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PhillyCoR Unity Picnic, Fun in the Rain and Sun



Representatives from all seven of PhillyCoR's member organizations proudly stand together.

Last year HAGP held our summer picnic in partnership with the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia. This year we celebrated even broader unity in the Delaware Valley with the Greater Philadelphia Coalition of Reason (PhillyCoR.)

Approximately eighty people showed up at Fort Washington Park, making this the largest annual picnic ever hosted or co-hosted by HAGP.

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Nontheists and Christians, Battle of the Billboards Turns Into Helping the Hungry

Both billboards on I-95 don blue skies and serene white clouds, but one reaches out to nontheists, while the other encourages people to *Experience God*. The similarity of these two billboards, one put up by PhillyCOR (Greater Philadelphia Coalition of Reason) and one by the Lighthouses of Oxford Valley, a Christian revival, is coincidental.

The Lighthouses' blog, *The River*, May 2008, wrote about this coincidence and featured the headline "Battle of the Billboards." PhillyCOR members and leaders read this and saw an opportunity to show that nontheists support people working together to solve human problems, despite doctrinal differences. Martha Knox, PhillyCOR's Coordinator, called Pastor Heidi Butterworth of the Lighthouses, and together they planned a joint workday at the Philabundance warehouse, scheduled for Saturday, August 2nd, from 12:30-3:30.

Philabundance was selected as a meeting ground for volunteer work because as a nonsectarian charity, it was truly neutral ground for the volunteers to act on shared, human values. Also, this Philadelphia-based nonprofit is the region's largest food bank and hunger relief organization and thus has earned a prominent reputation and high visibility.

Pastor Butterworth was eager to set up a workday at the Philabundance warehouse, where members from both organizations would have "a chance to talk to each other without shouting across political and religious lines."

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Philabundance Work Day continued:



Jan Meshon of FreeThoughtAction, one of PhillyCoR's member organizations, said "I especially like the idea of Philabundance and making that a key recipient of charitable works we do – there's no more basic need than food."

PhillyCoR was able to sign up more than the twenty necessary volunteers for the August 2nd work day, and the project has inspired another Philabundance service project:

Donate to the PhillyCoR Food and Fund Drive

This August, PhillyCoR is holding a food and fund drive for Philabundance. Any items which are boxed, canned, or in plastic bottles or jars and which do not need refrigeration will be accepted and appreciated.

Foods in high demand include: canned tuna, canned beef stew, canned chili, canned pasta, and canned beef ravioli, as well as macaroni and cheese, family size boxes of cereal, canned pork and beans, baked beans, canned green beans, canned corn, canned fruit cocktail, boxed sugar, and peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars. ***Please no glass containers or perishable foods.***

If you want to donate money instead of food: Drop off checks made out to "Philabundance" at the food drop off locations or mail them to: PhillyCoR Food and Fund Drive, P.O. Box 161, Willow Grove, PA, 19090 ***by August 12th.***

Drop off locations and times are all in August and throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. All drop off times and locations are starred (*) on the calendar of events on the next page.

Picnic continued:

When the raindrops started falling, Martha Knox and Ric Hopkins took turns holding an umbrella over grillmaster Sean. After sunshine returned, a group of young adults played volleyball, and a child blew bubbles, while other attendees enjoyed dessert and mingled.

The picnic was graced by the presence of two special guests: longtime Humanist leader Fred Edwards, and reporter Joe Barron of Montgomery Newspapers.

Fred Edwards, who drove up from D.C. for the picnic, served for fifteen years as AHA executive director (1984-1999) and twelve years as editor of the *Humanist* magazine (1994-2006). He now focuses his attention on bringing Humanism to a wider public in his capacity as AHA director of communications.

Joe Barron wrote a favorable column on the picnic, titled *Even a nonconformist needs a support group*

Barron wrote, "It was the picnic of the damned - literally, depending on one's theological attitude toward unbelief."

Despite this and the high-held umbrella, no non-theists were struck by lightning.



Scattered showers? No problem!

HAGP hosts
four events a month
All are welcome!

**First Saturday of each month:
Movie Night**

**New Location – 2nd Floor
Community Room at the new
Giant Superstore**
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.

**Third Saturday of each month:
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** www.fsgp.org. 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. Following the meeting, join us for food/drink/socializing at the Mandarin Garden.

**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.
Note: No program meetings in July or August

Meet Fellow Humanists & Like-minded Freethinkers

* Denotes PhillyCoR Food and Fund Drive for Philabundance drop off locations/times

AUGUST

***Sat., Aug. 2, 7pm:** Last Movie Night at the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Showing *Taxi To The Dark Side*. This documentary investigates the issue of torture condoned by the Bush administration and justified by the “War on Terror.”

Sun., Aug. 3, 10am: Colloquy (a meditative, reflective event) at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.
1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

***Sat., Aug. 5, 7pm:** The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia presents Martha Knox, speaking on *Liberal Christianity: Is there a silent majority of Christians whose worldview is more similar to humanism than fundamentalism?*
Ludington Library (Basement)
5 South Bryn Mawr Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

***Sat., Aug. 9, 12 pm:** Informal Luncheon at the Olive Garden
2328 W. Moreland Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

***Sun., Aug. 10, 10am:** The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia discusses Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*
1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

***Sat., Aug. 16, 7 pm:** Book Club – Discussion of Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion, edited by Dale McGowan
Barnes and Noble
102 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Sun., Aug. 17, 10am: Colloquy (a meditative, reflective event) at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.
1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

***Thurs. August 21st, 7pm:** Atheist MeetUp
Casual conversation, meet other atheists. Join by visiting <http://atheists.meetup.com/215/>
Cosi, 4th Street and Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

Sun. August 24th, 10am: Book Discussion at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia
Discussion of Echart Tolle's *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*
1906 South Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA

SEPTEMBER

September 6 Sat. 7pm: Movie Night shows *For the Bible Tells Me So* An exploration of religion and homosexuality in the U.S. and how the religious right has used the Bible to stigmatize the gay community.
2nd Floor Community Room of the new Giant Superstore, 315 York Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

September 13 Sat. 12pm: Informal Luncheon at the Olive Garden
2328 W. Moreland Road
Willow Grove, PA 19090

September 20 Sat. 2pm: Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking (PhACT) Monthly Meeting: *Innumeracy – Math In Society* with speaker John Allen Paulos
Philadelphia Community College
W2-48 Room of the West Building
17th and Spring Garden Streets
Philadelphia, PA

September 20 Sat. 7pm: Book Club discusses *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, by Lester Brown
Barnes and Noble
102 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA 19090

September 28 Sun. 1:30pm: Program Mtg: *Nonviolent Communication Workshop* conducted by Keith Pacheco. Pacheco has over a decade of experience with peace action, including two weeks spent in Israel and the West Bank visiting and listening to various sides of the Middle East Conflict to gain perspective, and understanding. He has facilitated nonviolence workshops in the United States and in Zimbabwe.
Upper Moreland Library
109 Park Avenue
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Note: The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia's formal Sunday platforms at 11am resume in September.
For more info visit www.phillyethics.org

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.



Keep in touch with humanism and freethought throughout the Delaware Valley – visit www.phillycor.org and subscribe to the mailing list.



HAGP members who wish to post to the blog, email webmaster@hagp.org

Save the date:

The 2008 HumanLight/Winter Solstice Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 21st, 1pm at the Williamson Restaurant in Horsham, PA.



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, check out their web site. www.tabor.org

JOIN HAGP TODAY!

If you wish to become a member of HAGP, please print and fill out the form below, then mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to:

Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia

P.O. Box 161

Willow Grove, PA 19090-0161

Type of Membership _____

Check One: New Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Membership Types:

Individual- \$25.00

Family - \$35.00

Student/Limited Means - \$15.00

Sustaining member - \$50.00

Patron - \$100.00

Sponsor - \$150.00

Lifetime - \$250.00

Benefactor - \$500.00

Building Fund - \$1000.00