually attracting no more than a dozen or so participants. Over the last few years Summer Sundays have flourished with a variety of formats offered mostly by our members of many talents and skills. And attendance has increased, inching closer to our regular season numbers.

Hayden on creating community through poetry; and Ken Greiff, on faith. Betsy Lightbourn led the annual Ethical Page Turners summer reading suggestions that focused on a global perspective while Ron Coburn reported on the legacy of Charles Darwin.

Leader Emeritus Richard Kiniry (“What to Do About Men”) and Leader in Training Christian Hayden (“My Pan Africanism and My Humanism”) presented stimulating platform talks as did member Kim McKay (“Gender and Sexuality Policy: Impacts on Social Justice”).



*Kim McKay, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Temple University, holds sign from her presentation that reads, “You deserve to live in a clean and healthy neighborhood. Environmental justice is reproductive justice.”*

*Photo by Betsy Lightbourn*

Many thanks to all who led these wonderful programs, as well as to those who participated in them. We hope for an encore next summer.



*Participants consider how music affects them as they gather around the piano during “Getting Our Attention With A Beautiful Sound” led by Pianist Rollin Wilber.*

*Photo by Betsy Lightbourn*

This summer we offered two music programs – one by pianist Rollin Wilbur on listening to classical music followed by a second, by member and musician Robert Edwin Steinfert, demonstrating classical music’s influence on popular music. Three colloquies or their variations were offered by Richard Kiniry on truth; Christian

Members who attended the AEU Assembly shared their experiences while Camp Linden committee representatives spoke about the future of Camp Linden. And our in-house playwright Pat McGeever both wrote and directed a fascinating and thought-provoking play, “Greatest Love,” produced as a dramatic reading by Temma and Arnold Fishman and Nick Sanders.



*In July, PES Member Christian Hayden presented a platform on ideas about being a humanist and being black.*

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

**WHY REPARATIONS?**

*submitted by Sylvia Metzler*

Why should I help pay reparations for slavery and Jim Crow? "Me and my family didn't own slaves." "How could we tell today who are actual descendants?" "I hear that reparations would just make racism worse!"

Well .... What are reparations anyway? Google it. "The making of amends for a wrong one has done by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged." What exactly was the wrong? Exact numbers are hard to come by but the official UN statistics say that 17 million African people were brought to the US and put into chattel slavery – where slaves were actual property who could be bought, sold, traded or inherited with no rights to them or their descendants. This is very different from debt or punishment slavery practiced in other parts of the world. How long did the enslaved people endure humiliation, exploitation, suffering and murder in the US? TWO HUNDRED FORTY SIX YEARS from 1619 to 1865. That was followed by another 100 years of Jim Crow - followed by Mr. James Crow Jr to the present.

Thanks to my daughter's good genealogy work, I was able to learn what my family was doing in 1865. When the slaves were freed that year, my great grandfather on my Dad's side was a property owner living in South Carolina with his intact family, good education, comfortable job and lifestyle.

Have I benefited from his position whether he was a slave owner or not? If I were the descendant of a newly freed slave in 1865 who was landless, uneducated, poverty stricken, and probably separated from his or her family, what could my life be like today? And I can't forget the effect of 100 plus years of discrimination in education, employment, housing and the criminal justice system not to mention the terror of groups like the KKK. Whatever happened to the promise of 'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?'

I googled reparations and was presented with a big list. I will share three of them now to help make my point about "Why Reparations?"

So it's important to start with the Holocaust in Germany when six million Jews were murdered and where countless others suffered in ways beyond imagination. Between 1933 and 1945, two thirds of Europe's nine million Jews died from genocide. Germany has made a formal apology and paid reparations of over \$70 billion dollars to the survivors of the Holocaust for the physical and emotional damages inflicted upon the Jews. Hardly enough.

In 2013 the US finally apologized and paid reparations to the Japanese survivors of the WWII internment camps. More than 110,000 people of Japanese descent (62% US citizens) were put in camps from 1942 to 1946. Along with the official apology, 82,210 survivors or their next of kin were compensated with \$20,000 checks. The US has also paid reparations to some Native Americans and Black farmers in the South.

I'll close with the city of Chicago and Police Commander Jon Burge's torture center where he and his police tortured confessions out of over 200 prisoners between 1972 and 1991. In 2015 the city of Chicago created a reparation package for those victims. It included an apology, a \$5.5 million fund, creation of a permanent memorial recognizing the victims, an agreement to teach public school students about the case, free city college tuition and job training to victims, their immediate family and their grandchildren, and funded psychological, family, substance abuse and other counseling services to victims and their immediate families.

In 1989 Rep John Conyers began to yearly introduce HR 40 (think 40 acres and a mule) which calls for a commission to study the issue of reparations for slavery and to make recommendations. Here at the Philadelphia Ethical Society, members of the Ending Racism Task Force have thanked Rep. Robert Brady for being a co-sponsor of the resolution and successfully lobbied Rep. Dwight Evans to add his name to the 35 co-sponsors in the House.

"Why Reparations?" I hope I have made the case for all the readers of this article – and especially for those readers at the Philadelphia Ethical Society – to do some research of your own and then hopefully join in calling for the long overdue apology and reparations for centuries of slavery and discrimination.

**June 15, 2017 - Resolution passed by the 102nd Assembly of the American Ethical Union: " ... 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."**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 7:00-8:30 pm**

## INTRO TO ETHICAL HUMANISM

People new to Ethical Culture are encouraged to attend an Introduction to Ethical Humanism. Hugh Taft-Morales will explore ethical pride and shame, both within the Ethical Culture movement and our personal lives. How does commitment to honor the inherent worth of every person, a cornerstone of Ethical Culture, affect how we judge our own ethical behavior? He'll also provide wine, cheese, and an overview of Ethical Culture history! Please RSVP, to [leaderhugh@phillyethics.org](mailto:leaderhugh@phillyethics.org)

**Monday, Oct. 8, 7:00-9:00 pm**

## THE VALUE OF OTHER CULTURES

**Sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Thinking Society and the Philadelphia Ethical Society, hosted by C.J. Fearnley and Hugh Taft-Morales**

Free and open to all. Light refreshments served. What is culture? What makes other cultures different from ours? What is the value of other

cultures? Are they just quaint exotic peoples destined to fade away, eclipsed by the modern world? Or do they offer us wisdom, hope and inspiration? How can we see the value of other cultures? How do they enrich our collective heritage?

Inspired by the profound, poignant 2009 Massey Lecture given by Wade Davis: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfbGdoTQKuM>.

His lectures were published as the book *The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the modern World*.

**Sunday, Oct. 21, 5:00-6:30 pm**

## MORE CIVILITY

For those unable to attend September's session, Hugh Taft-Morales will host another informal book discussion of *Choosing Civility*, by P. M. Forni. In these days of discord, is there still room for civility in social interactions? You can read his short book, or visit his website and read some material on the "Civility Website" hosted by Johns Hopkins University. Go to <http://krieger2.jhu.edu/civility>

**GLIMPSE INTO PES PAST:  
A Piece of Our History**  
by Eric Clausen

Samuel Burns Weston founded the Philadelphia Ethical Society while serving an apprenticeship at the New York Ethical Society. He was sent to Philadelphia in 1884 with three letters of introduction to people who never helped form the new Society and who never joined it. During that visit and in subsequent visits many of the people he approached "threw a good deal of cold water on the project." Finally he assembled a small group of sympathetic people and in the spring of 1885 arranged for a course of six Sunday lectures at the City Institute (northeast corner of 18th and Chestnut Streets) to be given by himself, William Salter (then Leader at the Chicago Ethical Society), and Felix Adler. Weston gave the first four lectures, which were titled, *The need of an Ethical Religion, Why Christianity does not satisfy us, The success and failure of liberalism, and The meaning of a Society for Ethical Culture*. Salter's lecture was titled *The basis of the Ethical movement*, and Adler's lecture, which was given on a Wednesday evening, was titled *The meaning of the Ethical Culture Movement*. Twenty-four of the people who attended those lectures subsequently met on June 1st, 1885 to form a Society for Ethical Culture in Philadelphia.



Lectures of Anthropologist Wade Davis are the inspiration for a discussion on THE VALUE OF OTHER CULTURES, Monday, Oct. 8.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**BELONGING**

by Henry Pashkow

At a recent ERTF (Ending Racism Task Force) meeting one person said white people were trespassers in this country. I was born here and it came as a shock to me when I heard it. There was truth in it. I remembered a historical re-enactment I saw on television about William Penn's first encounter with Native Americans. He said a Great King had given them this land and they came in peace. The Native Americans looked on, astonished. They had no tradition of land ownership. The invaders who came next said move on, you don't belong here. They moved on and they died.

One cold December day in 2014 six Ethical Society members went to City Lights Network in Southwest Philadelphia to pay tribute to mostly young black men who had fallen victim to gang violence and were forgotten. First we gathered around the table along with other people from their anti-violence initiative. They told us these young men had barely merited a mention in the newspapers.

We were divided into four groups and given flowers to lay and tributes to recite at the sites where they had been killed. I stood outside on the street where the first boy was shot down with three other people and lay the flowers and began to recite the tribute. I felt at a loss to explain to myself what made young people want to pull the trigger or plunge the knife to the hilt into another living human being. I felt a deep sorrow on that cloudy, cold, bleak late autumn day.

This dead young man might have rebuked me from the grave by saying, *These are our streets, our battlegrounds. We set the rules here, whiteboy. Now you come to pray over me? Now you come sorrowful over the unremembered dead? Too late! You brought us up. We're your native sons. Your progeny! Remember that! Get out.*

I stood with three others, on the street. I felt strangely alone, shaken, alien, misplaced, misguided. I looked up and saw a black woman standing on her patio. She'd been sweeping her patio with a broom. She looked up and glared at me with hatred in her eyes.

She may have said, *Those boys you praying over, whiteboy, they made our lives a living hell. Innocent people shot*



*down in their blind crossfire. Children! I'm glad they're dead and gone. We were born here, lived here, had to survive here. Who are you to stand for them? Who are you to act sorrowful over them? They are the dead. I am the living. GTF outta my neighborhood, whiteboy! You don't belong here.*

The words I recited backed up in my throat. Whom did she speak for? Was it a few, or was it many?

William Penn was sent by the Great White King who believed he owned what they trespassed on. I came

caring about the unremembered young men who'd died in gang violence. Was I any the less a trespasser? I didn't live through what they had lived through. I did not grow up on their streets. I am not black. I am not native American. Where do I belong?

My mother was born in Poland in October, 1908, the youngest of six. Her mother died eleven days later due to birth complications. That same month, that same year. Her mother was 29. My mother went to a Polish school. Boys threw stones at her. They called her *Brudny Zhyd*. Dirty Jew. She was born in Poland. They said, get out.

In 1938 she revisited Poland. She saw friends and relatives for the last time. She carried an American passport and returned here. The others couldn't get out. One year later a German ship left Hamburg, Germany with 900 Jewish refugees seeking asylum. The Nazis said, *Heraus! Get out!*

They tried Canada. Denied. They tried the U.S. Denied. They tried Cuba. Denied! You don't belong here. *Heraus!* Back to the raging Nazi ovens they were carried.

Seven hundred fifty thousand Gypsies were exterminated in the Camps along with the Six Million. Discards. *Untermenschen*. Who speaks for them?

Where did they belong?

Remember to remember. Tell your stories.



# HAPPENINGS

PES Members being active through a summer full of activity

Hip Hop Humanism's 2nd Annual, "Andre Saunders, We Teach Kids to Fish," took place in Brandywine Park in Wilmington, Delaware. Jay Rene, the driving force behind "Hip Hop Humanism," hosted it. Over 40 children enjoyed learning and fishing with their families. Children received book bags filled with school supplies. Jay said, "We came together as a community and made our children smile." This event was supported in part by contributions from Ethical Culturists.



*Photos left and above by Jay Rene*



Hip Hop Humanism is a non-profit that provides Wilmington youth with positive mentoring and fun activities. You may have attended her workshop at the 2017 AEU Assembly in Baltimore, or have known of her previously. If you're interested in learning more and supporting Jay, please see Hugh Taft-Morales.

Sharon Weeks, Henry Pashkow, and Leonard Weeks share a funny moment on a sunny day at Camp Linden.



*Photo by Nick Sanders*



## HAPPENINGS *continued*



Philadelphia Ethical Society President Bob Bueding presents the Anna Garlin Spencer Award to Leonard Weeks and Sharon Wallis at the annual AEU national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on June 8, 2018.



Hugh Taft-Morales showing his commitment to Deed before Creed in the summer heat on August 12, 2018 at a demonstration against the infamous wall.



Jeffrey Dubb, Stan Horwitz, Sally Redlener, and Nick Sanders taking a break during a summer bike ride along the Schuylkill.

## Fine Art Music 2018-19 Season

### War of the Romantics

### Prologue: Baroque Affections

FINE ART MUSIC in conjunction with the PHILADELPHIA ETHICAL SOCIETY will present four classical music concert programs for the 2018-2019 season of CONCERTS AT ETHICAL, from October through May.

The season's overall theme will explore ideas about the actual meaning of music, and how this was approached by composers, musicians and writers from the Baroque era through the 20th century. These ideas explode within the midst of the great outpouring of Romantic music during the mid-1800's, fostering an epoch which has been dubbed, the War of the Romantics. The evolution of composition during these enormously fertile years became a source of fierce opinion, disagreement and outright drama, and will be our framework for this season of concerts.

The season will open on October 28th at 3:00 pm with "BAROQUE AFFECTIONS," a candlelight program for violin, viola, flute, piano and harpsichord, featuring works from Renaissance-Baroque, early Classical and Romantic eras. It will showcase musical ideas that were a prologue to the coming Romantic era, expressed in music by Monteverdi, Rameau, Handel, Bach, Mozart, Schubert. Performing artists are Elivi Varga, flute; Adelya Shagidullina, violin & viola; Katarzyna Salwinski, piano & harpsichord, and Rollin Wilber, piano. Join the announcement list for updates at: [www.FineArtMusic.com](http://www.FineArtMusic.com).

# FROM THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

## FROM AEU PRESIDENT JOHN McCORMICK ON THE 2018 AEU ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

It would be difficult to summarize in a letter all that transpired at the eventful 103rd American Ethical Union Assembly in Albuquerque. So much is worthy of further discussion. For example, there were the Keynote speakers, Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, and Rick Chavolla, Board Chair of the American Indian Community House. Richard Moore of the Los Jardines Institute spoke at the National Ethical Service Luncheon. At the Anna Garlin Spencer Awards presentation we learned about ethical action heroes in our local Societies. The delegates selected a new AEU logo and passed bylaw amendments to permit individual membership. There were workshops on a wide array of topics such as the hazards related to uranium mining and factory farming. We applauded the announcement that Christian Hayden of the Philadelphia Ethical Society has been accepted into Leadership Training. Permit me to offer just a few of my own personal reflections.

In the workshop "Ethics, Spirituality and Climate Justice," Sr. Joan Brown, Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, explained how faith communities are addressing environmental concerns and how we might engage directly or in solidarity. Environmental degradation is widespread in New Mexico often impacting vulnerable low income, minority, or indigenous people. Some of the most serious threats are related to nuclear weapons and nuclear waste, mining enterprises, and the fossil fuel industry. The Four Corners region hosts the largest methane plume in the United States. Areas of the state such as the bomb-testing site have already become uninhabitable "sacrifice zones." With respect to the treatment of indigenous peoples, the speaker offered some historical background that was new information to most listeners. She discussed the Doctrines of Discovery and Terra Nullius ("empty land") which date back to the 15th century and are referenced in multiple Papal Bulls, Royal Charters and U.S. Supreme Court rulings as recently as 2005. While they may be ancient history,

these doctrines continue to provide "legal" justification for governments to invade and seize indigenous lands and subjugate indigenous peoples. The doctrines are derived from the so called "Theology of Entitlement" based on a few scriptural texts including Romans 13, the very passage cited by the Attorney General in his defense of the abhorrent "zero tolerance" policy being carried out at our southern border. The forcible separation of children from their parents is not something new in this country as Native Americans can attest. The government-funded boarding schools whose purpose was to "kill the Indian, and save the man" persisted until the 1970's.

The Elliott-Black Award was presented to Yankton Sioux elder and water protector Faith Spotted Eagle, grandmother, educator, PTSD counselor and environmental activist. She chairs the Ihanktonwan Treaty Steering Committee and has served as a delegate of the Treaty Committee NGO of the United Nations. She has emerged as one of the nation's most prominent anti-pipeline organizers, forging alliances between Native tribes and white farmers and ranchers. She was an elder leader of the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock under the rallying cry "Water is Life." In her captivating address to the Assembly, she shared her life story starting at age 18 months when construction of a dam on the Missouri River caused the inundation of her traditional community of White Swan. Thus began a lifelong fight to protect water. She takes greatest pride in her efforts on behalf of her own people, especially the Brave Heart Society that she co-founded in 1994 together with a circle of other grandmothers. The Brave Heart Society, located within the Ihanktonwan homelands, is a grassroots organization dedicated to advocating for environmental justice within indigenous communities, healing survivors of sexual violence and using traditional Native American ceremonies to heal trauma victims, "bringing back our people from emotional death" through the rediscovery of cultural identity. "We are occupied peoples but maintain our tie to the land, and that

makes us sovereign with the earth and all living things."

Our Assembly Platform address, "A Guide for Weaving Justice", was delivered by Curt Collier, Leader Emeritus and Director of Groundwork USA's National Youth Program where he oversees youth projects in National Parks. Groundwork USA was created by the National Park service and the Environmental Protection Agency. It is the only network of local organizations devoted to transforming the natural and built environment of marginalized communities working at the intersection of the environment, equity and civic engagement. He sees this effort as a way to use his training as an Ethical Culture Leader "to build a culture that allows all to flourish." He notes that you can predict sites of environmental injustice merely by studying the demographics of a given zip code with respect to age, ethnicity, and poverty levels. Earlier environmental efforts in the urban setting often involved some outside agency going in and fixing something or building something like new parks or bike lanes without first learning what the community itself actually needed or wanted. New environmental justice is not about investing in places but rather in people and giving them the necessary tools. It "requires not only a firm commitment to equity and fairness, but a similar commitment to interlacing the ecosystem with the beings who live there." He believes that inner city youth will lead the way. In closing, he quoted Matthew les Spetter, former Leader at the Riverdale-Yonkers Ethical Culture Society for over 40 years: "Hope is not some undiscovered country we stumble into, it is a place we build." Curt also reminded us why it is that we meet in Assembly. We come together as a "community of people with similar insights in order to be refreshed, to refortify, to rethink our purpose and to move forward into the world." I believe that is exactly what was accomplished in Albuquerque. The 104th AEU Assembly will be in Tampa from June 20-23, 2019. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to become refreshed and refortified.





# OCTOBER 2018



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 PES MEETING: 5:30 PM Long-Range Planning Committee PES MEETING: 6:30 PM Education Committee	4	5	6
7 11:00 AM <i>Is Civility Always Good?</i> Hugh Taft-Morales  7:00 p.m.: <i>Intro to Ethical Humanism</i>	8 7:00-9:00 PM <i>The Value of Other Cultures - Greater Philadelphia Thinking Society and PES</i>	9	10 PES MEETINGS 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee	11	12	13
14 11:00 AM <i>More than just business as usual: Zero Tolerance</i> Dana Sinopoli,	15	16	17 6:30 PM PES Board of Trustees	18	19	20
21 11:00 AM <i>What's Wrong with Selfishness?</i> Hugh Taft-Morales 5:00 - 6:30 pm Book Discussion: <i>More Civility - cont. on Choosing Civility</i>	22	23	24 PES MEETING 5:30 PM Camp Linden Committee	25 7:00 PM Amnesty International Meeting amnestyeastpa.org	26	27
28 11:00 AM <i>The Increasingly United States</i> Daniel J. Hopkins	29	30	31			

## QUOTABLE

People in real life are so much more than whatever we can write or say about them.

Rollin Wilber, pianist

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Jeffrey Dubb
- 10 Geoff Baker
- 12 Leonard Weeks
- 14 Doris Leicher

**amazon**smile  
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)



## 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  
Betsy Lightbourn, 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



October 7 - Kate Esposito.  
Last names: A-E  
October 14 - Ken Greiff  
Last names: F-K  
October 21 - Garry O'Rourke  
Last names: L-Q  
October 28 - Harry Thorn  
Last names: R-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.



## Flowers Coordinated by Sally Redlener



October 7 - Floral Dedication  
from Nick Sanders "Another Happy  
Anniversary, Molly."

October 14- Floral Dedication from  
Sylvia Goldman "to honor our leader,  
Hugh Taft Morales."

October 21 - Floral Dedication From  
Irene Putzer for "my celebration of  
a quarter century of being a member  
of the Philadelphia Ethical Humanist  
Society."

October 28 - Floral Dedication from  
Vince Russo "Dedicated to the unity  
of humankind."

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

- **Morning Musicales presents its first concert of the season**  
*Tuesday October 2, at 11 am. Two Astral artists, Timothy Chooi, violin, and Sejoon Park, piano, will be performing. Both artists have performed on numerous world stages. The performance will be followed by a meet and greet with the artists. Proceeds benefit the Philadelphia Orchestra, and tickets are available at the door.*
- **Dance Medicine Philly Presents: Ecstatic and Free Form Dancing Event.**  
Sunday, October 7 at 6 pm. Admission charge, for tickets and info visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/DanceMedicinePhilly/events/>
- **An Evening of Inspiration to Benefit the LiveWell Foundation.**  
Wine, nibbles, music and conversation. Guest honoree Jennifer Michel Hecht, author and cultural commentator on the front line of depression awareness and suicide prevention. Thursday, October 25, 6-8 pm. Tickets and info at:  
<https://livewell-foundation.ticketleap.com/october25/>