



CHICAGO ETHICAL HUMANIST

Newsletter of the ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

June 2010

Welcome to Our Sunday Morning Programs in June

ERSCHEL DELEON, Director of the Pride Youth Program, opens our summer season on **Sunday, June 13th**. Invited by our YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) teenage group, DeLeon will speak on **“Gay Teens in High School.”** She will be accompanied by a panel of youngsters from her organization, who will discuss their coming-out experiences and the issues and challenges they face.

CHRIS TURLEY, local architect, founder of a goals accountability group, and volunteer coach for Landmark Education, speaks **Sunday, June 20th**, on **“Unintended Altruism—Projects That Do More Than Succeed.”** Turley will discuss the surprising, unanticipated benefits of getting

his own life unstuck as he worked closely with others to help achieve their personal dreams.

The **2010 AEU ASSEMBLY**, held June 19–20 in Pennsylvania, is the subject of our program on **Sunday, June 27th**. Delegates *JoAnn Hoepfner, Tom Hoepfner, Scott Walton, Sue Walton*, and *Ken Novak* will report on the American Ethical Union’s annual meeting—the sessions and workshops they led and attended, the resolutions that were passed, and the people from other Ethical Societies they met.

Note: There is no Sunday morning program on **June 6th**, when the Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting.

Coming Society Events

• Our **Second Saturday Coffeehouse**, hosted by Vicki Elberfeld, is on **June 12th**, at 8 p.m. The featured attraction is our own **Rachel Baiman**, Illinois state fiddle champion, with a program, **“Music of Place: Fiddle and Folk Music from Around North America.”** Enjoy an evening of beautiful music from the many cultures of our continent, including French Canadian and Southern Appalachian. Accompanying Rachel will be **John Lane**, on guitar, piano, and fiddle. Open-mike sign-up (acoustic only, any genre) begins at 7:30. There is a \$5 minimum charge, and moderately priced refreshments will be available.

• Our **Ethnic Dinner Out** is on **Saturday, June 19th**, at **Barba Yianni**, 4761 N. Lincoln Ave., in Chicago. Enjoy a fine meal at this popular Greek restaurant. There is metered parking on the street and in public lots just to the south off Western Ave. We order at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Richard Curren at a Sunday meeting, at 773-743-7976, or at richard_curren@yahoo.com. Opa!

• Our **Film Discussion Group**, led by John Ungashick, meets on **Monday, June 21st**, at 7:15 p.m. We’ll again discuss two current films. *Letters to Juliet* is about a young woman who, in helping the writer of a hidden letter search for her long-lost lover, finds meaning in her own life. It was directed by Gary Winick, with Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave. *Please Give* is a comedic, but insightful story of an estate-sale business couple who try to assuage their upper class guilt by helping others. It was directed by Nicole Holofcener, with Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt.

• Our **Creative Writers** group, led by John Taylor, meets on **Sunday, June 27th**, at 12:15 p.m. Newcomers are welcome to come and share their short, original works with us.

• Our **Sunday Morning Colloquies** are taking the summer off. They will resume in September.

• *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the classic novel by Harper Lee, will be discussed on the 50th anniversary of its publication at a special **Sunday morning Fiction Circle** program on **July 11th**. Do you feel the same way about Atticus Finch’s choices today as you did the first time you read the book or saw the movie? The book is at most libraries. For the audio edition, contact Ken Novak at kennovak@gmail.com or 847-414-4314.

Recent Sunday Programs

• **Franz Geiger**, professor of physical chemistry at Northwestern University, spoke **April 11th** on **“Nanotechnology: Applying the Science of the Tiniest.”** The moderator was Tiffany Ziegler.

Geiger explained that nanotechnology exploits the fact that particles as tiny as single molecules have properties that can be used to change molecular structures and provide a new way of storing energy. Warning of climate change and rising sea levels, he blasted our reliance on fossil fuels and called

(Recent Sunday Programs continued on page 2)

The meetinghouse of the Society is at **7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie**. Our **Sunday programs** start at **10:30 a.m.** Childcare is available. A social hour follows. There is parking on Jerome St. and at the nearby Albany Bank. If you need transportation, call the office by 1 p.m. Friday—we’ll try to get a ride for you.

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for a “bridge technology” to wind and solar power.

Geiger described how nanotechnology might be applied to reducing CO₂-induced atmospheric heating by using mirrors or aerosols to block the sun’s rays. Warning of unforeseen consequences, however, he called such “geo-engineering” very uncertain, controversial, and hazardous. He also noted the impact of nanotechnology in medicine, particularly for targeting of drugs and in cancer research.

• **Floyd Sandford**, professor emeritus of biology at Coe College in Iowa, returned on **April 25th** to present a program, “**Traveling in Peru: Macaws to Incas to Machu Picchu.**” Marilee Cole was the moderator.

Extolling a love of international travel, Sandford pointed especially to his Earthwatch bird watching expedition to the Peruvian Amazon. He gave an overview of Peruvian history, focusing on the succession of Inca empires and their “amazing monuments.” He described the infighting and rivalries that eventually led to the Spanish conquest.

Sandford showed many scenes from modern Peru, including homes, marketplaces, traffic, rock formations, and the ruins at Machu Picchu. Closing with a description of the endangered macaws in Peru’s Amazon rainforest, he warned of a “loss of biological diversity.”

• **Eli Finkel**, professor of social psychology at Northwestern University, spoke **May 2nd** on “**The Science of Romantic Attraction.**” Gail Hardesty was the moderator.

Finkel described his scientific studies of what attracts men and women to each other, derived especially from his analyses of “speed dating” sessions among college students. He discussed the differing approaches and attitudes, noting that women tend to be more careful and selective than men. He pointed to men being more interested in physical looks and women more in prospects of economic security.

Finkel wondered, however, whether the sexes only seemed that different. He suggested that in actual, real-life meetings, men and women both tend to be attracted by “good looks.” He concluded with this advice for romance seekers: “Be neither desperate nor hard-to-get, start pursuing even if not immediately motivated, and don’t assume beforehand that you know what attributes you prefer.”

• **Mick Dumke**, associate editor and political writer for *The Reader*, spoke **May 9th** on “**Issues and Personalities in Local Politics.**” Alan Kimmel was the moderator.

Dumke recounted the history of Illinois politics and its “colorful characters.” Despite the “grip” on public policy today by Richard Daley and Mike Madigan, he said the coming elections give us “the opportunity to weigh in.”

Dumke said Chicago mayor Daley is “unbeatable,” speculating that only his wife’s health would prompt him to retire. He called the U.S. Senate race “hard to predict,”

contrasting Mark Kirk’s changing positions with Alexi Giannoulias’s family bank problems. “Who do you trust?” he asked.

For governor, Dumke posed Bill Brady’s unpopular social views against dissatisfaction with Pat Quinn’s performance as governor. For Cook County president, he praised Toni Preckwinkle as a “no-nonsense standout” but questioned her being “a true reformer.” For Cook County assessor, Dumke said he would be “shocked” if “independent reformer” Forest Claypool toppled “gaming lobbyist” Joseph Berrios.

Our People . . .

• **Brian Barnes**, longtime member of the Society, died on May 20th, following a long struggle with leukemia. He was just 56 years old. Our condolences to Brian’s dearly loved daughters Sophie and Daphne, to their mother Jane, to his sisters Nora, Nola, and Pam, and parents Emmett and Pauline.

Brian was born and grew up near Rochelle, Illinois. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in performance arts and was a guitarist in jazz, classical, and Latin American bands. In recent years he worked as a computer programmer at the University of Chicago and the College of DuPage. We knew Brian for his musical talents and kind, caring nature, for his serving as a Board member and Ethical Action chair, and for his devotion to the Society and its humanist ideals. He loved politics, golf, film, plants, and the people around him. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service is planned at our building on Saturday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. For the memorial, photos of Brian can be emailed to Evan Kane at Evan@endeavorrealty.com. Let Sue Walton or Judy Carney know if you would like to bring food. Also being set up is a special college fund for Sophie and Daphne.

Tribute Fund

• *To Michael Watson and Shelley Nation. In celebration of their marriage. I was honored to be their wedding officiant.*

—from KEN NOVAK

• *To Rosemary Heilemann. Happy birthday!*

—from STEVE AND JOAN FREEDMAN

The **Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago**, founded in 1882, is a member of the American Ethical Union and a chapter of the American Humanist Association.

Officers & Trustees: Matt Cole, President; Yolanda Adler, Vice President; Sue Walton, Secretary; John Ungashick, Treasurer; Lisa Crowe, Sheila Caplan Curren, Steven Freedman, David Hardesty, Ed McManus, Paul Ozarowski, Oliver Pergams, Renee Sullivan

Sunday School Director: Sharon Appelquist

Newsletter Editor: Alan Kimmel

Ethical Officers: Marne Glaser, JoAnn Hoepfner, Tom Hoepfner, Ken Novak

Activities and Announcements

• Our **Annual Membership Meeting** is on *Sunday, June 6th*, at 10:30 a.m. Members are invited to a free continental breakfast, beginning at 9:30. On the agenda are the President's report on the past year's programs and activities, the Treasurer's report and adoption of the new annual budget, and a vote on several proposed amendments to our Bylaws.

We also will have a contested election for five open spots on the Board of Trustees. The six nominated candidates are *Lisa Crowe, Laura Drower, Steve Julstrom, Evan Kane, Ed McManus, and Renee Sullivan*. Other nominations may be made from the floor. Childcare will be available for the meeting. All members are urged to attend and help us set our course for the coming year.

• Our **Annual Pledge Drive** reached \$56,237, or almost 99 percent of the \$57,000 goal, at the end of May. The pledges are from 118 members, of whom 53 are sustaining. The average pledge of \$476 is the highest ever, though the total number was down slightly from last year. Treasurer *John Ungashick* thanks everyone for their generosity, especially considering the troubled economic climate. Please direct any questions about your pledge to John at 847-492-9459.

• A **handsome illustrated brochure** to describe the Society to the public is now available. It was a project of our Publicity Committee, spearheaded by *Ed McManus* and *Sharon Appelquist*, with pictures by *Evan Kane*. The brochures are being passed out at community events this summer. Pick some up at the literature tables and give them to friends.

• Evanston's **Custer Street Fair** is on the weekend of June 19–20. Like at the Skokie Festival of Culture in June, we'll again have an attractive information table with our new brochures and other hand-outs. We need lots of help. Sign up on the Volunteer Board or contact *Ed McManus*.

• Our **Women's Group**, led by *Ellen Rae*, meets on *Thursday, June 3rd*, at 7 p.m., in the library. We will not meet again until September.

• Our **Tribute Fund** is a way we honor each other—such as condolences on the loss of a loved one and congratulations on a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or personal achievement. Each tribute is printed in the newsletter. Forms are on the literature tables.

• **Getting married? Naming your baby? Planning a memorial?** Our Ethical Officiants—*Marne Glaser, JoAnn Hoepfner, Tom Hoepfner, and Ken Novak*—are authorized by the American Ethical Union to perform marriages, baby namings, and memorial services, just like ministers and rabbis of traditional religious congregations. For a caring, secular ceremony, inquire at our office.

• Our **summer coffee hours**—from June 20th to August 29th—will be do-it-yourself. There will be no assigned hosts, so please bring bite-sized snacks to share in your own serving dish—and then help in the clean-up. Thanks!

From the President . . .

At May's Board meeting I received a t-shirt inscribed, "Some Ex-Presidents get pensions or gavels, all I got was this lousy t-shirt." Our Board was wrong. I got much more. I got to wear a special, blue name-tag. Sunday program bulletins were handed to me by our greeter, Hana Hovorka, who smiled and said in that delightful Czech accent, "Good morning, Mr. President." I heard my grandson brag, "My grandpa is President." I did make a few speeches and had the joy of spending 24 afternoons writing these columns, only to have editor Alan Kimmel transform chopped liver into something readable.

It would be untruthful to say my term was without controversy—that all went smoothly, that people were never hurt or angry. But I can say, without reservation, "I did my best." I thank my friends for their support. I thank those who were willing to hear, and those who could respectfully disagree while having the best interests of the Society at heart. I will forever value all who work tirelessly to make this a better place. I can now wear that shirt proudly and say, "When I was President, I..."

If I may add a few words from my heart. . . . Just days after my composing this final column, we lost our friend and member Brian Barnes. Brian was a special, brave, and sweet man. His smiles, his music, and his good deeds will be sorely missed. I consider myself very lucky to have known him.

—Matt Cole

Sunday School Scoop . . .

Thanks so much to all our parents, students, teachers, and the entire Ethical community for your support and participation in the 2009/10 season of the Golden Rule Sunday School. We talked, played, and sang. We learned about friendship, sharing, caring for the earth, and the beliefs of other cultures. We raised money for schools in Asia, made food for hungry people, blankets for sick kids, and toys for shelter cats, and helped refresh some local hiking trails.

We grew by leaps and bounds this year, and we're very much looking forward to seeing all our families back next year. Although we'll be on hiatus until fall, our YES group will be providing childcare for the Sunday morning programs through August. As a summer get-together, we're planning a potluck picnic in July.

Our hearts go out to Sophie and Daphne Barnes on the loss of their dad, Brian. We, too, will miss him deeply, and we send you both our love.

—Sharon Appelquist, Director

The **Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago** is a democratic fellowship and spiritual home for those who seek a rational, compassionate philosophy of life without regard to belief in a supreme being.

Like traditional religious communities, we celebrate births, conduct wedding ceremonies, host memorial services, and provide for the caring, ethical education of our children. We believe in deed beyond creed and in working for a better world.

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY JUNE 2010 CALENDAR

The office of the Society is open every weekday - 10 am to 2 pm.
Call 847-677-3334 with any questions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
No Sunday School , June–August. But there will be childcare during Sunday morning programs.	1	2	3	WOMEN'S GROUP 7:00 p.m.	4	5
10:30 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6	7	8	BOARD OF TRUSTEES 7:15 p.m. 9	10	11	2ND SATURDAY COFFEE HOUSE 8:00 p.m. 12
10:30 ERSCHEL DELEON "Gay Teens in High School" 13 12:30 - Sunday Program Committee	14	15	16	17	18	ETHNIC DINNER OUT 5:30 p.m. 19
10:30 CHRIS TURLEY "Unintended Altruism—Projects That Do More Than Succeed" 20	FILM DISCUSSION GROUP 7:15 p.m. 21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30 REPORT FROM THE AEU ASSEMBLY 27 12:15 - Creative Writers	28	29	Sundays in July and August: July 11: Ken Novak; July 18: Katie Merrell; July 25: John Ungashick; Aug. 1: Fred Malkinson; Aug. 8: Ken Novak; Aug. 15: Oliver Pergams; Aug. 22: Abe Dolgoff; Aug. 29: John Taylor			

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