

Phactum

“Always danger
where men are evil,
but knowledge best
weapon for protec-
tion.”

~ Charlie Chan

The Newsletter and Propaganda Organ of the
Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking
August/September 2013

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

PhACT Meeting - Saturday, September 21, 2013

at Community College of Philadelphia in Lecture Room C2-28 in the Center for Business and Industry
at the corner of 18th and Callowhill Streets. At 2:00 PM.

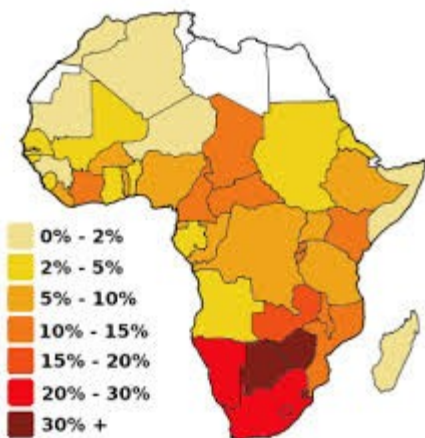
Parking is available from 12:30 to 6:00 PM in the surface parking lot on 17th Street.
All are Welcome. This event is Free and Open to the Public. Handicapped accessible.

Dr. David Cattell, Chairman of the Physics Department of Philadelphia Community College, will host
Nicoli Natrass, the director of the AIDS and Society Research Unit at the University of Cape Town

The AIDS Conspiracy: Science Fights Back

Nicoli Natrass will talk to the key themes in her new book *'The AIDS conspiracy: Science Fights back'*. This will include why we need to worry about AIDS conspiracy beliefs (because they are linked in South Africa and the US to the rejection of evidence-based medicine and unsafe sexual behaviour), and the importance of understanding the social and historical basis of these beliefs especially with regard to the role of racial repression and medical abuse. This background is fairly well known, so her talk will concentrate on where she breaks new ground in understanding the role of individual agents in promoting AIDS conspiracy beliefs - and how this has enabled pro-science activists to counter these ideas. Her talk will also explore the world of AIDS denialism, which like AIDS conspiracy beliefs, makes a 'conspiratorial move' against HIV science by arguing that the science has been corrupted and can not be trusted. She

(Continued on page 2)



Percent of people with HIV in Af-
rica in 1999-2001

“I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the
people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by
violent and sudden usurpations.” ~ James Madison, (1751-1836)
fourth President of the United States (1809-1817)

will argue that AIDS denialism also gains social traction through organisation around four symbolically important roles: hero scientists, living icons (HIV positive people refusing antiretrovirals), cultpreneurs (offering alternative unproven remedies) and praise singers (sympathetic journalists and film makers). Her talk will conclude by showing that these roles have also provided targets for the pro-science community to fight back.

Nicoli Natrass is the director of the AIDS and Society Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, and a regular visiting Professor at Yale where she teaches courses on development and the AIDS epidemic. She has published widely on inequality, AIDS, and the struggle for antiretroviral treatment. Her work on the economics of preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child was used in the successful court case launched by the South Africa Treatment Action Campaign against the then AIDS denialist government of Thabo Mbeki. In her subsequent research on the role of ideas in shaping South Africa's response to AIDS, she focused on the AIDS denialism and AIDS conspiracy beliefs. Her recent book, *The AIDS Conspiracy: Science Fights Back* discusses the social roots of such beliefs in the US and South Africa whilst pointing also to the importance of powerful individuals in promoting and shaping these ideas. Information on her recent publications is available here: <http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/researchers/natrass>; and here: http://www.amazon.com/Nicoli-Natrass/e/B001H6OQWE/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0

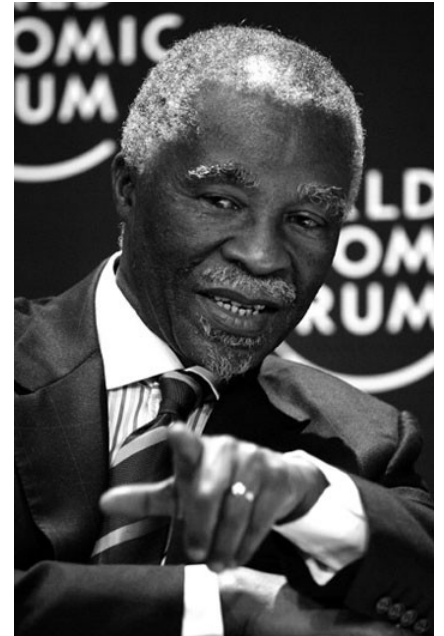
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Thabo Mbeki (born 1942) was elected President of South Africa in 1999, replacing outgoing President Nelson Mandela. Mbeki held that post until 2008 when he resigned nine months before the end of his second term of office expired. He was at the time embroiled in various legal scandals that adversely affected ability to perform presidential duties. During those years in office President Mbeki was a very active and vocal opponent of the notion that HIV and AIDS are linked and he fiercely questioned the efficacy of anti-retroviral drugs to cure or alleviate the disease.

At that time AIDS was ravaging South Africa yet Mbeki, supported by Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, determined that other diseases and malnutrition were the major causes of widespread deaths among people with compromised immune systems.

Accordingly, Mbeki withheld distribution of anti-retroviral drugs to hospitals and clinics on the grounds that pharmaceutical companies were exaggerating the HIV/AIDS connection, that distribution of such drugs was merely a plan to generate profits, and that the drugs themselves had more toxic effects than the disease they were said to cure. Mbeki has long harboured strong anti-colonial feelings, and that too likely fueled the intensity of his opposition to western science on the matter of HIV/AIDS. Mbeki's actions in this matter caused hundreds of thousands to perish from AIDS.

Thabo Mbeki has clearly earned himself the dubious distinction of being a leader in the arena of repudiating well founded medical science despite overwhelming evidence of drug efficacy. There are plenty such people, fortunately few are heads of state.



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The AIDS Conspiracy: Science Fights Back by Nicoli Natrass

March, 2012 Columbia University Press

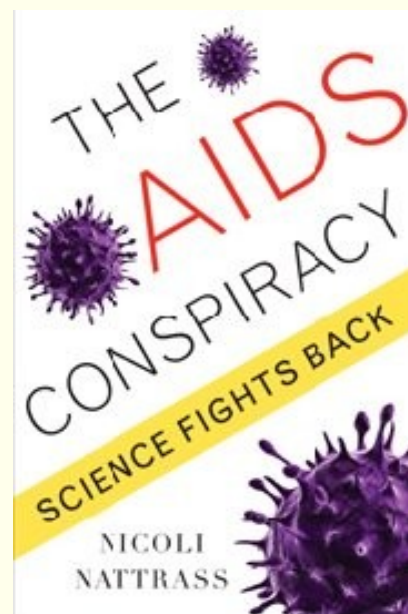
Paperback 240 pages, ISBN: 978-0-231-14913-6 \$25.00 / £17.50

Cloth, 240 pages ISBN: 978-0-231-14912-9 \$35.00 / £24.00

Since the early days of the AIDS epidemic, many bizarre and dangerous hypotheses have been advanced to explain the origins of the disease. In this compelling book, Nicoli Natrass explores the social and political factors prolonging the erroneous belief that the American government manufactured the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to be used as a biological weapon, as well as the myth's consequences for behavior, especially within African American and black South African communities.

Contemporary AIDS denialism, the belief that HIV is harmless and that antiretroviral drugs are the true cause of AIDS, is a more insidious AIDS conspiracy theory. Advocates of this position make a "conspiratorial move" against HIV science by implying its methods cannot be trusted and that untested, alternative therapies are safer than antiretrovirals. These claims are genuinely life-threatening, as tragically demonstrated in South Africa when the delay of antiretroviral treatment resulted in nearly 333,000 AIDS deaths and 180,000 HIV infections—a tragedy of stunning proportions.

Natrass identifies four symbolically powerful figures ensuring the lifespan of AIDS denialism: the hero scientist (dissident scientists who lend credibility to the movement); the cultpreneur (alternative therapists who exploit the conspiratorial move as a marketing mechanism); the living icon (individuals who claim to be living proof of AIDS denialism's legitimacy); and the praise-singer (journalists who broadcast movement messages to the public). Natrass also describes how pro-science activists have fought back by deploying empirical evidence and political credibility to resist AIDS conspiracy theories, which is part of the crucial project to defend evidence-based medicine



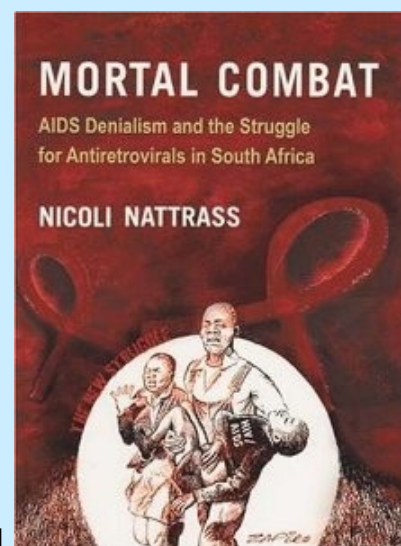
Mortal Combat: AIDS Denialism and the Struggle for Antiretrovirals in South Africa by Nicoli Natrass

Publisher: University Of KwaZulu-Natal Press; 1 edition (July 1, 2007)

Paperback: 269 pages ISBN-10: 1869141326 ISBN-13: 978-1869141325

Nicoli Natrass's book *Mortal Combat: The Struggle for Antiretrovirals in South Africa* (published by University of KwaZulu-Natal Press) tells the story of South African President Mbeki's adoption of AIDS denialist ideas and the tragic consequences for AIDS policy in South Africa. It exposes the strategy and tactics employed by AIDS denialists all over the world to undermine the use of antiretrovirals (ARVs) for both HIV prevention and AIDS treatment.

"Many lives have been lost because of AIDS denialism, but nowhere has the impact been as dire as in South Africa," says Dr. Natrass. "According to some estimates, at least 170,000 HIV infections and 340,000 deaths could have been prevented with an aggressive, nationwide roll-out ARVs to HIV-infected pregnant women and people with HIV/AIDS in need of these life-saving medications."



Letters to the Editor

Editor: Did you know there is a Zionist conspiracy to suppress perpetual motion? So sayeth Mohamed Mahmoud Khalifa in his British patent application for "Ever-lasting power" (GB2485625) and his web page <http://seabird-marine.com/everlastingpower>. The Zionists accomplish this by "controlling the petroleum". Imagine that . . . Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq, etc. . . . all Zionists! Who knew?

Mr. Khalifa supports his theories by citing Einstein¹. In the course of his research he searched Google² and you can reach him through his gmail (Google Mail) account; and don't forget to check out his Facebook³ page!

1. Jewish heritage
2. Founders Sergey Brin (Jewish heritage) and Larry Page (half-Jewish heritage)
3. Founder Mark Zuckerberg (Jewish heritage)

Howard J. Wilk
Philadelphia, PA

Editor: Before Bigfoot, a supposedly hairy, ape-like, bipedal creature, was reported to be roaming our land, there were countless 19th and early 20th century stories about American feral wild men, allegedly hairy, man-like beings, in newspapers across the country. It was once believed that the environment could actually change the species of individuals during their lifetimes such that people living in the wilderness could revert to an animalistic state and grow a coat of fur over their bodies. Though hunted, none of them were ever verifiably caught. And some of these wild men stories came from Upper Bucks County.

A May 22, 1908 article in The Bucks County Gazette, Bristol, Pennsylvania, noted that "James Miller, a dyed-in-the-wool hobo" was "known as the 'Wild Man of Haycock.'" He "had been in jail a week or so, and upon promising to get out of Bucks county the Court allowed him to go." However, the March 1, 1911 issue of The Philadelphia Inquirer indicated that "James Miller, the 'wild man of Haycock Mountain,'" had returned to said mountain for which he was sentenced to "twelve months in the county jail" at breaking stones. Haycock Mountain is about nine miles east of Quakertown.

And an item in the March 26, 1922 edition of The News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Indiana, stated that the "'wild man' of Quakertown has been identified" as "Adam Weaver, the Haycock mountain outlaw" who was wanted for "killing one deputy and wounding two others" 24 years ago. But a March 30, 1922 piece entitled Wild Man of Quakertown Is Roy Hecox, of Illinois, which appeared in the Lebanon Semi-Weekly News, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, reported that the prisoner was not really Adam Weaver but Roy Hecox and there-

fore would "be allowed to leave prison" after his "twenty day sentence on the charge of vagrancy will have expired."

Belief in American feral wild men died out because during the early decades of the 20th century Americans could no longer believe that people could be so bizarrely transformed by their environment, not because no such wild men were ever really captured. Likewise, belief in Bigfoot will persist



Robb Kerr climbing up Haycock Mountain on July 27, 2013. Photograph by Don Nigrone.

even if we remain without any actual live or dead specimens, not even a roadkill.

Don Nigrone
Glenolden, PA

Editor: We inherited a dog named Rudyard from a friend who died. For some reason in the beginning my wife liked the name "Bucky" and called him that. A little while ago I heard her call him "Buckminster Fuller". I asked her why she called him that because not 30 seconds before I had come across the name in a Scientific American article that quoted Fuller but really had nothing to do with him. The name occurs just once in normal print in the text of the article, and I thought maybe she had seen that while I was reading, but she hadn't; it was just an alternative to "Bucky" that she happened to use.

I didn't think that she even knew who Buckminster Fuller was, and it turns out she really didn't. I have a photo of a chemist named R. B. Woodward manipulating a molecular model and she thought his name was Buckminster Fuller.

Howard J. Wilk
Philadelphia

Editor's note: Howard collects highly improbable little coincidental mundane happenings in his life. We all have such experiences and hopefully we do not assign some daffy paranormal significance to the events. Some people do that but I do wonder if such accounts, though believed, are not reconstructed memory catalyzed by another

event. Readers are invited to comment and to submit some of their coincidental experiences of events both minor and substantial.

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Various Ruminations

of Woo Woo and Real Science

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

BBC Supporting Homeopathic Treatment of HIV/Aids In Tanzania

Here is a most appropriate Woo Woo item especially given that PhACT's September 2013 speaker, Nicoli Natrass, will be discussing the dismal topic of HIV/AIDS denialism in Africa. The Quackometer has revealed a story where homeopathic "doctors" have been operating in Tanzania and dispensing their "cures" to people infected with HIV. The homeopaths are not exactly disease denialists but sadly they do deny that their nostrums are nonsense. It is disturbing too that a major world news organization with the stature of the BBC has presented such material uncritically.

<http://www.quackometer.net/blog/2013/05/bbc-devon-promotes-dangerously-deluded-hiv-homeopaths-in-africa.html>

Also see <http://www.homeopathyforhealthinafrica.org/index.php>. This website details the activities of Homoeopa-

thy for Health in Africa (HHA), a possibly well meaning organization that has set up clinics in Tanzania, in the vicinity of Kilimanjaro. HHA does not claim to cure HIV/AIDS but they do claim to help through homeopathy. The claim is pleasing but likely misleading, and far worse than misleading ... deadly.

Alternative Medicine, Is It A Cult?

That is the title of an essay by Dr. Edzard Ernst, a British physician and expert on matters of alternative medicine. Dr. Ernst's essay is short and to the point and he clearly identifies several aspects of alternative medicine and cults that are quite parallel. He points out the authoritarian nature of cults and that information that differs with the official party line, whether internal or external, is suppressed, and devotees are barraged with constant misinformation. Alternative medicine is little different.

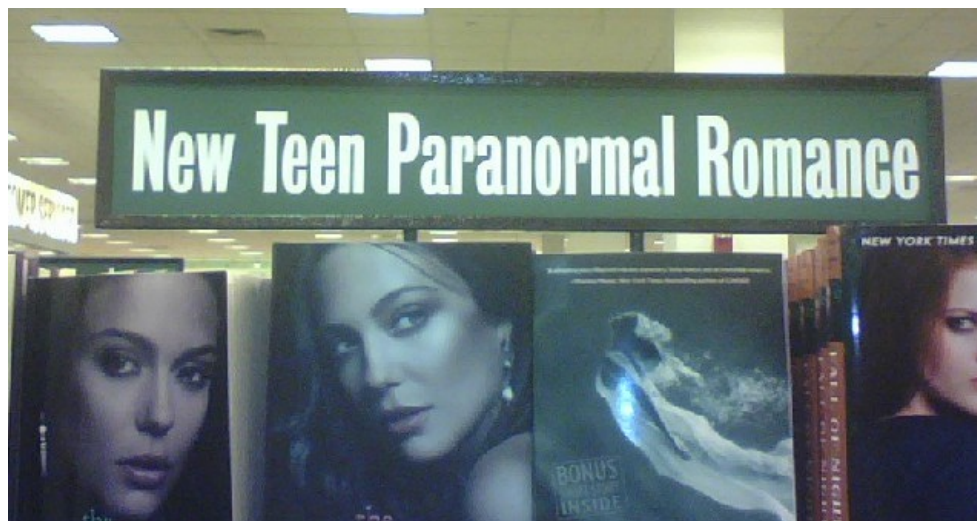
Dr. Ernst concludes: *"There are many other parallels between a cult and alternative medicine, I am sure. In my view, the most striking one must be the fact that any spark of cognitive dissonance in the cult-victim is being extinguished by highly effective and incessant flow of misinformation which often amounts to a form of brain-washing."*

<http://edzardernst.com/2013/07/alternative-medicine-is-it-a-cult/>

GIANT Virus from Mars

The Mail Online, a UK news outlet, reports that virus ten times larger than normal virus have been found in the ocean off Chile. The Pandoravirus as it is called has only 6% of genes previously observed on Earth. The giant virus, some scientists claim, came from Mars. Naturally.

I think I saw something like that in a Grade B 1950's B&W sci-fi movie.



Sign over book shelf at Barnes and Noble. There were three such signs and bookshelves. And this is just for new books of that genre. We are doomed.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2370100/Scientists-GIANT-Pandoravirus-come-alien-planet.html>

On a more serious note the Mail Online reports that a young couple is flying from North Carolina to Hawaii to have an underwater dolphin assisted birth. The couple feels that dolphin-assisted birth will give “peace, comfort, and strength” which is a good thing since they have no specific plans for where they will live or how they will make money after the baby is born .

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2331946/Dolphin-birth-Experts-blast-couple-flying-Hawaii-DOLPHIN-assisted-birth.html#ixzz2ZanEgqII>

I have long been of the opinion that North Carolina dolphins are ill qualified as midwives and no doubt Hawaiian members of the dolphin tribe are more suitable.

Psychiatry: An Industry of Death Museum

On a recent trip to the West Coast I did come upon this oddly and somewhat combatively named museum situated in Los Angeles, about a mile or even less from the headquarters of the James Randi Education Foundation. This museum dealing with psychology and psychiatry is free and open to the public and is operated by the Citizens Committee on Human Rights which in turn is operated by the Church of Scientology.

The exhibit is quite well done and has many interesting documentary videos about various practices of psychiatry, both past and present, that are not approved by the Citizens Committee. The museum can reasonably be viewed in about an hour if one skims the material quickly.

The Church of Scientology harbors intensely unfavorable views of psychiatry and especially of use of psychiatric drugs and brutal treatments as were practiced in the past. Examples include electro-convulsive therapy, isolation chambers, immersion in ice baths, powerful anti-psychotic drugs, and in recent years the use of Ritalin to control ADD/ADHD in young people.

The first few galleries in the museum dwelt largely on treatment of people deemed mentally defective by the standards of the 15th century and for the next few hundred years. One can hardly fault the condemning conclusions of the CCHR, but that was the way of early medicine in general. It was primitive and indeed by our standards was barbaric, but what else could they have done? Some of the exhibition dealt with lunatic psychiatry during the Holocaust.

CCHR dives headlong into the mantra of evil drug companies forcing excessive use of powerful drugs, and most especially the modern use of drugs such as Prozac and Ritalin. CCHR claims are certainly not without some good points. There were, and no doubt still are, some excesses in treatment of mental illness, but great progress has occurred over the years and treatment is not at a standstill position in the 17th century as this museum might lead one to believe.

CCHR clearly appears to endorse abolition of the entire psychiatric profession in favor of something better. But what is the better solution? What do they have in mind? The

answer is Dianetics, of course.

Dianetics, for those unfamiliar with Scientology, was a science fiction book by L. Ron Hubbard (1911—1986), a



prolific science-fiction pulp magazine writer of the mid 20th century who decided to start a religion. Hubbard was successful at founding a most lucrative cult with himself installed essentially as the godhead.

It is not crystal clear that CCHR opposition to psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry is based solely on humanitarian impulses. It so happens that there is a substantial financial consideration involved and CCHR does have its own product and ideology to sell, namely *Dianetics* which is not only the title of a relatively inexpensive book, but is a system of extremely expensive courses. Following the money trail is not a bad idea in this case.

This museum certainly was interesting but in no way can be considered an unbiased source of information. One would be wise to verify all facts presented in this environment and prior to forming strong opinions it might be advisable to seek facts not presented in the museum or in CCHR and other Scientology literature.

Here is an internet link to CCHR (Citizens Committee on Human Rights): <http://www.cchr.org/>

And here is a link to a Skepchick report from 2009 about this museum: <http://skeptchick.org/2009/06/psychiatry-industry-of-death-museum/>

Scientology Alien Landing Pad in New Mexico

Get a load of this!!!!

The Daily Mail reports that the Church of Scientology has built a mile long aircraft landing strip and a landing pad for alien space ships in the New Mexico desert. The area is marked so that Scientologists who escape earth after the nuclear holocaust may eventually return and find the writings of L. Ron Hubbard engraved on stainless steel tablets buried deep in the earth.

I can not explain why they do this as I am not Clear. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2395235/>

Real Science, Real Medicine

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)

In 1855 near Broad and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia, on an unfortunately named Blight Street now renamed as Watts Street, a 12 bed hospital was founded dedicated to treatment of children. It was the first such hospital in the United States and one of the first in the world. It operated at that location until 1866 when it was moved to a larger facility at 22nd and Locust Streets about two blocks from the venerable College of Physicians of Philadelphia. In 1913 construction next to the 2nd hospital began and



in 1916 a new children's hospital opened in the expanded facility. In 1919 the hospital became affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania. This hospital remained open at the 1916 site until 1974 when it relocated into the premises of Philadelphia General Hospital adjacent to the University of

Pennsylvania campus. In 2017 the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is scheduled to move into three 26 story buildings that are planned and soon to begin construction on nearby Schuylkill Avenue.

There is no shortage of significant medical achievements at CHOP during its century and a half of existence. Here are a few relating to the field of vaccinology.

- 1936 Whooping cough vaccine was developed, the first in a series of vaccines pioneered at CHOP that have worldwide impact on childhood disease.
- 1940 — Vaccines for influenza and mumps developed by husband-and-wife team, Drs. Werner and Gertrude Henle, at CHOP.
- 1963 — Stanley A. Plotkin, M.D. develops rubella vaccine; clinical trials conducted at CHOP.
- 2006 — Vaccine for rotavirus developed at CHOP by Paul Offit, M.D., H. Fred Clark, D.V.M., Ph.D., and Stanley A. Plotkin, M.D. CHOP launches the Center for Applied Genomics, an ambitious program to identify the genes responsible for common childhood diseases.

A US News and World Report rating of hospitals in 2012 ranked CHOP as the best children's hospital in the United States for the past five years. Philadelphia can be proud of

Do You Believe in Magic?:

The Sense and Nonsense of Alternative Medicine

by Paul A. Offit

**Publisher: Harper; 1 edition (June 18, 2013) Hardcover: 336 pages
ISBN-10: 0062222961 ISBN-13: 978-0062222961**

The following review was written by Dr. David Cragin, a toxicologist and longtime member of PhACT's Council.

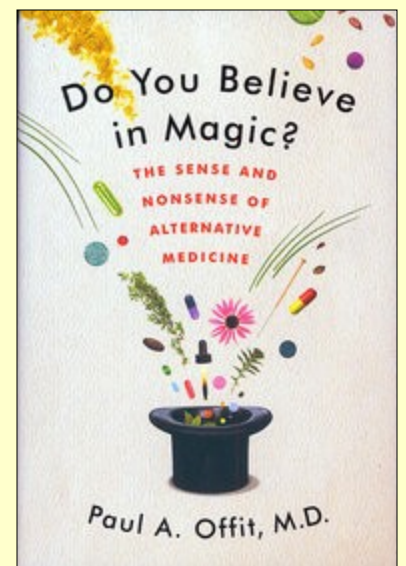
Have you ever wondered about the basis of alternative medicine? How did the various types get started?

E.g., How did chiropractic get started? It was in 1895 by a mesmerist, Daniel Palmer, who used magnets to treat his patients. When a deaf individual came into his office, Palmer wondered if his spine was misaligned and tried to realign it. When he did, the man's hearing recovered. This might have made sense except that the 8th cranial nerve which conducts nerve impulses from the ear to the brain doesn't travel thru the neck.

Or why according to acupuncture does the body have 12 meridians? Because there were 12 great rivers in ancient China. Why is the number of acupuncture points about 360? This was based on the number of days in a year. Offit is sensitive in his coverage, noting that the ancient physicians who started the practice were forbidden from dissecting human bodies and knew little about the internal organs or most importantly the nervous system.

Offit provides these and other fascinating tidbits that will give you a new perspective on alternative medicine. Offit provides both historical context as well as what modern science tells us about these practices. He discusses the scientific studies of the various disciplines of alternative medicine and what they have found.

As someone who teaches health-based risk assessment at two universities, it's great to see a thoughtful in-depth look at an area most of the public sees as risk-free. Whether you are scientist, health professional or someone with an inquiring mind about health, you'll learn much from reading this book.



that great organization.

PhACT can be proud too since one of the PhACT Council members, Dr. David Langdon, is a physician at that amazing institution. And that is not all. PhACT's speaker on October 19 will be Dr. Paul Offit, Professor of Vaccinology and Pediatrics at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Paul's topic will be his new book "*Do You Believe in Magic?: The Sense and Nonsense of Alternative Medicine*". There will be a book signing after the presentation. The book is described on the previous page.



in the patient's best interests."

<http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/News/2013-08-08-media-release.aspx>

It seems that the heat of Science and Reason is scorching Australian chiropractors who appear to be taking some steps to sooth the irritation. This is a nice little development and lets hope that this particular form of Global Warming gallops ahead causing alternative medicine Woo Woo to Wilt and Wither.

If you have an interest in the concept of science based medicine and EBP the Quackwatch website is a splendid source of information. It may be found at:

<http://www.quackwatch.org/>

You may subscribe to Consumer Health Digest (Free) by sending a blank email message to:

chd-subscribe@lists.quackwatch.org.

Another Worthy Book of Science and Medicine

Bernie Garrett, PhD, RN is Associate Professor at University of British Columbia located in Vancouver. Dr. Garrett has recently published an e-book entitled *Science and Modern Thought in Nursing: Pragmatism & Praxis for Evidence-Based Practice* which is reviewed by Peterson Masigan, BSN, RN, on [page 14](#).

Dr. Garrett's book is slanted toward the nursing profession but is very suitable for anyone with curiosity and interest in the history and philosophy of science. The prose is clear and not at all pretentious as is so often the case in philosophy tomes.

Dr. Garrett is keen to propel the notion of "Evidence Based Practice" (EBP) in the nursing profession and in particular in nursing schools, some of whom persist in teaching thoroughly discredited topics such as Therapeutic Touch, a woo woo classic if there ever was one. EBP fits in very nicely with PhACT's general philosophy of trusting verified facts over metaphysical fiction of alternative medicine.

Science and Modern Thought in Nursing is an e-book, available in a variety of formats. It may be obtained for Apple products at the Apple iTunes Store. The Kindle format may be obtained at Amazon.com. This book is distributed in a variety of e-book formats at <http://store.kobobooks.com/>.

Australian Chiropractors Warned Against Opposing Vaccination

Dr. Stephen Barrett the proprietor of the Quackwatch.org website and vigilant publisher of Consumer Health Digest reported in the August 8, 2013 edition:

In an attempt to make chiropractors comply with scientific views about vaccination, the Chiropractic Board of Australia has (a) ordered practitioners to remove all anti-vaccination material from their Web sites and clinics, (b) removed several courses from the list of approved continuing education programs, and (c) introduced random audits of practitioner compliance with the Board's registration standards. In a press release, board president Dr. Philip Donato said, "We will not tolerate registered chiropractors giving misleading or unbalanced advice to patients, or providing advice or care that is not

Daniel Glass article in NCSE Reports

Daniel Glass, an occasional Phactum contributor, has written an interesting book review of *Charles Darwin: A Graphic Biography* by Eugene Byrne and Simon Gurr. This book is a serious biography of Darwin written and illustrated in a comic book style that might well appeal to young readers. Daniel's review of the book can be found at the NCSE Reports site.

<http://reports.ncse.com/index.php/rncse/article/download/224/336>

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Cartoon by Gruhn
gruhn@webdonuts.com
Used by Permission

Meeting Report - May 2013

Report on the PhACT Expedition to find the Ape Boy of the Swamps at the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

By Dave Blythe

The PhACT Scientific Expedition on May 18th was an outdoor event at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, near the Philadelphia Airport. The refuge covers nearly a thousand acres and is the largest freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. Don Nigrone gave an informative introductory talk on the history of this tidal wetland along the Darby Creek. Early settlers, starting in the 1600's, built dike walls along the creek to provide grazing land for their livestock. Today the dikes are used to enclose fresh water ponds for fish and wildlife, especially birds that migrate seasonally along the East Atlantic Flyway.



Our intrepid guide, Don Nigrone.
Photo by Ned Levi

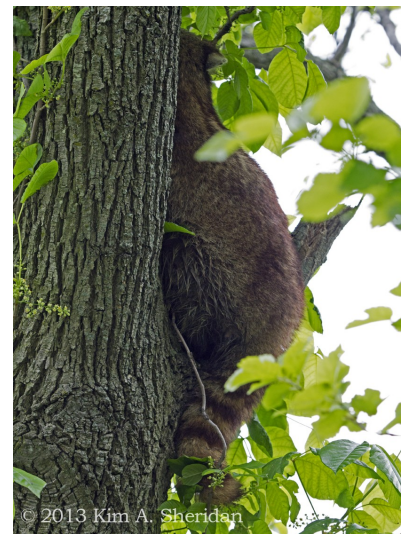
The alleged reason for our outing was a search for the Ape Boy of the Swamps, a large hairy bi-pedal cryptid that was reported to have fled into these swamps prior to the Revolutionary War. It seemed that we were a bit late in organizing the search party but we gave it all we had. Since we were looking for a "cryptid", and their existence is based solely on anecdotal stories with no supporting evidence, we traveled light, without a cage, ropes or tranquilizer guns.

The planned search route was to start from the Cusano Environmental Education Center and fully circle the main fresh water impoundment by hiking along the road on the dike wall and returning through a path in the woods. Jeff Cooney and Robb Kerr assisted Don in leading this search, as they are all very familiar with the area as members of the Weed Warriors volunteer program. This is a formidable sounding group that searches out and eradicates invasive alien species, for real. Armed with saws, loppers and brute physical strength, they remove alien species such as: Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed and Stiltgrass. With this crack team on the job, removing a few extra-terrestrial aliens or just a single Ape Boy would be a piece of cake.

The full search team was rounded out with other Weed Warriors and a number of PhACT members. In our rag-tag group we had a camera with a 500 mm lens, several cell phones, an L. L. Bean walking stick, lip balm, water bottles and a small pocketknife (just in case it got ugly out there). There was much wildlife spotted during the day. Right away we saw Tree Swallows swerving back and forth over the water,

turtles in the water and a Very Good Blue Heron stalking fish and frogs in the reeds. Later, we came across two of the Philadelphia Eagles at their off-season retreat in a large nest on an island in the middle of the refuge. Near the end, there was a raccoon that tried to hide in a tree by merely turning the other way but we could see him clearly from just 3 feet away. That must have been embarrassing for the raccoon.

The day was not without some excitement. At the farthest point from the visitor center we did a body count and came up one short. Where was Ray Haupt, our esteemed Phactum editor? Being skeptics, we immediately formed the False Dichotomy that Ray had either been taken captive by the Ape Boy or had simply taken a wrong turn somewhere back in the



© 2013 Kim A. Sheridan

The aloof raccoon. From his elusive behavior may we reasonably deduce that he is channeling Ape Boy?

Photo by Kim Sheridan



Members of our expedition.
Photo by Ned Levi



More members of our expedition.
Photo by Ned Levi

heard that one. Sure enough, there he was strolling along in the Southern section of the wildlife refuge on his own without a care in the world. Case solved.

On this year's summer expedition there was no sign of anything even remotely resembling a 9 foot tall Ape Boy. On prior expeditions there was no Jersey Devil found in the Pine Barrens and the Blue Hole, which was supposed to be a bottomless pool of water measured out at something like 7 feet deep in the middle. How long will these fruitless expeditions continue? * If it weren't for the history lesson, scenic walk, nice weather, pleasant conversation and a filling lunch afterward this day would have been a complete washout.

Dave Blythe is an active member of PhACT and a long time skeptic. He is an avid traveler and all around good guy.

Editors' note: We are undeterred by temporary defeat in the matter of capturing the Ape Boy of the Chester Swamp and will, with Good Fortune and Modern Techniques, detect and capture the elusive ghosts of Ridley Creek State Park in May of 2014.

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“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.”

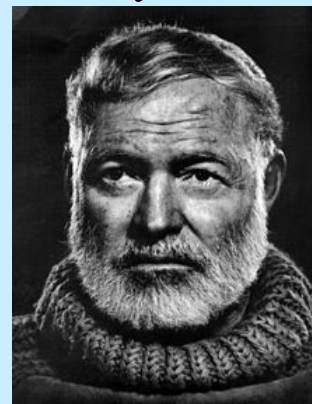
~ Ernest Hemingway (1899—1961)

Hemingway makes a good point and accordingly we encourage PhACT members and Phactum readers to think critically about things and write down those thoughts in true sentences in the form of short essays and letters to be published in Phactum. Writing is an excellent way to refine your thinking and share your thoughts with others and perhaps you may be immortalized in print. Hemingway did it, so why not you?

So take pen to paper and articulate your thoughts about some matter of life or science that you may have been pondering and share your ideas in a letter or article in Phactum. Subject matter is nearly unlimited and may encompass aspects of science, pseudoscience, alternative medicine, the Cosmos, witchcraft, freedom of speech, and limitless other topics.

We would very much like participation from alternative health enthusiasts, dowsers, Intelligent Design proponents, psychics, anti-vaccine protestors, apocalypse forecasters, and others often challenged by Skeptics. Student letters and essays are especially welcome. Original poetry is very welcome.

We do eschew articles and letters concerning electoral politics, but specific issues are fair game. Articles about Justin Bieber will be summarily rejected.



Send submissions to the Phactum Editor at : phactpublicity@aol.com

HEINZ HAPPENINGS

What's going on at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Photos and words by Kim Sheridan

North American Beavers are rearranging the landscape at the Heinz Refuge! The area near Hoy's Pond is strewn with gnawed trees, a sure sign of Beaver activity. Their sharp teeth continue to grow throughout their lives, so they need to



*North American Beaver at Heinz NWR
Photo by Kim Sheridan*

gnaw on wood to keep their teeth short. They eat trees, bark, and other plants, and build dams and lodges for protection and shelter.

Don Nigrone, Robb Kerr and I set out for Hoy's Pond one beautiful evening to find this elusive architect. Little did we know that Mr. Beaver would be there to greet us! We



*Hoy's Pond with Beaver at Heinz NWR;
Photo by Don Nigrone*

watched as the critter swam under the dock and back again. Then he turned and swam RIGHT AT US.

When he was 20 feet away, Don and Robb began to retreat. Stubbornly, I was focused solely on GETTING THE SHOT. When I took a step back, Mr. Beaver gave a tremendous SLAP of his tail and disappeared, never to be seen again. The whole encounter lasted a scant but exhilarating two minutes, leaving us with a tremendous tale to tell!

Adult Beavers weigh from 35 to 60 pounds. Their good hearing and strong sense of smell more than make up for their poor eyesight. They can swim well and stay under water for up to 15 minutes.

Beavers join other aquatic mammals seen recently at Heinz, including River Otter, Mink, and Muskrat. Their presence at Heinz is a good sign that the Refuge habitat is getting healthier.

**John Heinz NWR:
8601 Lindbergh Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19153
215-365-3118**

For a schedule of nature walks and other programs:

<http://www.fws.gov/heinz/Walks%20and%20Programs.html>



*North American Beaver at Heinz NWR
Photo by Kim Sheridan*

Sir Humphrey Gilbert and the Sea Lion

By Don Nigrone

Edward Hayes, an eyewitness to the event, related in *Sir Humphrey Gilbert's Voyage to Newfoundland* that on Saturday afternoon August 31, 1583:

... we changed our course, and returned back for England. At which very instant, even in winding about, there passed along between us and towards the land which we now forsook a very lion to our seeming, in shape, hair, and colour, not swimming after the manner of a beast by moving of his feet, but rather sliding upon the water with his whole body excepting the legs, in sight, neither yet diving under, and again rising above the water, as the manner is of whales, dolphins, tunnies, porpoises, and all other fish: but confidently showing himself above water without hiding ...

Hayes continued that the creature "passed along turning

his head to and fro, yawning and gaping wide, with ugly demonstration of long teeth, and glaring eyes" and "he sent forth a horrible voice, roaring or bellowing as doth a lion". He noted that Gilbert "took it for *bonum omen*, rejoicing that he was in war against such an enemy, if it were the devil." Gilbert was in charge of the fleet which by that time consisted of only two ships, the *Squirrel* with Gilbert in command, which was later lost with all aboard, including Gilbert, on the return journey to England, and the *Golden Hind* under Hayes. By Monday afternoon they were "in sight of Cape Race", which is on the southeastern tip of Newfoundland, after having traveled eastward with a swift current and good winds.

Whatever was that "lion in the ocean sea" which was seen that August day long, long ago? In an article entitled *A curious Sea Lion described* which appeared in *The Lady's Magazine* for January 1779 we read of Gilbert and his crew's encounter that "they did really see a creature which in some measure at least resembled a lion is, I think, past dispute,

Sir Humphrey Gilbert: Explorer

Sir Humphrey Gilbert (1539-1583) was an English nobleman, Army officer, member of Parliament, and explorer.

Early in his career, Gilbert started English settlements in Ireland (to try to stop the Irish rebellion) and, much later, sailed to North America in search of a Northwest Passage (a sea route to Asia through North America). He founded an English settlement in Newfoundland.

Gilbert is said to have believed that America was the lost continent of Atlantis (a legendary but fictional continent that is said to have sunk in ancient times). He was determined to find a sea route through the northern waters of North America. On September 23, 1578, he sailed from England, but was attacked by Spaniards and returned to England.

He successfully sailed again on June 11, 1583, with 5 ships. One ship had to return because of leaks, but the others eventually made it to North America. He landed in Newfoundland on July 30, 1583, and then sailed to St. John's. Gilbert claimed the area for Queen Elizabeth I of England, and started a colony.

After two weeks in his new colony, Gilbert left his colony to explore the area around Nova Scotia. He died on this expedition when his boat, the "Squirrel," sank near the Azore Islands on September 9, 1583 (he was returning to England). Gilbert was the step-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh.



because the narrative from whence the above quotation is taken was published while many of the persons were living". The piece contended that "If the description of this animal, as given by Mr. Haies, be just, it seems to be one of those inhabitants of the deep that has not yet been described by naturalists."

In the *Forwards* to an 1869 miscellany of various works by the Early English Text Society, Extra Series, No. VIII, the encounter is attributed to "no devil in the form of a roaring lion, but a mere great seal or sea-lion". And Arthur Gilman in *Wide Awake, Volume R* (1884) in an item entitled *Tales of the Pathfinders* wrote of the incident that "the beast, which was probably a seal or sea-lion".

And now that you have had time enough to unravel this mystery, we may proceed to its solution. William Gilbert Gosling in *The Life of Sir Humphrey Gilbert: England's First Empire Builder* (1911) revealed the true identity of Gilbert's sea lion when he wrote that:

The days of enchantment were hardly passed. In this walrus, as it undoubtedly was, they saw the evil genius [*sic*] of the place, lying in hiding so long as they attempted to invade his domain, but coming out and exulting at their discomfiture the instant they turned back.

Although the range of the walrus today is the far north, Glover M. Allen in *The Walrus in New England (Journal of Mammalogy, May 1930)* wrote that:

The Atlantic Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) formerly occurred in some numbers in the western Atlantic as far south as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Cape Breton, and Sable Island off southern Nova Scotia, and penetrated into the Gulf of Maine...

He was in agreement with Gosling as to the real identity of the sea lion stating that "It was probably a walrus that was seen by Sir Humphrey Gilbert and his crew of the *Golden*

Hinde when in late August, 1583, they reached the American coast near Cape Breton." Cape Breton Island is just north-east of the mainland of Nova Scotia.

And we can match the description of the sea lion provided by Hayes with that of the walrus given in an article in the *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals, Second Edition* (2009) on the *Walrus (Odobenus rosmarus)* by Ronald A.

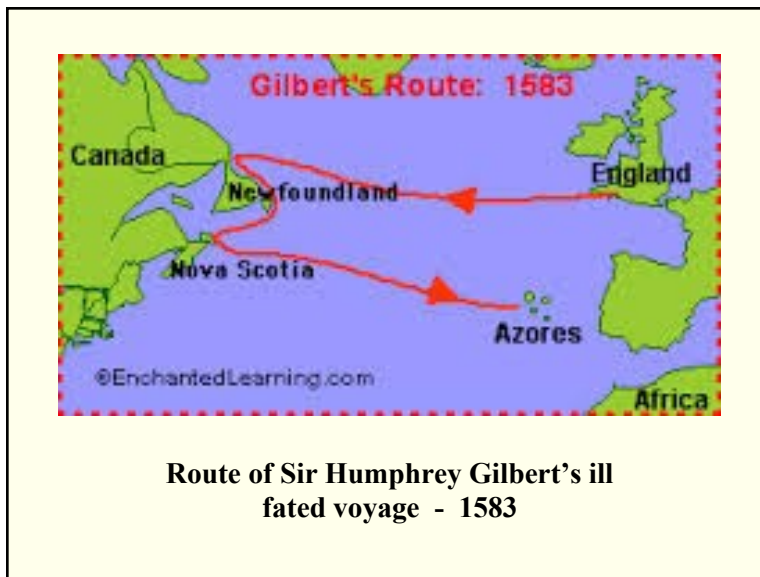
Kastelein. The sea lion was "a very lion to our seeming, in shape, hair, and colour" while the walrus has "large whiskers on the upper lips are translucent and yellowish and are directed forward." The former moved by "sliding upon the water with his whole body excepting the legs, in sight" and the latter when moving in the water "the hind flippers are used for propulsion, and the front flippers mainly for steering." And the sea monster made an "ugly demonstration of long

teeth" whereas the walrus has "enlarged upper canines that form huge tusks." Also Gilbert's creature had "glaring eyes" and a walrus "can protrude its eyes, and does so mostly when excited." Lastly, the beast "sent forth a horrible voice, roaring or bellowing as doth a lion" and a walrus can make various sounds, including "roaring when excited".

In conclusion, the walrus's yellowish facial whiskers were thought to look like a lion's mane, its tusks were seen as long teeth, which, in fact, they are, and its loud roaring was thought to be lion-like. The "lion in the ocean sea" seen by Sir Humphrey Gilbert and his crew in 1583 was just a walrus, but that surely is one of the oddest looking critters on this planet.

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Don Nigroni received a BS in economics in 1971 from St. Joseph's University and a MA in philosophy from Notre Dame in 1973. He retired in 2007 after working for 32 years as an economist with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. He now spends much more time hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and bird watching..



Route of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's ill fated voyage - 1583

**"We are as near to heaven by sea as by land."
~ Sir Humphrey Gilbert**

Book Review

Science and Modern Thought in Nursing: Pragmatism & Praxis for Evidence-Based Practice (Dr. Bernie Garrett, 2013 – Northern Lights Media)

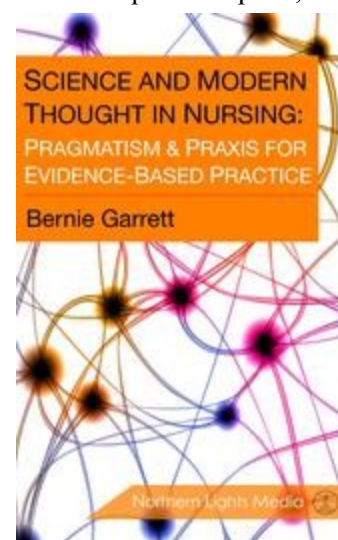
Reviewed by Peterson Masigan, BSN, RN.

Science and Modern Thought in Nursing explores the current state of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) as a movement within the nursing profession by looking at science's past and present philosophical evolution. Geared predominately for both nursing students, as well as practicing nurses, the book engages the reader to think about how science and EBP should play a critical role within their practice as nurses. The author takes the reader through a historical survey, introducing historic figures and milestones and their contributions to the scientific movement. Special emphasis on 20th century schools of thought and their proponents are presented, allowing for a robust understanding of the evolution of modern science as we know it today. Important concepts that have shaped scientific inquiry in our present day are explored in detail in subsequent chapters, including terms that will be familiar to anyone who has taken a course on research methodologies. Alternative philosophies to empirics-based sciences and their role in EBP are also discussed. Bad science and pseudoscience that exist in our current health care setting is explored, as well as the issues of using intuition for decision-making in health care as opposed to empirics-based science/EBP. Finally, the future of science, EBP, and the nursing profession are discussed, with some helpful tips on how to promote good science within the nursing profession as well as other health disciplines.

The historical survey paints a picture of the philosophical development of science and the EBP movement's eventual uptake within the health disciplines. The tables throughout the book summarize key concepts presented within chapters in a succinct and user-friendly manner. As well, the discussion questions at the end of each chapter serve as a good facilitation tool for educators to stimulate critical discussions for students. I enjoyed the various optical illusion diagrams used in Chapter 8 to illustrate the concepts being discussed – helpful for visual learners like myself. Some passages left me wanting for more information, but the author acknowledges that further discussion of certain concepts is outside the intended scope of the book. However, an extensive reference list is provided at the end of each chapter for those interested in learning more. Certain chapters of the book (particularly Chapters 3 and 4) have the feel of a philosophy, rather than a nursing text, which could be off-putting to some readers expecting nursing-centered material. There is a flavor of British wit sprinkled throughout the book, which serves to lighten the otherwise dense subject matter covered, and the flow of the book is well organized, making it more approachable as opposed to a typical reference/textbook.

The e-book format will appeal to most students and nurses who prefer using an e-reader, and the price of the book makes it accessible to everyone. Overall, I enjoyed reading this book and feel that it would serve as an excellent primer for upper-level undergraduate nursing students, and as a review reference for graduate students and practicing professionals.

Science and Modern Thought in Nursing is an e-book, available in a variety of formats. It may be obtained for Apple products at the Apple iTunes Store. The Kindle format may be obtained at Amazon.com. This book is distributed in a variety of e-book formats at <http://store.kobobooks.com/>.





At the Wagner Free Institute of Science

1700 W. Montgomery Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19121 215-763-6529 Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm

<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org/news.shtml>

2013 Philadelphia Honey Festival

The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild is proud to present the 2013 Philadelphia Honey Festival in conjunction with its partners:

- **Wagner Free Institute of Science** - Friday, September 6
- **Wyck Historic House and Garden** - Saturday, September 7
- **Bartram's Garden** - Sunday, September 8

For details on these events go to:

<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org/syllabi%202013-14/HoneyFest2013.htm>



Adult Education Course Schedule - Fall 2013 Courses

Natural History from Antiquity to Now, Professor Jane E. Boyd.

7 Wednesdays, September 25 - November 6, 2013, 6:30 - 7:45 PM. Independence Branch of the Free Library, 18 S. 7th Street (between Market and Chestnut). This course will explore the history of natural history in the West, from the philosophers of Ancient Greece to Renaissance explorers to today's specialized scientists.

No preregistration required.

From Death, to Recovery, to Museums: The Curious Lives of Human Remains, Professor Janet Monge.

7 Tuesdays, October 1 - November 12, 2013, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 33rd and Spruce Streets. This course will look at changing concepts of death over time and across cultures, and explore ethical questions that have arisen over the use of human remains for scholarship.

No preregistration required.

Birds and Birding, Professor Clifford Hence.

6 Wednesdays, October 2 - November 6, 2013, 6:30 - 7:45 PM. Philadelphia City Institute Branch of the Free Library, 1905 Locust Street. This course will discuss the many unique aspects of birds and their environment. It is designed to provide students with the ability to recognize bird species and identify bird songs and calls.

Wagner Free Institute Adult Education courses are free and open to the public. They are taught at university undergraduate level. There are no prerequisite courses or credentials required to attend, only a mind eager to learn.

Alternative Blindness

by Paul Schlueter III

Alternative Blindness - A cognitive failure to recognize/consider possible alternative explanations/scenarios (for an experimental finding or a phenomenon) which might be superior in explanatory power to the "first hypothesis" stumbled upon.

Among the numerous cognitive missteps we humans tend to take is the one defined above. You've probably heard someone say, "I had no other choice." The fact is, there's ALWAYS another choice - not necessarily a better one, but alternatives clearly exist.

The problem is one of the predominant underlying factors in criminal behavior. A person who has no money might conjure up the idea of robbery, and once the idea is in the mind, it seems to crowd out any alternative course of action. Another person might have a verbal confrontation with someone, and see no alternative but to escalate the argument, to take personal offense to some inconsequential aspect of the interaction, and then "have no choice" but to punch, stab, or shoot his opponent. The busybody little old lady down the street might see no alternative but to call the Police if your kids and some friends decide to hang out on the sidewalk out front. The kids might feel that they have no choice but to flee in all directions once a Police car arrives. You might feel that you have no choice but to spank your kid after the cops bring him to the door, angry and sweaty from chasing him down.

Behavioral alternative blindness is probably fed by cultural expectations and social habits; we all tend to react to our environment in the same ways we've always reacted, and usually we proceed to do so without even considering whether our habitual choice of action is appropriate, legal,

safe, or effective. We just go right ahead and act. If we drink to cope with grief or stress, then reminders of our grief or stress will tend to make us drink more. Our social circle might like to pray before sitting down to a meal; a more devout social circle might also pray before starting a business meeting, a neighborhood softball game, or a search for a missing kid. Drinking more is probably counterproductive; praying before a meal is likely harmless enough, but in other community settings, not only might it tend to alienate some community members (the non-believers, or those who believe differently), but it might also cause needless (even harmful) delay. On the other hand, it might help a sales or sports team feel more unified and focused on their group goal.

In scientific efforts, alternative blindness can lead researchers astray. In trying to explain the findings of an experiment, a researcher is likely to first assume that his hypothesis is verified by the observed results. However, it is fairly common for a phenomenon to have more than one causative factor. Narrowing down the possibilities is part of a dedicated scientist's job, though it is certainly more tedious than glamorous. A feature article in Science News recently discussed the problem of alternative blindness in developing theories in psychology, where it is frequently difficult to accurately ascribe a behavior or condition to any specific

“There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision.” ~ William James

**”The risk of a wrong decision is preferable to the terror of indecision.”
~ Maimonides**

cause; recent attention has been brought to the need for more careful inclusion and evaluation of potential alternative theories in that field.



It has been said that a person who can envision no other possibilities simply lacks imagination. The simpler fact is that we tend to be lazy in our thinking, and we like to conserve our first (or "a priori") interpretations. It is often quite difficult for any of us to stop, mid-thought, and ask ourselves, "How can I see this matter from a completely different perspective?" Often, the answer is as simple as asking someone else their opinion (especially someone just outside the close circle of our regular associates, since our associates tend to be those who know our views and support them). A common problem with this strategy is that few of us enjoy having to reconsider our position. The intern who asks, "Why don't we do this some other way?" isn't cherished! She's patted on the head, told to keep her naive ideas to herself, and to just watch and learn. Fact is, if you can't clearly explain to an outsider why your idea/position is superior to theirs, then you probably NEED TO take the time to re-evaluate your idea/position carefully.

The opposite of alternative blindness is probably indecisiveness. Some people cannot help but to keep coming up with an endless stream of alternatives, and in questioning processes and decisions, they simply gum up progress with confusing second-guessing. Many such alternatives have been considered, even tried previously, but by the time you can explain this to some people, their minds have raced ahead to the next wild proposition. There's truly no end to the alternative possibilities, if you allow an inventive mind (or committee) to run away with itself. There comes a time when

a course must be chosen, or you get nowhere.

Some alternative thinkers simply cling to their propositions blindly, convincing themselves that there's a conspiracy to prevent them from being heard. Some stodgy ol' coots refuse to budge an inch from long-established tradition. Clearly, there's a continuum of degree in this matter (as with most mental processes); it is generally problematic for a person to cling to either extreme of the range, and usually wiser to seek a healthy balance between conservatism (the position of alternative blindness) and progressivism (the position of frequently looking for alternative possibilities).

There are definitely SOME things that need no improvement; for me, one is a sandwich of two fried eggs (busted, over, and medium) on buttered whole wheat toast, with a slice of cold American cheese between the eggs! The commercial world is full of such trademark products (think the Big Mac, a dozen roses, or a John Wayne movie...) Other things seem to be in a constant state of revision (new car models, women's fashions, ice cream flavors, and remakes of classic films...)

We know that evolution is a fact; on the other hand, we are still learning how complex that process can be, and we are constantly finding new examples of evidence demonstrating it. Creationists, on the other hand, are constantly coming up with new ways to try to confuse or discourage the theory in the minds of school kids (and you have to admit that they've come up with some pretty clever ways to re-disguise their Genesis-based beliefs with seductive new arguments). Anyone with a teenager in their life knows how frustrating, and how fascinating, it can be to listen to a clever mind that is unconstrained by the blinders of culture and experience (not to mention factual knowledge), trying to devise the best way to get on with living life.

Some will say that there's nothing new under the sun. Others will always say that there's got to be a better way. Somewhere in the middle lies the mind that questions old assumptions in a useful, productive manner, seeking minor tweaks to "the old way of doing things" which can make life better for all of us, in an ever-more-confusing world. As critical thinkers, I think it should be our job to seek that balanced middle, and promote it.

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“Evil draws its power from indecision and concern for what other people think.”

~ Pope Benedict XVI



Book Learning vs. Street Smarts

by Paul Schlueter III



At around the turn of the 20th Century, two brothers named Wilbur and Orville were working hard together, trying to figure out how to achieve heavier-than-air powered flight. The street smarts of the day proclaimed that "If God had meant man to fly, He'd have given us wings." Still, two bicycle mechanics were closing in on the secret, bit by experimental bit.

One of the most famous obstacles the Wright brothers faced was a matter of attitudinal control. They had figured out a means to control pitch (forward and backward rocking), and their solution to controlling roll (side- to-side tipping) was a method called "wing warping" (elegantly simple, if not exactly the best way to do it). The problem was, in test after test of their gliders, they'd bank into a turn (much like any bicyclist), but they found that their machines would dip a wing and pivot around it, slipping sideways to the ground, and ultimately crashing. It was a vexing problem, and as pioneers of their field, they had no experts to whom they could turn for help or advice. Eventually, they realized that the problem was a lack of a rudder, the control surface for yaw. Once they mounted rudders on their gliders, they were able to control how they yawed into turns, and the third attitudinal control was found. Ever since, students of flight have been introduced to the field by discussing the aerodynamics of flight, as taught in books written by those who paved the way for others who would follow.

The Wrights found their solution by experimentation and clever thinking, but they crashed several gliders first because they lacked a book which could have guided their efforts more efficiently. Yet, even today, you can take a course called "Aviation Ground School"

which teaches the many technical aspects of modern powered flight, but you still won't learn how to actually fly until you take the controls into your own hands and master the physical skills of the art. This was far from the first example of the dilemma between street smarts and book learning, but it's certainly one that makes the issues clear.

Some things one has to learn first-hand and for oneself, by actual experience. Other things do not require personal experience or a teacher's guidance; they can be passed along from expert to student by way of the written word, transferring the facts learned by prior hard experience far more efficiently.

Today, the dilemma is usually raised in a class confrontation. One class, educated in schools with both books and teachers, is generally more privileged and in a position to exercise authority. The other class, generally populated by those who dropped out of the educational system at one point or another, are usually faced with economic hardship and left in a relatively powerless position of subservience.

The undereducated servile class naturally feels envious, even disenfranchised. At every turn, they're told by employers and other authorities that the educated class is in charge BECAUSE their book-based education is superior. The grumbling of many generations has left a large segment of society feeling wounded, perhaps even held down, because the educated class (usually the ones in control of the capital, the real estate, and the jobs) understands math, economics, politics, religion and other philosophies, medicine, and many other complex fields of learning that generally require a tedious foundation and many .years of book study to master.

**It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are.
If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong." ~ Richard P. Feynman**

Yet, the undereducated class tends to be the most physical, at least during their youthful years. The kid who isn't very good with books is very often very talented in physical skills, from sports to informal arts (music, dance, drawing), and the kids who spend most of their time in the books are that much less likely to have the time to practice the physical arts (which are among the skills best learned by practice and experience). We all like to define ourselves by our best skill set, so who can claim to be surprised when the jocks bully the nerds, use physical advantages against the weak, and declare themselves to be the superior class by reason of their greater physicality?

At this juncture, I'll skip the inconvenient fact that many people of excellent breeding find that they excel in BOTH intellectual and physical skills, and often enjoy the benefits of membership in both classes.

(not to mention ensuring that his own cubs, like those of the mighty lion, will be prevalent among his pride, thus ensuring the perpetuation of his line).

Meanwhile, the undereducated class proselytize their peers some more. Distrust the authorities, they preach, because they either are, or they serve, the book-learned "Man" who taxes your paycheck, who declares your drug sales to be a crime, and who arrests you and throws those books at you in Court to send you to prison. Distrust teachers in school, because teachers insist on doing things in the manner of the bookish, or else they'll use their education against you to expel and demean you. Distrust your neighbors (and if possible, victimize them) if they don't comply with such class principles, because surely they're traitors to their own kind and only want to keep the undereducated down. Beat up anybody you see carrying a book, because that's

“A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.”

~ George Santayana

“By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, journalism keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community.”

~ Oscar Wilde

“Democracy means government by the uneducated, while aristocracy means government by the badly educated.”

~ G. K. Chesterton

In life, the undereducated class tends to adopt the attitude that they have no use for book learning, because their own hard-earned street smarts will serve them better. The kid who runs the streets and hangs out with gangs is probably a fierce fighter, quick and effective with violence and more than willing to carry any contention beyond reasonable restraint if that's what it takes to prevail. Such kids pressure their neighbors to eschew books and school, to join the ranks of the gangs, and to live by the code of the thug life. If one is tough enough, he can climb the ranks and become a leader of his peers solely by virtue of his fight game. If his reputation is scary enough, others will "respect" him out of fear of retribution. If he can avoid the pitfall of addiction, he can instead sell drugs to the addicted, and earn money far beyond the wages available from unskilled employment. If one can terrorize women effectively, he can ensure himself steady access to their pleasures, and profit from marketing those pleasures to others as well

the symbol and weapon of the Enemy!

Sometimes, the educated class will come into the undereducated neighborhoods and try to lure your children away, with a bus full of fun, easy-to-read books and a political lie about how much better life can be if those kids stay in school, read a lot, and grow up to leave the neighborhood to go live among the Enemy and do his bidding. Far better to beat those children, to take away and destroy their pretty new books, and to encourage them to go out and learn to fight, to steal, to sell drugs, and to play sports, like everybody else around them!

The kids, to conform to the expectations of their neighborhood, start learning the class party line early. They pretend to be unable to understand their school work, rather than be accused of trying to "shine" by their peers. They actively participate in all the nefarious activities of their peers, because if you DON'T take an active role and thus become a full accomplice, then you

must be a "snitch" just waiting to turn in your fellows to the authorities (which means you're fair game for another of those beatings, to boot!) It's better to be like your peers, to take the rap when it's your turn, and to go to prison (where so many of your friends and family members are already doing time) to earn respect and prove yourself a "thorough, stand-up guy." While in prison, you'll get plenty more chances to tell your teachers that their book learning can't measure up to the street smarts YOU value, and which have served you so well in life.

In prison, it's better anyway. You get "three hots and a cot" (room and board), you get your teeth fixed and you get interferon for your Hepatitis. You have many, many idle hours to compare "war stories" with your peers and learn from them what does (or doesn't) work in the world of the hustler, so that when you get out you can go back to the "street smart" lifestyle and become more predatory than ever (which is, after all, the "soldier" way, where the strong take what they want, and the weak conform in fear).

Sometimes, a prisoner will discover the Bible, or the Koran, or the books of some pseudo-intellectual guerilla who makes a superior-sounding (however illogical) argument for his own whackadoodle theology. In prison, he'll learn to read just well enough to make a good show of seeking the "wisdom" of the chosen text, while mostly just spouting ad lib hyperbole and double-talk. He might spend just enough time in the law books to declare himself a "paralegal" and charge other inmates high prices for his service in writing unintelligible appeals that fail in the Courts (at which time, he merely explains that the Man is just keeping the "client" down, which he's already eager to believe). He might take a mail order course in preaching a faith, and "earn" a certificate that proclaims him a "Doctor" or a "Minister;" now he can pretend to be one of the educated, while still playing the role of a predatory thug behind the facade of respectability.

Some prisoners will actually try to accomplish some-

thing during their stay, and might learn employable skills. Others will actually earn high school and/or college diplomas. Others will simply read voraciously, picking up what knowledge they can from an undirected and incomplete (due to restrictions of book content demanded by "security concerns") curriculum of autodidactic studies. After release, a diploma won't gain such ex-cons much advantage (after all, it was earned IN PRISON, so criminality remains the defining factor), but if the individual is clever, perhaps he can still make use of his knowledge in some sort of entrepreneurial pursuit. Or, maybe it'll just help the ex-con become a

better criminal. It all depends on lots of individual factors, so most people simply attach their preconceived biases and judge from there, rather than actually have to risk getting to know an ex-con for who (and what) he actually is, post-release.

A substantial portion of the undereducated class won't go into a life

of crime (or at least, not predatory behavior - DUIs and marijuana use/possession don't really count as crimes, do they? And who's the victim of some small scale, informal prostitution?) Yet, they still can't quite escape the anti-book, anti-reason theosophy of their class. They turn instead to the hocus-pocus of astrology and tarot, or to the ancient wisdom of feng shui and yoga. They enroll wholeheartedly in the cult of the Daily Number, spending a disproportionate share of their already insufficient income on trying to hit the next Super Seven jackpot, or to beat the electronic poker machine down at the local bar. They purchase any sham homeopathic medication that comes their way, often not even realizing that they've had "symptoms" of some disease until someone came along hawking a snake oil cure. They, too, often fall prey to the religious lure, forking over substantial donations for the support of needy clergy and the upkeep of a glorious facility of worship they can claim as somehow partly theirs. They'll turn away and cover their ears whenever they hear someone talk-

**”When I think back on all the crap I learned in High School
it's a wonder I can think at all.
And my lack of education hasn't hurt me none;
I can read the writing on the wall.”
~ Paul Simon, "Kodachrome”**

**“The cream always rises to the top.” (Popular Proverb)
...where it spends all its time
surrounded by the scum, the slime, and the grease balls,
while the meat and potatoes
sink to the bottom and stew.
~ Bohemian corollary, by Paul Schlueter III**

ing about "rationality," "science," or "reason," because those things are only the tools and weapons of the bookish class, who of course cannot be trusted. In fact, the surest way to SELL a sham product to an undereducated dupe is to tell him that intellectuals and scientists (or maybe even the Government) have tried to discredit and prohibit the product! If the Man hates it, it MUST be good, eh?

Most people will never cross over to the opposite class once they have adopted one for themselves. In movies, it's very popular today to show a skeptic proclaiming that some superstition couldn't possibly be true, only to experience some climactic change of heart and declare full, credulous belief in the very woo-woo topic he just spent half the movie trying to debunk! That feels really satisfying to the undereducated viewer, who never actually EXPERIENCES a skeptic coming around to the mystical way of thinking (no, skeptics are far too stubborn and arrogant to ever change their minds - it is only the ignorant who are expected to learn something and get a clue). It's a measure of how much larger the undereducated class is, seeing how fully Hollywood is aligned to their ticket-buying dollars in coming up with specious and incredible plot lines! And, don't forget all those fabulous superheroes!

Somewhere in here, the 1% must be engaged in a conspiracy to keep the 99% ignorant, right? Not much! The 99% are, in fact, so proud of their ignorance that they compete with one another to see who can fall for the whackiest thing! They proudly declare how little faith they have in anything that makes sense, asserting that nobody can tell them otherwise!

I must admit to a little bit of confusion, though, because it seems like a large proportion of the Conservative Right are very closely linked with the richest (bookish?) business tycoons, and with the most devoted religious fanatics at the same time. There's a real disconnect between membership in the class of the powerful and acceptance of scientific evidence (for everything from anthropogenic global climate change to abortion to gay rights to national health care to evolution... the list goes on and on). You might think that book learning would go along with rationalism, but people can be so quirky, sometimes!

In the end, most people cannot be dissuaded of their cherished beliefs, whatever they may be. Someone who values street smarts over book learning probably had such beliefs from childhood on, and they aren't likely to change them for anybody (same goes for the arrogant, book-learned intellectuals!)

Most people can easily be identified, according to

their class and belief system, and once one side recognizes the other the defenses go up, and the ability to communicate across the lines of contention seems to disappear.

People just don't want to hear anything besides what they already deeply believe. We book-heads call that "conservation bias."

So, why do we continue trying to persuade the "other?" Here and there, I think there has to be the occasional person who is somehow discouraged with how their system of belief has served them, and they begin to listen to arguments from the other side. I think we all feel a need to reach out to those who might swing over to our way of thinking, and also to repeat and reinforce our way of thinking for those of our own class who might have begun to waver recently. After all, there's a continuous, uneven contest over which of us will prevail (be it in workplace conversation, in picnic patter, in political competition, or in social dominance). We want "our side" (whichever that side may be) to win, don't we?

For some of us then, it's worthwhile to go around and try as best we're able to persuade the ignorant, to preach to our own choirs, and to enjoy the sound of our own voices being so reasonable. What better way to spend some idle time?

Well, maybe we COULD just go and read another book...

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Editor's note: Paul Schlueter III has been serving Life in prison for over 27 years. All parody aside, he has served that community as an adult literacy tutor, tutor trainer, and council board member for twenty years. The prison's branch of Laubach tutoring, an inmate organization paid for entirely by inmate donations, was abruptly shut down by the prison administration as part of a larger overall effort to end the practice of inmates "teaching" their peers.

PHACT CALENDAR

PhACT Events

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 \$4.00 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, September 21, 2013 at 2:00 PM - AIDS Denialism - Nicoli Nattrass of South Africa and frequent visiting Professor at Yale University will talk on her book *'The AIDS Conspiracy: Science Fights Back* Hundreds of thousands of people are thought to have died based on misinformation concerning AIDS and treatments. Learn about how science is reducing the deaths and spread of the disease even though irrationalism has been doing the opposite. See [Page 1](#) for more details.

Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 2:00 PM - Dr. Paul Offit. Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will discuss his new book,; *"Do You Believe in Magic?: The Sense and Nonsense of Alternative Medicine"*. Book signing will follow. See [page 7](#) for more details.

Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 2:00 PM - T.B.A.

Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 2:00 PM - T.B.A.

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.



The Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science (PACHS) maintains an extensive calendar of events about the history of science, technology and medicine that may contain some interesting events not listed in the Phactum Calendar. Check out their website at:

<http://www.pachs.net/events>

Friday, September 6, 2013 to Sunday, September 8, 2013
2013 Philadelphia Honey Festival

The Philadelphia Honey Festival aims to raise awareness about the importance of bees to our environment, the impact of local honey on our economy, and to promote urban beekeeping and gardening.

The Philadelphia Beekeepers Guild is proud to present the 2013 Philadelphia Honey Festival in conjunction with its partners:

- Wagner Free Institute of Science - Friday, September 6
- Wyck Historic House and Garden - Saturday, September 7
- Bartram's Garden - Sunday, September 8



For more details see the Wagner Free Institute of Science Honey Festival page at:

<http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org/syllabi%202013-14/HoneyFest2013.htm>

Saturday, September 7, 2013 at 6:00pm and Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 2:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY

CO-PRESENTED BY THE MANAYUNK ROXBOROUGH ART CENTER

Spoon River Anthology, the haunting work of Edgar Lee Masters, was an avant-garde example of literary prowess when first published in 1915. In the text, the dead of a Midwest burial ground speak from beyond the grave to relay the sordid details of their lives and deaths. Under the direction of the Manayunk Roxborough Art Center, original performances of Spoon River Anthology will take place at Laurel Hill Cemetery, and will be presented as part of the 2013 Philly Fringe Festival.

The show will feature local actors, artists and poets including Philadelphia residents, Courtney Bambrick, Michael Cohen, Ronald Howard, Gwen Kaminski, Elizabeth Leo and Constance Swartzman; Pamela Martin of Montgomery County; Kathy McMearty and Raymond P. Smith of Delaware County; and David P. Kozinski of Wilmington, Delaware. The show will be directed by Patti Allis Mengers, who has previously directed productions for Plays and Players of Philadelphia, Players Club of Swarthmore, the Barnstormers in Ridley Park and the Arden Shakespeare Guild's Young Actors Workshop in Delaware. Manayunk Roxborough Art Center's Humanities Division Director, Peter Krok of Haverford, will produce the show.

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.



This is your opportunity to be a fly on the wall of the hereafter. Sit back and settle in amidst the good company of Laurel Hill's permanent residents. Audiences will be privy to tales of scandal, lament and woe...to the nightmares that haunt eternities...to the ache that wrenches hearts no longer beating...to crimes both committed and avenged, forgiven but not forgotten. Bring your own blankets or beach chairs, picnics, and/or beverages.

Two performances of Spoon River Anthology are scheduled at Laurel Hill Cemetery. An evening performance will take place on Saturday, September 7 at 6:00pm. A matinee performance will take place on Sunday, September 8 at 2:00pm. Ticket holders can check in at Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot directly across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost for the evening program is \$20/person general admission; the cost for the matinee program is \$15/person general admission. Advance reservations are requested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or through the Fringe Festival Box Office at www.livearts-fringe.com.

Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m at National Mechanics, 22 S. Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Science on Tap

A monthly gathering that features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation. Good food and beer. **"Specimen: The Insects and Natural History of Eastern State Penitentiary"**

Greg Cowper, Entomology Department, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University



Almost 125 years ago, an inmate of Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary collected butterflies and moths in the exercise yard attached to his cell. Flash forward to spring 2011 when Academy entomologist Greg Cowper revisited the insect fauna of the prison as part of Eastern State Penitentiary's History and Artist Installation Series. Drawing from this experience, Cowper will discuss the collision of art, science, and natural history within the walls of the prison; the insects and other invertebrates he has collected; and the Cabinet of Curiosities assembled in Cellblock 9 as part of his exhibit "Specimen."

Greg Cowper, a curatorial assistant in the Entomology Department, has completed fieldwork in New Zealand, Africa, the Caribbean, and the eastern and southwestern United States. His research interests are in the systematics, evolution, and biogeography of Heteroptera, the true bugs.

This month's Science of Tap is brought to you by the Academy of

**A New Reading Circle:
 The Institute for Religion and Science.**

Our Reading Circle is meeting from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm beginning in November on the second Monday of the month in the William Walker Room of the Logue Library to discuss **Ilia Delio's *The Emergent Christ***. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at Institute4RS@chc.edu

See website: www.irands.org

Natural Science of Drexel University.
Must be 21 or accompanied by parent. Free and open to the Public.
<http://scienceontapphilly.com/>

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 7:30 PM at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, located in Center City Philadelphia, at the intersection of 20th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

<http://www.fi.edu>

Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting

Bring all of your out-of-this-world questions!

Join The Rittenhouse Astronomical Society on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Fels Planetarium. The society offers all persons an opportunity to participate in the activities of an astronomical group at the layman's level. They aim to spread knowledge, awareness, and enjoyment of astronomy and astronomical issues. It is a popular science club that keeps its members up-to-date on the latest developments. No experience is necessary to attend the FREE meetings.

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 5:00 PM at the Morgan Log House, 850 Weikel Road, Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

An 18th Century Tavern -

Historian Clarissa Dillon, Ph.D., will be on hand at this fund raising event. She will be discussing 18th century foods, music, & drinks. Colonial beer brewing and 18th century distilling demonstrations will be ongoing as well as Tours of this amazing and unique historic structure! Food will be provided by The Culinary Arts Institute of Montgomery County Community College. Wine, cider, and honey mead provided by Boyd's Cardinal Winery. Period Music provided by Tom & Marianne Tucker.

Tickets are \$40 per person, \$70 per couple, \$30 Designated driver. Ticket includes all food, drinks, and Admission to the Log House. Cash or check only. Advanced Reservations REQUIRED. Space is limited.

<http://www.morganloghouse.org/index.php>

Friday September 13, 2013, Saturday September 14, Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21 (with prescheduled rain dates of Sunday, September 15 or Sunday, September 22.) at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

SIX FEET (ABOVE and) UNDER: A GRAVEYARD CABARET PRESENTED BY REV THEATRE COMPANY

Back (from the dead) by popular demand, New York-based REV Theatre Company will return to Laurel Hill Cemetery for A Graveyard Cabaret. This witty, mysterious and haunting performance will be spent

with three departed souls as they journey between this world and the next. It has been reconceived and recreated by REV's Co-Artistic Directors, Rudy Caporaso and Rosey Hay. It will be presented as part of the 2013 Philly Fringe Festival.

SEE a sailor lost at sea as his widow drowns in a bathtub. MARVEL as a serial-killing little

girl pleads for the electric chair. BEWARE because a murderer looks for his next victim. Performed with music from Bessie Smith to The Scissor Sisters, Cab Calloway to Nirvana, and including many others. So come back indeed and enjoy yourself...it's (still) later than you think!!! Bring your own blankets or beach chairs, picnics, and/or beverages.

Four performances of Six Feet (Above and) Under are scheduled at Laurel Hill Cemetery: Friday September 13, Saturday September 14, Friday September 20 and Saturday September 21 (with prescheduled rain dates of Sunday, September 15 or Sunday, September 22.) All performances begin at 8:00pm, and will kick off with cocktails at 7:15pm. Ticket holders can check in at Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot directly across the street from the Gatehouse.



The cost for the program is \$20/person general admission. Advance reservations are requested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or through the Fringe Festival Box Office at www.livearts-fringe.com.

Sunday, September 15 at 1:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

BURIED in the LAND of STRANGERS:

THE CONFEDERATES of LAUREL HILL

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 of never before told Philadelphians who fought for the Confederacy: who they were, why they fought, and how they came to be buried...in a land of strangers at Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery. Learn about an important piece of Civil War history so often neglected, while marking the 151st anniversary of the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam Creek), the bloodiest day in American History, which took place on September 17, 1862.

This walking tour will take place on Sunday, September 15 at 1:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$12/person; or \$10/students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guide: Sam Ricks

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Diane Ravitch | Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools

A historian of education at the forefront of debate for over 40 years, "whistleblower extraordinaire" (Wall Street Journal) Diane Ravitch is Research Professor of Education at New York University and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences. A former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, she was awarded the United Federation of Teachers John Dewey Award for Excellence in Education. Her books include the critically acclaimed Language Police and The Death and Life of the Great American School System, an impassioned plea to preserve and renew public education. Reign of Error is a call to halt the privatization of the public school system and a detailed plan for the survival of this American institution.

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

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/tickets.cfm>

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Reza Aslan | Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth

Religion scholar Reza Aslan is the internationally bestselling author of No god but God, "an eloquent, erudite paean to Islam in all of its complicated glory" (Los Angeles Times Book Review). The book was a finalist for the Guardian First Book Award and named Best Book of the Year by the Financial Times and the Los Angeles Times. His next book, How to Win a Cosmic War, offered an incisive analysis of religion and the war on terror. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Aslan is the founder of AslanMedia.com, an online journal for news and entertainment about the Middle East and the world. Sifting through centuries of mythmaking, Zealot radically reframes the life of Jesus through the lens of first-century Israel/Palestine awash in apocalyptic fervor.

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

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/tickets.cfm>

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 | 12n - 1pm at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

Food & Thought: Who's Ready for Their Close-up? Philadelphia!

Two decades ago, one wardrobe stylist had an ambitious dream to see

her beloved hometown become the movie metropolis she always knew it could be. Now, over twenty years later and after \$4 billion of economic impact to the southeastern Pennsylvania region, GPFO Executive Director Sharon Pinkenson has successfully elevated the GPFO from the little-known permit office it once was to one of the most well-respected film commissions in the industry. In doing so, Sharon has cemented Philadelphia's reputation as one of the best media production centers in the country. Join us as Sharon Pinkenson discusses the current state of film production in Philadelphia, and plans for the future.

Speaker: Sharon Pinkenson, Executive Director, Greater Philadelphia Film Office

Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Frankford Hall on Frankford Avenue just north of Girard Avenue.

Philadelphia Nerd Nite ... be there and be square, yo.

Science discussions, good food, good company, and plenty of beer!

For more information see the website at

<http://philadelphia.nerdnite.com/updates/>

The next Nerd Nite is Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

Open to the Public. Admission \$5.00

Email us at: nerdnitephilly@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 (with a prescheduled rain date of Thursday, September 19). The performance begins at 6:30pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

BONEYARDS

This dark comedy, written and performed by Jeffrey Stanley, is a followup to his 2011 Fringe Festival hit, *Beautiful Zion: A Book of the Dead*. This solo show is a funeral for the living. A coming-of-age embalming. A suicidal decapitation by coal train. A cross-dressing hillbilly named Doodlebug. This metatheatrical, taphophilic, true-to-life monologue resurrects and converses with the cadaverous - from Philly's Laurel Hill Cemetery to a British colonial era graveyard in India to ancient Greek tomb worshippers.

Is there a meaning to the universe? Is the spirit world speaking to you? Thrill as Stanley points to a tombstone and researches the forgotten dead beneath it, forming connections with the deceased who rise to the surface halfway around the world in a Kolkata graveyard, and in his own Appalachian family. Shriek and shimmy as Stanley worships the dead in song. Be amazed as a live seance yields messages for audience members. Psychism? Telepathy? Subconscious ideomotor impulses? Warch, decide, leave smiling, healed and redeemed. There's a little taphophile in all of us.

One performance of Boneyards is scheduled at Laurel Hill Cemetery: Wednesday, September 18 (with a prescheduled rain date of Thursday, September 19). The performance begins at 6:30pm. Ticket holders can check in at Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot directly across the street from the Gatehouse. The event is **BYOB (alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages only.)**

The cost for the program is \$10/person general admission. Tickets can be purchased only in advance through the Fringe Festival online box office at www.livearts-fringe.com.

Friday, September 20, 2013 at 7:30PM at the **Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Eric Schlosser | Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety

Investigative journalist Eric Schlosser is the author of the New York Times bestselling books *Fast Food Nation*, which helped launch a revolution in how people think about what they eat; *Reefer Madness*, which probed the flourishing black market of sex, drugs, and cheap labor; and *Chew on This*, a children's book about industrial agriculture and the

health effects of fast food. He produced the feature film adaptation of *Fast Food Nation* and the award-winning films *Food, Inc.* and *There Will Be Blood*. *Command and Control* is a lively account of the management of our country's nuclear arsenal that grapples with the dilemma faced since the dawn of the atomic era: how to deploy a nuclear arsenal without being destroyed by it.

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

Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, 2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: 610-582-8773 www.nps.gov/hofu

Harvest Day. Apples can be picked and 18th Century **Historian Clarissa Dillon, Ph.D.**, will be displaying and explaining Early American pastimes for Children. There will be demonstrations of iron casting throughout the day.

Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 1:00 pm at University of Pennsylvania Museum, 3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

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

Afternoon Lecture

Seth, Evil God of Power and Might

The ancient Egyptian god Seth is often seen as the god of evil in ancient Egyptian religion, as he killed his brother Osiris in order to claim the kingship of Egypt. In this lecture, Dr. Eugene Cruz-Uribe, Indiana University East, tries to rehabilitate Seth's stature, taking into account numerous new studies (including Dr. Cruz-Uribe's own) on the numerous protective roles that Seth held throughout Egyptian history. Some new and unpublished scenes of the god Seth, from the speaker's own fieldwork in Egypt, are shown. Sponsored by the American Research Center in Egypt - Pennsylvania Chapter and the Archaeological Institute of America - Philadelphia Chapter. Free admission.



Seth and Horus adorning Ramesses in the small temple at Abu Simbel.

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 | 12n – 1pm at **College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103** http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

Food & Thought: Who's Ready for Their Close-up? Philadelphia!

Two decades ago, one wardrobe stylist had an ambitious dream to see her beloved hometown become the movie metropolis she always knew it could be. Now, over twenty years later and after \$4 billion of economic impact to the southeastern Pennsylvania region, GPFO Executive Director Sharon Pinkenson has successfully elevated the GPFO from the little-known permit office it once was to one of the most well-respected film commissions in the industry. In doing so, Sharon has cemented Philadelphia's reputation as one of the best media production centers in the country. Join us as Sharon Pinkenson discusses the current state of film production in Philadelphia, and plans for the future.

Speaker: Sharon Pinkenson, Executive Director, Greater Philadelphia Film Office

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PhACT Event

Saturday, September 21, 2013 - at 2:00 PM

Nicoli Natrass of South Africa will talk on
AIDS denialism.

See page 1 for more details.

Monday, September 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

A Staged Reading of *Skin Deep* by Paul Meade

Skin Deep is a thriller set in the Dublin art world. Inspired by artists like Damien Hirst and the new greed of Dublin. Karl, a struggling artist, owes money to his landlord, a photographer called Dan. Karl is stuck for inspiration, when one day he hits upon an idea, involving a huge favor from Susan, a medical student moonlighting in a hospital morgue. Dan's girlfriend Ruth writes a weekly column on her love-life. As Karl's new work elevates him to celebrity status, Ruth becomes suspicious of the secrets to his success. All this...and a mysterious foot!

Paul Meade is a writer, director, actor and artistic director of Gúna Nua theatre. From Limerick, Paul trained at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College, and later received an M.A. in modern drama from U.C.D. Work as a writer includes: *Scenes From a Water Cooler*, *Begotten Not Made*, *Thesis*, and *Trousers*.

Inis Nua Theatre Company is Philadelphia's home for contemporary plays from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. Now in its ninth year, Inis Nua performs at the newly created Off-Broad Street Theater at 17th and Sansom Street.

Sponsored by the College and its Section on Medicine and the Arts. Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
 Tel: 215-925-2222 • <http://www.chemheritage.org>

Brown Bag Lecture: Market, Medicine, and Empire: Japanese Pharmaceuticals in the Early 20th Century
A talk by Timothy Yang

During the first half of the 20th century, pharmaceuticals were intertwined with the fortunes of Japan as a nation and an empire. While scholars have analyzed medicine as either a "tool of empire" or a site of anticolonial contestation for colonized peoples, they have paid far less attention to medicine as an industry. This talk explores the interconnections between global capitalism, empire, and modern medicine through a micro-history of Hoshi Pharmaceuticals, the preeminent drug company in East Asia from the end of World War I through the years following World War II. By tracing Hoshi's activities across Japan's expanding empire and beyond, I explore how transnational pharmaceutical companies helped manufacture and sell Japan as a civilized, humanitarian empire, founded on middle-class consumerism, technocratic expertise, and the allegedly self-evident value of modern medicine.

Tim Yang is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at Harvard University. In the fall of 2014 he will be an assistant professor of history and Asian studies at Pacific University. He received an A.B. in history and Japanese from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. His talk is based on his recently defended dissertation, "Market, Medicine, and Empire: Hoshi Pharmaceuticals in the Interwar Years," which examines the connections between global capitalism, empire, and medicine in modern Japan. A recent article of his appeared in *East Asian Science, Technology, and Society*.

Open to the Public. Free. No Registration Required

Wednesday September 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, 3025 Church Road, Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania, 19444. The American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia (ARRTOP).

Aaron Sullivan will discuss the British Occupation of Philadelphia. ARRTOP events are Free and Open to the Public.

<http://arrtop.com>

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 5 – 7PM at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

Artist Reception: JORDAN EAGLES – BLOOD WORK

Don't miss this unique chance to see JORDAN EAGLES – BLOOD

WORK. Jordan Eagles is a New York artist who creates works that evoke the connections between life, death, body, spirit, and the universe. Jordan Eagles will lead a gallery tour that showcases his fascinating work and their multi-sensory experience. Meet artist Jordan Eagles and Mütter Museum Exhibitions Manager, Evi Numen.

More info about Jordan Eagles at www.jordaneagles.com

Free to Members; Non-Members \$10

Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA
www.ansp.org 215-299-1108

American Wildlife Art

David J. Wagner is one of the world's leading authors, curators, and researchers of wildlife art. Join us in the Academy Library as he tells the story of the evolution of wildlife art in America.

He will trace the history of wildlife art from early watercolors, to John James Audubon's seminal *The Birds of America*, to artists' modern accomplishments in the genre. Copies of *American Wildlife Art* will be available for purchase, and a book signing will follow the talk.

David Wagner received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He wrote his dissertation on American wildlife art while at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Oregon. He has also organized several landmark conferences on the subject throughout the country. Wagner received a grant from the Robert S. and Grayce B. Kerr Foundation in order to research and develop *American Wildlife Art*, which has become a standard reference book on the subject.

Free and open to the public

Registration requested at: americanwildlifeart.eventbrite.com

Dr. Wagner's talk at the Academy is in conjunction with the opening of an exhibit based on his book at the Allentown Art Museum. The exhibit will open on September 29 and run through December 29. For more information please visit:

<http://www.allentownartmuseum.org/exhibition/american-wildlife-art>
 The official website of American Wildlife Art can be found at <http://american-wildlife-art.com/>

Friday, September 27, 2013 at 10:00am at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

MONTHLY FOURTH FRIDAY TOUR SERIES:

HOT SPOTS and STORIED PLOTS

Join Laurel Hill Cemetery for this informative overview of Laurel Hill's long and colorful history, which will include many of the marble masterpieces, stunning views and legendary stories that afford the



The Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers
 is a group of enthusiastic hobbyists who live in and around Philadelphia. The DVAA's monthly meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Meetings always feature a short talk on "what's up" in the sky currently, as well as a talk by a professional astronomer or members of the DVAA or a neighboring club.
 Unless otherwise announced, monthly meetings will be held on the third Friday of each month at the Freedom Hall, in the Upper Merion Township Building, 175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406
 Meetings start at 7:00 with time for informal socializing. Announcements and the main talk begin at 7:30 sharp. Refreshments are provided. Upcoming club events are listed on the DVAA website: <http://dvaa.org>



Calling All Astronomers! Rittenhouse Astronomical Society

Monthly Meetings! Bring all of your out-of-this-world questions! Join The Rittenhouse

Astronomical Society the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute. The society offers all persons an opportunity to participate in the activities of an astronomical group at the laymen's level. They aim to spread knowledge, awareness and enjoyment of astronomy and astronomical issues. It is a popular science club that keeps its members up-to-date on the latest developments. No experience is necessary to attend the FREE meetings. Come with your astronomy questions!

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org/

cemetery its WOW factor. This is the perfect tour for first-time visitors to Laurel Hill, and anyone else who enjoys beautiful art, scenic nature and fascinating history. BRAND NEW "Hot Spots and Storied Plots" will be presented monthly as part of Laurel Hill Cemetery's Fourth Friday tour series, which take place on the fourth Friday of every month at 10:00am.

September's walking tour will take place on Friday, September 27 at 10:00am, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$8/person general admission; \$5/members. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online. Guide: Jeff Wiernik

Saturday, September 28, 2013 at 6:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

GHOSTS AMONG OUR GRAVES:

WORKSHOP and GHOST HUNT - PRESENTED BY FREE SPIRIT PARANORMAL INVESTIGATORS

Is there anything on the other side? What becomes of our life energy after we die? Professional ghost hunters, Free Spirit Paranormal Investigators, have conducted numerous investigations of historic Laurel Hill Cemetery in search of answers to these questions. Join FSPI for this unique workshop, as they reveal the findings of their investigations, and discuss some of the basics in the field of ghost hunting, including types of hauntings; equipment and debunking; EMFs (electromagnetic fields); EVPs (electronic voice phenomena); space weather; and psychic protection. Participants will then have the opportunity to experiment firsthand with ghost hunting equipment, while joining FSPI team leaders on group investigations of some of the cemetery's most reportedly active sections. After the hunt, refuel with complimentary snacks and refreshments.

The program will take place on Saturday, September 28 at 6:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$30/person general admission; or \$25 students and seniors. Advance reservations are requested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Sunday, September 29, 2013 at 1:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

THE WORLDS of THOMAS JEFFERSON

Adopted sons, signers of the Declaration, painters, sculptors, men of science, ladies of belle letters, famous physicians, pariahs of free press, purveyors of fine wine and, of course, political provokers both friend and foe: all recognized by Thomas Jefferson as luminaries in our nation's early "Constellation of Worthies." They now rest peacefully at Laurel Hill. This

walking tour will be led by foremost Jefferson scholar and acclaimed portrayer of America's third President, William David Barker (www.thethomasjefferson.com), who will be visiting Laurel Hill from his home in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The tour will take place on Sunday, September 29 at 1:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$12/person; or \$10/students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guide: Bill Barker

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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

Brown Bag Lecture: Ida Noddack and the Universal Function of Matter

A talk by Gildo M. dos Santos

Ida Noddack was a German chemist who, with her husband, Walter Noddack, discovered in 1925 element 75 (rhenium) and possibly also element 43 (technetium). She is also known to have anticipated the possibility of nuclear fission in 1934. Noddack faced many challenges because of her scientific nonconformity, her gender, the overall strangling of research under the Nazi regime, and resentment from physicists.

Dos Santos's talk will focus on Ida's hypothesis about the distribution of matter in the universe. Ida and her husband undertook the chemical analysis of meteorites, out of which Ida concluded that all elements are present in just any mineral. The minimal concentration at which a given element is present in any mineral was called by Ida the "universal mineral concentration." Ida related the relative abundance of the elements in the universe to some property of the atomic nuclei. This allowed her to conjecture about new and unexpected properties of periodicity in the table of elements. She and her husband also imagined that the relative concentrations of the elements had considerably changed during the history of the universe and, more specifically, during Earth's geological eras.

Open to the Public. Free. No Registration Required

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 6:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org>

Edgar Allan Poe: Deep into that Darkness

From 1838 through 1844, Edgar Allan Poe found his home in Philadelphia. During those six years, he produced some of his best-known and most haunting works, including "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," and "The Fall of the House of Usher." While no written proof of such has yet been uncovered, many have speculated that Poe's tales may have been inspired amidst the graves and gardens of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Newly opened when Poe took up residence in the city, the

Night Skies in the Observatory at the Franklin Institute Every second Thursday

About Night Skies in the Observatory

Hosted by Chief Astronomer at The Franklin Institute, Derrick Pitts, the



Joel N. Bloom Observatory is open late to the public and offers 5 different telescopes for you to view celestial objects in the sky, including stars, planets, nebulae, and if conditions are right, a galaxy or two. The evening includes a Fels Planetarium show and a lecture or presentation (appropriate for ages 5 and up) on an astronomical or space science topic. The Observatory is staffed with knowledgeable observers and free star maps are provided. Meet

some BIG STARS on the second Thursday of each month at The Franklin Institute! Admission is \$5.00. Members are free. Advance reservations are not needed. Tickets are sold on-site when you arrive.

<http://www2.fi.edu/exhibits/permanent/bloomobservatory.php>

famed necropolis could draw more than 150,000 visitors in one season alone... Surely, Poe could well have been among those curious souls. This walking tour of Laurel Hill will focus on what history has revealed to us of Poe's time in Philadelphia – on the literature he produced, and of the friends, associates and enemies who traveled within his circles. Many of these individuals now reside permanently at Laurel Hill, including Henry Beck Hirst, Joseph Clay Neal and George Rex Graham.

With October marking the month of Poe's passing and Halloween on the horizon, this is a fitting time to summon the stories of the Master of the Macabre. Bring your own flashlights. The tour will conclude with wine and beer.

The tour will take place on Tuesday, October 1 at 6:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$20/person; or \$18/students and seniors. Reservations are suggested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guides: Dave Horwitz, Ph.D. and Carol R. Yaster

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 7:30PM at the **Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Salman Rushdie | Joseph Anton with Martin Amis | Lionel Asbo: State of England

After the 1989 publication of his novel *The Satanic Verses* led Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini to issue a fatwa calling for his death, Salman Rushdie went underground, living under police protection for almost 10 years until the fatwa was lifted in 1998. He draws the title of his new memoir from the alias he adopted during this time, a combination of the first names of two writers he loved: Joseph Conrad and Anton Chekhov. Rushdie is the author of 16 books, including *Midnight's Children*, winner of the Booker Prize in 1981 and the "Booker of Bookers" Prize in 1993; *Shalimar the Clown*; and *The Enchantress of Florence*, which was named one of the Best Books of 2008 by the *Washington Post*.

Spanning four decades, a dozen novels, several short story collections and works of nonfiction, two screenplays, and hundreds of reviews and essays, Martin Amis's influential career testifies to a lifetime devoted to literature. A writer who is "dark, satirical, and gifted with irascibility" (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*), Amis has been described as the undisputed master of what the *New York Times* called "the new unpleasantness." English tabloid culture takes a beating in his new book, a characteristically gruesome satire about an unusually principled thug raising his bookish nephew.

Tickets for the originally scheduled event on October 30, 2012 will be honored.

Meelya Gordon Memorial Lecture

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

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/tickets.cfm>

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:30PM at the **Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Jill Lepore | Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin

Jill Lepore's meticulously researched books explore violence, language, and the absences and asymmetries in the historical record. A New Yorker staff writer and chair of Harvard's History and Literature Program, she is the author of the Carnegie Medal finalist *The Mansion of Happiness: A History of Life and Death*; *The Story of America: Essays on Origins*, an examination of the nature of history and the shaping of its narrative; *New York Burning*, winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Award and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and *The Name of War*, recipient of the Bancroft Prize. *Book of Ages* is a detailed portrait of Jane Franklin, Benjamin's beloved and gifted sister, who was his confidante and lifelong correspondent.

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

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/tickets.cfm>

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 6:30 pm at University of Pennsylvania Museum, 3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

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

"Great Voyages" Lecture

The Voyages of Chinese Explorer Zheng He

Dr. Adam Smith, Assistant Curator, Asian Section, kicks off the 2013–2014 "Great Lectures" series. This year's theme: Great Voyages. Zheng He, a Muslim-born eunuch, is the most famous of the men that led the spectacular maritime expeditions of the Ming Dynasty, mounted during the early 15th century as an assertion of China's power and prestige among neighboring peoples of Southeast Asia. Dr. Smith discusses Zheng He's seven voyages, which reached beyond Southeast Asia to India, the Middle East, and the east coast of Africa over three decades—half a century before Portuguese navigators reached these same regions via the Cape of Good Hope. Sign up for a series subscription and save: \$40, general public; \$15, Penn Museum members. Individual lecture with advance registration: \$5, general public; \$2, Penn Museum members; \$10 at the door based on availability. Free for students with college ID.

[Register at https://446.blackbaudhosting.com/446/](https://446.blackbaudhosting.com/446/)

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 7:00pm at **Chestnut Hill College, Commonwealth Chateau (Bldg. 20), Sugar Loaf Campus, 9230 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118.** <http://www.irands.org>

Red Dwarf Stars and Little Green People?

Are we alone? The question of whether Red Dwarfs can support habitable (life-bearing) planets is becoming a profound one, especially given how numerous we now know they are. This program will present recent research on Red Dwarf Stars and their planets and help us to ponder the question of what difference the existence of extraterrestrial life would make for humanity.

Living with a Red Dwarf

Scott Engle, PhD

Villanova University

The Little Green People and Us

Frank Haig, SJ, PhD

Loyola University in Maryland

This lecture is presented by The Institute for Religion and Science hosted by Chestnut Hill College.

Open to the public. For those who are able to contribute to our efforts, a Free Will Donation is requested

Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 6:30 PM at **College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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

Natasha Trethewey, Poet Laureate of the USA, on African American Civil War soldiers, and a Reading of *Native Guard*

Professor Natasha Trethewey, the current Poet Laureate of the United States (formally, United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry), will read from her Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of poetry, *Native Guard*, the title poem of which concerns one of the first regiments of black soldiers fighting for the Union during the Civil War, the Louisiana Native Guard, and their legacy. She will talk about her research into these events and the inspiration for her poetic meditation on the memory of those soldiers. Professor Trethewey's four books of poetry examine the complex racial heritage of the United States for which she has received many honors and international recognition. As she has written, "The ghost of history lies down beside me, rolls over, pins me beneath a heavy arm." Now in her re-appointment to the Poet Laureate role for a second year, she aims to promote the reading, understanding, and writing of poetry. Professor Trethewey's talk highlights the opening of the Mutter Museum's new permanent exhibit, *Broken Bodies, Suffering Spirits: Injury, Death, and Healing in Civil War Philadelphia*.

Speaker: Natasha Trethewey, the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States and Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University.

Free to Members; Non-Members \$10

Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail

info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 7:00pm (with a prescheduled rain date of Saturday, October 26 at 7:00pm.) at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200
<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Cinema in the Cemetery: A Halloween Horror!

A scary movie...in a cemetery...at night... during the Halloween season? It just doesn't get much better than that! Sit back and relax (if you can!) with a drink, some popcorn and some friends on this autumnal movie night under the stars. After the sun sets, the grainy joys of the film experience will be brought to audiences amid the historic tombs and haunting history of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Blazing fire pits, hot apple cider and kettle corn will further set the most macabre mood. The movie to be screened will be announced shortly. BRING YOUR OWN BLANKETS and/or BEACH CHAIRS, SNACKS and BEVERAGES.

The screening will take place on Saturday, October 5, 7:00pm (with a prescheduled rain date of Saturday, October 26 at 7:00pm.) Gates open at 6pm. Ticket holders can check in at Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot directly across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$10/person general admission. Advance reservations are requested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00AM to 5:00 PM at Newlin Grist Mill, 219 South Cheyney Road, Glen Mills, PA 610.459.2359
www.newlingristmill.org

Newlin Grist Mill Harvest Festival - Historic demonstrators and craftsmen will be on hand to bring to life the sights, sounds and smells of 18th century life. 18th Century Historian **Clarissa Dillon, Ph.D.** will be on hand to display "Besides Beer", samples and serving items for colonial drinks other than beer. No tasting. A historic brewer will be on site. Experience open hearth cooking, silhouette making, weaving, spinning, lace making, heritage sheep, and blacksmith demonstrations. Interact with the Maryland Infantry Regiment re-enactors. Enjoy the sounds of period harp and mandolin music or catch a performance of the Other Fall Harvest Festival activities include: hay rides weather dependent, pumpkin painting, colonial toys and games, and face painting. Admission is free!

Sunday, October 6 at 1:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200
<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Spirits and Spiritualists

In the 19th century, thousands of Philadelphians believed that they could communicate with the dead. All that it took was a darkened room, a circle of believers, and a sensitive medium. Other Philadelphians mocked the table-rappers and tried to expose their tricks. Both believers and skeptics are well represented in historic Laurel Hill Cemetery. Along this tour, we will stop at the resting place of Catherine Drinkhouse Smith, whose monument proclaims her as "one of the best mediums of her time," and at the grave of Adam Seybert, whose last will and testament allocated a large sum to the University of Pennsylvania for a study of the truths of spiritualism. We will also visit the grave of Horace H. Furness, the Shakespeare scholar who led an official inquiry into the claims of spiritualists, and at the hillside tomb of Elisha Kent Kane, the famed Arctic explorer who scoffed at spiritualism but who fell in love with America's most beautiful young medium.

The tour will take place on Sunday, October 6 at 1:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$12/person; or \$10/students and seniors. Reservations are suggested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guide: Michael Brooks, Ph.D.



Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

A Victorian Obsession: The Natural World Under Glass

Spend an evening at the Academy of Natural Sciences with author John Whitenight as he explores the role that natural history played in the everyday lives of 19th-century people. During that era, the public developed an unprecedented obsession with the natural world.

Mr. Whitenight will be sharing images and information from his book, *Under Glass: A Victorian Obsession*, a comprehensive study of the incredible array of objects that were arranged and presented as decorative art. Included will be botanical arrangements made from wax and sea shells as well as domes and cases filled with beautiful birds of every description. Learn how the Victorians not only embraced natural history but also included it in their home décor.

John Whitenight developed an avid interest in art by age five and pursued this interest through an undergraduate degree in art education. He taught high school art for 30 years and also acquired a master's degree equivalence in decorative arts-related studies in Philadelphia. Whitenight has been collecting glass domes and studying their history since 1973, when he received his first dome containing three preserved canaries. Recently highlighted in a New York Times article, his collection contains more than 175 richly varied domed displays.

Lecture 6:30 p.m.

Q&A and Book Signing to follow

Free and open to the public, registration requested at: <http://underglassbook-ans.eventbrite.com/>

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 7:30PM at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Michael Sokolove | Drama High: The Incredible True Story of a Brilliant Teacher, a Struggling Town, and the Magic of Theater.

In his 40-year career at Levittown's Harry S. Truman High School, legendary drama teacher Lou Volpe staged more than 40 productions—including debuts of *Les Miserables* and *Rent* for national high school use—coached students towards success as Emmy-winning producers, entertainment executives, and community theater founders; and built one of the most respected theatre programs in the United States. Upon his retirement, the school auditorium was named after him. In his new book, former Truman student Michael Sokolove chronicles Volpe's last school years and follows the on- and off-stage dramas of his actors. Sokolove, "a natural literary stylist with the gifts of a social historian," (New York Times) is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. His previous books include *The Ticket Out*, *Hustle*, and *Warrior Girls*.

In conversation with Lou Volpe

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

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 6:00pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

What a Way to Go! Strange Exits and Freakish Ends

Death by elevator? Final moments in the dentist's chair? Dinner of shark or demands to bury only your heart? When it comes to the "way to go", truth is quite a bit stranger than fiction. This Halloween season tour explores not just bizarre departures, but curious last wishes, odd final words and eccentric personalities to the very end. A fascinating romp through the beginning of the end, the tales of this tour may give you the chills but will also leave you wondering about how death defines us. Bring your own flashlights.

The walking tour will take place on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse. Wine, beer and refreshments will be served. This program is not recommended for ages under 21 years.

The cost is \$20/person. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guide: Alexis Jeffcoat

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Frankford Hall on Frankford Avenue just north of Girard Avenue.
Philadelphia Nerd Nite ... be there and be square, yo. Science discussions, good food, good company, and plenty of beer!

For more information see the website at

<http://philadelphia.nerdnite.com/updates/>

The next Nerd Nite is Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

Open to the Public. Admission \$5.00

Email us at: nerdnitephilly@gmail.com



Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7:30 PM at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, located in Center City Philadelphia, at the intersection of 20th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

<http://www.fi.edu>

Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting

Bring all of your out-of-this-world questions!

Join The Rittenhouse Astronomical Society on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Fels Planetarium. The society offers all persons an opportunity to participate in the activities of an astronomical group at the layman's level. They aim to spread knowledge, awareness, and enjoyment of astronomy and astronomical issues. It is a popular science club that keeps its members up-to-date on the latest developments. No experience is necessary to attend the FREE meetings.

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

Thursday, October 10, 2013 - 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the **American Philosophical Society**, Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

<http://www.amphilsoc.org/>

Jefferson's Shadow: The Story of His Science by Keith Thomson

Lecture, Reception, and Book Signing

Keith Thomson is executive officer at the American Philosophical Society and professor emeritus of natural history at the University of Oxford. He was for five years a visiting fellow of the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, VA. Thomson is the author of nine books, most recently *The Legacy of the Mastodon* and *The Young Charles Darwin*.

In the voluminous literature on Thomas Jefferson as statesman, leader of men, country farmer, inventor, lawyer, architect, and philosopher, little has been written about his passionate interest in science. This new and original study of Jefferson presents him as a consummate intellectual whose view of science was central to both his public and his private life. Keith Thomson reintroduces us in this remarkable book to Jefferson's world and reveals the extent to which Jefferson used science, thought about it, and contributed to it, becoming in his time a leading American scientific intellectual.

With a storyteller's gift, Thomson shows us a new side of Jefferson. He answers an intriguing series of questions—How was Jefferson's view of the sciences reflected in his political philosophy and his vision of America's future? How did science interact with his religion? Did he make any original contributions to scientific knowledge?—and illuminates the particulars of Jefferson's scientific endeavors. Thomson discusses Jefferson's theories that have withstood the test of time, his interest in the practical applications of science to societal problems, his leadership in the use of scientific methods in agriculture, and his contributions toward launching at least four sciences in America: geography, paleontology, climatology, and scientific archaeology. A set of delightful illustrations, including some of Jefferson's own sketches and inventions, completes this impressively researched book.

Free. To register: <http://www.amphilsoc.org/node/1840>

Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 6:30pm at **College of Physicians of Philadelphia**, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

A History of the Present Illness: Stories by Louise Aronson

A History of the Present Illness: Improving Health and Health Care by Telling the Stories of Doctors and Patients

A History of the Present Illness takes readers into the lives of diverse

doctors, patients, and families, offering an insider's view of illness and medicine in modern life. Together, these honest and compassionate stories introduce a striking new literary voice and provide a view of what it means to be a doctor and a patient unlike anything we've read before. A History of the Present Illness explores the role of stories in medicine and creates a world pulsating with life, speaking truths about what makes us human. Join author Dr. Louise Aronson as she discusses this story.

Speaker: Louise Aronson, MD, MFA, associate professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF).

Free to Members; Non-Members \$10

Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Sunday, October 13 at 1:00pm at **Laurel Hill Cemetery**, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Sinners, Scandals and Suicides of Laurel Hill

Laurel Hill has its brave military heroes like George Gordon Meade, its uplifting reformers like Sarah Josepha Hale, and selfless philanthropists like Robert Carson. But what about the less than pure spirits?... The South Philly gangster who got whacked when he tried to infiltrate the Schuylkill County numbers racket? The Civil War hero who made his fortune from white lightning and who, because of his many illicit affairs, was referred to by the local press as "a slayer of innocence and a robber of chastity"? The chemical heiress who lost her money in an infamous Broadway bomb starring the producer's talentless girlfriend? The noted artist who committed suicide during the Depression when his priceless book and art collections were sold at auction for a few thousand dollars? The final resting places of these troubled souls will be among the many stops on our walking tour of Laurel Hill's scandalous, sinful and sordid side.

The tour will take place on Sunday, October 13 at 1:00pm, departing from Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance at 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot across the street from the Gatehouse.

The cost is \$12/person; or \$10/students and seniors. Reservations are suggested. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by phone (215) 228-8200 or online.

Guide: Thomas H. Keels

Monday, October 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m at **National Mechanics**, 22 S. Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Science on Tap

A monthly gathering that features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation. Good food and beer.

This month's Science of Tap is brought to you by the Mutter Museum at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Must be 21 or accompanied by parent. Free and open to the Public.

<http://scienceontapphilly.com/>



Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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

Brown Bag Lecture: Whither the History, Whither the Future of Chemical Information?

A talk by Leah McEwen

The wave of technological innovation coming out of World War II proved a turning point for the chemical enterprise, and the chemical literature has increased exponentially since. In response, the chemical information profession has focused heavily on the intersection of computers and telecommunications as aids to navigating the burgeoning literature. Two generations later, as political, economic, and scientific adjustments in communication, centers of research and education, and subdisciplines converge with technological innovation, scientific research is once again at a turning point. Conversion of information flow to the

online environment and vastly increased capacity to analyze data is pushing data-driven systems approaches to research, and along with it a new crisis of information management and navigation. Characterizations of the current challenges parallel those wrestled with in former times of rapidly expanding computer capacity and end-user engagement. Based on research into historical documentation on chemical-structure standards and machine-readable representation, this talk will consider patterns of success and failure in the past as a guide to developing new best practices of chemical information management.

Open to the Public. Free. No Registration Required

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:30PM at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Ben Urwand | The Collaboration: Hollywood's Pact with Hitler

In *The Collaboration: Hollywood's Pact with Hitler*, Ben Urwand, a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University, draws upon a raft of secret documents uncovered at archives in Berlin and Washington, D.C., to reveal how Hollywood studios actively cooperated with the Third Reich's global propaganda effort. In order to assure a stronghold in the profitable German film market, scripts were abandoned or severely cut to suit Nazi officials. The creative partnership between the Nazis and Hollywood only deepened throughout the 1930s: Paramount and 20th Century Fox produced newsreels in Germany depicting major Nazi events, and MGM invested in the production of German armaments immediately before World War II.

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

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 12 noon-1pm at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

Food & Thought: "What's (Not) New in Antibiotics and Why."

Public health authorities have been warning about increased antibiotic resistance as a potentially explosive medical problem in the near future. The elements that contribute to this risk -- heroic treatments that suppress natural immunity, increased longevity and natural selection of bacteria to survive under adverse conditions -- are all in place. But one of the biggest concerns is the dramatic slowdown in the development of new therapeutic products to treat resistant bacterial infections. This presentation outlines the magnitude of the problem and provides clear, if not comforting, explanations for this situation.

Speaker: Thomas Fekete, MD, Professor and Vice-Chair of Medicine and Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases, Temple University School of Medicine.

Pre-registration for all programs and events is strongly urged. For further information regarding events and registration, please e-mail info@collegeofphysicians.org or call 215-399-2341.

Thursday October 17, 2013; Friday October 18; and Saturday October 19 at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Spirits on the Stage: Our Residents Speak

Whether a lover of theater or a lover of history, Laurel Hill Cemetery has something for you this Halloween season!

The "Not Ready for Afterlife Players" have portrayed Laurel Hill's most restless spirits in the cemetery's annual Halloween tours for the past twelve years. In 2013, however, the Players will move to center stage for separate theatrical performances. From a founder of the cemetery whose reputation was stained by scandal; to a murderer and his victim buried just yards apart; to a general who deserted his country for love, Spirits on the Stage will feature nearly a dozen of the cemetery's most provocative and memorable permanent residents, as they return from the dead to tell their stories. The evening performances will be staged deep amid the storied stones and haunting histories of Laurel Hill Cemetery's grounds, and will be punctuated by poignant period music. Please bring your own blankets, beach chairs, snacks, and/or beverages.

Three performances of Spirits on the Stage: Our Residents Speak are

scheduled at Laurel Hill Cemetery: Thursday October 17; Friday October 18; and Saturday October 19. All performances begin at 7:00pm.

The cost is \$20/person general admission. Reservations are requested by phone (215) 228-8200 or email info@thelaurehillcemetery.org. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online.

Upon arrival, register at Laurel Hill Cemetery's Gatehouse entrance, 3822 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132. Free parking is located in the lot directly across the street from the Gatehouse.

Director: Larry Arrigale

PhACT Event

Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 2:00 PM

**Dr. Paul Offit will discuss his new book,:
"Do You Believe in Magic?: The Sense and
Nonsense of Alternative Medicine".**

See [page 7](#) for more details.

Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at The 1696 Thomas Massey House, Lawrence Road at Springhouse Road, Broomall, PA 19008 610-353-3644

Harvest Fair. 18th Century Historian **Clarissa Dillon, Ph.D.** will be on hand a guide/botanist in the 18th century garden, encouraging visitors to weed and harvest.

<http://www.thomasmasseyhouse.org/aboutus.html>

Saturday, October 19, 2013 at 10am-5pm at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

Civil War Hospital Day

During the Civil War (1861-1865), Philadelphia became the second largest hospital city (after Washington, DC) in the North. Ambulances and carts transferred wounded soldiers from arriving trains and ships to hospitals in and around the city. Blue uniforms were seen on every street: many military encampments surrounded Philadelphia. Troops paraded through streets on their way to war.

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia will evoke the atmosphere of medical wartime Philadelphia during the war years on Hospital Day. At the College, museum visitors will find a garrison of soldiers from the 3rd Regiment, United States Colored Troops. The presence of these soldiers highlights their history and connection to Camp William Penn, the first and largest training center for United States Colored Troops during the war, located just north of Philadelphia. Hospital Day will highlight the extraordinary contribution and experience of black soldiers during the war by focusing on their health and mortality. Several medical re-enactors, both men and women, will present displays about the wounds and diseases afflicting all soldiers, and their treatment. The Medicinal Plant Garden at the College will be set up as a temporary hospital.

Visit with the soldiers and the nurses and physicians who looked after them. Learn about the medicines used and techniques of surgery for battle wounds from re-enactors and the College's Karabots Junior Fellows. Discover what hospitals were like. Support the troops! Find out if you have what it takes to be a Civil War soldier—or a doctor!

This educational event will serve as an addition to the new Mütter Museum exhibit about the medical dimension of the Civil War, *Broken Bodies Suffering Spirits: Injury, Death, and Healing in Civil War Philadelphia*. **Event free with Museum admission.** Sponsored by the Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

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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.**

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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. Students and faculty are invited to be active participants in our activities.

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The PhACT website is: www.phact.org

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

If you are not a supporting member/subscriber we invite you to become one. \$15 for a one year membership to PhACT with email Phactum subscription. \$25 for US Mail subscription. Donations are welcome.

Send letters of rebuttal, ideas, short essays, poetry, opinion pieces, complaints, and lavish praise to Ray Haupt, Phactum editor, at phactpublicity@aol.com.

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Phactum Editor, Ray Haupt
phactpublicity@aol.com

“A man must be excessively stupid, as well as uncharitable, who believes that there is no virtue but on his own side, and that there are not men as honest as himself who may differ from him in political principles.”

~ **Joseph Addison (1672 – 1719), English essayist, poet, playwright, and politician**