

# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

February 2014

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## WINTER FESTIVAL AT NYSEC



Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen lighting the Candle of Peace.

On Sunday, December 15, NYSEC members and friends celebrated a Winter Festival at the Sunday Platform. It was an inter-generational gathering with readings, songs, and candle-lighting. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen started off the festivities by lighting the Candle of Peace after members David Day, Amy Schwarz, and Mon-

ica Weiss read poems and prose about Peace. Ethical Teen Leadership program member Clara Malekshahi lit the Candle of Courage after she and Elaine Berman read writings on courage, and Clara read part of a speech that was given by Malala Yousafzai at the UN. Favio Appolon, another Ethical Teen Leadership member, lit the

Candle of Generosity after members Tom Kennedy and Frank Corigliano read. Last, but never the least, Audrey Kindred, along with the children from our Ethics for Children Sunday Program, came in to light the Candle of Hope. We closed the day with the Community song and candle-lighting, singing "This Little Light of Mine."



Clara Malekshahi lighting the Candle of Courage.



Audrey Kindred with children from the Ethics for Children Program, lighting the Candle of Hope.



Favio Appolon lighting the Candle of Generosity.

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## ETHICAL STAFF

Dr. Joseph Chuman,  
Leader, ext. 145

Curt Collier,  
Leader, ext. 145

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen,  
Leader, ext. 119

Dr. Khoren Arisian,  
Leader Emeritus

Robert Liebeskind,  
Executive Director, ext. 116

Gloria Chandler,  
Assistant to Exec. Director, ext. 117

Deborah Foster,  
Administrative Assistant, ext. 115

Yalitz Garcia-Krawczyk,  
Assistant to the Leaders, ext. 118

Leonardo Gibson,  
Facilities Manager, ext. 107

Yolanta Kosmaczewska,  
Bookkeeper, ext. 104

Jon Liechty,  
Associate Music Director

Moe-Swe Myint,  
Membership Associate, ext. 113

David Gracia Beltran,  
Music Director

Beth Zucker,  
Manager of Communications, ext. 144

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Selma Friedman,  
Editor

Deborah Foster,  
Production

### New York Society for Ethical Culture

2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street,  
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212-874-5210

Fax: 212-595-7258

Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Member of the American Ethical Union



# President's Notes

A N D R A M I L L E R

Say, what a great time we had on New Year's Eve – that YeraSon Orquestra Charanga and its infectious rhythms had us all dancing up a storm! The team from Social Service Board that made all the arrangements, did publicity, sold tickets, raised funds, decorated (beautifully) the Social Hall, sold raffle tickets for prizes, and made sure all went well did a fantastic job – and our building staff too, who made sure all was in order. Thanks to those who couldn't come but contributed to the Social Service Board itself for the many great programs it funds and runs. I saw at the festivities: Chuck and Pat DeBrovner, Ed and Cheryl Gross, Henryka Komanska and Chris Bernhardt, Ruth Cohen and David Day, Ivan Quervalu, Nicola DeMarco, Rob Hofman and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross. Our Executive Director and spouse popped in for an hour or two as well. Leader Anne Klaeyesen was there too. More on the fun on page 12.

One of the delights of serving on the Membership Growth Committee is interviewing new members to find out why and how they've come to us. Naturally, the newest members are fresh in from "the outside," so they have the best understanding

of people who don't know about NYSEC or have no clue as to what we're about, and so these new folks can help us find the best ways to reach others who need us and whom we need. New members are the closest to the wonderful experience of finding a place where they've "come home" – and where they meet people who agree that being ethical and caring for others is the key to living a wise, productive, and happy life – and can share in the activities, programs, and classes that foster ethical living.

The members we talked with at the last such meeting were Frank Corigliano, Daniel Julin, Dave Massey, Susan Needles, Kristin Parker and Eric Volat. Susan, who joined at the beginning of last year, has been recruited to the MDC, and the committee is very happy to have her valuable advice and service – and we're inspired by all the new "recruits" enthusiasm.

One activity we hope to initiate came from an observation during this session – that once a month we change our standard Sunday lunch into a "mixer," with assigned tables so that people can spend some time with those not their regular companions, and we all can get into conversations with those we usually just greet in passing. I see that as an exciting event and hope you do too.

*Continued on page 7*

# Ethical Enrichment and Events

## Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**, from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, and/or **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall.

Led by moderator Dr. Barbara Simpson, we'll gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake. The objective is to increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Our topics include health care proxies, ethical wills, and green burial. Barbara Simpson holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling and is Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

*The suggested donation is \$5.*

## Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**, **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will host a discussion on *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's*



*So Hard to Think Straight About Animals*, by Hal Herzog.

A puppy is “a family member in Kansas, a pariah in Kenya, and lunch in Korea,” according to animal behaviorist and author Hal Herzog. In this book he examines our sometimes whimsical attitudes towards animals. Research shows that the human brain is wired to think about animals and inanimate objects differently; we can also look at the same animal very differently given its context.

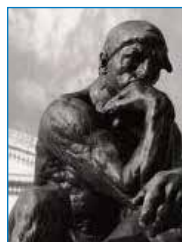
Join other readers for a discussion about how we define – and where we limit – our empathy for animals.

*The discussion is free for members, and \$5 for guests.*

## Wisdom and World Affairs

Come on the first and third **TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 4 and 18, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**, for a philosophical discussion group, moderated by Ken Gans. We'll cover a variety of subjects: the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, etc., among many others. Room 508.

*There is no fee for this program.*



## SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

**11:15 am**  
**Ceremonial Hall,**  
**Fourth Floor**

### FEBRUARY 2

*“Let's Have Tea” – A Conversation with Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony*

**Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader and Leonardo Gibson**  
*Henryka Komanska Presides*

### FEBRUARY 9

*My Ethics Are Not For Sale: Preserving the Human Spirit in a Market-Driven World*

**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**  
*Richard Van Deusen Presides*

### FEBRUARY 16

*Identity and Education: Promoting Student Success in a Diverse Community*

**Mariama Richards**  
*Andra Miller Presides*

### FEBRUARY 23

*How Many American's Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?*

**Curt Collier, Leader**  
*Monica Weiss Presides*

## NOT A MEMBER?

**All the more reason to attend one of our Enrichment Activities. Contributions for nonmembers are usually only \$5.**

*Continued on page 5*



# Leader's Desk

D R . A N N E K L A E Y S E N

## NAACP Roots in Ethical Culture

During the first week of January 1909, three people met in a small room of a New York City apartment and decided that on the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday they would issue a call for a national conference on "The Negro question." They were Ethical Culture Leader Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Unitarian Mary White Ovington and William English Walling, a reporter who covered the race riots the summer before in Lincoln's home of Springfield, Illinois.

For two days in the summer of 1908, a mob of white people, including some of Springfield's "best citizens," raged against the African-Americans of their city. As they killed and wounded them, and destroyed their homes and businesses, these racists shouted, "Lincoln freed you. Now we'll show you where you belong!" There were other race riots throughout the country, but no one described the atrocities as vividly as

Walling did in his article, "Race War in the North." He also asked an important question: "Yet who realizes the seriousness of the situation, and what large and powerful body of citizens is ready to come to their aid?" After reading Walling's article, Ovington, who for years had been studying the housing conditions, health, and work opportunities of African-Americans in New York City, and lived in one of their neighborhood tenements, wrote to him: "The spirit of the abolitionists must be revived."

The trio, having decided to call for a conference, reached out to Oswald Garrison Villard, president of the *NY Evening Post*, grandson of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, and member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. It was he who drafted the "Call for the Lincoln Emancipation Conference to Discuss Means for Securing Political and Civil Equality for the Negro" and widely disseminated it. It begins with this challenge:

"The celebration of the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, widespread and grateful as it may be, will fail to justify itself if it takes no note and makes no recognition of the colored men and women to whom the great emancipator labored to assure freedom. Besides a day of rejoicing, Lincoln's birthday in 1909 should be one of taking stock of the nation's progress since 1865. How far has it lived up to the obligations imposed upon it by the Emancipation Proclamation? How far has it gone in assuring to each and every citizen, irrespective of color, the equality of opportunity and equality before the law, which underlie our American institutions and are guaranteed by the Constitution?"

Villard catalogued the gross injustices African-Americans continued to endure since the Emancipation Proclamation. The Call ends, as if in anticipation of what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would say almost 60 years later – "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." – with these words:

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## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7,** at **7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975). I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.

McMurphy has a criminal past and has once again gotten himself into trouble with the law. To escape labor duties in prison, he pleads insanity and is sent to a ward for the mentally unstable. There, McMurphy endures and witnesses the abuse and degradation by Nurse Ratched, who gains power through the flaws of the inmates.

*The suggested donation is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages.*



## Life's Struggles: Personal and Professional Ethical Dilemmas

This five-session course meets on the second Tuesday of each month starting **FEBRUARY 11,** **7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, with Dr. Terry Perlin as moderator.

We will focus on some BIG

questions: "When would you stand up to a powerful authority, even at risk to yourself?" and some everyday ethical dilemmas: "Should you criticize a family member when you feel he/she has behaved immorally?" Participants will have enough time to read each of the assigned texts. We'll conclude with an effort to develop guidelines for personal ethical consistency. Participants must obtain the following books: *What Doctors Feel*, Danielle Ofri (Beacon Press 2013); *The Burgess Boys*, Elizabeth Strout (Random House 2013); *Beautiful Souls: Saying No, Breaking Ranks, and Heeding the Voice of Conscience in Dark Times*, Eyal Press (Farrar, Straus 2012); and *101 Ethical Dilemmas*, Martin Cohen (Routledge 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

Registration is required and payment must be made in full upon registration. The cost for members is \$25 and for guests, \$50. For more information, or to register, call Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at 212 874-5210, ext. 118.

## The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven

This new workshop, moderated by Dr. Anne Klaeyen,

Leader, started in January and continues through March on the second and fourth Thursdays, so join us on **FEBRUARY 13** and **FEBRUARY 27, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

We live with many misconceptions about the nature of forgiveness that keep us from repairing our relationships. Forgiveness is not an automatic act but an important process, an ethical struggle that can last a long time and that needs to be understood and honored. It allows us to voice our anger without doing damage, acknowledge our part in what has gone wrong, and see the flaws in ourselves and others as part of our humanity. This workshop introduces participants to some key concepts in the process of forgiveness and invites them to examine their own ethical struggle to forgive and be forgiven. It will include articles and documentaries.

Registration is required. To register, call Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

## Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY**

18, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, in Room 502, for a lively discussion led by moderator Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman.

We'll discuss works of Felix Adler and others whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and humanist philosophy.

*There is no fee for this, but registration is required.*

## Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

Come on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, at 7:00 PM. Ethics and the Theater will present a play



reading of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *The Effect of Gamma Rays On Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*, by Paul Zindel. Sorely disappointed in life – by her marriage, her family, most of all by herself – Beatrice lashes out at everyone around her, especially her two daughters. Ruth, pretty but unstable, wavers between rebellion and appeasement. Tillie, plain and pathologically shy, escapes the abuse at home by throwing herself into the science experiment of the title, proving that beauty can bloom from the most afflicted soil.

Pat Debrovner and Betsy Ungar direct our cast, which includes Bernice Cornyetz,

Marianne Ferrari, Natalie Kropf, and Madlyn Sher. Come at 6:30 PM for a reception and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Betsy Ungar. Ceremonial Hall.

*The suggested donation is \$5 for members, and \$10 for guests.*

## Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaey-



sen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We will be showing *Brooklyn Castle*, (2012),

directed by Katie Dellamaggiore. Brooklyn's I.S. 318 is home to America's best junior high school chess team, but budget cuts are threatening to undermine the team's success. This inspiring documentary goes inside the fight to keep chess alive and well at the struggling school.

*The film showing is free to members and \$5 for guests.*

## Readings in Deep Ecology

Come on MONDAY, FEBRU-

ARY 24, 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM (Elliott Library, Room 507), and participate in our new monthly discussions, moderated by Leader Curt Collier.

We'll explore the writings of famous environmental authors. Chapters and selections from the works of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Wangari Maathai, Michael Pollan, Rachel Carson, Richard Louv, Edward Abbey, and Jane Goodall, among others, will be offered. We'll read the selections together and then discuss the important points the writers stressed. This is a great way to cover classic environmental literature.

*This program is free.*

## Wonderful Party News: It's Here!

Ed Gross

On FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:30 PM (doors open 7:00 PM), in Ceremonial Hall NYSEC will be holding our second Valentines Day Chamber Music Cabaret Party.

The musical portion will include two Mozart arias that are sublimely beautiful pieces, and the soprano we have engaged has a splendid voice and an impeccable resume. The evening will

## President's Notes

(continued from page 2)

also feature a performance of Mozart's "Sonata for Violin and Piano," as well as Schubert's "Trout Quintet." The violinist made his debut at age 11 at the Wiener Konzerthaus in Vienna and has performed with European orchestras and at the Tel Aviv Opera House. Pinchas Zuckerman brought him to the US, where he studied under Zuckerman and obtained his Master's Degree in Violin Performance at the Manhattan School of Music. There will also be short poetry readings, including sonnets by Shakespeare. All of this will be followed by *dancing!*

Our menu will include elegant finger food, wine, dessert, coffee, and tea, and all this for just \$30 a ticket for members and students and \$40 for nonmembers. There are only 90 "cabaret-style" table seats available.

To purchase tickets by mail write to: New York Society for Ethical Culture, Attention: Moe-Swe Myint, 2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10023. Please provide an email address and make your check payable to New York Society for Ethical Culture. (Indicate "Valentine's Day Party 2014" on the memo line). To purchase tickets online contact: [www.nysec-valentine.eventbrite](http://www.nysec-valentine.eventbrite).

For more details see the flyer on page 17 about the Valentine's Day Party.

As you may remember from my notes in the past April issue and featured in the May issue of *Ethical Outlook*, we have instituted a special new award, The Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Public Service Award to recognize outstanding service by those who have established or enhanced programs for people in disadvantaged communities. The award committee has met often to research and find the best awardee as well as plan the event – and the presentation will be to the Honorable David Dinkins on April 3. We will recognize him for his many accomplishments; including, of course, his service as New York City mayor – his "Safe Streets, Safe City" community police policy, the clearing out and cleaning up of Times Square, keeping libraries open seven days a week, significantly reducing homelessness, keeping the Yankees in the Bronx, providing increased services for underserved commu-

nities, building the world-class tennis center with the US Tennis Association, and his pivotal role in ending Apartheid in South Africa with the welcome of Nelson Mandela to New York City.

**Trustee Nominations** – If you'd like to be a candidate for Board election at our Annual Membership Meeting on May 4, please contact Vince Brancato or me for an application form. You need 18 months as a NYSEC member in order to run – that's before your service would start (should you win) at the June 9 Board meeting. E-mail addresses: [vpbrancato@gmail.com](mailto:vpbrancato@gmail.com) or [andramariemiller@gmail.com](mailto:andramariemiller@gmail.com). Or call me at 646-363-0025. Give board service a thought, it is a wonderful opportunity to help guide the future of our Society.

Hurry to get your tix for the Valentine's Day party (page 16) – we're almost sold out!

### NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

#### OFFICERS:

ANDRA MILLER, PRESIDENT, [andramariemiller@gmail.com](mailto:andramariemiller@gmail.com)  
MARGARET CHAPMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, [md.chapman@earthlink.com](mailto:md.chapman@earthlink.com)  
RICHARD VAN DEUSEN, TREASURER, [richardandcarol@nyc.rr.com](mailto:richardandcarol@nyc.rr.com)  
DR. PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS, SECRETARY, [phrmd@yahoo.com](mailto:phrmd@yahoo.com)

#### TRUSTEES:

VINCENT BRANCATO, [vpbrancato@aol.com](mailto:vpbrancato@aol.com)  
CHRIS EVERETT, [h.chris.everett@gmail.com](mailto:h.chris.everett@gmail.com)  
HEATHER GRADY, [heathergradynyc@gmail.com](mailto:heathergradynyc@gmail.com)  
HENRYKA KOMANSKA, [henryka@verizon.net](mailto:henryka@verizon.net)  
LAW'NENCE MILLER, [lmiller.aeu@gmail.com](mailto:lmiller.aeu@gmail.com)  
DR. TERRY PERLIN, [perlntm@muohio.edu](mailto:perlntm@muohio.edu)  
TOM WEISHAAR, [tom.weishaar@gmail.com](mailto:tom.weishaar@gmail.com)  
TOD WHITAKER, [tod.whitaker@verizon.net](mailto:tod.whitaker@verizon.net)

# Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 am

FEBRUARY 2



## LET'S HAVE TEA – A CONVERSATION WITH FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND SUSAN B. ANTHONY

***Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader***

*Henryka Komanska Presides*

In the center of a lovely park square in Rochester, New York, is a striking bronze sculpture, a tribute to the friendship of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, whose bodies are interred in nearby Mount Hope Cemetery. It is called “Let’s Have Tea,” and that’s just what these neighbors are doing: sitting together, with a table between them set with a teapot, two cups, and two books. “They’re not talking about any particular issue,” says the sculptor Pepsy Kettavong, “but they both are anxious to hear what each is thinking. You’re not quite sure who’s talking or who’s listening, so you have that balance.”

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen and Leonardo Gibson portray these friends and engage in a conversation about suffrage and human rights.

*The shared charity is NAACP.*

FEBRUARY 9



## MY ETHICS ARE NOT FOR SALE: PRESERVING THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN A MARKET-DRIVEN WORLD

***Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader***

*Richard Van Deusen Presides*

Ethical Culture is dedicated to the primacy of ethics. If we take this adage seriously, as we should, then it has probably never been more severely challenged than at the current moment. Since the Reagan era of the 1980s, it seems that market values have never been more potent or pervasive. Everything is for sale and can be purchased by those who can pay for it. Ownership and privatization are the name of the game from private, profit-making prisons to profit seeking charter-schools, to college admissions to the children of wealthy donors to concierge doctors that enable the wealthy to bypass the waiting room, to corporate logos on previously public spaces. Beyond the question of fairness, at what point does life become demeaned and corrupted when all things are turned into commodities? How should we who care about ethics respond?

*The shared charity is Riverside Goddard.*

FEBRUARY 16



## IDENTITY AND EDUCATION: PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

***Mariama Richards***

*Andra Miller Presides*

Mariama Richards is the Director of Progressive and Multicultural Education at Ethical Culture Fieldston School. Mariama is charged with supporting



professional development, monitoring the scope and sequence of curriculum, and supervising equity and justice initiatives pre-k through 12 at ECFS. As a member of the senior administrative team, Mariama works to ensure that the mission of the school remains a central consideration throughout. Mariama has worked on issues of educational equity for the past 17 years in private and public schools. She also works with several environmental organizations in their pursuit of crafting inclusive community based programs.

*The shared charity is Prep For Prep.*

## FEBRUARY 23



## HOW MANY AMERICAN'S DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

***Curt Collier, Leader***

*Monica Weiss Presides*

The recent fight over the push to ban the incandescent light bulb is indicative of what is wrong with American views on environmentalism. Despite the overwhelming evidence that we need to ban these diminutive energy hogs, many Americans cling to the bulb as yet another misguided symbol of the struggle against a supposedly overbearing government. What is really at the heart of this imprudent behavior and how can reframing this debate impact other needed changes as well?

*The shared charity is Project Find.*

## THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

**NAACP**, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is an African-American civil rights organization in the United States, formed in 1909. Its mission is “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

**RIVERSIDE GODDARD** is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit based on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Goddard Riverside was formed in 1959 when two historic settlement houses merged: Riverside Community House, founded in 1887, and Goddard Neighborhood Center, founded in 1892.

**PREP FOR PREP** develops leaders by providing young people access to superior education and life-changing opportunities. Since 1978, Prep has identified New York City's most promising students of color and prepared them for placement at independent schools in the city and boarding schools throughout the Northeast. Once placed, Prep offers support and opportunities to ensure the academic accomplishment and personal growth of each one of our students.

**PROJECT FIND** works to provide older New Yorkers with the services and supports necessary to live enriched independent lives in the community. Its goal is to tap into people's creative gifts, their desire to be relevant and engaged in life, while being mindful that extra help is sometimes a necessity.

## Early Sunday Mornings 10:00 am (Rooms are subject to change)

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**FEBRUARY 2**

### **CHORUS PRACTICE**

Led by Pat Debrovner and David Gracia. Ceremonial Hall.

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**FEBRUARY 9**

### **COLLOQUY: REMAINING CALM AMID CHAOS.**

Dr. Barbara Simpson presides. Room 508.

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**FEBRUARY 16**

### **CHORUS PRACTICE**

Led by Pat Debrovner and David Gracia. Ceremonial Hall.

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**FEBRUARY 23**

### **POETRY READING**

Bring some poems to read, to reflect on, and to share with other readers. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

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## Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Except as noted)

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**FEBRUARY 2**

### **DEATH CAFÉ**

Moderator: Dr. Barbara Simpson. Adler Study, Room 514.

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**FEBRUARY 9**

### **ETHICS IN THE NEWS**

Abe Markman presides. 12:45 pm. 6<sup>th</sup> floor school cafeteria.

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**FEBRUARY 9**

### **LIFE WITH HEALTH: SURVIVING THE HOSPITAL**

Terry M. Perlin Ph.D. presides. It's true that being a hospital patient is a dangerous "job." Concerns about infections, medical errors, surgical "mistakes," and medication interactions are often on our minds. This interactive discussion will examine the most commonly encountered problems and suggest practical ways of preventing them.

Dr. Perlin is a clinical ethics consultant at hospitals in New York City, Cincinnati, and San Francisco. He has taught at several medical schools and presently is an Intensive Care Unit consultant. He serves as President of Compassion and Choices of New York, and is the author of *Clinical Medical Ethics: Cases in Practice*. Ceremonial Hall.

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**FEBRUARY 23**

### **PHOTOGRAPHY ARTS CLUB**

Adler Study, Room 514.

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## FEBRUARY 23

### SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

We'll discuss lifestyle choices, our impact on the planet, and ways we can make a meaningful difference. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share openly with others in a supportive atmosphere. This course is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living.

Leader Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

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## Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — Elliott Library, Rm 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**. Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

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## FEBRUARY 6

**"THE DREAM OF A MIDDLE-CLASS NEW YORK"** by Benjamin Wallace-Wells, *New York Magazine*, January 6-13, 2014.

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## FEBRUARY 13

**"THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: WHY HAVE NO HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVES BEEN PROSECUTED?"** by Jed S. Rafoff, *New York Review of Books*, 1/9/14.

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## FEBRUARY 20

**"POVERTY VS. DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA"** and **"WHY ARE THE POOR AND MINORITIES LESS LIKELY TO VOTE?"** by Daniel Weeks, *The Atlantic*, 1/10/14.

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## FEBRUARY 27

**"NEW YORK STATE IS SET TO LOOSEN MARIJUANA LAWS"** by Susanne Craig and Jesse McKinley, *New York Times*, 1/4/14; **"MY DAD WILL NEVER STOP SMOKING POT: YES, MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGAL. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT CAN'T DESTROY LIVES"** by Leah Allen, *The Atlantic*, 1/15/14; **"SHOULD DRUG ENFORCEMENT BE LEFT TO THE STATES?"** A Room for Debate essay series, *New York Times*, 1/14/14.

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# Our Ethical Family

MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE



The following members are celebrating birthdays in February:

- ELINORE KAPLAN.....2/2
- VINCENT BRANCATO.....2/4
- MICHELLE AINSWORTH...2/7
- BERNETTE RUDOLPH.....2/7
- KEN GANS.....2/8
- STEPHEN JAMES.....2/8
- PATRICIA BERENS.....2/9
- ELLEN KIRSCHNER.....2/9
- KRISTIN PARKER.....2/9
- MICHELE DONEY.....2/17
- KENNETH LASHINS.....2/17
- ROGER MICHAELS.....2/18
- LOUETTA RILEY.....2/20
- EDWARD FINFER.....2/24

## ETHICAL CARES

The Caring Committee will help you should you fall ill or be incapacitated, whether you're home, in the hospital, in rehab, or in a nursing home.

All you need do is call the committee chairperson, STEPHANIE ROSENBLATT, at 212-586-0017, and she'll make the arrangements.

We are very happy to welcome [EMILY NEWMAN](#) as our new member. It's probably a misnomer to call her a "new member," since she is a born-and-bred Ethical Culturist. Emily is Leader Anne K's daughter and an Ethical Culture baby through and through. She grew up at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, where she is now a member, and she has been a Communications Coordinator at the American Ethical Union and a member of FES (Future of Ethical Societies) for the past three years, in addition to being an Executive Board member of the National Ethical Service at the UN. Emily likes writing, music, and movies, and she is trained in editing, document design, dancing, and childcare.

\* \* \*

NYSEC's staff had a very nice holiday party on December 12. Beverages and a catered light lunch were served, with lots of wonderful dessert dishes brought in by the staff. Our thanks go to Leaders' Assistant Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk, who did an incredible job of decorating and organizing the festivities, and to Antonio Pagliarulo, Director of Special

Events, for taking very good care of the catering, as usual. While we enjoyed the festivities, we were also sad to say goodbye to Antonio, who after more than four years as a very valuable member of our staff was leaving us. We all wished him the best in his future endeavors; we shall miss him dearly. (See photos on page 13.)

\* \* \*

From all accounts, our New Year's Eve party was a very successful one indeed, with a pan-Latin/Cuban band, food, champagne, and other drinks. Kudos go to all the folks at the Social Service Board!

\* \* \*

As you read this, if you are lucky, there might still be tickets available for the Valentine's Day Cabaret. Please contact me, Moe-Swe Myint: [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org) or Ed Gross: [edwardg5@verizon.net](mailto:edwardg5@verizon.net).

\* \* \*

Lastly, on March 22 we'll have our Thank-You Party for sending in your 2014 pledges. (See Save the Date on page 18).

\* \* \*

We are sad to announce the death of Edward Jackson, Life Member of NYSEC, on December 8. He joined the Society in 1958 and

was elected as a member of the Society's Board of Trustees in 1989. Edward Jackson supported the Society's PS 133 Committee efforts to work with school staff to enrich the educational program within the school, was a member of the Build Your

Own Philosophy class in '86, and served as a panelist at the Wednesday Platform on Education. He worked for the NYC Department of Education as principal of PS 133 for more than 30 years, retiring in 1989. During his tenure he steered

the school's participation in "Writing to Read," a nationally-recognized computer-based program developed by IBM. PS 133 was the only school in the metropolitan area with that program (1985).

His memorial was held on Saturday, January 25.

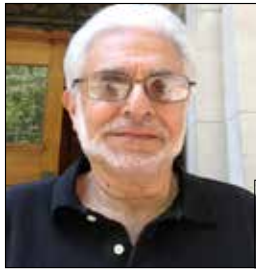
## Staff Holiday Party



*NYSEC staff members celebrated the holiday season with great food, great conversation, and many smiles.*



# Member Profile



TERRY PERLÍN, MEMBER SINCE 2009

I was born in New Jersey – cajoled, if not coerced, into Orthodox Judaism – and educated at Rutgers, Columbia, and Brandeis University. Long skeptics about “revealed religion,” my wife and I and, eventually, our two offspring, spent 42 years away from New York City. Commitments to social justice can be dated from activism in the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam war protests.

I taught social and political philosophy at Williams College, MA, and Miami University, OH. Subsequently, thanks to receiving grants, I was able to switch gears, and I wound up as a clinical medical ethicist, teaching medical students and physicians at the

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and also at San Francisco General Hospital.

My wife and I retired early, and we left Ohio. Upon returning to New York City, I visited NYSEC and was intrigued from the start. I found the challenge of critiquing traditional religious doctrines a welcome respite, and the effort at achieving social change a true commitment of value. I became a member five years ago.

I swiftly became involved in Ethics and the Theater, as both “performer” and discussion leader, and also became a frequenter of the weekly Leader Luncheon discussions. As part of the Ethical Enrichment program, I have offered courses in practical ethics. And, I have served as a Board Member for the past

two years.

I find that Ethical nicely complements – and often inspires – my endeavors in putting ethics into effect. Ethical’s emphasis on interpersonal decency and positive action helps to sustain my idealism.

For example, as President of Compassion and Choices of New York, a group which provides education and counseling regarding end-of-life decisions, I welcome the support of the NYSEC community, which puts ethical concerns at the top of the priority list.

Ethical Culture has both a real and a symbolic meaning for me. It is a place for interaction with others who also prize social and political action in pursuit of fairness, and as an institution that has an excellent record in providing hope – rather than despair – in dark times.

## Leader's Desk

(continued from page 4)

“Silence under these conditions means tacit approval. . . Discrimination once permitted cannot be bridled; recent history in the South shows that in forging chains for the negroes, the white voters are forging chains for themselves . . . Hence we call upon all the believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty.”

Among the 53 signers were four Ethical Culture Leaders: Jane Addams and Walter Salter from Chicago and John Lovejoy Elliott and Henry Moskowitz from New York. The proposed conference was opened on the evening of May 30, 1909 with an informal reception at the Henry Street Settlement hosted by Lillian D. Wald, and deliberations began the next day at Cooper Union. According to Mary White Ovington, “These men and women, engaged in religious, social and educational work, for the first time met the Negro who demands, not a pittance, but his full rights in the commonwealth. . . They did not want to leave the meeting.”

Out of this first conference was formed a committee that, by the end of the year, held four mass meetings, distributed thousands of pamphlets and grew to hundreds in

membership. At a second conference in May 1910, a permanent body known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized. The most important work of this conference was the appointment of W.E.B. DuBois, leader of the Niagara Movement formed in 1905, to the position of Director of Publicity and Research. Twenty years later, DuBois wrote to Walling about the “cousins” who together founded a mighty movement for civil rights.

As we look back upon our history, let us again stalwartly take up the challenge of “assuring to each and every citizen, irrespective of color, the equality of opportunity and equality before the law, which underlie our American institutions and are guaranteed by the Constitution.” We are, tragically, again facing a moment when the rights of our “cousins” are being attacked. We must not be silent! Take action today by joining a local branch of the NAACP (<http://www.naacp.org/>), and the American Civil Liberties Union (<https://www.aclu.org/>), another organization founded by Ethical Culture.

## AEU NEWS FES Conference

The 2014 FES (Future of Ethical Societies) Conference will be held in Philadelphia May 23-26. FES welcomes all interested college- and post-college young adults to join our community. We stay connected throughout the year with meetings and celebrations around the country and share news from local Societies, resources, and calls to action. For more information, email us at: [fesconference@gmail.com](mailto:fesconference@gmail.com), join us on Facebook, and attend an upcoming event.

## Lay Leadership Summer School

The Ethical Culture 2014 Lay Leadership Summer School will be held from July 12-19 at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center in Highlands, NC. The program, sponsored by the AEU, will help participants, especially those likely to hold key leadership positions in the Society in the future, to understand organizational dynamics; become more creative and effective agents for positive change; build Ethical Societies faithful to our traditions, yet flexible; and hone their skills in decision-making and group facilitation.

For more information, and to register, contact: Law'nence Miller at [lmiller@aeu.org](mailto:lmiller@aeu.org).

## NYSEC Joins Albany Protest Against Hydrofracking

While Governor Andrew Cuomo explained his plan for New York during his State of the State address in Albany on January 8, protestors rallied against his ambiguous stance on hydrofracking.

This anti-fracking rally held at the State Capital before and during the Governor's speech was attended by an estimated 2,000 participants who traveled on buses organized by activist groups from the far reaches of the state. Among them were members of Ethical who have been working hard to educate the public about this dangerous process.



(L-R, front) NYSEC members who attended the rally: Renée Goodstein, Rose Brancato, and Monica Weiss, and (rear) Vincent Brancato.

## Sunday Assembly NYC Talks Modern Love

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
2:00 PM - CEREMONIAL HALL

**SUNDAY ASSEMBLY** is a god-free congregation that meets to hear inspiring talks, sing songs and celebrate the wonder of life with humor and spirit.

What: An hour that combines engaging speakers and toe-tapping songs.

What Else: Socializing, coffee, and cookies after the event.

Speaker Guests:

**LEIGHANN LORD**, comedienne

**SYD LEROY**, Executive Director of CFI-NYC

Hosted by **JUSTINA WALFORD**, Sunday Assembly NYC



a global  
movement of  
wonder and good.



# Valentine Cabaret Concert

At the New York Society for Ethical Culture

2 WEST 64<sup>th</sup> STREET

• NEW YORK, NY 10023

• 212.874.5210

• WWW.NYSEC.ORG

*"If music be the food of love, play on..." William Shakespeare*

*Friday, February 14, 2014 at 7:30 pm*

Doors open at 7:00PM

Program ends by 11:00PM

## FEATURING:

Soprano, **Katherine Howell**

Members of **Ensemble du Monde** performing

Mozart aria *Per pietà*...from COSI FAN TUTTE

Mozart aria *Dove sono*...from MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Mozart's *Sonata for Violin and Piano* K. 296;  
[2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> movements]

Schubert's TROUT QUINTET



With short readings from the language of love.

Followed by **DANCING!**

## Cabaret-Style Seating

Advanced purchase encouraged

Seating is limited!

**\$30 Members and Students**

**\$40 Guests**

At Door (if available): \$50

Purchase tickets online:

[www.nysec-valentine.eventbrite.com](http://www.nysec-valentine.eventbrite.com)

## Elegant Finger Food

wine, fruit, special dessert,  
coffee/tea

Purchase tickets by mail:

(Please provide an email address and make check payable to New York Society for Ethical Culture.)

New York Society for Ethical Culture

c/o Moe-Swe Myint

2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10023

[mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org)

212.874.5210 Ext. 113



NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union.  
Entry to our 108-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements.  
Please call ahead (212-874-5210 x 107) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.

An evening to celebrate the release of  
**A BETTER LIFE: 100 ATHEISTS SPEAK OUT  
ON JOY & MEANING IN A WORLD WITHOUT GOD**

# a better life the celebration!

featuring a conversation with  
author Chris Johnson, guest speakers,  
Q&A, refreshments, book signing & more!

**Friday, February 28th, 2014 @ 7:30pm**

co-sponsored and hosted by

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

## ETHICAL

New York Society for Ethical Culture  
2 W 64th St, New York, NY 10025  
(64th & Central Park West)

WHEELCHAIR USERS: our 100-year-old building is accessible for most wheelchairs with prior arrangements. Please call ahead (212) 634-5210 ext/07 for setup of our portable lift system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.

[nysec.org](http://nysec.org)

[theatheistbook.com](http://theatheistbook.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2014 Community Celebration

It's this year's "Thank-You For Your Pledge" party!

## Saturday March 22, 2014

Ceremonial Hall

*Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres and  
the wonderful company of your Ethical  
family.*

*See you there!*

# FEBRUARY 2014

Office hours for the month are Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<p><b>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals,</b> by Hal Herzog — February 3</p> <p><b>Ethics in Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)</b> — February 7</p> <p><b>Ethics and the Theater: The Effect of Gamma Rays On Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds,</b> by Paul Zindel — February 21</p> <p><b>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: Brooklyn Castle,</b> (2012), directed by Katie Dellamaggiore — February 24</p>						
<p>10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Death Café 2:00 Sunday Assembly</p>	<p><b>March 2014 Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 Board of Trustees</p>	<p>12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs</p>	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class	7:00 Ethics in Film	8
<p>10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 12:45 Ethics in the News 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Life with Health</p>		<p>12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Life's Struggles: Personal and Professional Ethical Dilemmas</p>	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven	7:30 Valentine's Day Cabaret Concert	15
<p>10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens</p>	<b>Society Offices Closed Presidents' Day</b>	<p>12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar 7:00 Prospective Members' Reception</p>	1:00 Strength Exercise Class 2:30 Death Café	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class	7:00 Ethics and the Theater	22
<p>11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle</p>	<p>1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries Readings in Deep Ecology</p>	12:30 Writing Class	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven	7:30 A Better Life: 100 Atheists Speak Out on Joy & Meaning in a World Without God	28

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

# ETHICAL

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE,

a community that believes all individuals have inherent worth and  
dignity, and a responsibility to strive for ethical growth.

Ours is a nontheistic religion in which deeds and their results matter more than ideology.

We believe that leaving the world better than we found it is the highest good.

Learn more about us at our website — or, better still, visit with us.

You're always welcome.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

February 2013

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