



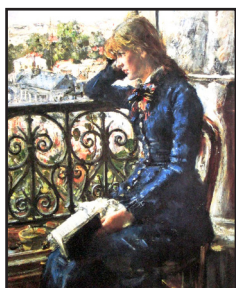
ETHICAL VIEWS



May 2021 Vol. 135, No. 9 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

SUNDAY PLATFORMS

Please turn to page 3 for full platform descriptions.



Sunday, May 2, 11:00AM
Members Platform –
Favorite Spots,
Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader,
Philadelphia Ethical Society
How does your favorite spot interest you, heal you, or inspire you?

Sunday, May 9, 11:00AM
Black on the Wisconsin Frontier: From Slavery to Suffrage, 1725 - 1866

Christy Clark-Pujara, Associate Professor of History, Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

A largely untold history of the African American experience in this northern state.

Sunday, May 16, 11:00AM
Building Community in a World of Difference, an All AEU Platform
(as described on the AEU website)

YES All-Society Platform

Hear what Youth of Ethical Societies did in YES 2021.

Sunday, May 23, 11:00AM
Remembering the Lattimer Massacre: Race and the New Immigrant in the Anthracite Region, Paul Shackel, Professor of Anthropology, University of Maryland

Racialization of historic immigrant communities as well as the newest Latinx immigrants

Sunday, May 30, 11:00AM
Building Community in a World of Difference, Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, PES

Felix Adler strove to build human connection across chasms of difference.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our Path Forward



Over the past six months our Board of Trustees has begun work on a planning process for the Society. Since I've been a member (ten years), there have been many attempts to get that process off the ground, with little or no success. When we recently set out on this new venture, we were lucky to have the guidance of a professional.

Anne Marie Gold stepped up to help us craft a plan that could guide us into the future. Please note, Anne Marie has donated her services pro bono.

We have now crafted a plan called Our Path Forward which can help us flourish. The draft which you received several weeks ago was created by the Board with much input from the membership, through a survey, small group discussions, and interviews. We are continuing to refine the plan for presentation at our Membership Meeting on May 16.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

An ongoing theme throughout this issue is the manifold discrimination that has permeated our society throughout its history, with reverberations that live on today.

On the banner: Pennsylvania Hall, ablaze.
In 1838, abolitionists constructed this hall on Sixth Street near Franklin Square. On May 15th, the day after it opened, notices spread throughout the city to protest in front of it. The next night a mob gathered and broke windows as Angelina Grimke (1805-79) spoke to a predominately female audience. On May 17th, a crowd of 3000 set the structure ablaze. Pennsylvania Hall burned to the ground as firemen refused to fight the fire, and instead focused on protecting neighboring structures.

Philadelphia Ethical Society invites the public to attend our platforms and events listed on page 3.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Our Path Forward

Continued from page 1

Why is this process so important? We believe it's important to grow Ethical Culture in our lives and in the world. To do this we must revitalize our Ethical Society and grow our membership, which is aging. In addition to our membership challenge, there are other areas of concern. Our beautiful home on Rittenhouse Square is nearly one hundred years old and requires constant care. We need to ensure that our physical plant continues to meet the requirements of our members, tenants, and renters.

Camp Linden is also an important part of our Society. The camp has operated successfully for many years, but we need solid planning to insure the future of the camp. Sharon and Leonard will work with us and the Camp Linden Committee to ensure the camp can thrive moving forward.

I've outlined the areas which are being addressed in Our Path Forward. I hope you will embrace this planning process. If you are not presently involved with any of our committees, please think about volunteering. There are many areas which would welcome your effort, and I can promise you that if you work with us the experience will be well worth your time, talent and treasure. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me or other Board members know. Your input, no matter how large or small, can make a difference.

One last note, the use of consultants and associated expenses are only estimates. If we are able to rely on members to fill some of these roles we will endeavor to do so.

~ Best, Bob Bueding
bbueding@phillyethics.org

BEHIND THE SCENES

by Cheryl Desmond, Society Administrator

As appropriate for the season, April brought a reawakening at the Ethical Society building. Following discussion and decision by the Board of Trustees in February, and scrupulously following all City covid guidance, the 1906 building has opened for meetings of 12-step groups, mainly Alcoholics Anonymous.

Five years ago, there were two meetings each week at 1906, and now there will be 3 groups holding as many as 20 meetings a week. The attendees often stop me to express their gratitude to PES for giving them a place to meet in person during this difficult time. Meeting at times when other building use is very light will provide a significant boost to PES' financial "bottom-line." Rental events such as parties are still prohibited by the City of Philadelphia, however I am taking "penciled-in" reservations for late summer and fall, in hopes of future reopening.

With less rental activity occupying my time, I continue to work away at the many building repair needs. I am currently focused on repairing the water-damaged areas caused by the broken plumbing drain in the corner of the main stairway. This includes scraping, smoothing, and repairing a very large area of paint

loss along the stair, and seeking out a great drywall contractor for ceiling repairs on the second-floor landing. I was able to repair the lantern light that hangs in the stairwell area, as it suffered from being repeatedly drenched, and needed a new socket and wiring.

My other main responsibility is day-to-day financial activity, and I am confident PES is going to pull through the pandemic, although with no operating reserve. For over a year there has been no group or party rental income, but our three tenants on the 3rd and 4th floors have been great about keeping up on their obligations, even when "work from home" was required.

Regular PES program income, such as the Sunday collection, is also down to zero, but new income has come from several sources. Adding together the Federal Paycheck Protection Program (35K), a very generous memorial gift from one member (20K), a reworking of our endowment yield, (which was a lengthy effort on the part of Finance Committee member Nick) and with a bit of money in the bank at the start of the pandemic outbreak, there has been enough to carry us through this difficult year. Our PES custodian, Greg, and I have been fully vaccinated, and look forward to welcoming folks back to the building very soon.

SUNDAY PLATFORM DESCRIPTIONS

All platforms are held on Zoom and may be accessed by clicking here: WWW.TINY.CC/PHILLYETHICS

Sunday, May 2, 11:00AM

Members Platform –

Favorite Spots, Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society

Hugh Taft-Morales invites members to share descriptions of “a favorite spot.” It can be a spot in your home or some place in public. Spend most of your description explaining why this is a favorite spot. How does interest you, heal you, or inspire you? Has the pandemic led you to change what spots you most enjoy?



Sunday, May 9, 11:00AM

Black on the Wisconsin Frontier: From Slavery to Suffrage, 1725 - 1868

Christy Clark-Pujara, Associate Professor of History, Department of

Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Black Americans were a tiny minority in Wisconsin territory and later the history of the state; nevertheless, the practice of race-based slavery and anxieties about Black migrants led white Wisconsinites to dispute abolition and the rights of Black residents. Enslaved and free Black people lived, labored, and raised families on the Wisconsin frontier. Yet their stories remain largely untold, and history of the state and the region remains incomplete without a full accounting of the African American experience and influence.

Christy Clark-Pujara is an Associate Professor of History in the Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island*; her current book project is *Black on the Midwestern Frontier: From Slavery to Suffrage in the Wisconsin, 1725-1868*.

Sunday, May 16, 11:00AM

Building Community in a World of Difference, an All AEU Platform

(as described on the AEU website)

YES All-Society Platform

Every year, the teens of Ethical Societies around the country come together to discuss issues relevant to the world around them. The weekend-long conference is entirely teen-led; they plan the

theme, they plan and lead the breakout discussion groups, and they facilitate all activities during the conference. This is an impressive feat in any year — but to have pulled off a successful Youth of Ethical Societies (YES) Conference during a global pandemic is especially remarkable. For our May 16th All Society Platform, come hear from the teens themselves, how they planned YES, how YES usually operates, and what they did at YES 2021.

Sunday, May 23, 11:00AM

Remembering the Lattimer Massacre: Race and the New Immigrant in the Anthracite Region, Paul Shackel, Professor of Anthropology, University of Maryland



In 1897, immigrant coal miners from Eastern and Southern Europe went on strike in northeastern Pennsylvania. Confronted by the sheriff and his deputies, 25 miners were killed, an incident known as the Lattimer massacre. Racialization of new immigrants made them almost subhuman, justifying their killing. This talk will focus on the racialization of the historic immigrant communities and the newest Latinx immigrants. Remembering the massacre provides justification for communities to support or sometimes to discriminate against newcomers.

Paul Shackel's research projects have focused on the role of archaeology in civic engagement activities related to race and labor. He is co-author with Barbara Little of *Archaeology, Heritage and Civic Engagement: Working toward the Public Good* (2014). He recently published *Remembering Lattimer: Migration, Labor, and Race in Pennsylvania Anthracite Country*.

Sunday, May 30, 11:00AM

Building Community in a World of Difference, Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, PES

Felix Adler founded the Ethical Culture movement in a city of teeming diversity. In 1876, nearly half of the million people living in New York were foreign born. He strove to build human connection across chasms of difference. Today, in a world where difference seems to be tearing us apart, what can we learn from his efforts? What have we learned in the following hundred years? After all, in the words of Audre Lorde, “Any future vision which can encompass all of us, by definition, must be complex and expanding, not easy to achieve.”

LEADER'S COLUMN Post-Pandemic Springtime Isn't All Sunshine



The glorious weather many of us enjoyed in early April warms the heart, and can bring on an emotional drop; so I was not surprised when it also triggered some sadness. It might be less surprising for people who suffer from one particular variety of "Seasonal Affective Disorder" (SAD). We've all heard about how

dark wintertime can bring out emotional darkness due to a drop in serotonin. Add to that exuberant Christmas music and incessant celebration, and people may feel even more burdened for not joining in on the holiday fun.

But fewer know that SAD also can occur in springtime. Sunshine, bird calls and flowers don't lift everyone's spirits. Medical literature indicates that about 10% of those who suffer from SAD have it triggered in spring. It might be due to the excessive pollen in the air – some call this the "Achoo! Effect." What's most important, however, is that if you think you might be struggling with SAD, speak to a professional about what treatments might help.

I don't suffer from SAD. The sadness I feel doesn't cast shade over the light, warmth, and openness returning to the world. Paradoxically, I think it is linked to the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm happy that vaccines seem to be pushing back the COVID clouds. I look forward to restaurants and travel. But the transition to a post-pandemic world doesn't erase the damage already done: the millions of lives lost, and the loss of opportunities, jobs, and joy. Though grateful we survived, we may also be in mourning.

I also think my subtle sadness is related to the fact that two of my grown children came back home during the pandemic. I've heard others share how COVID brought generations together like never before. Soon, when circumstances allow my children to fly back out into the world, our nest will feel empty again. I will miss them.

And what will happen to the renewed friendships made possible by Zoom? I hadn't spoken to Bill, a childhood friend, for at least 25 years. Will our conversations reaching from Maryland to Japan continue? I've gathered with my closest high school friends every few weeks. What will happen when we return to our busy lives, dashing from work to gym to store? What will become of the new connections beyond our homes or neighborhoods?

I know many people feel that nothing can live up to in-person socializing. There's a lot of truth to that. But, for me, I enjoy seeing people's faces all together on screen. Their expressions, often more telling than words, are clearer than in an auditorium or committee room. Just today, as a POWER clergy meeting concluded, one colleague said that with Zoom gatherings they felt "more intimate, more deeply touched, and safer." They added, "When I feel safer, I can be even more open."

So, here we are at the cusp of our great social re-opening. Should the vaccines prove strong to keep new virus variants at bay, don't be surprised if mixed in with your glee, you find some sadness. If not, give space for the sadness of others.

Hugh Taft-Morales
Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society



May Birthdays

7 Pat McGeever

7 Nick Sanders

14 Marta Guttenberg

20 Doris Dabrowski

From the PES Ending Racism Task Force

RACIAL FEAR OF MASS VACCINATION

submitted by PES Member Stan Horwitz

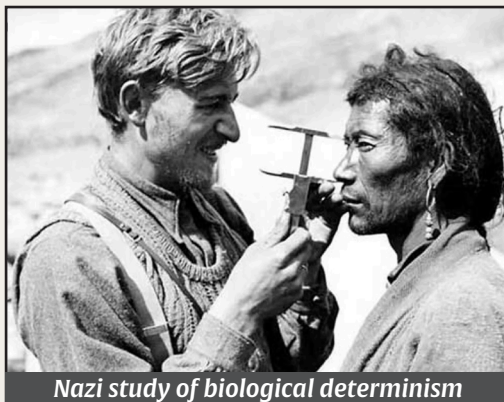
Due to the increasing availability of COVID-19 vaccines, the light is at the end of the tunnel with regard to ending this pandemic. In order to get back to normal, we need to achieve herd immunity, which is when enough people in our society have developed enough antibodies to fight off harm from COVID-19. In order to achieve herd immunity in our country, experts in virology, such as Dr. Fauci say that 70%-90% of us must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Even after being vaccinated, we still need to wear a mask and social distance in public until herd immunity is reached. It will be reached when we can gather together as families, and children can return to in-class school. It will be reached when indoor businesses can open to full capacity, and we can attend large sporting events, and concerts, and other events. Our economy's recovery depends on achieving herd immunity. Herd immunity also reduces the number of COVID-19 variants that develop.

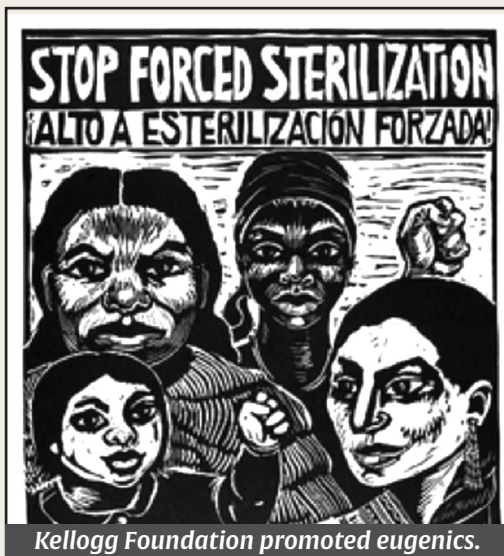
With that in mind, I have been advocating to everyone I know to get vaccinated. Have you been vaccinated yet? My primary care physician tells all his patients to get the first COVID-19 vaccine available. There will always be people who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons. It is up to the rest of us to be vaccinated so we can protect people who have a medical reason that prevents them from being vaccinated. I believe it is a moral imperative to try to respectfully convince as many vaccine skeptics as possible to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity.

Unfortunately, some people fear the COVID-19 vaccines and they're reluctant to be vaccinated for

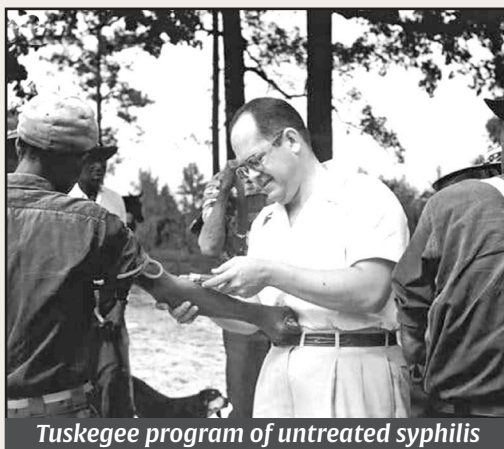
various reasons. Some people feel that the COVID-19 vaccines were developed too quickly, so they prefer to wait. There is also a significant racial issue going on in this regard. Many Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) don't trust white medical professionals. This is because there are well known racial differences in how white physicians treat white and non-white patients.



Nazi study of biological determinism



Kellogg Foundation promoted eugenics.



Tuskegee program of untreated syphilis

Many white medical providers engage in implicit racism in how they respond to the concerns of their POC patients express. This implicit bias gives rise to poor treatment and it breeds distrust of healthcare by some POC. Fortunately, there are organizations that are seeking to ease these concerns among POC. An example is Dr. Ala Stanford and the Black Doctors Consortium here in Philadelphia. Dr. Stanford and her team have been working tirelessly to vaccinate predominantly black and brown Philadelphians and get the word out locally and nationally to POC that being vaccinated against COVID-19 is important and safe.

Thanks to wonderful people like Dr. Stanford, I am optimistic that long-standing implicit racism in healthcare will not prevent us from eventually reaching herd immunity.

If you encounter a POC who expresses reluctance to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, listen to them. This way, you can find out if any implicit racism in the medical care they received might be the cause for their concerns. That way,

we white people who have never experienced racism in the healthcare we receive can be aware of their feelings.

LETTING THE PAST BE PAST

by Leigh Buchanan, PES Member

I am hoping Alton will tell me that his past, finally, is buried.

In the 1990s Alton Lukas went to prison for robberies committed to support a crack addiction. His record hounded him through a series of low-paying jobs. “I was working at a pizza place. The guy found out, and he fired me during rush hour,” Alton told me. “This was for something that happened 14 years ago.”

Today Alton, the owner of a small, North Carolina, landscaping company, is his own boss. Which means he’s escaped a hiring market that—despite some progress (the Ban the Box movement; Obama’s Fair Chance Business Pledge), still discriminates against former inmates. For the entrepreneurship-cures-all-evil crowd, of which I am (or was) nominally a member, this should be the happy ending.

But Alton’s background still haunts him. Even after two decades during which he’s worked hard, raised a family, and rarely missed a 12-step meeting, some prospective customers deem him unfit to do their yard work. “I’ll be doing an estimate, and they pull out their phones and ask me my full name, and I know they’re looking me up,” said Alton. “And I know that that’s it.”

I got interested in entrepreneurship as a deterrent to recidivism about 15 years ago, when I started volunteering for a prison outreach program in the Boston suburbs. Once or twice a month I would deliver to a minimum security prison several boxes of books from the local library—some requested by the inmates, some chosen by me and my fellow volunteers. For two hours I would stand around checking out books and chatting up inmates, who were hungry for conversation with anyone from the outside. The TV series *Game of Thrones* was a hot topic. Six or seven guys would crowd around while I delivered blow-by-blows of the Red Wedding and the Battle of the Bastards.

Someone found out that I worked for a magazine about entrepreneurship. Quickly I became the sounding board for dozens of guys hatching business ideas as a way to dodge an unemployment rate that is five times that of the general population. Mobile IT support. Motorcycle detailing. Tattoo art. Pit-bull

breeding. Inmates lacked Internet access to research their intended markets, so I looked things up for them when I could.

Also, as a volunteer, I wrote case studies about post-incarceration entrepreneurship for a non-profit creating a curriculum to be taught in prisons. From that experience I learned much more about what kinds of businesses succeed. Service companies targeting residential and small commercial customers are best: things like landscaping, painting, and junk removal.

But even former prisoners in accessible industries find starting a business is tough. Recently I’ve been writing profiles for a non-profit, called *Inmates to Entrepreneurs*, which teaches startup basics inside and outside of correctional facilities. Talking to folks like Alton, I am reminded that potential customers, like potential employers, often see prison records as red flags.

I get that. Sometimes I worry that all the cordial—often delightful—exchanges I’ve had with inmates and former inmates has made me too trusting. I’ve also had a few unnerving experiences: a lockdown one evening when I was working the library. An inmate who somehow got my phone number and called me at home, collect. (I had young kids at the time. I almost quit.) The motorcycle-detailing guy I was advising got sent back to medium-security for a violent infraction. Later, I found out he had done 25 years for murder.

But the success stories are so inspiring; and I have heard so many of them. Men and women who have remained free, supporting themselves and their families with good, sustainable businesses. Often, in a virtuous cycle, they go out of their way to hire other returning citizens. The other day a woman told me she plans to open a bakery that also sells crafts produced by female inmates.

One of my favorite case-study subjects a decade ago was Lawrence Carpenter, who launched a janitorial services company in North Carolina. When I signed on with *Inmates to Entrepreneurs*, I was gratified to see Carpenter’s name on its web site.

He is chairman of the board

Leigh Buchanan is a longtime business journalist for publications including Inc. Magazine and The Harvard Business Review. She is now a member of the Philadelphia Ethical Society.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS ARE OFFERED ONLINE THROUGH ZOOM
JOIN ALL PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS AT WWW.TINY.CC/PHILLYETHICS

Sunday, May 2, 7:00pm:

Introduction to Ethical Humanism

This informal session, led by Hugh Taft-Morales, is particularly for newcomers, but all are welcome!

Email Hugh at LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org

Tuesday, May 11, 12:30pm Lunch with Hugh

The Magic of Humanism: Growth

Come gather for an informal virtual lunch and conversation. Leader Hugh Taft-Morales hosts a discussion about the 300-word entries entitled "Growth" from *The Magic of Humanism*, written by James Croft, Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. This is the fourth in this series. You can get a copy of this brochure here:

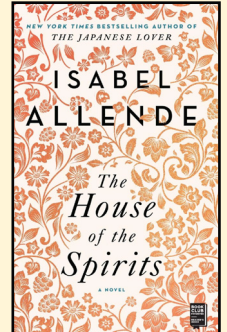
<https://ethicalstl.org/who-we-are/what-is-ethical-humanism/the-magic-of-humanism/> or you can email LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org.



Saturday, May 29, at 11:00am:

Fiction Book Discussion: *The House of the Spirits*, by Isabel Allende

Join Hugh for another installment of fiction by women authors when he explores Isabel Allende's first novel, *The House of the Spirits*. How does the story of the Trueba family, spanning four generations and tracing the post-colonial social and political upheavals of Chile, overlap with Allende's life? How does the book represent the genre of "magical realism" so important to literature from Central and South America? Come discuss those questions and more. If you can't make Saturday's discussion, join Baltimore Ethical Society members Tuesday, June 1st at 5:30PM. Please email Hugh so he knows to expect you. LeaderHugh@phillyethics.org



OUR PATH FORWARD 2021

Sunday, May 16, 1:00pm

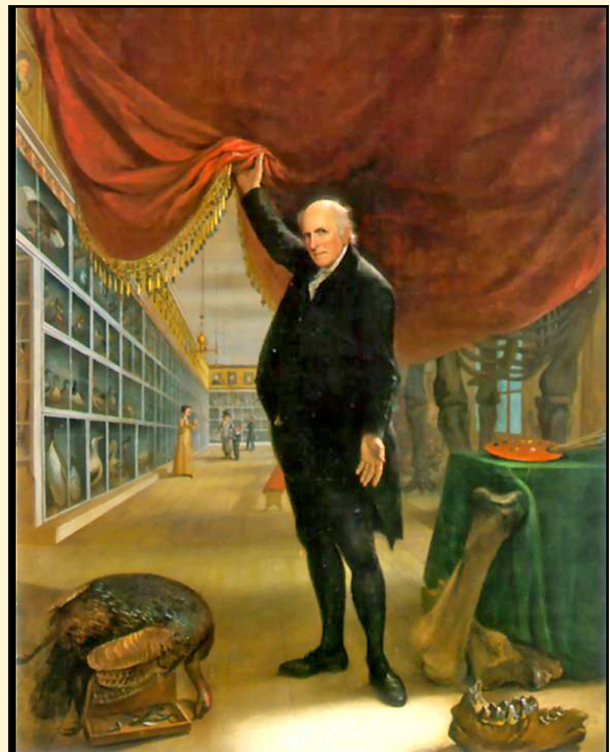
Annual Membership Meeting

We invite our membership to join us at this very important Annual meeting. At this meeting we will review/approve our 2021/2022 budget, the easement of land at Camp Linden, and in addition, *Our Path Forward* plan. In addition, we will elect the following members to our Board of Trustees:

- Nick Sanders as Treasurer
- John Marshall as Secretary
- Kate Esposito as Trustee at Large
- Stan Horwitz as Trustee at Large

"Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together."

~ GOETHE



A bit of tongue-in-cheek: Here's a picture of a leader as he might have looked when first asked to shed more transparency on the behind-the-scenes workings of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. Thanks to Charles Wilson Peale for painting *The Man in Front of the Curtain*.



SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 A.M.

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PHILADELPHIA ETHICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEES

Our Society is sustained by all of its volunteers who serve on the many committees that fulfill our purpose and guide our decisions. The following generous members serve as chairs.

Building Committee
Michael Black-Smith,
Next Meeting TBD

End Racism Task Force
Sylvia Metzler, Meets
Saturday, May 15th,
11:00 AM

Camp Linden
Jeffrey Dubb,
Next Meeting TBD

Ethical Action Committee
Denise Marks, Meets on
Monday, May 17th, 3:00 PM

Communication Committee
Drew Snyder,
Next Meeting TBD

Finance Committee
Vincent Russo,
Meets Wednesday,
May 12th, 5:00 PM

Education Committee
Betsy Lightbourn, Meets
on Wednesday, May 5th
3:00 PM

Join all programs and meetings
at www.tiny.cc/phillyethics

For suggestions regarding this newsletter,
contact Henry Pashkow
hpashkow@gmail.com



Ethical Society member Nick Sanders (with tan floppy hat) joins other Fair Districts/anti-gerrymandering advocates in a photo of like-minded Philly-area community groups displayed on April 29 at Independence Hall.