



# CHICAGO ETHICAL HUMANIST

Newsletter of the ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

July/August 2009

## Welcome to Our Sunday Morning Summer Programs

**KEN NOVAK**, our Adult Education chair, leads an expanded **Fiction Circle** discussion of Alan Bennett's play *The History Boys* on **Sunday, July 5th**. This story about the interaction between a group of English schoolboys and their teachers, points to the importance of questioning and critical thinking in learning and in transmitting knowledge. A movie based on the play is available on CD.

**MIKE DUPUIS**, a Society member and longtime home brewer of craft beers, speaks on "**The History, Art, and Science of Beer**" on **Sunday, July 12th**. Mike will trace the history of our oldest and most favored fermented beverage and discuss the alchemy of transforming barley, hops, and water into the many styles of lagers and ales. He promises an "intoxicating" lecture.

The **2009 AEU ASSEMBLY**, held the weekend of June 12–14 in St. Louis, is the subject of our program on **Sunday, July 19th**. Delegates *Yolanda Adler, Paul Ozarowski, Scott Walton, and Carolyn Welch* will describe highlights of this annual meeting of the American Ethical Union. We'll hear about the workshops and business sessions they went to and the people and Ethical Leaders from around the country who they met and shared experiences with.

**JOHN UNGASHICK**, a history buff and Society treasurer, speaks **Sunday, July 26th**, on the intriguing subject "**Was the Civil War Inevitable?**" John will discuss whether, going back to the Constitutional Convention and the issuance of the Declaration of Independence, this so-called "irrepressible conflict" was necessary for our country to become what it is today.

**ROCCO GILIO, JOHN UNGASHICK, and ABE DOLGOFF** make up a panel on **Sunday, August 2nd**, to discuss *The Chief Culprit: Stalin's Grand Design to Start World*

*War II*. The author, Victor Suvorov, asserts that Stalin intended the war to be the staging ground for a global war to topple the capitalist states.

**DAVID WOKOSIN**, Society member and research professor of physiology at Northwestern University, speaks on "**More Sustainable Living Via Renewable Energy**" on **Sunday, August 9th**. An instructor with the Illinois Solar Energy Association, David will discuss personal energy usage and available renewable energy generation systems. Costs and incentives will be contrasted with energy efficiency efforts, both aimed at reducing our personal carbon emission footprint and help preserve the existing natural world.

**FRED MALKINSON**, another history buff and member of the Society, speaks on "**Going to America: A 19th Century Emigration Story**" on **Sunday, August 16th**. Fred will discuss the less-told, reverse story of the experiences, hardships, and acculturation issues of those who left their homes to emigrate to America.

**MILT ZERKIN**, a member of the Society, leads our **Creative Writers** group in its annual showcase program on **Sunday, August 23rd**. We'll be entertained by a medley of original stories, essays, memoirs, and poems by several of our talented members and friends. A rehearsed presentation, there will be no open mike.

**YOLANDA ADLER, GAIL HARDESTY, SUSAN BURCK, and JOE BURCK**, all Society members, close our summer programming on **Sunday, August 30th**, with "**200 Years Apart: Jane Austen and Gloria Steinem**." This program of readings—contrasting Austen's irony and gentle sarcasm with Steinem's militancy—will show the impact of each writer on our societal mores and how they used their pens as a weapon for women.

## Coming Society Events

• Our **Film Discussion Group**, led by John Ungashick, resumes this summer. On **Monday, July 20th**, we'll discuss two current films. *Up* is the box-office-smash animated cartoon featuring an airship exploration adventure. It was directed by Pete Docter. *Away We Go* is the story of an expectant young couple's search for where to settle. It was directed

by Sam Mendes, with John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph.

On **Monday, August 17th**, we'll discuss two more current films, to be chosen on July 20th. Proposed so far are *Public Enemies*, the Dillinger film with Johnny Depp and Christian Bale, and *Julie and Julia*, with Meryl Streep. Both sessions start at 7:15 p.m.

(Coming Society Events 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.

(Coming Society Events continued from page 1)

• Our **Ethnic Dinners Out** continue this summer. On **Saturday, July 18th**, enjoy fine Southern fare at the **Dixie Kitchen**, 825 Church St., Evanston. (The Hyde Park location, now closed, was one of President Obama's favorites.) There is metered street parking and a nearby public lot.

On **Saturday, August 15th**, we'll be at **Gulliver's**, 2727 W. Howard, Chicago. Enjoy Italian, Mexican, and traditional American fare. Park at metered street spaces or in the lot across the street. On both dates, we'll order at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Richard Curren in person, at 773-743-7976, or at Richard\_curren@yahoo.com.

• Our **Second Saturday Coffee House**, led by Vicki Elberfeld, resumes this summer. On **July 11th**, the featured performer is our own, violinist **Rachel Baiman**, who, with guitarist/singer **Greg Reish**, presents a program of bluegrass, jazz, and rock. Rachel is an Illinois State Fiddle Champion and music major at Vanderbilt University. Greg is a professor of music at Roosevelt University.

On **August 8th**, we'll enjoy a live recording session of the **Whiskey Bucket Blues Review**, featuring **Charlie Rossiter**, **Henry Berry**, and **Jack Rossiter-Munley**. Both performances start at 8 p.m. There is a \$5 minimum charge and low-priced refreshments will be available.

• Our **Creative Writers** group, led by Milt Zerkin, meets on **Sunday, July 26th**, at 12:15 p.m. They will be rehearsing for their special August 23rd showcase program.

## Recent Sunday Program

• **Dick Whitaker**, a member of the Society and recent graduate of the Humanist Institute, spoke at our summer-opening program on **June 14th**. His topic was "**The Future of Religion**." The meeting was moderated by Alan Kimmel.

Dick said a study group he led on the subject at Northwestern University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute concluded that a variety of religions will be with us far into the future, contrary to predictions of recent "angry atheist" authors such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens. He said he was inspired rather by biologist David Sloan Wilson, who "argues that religion is evolution at work" and that "religious groups are products of cultural group selection."

Dick borrowed Anglican priest Keith Ward's definition of religion as "a set of practices for establishing a relationship to a supernatural or transcendent reality, for the sake of obtaining human good or avoiding harm." Dick concluded, "Ethical Humanism is best prepared to develop the moral codes that will bring our society together."

## Annual Membership Meeting

President Mat Cole welcomed some 60 members of the Society to our annual meeting on Sunday, June 7th. Matt reported another successful year of programs, activities, and membership growth, and praised us for our hard work. "We don't have a paid Leader," he said, "but we are not leaderless." Treasurer John Ungashick reported our most lucrative pledge drive ever but noted that we are still far from our goal of pledges reaching 50 percent of total income. We adopted our annual budget, with a substantial decrease in income from investments and an increase in expenses for the Sunday School. We heard many upbeat committee reports.

In elections to the Board of Trustees, Sheila Curren, Oliver Pergams, and Carolyn Welch were reelected—Sheila and Oliver to second 3-year terms, Carolyn to a full 3-year first term. Sue Walton was elected to a first 3-year term, replacing Susan Burck. In this rare, contested election, 72 votes were cast, 14 by proxy. Following the meeting, Matt named Board members Lisa Crowe, David Hardesty, and John Ungashick as the Officers Nominating Committee.

## Our People . . .

• **Scott Walton**, a former president of the Society and now co-chair of our Building Committee, was elected to the Board of the American Ethical Union at the AEU Assembly in St. Louis in June. Scott replaces *Tom Hoepfner*, term-limited after nearly ten years. Congratulations, Scott!

• **Tina Stevenson** has joined the Society. She lives in Logan Square and is a nurse. Active in our Environmental Footprint Committee, she enjoys our "thoughtful speakers and members who are critical thinkers and doers engaged with the critical issues." Glad you found us, Tina!

• **Eli Popuch**, son of members Dan Popuch and Cynthia Diaz, graduated from Macalester College on May 16th with a degree in geography. As a participant in the Honors program, Eli earlier had presented a paper on community economic development at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Congratulations, Eli!

• **Lei Lei** and **Steven Wyatt** were married on May 30th by our Ethical Officiant JoAnn Hoepfner. Our best for a long happy life together!

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. We value the importance of living an ethical, responsible, and joyful life.

Like traditional religious communities, we celebrate births, conduct wedding ceremonies, host memorial services, and provide for the caring, ethical education of our children. We cherish human diversity and focus on what we have in common, not on what keeps us apart. We believe in deed beyond creed and in working for a better world.

## Activities and Announcements

- Our current **Society officers** were reelected by the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, June 10th. Matt Cole remains president, Yolanda Adler vice-president, John Ungashick treasurer, and Paul Ozarowski secretary.
- Our **Ethical Action** group was having two activities in June—a table at the Peace Fest in Lincoln Park on June 21st and making and serving sandwiches at the Night Ministry in Pilsen on June 23rd.
- Our **Summer Rummage Sale**, a big moneymaker last year, is on *Saturday, August 29th*. You can bring your high-quality clothing, household, and electronic items to the building, where they will be stored, sorted, and priced. Pickup arrangements and offers to help run the sale can be made by calling the office or Ken Novak at 847-414-4314.
- Our **Annual Fall Cleanup** is set for *Sunday, September 6th*, at 10 a.m. Donuts and lunch will be provided. For information, contact Scott Walton at [sns@swalton.com](mailto:sns@swalton.com) or David Wokosin at [scopedoc@northwestern.edu](mailto:scopedoc@northwestern.edu).
- 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.
- Our **Weekly Program Reminder** is emailed to anyone who wants to be regularly informed of the coming week's meetings and activities. To be on the list, send an email to [programinfo@ethicalhuman.org](mailto:programinfo@ethicalhuman.org) or call the office.
- **Get our free electronic newsletter.** It comes sooner and saves postage. Email us a request. A subscription to the printed newsletter is \$20 per year if you're not a member, a contributing friend, or new on the mailing list.
- **Become a member of the Society.** Making this commitment to our caring community is a way of showing that you share our ethical outlook. Call Membership Chair Tom Hoepfner at 847-256-3622, or come to a Membership Orientation—on *Sunday, July 19th* or *Sunday, August 9th*.

## Sunday School Scoop . . .

The Sunday School is now in hiatus, and plans are already underway for next year. Thanks to our wonderful YES group, childcare will again be provided for the summer Sunday programs. We'll continue to pack lunches for the Lincoln Park Community Shelter every third Sunday. If you can donate something (lunchmeat, cheese, drink, fruit, chips, or dessert for 30), please let me know or use our bulletin board signup sheet.

Though our families tend to get very busy in the summer, we're planning a few outings. Through our fundraising efforts with the YES group, we've raised enough money to buy a new ping-pong table. Watch the community room for it to show up and challenge me to a game, I love to play!

—Sharon Appelquist, Director

## From the President . . .

I wish our members and the people they love a happy and healthy summer. Apply that sunscreen; watch out for mosquitoes and ticks; wear your bike helmets. We want you all back in top-top shape. There's lots of work to do around here.

I believe that all who attended our annual membership meeting would agree we had a great year. We continue to attract new members and despite the economy we're hanging in there. Before going out to play with my grandbabies and puppies, I thank Tom Hoepfner for a fabulous Memorial Day weekend.

I welcome Sue Walton to her rookie season on the Board and thank Carolyn Welch, Oliver Pergams, and Sheila Curren on returning for another tour of duty. Last but not far from least, I express our appreciation to Susan Burck for her seven years of service on the Board, five of which she served very capably as President.

—Matt Cole

## Worth Repeating . . .

We never know for certain that our “bothering” to be good will be worthwhile. We do know that it *is* often a bother, that often the easy way, the pleasant way, is not the way of being good. The *cultivation* of ethics is something not only for children, but also for adults—and cultivation of ethics is what Ethical Culture means. We can get better at ethical living—and we can get worse.

It may be that all our “bothering” to be good has little effect. What we do know is that choosing not to bother will also have an effect. If we live our life as if our lives do not matter, then the world will not be any better for our having lived. If we live as if our lives do matter, then the world very well may be better. No guarantees, just a good chance.

And that's worth it, given the alternatives. Why bother to be good? Because only by trying will we know if it's worth it.

—Jone Johnson, Leader, Northern Virginia Ethical Society

## Tribute Fund

• *In appreciation for the beautiful plaque...and 35 years of a philosophical home, outstanding programs, and the many lasting friendships made.*

—from DICK AND JUDY CARNEY

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; Paul Ozarowski, Secretary; John Ungashick, Treasurer; Lisa Crowe, Sheila Caplan Curren, Steven Freedman, David Hardesty, Oliver Pergams, Renee Sullivan, Sue Walton, Carolyn Welch

**Sunday School Director:** Sharon Appelquist

**Newsletter Editor:** Alan Kimmel

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

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>July</b>	10:30 <b>FICTION CIRCLE:</b> <i>The History Boys</i> 5	6	7	<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b> 7:15 p.m. 8	9	10	<b>2ND SATURDAY COFFEEHOUSE</b> 8:00 p.m. 11
	10:30 <b>MIKE DUPUIS</b> "History, Art, Science of Beer" 12:30 Environmental Committee 12	13	14	15	16	17	<b>ETHNIC DINNER OUT</b> 5:30 p.m. 18
	10:30 <b>AEU ASSEMBLY REPORT</b> 12:15 Membership Orientation 19	<b>FILM DISCUSSION</b> 7:15 p.m. 20	21	22	23	24	25
	10:30 <b>JOHN UNGASHICK</b> "Was Civil War Inevitable?" 12:15 Creative Writers 26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<b>August</b>	10:30 <b>ROCCO GILIO, JOHN UNGASHICK, ABE DOLGOFF</b> <i>The Chief Culprit</i> 2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>2ND SATURDAY COFFEEHOUSE</b> 8:00 p.m. 8
	10:30 <b>DAVID WOKOSIN</b> "More Sustainable Living Via Renewable Energy" 12:15 Membership Orientation 12:30 Environmental Committee 9	10	11	<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b> 7:15 p.m. 12	13	14	<b>ETHNIC DINNER OUT</b> 5:30 p.m. 15
	10:30 <b>FRED MALKINSON</b> "Going to America: 19th Century Emigration Story" 16	<b>FILM DISCUSSION</b> 7:15 p.m. 17	18	19	20	21	22
	10:30 <b>MILT ZERKIN</b> Creative Writers Showcase 23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> 29
	10:30 <b>YOLANDA ADLER, GAIL HARDESTY, SUSAN &amp; JOE BURCK</b> "Jane Austen and Gloria Steinem" 30	31	<b>No Sunday School, June–August.</b> But there will be childcare during Sunday morning programs.				

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY  
OF CHICAGO

7574 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077-3335  
 Phone: (847) 677-3334; Fax: (847) 677-3335  
 Web Site: [www.ethicalhuman.org](http://www.ethicalhuman.org)  
 E-mail: [office@ethicalhuman.org](mailto:office@ethicalhuman.org)



**First Class Mail**

To remove your name from the newsletter mailing list, check  **Refused, return to sender**, and drop this in the nearest mailbox.



*Place address label here.*