



# The Ethical Humanist

## Newsletter of the Boston Ethical Community

Ethical Society of Boston  
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

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May 2015

### Professor Charles Derber to Deliver 2nd Roseland Lecture

Fred Hewett

**O**n May 17, 2015, Professor Charles Derber of Boston College will deliver the second annual Edward and Ruth Roseland Memorial Lecture at the Boston Ethical Community.

Derber is a graduate of Yale University and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He has taught sociology at Boston College since 1980.



Professor Derber has produced a lengthy list of books and articles, not only for scholarly journals, but in the popular press, as well. He is a frequent contributor to *The Boston Globe*, *Tikkun*, and WBUR's *Cognoscenti*, among many others. His work has

been translated widely, around the world.

Derber's work focuses on social justice in the United States. He has written extensively on problems with capitalism, economic inequality, the militarization of the economy, globalization, climate justice, and the growing power of the corporation in American society.

His book, *Corporation Nation* (1998), documents the ascendancy of the corporation as the dominant institution in American life. This important work delves into the phenomenon of corporate infiltration into the federal government. He describes how corporations have acquired new public powers and unprecedented influence in determining the nation's political agenda. This book anticipates the crisis in campaign financing precipitated by the Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. FEC* decision in 2010.

Most recently, Derber published *The Disinherited Majority: Capital Questions — Piketty and Beyond*. This work picks up where Thomas

Piketty's influential *Capital in the 21 Century* leaves off, examining the social and political implications of Piketty's book.

Charles is familiar to BEC members, having spoken to us on several occasions over the years. His last visit was in September of 2013, at which time he addressed us about his book *Sociopathic Society*. This time, we are honored to have him as the speaker for the second annual Edward and Ruth Roseland Memorial Lecture.

Ed and Ruth Roseland were longtime members of the Ethical Society of Boston. Both were very active contributors and much valued by the Society. The annual lecture pays tribute to their efforts to further the goals of the organization. The memorial lecture is supported by their son, Mark Roseland.

So, please mark your calendar for May 17. Professor Derber will be sharing his thoughts on the current state of society, including political, economic, and environmental issues and concerns.



## The Way It Is (?)

Marvin Miller

### ISDS

Almost all Americans have heard of ISIS, the self-declared Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Almost no one here has heard of ISDS, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement part of TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement now being secretly negotiated by officials of twelve countries — Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam. (As I type this, "spell-check" underlines TPP and ISDS.) But ISDS could do *more* harm than ISIS.

Profit has been justified as reward for assuming the risk of loss. No longer. A key part of ISDS is the enshrining of corporate profit as a "right". If a government (State) enacts a law, such as an environmental protection law, a consumer protection law, or a worker protection law, that reduces the expected profits of transnational corporation, the corporation could, under TPP, "sue" the State, in a special tribunal outside the jurisdiction of any government responsible to the people of any country, which could order the State to pay any amount of "compensation" to the corporation. For example, the law that subjects BP to a fine for the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting

from the explosion that killed some of the workers on the oil drilling rig, would reduce BP's profits somewhat. Under TPP, a State could not have such a law. If it did, it could be "sued".

Governments make laws that make it a crime for an individual to do something that harms or kills someone else. Under TPP, if such things were done by a corporation, they couldn't be "crimes". They would just be "disputes" between States and the investors of the corporation. Note that the masters of deceptive language who wrote the title of this part of TPP didn't call it a dispute between a State and a corporation. In this context it wouldn't serve the interests of public relations to claim corporate personhood. That would make the two parties the State, to which we all pledged allegiance every day in school, and an abstract entity, a transnational corporation whose interest is to profit as much as possible at our expense.

TPP would, in practice, make corporate profit the supreme ethical value in the world. Any conflict between this "value" and the values of human welfare, held by humanists and people of all religious views, would have to be resolved in favor of profit.

TPP is promoted as having the potential to create jobs in the United States due to increased exports. These will certainly be more than counterbalanced by job losses due to increased imports, as happened with NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) twenty years ago.

General ignorance about TPP is not surprising. Most of our information comes to us from giant corporate media.

The executive branch of our government wants Congress to give it "fast-track" authority on TPP, under which both houses of Congress would have to vote yes or no on the entire agreement, without any amendments, within 90 days after the agreement is sent to them. This would minimize public debate and discussion on a large complex agreement and eliminate the opportunity to determine whether some parts of it are and others are not acceptable as presented.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren has spoken out against this proposal. She and our other representatives and senator need to hear people's views on this subject.



## Ethics in Action

Marline Miller

In the December issue of the Ethical Humanist newsletter Andrea Perrault's article was titled "ESB Priorities & Ethics in Action".

One of our members, Pat Granahan, is an example of someone who put her ethics into action.

Pat was introduced to the Society by Ed Roseland. He contacted Pat in 2001 asking her to arrange for a speaker. Pat has been a member ever since.

The following account comes from a listing compiled by the Hingham Public Library and the Hingham Historical Society called "Legendary Locals". Pat was listed under "Reformers".

"In the 1970s, Dr. Helen Caldecott of Australia was speaking out against nuclear energy and its dangers, and specifically the harmful effects to humans. Her words inspired Pat, who quickly joined the anti-nuke

campaign. She founded REACH, the Responsible Energy Alternatives Coalition of Hingham in 1979 with the goal of swaying the Hingham Light Board away from their support of the Nuclear Power Plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire. Through REACH, Pat was able to bring noted experts on the subject of alternative energy to speak in Hingham and encourage all residents to become fully informed regarding this issue.

In 1963 Granahan was the first woman elected to the Municipal Light Board in Hingham, on which she would serve until 1986. During her tenure she devoted herself to promoting wind power and other alternative energy sources not only to the rest of the Board, but also to her constituents. These efforts included successfully petitioning the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy Resources to conduct a study focusing on improving efficiency and on using alternative energy at the Light Plant. Although never utilized, the study did

find that Turkey Hill might be a suitable place for wind turbines.

Pat continued her fight for alternative energy use even after leaving the Municipal Light Board. In 1988 she led a campaign to ban nuclear power in Massachusetts and to close the two plants then in use. She helped gather the 76,000 signatures that allowed it to be included on the November, 1988 ballot and was also involved in a campaign to stop nuclear waste. She was arrested for trespassing in 1989 while protesting the reopening of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant of Plymouth, MA. It was the first of several times that Pat would practice civil disobedience."

In 2009 Pat's son, Leon M. Granahan, was killed when he was swept through a culvert at World's End Reservation in Hingham. After that tragedy Pat and the World's End Neighborhood Association worked to help assure safety at the culvert site.

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### Would You Like to Contribute an Article to *The Ethical Humanist*?

The *Ethical Humanist* is published monthly, and we are always looking for content. That includes commentaries, book reviews, inspirations, musings, poems, and news about the community. We are happy to assist with copyediting. If you have something to submit for consideration, please email your material to [newsletter@bostonethical.org](mailto:newsletter@bostonethical.org). Thanks!

## Sunday Lectures in May

May 3

**Joe Diamond, Executive Director,  
Massachusetts Community Action Programs**

*Income Inequality: Why It Is Imperative That We Address It – Together*

Community Action Agencies were created 50 years ago to fight and end poverty. We have made great strides in helping millions of people leave or avoid poverty, yet millions remain poor or near poor and the gap between rich and poor widens every day. We must assess reasons for this – in large part the wage gap is to blame – and the programs such as fuel assistance, Medicare, Medicaid, EITC, food stamps, and others that work, build on them, and create new approaches – together – that will end poverty. As the gap between rich and poor widens, societies weaken economically, socially, and culturally.



May 10

**Program to be announced**

May 17

**Dr. Charles Derber, Professor of Sociology,  
Boston College**

*2nd Annual Edward and Ruth  
Roseland Memorial Lecture*



Dr. Derber will share his thoughts on the current state of society, including political, economic, and environmental issues and concerns.

May 24

**Annual Memorial Day Breakfast**

Join with fellow BEC members and friends for our annual Memorial Day gathering.

May 31

**Semi-annual Meeting of the Boston Ethical  
Community**

Join us for a discussion of BEC business and issues.

### Hospitality and Refreshment Schedule

Sunday attendees are asked to contribute some food item to the refreshment table, according to the first letter of their last name.

Week 1	Sunday, May 3	A - F
Week 2	Sunday, May 10	G - K
Week 3	Sunday, May 17	L - R
Week 4	Sunday, May 24	S - Z

### Musicians for May

<b>May 3rd:</b>	Harel Gietheim, cello Kanako Nishikawa, piano
<b>May 10th:</b>	Nicholas Dinnerstein, cello
<b>May 17th:</b>	Suzu Geroux, guitar and voice

**Memory**

2015      52 years      1963

*I use the Internet, camera for the past.*

*With worried eyes I find: "The 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, September 15, 1963."*

*Here is reward: 4 photographs, 4 radiant young women.  
52 years later I find them as they were 52 years ago.*

*I concentrate on these images. How does each young woman feel  
as her picture is being taken – happy, curious, positive, hopeful?  
The photographs are a success. Each looks her best, beautiful.*

*Time makes demands, I must go back alone to 2015.  
I create a Jahrzeit, possession of 4 adored, respected young women.  
Light the candle, jewel of remembering.  
Pearl grey flash - white hot whisper - fire.  
Burn  
for my yearning, year after year!*

*Addie Mae Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley.*

**Elaine Montleigh**

**Information About the Society****Officers for 2014-2015**

President	Brian King	(781) 581-6104
Vice President	Fred Hewett	(617) 945-0396
Treasurer	Terry Goldzier	(617) 232-7704
Secretary (acting)	Margo Woods	(781) 646-6059

**Other Board Members**

Donald Aharonian, Peter Ames,  
Cathy Haskell, Andrea Perrault, Martha Werman

Archivist	Brian King	(781) 581-6104
Caring Committee	Marline Miller	(617) 244-1471
Ethical Action	Margo Woods	(781) 646-6059
Membership		
Music	Ingrid Kisliuk	(617) 332-7109
	Izabella Mazhbits	(617) 731-1089
Newsletter	Fred Hewett	(617) 945-0396
	Martha Werman	(617) 497-7888
Officiant	Katrina Scott	(617) 965-3067
Program Comm.	Andrea Perrault	(781) 593-5794

Publicity      John Lampert      (617) 923-8550

Sunday Bulletin      Susan Caulfield      (617) 547-6085  
Website      Fred Hewett      (617) 945-0396

**Groups Around the Society**

Movie Group      Marline Miller      (617) 244-1471  
Walking Group      Doris Berger      (617) 277-1839  
9:00 Forum      Carolyn Nalbandian (617) 916-2229

E-mail [newsletter@bostonethical.org](mailto:newsletter@bostonethical.org) for all print and e-mail  
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<b>~ Program Schedule for May 2015 ~</b> <i>(Details on Page 4)</i>	
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Joe Diamond, Executive Director, Massachusetts Community Action Programs</b> <i>Income Inequality: Why It Is Imperative That We Address It - Together</i>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Program to be announced</b> <i>Check the website – <a href="http://bostonethical.org">bostonethical.org</a></i>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>Charles Derber, Professor of Sociology, Boston College</b> <i>Roseland Memorial Lecture</i>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Annual Memorial Day Breakfast</b>
<b>May 31</b>	<b>Semi-annual Meeting of the Boston Ethical Community</b>
<b>Sunday Meetings are held at 10:00 AM at 30 JFK St in Cambridge</b>	

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