



# Ethical Views

May 2008

Vol. 122, No. 9

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

ethics rooted in a faith in the unique ethical capacities of every person and played out through an inclusive, elevating discourse. <>



## President's Message

by Howard Peer

## Platforms

**May 4, 2008**

***Born Again Humanism***

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

**May 11, 2008**

***Founders' Day:*** We mark the 132nd Anniversary of the start of the Ethical Cultural Movement with reflections upon our history and philosophy.

**May 18, 2008**

***The Ethical Happiness Society***

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

**May 25, 2008**

***Fostering Ethics in the Face of Globalization***

**Speaker: John Daken, Medical Director, Family Health Center Psychological Services, West Hyattsville, MD; Member of Ethical Society of Washington, DC**

Human effects upon the environment transcend political boundaries. This intensifying interplay between people from different backgrounds offers the hope of greater understanding; it also poses the specter of oppression, alienation, and violence. These developments are not morally neutral, yet religious voices have not been prominent in the debates about globalization. It is questionable whether any theistic or, more broadly, supernaturally-grounded theology can chart a course out of this labyrinth. Our pluralistic world calls for a pluralistic



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!

In this President's Message I want to reflect a little on my term on the Board of Trustees. As I noted before I have been on the Board a long time – perhaps Jean is the only currently serving member with more years' service. But I think Carol Love must have the record for holding continuous office, as she was Treasure for 14 consecutive years. Now that is one tough lady!

When I first came on the Board, I filled a one-year term. One night that season a Board member got rather perturbed, so perturbed in fact that he quit – not the Board, the Society. (Since then I have seen people quit the Board in a huff once or twice more, but never quit the Society.) Early on, I think it was at the end of my first term, I was nominated for President. Believe it or not, someone else decided to run against me. It was a squeaker with a tied first ballot. The runoff was decided by a

*(Continued next page)*

## In This Issue

- 1 *Platforms, Platforms Ad; Ethics for Children Ad; President's Message*
- 2 *Blockheads Wanted!; Name a Chair; Tribute and Friendship Fund*
- 3 *New and Improved Membership Meeting*
- 4 *Calendar; Camp Linden Volunteer Days*
- 5-6 *Adopt-A-Kid*
- 7 *Day of Caring; Sneakers; Ethical Society is Still Against the War in Iraq*
- 8 *Flower Dedications, Sunday Morning Volunteers, Photo Credits, Camp Linden Annual Picnic*

## ETHICS FOR CHILDREN

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

*(See recent Sunday School projects and events on page 7.)*

single vote, and the other guy won.

Eventually I was back on the Board as Treasurer. Up until 1996 or 1997 we had a full-time Administrator and Richard was full-time. And all our books were handled manually – big long books of checks and ledgers that the Administrator kept up, sort of. As Treasurer I got to spend a lot of time trying to make things add up, or at least get close. At this time we had some bad money problems. We had a Long Range Planning Committee that seriously considered selling the building or doing some other rather drastic action. After a couple of years' deliberation, we decided that the building was just too much a part of who we were. Arnold and Richard restructured the debt, Richard went to part-time, and the Administrator decided to leave. So our budget got better.

Losing our Administrator, who had been with us a long time, was not easy. We needed to train someone new. Actually, we needed to train a few new someones, as we went through a couple. In 1998 I decided to move our accounting over to Quicken, a commercial home accounting package, a move that has paid off well, after a rocky start (our Administrator managed to lose the data, twice; I spent many hours entering and reentering data). After Jean competently took over as Administrator, Quicken allowed the Treasurer to concentrate on where the money is going, not on doing sums. Also, Nick has used it to do some useful data analysis.

Putting together my first Treasurer's Report was a challenge as there were almost no previous data and I had a wealth of disinformation to work with. I assembled the best information I could and delivered the report at the Annual Meeting. Carol, reading this fantasy of fact about houses and stocks, came to my rescue and set me straight about what we had, what we had had, and where it had all gone. Subsequent reports have been much better. These reports, which Jeff has so diligently

kept up, represent the best source of our history year to year. I hope that all subsequent Treasurers maintain that tradition as Jeff has done.

Of all the positions I've held on the Board, being Treasurer most brought me in touch with members. People would talk to me very personally and in confidence about their finances and personal situation. Not really a big deal but it still made an impression. Being a shy person this was a new experience for me and it enriched me.

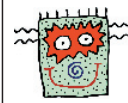
There is far more to being Secretary than taking the monthly notes. As Secretary I created an Annual Agenda for the Board. This is something of value as it gives you a look ahead and a structure for action. It also helps new Board members understand what we do. Operating the Society is a bit like operating a school; both institutions have an annual cycle or rhythm. Once you get the pattern down it becomes easy. Well, it was easier for me as I had Jean to look to for assistance as Society Administrator. Serving as both Secretary and Society Administrator, Jean is stuck talking to herself!



### **Name of Honoree**

#### **Name a Chair**


*Honor yourself, a family member or friend by donating an auditorium chair. Compose a tribute or memorial to be engraved on a beautiful brass plaque, which will be attached to the back of the chair. Help support the work of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia while you celebrate someone who has made a difference in your life. \$60 for one chair or \$100 for two. Mail your check to the Ethical Humanist Society, 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For more information, contact the Society office at [office@phillyethics.org](mailto:office@phillyethics.org) or at 215-735-3456.*



### **Blockheads Wanted!**

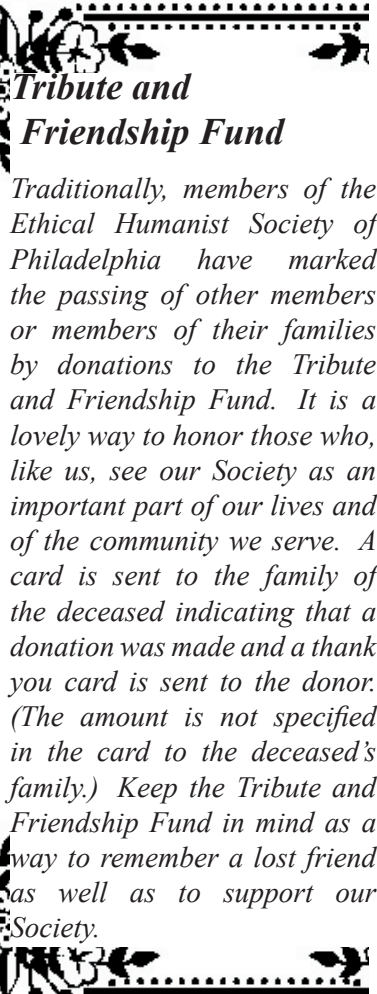
Want a little piece of immortality while you do something wonderful for our community at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia? For just \$500, you can purchase a block of cement and help make a dream come true.

Each block will be used to create the ramp that will make our building accessible to everyone. Your name will be engraved on a plaque that will be prominently displayed on a wall in the Society. All who see it will know you were a generous donor to a most ethical cause. You can even purchase a block along with others, thus reducing the cost for each person. Send your check to the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia along with the name(s) you want engraved on the plaque. For more information contact the Society office at: [office@phillyethics.org](mailto:office@phillyethics.org) or at 215-735-3456.



### **Tribute and Friendship Fund**

*Traditionally, members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia have marked the passing of other members or members of their families by donations to the Tribute and Friendship Fund. It is a lovely way to honor those who, like us, see our Society as an important part of our lives and of the community we serve. A card is sent to the family of the deceased indicating that a donation was made and a thank you card is sent to the donor. (The amount is not specified in the card to the deceased's family.) Keep the Tribute and Friendship Fund in mind as a way to remember a lost friend as well as to support our Society.*





## Day of Caring

At the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, we celebrate a Day of Caring as our rational, humanistic response to the National Day of Prayer. This year, our Sunday School children filled ZipLoc bags with non-perishable foods such as cereal, boxed juices, coffee, containers of applesauce, instant soups, puddings and other items to be distributed by Aid For Friends, an organization that serves the disabled, elderly and needy. These bags, each of which provides at least two meals for each person, will be taken to the AFF headquarters for distribution by May 1st.

— Temma Fishman



Above: **Eliza Villanueva**, Teacher, and **Monica Peer**, Assistant, check contents for the Ziplock bags. To the Right: **Isabella Rizzo** chooses a juice box to put into one of the bags.



## Sneakers

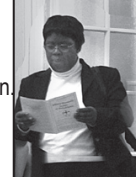
In April the Sunday School kids collected old sneakers for Earth Day, April 22. They were excited to make a difference by collecting old shoes, knowing they would be used to make safe and fun places to play. The kids contributed the shoes to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and the Community Alumni Network at Drexel University (CAN DU), who are using unwanted athletic shoes (in any size, shape or form) to be recycled into playground surfaces.

— Laura Katz-Rizzo



Sunday School members **Isabella**, **Thalia** and **Orion Rizzo** performed a song at our Spring Celebration on March 31. **Eliza Villanueva** and **Tim Ribchester** look on.

**Lily Locke**, Sunday School Assistant, waits for the performance to begin.



## Ethical Society is Still Against the War in Iraq

On March 19, five years after the bombardment of Baghdad began, the Ethical Society spoke out again for ending the war in Iraq. Members stood in front of the Ethical Society for an hour-long vigil in windy, wet weather. Large signs in the building's four first-floor windows called attention to the approximately \$830,000,000 per day bill that the war costs the U.S. economy and to the important mission of withdrawing now.

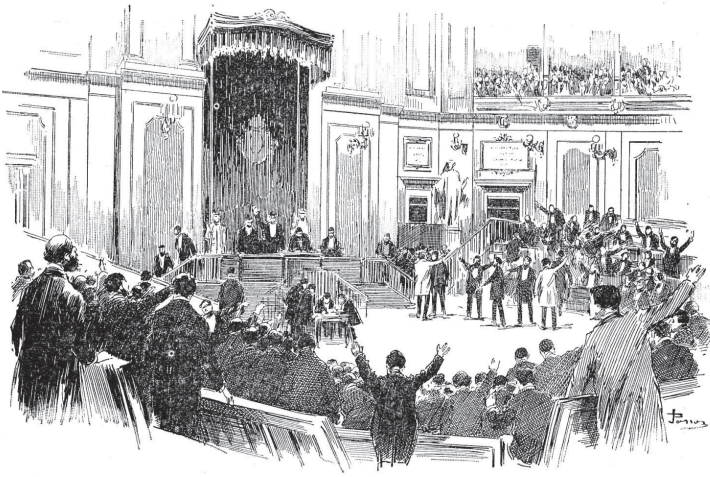
— Nick Sanders



Above: Various anti-war signs decorate the windows of the Philadelphia Ethical Society building after the demonstration. To the Right: Some of our members making their statement.



# Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia



**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 1, 11:00 AM**

***New and Improved***  
***This is Your Meeting***  
***You'll Be in Charge!***



*Besides the usual required chores — electing new officers and making annual reports (shorter this year) — we're going to try something different we'll spend more time on your questions and comments. About what? About our platforms, our fund raising, our classes, our Ethical Action projects — what's on your mind?*

*This is the last Sunday of the Ethical Society's regular September to May platform schedule. Come and tell us how you'd like things to go next year.*






*And we promise: we'll get you out the school doors early, so we can all get started on our ESHoP Summer vacations.\**

\* This summer, we'll have a full schedule of interesting book discussions and colloquies. See next month's Ethical Views for details. And don't forget our annual picnic at Camp Linden on June 8!





# MAY 2008

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue       | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|-----------|---|--|---|---|
|  Birthdays  |  |           |   |  |   |   |
|  |  |           |   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4</b><br>10:45 a.m. - Weston Room<br><b>Ethics for Children</b><br>11:00 a.m. Platform:<br><b>Born Again Humanism</b><br><b>Richard L. Kiniry</b>                     | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br><b>Meetings - Weston Room</b><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Ethical Action Committee<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Community Committee  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Camp Linden<br>Volunteer Day<br>12:00 noon |
| <b>11</b><br>10:45 a.m. - Weston Room<br><b>Ethics for Children</b><br>11:00 a.m. Platform:<br><b>Founders Day</b>   | <b>12</b><br> Rick Zorger | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br><b>Meetings - Weston Room</b><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Finance Committee<br> Madeleine Suringar  | <b>15</b><br> Marion Steininger | <b>16</b><br> Jean Bradley | <b>17</b>   |
| <b>18</b><br>10:45 a.m. - Weston Room<br><b>Ethics for Children</b><br>11:00 a.m. Platform:<br><b>The Ethical Happiness Society</b><br><b>Richard L. Kiniry</b>          | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><b>Meeting - Weston Room</b><br>7:30 p.m.<br>Camp Linden<br>Board Meeting<br> Ethel Boyer   | <b>22</b><br><b>Meeting</b><br>Weston Room<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Amnesty International                                     | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>Camp Linden<br>Volunteer Day<br>12:00 noon |
| <b>25</b><br>10:45 a.m. - Weston Room<br><b>Ethics for Children</b><br>11:00 a.m. Platform:<br><b>Fostering Ethics in the Face of Globalization</b><br><b>John Daken</b> | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>7:30 p.m.<br>Board of Trustees Meeting<br> Robert Kay<br> Gian Polizzi | <b>29</b><br> Mary Lou Da Silva | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b>   |



.....

**CAMP LINDEN VOLUNTEER DAYS**

• Come on out to Camp Linden on Saturday, both on **May 10th & May 24th** 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.

.....



# Camp Linden 2008 Adopt - A-Kid



Picking fresh, wild berries.  
Photo by Amanda Stevenson Photography.

For the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year we will be welcoming disadvantaged boys and girls to 54 acres of fields and wooded trails — beautiful Camp Linden. Working with five inner-city Monday to Friday day camp programs, we provide nature lessons and teach the children how to swim. Over 200 campers will participate — each child for one day a week for seven consecutive weeks.

Camp Linden offers hikes through woods and fields, led by knowledgeable and well-equipped staff, and discussions about insects, animals, trees or habitats. Camp Linden offers swimming lessons at our beautiful outdoor pool, allowing every child to learn. Camp Linden supplements the lunches provided by our city partners with freshly harvested produce from our own organic raised-bed garden.

We offer a challenging and healthy environment. Children learn self-reliance, integrity and a broader view of their place in the natural world. Over the last 18 years we have opened up the wonders of nature to thousands of children. We are committed to providing a loving, educational, safe and fun program to our deserving young campers.

---

You can invest in our wonderful and deserving young campers through your tax-deductible gift to Camp Linden. We invite you to offer this opportunity to family, friends and co-workers.

Complete the form below and return it with your check to Camp Linden.  
If you could see the smiles on their faces, you would adopt them all!

## Yes, I will Adopt-A-Kid!

Please check one: one kid for \$25 \_\_\_\_, two kids for \$50 \_\_\_\_, three kids for \$75 \_\_\_\_, more kids for \$ \_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to Camp Linden.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Camp Linden, Ethical Humanist  
Society of Philadelphia, 1906 Rittenhouse Square,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103,  
(215) 735 - 3456, office@phillyethics.org,  
www.phillyethics.org

Thank you for your support!



Learning fundamentals.  
Photo by Jean Bradley, Executive Director



The beauty of nature.

Perhaps you have friends, neighbors or relatives that would like to support our grassroots effort? Unlike many large charities, nearly all the money we raise is spent directly on the summer program or on the construction of new facilities.

Our administrative and maintenance costs are kept low because of the tremendous support we receive from volunteers.

| Name | Address | Contribution |
|------|---------|--------------|
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
| Name | Address | Contribution |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
| Name | Address | Contribution |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
| Name | Address | Contribution |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
| Name | Address | Contribution |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |
|      |         |              |

Camp Linden, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia ,  
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103



Learning to swim!

*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

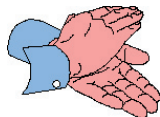
**Ethical Humanist Society  
of Philadelphia**

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

**May 4** - Bob Moore: in appreciation of the state of Michigan, which became the first English-speaking government to ban the death penalty.

**May 11** - Katie and Jordan Orange: in honor of Marley Orange's birthday.

**May 18** - Carol Erb: in honor of her dear friend, Louise Downey.

**May 25** - Anonymous: in appreciation of the lovely Ramona Ward.

**Greeters** - Saul Machles, Head Greeter  
For the month of May, Saul Machles and friends.

### Coffee Hour Lunch

**May 4** - Group A-E

**May 11** - Group F-L

**May 18** - Group M-P

**May 25** - Group Q-Z

### Photo Credits:

Page 1, Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski - Janice R. Moore; Howard Peer - Ken Greiff;

Page 3. Sunday School photos - Janice R. Moore; Demonstration photos - Nick Sanders

Page 4. Camp Linden Photos - Nick Sanders

**Camp  
Linden  
Annual  
Picnic**



The Camp Linden Annual Picnic  
will take place on  
**Sunday, June 8, 2008**  
Lots of Friends -- Lots of Food -- Lots of Fun!

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