



# Ethical Views

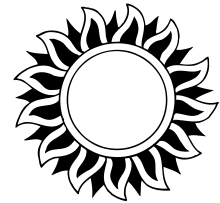
Summer 2007


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## Summer 2007 Calendar

Although our regular Platforms will be in hiatus until after Labor Day, we will have Sunday morning events almost every Sunday during the summer. We will start at 10AM and will be meeting in our air-conditioned meeting space with coffee following. Members are taking responsibility for the Colloquies (a meditative, reflective event on a different theme each time) and for leading the Book Discussions. They will be looking for helpers, so check your schedule and be ready to volunteer when asked.



JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <p>Picnic at Camp Linden. Catch a ride in front of the Society at 10:30AM. Call Saul if you have a car or need a ride.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup></b></p> <p>Discussion of the book, <i>The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil</i> by Philip Zimbardo, led by <b>Ron Coburn</b></p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, Leader to be determined</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup></b></p> <p>Labor Day weekend. No meeting.</p>
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, led by <b>Richard Kiniry</b></p>	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, Leader to be determined</p>	<p><b>12<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Discussion of Ursula Goodenough's book, <i>The Sacred Depths of Nature</i>, led by <b>Nick Sanders</b></p>	<p><b>9<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>First platform of fall, <b>Richard Kiniry</b></p>
<p><b>17<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Discussion of poetry, led by <b>Lyle Murley</b></p>	<p><b>15<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Light breakfast, showing of the film, <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>, or another to be determined, followed by a discussion, led by <b>Saul Machles</b></p>	<p><b>19<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, led by <b>Temma Fishman</b></p>	
<p><b>24<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, led by <b>Henry Pashkow</b></p>	<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup></b></p> <p>Colloquy, led by <b>Scott Pleune</b></p>	<p><b>26<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Nothing scheduled</p>	
	<p><b>29<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Discussion of the teachings of Jesus, led by <b>Ken Greiff</b></p>		

See descriptions of June 17, July 1, July 29 and August 12 events on Page 2.

## *Sunday Events*

**Sunday, June 17.** This is Fathers' Day, and **Lyle Murley** will lead a discussion of a number of poets' presentations of the realities and illusions they confront as they consider fathers and children. Martin Buber argues that "with each child the human race begins anew." While no advanced reading will be required for participating in the discussion, a few poems will be available at the Ethical Humanist Society by June 10.

**Sunday, July 1.** **Ron Coburn** will lead a discussion of Philip Zimbardo's recently-published book, *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How People Turn Evil*. In 1971, Stanford University psychology professor Philip Zimbardo created the Stanford Prison Experiment, in which 24 college students were randomly assigned the roles of prison guards and prisoners at a makeshift jail on campus. The experiment was scheduled to run for two weeks. By the second day, the guards were going far beyond just keeping the prisoners behind bars. In scenes eerily similar to Abu Ghraib, prisoners were stripped naked; bags were put on their heads, and they were sexually humiliated. The two-week experiment had to be canceled after just six days.

**Sunday, July 29.** **Ken Greiff** asks us to look with him at the teachings of Jesus. What does Jesus say is required to be good, or to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven? Ken says, "I'm focused on the character of Jesus as depicted in the four gospels, not the historic man, or how what he said has been interpreted by subsequent followers. To make the conversation manageable, I would carefully scrutinize The Sermon on the Mount (not so much the Beatitudes), a relatively short document that everyone could reasonably prepare by reading Matthew 5-7. Then they can point out how little it is followed by modern religion. Or they can contemplate the extraordinary things it is actually calling people to do."

**Sunday, August 12.** **Nick Sanders** will facilitate a discussion of *The Sacred Depths of Nature* by Ursula Goodenough, one of America's leading cell biologists and author of a best selling textbook on genetics. She is also a deeply spiritual person and has served as president of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science. *The Sacred Depths of Nature* is a small, though substantial, book. It begins with what science has to say about the origins of our Earth and of life on Earth. Goodenough discusses how organisms and evolution work, awareness, emotions, meaning, sex, sexuality, and death. At the end of the scientific portion of each chapter is a short religious response, like a meditation. Generally this is drawn from the author's own emotional or mental state that is elicited when she thinks about the subject of that chapter's part in the evolutionary story.

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### **In Memoriam**

*We offer our most sincere condolences to the friends and family of **Pat Leopold**, who died peacefully at home on May 16, 2007 at the age of 78 years. She was much loved. Her activism and service to the community will be sorely missed.*



**Pat** (center) became a Grandmother for Peace last June to gather petition signatures urging the Philadelphia City Council to adopt a resolution to bring the troops home from Iraq. Others from ESOP were **Dr. Robert Kay**, **Terry Martin-Murley**, **Temma Fishman**, and **Carole Erb**.

## Committee Meetings

**Tuesday, June 19, 7:00-9:00 PM.**

**Education Committee Strategic Planning Retreat,**

Ellen Rose's apartment, 118 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Apt. 1303. Please RSVP 215-563-2018 or [erose@temple.edu](mailto:erose@temple.edu)

**Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 PM**

**Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 18, 7:30 PM**

**Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 PM.**

**Community Committee**

All members are welcome to attend.

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**For Committee reports, please see our website: [www.phillyethics.org](http://www.phillyethics.org)**

### Introduction to Humanism

We have started a new class. This time we are looking at the history and evolution of Humanism. We will begin by discussing Alan Bullock's book, *The Humanist Tradition in the West*, which starts with Renaissance Humanism and moves to the present. This is a discussion group and not a lecture. All are invited. For more information speak to Richard Kiniry.

**Thursday, June 21, 7:30 PM**



### Summer Birthdays

#### June

3 - Ellen Rose  
3 - Temma Fishman  
7 - Janice Moore  
10 - Monica Peer  
18 - Robert Allen  
19 - Sylvia Bornkoff Polizzi

#### July

9 - Harry Thorn  
23 - Carole Erb  
23 - David Ralston  
24 - Jim Erb  
26 - Elisabeth Lightbourn

#### August

9 - Amber Anderson  
12 - Carole Karash

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## Annual Service Auction Events Over the Summer - Mark your calendar!

Come and read a part in *Much Ado About Nothing* with **Ken Greiff** on **Sunday, June 11 at 12 noon**. Latecomers are welcome to attend this fun event. Ken will be serving light snacks and beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic). Call Ken or the office for more information or to add your name to the list of those attending. \$15

*Barbeque and Picnic* with **Amber Anderson** and **Shawn O'Brien** on **Saturday, June 23 at 12 noon**. You will be welcome to their beautiful new home in Colledgeville, 30 miles from Philly, off route 422. They have a great deck, patio, small creek, lots of trees, and two bird feeders. It will be beautiful in the summer. Call Amber and Shawn or the office for more information or to add your name to the list of those attending. \$20

*Garden Party* with **Richard Kiniry** on **Saturday, July 7 at 5:30 PM**. Sorry, but this event is sold out.

*Canoe Carnival and Picnic* with **Temma** and **Arnold Fishman** on **Saturday, August 4 at 7 PM**. The Fishmans aren't sure about the canoe carnival but you can be sure you'll have a great time at their beautiful home in Medford Lakes, NJ. Call Temma and Arnold or the office for more information or to add your name to the list of those attending. \$20

*Mostly Vegetarian Continental Dinner* with **Jean Bradley** and **Saul Machles** on **Saturday, August 18 at 7 PM**. Sorry, but this event is sold out.

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*Thank-you...*

*to Benjamin Blossan, pianist*

*and*

*Anna Bracewell, soprano*

*who graced us with their performances in May.*



**Ethical Society  
of Philadelphia**

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