



**Humanist
Association of
Greater
Philadelphia**

HAGP News

*Promoting Principles and Ideals of Humanism
based on Ethics, Rationalism and Human concerns.*

Volume 5, Number 3

Summer 2010

Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia P.O. Box 161 Willow Grove PA 19090-0161
215-475-2573 <http://www.hagp.org>

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Delaware Valley and Bucks AU Merger

(Reprinted from the Delaware Valley AU newsletter.)

The Boards of Directors of Delaware Valley AU (*Americans United for Separation of Church and State*) and Bucks AU are pleased to announce that the two chapters have merged into one large AU chapter with regional committees serving all AU members within a 60-mile radius of Philadelphia PA. We will operate under the Delaware Valley AU name, DVAU. Visit our new website, <http://dvau.org>, to stay informed.

DVAU founder and former President, Janice Rael, is now the DVAU Vice-President, and former Bucks AU President Ed Joyce has stepped up to lead the newly formed Delaware Valley AU Chapter as our new President. The current Board members are:

Ed Joyce – President

Janice Rael – Vice President

Laurent Levy – Treasurer

Alan Gold – Secretary

Patrick Casady – Webmaster

Ellen Greenfield – Speakers Bureau

Ryan Dubosar – Media Chair

DVAU invites you to take part in the reorganization of the chapter by volunteering to join or head one of our regional committees in Bucks County, Philadelphia County, South Jersey, and Northern Delaware. DVAU needs you now more than ever before! Please let us know what your interests are.

DVAU is active on a number of fronts. The Bucks County Committee continues to meet monthly in Doylestown, PA. The Philadelphia Committee, led by DVAU President Ed Joyce, is planning regular monthly meetings in and around Philadelphia. The South Jersey committee is fighting New Jersey's "tuition tax credit" (vouchers) bill. The delightful Ellery Schempp will speak to DVAU in early September, and we're planning a fundraiser for December. DVAU's Church-State Issues Symposium is scheduled for April 9, 2011 at the beautiful National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. We hope you can join us at these events.

The new Delaware Valley Americans United needs your tax-deductible contribution to hold these events, do outreach and educational programs, and to continue our work in educating people about the importance of church-state separation in ensuring religious freedom. Please donate to DVAU to help us bring Americans United's message to the Philadelphia, South Jersey, and Northern Delaware area. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Visit <http://dvau.org> and connect with DVAU online.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact our [Field Department](#). Call (202) 466-3234—or email auactivist@au.org.

HAGP Summer Events

Join us for the fourth annual Unity Picnic

Unity is on the rise in the Delaware Valley. In 2007 the **Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia** held their summer picnic in partnership with the **Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia**. In 2008 the picnic was sponsored by **PhillyCoR** (www.phillycor.org), whose member organizations include the **Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia**, the **Philadelphia Atheist Meetup**, the **Temple Atheists and Critical Thinkers (TACT)**, **Secular Penn** and the **Drexel Freethought Society**. And in 2010, we're keeping a good thing going!

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th (rain or shine), 1:00-5:00pm

Location: Fort Washington State Park, Flourtown Pavilion, on W Mill Road just a quarter mile west of Bethlehem Pike in Flourtown, PA.

There is a *minimum donation* of \$10.00 per adult to cover the cost of burgers, hot dogs, and vegetarian alternatives for the grill, as well as buns and beverages. We also ask that you bring a dish to share—if your last name begins with **A-G** bring salad or vegetable, **H-P** bring fruit or dessert, and **Q-Z** bring bread, potato or a rice dish. There will be games and activities for children.

Please RSVP so we can estimate how much food and beverages to purchase. You can RSVP by calling Martha Knox at 330-242-4741 or emailing Joe Fox at admin@hagp.org.



The picnic will feature a performance by Sam Singleton, Atheist Evangelist

"Too Big for God" is the scary, funny, and ultimately inspiring tale of how young Sam Singleton learned to use his own powers of reason to overcome the disabling fear he acquired as a child raised among snake handling holy rollers. This all-ages-appropriate presentation runs for about 40 minutes and is typically followed by questions and answers



Ethical
Humanist
Society
of
Philadelphia

Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia

1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

215-735-3456

www.phillyethics.org

Sunday 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.

HAGP Summer Events

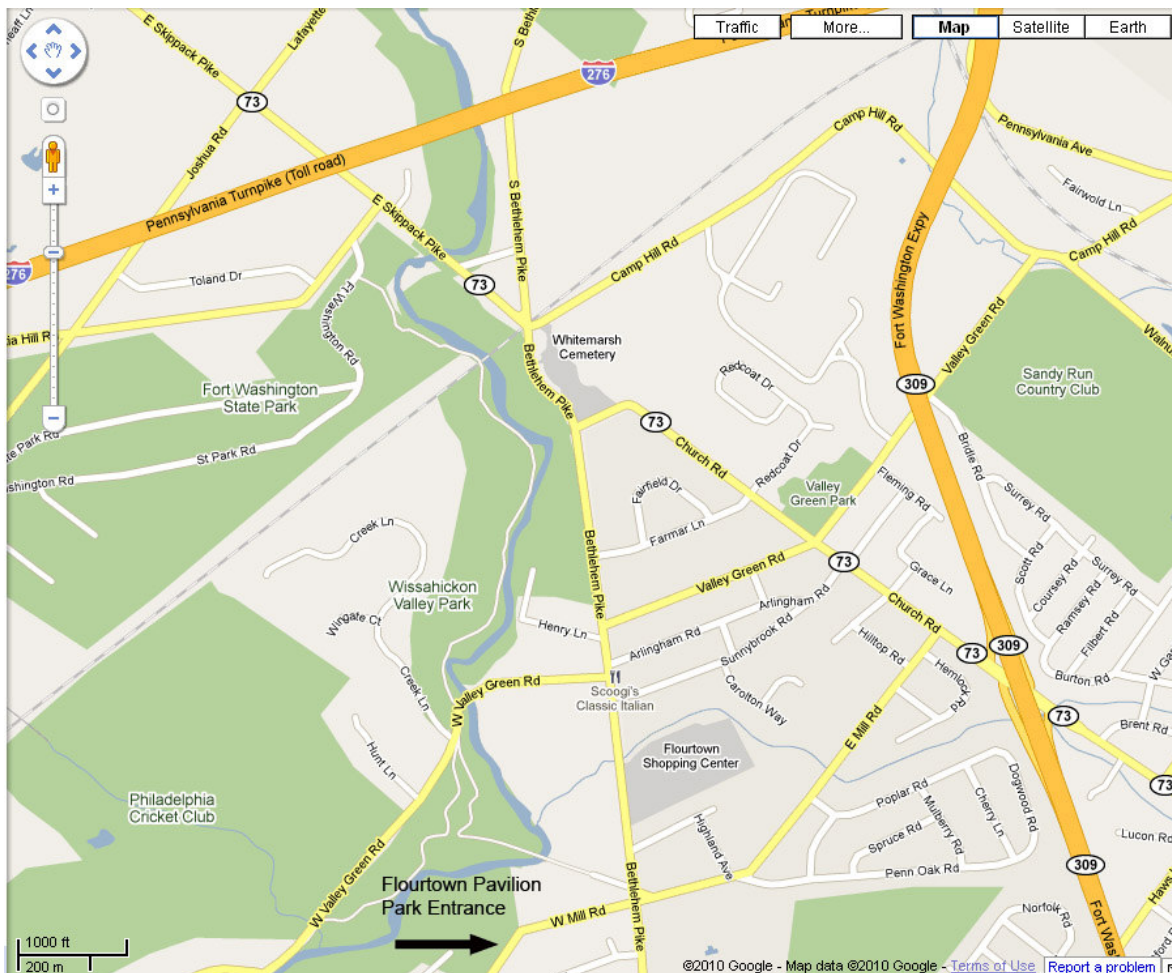
DIRECTIONS to the Unity Picnic:

From the North:

From 276 take exit 339 toward PA-309/Fort Washington/Philadelphia/Ambler.
Drive 1.4 miles South on PA-309
Take exit PA-73 toward Flourtown
Turn right at PA-73 W/Church Rd.
Take the 2nd left onto E Mill Rd.
The entrance to the park will be on your right about a quarter mile after you pass Bethlehem Pike

From the South:

Take 76 W to 476 North toward Plymouth Mtg.
Then take exit 20 and turn right on Plymouth Rd.
After about a half mile it will turn into Flourtown Rd. Stay on Flourtown Rd. for another two miles then turn left to stay on Flourtown Rd. Then turn right on Stenton Rd. and left on W. Mill Road. The entrance to the park will be on your left.



Please call 330-242-4741 if you need additional directions or you will be taking the R5 train and will need a ride from the Fort Washington Station.

HAGP Summer Events (cont'd)

MOVIE NIGHTS

Every first Saturday, 7 PM
Giant Superstore, 2nd floor Community Room
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA

Films and documentaries concerning the issues of Humanistic interest, followed by spirited discussion.

July 3 *The End of Poverty*. “Renowned actor and activist, Martin Sheen, narrates *The End of Poverty?*, a feature-length documentary directed by award-winning director, Philippe Diaz, which explains how today's financial crisis is a direct consequence of these unchallenged policies that have lasted centuries.” (from the website’s synopsis)

August 7 *The Age of Stupid*. The film is a drama-documentary-animation hybrid. Set in the devastated world of 2055, a man watches archive footage from the mid-to-late 2000s and wonders why people didn’t stop climate change when they had a chance.

September 4 *Outrage*. A controversial documentary by Kirby Dick that outs gay politicians who promote anti-gay legislation.

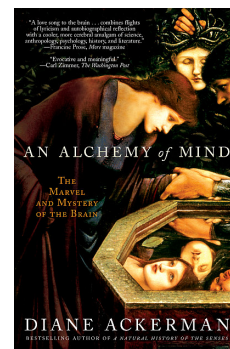
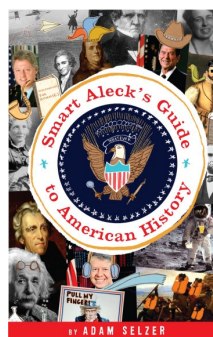
SECULAR BOOK CLUB

7 PM
Barnes and Noble
102 Park Ave.
Willow Grove, PA

July 17 (Saturday) The second half of Adam Selzer’s *The Smart Aleck’s Guide to American History*.

August 18 (Saturday) Diane Ackerman’s *An Alchemy of Mind: The Marvel and Mystery of the Brain*.

September 18 (Saturday) Selection TBA



CASUAL LUNCHEON

These purely-social events, a long-standing HAGP tradition, are an excellent way to meet members, enjoy stimulating conversation with like-minded thinkers, and get a feel for our community.

When: 2nd Saturdays, 12 PM **Where:** Olive Garden 2328 W. Moreland Rd. Willow Grove, PA

PROGRAM MEETINGS

There are no July or August meetings, but please join us on Sunday, September 26, and our speaker **Ana Lita** from the [Appignani Bioethics Center](#)

When: Last Sundays, 1:30pm.

Where: Upper Moreland Library 109 Park Avenue Willow Grove, PA

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 or memorial services, and even divorce celebrations.

Discounts are available for HAGP members.

Email celebrant@hagp.org or call 330-242-4714.



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 <http://www.philosopher.org>

Philadelphia

Atheists

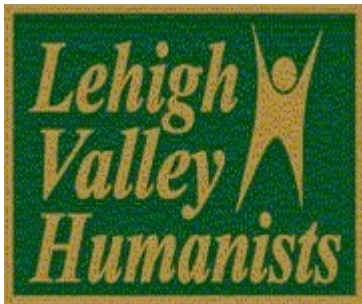
Meetup

Enjoy casual company and conversation with other atheists. Meetups are held the third Thursday of each month at the Midtown II Restaurant, 122 S. 11th St., Philadelphia. For more information, visit

<http://atheists.meetup.com/215/>.



The Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking (PhACT) hosts monthly lectures at the Community College of Philadelphia. For information see www.phact.org.



<http://www.lvhumanists.org>

Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia

The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia (FSGP) advocates reason, rationalism, freethought and humanism. To this end, FSGP provides forums in which freethinkers can gather for informational and educational meetings, and for fun events and social networking with like-minded individuals. Visit <http://www.fsgp.org> to learn more.



**Freethought Society
of Greater Philadelphia**

JOIN HAGP TODAY

(If you don't want to join the AHA, but want to be affiliated with HAGP, become a Friend of HAGP! Friends can't vote in elections or run for the Board, but receive all other benefits of HAGP membership.)

- NEW MEMBERSHIP
- RENEWAL

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
- Friend of HAGP (\$15 for individuals, \$25 for families)

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Mail your check (payable to HAGP) to
 Humanist Association Of Greater Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 161
 Willow Grove, PA 19090-0161