

*Like as the waves make
towards the pebbled
shore, so do our minutes,
hasten to their end.*

~ William Shakespeare

Phactum

The Newsletter and Propaganda Organ of the
Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking
May/June 2011

editor: Ray Haupt email: phactpublicity@aol.com
Webmaster: Wes Powers <http://phact.org/>

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - Annual Banquet Noon to 3 PM

This year the PhACT banquet will again be at the
Sorella Rose, a gourmet restaurant in Flourtown, PA., a suburban loca-
tion just outside of Northwest Philadelphia
1800 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, PA 19031 (215) 233-0616



According to the website www.ebiblefellowship.com, the Rap-
ture is to occur on that day -- which is a testable claim that we can
investigate together.

Our speaker will be Tom Beebee, who will appropriately speak
on "The Long Awaited Apocalypse". Tom is author of the
book "Millennial Literatures of the Americas". He is a Professor
of Comparative Literature and German at the Pennsylvania State
University. His publications include *Clarissa on the Continent:
The Ideology of Genre, Epistolary Fiction in Europe and Geogra-
phies of Nation and Region in Modern Fiction*.

(Continued on page 2)

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17

*16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel
and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive
and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be
with the Lord forever.*

The cost is \$30 a person (\$20 for students).
Checks payable to PhACT may be sent to:

Becky Strickland
6 Samuel Huntington
Turnersville, NJ 08012

Becky may be contacted at: quasar@snip.net

Sorry, but if this day is in fact the start of the End of the World, then we can not promise re-funds.

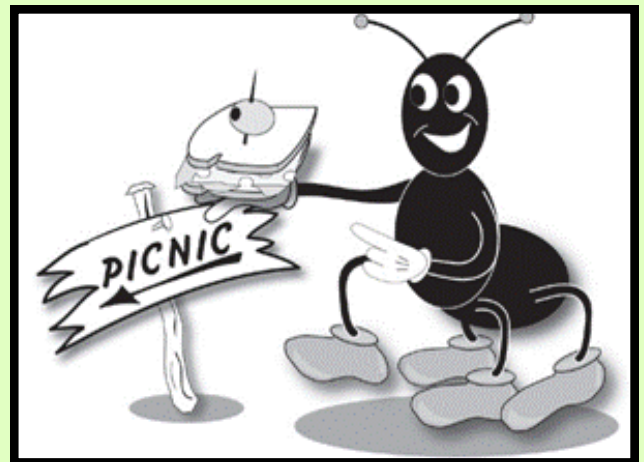


Phactum Table Of Contents

Letters to the Editor	p. 3
Various Ruminations	p. 3
April 2011 Meeting Report	p. 8
Miscegenationm an Example of Interbreeding by Paul Schlueter III	p. 10
Is Atheism the Same as Satanism? by Paul Schlueter III	p. 11
How We Lost the 40 Years War by Thomas M. Medero	p. 13
Calendar of Events	p. 15

The PhACT Annual Picnic

will be on **Saturday, June 25, 2011** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and probably later at Mondauk Commons Park off Broad Street in Upper Dublin, PA. The Park is about two miles from the Fort Washington exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and near the Susquehanna Road exit of Route 309 Expressway. There is plenty of parking space.



If you have not been Raptured you are invited to attend this event. It is free and all are welcome. If your Earthly Body and Soul gets lost call Eric on his cell phone: 215 667-1151.

Bring food and beverages if you wish. The local ant colony will appreciate the handout. There are fireplaces for grilling, and the pavilion will provide sun shelter and hopefully not rain shelter. If you are a musician, bring your guitar or bongo drum. Some folks are likely to throw a ball around.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:I was just at Judge Jones' talk and picked up a copy of your current newsletter. It may very well be the last one I ever read.

You used WIKIPEDIA as a primary source!! Good grief, WIKIPEDIA! Did you cross-check the facts with another website such as: <http://www.astro.cornell.edu/academics/courses/astro2201/eratosthenes.htm>

or

<http://www.math.utah.edu/~alfeld/Eratosthenes.html> ?

Or did you look in a book? You know, those things made of paper we hold in our hand and which contain the whole world of knowledge. If not a whole book, since you appear to be comfortable with web sources, what about this:

http://www.usefultrivia.com/biographies/eratosthenes_001.html? It is taken from a real book.

I know we are all very, very busy and have way too much to do, say, read, write, etc.; I know this was just a filler for your newsletter. But this is a newsletter for people who value CRITICAL THINKING. Hardly Wikipedia material. Then again, I could be wrong. Perhaps you know your readers will not mind a bit of sloppy research. Well, I for one do mind. Now I will read the rest of the newsletter with a very critical eye.

By the way, I enjoyed the talk.

Jo Ann Aiton

Editor:I found what I thought was a good "Graffiti" comic strip on line today, 4/27/11. Below is a link to it. I'm sure you can put the link into Phactum, and direct people to the link, even if you can't print the strip for Phactum.

<http://comics.com/graffiti/2011.04.27>

Amy Lowenstein

Yardley, PA

Editor:I was at the talk at CCP Saturday and found your whole concept fascinating. I was turned onto it by my philosophy professor Hank Dmochowski. re: letters to the editor: Is there any particular subject matter desired, or is anything (appropriate) up for approval? He suggested I send you some things (he likes my writing).

Thank you so much for your time. I'm joining as a student member.

Tom Medero

Philadelphia

Editor's note: Thank you, Tom, and thanks to Professor Dmochowski for the referral. Students are encouraged to participate in Phactum and all PhACT events. Topics are pretty much unlimited so charge ahead and indulge your own imagination and interests and hone your writing and critical thinking skills. We do try to avoid partisan politics, but controversial topics are more than welcome, especially if there is a science or pseudo-science component involved.

Editor:It's absolutely accurate! (Phactum, April 2011, Page 5, Diet Water) Half of nothing is nothing, no? But I still can't believe that people actually buy water. When I was a kid, that would have seemed like the dumbest thing on earth!!

Tom Medero

Philadelphia

Editor:You have a very good publication. But what is this constant bombardment about gambling? I don't even see where discussions about gambling fit in with what I would expect in the organization's mission statement.

Enough already about gambling. Are you a reformed gambler that feels the necessity to seek converts? Except for the above, keep up the good work.

Tom Conti

Wayne, Pennsylvania

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Various Ruminations

Collected/Written by Ray Haupt
(with help from others)

The April Meeting

PhACT's April meeting with Judge John E. Jones was PhACT's contribution, in partnership with the Community College of Philadelphia, to the first Philadelphia Science Festival which was sponsored by business, government, and local educational and science oriented organizations. Attendance at our event was estimated to be between 250 and 275 thus making it by far the best attended PhACT event. We look forward to Philadelphia Science Festival 2012.

Good Medicine - Shingles Vaccine

Late in April I happened to observe a sign at a local supermarket with a pharmacy that the shingles vaccine Zostavax was being dispensed that day. We had briefly reported on the shingles vaccine in the January 2011 Phactum.

I can not say that I am particularly keen on vaccination of any kind at the end of the Jelly and Jam Aisle but the notion of such a vaccination does have appeal. This vaccine is treated as a prescription drug so the fact that it may be available in a supermarket pharmacy does not mean that it can be impulsively obtained. Furthermore, Zostavax is a live attenuated virus and must be stored at very cold temperatures and used within 30 minutes of thawing. A typical pharmacy or doctors office may not have suitable refrigeration equipment, but a supermarket does ... right next to the frozen flounder.

Shingles is a painful skin rash caused by the Varicella

Zoster virus, the same virus that causes Chicken Pox. Typically shingles attacks last 2 to 4 weeks, but can be much longer. Shingles may cause symptoms such as headache, fever, and upset stomach. Rarely, shingles can lead to pneumonia, hearing problems, blindness, and even encephalitis which is a brain inflammation.

Only people who have had chicken pox are at risk of shingles which is far more common in people over age 50 than in younger people. Women are more likely to get the disease than men.

Unfortunately this vaccine is expensive, costing between \$150 and \$300 for the single dose, and not surprisingly it is not widely used. Furthermore it is estimated that the vaccine is effective in about 50% of recipients. Shingles affects about one million people each year, but only about 10% of the 50 million people who might benefit from this vaccine actually get it.

More information about this vaccine can be found at:

<http://www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/updates/The-shingles-vaccine.shtml> and at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/vacc-need-know.htm>

And speaking of brain inflammations ...

Get a load of this!! I am not clever enough to make up such a tale.

In 1972, according to a Washington Post article (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/features/trepan.htm>) a man named Peter Halvorson, a seeker of the New Age Nirvana of the time, was in Holland and felt depressed. So, Peter did what any person in such a circumstance might do ... he drilled a 3/8th inch hole in his head. He did have anesthetic, four drill bits, and a foot controlled power drill. He liked the results.

Halvorson went on to advocate trepanation, an ancient healing tradition from many places around the world going as far back as the Stone Age in Europe and was practiced by the

Inca's in South America. Thousands of skulls have been found showing clear evidence of a trepanning procedure and, astonishingly, evidence of a high survival rate among the "patients". Most modern physicians, as one would expect, discourage the practice.

Halvorson went about advocating the youth and other restorative benefits of trepanning and eventually became one of the founders of the **International Trepanation Advocacy Group** (ITAG) <http://www.trepan.com/> .

ITAG has not managed to accumulate many devotees but it has persuaded a clinic in Monteray, Mexico to perform the procedure. Halvorson, who lives in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, about 60 miles from Philadelphia, does not advocate self trepanation.

Gambling notes

♥ **Early-hours gambling 'is most risky'**. - Another article on the risk of gambling and players deprived of sleep. "Late-night gamblers are fighting more than just the unfavorable odds of gambling machines; they are fighting a sleep-deprived brain's tendency to implicitly seek gains while discounting the impact of potential losses."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8368656/Early-hours-gambling-is-most-risky.html>

♥ **Media Glorifies the Risk of Gambling** - A new study by a German psychologist points to the fact that the media may glorify the kind of risk-taking behavior that winds up with certain kinds of people following addictive patterns when it comes to online gambling. The research was conducted with more than 80,000 people mostly between the ages of 16 and 24 and taken 25 years to complete. The results speak to those who want to make sure that any kind of online gambling is regulated.

<http://www.onlinecasinospro.com/news/media-glorifies-the-risk-of-gambling/>

♥ **Nebraska Bill aimed at assisting horse racing industry** - Anti-gambling forces mobilized Monday to try to rein in a creative gambling bill designed to help the state's ailing horse-racing industry and boost wagering on keno. A leading anti-gambling group said it was "ludicrous" to provide more money to the dying horse-racing industry when the state faces the prospect of cutting jobs and spending to solve a huge budget problem.

<http://www.theindependent.com/articles/2011/03/15/sports/fonner/doc4d7ef27f6edeb849289377.txt>

♥ **Despite portrayals, gambling is not harmless** - Instead of focusing on a stronger tax base from a healthier economy which produces good paying jobs, legislators of both parties in Minnesota wish to rely on gambling to avoid the political stigma of raising taxes and lowering the size and scope of government. Subverting the role of being a gambling regulator in favor of promoting this negative behavior, exists as another failed way to sweep our problems under the rug.

<http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2011/04/25/despite-portrayals-gambling-is-not-harmless/>

Online PhACT Discussion Board

PhACT does have an online discussion board facility where skeptics, critical thinkers, and others can discuss whatever might be on their minds.

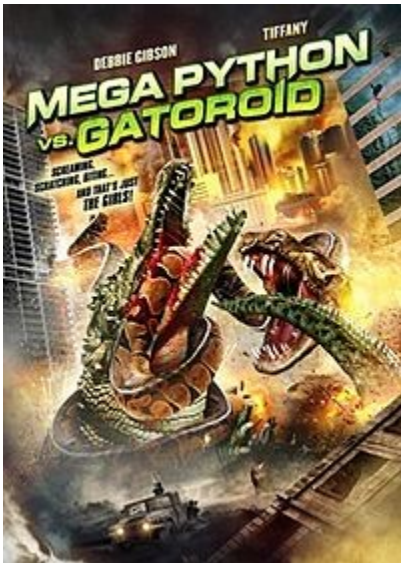
All are invited to participate in discussion of any topic that might be on your mind. You need not be a PhACT member. The discussion board may be found at: <http://phactforum.org/>

Mega-Bad Movie Night!

This little item has a strong similarity to Professor Jon Nyquist's classes at Temple University and his presentation to PhACT in March. This film series is at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Go to the Academy after hours to watch some awesomely awful movies. The Academy's own experts will be onstage to provide ongoing commentary on scientific absurdities and generally poor filming think Mystery Science Theater 3000! Enjoy light snacks from Snack Like a Local, drinks, and exploring the museum before the feature film begins. Then sit back, relax, laugh, and cringe as we watch an "awesomely awful" flick. You must be 18+ years of age to attend these events (and 21+ to drink).

**Coming this summer! Date not yet determined.
Mega Python vs. Gatoroid**



Check back for details!

<http://www.ansp.org/adult-programs/mega-bad-movie-night.php>

And, by the way, if you are interested in taking Professor Nyquist's class at Temple, get in registration line early.

On Conspiracies

"The dismaying truth is that birtherism is part of a larger pattern of rejection of reality that has taken hold of intimidating segments of one of the two political parties that alternate in power in our governing institutions. It is akin to the view that global warming is a hoax, or that the budget can be balanced through spending cuts alone, or that contraception causes abortion, or that evolution is just another theory, on a par with the theory that the earth is six thousand years old." - Hendrik Hertzberg in the May 2nd edition of The New Yorker, commenting on the ongoing 'controversy' about Obama's place of birth. Hertzberg's political blog can be found on www.newyorker.com

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Carpe That Diem

By Albert Fried Cassorla

Content with tiny glories
that meanly shine from my room
I speak to you of travels
That we pass through too soon.

If we try to clench the moment
we smash it in our fists.
Like rocks that yield no water,
Time knows well, "Resist."

As flashing days that lap
upon my window fast
I beg — let's fabricate memories
to breed the Now with Past.

Landmarks of detention
voluntarily paid
breathe from lung to lip.
They touch our skinny places
with pity lightly weighed
and linger not a moment
as they break us into days.

March 4, 1969

Albert Fried-Cassorla is a teacher for the School District of Philadelphia, is a philosopher, playwright, poet, and in 1999 was a finalist in the Montgomery County (PA) Poet Laureate's Contest.

Thank you, Albert.
Phactum readers are invited to submit original poetry.

Meeting Report(s) - April 2011

"Science, Religion and the Law: The Dover Intelligent Design Trial" Judge John E. Jones, US District Court, Middle District PA

These reports were prepared by Said Elmenyawy, Colin Holladay, and Ralee Turlington who are physics students of Dr. David Cattell at Philadelphia Community College and by Thomas M. Medero, a philosophy student of Professor Hank Dmochowski at Philadelphia Community College.

Photos by Bob Clark

Contributed by Said Elmenyawy

The long anticipated lecture by Judge Jones finally took place during last PhACT Meeting on April 23, 2011. The lecture hall with 300 seats was almost completely full. Judge Jones gave a speech and mentioned a few facts in a manner that clearly reminded me that of a politician: to deliver the least amount of information using many sophisticated words that people would not know or at least expect to hear in that context. People who attended the meeting, expected to hear previously unknown details about the closed-door trial *Kitzmiller v. Dover*.

The lecture started with a three to five minutes presentation in a form of extracts from the movie "Judgment Day: Intelligent design on trial" by NOVA that was aired on PBS channel in 2007 and can be viewed on PBS website. This movie was reenacted based on a case transcript and court documentation, as well as various interviews taken during the course this case. Before reviewing *Kitzmiller v. Dover* case, Judge Jones gave an overview of a predecessor case *Tennessee vs. John Scopes* that is mostly known to the public by names of "Scopes Trial" or "Monkey Trial".

Scopes Trial took place in 1925 and attempted to dispute Tennessee state law about teaching evolution in high schools; this case was brought against a twenty four year old public school teacher John Scopes from Dayton, Tennessee who included subject of evolution in his subject curriculum. As a result, John Scopes was found guilty in violating a state law and had to pay a fine of \$100. Scopes Trial was directed at publicity and was mostly staged.

Kitzmiller v. Dover case may seem similar to Scopes Trial based on a subject matter and yet it is different and very serious case. It took place in Dover, Pennsylvania in 2004. The disagreement started when Dover School Board made it mandatory for science teachers to read a statement to High school students signifying that there is another theory called "intelligent design" that would be able to explain complex universe and living things and would be taught along with

the theory of evolution. Intelligent design posed as a scientific theory that proposed creation of universe by an intelligent creator or designer without using theological terms. Judge Jones mentioned that there was an opt-out form and students would need to discuss that form with parents and obtain their permission. If student would decide to opt-in then s/he would need to stay in the classroom and listen to the statement, if a student would decide to opt-out, then s/he would need to leave a classroom for the duration of the statement being read by the teacher.

The lawsuit was filed in the Federal court by parents, who opposed Intelligent Design being taught, against the Dover School Board and School District. The case was decided on December 20, 2005 in favor of parents and Judge Jones announced that "Intelligent Design is not supported by any peer-reviewed research, data or publications and should not be included under definition of science and taught in schools". Case *Kitzmiller v. Dover* proved to be an important case and it caused a very tense situation between neighbors in Dover, being later compared to a civil war within the community. It was a tough call from the parents to initiate the lawsuit but many

teachers appeared to be heroes as well. Many teachers who were not tenured put their careers on the line by refusing to teach the theory of Intelligent Design and risked greatly to loose their good jobs at any time.

Judge Jones stressed the point of American school education lacking in areas of science and civic education; he also mentioned a few times the "dumbing" down of America as an ongoing process to lower an intellectual content of subjects taught at schools. The latter being the most critical reason that persuaded NOVA to make a movie "Judgment Day" in order to use it as a means of educating people to recognize what to consider as a science and what not to. By distinguishing between a science and a theory simply posing as a science, "Judgment Day" aimed at public understanding if subject should be taught in science curriculum.



Judge John E. Jones

During his lecture, Judge Jones mentioned a few other cases that played an important role during the course of US history and helped to establish a law, like Terri Shiavo case and Brown v. Board of Education. Terri Shiavo case was a case decided sometime in 2005 and would be the reason to institute a law to permit disconnecting a person from life



Q & A Session

support if that person would be diagnosed as being in a permanent vegetative state. Brown v. Board of Education, on the other hand, was an older case that was presented to the United States Supreme Court in 1954 and till right now it is considered to be the most important and influential case ever decided by the Supreme Court. The root of the problem in that case was unconstitutional separation of black and white public schools based on State laws. The decision in that case recognized the inequality of school separation, and racial segregation was acknowledged to violate the 14th Amendment.

Judge Jones finished his lecture with a very interesting story involving an American and Russian Supreme Court Judges. A Russian Supreme Court Judge was visiting the headquarters of United States Supreme Court and was taken to the conference room where most important cases in the American history were decided. Russian Judge asked what

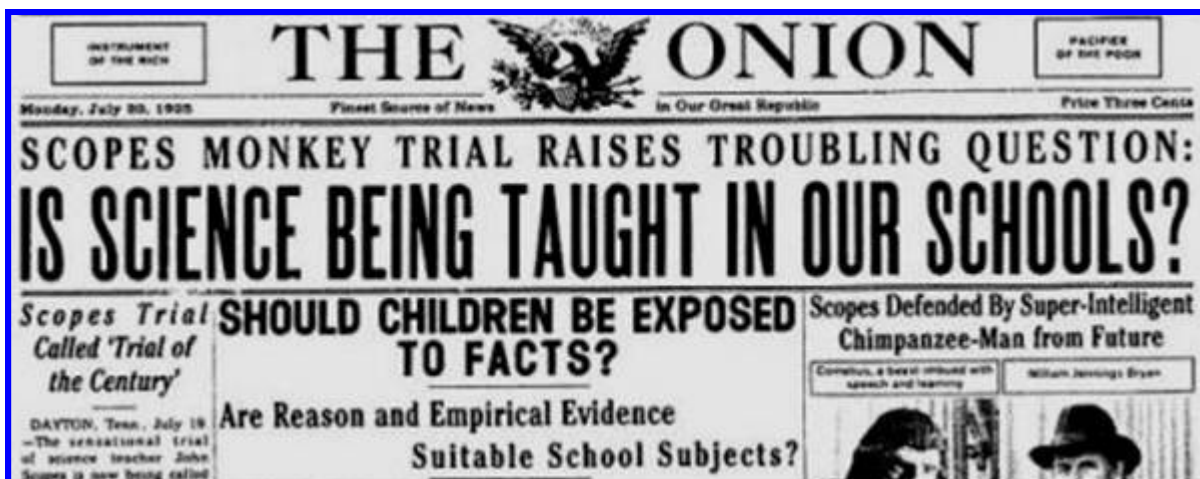
would be considered to be the most important case ever to be decided in that room and at that table. American Judge answered almost immediately that Brown v. Board of Education would be the milestone case. Surprisingly for him, Russian Judge disagreed, and when asked for his own opinion gave an answer that astonished and puzzled American Judge: United States v. Nixon. The explanation that the Russian Judge gave to his opinion regarding the most important case was simple: there was a law system in existence that was capable to limit the authority of the most powerful man, US president of that time Richard Nixon, in the most powerful country in the world. This means that judicial independence is being highly valued in other countries abroad and should be properly recognized and appreciated here, in America as well.

* * * * *

Contributed by Colin Holladay

The Honorable Judge Jones was nominated by former Senator Rick Santorum, a Republican, and appointed by President George W. Bush. Judge Jones, a conservative known for his religious convictions, had a very interesting docket cross his desk in 2005. This docket was *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*; *Kitzmiller* wanting *Intelligent Design* published in local area schoolbooks. This was a docket very much like the 1925 *The State of Tennessee v. Scopes*.

During the 1925 "Scopes" trial a high school biology teacher, John Scopes, was accused of violating the State's Butler Act, which made it unlawful to teach evolution. It was deemed that everyone knew the story of God creating the world in seven days was true; this coming, of course, from the first three verses of Genesis. However, everyone did not know this, and in fact, many people disagreed with it. Judge Jones described how a group of people got together in 1925 and, after talking to John Scopes, decided that he would be the "martyr" for evolution. During the three-month trial, the town of Dayton, Tennessee, was swarming with national reporters. The jury heard testimony for both sides



and eventually found Mr. Scopes guilty of violating the Butler Act; however, he served no time because the verdict was overturned on a technicality and he was never brought back to trial. This trial was not a victory for either side, but began many debates about Creationism or Evolutionism. The Butler Act remained on the books until 1967.

The 2005 case of "Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District" was the first time that this idea has been tried since 1925. This time religious fanatics of the Dover Area School District wanted "Intelligent Design" taught in the area school districts. Judge Jones explained how "Intelligent Design" was nothing more than Creationism with a new name. This trial, much like the Scopes trial, drew national attention and, when science is in the court room with the Bible, how could it not? Judge Jones heard testimony from both sides and had this to say, "It is ironic that several of these individuals, who so staunchly and proudly touted their religious convictions in public, would time and again lie to cover their tracks and disguise the real purpose behind the Intelligent Design policy." Citing this along with other factors and scientific evidence, Judge Jones had no other choice than to rule that "Intelligent Design" had no place in schools. "The concept was not ready, there was no proof," Judge Jones did require that when evolution is being taught students will be made aware about the gaps in the Darwin theories and other theories of evolution.

Because of this ruling Judge Jones has received death threats against himself and his family, thus requiring him to be protected by a U.S. Marshall. These same religious fanatics who fought so hard to have their beliefs taught in school were most likely the same ones that threatened Judge Jones' life! This really makes you wonder! The school board members that initiated the case were voted out.

Judge Jones has a place in history and we are lucky to have been able to hear what he had to say about his first-hand experience in such a provocative trial.

* * * * *

Contributed by Thomas M. Medero

In the Winnet Student Life Building at Community College of Philadelphia that Saturday, the crowd was close to if not "standing room only". People from all over came to hear the Honorable John E. Jones discuss his experience and his decisive ruling in federal court on the question of "Intelligent Design" being included in science textbooks in the Dover school district. We were not disappointed in Judge Jones' candid talk.

Creationists already having been defeated in a 1987 decision by the Supreme Court ruling that States cannot require public schools to balance evolution lessons by teaching creationism, the creationists went back to their drawing board to come up with another plan. Renaming creationism "Intelligent Design" they refiled their suit in federal court in 2004, through which the Dover School Board hoped to include a statement about intelligent design to ninth graders prior to being taught ninth-grade lessons on



PhACT President Eric Krieg thanking Judge Jones for presiding over this meeting of PhACT.

evolution. However, a rose (or belief) by any other name:...Jones Jones left no room for interpretation in determining that the 2004 suit was nothing more than a clear violation of constitutional separation of church and state. Critical Thinking 1 - Intelligent Design 0.

In his talk, Judge Jones explained how the creationists merely re-named their religious views to make it appear as science in their attempt to place their agenda in science textbooks and classrooms. However, His Honor was clear upon hearing the evidence: after six weeks of trial testimony, he was unequivocal in his ruling that the trial yielded "overwhelming evidence" that intelligent design was merely a religious view re-cast as science. Raising Judge Jones' ire, Dover Board members were accused of lying, concealing their real motive, and considered by the Court to using clever stealth to promote religion.

The Dover Board's position held that they were actually interested in augmenting the children of Dover's science education by introducing alternatives to "Darwin's Theory of Evolution". Their gall went as far as to attack Darwin's

Great spirits have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtfully submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence. ~ Albert Einstein

theory stating that it was not a “fact”, and has “inexplicable gaps”. As far as Darwin's evolution being a mere “theory” rather than fact with “inexplicable gaps. Let me try to make crystal clear what is established beyond reasonable doubt, and what needs further study, about evolution. Evolution as a process that has always gone on in the history of the earth can be doubted only by those who are ignorant of the evidence or are resistant to evidence, owing to emotional blocks or to plain bigotry. By contrast, the mechanisms that bring evolution about certainly need study and clarification. There are no alternatives to evolution as history that can withstand critical examination. Yet we are constantly learning new and important facts about evolutionary mechanisms. Theodosius Dobzhansky "Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution", American Biology Teacher vol. 35 (March 1973) reprinted in Evolution versus Creationism, J. Peter Zetterberg ed., ORYX Press, Phoenix AZ 1983. The United States Academy of Natural Sciences considers theory to mean: “Some scientific explanations are so well established that no new evidence is likely to alter them. The explanation becomes a scientific theory. In everyday language, a theory means a hunch or speculation. Not so in science. In science, the word theory refers to a comprehensive explanation of an important feature of nature, supported by facts over time.

Judge Jones countered the Board by unequivocally recognizing the guile behind the Board's purpose, stating “...the secular purposes claimed by the Board amount to the Board's real pretext, which is to promote religion in the public school classroom.” It was certainly an enlightening talk from a judicially objective man who heard both side's evidence, and was not one iota swayed by the Dover Board.

In the question and answer session after the talk, Judge Jones enlightened us as to the tactics and failures in failing to prove their case. I had the opportunity to ask him how the School Board could even convince themselves they could pull this off without no empirical data at all entered at trial supporting intelligent design as “science”. The judge responded that although they had produced a highly respected biologist to testify on their behalf, he was not in a receptive classroom, and out of his element failed to make their case cogently.

In sum, there was left no doubt as to the Dover School Board's motives, and the truth object of their intention.

* * * * *

Contributed by Ralee Turlington

The Honorable Judge John E. Jones (born June 13, 1955) is a Federal judge from the state of Pennsylvania (Republican) appointed by President George W. Bush. He is best known for the *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* case (intelligent design in public school). This was the first direct challenge brought in the federal courts against a school district that had mandated teaching the idea of intelligent design. Tom Ridge (Pennsylvania Governor)

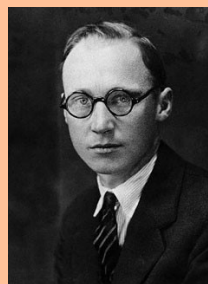
once committed "I can't imagine a better judge presiding over such an emotionally charged issue... he has an inquisitive mind, a penetrating intellect and an incredible sense of humor."

On December 20, 2005, Judge Jones had ruled that the mandate was unconstitutional in a 139-page decision post ruling pundits immediately criticized his decision. Jones jokingly commented on Bill O'Reilly accusing him of being a fascist and an activist judge (PhACT Meeting April 23, 2011). This ruling initiated multiple death threats and was forced to have around-the-clock federal protection for himself and his family. During this meeting Judge Jones talked about how his peers claimed that he had "stabbed the evangelicals who got him onto the federal bench right in the back" by reiterating that his duty was to the Constitution and not to Republicans or special interest groups. Jones also took some time to explain the judiciary role and how judges decide cases to the audience of this particular meeting.

Judge Jones' presentation was overall funny and extremely informative without being overly complicated with legal jargon. Other interesting points he made concerned the fact that when federal Judges are appointed it is for a life term so that important rulings aren't swayed by corporations, special interest groups or the popular idea at the time in order to keep a seat on the bench. He also gave very interesting story how other countries view the justice system of the United States by giving the example of the Russian president stating the most important ruling that the United States courts ruled over was the impeachment of Richard Nixon, because it showed that no one is above the law.

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Doppelgangers? John Scopes and Mr. Peepers



John Scopes
c. 1925



Wally Cox
aka Mr. Peepers
c. 1950

Miscegenation, an Example of Interbreeding

by Paul Schlueter III

Miscegenation, Noun. Cohabitation, sexual relations, marriage, or interbreeding involving persons of different races, especially in historical contexts as a transgression of the law.
The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language

It's no secret that white Europeans colonized the Americas from 1492 forward, nor that many of those whites imported Africans to the Americas solely for the purpose of providing slave labor. When Spanish whites interbred with Native Americans, the race they created was sometimes called "mestizo". When more northern Europeans interbred with Africans, their offspring, called "mulato," were often doomed to slavery, and were rarely given formal acknowledgement of their heritage by their white parent.

Whites of the Southern region of the U.S. eventually invented the term "miscegenation" to represent the practice of "diluting the white blood" by sleeping with blacks of any hue. Though all medical and genetic evidence indicates that Blacks, Whites, and Indians are all homo sapiens, members of a single species having no substantial distinction of species or "quality," many individuals of each so-called "race" choose to segregate humans by the color of their complexion.

For the Southern whites of a certain mindset, blacks were viewed as "less than human," purportedly even devoid of a "soul;" such dogma helped to sanctify white mistreatment of blacks. To copulate with a black was a slave-holder's right;

he could do just about anything he wanted with his property. However, among the more refined, inter-racial sex (miscegenation) was at least distasteful, and at worst a sin against God himself (who, of course, whites viewed as being white.)

In point of fact, slaveholders engaged in deliberate breeding of their slaves, trying to select for characteristics they found desirable, such as muscularity, docility, humility, reduced mentality, and so on. This practice was not unlike the routine breeding of horses, dogs, or cattle, and the philosophies of selecting sires and dams were identical. Of course, with their dogmatic and un-scientific ideas of the way genetics works, about all they managed to manipulate were some of the visible physical traits.

There was no denying the fact that many Africans had marvelous physiques, and handsome visages; selective breeding enhanced that. Particularly when intoxicated or entertaining important guests, white slave owners took full advantage of their position of fearsome authority, and forced their sexual attentions upon their black slaves. Arguably, the most physically attractive blacks suffered the greatest amount of such depredations.

Other whites, perhaps in a more liberal spirit, engaged in sexual intercourse with blacks on a more voluntary basis. Whether rape or seduction, lust or love, and regardless of the initiator's race, inter-racial sex took place over literally hundreds of years throughout America, creating literally hundreds of generations of mulato children of every imaginable shade from the purplest black to the pinkest white.

Long after slavery was abolished in this country, blacks often remained on the lesser end of the sexual bargaining lever with whites, yet one thing remained a constant throughout the ages; people of all colors and shades find opportunities, reasons, and even passionate cause to co-mingle.

The term miscegenation has fallen into disfavor in the modern era of political cor-

(Continued on page 12)



1783 oil painting of Dr. Benjamin Rush by Charles Wilson Peale (1741 - 1827) now on display at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

Benjamin Rush (1746 - 1813),

a Founding Father of the United States and a physician, proposed that being black was a hereditary skin disease, which he called "negroidism," and that it might be cured. Rush believed non-whites were really white underneath but they were stricken with a non-contagious form of leprosy which darkened their skin color. Rush drew the conclusion that "Whites should not tyrannize over [blacks], for their disease should entitle them to a double portion of humanity. However, by the same token, whites should not intermarry with them, for this would tend to infect posterity with the 'disorder'... attempts must be made to cure the disease."



Is Atheism the Same as Satanism?

by Paul Schlueter III



Sometimes the accusation is made that someone who doesn't believe in God must be a Satanist. For the most part, such claims are simply the worst thing the accuser can think of to hurl against an unbeliever.

In Biblical religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), Satan is the devil, the great opponent of God, the tempter and Prince of Lies, and so on. In fact, it can become a bit confusing exactly what role Satan is supposed to play, because he is so frequently named and accused of all manner of evils. Satan is sometimes called Lucifer, though it's not clear that this is one of his actual names. "Lucifer" itself only appears in the Bible once, at Isaiah 14:12 (from verse 5 through 21, and perhaps as far as 27, Lucifer is pretty well described as an evildoer.) This particular name means "bringer of light," and it is associated with the planet Venus, which rises just before dawn. He is clearly "fallen from heaven," but nowhere is it actually said that Lucifer and Satan are one and the same.

Satanism is actually worship of Satan, and as such, it requires a firm belief in the Bible for its foundation. To Satanists, their fallen lord is the better of the two antagonists, YHWH (Yahweh, Jehovah) and Satan. It's simply a matter of choice; which lord does one prefer to follow, the one who presides over Heaven, or the one who presides over Hell? A Satanist MUST accept the Biblical creation, and the idea that Satan was once God's favorite angel, who was later cast out for pride, disobedience, etc.

I actually got my hands on a text by a leading modern Satanist (whose name I forget); it was barely enough to fill an afternoon of reading. Essentially, the point which

was made over and over was that Satanism is simply the opposite of everything the Biblical faiths teach. Since witchcraft is damned, Satanists practice sorcery and

witchcraft. Since sex is prohibited (outside narrow marital guidelines, primarily for procreation), Satanists practice orgies of nearly every imaginable deviation and perversion (in a curious twist, sexual congress with adolescents was said to carry immense magical weight in ritual ceremonies, because teens are purported to have the greatest intensity of spirituality!) Since the Bible holds up various behaviors as virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity, among others), Satanists hold those to be disgusting, and instead celebrate the Biblical vices and sins (Selfishness/Greed, Pessimism, and Unbelief, among others.)

Here we come to the root of the association; among Biblical beliefs, FAILURE to believe is a sin, punishable by damnation (Rev 21:8). Unbelievers will be cast into "the lake which burns with fire and brimstone," to join cowards, the abominable, murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars. (See also Rev. 22:15, which even adds "dogs" to the list!)

It may be forgivable to fail to believe in God in all true ignorance of Him. But to deliberately disbelieve, or to proclaim knowing unbelief in the face of revelation and the finest efforts of the preachy faithful is unforgivably sinful. If you happen to believe in an afterlife (just not in God...), the afterlife of the unbeliever will be relegated to Hell (a.k.a. Sheol, the pit, the lake of fire, etc.) Hell being the place in which Satan's throne is located, believers would somewhat naturally figure that you plan to worship Satan once you get there.

As it all comes down to swallowing the entire mythology as a whole, if you believe in the immortal soul, life after death, and so on, then you'd better choose up sides while

you can. On the other hand, if you don't buy ANY of it, why choose a Lord at all? If there is no God, how can there be a

(Continued on page 12)



Cartoon by Dave Lowe
<http://www.paraabnormalthecomix.com/>
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(Continued from page 10)

rectness. As a term that necessarily implies that race carries some difference of substance between individuals, its usefulness has diminished as our knowledge and tolerance have increased.

Yet, in any discussion of how our ancient ancestors interacted, tribe to tribe, region to region, race to race, and species to species, we must nonetheless acknowledge that we humans have an irrepressible inclination for miscegenation, given suitable circumstances. Call it whatever you will, but men will get together with women wherever and whenever they come into contact with one another, and their unions will beget children who share some of the characteristics of each parent.

Until we've all interbred so thoroughly that nobody can see a difference (a point which approaches more rapidly as our global transportation network brings distant peoples into contact with ever greater ease), some will continue to argue that race matters. However, to our instinct for reproduction it means nothing. Even between the multiple species of homo, I suggest, genetic identity has really been little more than a socio-cultural obstacle to reproduction for hundreds of thousands of years.

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(Continued from page 11)

Satan? If there is no afterlife, there are neither Heaven nor Hell to inhabit there. If you truly DON'T believe, the Bible itself, the morality it promotes, the manifold acts of virtue or sin, the promised rewards or punishments, ALL become simply a very old collection of fables, myths, and stories.

So no, atheism (and its kissing cousin, agnosticism) is not the same thing as Satanism, not by a long shot. Satanism requires very specific supernatural beliefs, which atheism rejects. Other than being mutually abhorred by good Jews, Christians, and/or Muslims, Satanism is entirely unrelated to a lack of belief in God(s). And, for an atheist/agnostic, there would seem to be no rationale to justify any acceptance of the beliefs or rituals associated with Satanism.

Paul Schlueter III is serving Life in Prison in NE Pennsylvania. His supporters have created a website about him. www.jaylbird.org

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Cartoon by Nick D. Kim, <http://www.lab-initio.com>
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How We Lost the 40 Years War

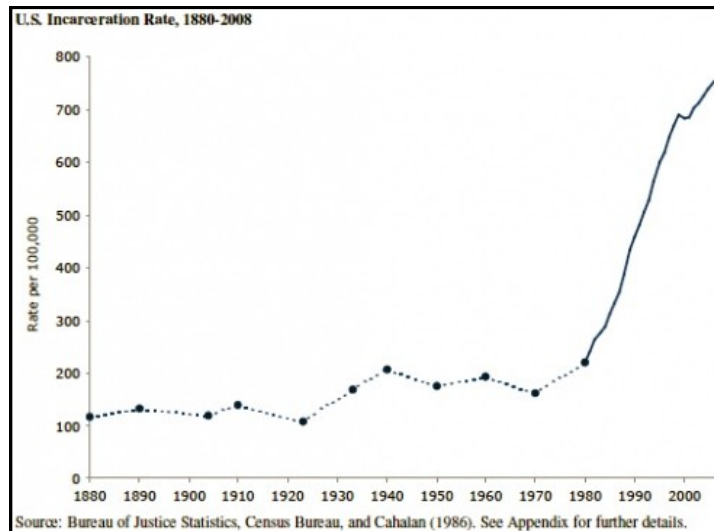
By Thomas M. Medero

I'd like to talk to you about something that's never popular at any time of day, but, it is just too compelling to avoid. The U.S has been in many wars throughout its history from the revolution with Great Britain, to the unspeakable horrors of the Civil War, World Wars I, II and Korea; Vietnam (which was the first to bring the horrific nightmare of war into our living rooms every night) and now in the Middle East. Although most of these conflicts gratefully lasted only a few years, few of us know that we have been at active war for 40 years, and in that time, made absolutely no progress. I've researched this situation from the viewpoint of the libertarians who just want government to keep their noses out of their business, and to the right-wing conservatives who are convinced in the eyes of God that relaxed drug laws will be the end of civilization as we know it. Expecting to find vehemence and a good dose of hostility, the more people I talked to, the more surprised I was to find a great deal of dissatisfaction but no feasible solutions. Conservatives and liberals arrived at the same conclusion: that America's 40 year war on drugs has been a miserable and costly lesson in failure quietly known by everyone from the people on the street to those completely out of touch hiding in the halls of power.

In 1972 President Nixon declared drugs in America as "Public Enemy No. 1." Since that time citizens arrested for non-violent cannabis violations have totaled over 260,922 fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and sons. That averages out to one person going to jail for a non-violent crime every 30 seconds. It seems extremely hypocritical to call ourselves "the land of the free" when simply possessing the desire to alter one's consciousness to no one else's harm lands you in jail. Oh, unless you choose to do it with alcohol. Then it's apparently OK with Uncle Sam. Our Federal

Government has spent, or more accurately has spent your money to the tune of \$15 billion dollars on this fiasco in 2010 alone – that comes out to \$5,000 a second. Simply astounding! In addition, the Department of Justice has found that state and local levels have spent in excess of \$7,806,614 for court time processing these cases and lodging those waiting for hearings in jail in toto, the cost for all non-violent drug offenders in a single year: 2009. This spike in arrests added another 95,000 people held representing a 20-fold increase fold increase in prisoners in only one year. To quote Gil Kerlikowske, President Obama's "Drug Czar", "...it has not been successful. Forty years later, the concern about drugs and drug problems is, if anything, magnified, intensified." (AP)

Let's put a firm number, in billions, on this war. Through the Freedom of Information Act, the Associated Press has found that U.S. taxpayers have shelled out \$20 billion to fight drug gangs in their home countries, including \$6 billion in Colombia; \$33 billion in marketing "Just Say No" messages to America's youth; \$49 billion for law enforcement along America's borders to cut off the flow of illegal drugs (even though 25 million Americans will this year snort, smoke, shoot, and swallow more than in 1970); \$121 billion to arrest more than 37 million non-violent drug offenders, 10 million of them for possession of marijuana alone; and \$450 billion to lock all those people up in federal prisons; and 215 billion a year for the U.S. Department of Justice to do it. Feeling ill yet? For all the dollars spent on this "War", it has done nothing to diminish substances there has and always will be a zealous demand for. As long as people want it, it will be here. It has been said that those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. Prohibition against alcohol ended just over 70 years ago, and the nightmares of bloodshed in that mistake have already been forgotten.



Addiction should never be treated as a crime. It has to be treated as a health problem. We do not send alcoholics to jail in this country. Over 500,000 people are in our jails who are nonviolent drug users. ~ Ralph Nader

Except for organized crime – that’s how they got their strongest foothold here.

For a change, let's be honest here – there's no way to stop people from wanting to alter their consciousness. People have been doing just that for the entire history of mankind. There is an ever-growing demand for these substances, and people seem to take incredible risks simply to obtain them. Marijuana, hashish, coca leaves cocaine is made from, and thousands of acres of opium poppies; past human history is our best indicator, so don't expect any change in course anytime soon, no matter how powerful the rhetoric is. There are no signs of demand ever decreasing.

The way the U.S. is conducting this war, they don't even have a specific enemy to fight against. Not drug users, or focusing on drug-related street crime, meth labs, or (my pet peeve) over-prescribing doctors. There are no specific enemies like Al Queda, the Taliban, Somali pirates, or terrorists. Not a single specific enemy. How can a war be won with no enemy? There is hope on the horizon, though, if we are capable and willing to take the moral judgment out of drug use and treat it as the psychological problem it is. Until and when this is seen as a treatable psychological disorder like any other, we will continue to throw billions of tax dollars out the window; this much Washington pork is a cardiologist's nightmare.

How long this consensus has been recognized? Back as far as in 1996 we heard from William F. Buckley, Jr., past editor of *The National Review* and a well known Influential Conservative Policy adviser who stated on the record “We are speaking of a plague that consumes an estimated \$75 billion per year of public money, exacts an estimated \$70 billion a year from consumers, is responsible for nearly 50

per cent of the million Americans who are today in jail, occupies an estimated 50 per cent of the trial time of our judiciary, and takes the time of 400,000 policemen -- yet a plague for which no cure is at hand, nor in prospect.” In an attempt to balance the view with law enforcement's perspective, they asked for Joseph McNamara's opinion, a former police chief

and was chief of police in Kansas City, Mo., and San Jose, California and made special inquiry into the unique problems of the war on drugs on the street. Mr. McNamara, who has earned a doctorate in public administration from Harvard University, is also the author of four books on policing. He, too, sees this as a cause that cannot be won. And these gentlemen are a little more plausible than “Joe the Plumber”.

A small glimmer of hope in resolving this disaster, *Time Magazine* reporter Maia Szalavitz reported that Portugal had set up a model 10 years ago that did not legalize drugs, but instead decriminalized them. This is a key difference. Included were Marijuana, Hashish, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Heroin. People are

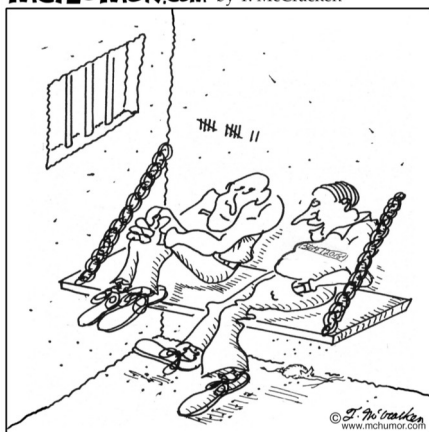
allowed to possess up to a ten day personal supply for themselves. Each person wanting help to quit can go before a three member board including a psychologist, social worker, and a legal adviser to make a determination on how best to help them. “Following decriminalization, Portugal had the lowest rate of lifetime marijuana use in people over 15 in the E.U.:10%. The most comparable figures in America are in people over 12: 39.8%. Additionally, new HIV infections have fallen 17% between 1999 and 2003.” Of course, as always, smugglers, traffickers and importers will still be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The incredible results of this experiment have been overwhelming in freeing the police to do their jobs catching violent criminals, and the money saved is being poured into treatment. It's a policy shift we need to think about long and hard and we should look at it very closely, as the waste of tax dollars in the U.S. to get nowhere is beyond ridiculous - especially when Congress is spending yours and my money.

In conclusion, The United State's war on drugs for the past 40 years has been a dismal failure. We must stop the denial in believing that this can be done and make fast progress as some bold and creative countries have started to do. Portugal offers a model that may provide insight on how we may revise some of our policies to start making changes that actually work. Here in the U.S. we have some of the best minds and the most creative people in the world, and I'm certain their up to the task. An “Appeal to Authority” in this case is not just a fallacy, its costing lives.

Originally from Long Island, NY, Tom has lived in and around Philadelphia for the last twenty years. Currently attending Community College of Philadelphia, he plans to matriculate next year to Temple University's Psychology department to focus on cognitive neuroscience and moral philosophy. He is primarily concerned with the dangerous effects of a ubiquitous lack of cogent reasoning in today's society, and focusing his efforts on correcting it.



MCHUMOR.COM by T. McCracken



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PHACT CALENDAR



Dr. David Cattell, Chairman of the Physics Department of Community College of Philadelphia hosts meetings of **PhACT** - at 2:00 PM on the third Saturday of most months at Community College of Philadelphia., Parking is easily available and costs \$3.75 for all day. Enter the college parking lot on 17th Street which is one way south bound. This meeting site is handicap accessible. **PhACT Meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.**

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - Annual PhACT Banquet at Sorello Rose in Flourtown, PA. **Thomas Beebe**, Professor of Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University will discuss the **End of the World**, including the **End of the World** scheduled for that particular day. Should our meal begin with dessert? Reservations are a must. See **page 1** for more details.

Saturday June 25, 2011 - Annual PhACT Picnic. See **Page 2** for details. www.phact.org

Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 2:00 PM- PhACT Meeting - The Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. **Earl Bennett** who has been President of the Philadelphia Area Space Alliance (PASA) for a number of years will discuss this topic. PASA promotes science and technology education by performing outreach to the general public as guests of various museums and organizations.

Saturday, October 15, 2011 - TBA

Saturday, November 19, 2011 - TBA

Monday, May 9, 2011 at 6:00 PM at National Mechanics, 22 S. Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Science on Tap is a monthly gathering that features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation.

<http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/science-on-tap/index.aspx>

Free and Open to the Public. Must be 21 or accompanied by a responsible adult.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at Noon. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel: 215-925-2222 • <http://www.chemheritage.org>

Brown Bag Lecture: "Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory: RCA and the Commercialization of the LCD"

A talk by Benjamin Gross

When RCA executives announced the creation of the first liquid-crystal display (LCD) in 1968, the commercial possibilities seemed endless. As the nation's leader in consumer electronics, RCA was well-positioned to integrate LCDs into wristwatches, automobile dashboards, and perhaps even flat-panel televisions. Yet within a decade the company abandoned these efforts and sold its liquid-crystal manufacturing facilities. This Brown Bag Lecture explores the chain of events culminating in RCA's decision to abandon the LCD, from the perspective of the scientists, engi-

neers, and managers associated with the project.

Benjamin Gross is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of science program at Princeton University and the 2009–2010 Charles C. Price Dissertation Fellow in Polymer History at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. His dissertation focuses on flat-panel display research at RCA between 1951 and 1976. Before applying to graduate school he taught Philadelphia public high-school students chemistry and physics as a member of Teach for America. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:30 PM - Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting. At the Franklin Institute, Free.

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 12:30 PM at University of Pennsylvania Museum, 3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Penn Museum Scholars Lecture Series

A series of lunchtime lectures that highlights the work and research of Penn Museum scholars. Guests are welcome to bring their lunch.

This week: **Melinda G. Nelson-Hurst - Middle Kingdom Careers: Ideology vs. Reality**

Scholars have long recognized that the ancient Egyptians considered it ideal for a son to follow in his father's footsteps in terms of his social

The **PhACT Calendar** is open to members and non-members who wish to announce meetings and events of other groups of which they are interested or affiliated. These events should be of some general interest to the Skeptical or Scientific community and should be within a reasonable radius of Philadelphia. Send submissions to the editor at phactpublicity@aol.com. Keep the announcements brief. Space is limited and insertions will be made on a first come-first served basis after the needs of PhACT are accomplished. Phactum does not accept paid advertising.

standing, his role within his family, and his profession or office. A son following his father in these ways, especially the latter, is often referred to as an aspect of the son's inheritance. However, many factors could influence a man's career trajectory, including his social standing, wealth, age, experience, ties to the royal court, political alliances, and his family's influence. This talk will discuss the results of an examination of numerous family case studies dating to the Middle Kingdom period to identify whether officials from this time were often able to achieve the ideal of following in their fathers' offices and, when they did not, which other types of career paths they frequently followed.

Admission: Pay-what-you-want

<http://www.penn.museum/events-calendar>

Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 6:30PM at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-3737 x304

http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

POX: An American History, a talk by author Michael Willrich

Historian Michael Willrich discusses his book *POX: An American History* (The Penguin Press; March 31, 2011), which offers a gripping chronicle of how the nation's continent-wide fight against smallpox in the early 1900s launched one of the most important civil liberties struggles of the twentieth century. Willrich explores the intersection of public health initiatives and private medical decisions as well as the polarizing debate about the morality, ethics, safety, and effectiveness of vaccines.

In *POX: An American History*, Willrich suggests that many of the questions first raised by the Progressive-era antivaccination movement are still with us today as we consider the federal government's role in ensuring access to health care: How far should the government go to protect us? What happens when the interests of public health collide with religious beliefs and personal conscience?

Willrich explores the government's response to the deadly smallpox epidemic at the dawn of the activist progressive era and during a moment of great optimism about modern medicine. The measures enacted to contain the disease—quarantines, pesthouses, and “virus squads”—sparked a wave of popular resistance among Americans who perceived them as a threat to their health and to their rights.

Free. To register: <http://pox.eventbrite.com/>

Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 6pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

The Science of Death: What Lies within Mutter and beneath Laurel Hill

Curiosity is a wonderful thing and this twilight tour's trip through the mysterious and bizarre is sure to keep you riveted from beginning to end. Join Anna Dhody, Curator at The Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians, as she regales you with an informative talk on the historic rise of embalming during and after the Civil War. Let your inquisitive side be your guide as you learn about chemicals, equipment and just what makes the science of death. Attendees will also have the opportunity to check out some of the Museum's great objects along with the lecture.

Afterwards, journey with us through Laurel Hill Cemetery as we visit some of our “residents” with the oddest stories, including a prominent industrialist's strange and fatal dental visit, a victim of the Old West cook nick-

SOCRATES CAFE is moderated by: Lewis Mifsud, Ph.D., P.E., a member of PhACT and of The American Academy of Forensic Sciences. At 7:00 PM every Monday evening except holidays (on Tuesdays after a Monday holiday) at the Springfield Township Public Library (215-836-5300) at 1600 Papermill Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA. 19038. This philosophical discussions group is free and open to the public. Join us and share your critical thinking, questions and opinions.



named “Red Bill” and the woman who simply left behind her heart. No tour on this subject would be complete without greeting a few of Philadelphia's famed undertakers as well. The event will conclude with light refreshments, wine and beer in the gatehouse where visitors can mingle and ask what is sure to be many questions after this fascinating excursion through history.

This joint program between the The Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians and the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery will take place at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. For more information about the The Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians, please visit www.collegeofphysicians.org.

Advance registration is required. \$30.00 admission.

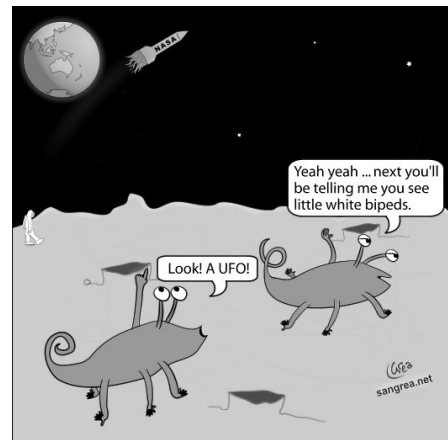
Friday, May 13, 2011 at 8:00 PM: Delaware Valley Mensa General Membership Meeting.

ET PHONE HOME: The Search for Intelligent Life*

Speaker: Earl Bennett

Once it was just assumed that the Sun circled the Earth and Earth contained the only life in the universe. But that idea has gone the way of the Flat Earth Theory and the Intelligent Design Theory. However, with every person having a camera in his/her pocket, where are the photos, where is the proof of UFOs? Well, we are going to investigate this hypothesis this month with an in-depth look at the SETI project; that is, the search for intelligent life [someplace] in the universe.

Earl Bennett is the President of the Philadelphia Area Space Alliance. His day job is a research scientist working on the development of a Laser Cane for the blind and several other devices in the general category of Electronic Travel Aids. Much of his research centers around the needs of the blind and the mobility impaired (wheelchair users, people who used scooters etc).



Cartoon by Grea
<http://www.sangrea.net>
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Prior to the meeting, those who can, are invited to attend the pre-General Membership Meeting Dinner at a secret location someplace in the heart of "the City with a Million Eat'ries"'s very own Chinatown or Ol'City. This is an excellent opportunity to have a good meal and get to speak with the evening's guest, one on one. Contact Pete Stevens to reserve your place at dinner, by NOON on Friday.

Join us at the Police Administration Building, 750 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA. Please note: During the meeting, parking is allowed behind the building (despite the "Police Officers Only" notice) and IT IS FREE! This meeting is DVM's only activity specifically open to the public. Feel free to extend invitations to friends, neighbors, relatives, colleagues, jarheads, airheads, bubbleheads, and headbangers.

PS: Don't let traffic on the Schuylkill Expressway interfere with attending. Consider taking SEPTA and exiting at Market Street East / Gallery, it is only a two block walk to the Police Administration Building. Contact Pete, 215-235-pete, for additional information.

* the search is outside of Earth, since none has been discovered there.

Friday, May 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Anti-Superstition Party and Friggatriskaidophobia Treatment Center at the

Corinthian Yacht Club, 300 West 2nd Street, Essington, Pa 19029

Only one thing can be predicted for this *Friday the Thirteenth*—it will be an anxiety-filled day for the superstitious and gullible. Friggatriskaidophobes (those afflicted souls who possess an overwhelming fear of *Friday the Thirteenth*) will surely step out the door in trepidation, wondering what the “dark” day will have in store.

Astrology, belief in alien abductions, and faith in “alternative” medicine are all evidence that superstition is still a powerful force in America. You need only look at the million-dollar-a-year economic impact that plane and train reservation cancellations, absenteeism, and reduced commerce has on the American economy to see that the influence of superstition is far from harmless. Indeed, merely the personal anxiety and inconvenience of these ancient superstitions can ruin this day for millions of Americans.

This *Friday the Thirteenth*, **Margaret Downey** (President of the Free-thought Society) wants you to limbo under a ladder, step on a crack, trash your zodiac sign, dance inside with an open umbrella, and break a mirror. Dressed as The Friggatriskaidophobia Treatment Nurse, she and volunteers of the Free-thought Society will provide more anti-superstition fun on **Friday, May 13, 2011** by inviting attendees to poke fun at various superstitious beliefs through games, exhibits of silly superstitions, and free educational literature. DJ led dancing and anti-superstition music will make the party experience even more exciting and entertaining.

The special guests for the event are **Tom Flynn**, Editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine and PZ Myers, the author of the science blog “Pharyngula” and University of Minnesota Morris biology professor. Admissions are: \$10, \$5 for seniors and students, no charge for children under 13 and free to the press (with ID). Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and door prizes.

For more information about this unusual extravaganza, visit the following websites and/or contact:

Margaret Downey, Phone: (610) 793-2737, Fax: (610) 793-2569, Cell: (610) 357-9432

Email: Margaret@FtSociety.org

Websites: www.friggatriskaidophobia.com and www.FtSociety.org

Saturday, May 14, 2011 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at APS Museum in **Philosophical Hall**, 104 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia.

Picturing Petals: Josephine Bonaparte—wife of the famous French Emperor, Napoleon—had one of the largest flower gardens in Europe. She was famous for growing rare and exotic flowers from around the world. Join artist Julianna Struck, who will show you how to create your own unique artwork made up of flower petals and leaves. Don’t forget to stop inside the Of Elephants & Roses exhibition to learn more about the art and science of flowers.

Second Saturdays are family-friendly afternoons (for ages 5+) at the APS Museum, featuring activities and/or demonstrations inspired by the Of Elephants & Roses exhibition. FREE admission

<http://www.amphilsoc.org>

Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 1:30pm at Eastern State Penitentiary, 2027 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130 phone: (215) 236-3300

Alumni Reunion

People are sometimes surprised to find that many of Eastern State’s former officers and inmates enjoy returning to the cellblocks to catch up with old friends and share their memories with the public.

This weekend only, our Alumni — both officers and inmates — answer questions and meet visitors.

Free with admission

<http://www.easternstate.org>

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at Noon at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel: 215-925-2222 • <http://www.chemheritage.org>

Brown Bag Lecture: “Body Holocaust: Antibiotics, Good Germs, and Disease Ecologies, 1940s–1950s”**A talk by Funke Sangodeyi**

This talk will examine how antibiotics and sulfa drugs affected medical research and practice and created new clinical problems because of the effects of the drugs on the “normal bacterial flora” of humans. It will show how the eradication of this flora came to be seen as a problem and a research tool within and beyond the clinic.

Funke Sangodeyi is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of science at Harvard University.

Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7:30PM at Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, 19103, 215-686-5322

Erik Larson | In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin

Widely acclaimed as a master of narrative nonfiction, Erik Larson is the author of three New York Times bestsellers, including *The Devil in the White City*, which remained on the hardcover and paperback lists for a combined total of more than three years. Set on the cusp of World War II, *In the Garden of Beasts* follows the American ambassador to Nazi Germany and his family as they settle in the heart of Hitler’s Berlin in a grand old house on the city’s central park, the Tiergarten—in literal translation, the Garden of Beasts. Suffused with the tense atmosphere of the period, the family first experiences an optimistic city of packed cafés and concert halls before a climactic spasm of violence reveals Hitler’s ruthless ambition and true character.

FREE. No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM Penn Science Cafe - At the MarBar, 40th and Walnut streets, 2nd floor of the Marathon Grill, menu items available for purchase - **Neuroeconomics: Decision Making and the Brain** - **Joe Kable, Associate Professor of Psychology**

Recent discoveries are shedding light on the neural mechanisms that underlie decisions. Kable, a social neuroscientist who studies decision-making, will discuss the new field of neuroeconomics and how neuroscience

informs work in economics and marketing, and at a practical level how neuroscience is being used in business. Kable’s research seeks to understand how people make decisions, and in tracing out the underlying psychological and neural mechanisms of choice. His laboratory draws on methods and ideas from social and cognitive neuroscience, experimental economics, and personality psychology. Free and open to the Public. <http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/sciencecafe>

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - 12:00PM - 1:00PM at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-3737 x304

http://www.colphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

Food & Thought: What’s New in Ancient Greece: Recent Research at the Sanctuary of Zeus on Mt. Lykaion, Arcadia, Greece

In the ancient Greek region of Arcadia, in the southern Peloponnesos, the Sanctuary of Zeus on Mt. Lykaion stands out for its great fame, mysterious rituals and wide-ranging significance. This site fascinated the ancient Greeks, and has continued to be important for modern-day scholars of archaeology, classics, and Greek religion. Indeed, the whole mountain was considered to be a sacred place by ancient Greeks and was identified in Greek mythology as the birthplace of Zeus. Learn more about this fascinating place, and the recent scholarly research documenting the Sanctuary’s historical importance and mysterious, secret



Empress Josephine Bonaparte
(1763 - 1814)

rituals.

Speaker: David Gilman Romano, PhD, Director of Greek Archaeological Projects in the Mediterranean Section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch. To register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1111483477>

Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 6pm at the American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19145

(215) 389-1776 www.americanswedish.org

A Swedish Artist in the American Landscape - Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence

A Lecture with Dr. James M. Kaplan

As a Swedish immigrant to the United States in the late 19th century, Birger Sandzén used his Old World sense and artistic training to capture



the majesty of the New World in his paintings. As a result, he came to be considered one of the foremost artists of the American landscape, in particular for his images of the American West. His work is chronicled in the book *Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence* by Dr. James M. Kaplan, of Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Mountains, Birger Sandzén, Oil on Canvas, 1924

On Thursday, May 19th, Dr. Kaplan will present a lecture on Sandzén's life and work, as well as sign copies of his book. If you own a Sandzén painting or print, please bring it with you for the show-and-tell portion of the lecture. "Works by Sandzén" from ASHM's permanent collection will also be on display on the balcony level. A light dinner buffet will be served at 6pm, followed by the lecture at 7pm. Admission for is \$15 for ASHM members, \$20 for non-members. Seating is limited, RSVP by May 16th. For more information or to register on-line, visit the museum's website, americanswedish.org/calendar.htm.

Friday, May 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers in the Greater Plymouth Community Center, 2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA

The Transit of Venus in 2012

Drew Maser

Free and open to the public. <http://dvaa.org>

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ments and rare surviving colonial artifacts. By the mid-1800s, simple hearse styles were evolving into ornate examples. This trend would continue after the Civil War when manufacturers produced stunning hearses with heavy plate glass windows, hand carved wooden bodies, and silver plated trimmings. Other trends of the 19th century will be explored as well, including smaller white hearses for children – a style first developed in New Jersey. By the early 1900s motorized hearses began to replace horse-drawn modes of transport. The first commercially produced motorized hearse was offered in 1909, the same year that motion picture cameras documented one of the earliest automobile funeral processions from New York City to a New Jersey cemetery.

This well-illustrated lecture will be led by Mark Nonestied. Mark has been a staff member with the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission since 1991. He currently serves as the Director of Exhibits and Programs for a historic site in central New Jersey. He is a member of the Association for Gravestone Studies and served as conference co-chair for the 1998 Annual Conference in New Jersey. He has lectured widely on New Jersey cemetery topics both regionally and internationally. Mark has also co-authored various articles that have appeared in *Ceramics in America* on New Jersey's role in the brick, tile and terra cotta industry. He is the author of *East Brunswick*, published by Arcadia Press and the co-author (along with Richard Veit) of *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape* Rutgers University Press 2008.

After the lecture, join us for refreshments and a chance to view two historic – though very different – funeral vehicles on display. West Laurel Hill Cemetery (www.forever-care.com) will provide an original example of a post-Civil War era, hand carved, horse-drawn hearse, replete with red velvet interior and working lanterns. The hearse can still be rented out for funerals through West Laurel Hill's Bringham Funeral Home, ensuring that passengers will reach their final destination in style. In addition, collector Russ Slegel will provide FYNLYD (<http://who2c.com/FYNLYD>), his 1947 Pontiac Hearse, which has been modified as a street rod. Having taken many a corpse to their grave, this hearse is now enjoying a life most hearses never know. Dubbed the ultimate Sport Undertaker Vehicle, FYNLYD will be available for not-so-final rides through Laurel Hill.

\$30.00 general / \$27.00 members / \$25.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 10am at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Memorial Day Flag Placement

The General Meade Society of Philadelphia, in conjunction with the Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery, calls all VOLUNTEERS to assist in preparing for the nation's Memorial Day commemoration. The group will convene at Laurel Hill Cemetery on Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 AM. Those assembled will be assigned to place American flags on the gravesites of Veterans that served in all of our nation's Wars. As time and manpower permit, and in addition to Laurel Hill, cemeteries covered may include Mount Moriah, Mount Peace and St. James the Less. Free refreshments will be provided.

FREE

Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 2pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

By Arms and Courage: The Military Legacy of Laurel Hill

In addition to the many Civil War military figures who rest at Laurel Hill, there are numerous individuals who served in our Nation's other conflicts: the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Indian Wars, Spanish/American War, and the great global conflicts of the 20th Century. Join us as we pay tribute to those who served bravely and now rest in honored glory.

\$15.00 general / \$12.00 members / \$10.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Monday, May 23, 2011 from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM at The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA

PhACT Event

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - Annual PhACT Banquet at Sorello Rose in Flourtown, PA. Thomas Beebe, Professor of Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University will discuss the End of the World, including the End of the World scheduled for that day. Should our meal begin with dessert? Reservations are required. See page 1 for details.

Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 1pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Corpses to the Grave: A History of the Hearse

Corpses to the Grave: A History of the Hearse explores the history of the hearse and other funeral conveyances. The lecture starts in the 1700s by examining historic docu-

19103

www.ansp.org/environmental/
215-299-1108 cep@ansp.org

Local Food - Safe Food: Bringing it to Market

Many people support the idea of purchasing local, sustainably grown food, but the current system for distributing and regulating food production makes it difficult for local growers to get their products out to the public.

Safety regulations, in particular, are designed to protect the public from issues in large-scale industrial food production, and in many cases do not address the issues of local, sustainable food.

In this program we will hear from experts in agriculture, health, and food policy to determine the best way to increase availability of local food while still ensuring consumer safety.

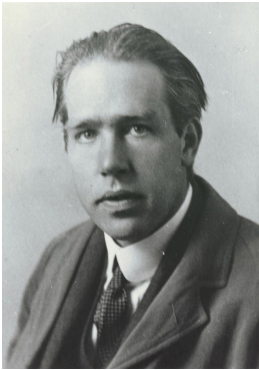
Free. To register, please visit: <http://www.localfoodsafefood.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 - noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Brown Bag Lecture: "Niels Bohr's Writing"

A talk by Megan Shields Formato

Niels Bohr's colleagues and friends were alternately amused and frustrated by his rigid and labor-intensive relationship to dictation, drafting, and revision. In most accounts these writing practices have the status of an entertaining puzzle or peripheral anecdote that, while always deserving mention, is set to the side so that other more pressing questions about his contributions to science can be explored. This talk will describe Bohr's writing practices as a central part of his scientific practice. Particular attention will be paid to Bohr's practice of dictating his first drafts to an amanuensis. The talk will explore the origins and effects of this dictation practice, along with the ways that it has been accounted for by Bohr, his colleagues, and the secondary literature.



Niels Bohr
(1885 - 1962)

Megan Shields Formato is a Ph.D. student in the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University. In her dissertation, "Writing the Atom: Niels Bohr and the Communication of Early Quantum Theory," she tells the story of the development of the Bohr atom by tracking Bohr's writing: the writing practices themselves, Bohr's prescriptions for the ideal writing of quantum theory, and the responses these ideals and practices evoked from his colleagues. She argues that writing practices are constitutive of and essential for understanding the development of the Bohr atom and quantum theory and that Bohr's strange writing practices and rules for publication prompted his colleagues to respond with their own ideas for the ways science should be written and communicated. Megan's research interests include the literary dimensions of scientific practice, history of technology, book history, and the history of 20th-century physics.

Free and Open to the Public.

<http://www.chemheritage.org>

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 - at 7:15 P.M. at Brittingham's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 640 East Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania. (610)828-7351

J. Kevin Graffagnino, Director of the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. He will speak on "**The Quotable Ethan Allen.**" Leader of the Green Mountain Boys, hero of Ticonderoga, defender of independent Vermont, and the New England frontier's version of Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett, Ethan Allen was also a prolific and passionate writer. Based on his 2005 book with H. Nicholas Muller III, *The Quotable Ethan Allen*, Kevin Graffagnino's lecture offers a representative selection of Ethan's fiery rhetoric on the Yankee v. Yorker struggle for control of Vermont, the American Revolution, theology, the rights of man, and other subjects that attracted his attention. Anyone who's encountered Ethan Allen in early American history will enjoy this encounter with Ethan in his

own words. -

This meeting is free and open to the public. <http://arrtop.com/>

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 4:00 - 7:00 PM Lecture at 5:30 PM at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, 1700 West Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121

ph 215-763-6529 www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org

Creating a Machine Civilization:

Photography, Technology, and American Culture

An Illustrated Presentation by Dr. Miles Orvell, Temple University



South Street Bridge looking west, c. 1900.
Collection of the Wagner Free Institute of Science Library & Archives.

Photography emerged in a society being radically transformed by technology and industry. This talk will look at nineteenth- and early twentieth century images of railroads, factories and industrial landscapes, and explore the underlying ideas and attitudes toward technology. Images from the Wagner's recently digitized lantern slide collection, including historic views of Philadelphia, will be featured in the talk.

Dr. Miles Orvell, Professor of English and American Studies at Temple University, has a broad interest in modern American culture. He is the author of *The Real Thing: Imitation and Authenticity in American Culture, 1880-1940*, and *After the Machine: Visual Arts and the Erasing of Cultural Boundaries*. His essays and reviews have appeared in *American Art*, *History of Photography*, and many other journals.

Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at APS Museum in Philosophical Hall, 104 S. 5th Street, Philadelphia

A Passion for Roses: The Empress, the Quaker, and the Flower They Loved

Nicole Juday

Shakespeare sang the praises of the fragrant rose, but it was 200 years later when Empress Josephine and the gardeners at her private estate, Malmaison, popularized the genus *rosa*. Josephine, a great collector of everything animal and vegetable, set out to obtain every rose species then known. In 1814, when she died, 182 varieties of roses—mainly Gallica cultivars—were growing there. Less than ten years later, Jane and Reuben Haines, members of a distinguished Quaker family, began their ambitious tenure at Wyck in Germantown, then a village outside of Philadelphia. Jane Haines's special passion was roses, and she planted a garden filled with many of the same roses cultivated by Josephine. Today, Jane's garden is the oldest, continuously cultivated rose collection in the United States. Wyck Landscape Curator Nicole Juday will discuss the gardens at Wyck and trace how Josephine's enthusiasm for roses and rose breeding influenced 19th century American gardens.

This event is in partnership with Wyck Historic House and Garden.

Free and open to the public. <http://www.amphilsoc.org>

Sunday, May 29, 2011. at 12 noon at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave. Philadelphia.

Annual Memorial Day Observed Recreating Original G.A.R. Decoration Day Service of 1868:

The traditional Decoration Day service of the Grand Army Meade Post #1 will be recreated at Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and participate in the ceremony.

Laurel Hill is the site of the first Memorial Day Observance in Philadelphia on this date in 1868. Special bronze veterans' markers will be dedicated at the graves of veterans. Speakers, ceremonies and pageant will highlight this special ceremony. Afterwards the entourage will gather at the grave of General Meade, hero of Gettysburg to perform the traditional service to honor all veterans who fell defending the Nation. Wreath-laying, speeches, music and honor guards will enhance the ceremony. Historical groups, veterans, and citizens are urged to participate. Wreaths, military contingents, color guards, music and period civilians are encouraged to participate.

Refreshments served after the ceremony. Tours of the historic cemetery available.

Co-sponsored by the General Meade Society of Philadelphia; Friends of Laurel Hill; American Legion Post #405; Post #1 Society, Union League; Anna M. Ross Camp #1, Sons of Union Veterans. For information, call: 215-228-8200

Wednesday, June 1, 2011 - 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Tel: 215-925-2222 • <http://www.chemheritage.org>

IYC 2011 Book Club: This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

The IYC 2011 book club pairs speakers with books to give readers a sense of the humanistic aspects of chemistry through strong narratives.

Featured reading and speaker

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

Listen to Mütter Museum director Robert Hicks—in full Civil War surgeon's uniform—discuss the state of medicine and how the Civil War dead recast understandings of national destiny and sacrifice.

About the IYC 2011 book club

CHF presents a bi-monthly IYC 2011 book club in partnership with Head House Books—an independent Philadelphia shop that runs book clubs and a speakers program. Participants are not expected to have a chemistry (or strong science) background. The book list includes fiction and nonfiction, works by chemists and by science journalists, books on recent science, and books with a strong element of history of science. Speakers are chemists, historians of science, perfume makers, and artists.

The International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011) is a worldwide celebration of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind.

Free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 4, 2011 5pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

From Able-Bodied to Disembodied: The Athletes at Rest in Laurel Hill

Rowers, baseball players, sports writers and Olympic Athletes all have a resting place at Laurel Hill. Some have met a tragic end; others are the best sports players you've never heard of. This tour gives you the inside scoop on the life and times of our athletic heroes. If you've ever wondered, "why do sports matter?", this is the tour for you. Afterwards, ticket holders will be able to watch the Phillies take on the Pittsburgh Pirates in a nighttime game on a large screen TV while enjoying cold beer, hot dogs, soft pretzels, and other ballpark favorites.

Advance registration is required.

\$35.00 general / \$30.00 members / \$25.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:30 PM - Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting. At the Franklin Institute, Free.

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 6pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

A Tour and Toast to Our Famous Fishtowners

Many of the personas synonymous with Philadelphia's Fishtown & Kensington neighborhoods now rest at Laurel Hill Cemetery – names such as Bromley, Cramp, Rotan, Vaughn, and Chandler, as well as other lesser known Fishtowners, but still major figures in Philadelphia history. Join us this summer evening as we tour their gravesites. The program will be led by Ken Milano, a Kensington born historian and genealogical researcher with over twenty years experience in the history of Philadelphia's colonial neighborhoods of Fishtown and Kensington.

Afterwards, join us back at the Cemetery Gatehouse for refreshments. Beer will be generously donated by Fishtown-based business, KD Financial Services. A diverse collection of Fishtown memorabilia will be on display for viewing over a drink or two. And, Ken will also be on hand to sign copies of his books, Remembering Kensington & Fishtown, The History of Penn Treaty Park and The History of the Kensington Soup Society.

\$20.00 general / \$17.00 members / \$15.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 5pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Of Planets, Paper & Pendulums: The Life & Times of David Rittenhouse

The program will commence at Historic RittenhouseTown, where experienced guides will lead visitors through the home where David Rittenhouse was born in 1732, and the village where he spent his early years.

Special items related to David will be on display, including a David Rittenhouse clock; a letter written by David, referring to Benjamin Franklin, while he was President of the American Philosophical Society; and a compass made by his brother Benjamin. A Rittenhouse interpreter will be on hand to answer questions about the achievements of this great scientist and statesman.

The program will reconvene at Laurel Hill Cemetery, where we will visit the gravesites of David Rittenhouse and his wife Hannah, and provide an explanation of how they came to be reinterred in the famed National Historic Landmark Cemetery from a simple city churchyard. We will then visit the gravesites of several of his contemporaries and some of those who followed in his footsteps, leading the way to the Industrial Revolution. These comprise individuals engaged in various fields of scientific study, commerce and politics, each of whom well reflects the influence of Rittenhouse on our nation.

Following the program, attendees are invited to join us in Laurel Hill's historic Gatehouse for socializing, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music, where we will duly toast the life of the remarkable David Rittenhouse.

Please note that participants will be responsible for their own transport to and between Historic RittenhouseTown and Laurel Hill Cemetery. Detailed directions between sites, just 3 miles apart down Lincoln and Kelly Drives, will be provided at registration.

Tickets can be purchased in our online store.

\$60.00 general / \$55.00 seniors / \$50.00 FLHC or Historic Rittenhouse-Town members

Email tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org

Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 2pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Buried in the Land of Strangers: The Confederates of Laurel Hill Cemetery

Fate denied them victory, but gave them immortality. From Pennsylvania's highest ranking Civil War general, to the unmarked grave of a spy who came in from the cold, learn the history never before told of Philadelphians who fought for the Confederacy: who they were, why they fought, and how they came to be buried -- in the land of strangers.

\$15.00 general / \$12.00 members / \$10.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Monday, June 13, 2011 at 6:00 PM at National Mechanics, 22 S. Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Science on Tap is a monthly gathering that features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation.

<http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/science-on-tap/index.aspx>

Free and Open to the Public. Must be 21 or accompanied by a responsible adult.

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 6:30PM at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-3737 x304

http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

The President Is a Sick Man: Exploring an often forgotten tale of President Grover Cleveland



Grover Cleveland
(1837 - 1908)
22nd and 24th President

Join author **Matthew Algeo** as he discusses his new book, *The President Is a Sick Man: Wherein the Supposedly Virtuous Grover Cleveland Survives a Secret Surgery at Sea and Vilifies the Courageous Newspaperman Who Dared Expose the Truth*.

Algeo previously authored *Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip and The Last Team Standing*. In *The President Is a Sick Man*, Algeo explores the secret operation that President Grover Cleveland had to remove a cancerous tumor—which now resides within the cases of the Mutter Museum!

This event is free and open to the public.

To Register: <http://grovercleveland.eventbrite.com/>

Friday, June 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM -

Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers in the Greater Plymouth Community Center, 2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA

TBA

Free and open to the public. <http://dvaa.org>

Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 2pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Fathers and Sons in Arms: Two Generations of Military Heroes

Like father, like son. They marched off together in times of crisis, bonded not only by blood but by patriotic commitment as well. This Father's Day Weekend, visit the resting places of fathers and their sons, some of whom paid the Last Full Measure of Devotion in their defense of the Nation. Who were these men? What drew them to follow the same path and how did their family bond shape their experience of war, service and love of country?

\$15.00 general / \$12.00 members / \$10.00 seniors & students

Children under 12 are free

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 7:30PM at Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, 19103, 215-686-5322

Harold Holzer and James McPherson | Hearts Touched by Fire: The Best of Battles and Leaders of the Civil War

A professor emeritus of History at Princeton University, James McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, his single-volume treatment of the Civil War that set a benchmark for scholarship in the field. He is the author of nearly twenty additional books, each focused on a particular aspect of the Civil War. Harold Holzer is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. A prolific writer, he has written or edited more than thirty-five books. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by

President Bush in 2008. Hearts Touched by Fire offers first-hand accounts of the war's great battles written by the men who planned, fought, and witnessed them.

Cost: \$15 General Admission, \$7 Students

For ticket information check: <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/calendar/calbydate.cfm?ID=29044&type=2>

PhACT Event

Saturday June 25, 2011 - Annual PhACT Picnic. See Page 2 for details. www.phact.org

Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 1:30pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Lincoln and the Widow Bixby: A Humanities on the Road Television Taping

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) and the Pennsylvania Cable Network have joined forces to produce *Humanities on the Road*, a new television series hosted by award-winning journalist Tracey Matisak that will bring public humanities presentations to more than 3.3 million households throughout the state. Pennsylvanians can now experience an enriching dialogue on arts and culture while getting an inside look at the Commonwealth's various communities and cultural sites.

During its second season, PHC will be taping *Lincoln and the Widow Bixby* at Laurel Hill Cemetery. Historian Judith Ginsberg discusses the *Widow Bixby* and how we survive the experiences of war. *Bixby's* story commences in the fall of 1864, when Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew wrote to President Lincoln asking him to express condolences to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a widow who was believed to have lost five sons during the Civil War. Lincoln's letter to her was printed by the *Boston Evening Transcript*. It was later revealed that only two of Mrs. Bixby's five sons died in battle; one deserted the army, one was honorably discharged, and another may have deserted or died as a prisoner of war. In this presentation on the subject, Ginsberg will use images and discussion to create an active conversation about women's wartime experiences.

All members of the public are invited to join us as guests for this live television taping of *Lincoln and the Widow Bixby*, which will later air in millions of households throughout our great Commonwealth. A reception, to include wine, cheese and assorted refreshments, will immediately follow the taping.

FREE. Please arrive by 1:30pm for a 2:00pm taping start time

While the program is FREE, space is limited, and advance registration is requested. Reserve your space by phone (215) 228-8200 or email tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 7:30PM at Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, 19103, 215-686-5322

Irshad Manji | Allah, Liberty and Love: The Courage to Reconcile Faith and Freedom

Irshad Manji—a "crown jewel in the history of the modern women's movement" according to Barry Gewen in the *New York Times*—won Oprah's first Chutzpah Award for "audacity, nerve, boldness, and conviction." She directs the Moral Courage Project at New York University, developing leaders who challenge intellectual conformity, and founded Project Ijtihad, promoting critical thinking in Islam. In countries that have banned her first book, *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*, Manji reaches readers by posting free translations on her website. The Arabic, Urdu and Farsi editions have been downloaded more than a million times. In *Allah, Liberty, and Love*, Manji aims to reconcile her faith in Allah with her love of freedom.

FREE. No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341

I support the aims of PhACT and would like to join/rejoin for the next year. The annual membership is \$15 and \$10 for students which includes e-mail delivery of Phactum.

If you wish **US Mail delivery annual membership is \$25.** Checks should be payable to **PhACT.**

Membership dues of \$ _____ enclosed to pay for _____ years of membership.

Donation of \$ _____ enclosed for additional support
Donation of \$ _____ dedicated for High School Science Fair prizes

Mail checks to:
PhACT
653 Garden Road
Glenside, PA 19038

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E_mail _____

The Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking is grateful for the hospitality extended by Community College of Philadelphia and especially Dr. David Cattell, Chair of the Physics Department, for hosting PhACT and giving us access to such excellent facilities. Part of CCP's mission is to serve Philadelphia as a premiere learning institution and PhACT is pleased to support this goal by having talks on wide ranging, engaging, and educational topics.

PhACT's High School Science Fair Student Prize Funds

Prizes awarded in 2010	= \$ 300.00
Prizes awarded in 2011	= \$ 500.00
Leftover prize from 2011 prizes	= \$ 28.00
New donations	= \$ 28.00
Total 2012 Prize Fund	= \$ 56.00

Please donate. Small contributions are preferred and donations in excess of the 2011 goal will be applied to the 2012 Prize Fund or some other youth science education project not yet determined.

ALL money collected for this project will be used for student prizes. PhACT members and others are invited to participate as judges. Contact Eric Krieg for more information: erickrieg@verizon.net

Phactum is, in theory, distributed 6 times a year and is the main propaganda organ for the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking.

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