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Humanist Celebrant
Martha Knox
celebrant@hagp.org

Book Club Moderator
Eileen Childress

Movie Night Coordinator
Joe Fox

New Plans for Philly Free Speech Zone

This November, the American Humanist Association began a secular holiday advertisement campaign. Signs on buses around Washington D.C. proclaimed "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake!"

Due to the great success of this clever campaign in attracting media attention, PhillyCOR has adopted the secular holiday sign concept for the 2008 winter season. Instead of a Tree of Knowledge, PhillyCOR will install a mini-billboard at the Free Speech Zone located at 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia on the lawn adjacent to the National Constitution Center.

Those who support the Tree of Knowledge, never fear: The Freethought Society will *also* install a Tree of Knowledge for the second year in a row at the Chester County Courthouse.

Support in terms of monetary donations is still needed! Donors can donate online at www.phillycor.org or send checks addressed to: **Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia** P.O. Box 5054, West Chester, PA 19380.



One of the American Humanist Association's bus ads (above) and a mock up of PhillyCOR's version of the secular holiday advertisement (below.)



HAGP Elections

It's the end of the year, which means time for HAGP Elections! Last year HAGP adopted new bylaws calling for rolling elections of Board Members. In keeping with this system, three Board members took three-year terms, three more took two-year terms, and the final three took one-year terms. This means that three positions on the Board are up for grabs! If you are an HAGP member in good standing and interested in running for the Board, or you want to nominate a member who you think is interested, let us know! Email admin@hagp.org or call 215-475-2573.

First Saturday of each month:
Movie Night at Giant Superstore
2nd Floor Community Room
315 York Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Movie night is a showing of independent films and documentaries, utilizing wide-screen projection, concerning the issues of Humanistic interest – followed by spirited a discussion. Topics such as human evolution, the occupation of Iraq, the media, religion and other world and political events.

Second Saturday of each month:
Luncheon at the Olive Garden
2328 W. Moreland Road
Willow Grove, PA

Informal lunches that allow members to interact outside the formal meetings and socialize with other Humanists. Occasionally, HAGP business is conducted after lunch.

Third Saturday of each month:
Secular Book Club at Barnes and Noble
102 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA

The Book club is a joint event with The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia. We discuss books relevant to values, issues, history, etc. These meetings are designed to build a stronger secular community, develop our thoughts more coherently, and embrace our history. Books are usually chosen two months in advance by the group. Following the meeting, join us for food/drink/socializing at the Macaroni Grill - everyone is welcome.

Last Sunday of each month:
Program Meeting
Upper Moreland Library
109 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA

Our monthly speakers cover a wide variety of subjects. This is an opportunity for group members to come together with each other; become educated on a topic by hearing from a speaker; or discuss issues and explore ideas. Following the meeting, join us for food/drink/socializing at the Mandarin Garden - everyone is welcome.

Meet Fellow Humanists & Like-minded Freethinkers

DECEMBER

Tues. Dec. 2, 7pm: Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia Program Meeting: Speaker is Gregory S. Paul on *The Big Religion Questions Solved: Why Religion Was Invented, Why It Has Been Popular, Why It is Crashing In the 1st World, and Why Religious Nations Are Never Socio-Economically Healthy*
Ludington Library 5 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA

Sat., Dec. 6, 7pm: HAGP Movie Night showing *What Would Jesus Buy?* Just in time for the holidays, this documentary follows the performance activist group Rev. Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping on their national tour to combat excessive consumerism, take back public commons, and enjoy "original sensuality" and "real moments."
2nd Floor Community Room at the Giant Superstore
315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA

Sat. Dec. 13, NOON: HAGP's Informal Luncheon at the Olive Garden
2328 W. Moreland Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Thurs. December 18, 7pm: Philadelphia Atheist MeetUp: Casual conversation, meet other atheists. Join by visiting atheists.meetup.com/215/
Cosi, 4th Street and Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

Sun. December 21, 12:30-4pm HumanLight/Winter Solstice Party at the Williamson Restaurant in Horsham. Full details on page 4.

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 3, 7pm: HAGP Movie Night showing *Weather Underground*, a documentary about the radical leftist organization of which Bill Ayers was a member. 2nd Floor Community Room at the Giant Superstore, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA

Sat. Jan. 10, NOON: HAGP's Informal Luncheon at the Olive Garden, 2328 W. Moreland Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090

Sat. Jan. 17, 2 pm: PhACT (Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking) hosts: *In Search of Time* The mystery of time has captivated science journalist Dan Falk, who sets off on an intellectual journey in his latest book, "In Search of Time: The Science of a Curious Dimension." In this illustrated talk, Dan will discuss some of the most intriguing aspects of time. LOCATION: Room S2-03 (second floor) Winnet Student Life building, Community College of Philadelphia, 17th and Spring Garden Streets, Phila

Sat. Jan. 17, 7 pm: Secular Book Club - Discussion of *The Devil in Dover: An Insider's Story of Dogma v. Darwin in Small-town America* by Lauri Lebo. SPECIAL NOTE: The author will be speaking!
Barnes and Noble, 102 Park Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090

Sun. Jan. 25, 1:30pm: HAGP Program Meeting - Our guest is David Silverman, spokesperson for American Atheists. Specific topic TBA. Upper Moreland Library, 109 Park Ave. Willow Grove, PA

Meet Fellow Humanists & Like-minded Freethinkers

Socrates Cafe

Facilitated by Sam Frederick
Springfield Township Library
1600 Paper Mill Rd, Glenside, PA
Mondays, 7pm (except holidays)

Socrates Café is a worldwide movement that fosters independent, informal community discussion groups under the overarching topic: "What is the good way to live life?" The local discussions approach the big topic by discussing more specific subjects like 'Integrity,' "If no one is perfect, what is perfection?" and the like. Participants contribute questions and observations based on their own experience. Participants learn new perspectives from each other and then make up their own minds. An extraordinary group culture of reason, honesty, compassion and trust can and has developed among strangers.

HAGP fully supports the spirit in which these discussions are conducted and encourages all curious and open minds to attend! To learn more about the Socrates Cafe movement, visit this website: <http://www.philosopher.org>

Check out the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

215-735-3456

www.phillyethics.org

Weekly Platform meetings are held at 11 a.m. September through May. Ethical Society Platforms are free and open to the public. A coffee hour follows for discussion and conversation. *Ethics for Children* classes start each Sunday morning at 10:45AM; child care provided for children to seven years. Free parking is available with a permit you can get inside the Society's office. Classical piano interludes are performed by Katarzyna Marzec-Salwinski.

Community Service Volunteer Opportunities with the Secular Service Club

Monthly Work Days at Philabundance's Warehouse
302 West Berks Street Philadelphia PA:

Saturday, December 13
Friday, January 9
Saturday, February 7

Volunteers must wear sneakers

The Secular Service Club is also organizing teams of volunteers in and around Philadelphia for the **January 19** Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Call Martha at 215-475-2573 or email humanistmarf@gmail.com to sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities.

Sponsored by:



www.phillycor.org



Representatives from HAGP, the Secular Society of Temple University, and the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia, protesting Proposition 8 at City Hall, November 15. Police estimate that about 5,000 Philadelphians showed up at the rally in support of equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians.



2008 HumanLight/Winter Solstice Party!

Sun. December 21, Williamson Restaurant, 500 Blair Mill Road, Horsham, PA.

This holiday season, celebrate our shared, human values with other Humanists, freethinkers, atheists, and agnostics. HumanLight will be hosted for the first time by all of PhillyCoR. Family-friendly entertainment includes live music and **Storyteller Bill Wood**.

The keynote speaker is **Tony Hileman**, a Humanist lecturer and activist. In his earlier years, Tony was in business in his native Indianapolis, lived and worked in Europe in wire service journalism, and spent a decade in Washington, DC, as an independent consultant—never once having worked for the government or a government contractor. His work as an executive coach led naturally to Humanist leadership where he spent six years as Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, and prepared him well for the obligations of a certified Leader of the Ethical Movement and a three-year stint as Senior Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. He and his wife, Betty, live in Washington, DC, where she has her own law firm. Hileman will address:



Science In An Age Of Certainty

the challenges it poses and the difficulties it faces.

This is a time of celebration and all of the coming year has been dedicated to celebrating science. But 2009 is not only The Year of Science it is also the year people of reason will be called upon to rally to the defense of science, for science is under attack. Personal, political, and ideological agenda are aligned against it and are eager to sacrifice it on the altar of their threatened beliefs.

Those desiring and accustomed to certainty are uncomfortable with science. They cling to ancient implausibilities and reject cutting-edge findings in their search of a certain world in an uncertain universe. Neither wanting nor wishing will bring that about, but the integrity of science stands precariously in the path of their zealous quest.

Schedule: 12:30-1pm Gathering and Cocktails
1pm-1:30 Welcome, acknowledgements, candle lighting and songs
1:30-2:30 Lunch
2:30-4:00 Entertainment and keynote speaker

Price: Tickets, which include the luncheon, are \$30/ adults, \$20/students. Under 18 are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Don't miss this once a year event! Register using the form you've received in the mail, or online here <http://www.hagp.org/HumanLight.html>. Any questions? Call 215-475-2573.

Humanist Celebrant Available

Martha Knox, Certified Humanist Celebrant, would like to remind you that she is available for all your life passage ceremonies, including weddings and commitment ceremonies, baby namings, coming-of-age celebrations, funerals/memorial services, and even divorce celebrations.

Discounts for HAGP members! Contact her at Celebrant@hagp.org.



HAGP Online:



facebook

[www.facebook.com/
group.php?gid=38402609275](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38402609275)



myspace.com
a place for friends

[www.myspace.com/
phillyhumanists](http://www.myspace.com/phillyhumanists)



HAGP
Blog

Read,
Learn, and
Speak out!

hagp.blogspot.com/



Join the fun on Meetup! Go to <http://humanism.meetup.com/152/boards/> to sign up for HAGP's group and be updated on our ongoing events.



HAGP proudly supports Tabor Children's Services, Inc., a private nonprofit child welfare agency serving children, youth, young adults and families. Tabor Children's Services is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that serves children and families in need in the southeastern Pennsylvania and nearby New Jersey areas.

To learn more about the important work of these dedicated people, visit www.tabor.org.

JOIN HAGP TODAY!

HAGP is now a Member Chapter of the American Humanist Association (AHA)!

In order to become a member of HAGP, individuals and families must also become members of the AHA.

Join the AHA today at the website: <https://www.americanhumanist.org/secure/joinform.php>. Membership is only \$35.00 for first time members who join online! If you join online, make sure to check the box "I want to join my local Membership Chapter" and then select "Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia" If you join by phone, call 1-800-837-3792 and make sure to mention your desire to also be a member of HAGP.

If you're already a member of the AHA, great! Just let Lindsay Gemberling in the AHA office know that you also want to be a member of HAGP: 1-800-837-3792 or lgemberling@americanhumanist.org.

You can also donate the dues you used to pay to HAGP. Donate at www.hagp.org or by mail (address below.)

Don't want to join the AHA, but want to be affiliated with HAGP? Become a *Friend of HAGP!* Friends can't vote in annual elections or run for the Board, but they receive all other benefits of HAGP membership. Those who would like to become a Friend, simply send a check (\$15 for individuals, \$25 for families) to:

Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia

P.O. Box 161

Willow Grove, PA 19090-0161