

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Thoughts for 2017

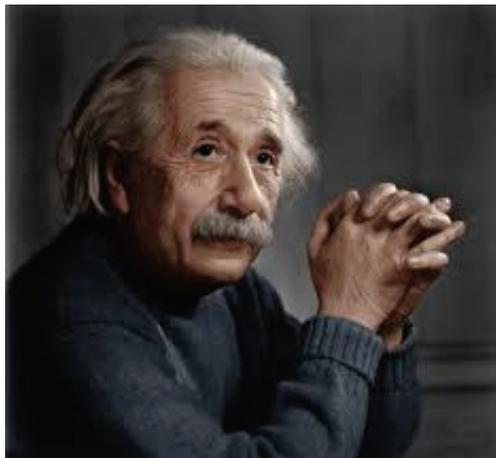
To begin the new year, here are some thoughts from one of humanity's greatest thinkers, Albert Einstein, in a 1931 essay, part of the compendium, "Living Philosophies":

"Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose.

"From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that man is here for the sake of other men -- above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, and also for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected with a bond of sympathy.

"Many times a day I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow men, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received."

No one in the 20th century gave more than Einstein. His theory of relativity turned science upside-



down, showing that something we previously thought was absolute — time — was actually relative to the observer.

Einstein revolutionized physics, helping to usher in the nuclear age. He paved the way for much of the fantastic technology we take for granted. But he was also respected as a philosophical free-thinker.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

"To ponder interminably over the reason for one's own existence or the meaning of life in general seems to me, from an objective point of view, to be sheer folly.

"I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own — a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty.

"And yet everyone holds certain ideals by which he guides his aspiration and his judgment. The ideals which have always shown before me and filled me with the joy of living are goodness, beauty, and truth."

In our current political climate, goodness, beauty and truth have taken a terrific beating.

Fake news, suspicion, hostility and fear have been unleashed nationwide, although fortunately we've seen very little of it locally (except internet trolls).

Here in Pottstown, 2017, let's hope we can fairly and intelligently discuss the issues of the day, and preserve and promote our quality of life and the sustainability of our little part of the planet.