



Ethical Views

April 2008

Vol. 122, No. 8

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



Platforms

April 6, 2008

Walt Whitman, Democracy and Ethical Culture

Speaker: Robert Berson, Leader of the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester

A hundred and fifty years ago, Whitman articulated a democratic vision in *Leaves of Grass*. At about the same time Ethical Culture was offering its perspective on democracy. In these times when democracy is under threat, what do Whitman and Ethical Culture have to teach us?

April 13, 2008

Humanist Voting

Speaker: Richard L. Kiniry, Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

The Pennsylvania Presidential Primary is nine days from now, so this is a good time to ask some questions. Are there specific humanist values that we ought to look for in candidates? Is integrity more important than political positions?

April 20, 2008

The Invention of Race

Speaker: Karen Helm, Sociologist and Board Member of the Baltimore Ethical Society

Americans internalize their race classifications almost as they do their gender identities. But recent race scholarship shows us that the effect of using labels like "Italian-American," "Black" or "Asian" has rarely been benign. Karen Helm will trace the ideology that underlies our use of racial terminology and discuss how it shapes our understanding of history, events and behavior. She will explore the

information we actually convey when we use this terminology and suggest ways to ensure we are saying what we mean.

April 27, 2008

The Media and Presidential Politics in a Memorable Year

Speaker: Dave Davies, Senior Writer for the Philadelphia Daily News and fill-in host for NPR's Fresh Air and WHYY's Radio Times

Dave Davies will examine issues raised by media coverage of the 2008 presidential campaign, with reflections on his own 20 years of covering politics and government. <>

In This Issue

1 *Platforms, School For Ethics*

2 *Non-Violent Communication Workshop, AEU Assembly, Blockheads Wanted, Humanist Seder*

3 *President's Message*

4 *Kiva Progress Report, Darwin Day Report*

5 *Calendar*

6 *Flower Dedications, Sunday Morning Volunteers, Photo Credits*

SCHOOL FOR ETHICS



Introduction to Ethical Humanism

Sunday, April 13 at 1:30 PM

If you are curious about the ideas and approach of the Ethical Humanist Society, this is your chance to have your questions answered. In a casual atmosphere, Society members and leaders explain our history and philosophy. Although we are part of the 132-year-old Ethical Culture Movement, our approach continues to evolve and each member finds their own personal take on the tradition.

Interested visitors, newcomers and members are invited to examine our basic ideas and decide for themselves whether they make sense. Can Ethical Culture make your life better? We will look at our core principles – the intrinsic worth of every human being, naturalism, nontheism, and ethics as a way of life. Led by **Richard Kiniry**.

ETHICS FOR CHILDREN

Our Sunday School has a new teacher, **Eliza Villanueva**. **Lily Locke** and **Monica Peer** will remain Sunday School Assistants.

Our children's program continues to grow. We strive to challenge the child's understanding of right and wrong. If you know of any parents who might be interested, we can send them our "Ethics for Children" brochure. Call the office with your contact information, 215-735-3456.

Each Sunday, 10:45 AM



Left to Right: Sunday School Student, Isabella Rizzo, and her new teacher, Eliza Villanueva.

Non-violent Communication Workshop

Would you like to learn how to deal compassionately with people who are acting in ways you find difficult? Would you like to communicate your feelings and needs in ways that make life more wonderful for you? What do you do when you want to change the behavior of someone who is acting in ways you don't like? The last thing to do is to criticize that person – and that's usually our first impulse. Criticism is guaranteed to cause resistance, no matter how "right" we are. At our Nonviolent Communication (NVC) workshop, held on February 16, we began to explore the underlying principles of this simple but not easy means of communication.

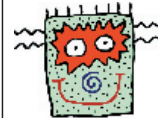


Led by **Keith Pacheko**, peacemaker and avid proponent of NVC, we discussed and questioned in an effort to acquaint ourselves with this unfamiliar language. How do we communicate without criticism and still get our needs met? How do we help ourselves, our children and those we care about to learn to

communicate in a way that promotes peace in an ever more violent world? Can we be respectful and compassionate and still be honest? NVC is about answering these questions. The language is quite different from the one we've learned. We've been taught to compete and win, while NVC is a non-zero sum game in which all sides come out winners.

We can actually be heard and get our needs met while bringing out the best in others. NVC appeals to the essential good that resides in all of us – even those who appear most difficult. As Marshall Rosenberg, psychologist and founder of the method, implores, "See me beautiful." It's Ethical Humanism at work. Empathically making connections is at the heart of NVC, which teaches that people are always communicating their feelings and needs, no matter what they appear to be doing. We need to be listened to, although not necessarily agreed with. As Keith advised on the importance of listening, "Don't just do something; stand there."

If you are interested in exploring NVC with a group of members and friends, contact **Chuck Ward** at: **4_wards@verizon.net** or call the Society at **215-735-3456**. We need to practice using the language of NVC to develop the skill. I recommend reading Marshall Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language for Life*, and visiting **www.NVC.org** for background information and specific techniques. — *Temma Fishman* <



Blockheads Wanted!

Want a little piece of immortality while you do something wonderful for the community who visits the Ethical Society building? You can write your name in stone (actually concrete) along with a message that will last as close to forever as we can get, for \$500. Twenty blocks of concrete from the sidewalk at the back of our building are for sale.

Each block purchase will bring us closer to realizing our dream (and yours) of making our building accessible to everyone. Your name and message will be engraved on a brass plaque that will become part of our soon to be constructed **ramp**. Passersby will know you were here and made your statement for a most ethical cause. Send your check for \$500 to the Ethical Humanist Society along with the name and message you want engraved on the plaque. For more information, contact the Society office at: **office@phillyethics.org** or at **215-735-3456**.

Mark this Date!

April 26, 2008
Humanist Seder

Celebrate freedom the Ethical Culture way. On **Saturday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m.**, members and friends of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia will observe our Humanist Seder. Remembering those who struggled for freedom in the past and honoring those who suffer in oppression today, we blend old and new traditions that unite us with the global community and with each other. Join us in sharing delicious food, joyful song and eloquent readings. Bring your own special dish to add to the feast. \$5 if you bring a dish, \$10 if you don't. RSVP by April 19 by calling 215-735-3456.

Children are welcome.



2008 AEU ASSEMBLY -- ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Thursday, April 17 - Sunday, April 20



Join members from across the country in Austin, Texas to socialize, learn, teach, and celebrate our history and our ethical values.

Here are some of the workshops that will be offered:

"Biocentric Ethics" with Curt Collier ... An Ethical Humanist Religious Approach to Living with Richard Kiniry ... Religious Education ... Growing & Sustaining Society Membership and Society Financial Management; Ethics in Pop Culture: The Ethics of Harry Potter ... Communication Skills in Ethical Society Life with Jone Johnson Lewis ... Out of the Box: Brainstorming to Reinvigorate Ethical Culture, with Hugh Taft-Morales ... and Ethical Decision-making Throughout a Lifetime, with FES member Max Romano and friends

Plans also include:

Keynote speaker and Opening Reception
The National Service Conference Luncheon and speaker
The Elliott-Black Award and Banquet
Sunday Platform; A Liberation Festival -- A Humanist Seder
Entertainment

Watch for the brochure in January, and count on having an experience you will long remember. Extend your visit for a delightful Austin vacation. Austin was selected as the No. 2 Best Big City in "Best Places to Live" by Money Magazine in 2006, and the "Greenest City in America" by MSN.

APRIL 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Birthdays						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:45 a.m. - Weston Room Ethics for Children 11:00 a.m. Platform: <i>Walt Whitman, Democracy and Ethical Culture</i> Robert Berson	7	8	9 Meetings - Weston Room 6:30 p.m. Ethical Action Committee	10	11  Jeannette Kohler	12
13 10:45 a.m. - Weston Room Ethics for Children 11:00 a.m. Platform: <i>Humanist Voting</i> Richard L. Kiniry 12:30 PM - Pledge Skit 1:30 PM - Weston Room Intro - Ethical Humanism	14	15	16 Meetings - Weston Room 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting	17	18	19 Camp Linden Volunteer Day 12 Noon
20 10:45 a.m. - Weston Room Ethics for Children 11:00 a.m. Platform: <i>The Invention of Race</i> Karen Helm	21	22 Primary Election Day  Kate Esposito	23 Meeting - Weston Room 7:30 p.m. Camp Linden Board Meeting	24 Meeting Weston Room 7:00 p.m. Amnesty International 	25  Chuck Hinson	26 Humanist Seder 4:00 p.m.
27 10:45 a.m. - Weston Room Ethics for Children 11:00 a.m. Platform: <i>The Media and Presidential Politics in a Memorable Year</i> Dave Davies	28	29	30			



**CAMP LINDEN
VOLUNTEER DAY**

Come on out to Camp Linden on Saturday, April 19th at 12 noon and help us with our 'spring cleaning' in preparation for this year's Summer Camp. Enjoy breathing fresh air and soaking in beautiful scenery while you work! Call Saul or Jean if you need a ride.

Ethical Views is published monthly
except July and August.

Editor, Ellen Rose
Layout and Photo Editor,
Janice Moore
Distribution, Jean Bradley
Web Master, Bob Moore

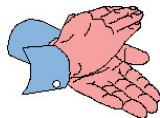
**Ethical Humanist Society
of Philadelphia**

Richard Kiniry, Leader

Board of Trustees

Howard Peer, President
Temma Fishman, Vice President
Jeffrey Dubb, MD, Treasurer
Jean Bradley, Secretary
Arnold Fishman
Saul Machles
Bob Moore
Henry Pashkow
Nick Sanders
Irene Putzer

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



SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Flower Dedications

April 6 - Carol Love: in honor of her father and grandmother during their birthday month.



April 13 - Temma and Arnold Fishman: to celebrate the arrival of granddaughter, Zoey Elisabeth, born January 23, weighing 7 lbs.

April 20 - Ron Coburn: in loving memory of his mother, Frances E. Coburn.

April 27 - Mary Lou Da Silva: in memory of her mother, Mary S. Welch, September 1902 to April 2006.

Greeters - Saul Machles, Head Greeter

For the month of April, Saul Machles and friends.

Coffee Hour Lunch

April 6 - Group A-E

April 13 - Group F-L

April 20 - Group M-P

April 27 - Group Q-Z

Photo Credits:

Page 1, Ethics For Children photo, - Janice R. Moore

Page 2, Keith Pacheco - Janice R. Moore

Page 3, Howard Peer - Ken Greiff

Page 4, Ruth Ann Flynn, Ken Greiff, Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski - Janice R. Moore; Ray and Andi Smith and Janice Moore - Bob Moore

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



President's Message

by Howard Peer

The May General Membership meeting is when we get together to take stock of where we are as a Society, review our financial health, approve our budget for the next year and hold our annual elections for trustees and officers. I would like to chat with you about the Board and the opportunity or privilege of service.

I have been on the Board since 1996 when I became treasurer. Jeff Dubb has been treasurer since 2001, when I became secretary. Now I am serving my final year as president. As I look around the Board table I see an ex-president (Arnold Fishman) and an ex-president and secretary (Jean Bradley). Most, in fact I think all, of the others have served at least one previous term and are long term members. While it is good to have this much experience on the Board, there are several problems with this situation.

Generally we have a dearth of candidates for Board positions. Why? I think many willing to serve have not been asked. Others don't know that the opportunity exists. Still others may feel that they have nothing to contribute. I wish to get past these reasons and encourage more people to consider serving on the Board. We especially need younger members serving. We need fresh minds, fresh ideas, a fresh point of view and fresh energy.



When you first come into the Society you have a perspective that we Gray Beards have long since forgotten. The Society would benefit greatly from having the widest possible participation on the Board. Each new member brings a new set of skills and a new set of ideas.

The prospective Board member has much to gain. You have the opportunity to work with a group of like-minded people on relevant issues. You will get to learn in more detail how this Society works. You will learn our by-laws and what is going on at Camp Linden, have an opportunity to serve the Hadley Committee, decide financial issues and have a greater say in the events at the Society. But most of all you will get to influence the future of the Society and improve it.

Let me arm you with a few mundane facts:

- First, I am appending Article VIII – Elections – from our by-laws. This is how we elect Board members.
- Each year at least five positions turn over – three at-large trustees and two officers. This year the officers are president and vice president, next year secretary and treasurer.
- One full year membership in the Society is required to serve on the Board as a trustee-at-large.
- A trustee-at-large is expected to participate in (at least) one of our core committees: Ethical Action, Education, Community, Membership Growth. We have been known

to bend these rules when a member is doing something else (i.e., Communications Committee).

- One year prior service as a trustee is required to be eligible for president or vice president.
- You can be nominated for the Board from the floor of the General Meeting, although it would be much better to announce your desire beforehand.

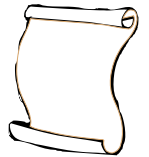
I view being a trustee as an honor and an opportunity. Staying on the Board for a long term is a selfish act for we are denying others the chance to participate. With my 11 consecutive years I'm guilty as charged. I would like to see a situation where we have more volunteers than the Board can accommodate. I would love to see the time when people are negotiating or vying for a chance to serve on the Board.

My very personal perspective is that the EHSOP is a communal organization, almost tribal in nature. Our building on Rittenhouse Square is our "Long House"; it is OUR house. And YOU are part of the tribe. But the building is merely the physical manifestation of our organization. The organization itself is defined by the people that make it up. And more than that, it is the people that participate both in the activities and in its administration that define it. The Society is pretty neat in that way and offers newcomers and oldtimers alike unique opportunities to fit in and make a difference.

See ya in May!

* * *

ARTICLE VIII — ELECTIONS



Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall oversee all nominations and elections of the Society. The Board may appoint a Nominating Committee of three to five members in January of each year to facilitate the nominating process. On or before the day of the Annual Meeting the Board may appoint an Election Committee of three to five members to have full charge of the election process.

Section 2. In January of each year the Board or the Nominating Committee shall announce to the membership the nominations that are in order. Nominations will be accepted in writing by the Committee for all positions in the forthcoming elections. The Committee shall confirm that the proposed candidates are willing to run and are eligible for the positions. The Committee shall endeavor to produce a full slate of candidates, and may recommend waiving various restrictions stated in these Bylaws if deemed necessary. The Committee shall mail its slate to the membership no later than three weeks before the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. At the Annual Meeting the President or the Election Committee Chairperson shall announce the names of all candidates eligible for election. Nominations shall not be made from the floor unless there be no candidate for a particular office. Nominees for Board of Trustees and Officer positions shall have had at least one full year of membership prior to their election, and nominees for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency shall have had at least one additional year's

(See ELECTIONS, page 4)

KIVA *Progress Report*

You may remember that around Thanksgiving of last year, the Ethical Society held a special collection for Kiva, an organization that makes loans to small businesses in developing countries (www.kiva.org). Over \$1,000 was donated then for Kiva by Society members and others.

One distinctive feature of Kiva is that it allows lenders like the Ethical Society to select from descriptions of the qualified small businesses the ones they would like to receive their donations.

At Thanksgiving, we announced that a Ugandan woman with many children and a clothing business was the one the Society had selected. However, by mid January when we completed arrangements with Kiva, that Ugandan woman had already received enough to satisfy her request. Furthermore, because of Oprah Winfrey's promotion, Kiva was deluged with more donations than it could handle with its current recipient qualification procedure. Just as we were ready to send our loan money, Kiva placed a \$25-per-recipient limit on lenders' selections. So, the Ethical Society was forced for about a month to select a number of Kiva loan seekers within that \$25 limit. Now that limit has been lifted and we have increased several loans and made additional loans of \$350 and \$425 to two recipients.



Thesmallerloansarefor food market, clothing, manufacturing and electronics sales businesses in Togo, Uganda, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. The two larger loans are to Victoria Marca, a woman who is buying more merchandise to sell in her general store in Guayaquil, Ecuador and to Rosemary Ebowe, a woman who is buying more food to sell in her food market in Benin City, Nigeria.

Although the Ethical Society has just begun making the loans – with the two large ones going out only in mid February – as of March 6, we already had \$22 in repayments to our Kiva account, to use for others seeking Kiva loans. We have also received copies of thank you e-mails from recipients to

Kiva. Please notify **Temma Fishman** or **Nick Sanders**, if you would like to help in monitoring the Society's progress in Kiva. (Persons with experience in developing countries would be good Kiva monitors for the Society.)

— **Nick Sanders** <>

Darwin Day Report



On Friday night, February 15, the Society had a wonderful party to celebrate Darwin Day. In honor of Darwin, some of us wore yellow.

Ruth Ann Flynn

donned not only a yellow outfit but also a yellow wig, arriving as a drop-dead gorgeous blonde. We ate great food. **Ken Greiff** produced "Primordial Soup," a.k.a. egg-drop soup.

The highlight of the evening was the entertainment. **Ray** and **Andi Smith** and **Janice Moore** sang George Gershwin's



"It Ain't Necessarily So." Ray also led us in a song that he composed to commemorate Darwin. It was sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." **Temma Fishman** read a poem on Darwin she had written. **Scott Pleune** performed an interpretative dance on the theme of Evolution. And **Bob Moore** organized excerpts of the *Kitzmiller v. Dover Board of Education* trial into a play, with various members of the Society reading the parts. (In *Kitzmiller*, Intelligent Design was repudiated as a valid alternate to the Theory of Evolution for public schools to teach.)



Ken Greiff

Everyone had a great time at this very successful, very creative party!

— **Ken Greiff** <>

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS (Cont'd. from page 3)

experience as a Trustee. No person who is not a member of the Society shall be privileged to make or second a nomination.

Section 4. At the Annual Meeting, election of Officers shall be conducted first, then election of full-time Trustees, then election of candidates for unexpired terms. A member may be a candidate for more than one position.

Section 5. Absentee voting may be permitted at the discretion of the Board. If so, a list shall be maintained of all ballots mailed to members requesting them, and of all which have been returned. Appropriately coded envelopes shall be used to ensure privacy. Observers shall be appointed by the Chairperson to witness opening of the absentee envelopes and to tally the votes. The Chairperson shall announce the results of the election and give the Secretary a written statement of the results.

Section 6. If more than two candidates run for any of the offices of President; Vice-President; Secretary; or Treasurer, and no candidate receives a clear majority, a run-off shall be held between the two polling the highest number of votes.

Section 7. In voting for full-term Trustees-at-Large, each member may vote for not more than three candidates. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be the winners, and any ties for third place shall be resolved by an appropriate run-off. Candidates for unexpired terms shall be voted upon separately from the rest of the slate.

Section 8. All offices and positions elected at the Annual Meeting shall become official on the first day of July of that year. <>

Platforms at 11:00AM,
Sundays
Coffee Hour and
Discussion
follow the Platforms.

Musical interludes
performed by Pianist
**Katarzyna Marzec-
Salwinski**

Childcare provided
at no charge.

All are welcome!

