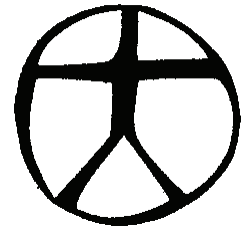


BESpeak



May 2011

Newsletter of the Baltimore Ethical Society

Sunday Platforms

10:30 am
(details on pages 4 and 5)

May 1

“Hope, Courage, and Leadership”

Hugh Taft-Morales

Leader

The Baltimore Ethical Society

May 8

“Turbo Capitalism and Ethical Culture”

Fritz Williams

Leader Emeritus

The Baltimore Ethical Society

May 15

“Acting on your Values through Organized Action”

Rob English

Lead Organizer, Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development

May 22

“Memories of Growing Up at the Baltimore Ethical Society”

Diana Milford Ulman

with Laura Sacharoff Hardesty and Betsy Granek

May 29, noon - 3 PM

End of Season Picnic

Other Activities

(details on page 2, 7, and 8)

Moveable Treats

Sun., May 1

Poetry Group

Sun., May 1, 9:30 am

Board Meeting

Sun., May 1 - 12:30 pm

Movie Night

Fri., May 13 - 7:30 pm

Mindfulness Meditation

Sun., May 8 - 9:30 am

Corporate Power Revisited

Sun., May 8 - 1:00 pm
Workshop with Leader Emeritus Fritz Williams

Program Committee

Sun., May 8 - 12:30 am

Ethical Action at Moveable Feast
Thursday, May 12 - 5 pm

Ethical Action Committee

Sun., May 15 - 9:15 am

Deepening Ethical Culture Connections

Sun., May 15 - 12:30 pm
Adult Ed. with Leader Hugh Taft-Morales

Annual Membership Meeting

Sun., May 22 - 12:30 pm

BES is an organization run by and for its members. Come and exercise your rights as a member to make a difference in what we do.

Slate for Board for '11 - '12:

President: Rosemary Klein

Vice President: Kathryn Sloboda

Treasurer: Stephen Meskin

Secretary: Emil Volcheck

2 Year terms:

Lisa Alderson

Ken Brenneman

Bernard Brown

One 1 year term is open.

Officers terms are 1 year.

Snack Schedule

Last names starting with:

May 1: A to F

May 8: G to L

May 15: M to R

May 22: S to Z

Ethical Humanist
Sunday
School

10:30 am -
Noon



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BESpeak

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Vice President.....Susie Ketzis
Treasurer..... Steve Meskin
Secretary..... Kirk Mullen

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Bob Corbett(11) Jeffrey Meisgeier (12)
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Comm. Deliverables.....Kathryn Sloboda
Ethical Action.....Ben Busby
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Membership.....John Reuter
Music.....Susie Ketzis
Poetry.....Kirk Mullen
Programs.....Karen Elliott
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Karen Elliott Stephen Meskin
Karen Helm Kirk Mullen
Rosemary Klein

Leader: Leader Emeritus:
Hugh Taft-Morales Fritz Williams

Contacts by e-mail: use President, VicePresident (one word), Treasurer, Secretary, Poet, or Admin followed by @BaltimoreEthicalSociety.org. For general questions: askBES@gmail.com .

Explore BES on the Web at
www.BaltimoreEthicalSociety.org
Web Master.....Kathryn Sloboda

.....
: The President's Column is missing this month due :
: to technical difficulties. :
.....

Ethical Quote

by Felix Adler

Let us live truly while we live; live for what is true and good and lasting. Let the memory of our dead help us to do this. For they are not wholly separated from us; if we remain loyal to them. In spirit, they are with us. And we think of them as silent, invisible, but real presences in our households.

CORPORATE POWER REVISITED

a workshop facilitated by Fritz Williams
Sunday, May 8 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
following a pot-luck lunch

A follow-up to the talk given earlier in the morning, the Corporate Power Revisited workshop will explore the economic premises supporting a consolidation of corporate power in the United States, the techniques being used to rally ordinary Americans behind this message, and ideas for responding more effectively. As moderator, Fritz Williams will attempt to base the discussion on clarifying and organizing information the workshop participants already possess. A potluck lunch preceding the workshop begins at noon (after the regular meeting).

Help Needed!

Want to deepen your connection to BES and Ethical Culture? Ready to express the leader in you by volunteering at BES? Want help matching your experience and skills with the important work of helping BES flourish so that it can serve the world? Contact Leader Hugh Taft-Morales or any BES Board member soon so we can get our team set for the 2011-2012 program season!

Ethical Inspiration by Leader Hugh Taft-Morales

I was away from the Baltimore Ethical Society April 15-17 involved in my final year as Director of the Washington Ethical Society Coming-of-Age program. That weekend, in the mountains northwest of Frederick, Maryland, I was challenged and inspired. On this occasion, the challenge came from nature. While nine teenagers for whom I was responsible spent a solo night alone scattered over a mountaintop, storms intensified bringing buckets of rain, strikes of lightning, and the threat of tornados. Aided by the Catoctin Quaker Camp caretakers' weather radar, I confirmed that we were relatively free of tornado danger, and that pulling the teens off the mountain in the dusk would be more dangerous than letting them ride it out. Anxious parents talked through their fears back at the lodge. By 10:00PM the storm subsided, leaving the teens with a long, uncomfortable, soggy night.

I began feeling inspired as we gathered the shivering campers the next morning and marched them down the mountain. Some teens were understandably angry at the fickle hand of nature. But by the time we neared the camp lodge, they were smiling at the row of parents cheering them as they slogged through the last muddy hundred yards. The discomfort and anxiety of the night before melted away during our celebratory brunch by the roaring fireplace. Relieved of my own concern and sense of responsibility, I could now more fully appreciate the fortitude, courage, and love of these nine families. Tales about the past 24 hours generated much laughter and

demonstrated our human capacity for resilience and hope. While they did not have to bear the brunt of the storm, the parents were tested. It takes tremendous strength to "let go" of our child – both in life, and during the weekend. It is a challenge to allow those beautiful, fragile little creatures to face life's challenges on their own. And it takes even more courage on the part of the teens to accept these challenges with optimism and grace.

Coming back to the BES community, I am reenergized by this inspiration. After all, in a way, we are always coming of age, myself included. Challenges confront each and every one of us, over and over again. Each challenge offers opportunities to bring out our best. They offer lessons that help us grow. Both as individuals and as a community, we in the Baltimore Ethical Society will have nights on a stormy mountain. At times some of us may feel like we are going through hell. But, as Winston Churchill counseled, "If you're going through hell keep going." Luckily storms pass. On the other side are helping hands.

BES has weathered 60 years of challenges, and enjoyed 60 years of fellowship and good works. The inspiration we find in community and shared values remain strong. I look forward to a summer break and returning next fall as your Leader. I will miss directing the Coming-of-Age program at WES, but I am excited to dedicate myself more fully to my role as a congregational Ethical Culture Leader.

Deepening Ethical Culture Connections

May 15, 12:30-2:00PM

Come join Leader Hugh Taft-Morales for the final adult education class of the 2010-2011 program year. Offering insights from Ethical Culture history and his experience at four other Ethical Culture societies, Hugh will explore how we can deepen our connections with other members of the Baltimore Ethical Society, other Ethical Culturists around the country, and with everyone we see every day. Participants will be encouraged to offer their own hints about building more ethical and flourishing interpersonal and denominational relationships.

Sunday Platform Programs

May 1

“Hope, Courage, and Leadership”

Hugh Taft-Morales

Leader, The Baltimore Ethical Society

The tremendous challenges that face humanity in the 21st century demand diverse and shared leadership. That’s why we need Ethical Culture. Ethical Culture asks each of us to be a leader, and that requires hope and courage - hope which understands grim reality but sees a better day; courage that admits our fear, but faces it with resolve. For 60 years the Baltimore Ethical Society has nurtured such leadership. The future asks us once again to rise up and live out the true meaning of our creed through deed.

Hugh Taft-Morales is the Leader of The Baltimore Ethical Society as well as working with the Ethical Society Without Walls (ESWoW). He lives in Takoma Park, Maryland. He taught philosophy and history in high school for twenty-five years, graduated from Yale College in 1979, earned a Masters in Philosophy in 1986 from University of Kent in England. Hugh received a certificate in Humanist Leadership from the Humanist Institute in May of 2009.

May 8

“Turbo Capitalism and Ethical Culture”

Fritz Williams

Leader Emeritus, The Baltimore Ethical Society

Fritz Williams revisits one of his on-going foci as an Ethical Culture Leader—his attempt to articulate a meaningful response to the ultra-conservative economic and political agenda of many of America’s mega-corporations, their owners, and allies—and his continuing desire to make that effective response an ethical action priority for the Baltimore Ethical Society and for Ethical Culture as a whole.

Fritz Williams served as leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society for a total of 11 years. He has also worked as a parish priest in the Episcopal Church and as a writer-producer for public televi-

sion stations in Harrisburg, PA, and Detroit, MI. Since retiring, he has been devoting most of his time to studying and writing and to presenting occasional talks and workshops at Ethical Societies. Fritz is on the board of directors of the Perry County (PA) Council of the Arts. He and his wife Belva are members of the Cumberland Valley Harp Circle. Recently, he was selected as Perry County poet laureate.

May 15

“Acting on your Values through Organized Action ”

Rob English

*Lead Organizer, Baltimoreans United
in Leadership Development*

To continue to make Baltimore a thriving city, citizens must act on their values and come together to make real change. Join Rob English, Lead Organizer of Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) to discuss how to make change a reality. For more than 30 years, BUILD has worked to improve housing, increase job opportunities, rebuild schools, and more!

Rob English is Lead Organizer of Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD), one of the most powerful non-partisan political organizations in Maryland. BUILD is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest network of community organizations in the country. Rob also supervises IAF’s organizing in Dayton, Ohio, and serves on the Regional Staff of Metro IAF. BUILD is leading a campaign to rebuild blighted neighborhoods and provide youth opportunities as a response to the youth violence in Baltimore. As a result, Baltimore will leverage over a half a billion dollars to rebuild weak housing markets, create recreational centers and youth summer jobs and after-school opportunities. Rob attended Princeton University, and received a BA degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs and International Relations. After Army ROTC, he graduated as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, served four years as a platoon leader, including a tour in Somalia. Rob and his wife, Susan, live in Baltimore with their daughter, Mather, and son, Sam.

Sunday Platform Programs *cont'd.*

May 22

“Memories of Growing Up at the Baltimore Ethical Society”

Diana Milford Ulman

with Laura Sacharoff Hardesty and Betsy Granek

In the early 50's Diana Ulman's parents gathered some close friends together in the living room of their Baltimore home and told them that they wanted to start an Ethical Society like the one her dad had visited in New York - thus began the story of the Baltimore Ethical Society. Diana will share some of her memories of BES, as well as some anecdotes from her sister and other BES Sunday School alumni and she will share some excerpts from the writings of her father, Kenneth Milford, founder of the BES. Diana will be joined by Laura Sacharoff Hardesty and Betsy Granek who will also share their memories of the early years of BES.

Diana Milford Ulman was born and raised in Baltimore, MD, the daughter of Ken and Sarah Milford. Diana was educated in the Baltimore public schools and the Baltimore Ethical Society Sunday School where she later taught. Her parents were founders of The Baltimore Ethical Society. She graduated from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with a major in painting and a minor in design. Ms Ulman lived in Washington, DC and downtown Baltimore before moving to Columbia, MD with her husband Lou in 1972. They were inspired by the unique plan and diversity of the new city.

Ms. Ulman has been very involved in the Howard County community and in almost 4 decades has served on numerous boards and community committees. Diana worked as a graphic artist for several advertising and publication studios and designed and made stained glass panels and silk and dried flower arrangements. In 1985 she began working as an interior designer, and opened her own design firm, Designs, in 1986. She continues to work in the arts today, predominantly with acrylic paint, ink and mixed media. Examples of her art work can be seen at www.DianaUlman.com.

In 1996 her son Doug, age 19 was diagnosed

with cancer. As the Ulman family faced this new challenge they realized that no support existed for young adults affected by cancer and that the issues that young adults with cancer face are extremely different from those faced by those of other ages. In the winter of 1997 the Ulman family founded The Ulman Cancer Fund For Young Adults (UCF) www.ulmancancerfund.org. The mission of the UCF is to enhance lives by supporting, educating and connecting young adults and their loved ones affected by cancer. Just one part of Diana's work related to young adult cancer issues was to author a guidebook entitled, “No Way, It Can't Be, A Guidebook For Young Adults Affected by Cancer”.

Her conviction that early detection saves lives was reinforced again in 2004 with her husband's prostate cancer diagnosis and her breast cancer diagnosis in 2007. They are both doing well. She has continued her cancer-related work since then and has found it to be extremely gratifying, rewarding and therapeutic. She strives to help others through the challenges that she and her family faced with Doug's three cancer diagnoses. Doug now serves as president and CEO of LIVE-STRONG and in partnership with UCF has founded the LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance to bring together groups and medical professionals that specialize in dealing with young adult cancer issues. Diana Ulman is passionate about her community and the activities that she is involved in including her work as a cancer patient advocate, supporting the activities of her family, her artwork and her advocating for social justice.

May 29, noon - 3 PM

Annual End-of-Season Picnic

Hosted this year by Kathryn and Aaron Sloboda, this pot-luck event is not to be missed. Drinks and a grill will be provided; bring a dish to share. If you're in the mood, you can bring a towel and a swimsuit, too, for a quick dip in the pool. Also bring a folding chair (some are available). To get there from the city and south, take I-83 north to exit 20B, Shawan Rd. West, turn right onto Falls Rd., then left onto Blackrock Rd. Go 0.8 miles to 3027 Blackrock Rd. on the left - look for the mail box on the right side of the road or the small green number sign on the left by the driveway. Call 410-342-8641 for more details.

Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

Date	Presiding	Sound	Sunday School	Opening/Closing
May 1	Kirk Mullen	John Reuter	Linda Joy Burke	Kirk Mullen
May 8	Karen Elliott	Emil Volcheck	Linda Joy Burke	Karen Elliott
May 15	Joan Bromberg	Stephen Meskin	Linda Joy Burke	Emil Volcheck
May 22	Judy Katz	Karen Elliott	Linda Joy Burke	Karen Elliott

NOTE: If you are unable to attend when scheduled, notify Karen Elliott (platform duties) or Kirk Mullen (Sunday School).

Ethical Action Spotlight!

Hairnets, Aprons, and Rubber Gloves: Suiting up at Moveable Feast

When the five BES members arrived at Moveable Treats on April 14, we were greeted by Tom Patrick, the amiable Volunteer Coordinator. He offered an engaging overview of this remarkable organization. Although BES has been providing desserts for Moveable Treats for years, some of our members don't know a whole lot about it. Founded in 1990 and now settled in a sparkling renovated building at 901 N. Milton Avenue, Moveable Treats brings meals and/or medical transportation every week to over a thousand clients who suffer from HIV/AIDS, breast or blood cancer, or homelessness. This would not be possible without the dedication of its 35 employees and the 10,000 volunteers who offered 54,000 hours of service last year! Happy to be a small part of this year's 10,000, Karen Elliott, Bobbie Hahn, Kathryn Sloboda, Lisa Alderson, and I were soon looking smashing in our hairnets, aprons, and rubber gloves!

Our work mainly involved packing up bag lunches – sandwich, orange, and goldfish cracker treats. My job consisted in packing these lunches in boxes and then labeling how many I fit in each. My BES cohorts worked fast and soon the bags were crowding the table. I had a flashback to an I Love Lucy episode when Lucy, as a newly hired assembly line worker, comically fell behind and was soon buried in her product. Playing the role of Lucy, and good-naturedly ribbed by Bobbi for being the weak link, I think I managed to pack about 150 lunches in fifteen minutes.

We then met Heide Morgan, a long time volunteer at Moveable Feast. She has been showing up on the second Thursday each month for her own tradition of "baking night." From 6:00-9:00PM, Heide and her helpers bake cakes, pies, and cookies by the dozens. We hit it off pretty well and were invited to join her on future baking nights, the next being May 12. She can use all the help she can get that night as she will be producing cookies for Moveable Treat's annual 2-day, 140 mile bike ride fundraiser from Ocean City to Baltimore. Money raised goes directly to Moveable Feast clients. The cookies will help provide the bikers with energy for their May 14-15 trip!

Movable Feast offers much more than these fundraising snacks and thousands of home-delivered meals. Services also include nutritional counseling, transportation to and from medical appointments, and culinary training for those who otherwise have few career options in their lives.

**Poetry Group
May 1, 9:30 am**

*Next month will start
Our summer break
So come today
For goodness sake!*

Bring one or more poems on the topic of the month. May's topic is change. For more info, contact poet@BaltimoreEthicalSociety.org

**Ethical Mindfulness
Meditation**

May 8 at 9:30 am

Breathing in I know I am breathing in. Breathing out I know I am breathing out.

It's that simple. The teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh from an Ethical point of view.

No experience needed.

Questions? Contact KarenSElliotfont usaget@

**Second Friday
Ironweed Film Club**

Friday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

The May selection for the BES Ironweed Film Club is "Fuel". FUEL is a comprehensive and entertaining look at energy in America: a history of where we have been, our present predicament and a solution to our dependence on foreign oil. Rousing and reactionary, FUEL is an amazing, in-depth, personal journey of oil use and abuse as it examines wide-ranging energy solutions other than oil, the faltering US auto and petroleum industries, and the latest stirrings of the American mindset toward alternative energy. Interviews with a wide range of environmentalists, policy makers, educators, and "green" celebrities such as Barbara Boxer, Richard Branson, Sheryl Crow, Woody Harrelson, Robert Kennedy Jr., Willie Nelson, Julia Roberts, and Neil Young, offer serious fuel for thought. (111 min.) More information on the Ironweed website at <http://www.ironweedfilms.com/fuel>.

The screening is open to members of BES and the BES Ironweed Film Club. Ask Emil about free membership in the film club (email volcheck@acm.org, cell 443/791-9910). Donations are requested for refreshments.

Ethical Action Spotlight *cont'd*

Having met the Executive Director, Tom Boderenko, a couple of months ago, I am very motivated to become more connected to this service organization. Tom reminded me that while the public seems less concerned with HIV/AIDS than in the past, it still is the scourge of inner city life in cities like Baltimore where one out of every four African-American men are infected. Drugs have, thankfully, prolonged life expectancy for those with HIV/AIDS. What many don't know, however, is that these drugs have long-term side effects that can be debilitating and render people in great need of help from fellow Baltimoreans. Tom, while retired from a career as a Catholic priest, expresses a new type of ministry through his dedication to Moveable Feast. He struck me as someone who has truly put deed above creed. Please consider joining a small BES group going to help Heide and Moveable Feast on May 12. Contact Hugh to be involved - there are hairnets and gloves to fit all sizes!

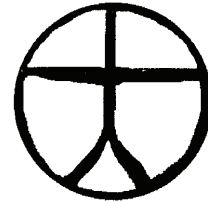
Do you have an ethical action commitment or event you are willing to share in the newsletter? Please contact Hugh at Leader@BaltimoreEthicalSociety.org.

**Ethical Action Meeting – Open to all members!
Sunday, May 15, 9:15–10:15AM**

Join BES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales for our last Ethical Action Committee meeting before we break for the summer!

BESpeak

Baltimore Ethical Society
306 W. Franklin St., Ste. 102
Baltimore, MD 21201-4661



NEWSLETTER
Please do not delay!
TIME VALUE

Ethical Action at Moveable Feast **Thursday, May 12, 5:00-8:00PM**

Baltimore Ethical Society Leader Hugh Taft-Morales is organizing a second ethical action outing to Moveable Feast, 901 N. Milton Avenue. We will be helping Heide Morgan who organizes a “baking night” once a month. Hugh can offer a rides to some people to and from BES. E-mail him by May 8 at leader@baltimoreethicalsociety.org.

Help Moveable Feast **Baked Goods - May 1** **Other Items - Every Sunday**

Support Moveable Feast in their work to feed people with AIDS, blood cancer, or breast cancer and their families. Guidelines for donations are posted at the Society. For more information about Moveable Feast and their many additional programs, visit them on the web at www.mfeast.org.

Welcome to “BESpeak”, the newsletter of the Baltimore Ethical Society, free to members of BES. If you have asked for a paper copy, the date to the right of your name is the last month you will receive the newsletter unless you request that it be extended. We also ask that you make a contribution to help defray the costs of printing and mailing. Send checks payable to BES to: BESpeak, 306 W. Franklin St., Ste. 102, Baltimore, MD 21201. Thank you.

Anyone wishing to receive an e-mail copy of each month’s programs and a link to the full BESpeak should send an e-mail to admin@BaltimoreEthicalSociety.org .