

Thoughtful Giving: Philanthropy As Civic Engagement

This series uses a lively selection of readings to approach a central and sometimes thorny issue in American society: philanthropy. Giving, be it of time or treasure, has played a significant role in the development of the United States and its unique network of charitable and voluntary organizations. Yet questions of wealth, generosity and money are almost guaranteed to provoke discomfort, as charity has always been a deeply personal and private matter.

Why do people give? Why do certain people give to certain causes but not to others? How do you know if your giving is doing any good? These are the sorts of provocative questions to be considered in *Thoughtful Giving: Philanthropy as Civic Engagement*. Readings are drawn from a new anthology edited by Amy Kass entitled *The Perfect Gift: the Philanthropic Imagination in Poetry and Prose* and include short selections by wonderful writers and thinkers such as Edith Wharton, O. Henry, Sarah Orne Jewett, Rabindranath Tagore, C.S. Lewis, Aristotle, P.G. Wodehouse, George Eliot, Jane Addams, Rudyard Kipling, John O'Hara, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Woodrow Wilson, Shakespeare, Andrew Carnegie, and others.

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