

October 2013

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(L-R) Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman about to be presented with the statuette, by Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and Dr. Ivan Quervalu.

Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman Honored for Shelter Leadership



During our September 8 Sunday Platform, Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman, who

has been the indefatigable coordinator for NYSEC's Women's Shelter for the last 32 years, was presented with a beautiful sculpted bust of a flapper dressed in red and wearing a red hat (so reminiscent of Maria!) and complete with an engraved bronze

plaque. Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Chair of the United SSB,



and Ethical Culture Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyssen made the presentation. They also announced that the SSB has installed a plaque honoring Maria in the Women's Shelter itself.

So, if you have a few minutes to spare, go down to

the "A" level and check out the plaque and the murals, which were created by members of our Teen Ethical Leadership program. And speaking of the Women's Shelter, we could use more overnight volunteers. It's an extremely gratifying way to spend your time once a month helping people who need our support. If you are interested, please contact Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or by email at: mmyint@nysec.org.

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President's Notes

A N D R A M I L L E R

I've now started the second year of the three-year certificate program of the Humanist Institute -- I'm in Class 19, the last class of the "old" format. We meet for two Friday-through-Sunday weekends and one four-day session per year. Those taking the class after us (#20) will meet instead in three nine-day sessions over a period of 18 months, cutting the time to certification in half.

But frankly, I'm happy with the more "leisurely" pace. (We read a heck of a lot of books.) Why am I taking this course? Simply to know more about humanism and other interesting subjects past and present and to learn ways to affect the future. I've got some pretty impressive classmates, and our teachers are a great father-daughter team, Mel Lipman and Lori Lipman Brown—and so our discussions of the reading material are pretty lively. Amongst the stellar folks in my class (one comes from Norway; the others from Washington DC, Connecticut, South Carolina, California (San Diego), North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Nevada), is Paulo Ribeiro, one of the current Ethical Culture Leaders-in-Training.

The subjects we've covered so far include the history of philosophy, deism, and transcendentalism in the US; various Humanist organizations and definitions of Humanism; the roots of religion in human behavior; moral

development theory; family values; human sexuality; gender identity; theories of counseling; early religions; and religions today. I was assigned a religion to report on - Shinto - and researching and learning about how this ancient Japanese religion got started and how it evolved was fascinating to me. Were I to go with the supernatural, I might choose this very benign and believe-whatever-you-want religion -- with emphasis on "spirits" instead of "gods."

This coming year will cover three main areas: Leadership, Critical Thinking, and Science Techniques and Understanding. The final year's curriculum will delve into Contemporary Culture, Aesthetics, and Celebrations. And at that point I will have 15 credits towards a master's degree through the Human Science program at the School of Psychology at San Francisco's Saybrook University.

There are many others in Ethical Culture who've taken this course and been involved in the Institute. At our Society, there's Pat DeBrovner (Chuck DeBrovner is currently on the Institute's Board), Dr. Ruth Cohen, Dr. Anne Klaeyen (who was one of the two mentors for Class 15 and is currently co-dean for the school), Dr. Judith Wallach, Curt Collier, and Margaretha Jones, among others. Beth Zucker and Chris Everett are currently

Continued on page 15

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Wisdom and World Affairs

Come on **TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 1 and 15, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**, in Room 508, and add your voice to our philosophical discussion group, moderated by Ken Gans. We meet on the first and third **TUESDAYS** of each month, in Room 508, and delve into a variety of subjects: the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, etc.



There is no fee for this program.

Humanist Open Mic

Join us on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7:15 PM-8:45 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a celebration of science, ethics, and human progress. The event, co-sponsored by the Center for Inquiry New York City, will be hosted by CFI's Raymond Arnold. If you have any questions, please contact: nyc@centerforinquiry.net.

This is an ongoing program, so be sure to come on the first Wednesday of each month to be entertained, or to entertain us yourself, with a song, story, poem, or other performance art. Beginners are always welcome.

Admission is free.

Ethical Perspectives: 20th Century Photographers

Come and participate in our lively discussion **THURSDAYS OCTOBER**



3, 17, 24, and 31, from 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM, in the Adler Study, Room 514. Peter Houts moderates.

Twentieth-century master photographers Roman Vishniac, Dorothea Lange, and Cartier Bresson, as citizens and/or as artists, addressed important social and ethical issues. Classes will include videos about photographers and their work, followed by discussions of their photographs from aesthetic and ethical perspectives.

Homework assignments will consist of viewing material on the Internet about each photographer.

There is no fee for this program.

Death Café

This season, we'll meet on the third **WEDNESDAY** of each month, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**, and the first **SUNDAY** (with the exception of **OCTOBER 13**), from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, we'll

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SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am
Ceremonial Hall,
Fourth Floor

OCTOBER 6

We Are the Ones: Building Ethical Community

Dr. Anne Klaeyen
Andra Miller Presides

OCTOBER 13

Why New York Is Losing the Food Battle

Curt Collier, Leader
Kathleen O'Connell Presides

OCTOBER 20

Beyond a Fractured Future

David Braun
Dan Hanson Presides

OCTOBER 27

Can Violence Bring Peace? Syria and Other Cases

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Chris Bernhardt Presides

NOT A MEMBER?

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



Leader's Desk

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

Ethical Reflection on a Milestone

Today is my fifth anniversary as a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. I decided to spend it reflecting upon what I have learned and what I feel called upon to do in the future. (Fortunately, my contract has been renewed by the Board of Trustees, so I'll be spending at least the next three years with you.)

So how did I get this reflection off the ground? I cleared my desk and cleaned out my file cabinets, of course. What better way to review the past than to pour over what I felt was worth keeping? And some of it wasn't worth keeping, although I lingered over scraps of paper, wondering whether they held messages to my future self, before pitching them into the recycling bin. Soon the top of my desk and the conference table, too, were littered with sacrificed trees. Weren't computers supposed to save us from such waste? I wasn't reflecting; I

was drowning. So I did what I tell everyone else to do and took a deep cleansing breath. "Breathe in, breathe out, survey the landscape and get in touch with your feelings."

When I first entered this office as a leader (no longer an intern with Dr. Khoren Arisian), I knew I had to change the landscape. It was far too austere and intimidating, and the door to the hallway was locked. That door is now wide open, an invitation to everyone who passes by. My colleagues, Joe Chuman and Curt Collier, granted my request to "nest," so I brought in a sofa, rug and chair from home and got to work. Then I put our maintenance staff to work, too, hanging pictures on the walls and moving furniture.

Soon I had a "home away from home" where I could conduct business and settle in for chats with members. I love walking in every day and sometimes linger at night to look around at all the trappings of my leadership: an

origami mobile, prints, and a painting made by members; a photograph of a sculpture in Rochester, NY, of lifelong friends Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony; a still-thriving geranium plant that the lunch discussion group gave me one year for National Teachers Day; a banner from the National Religious Coalition Against Torture, and placards from various marches and demonstrations. Oscar the Grouch sits on a glass table, and there are picture books on lower shelves for children to read here and a "magic" box for them to hunt through for small toys to take home.

I riffled through a file that held letters and cards from members and photos from events over the years. There were faces of people who had died during my tenure; I officiated at their memorial services. There were also faces of couples whose weddings I officiated – and of their children. Sor-

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meet in Ceremonial Hall.

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

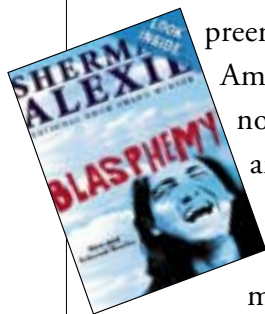
The suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on *Blasphemy*, a short story collection by Sherman Alexie.

Sherman Alexie is a preeminent Native American poet, novelist, performer, and filmmaker. A Spokane/Coeur d'Alene tribal member, Alexie grew up on the Spokane



Indian Reservation in Wellpinit, Washington. In his short story and poetry collections, he illuminates the despair, poverty, and alcoholism that often shape the lives of Native Americans living on reservations. A key characteristic of Alexie's writing is irony, and his dark humor is often buoyed by an exquisite sense of timing.

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

Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM** (and the second **TUESDAY** of each month), for a discussion of the works of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and humanist philosophy. The discussion, moderated by Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman, will be held in Room 502.

No fee for this program, but registration is required.

Fall Writing Workshops

Elaine Berman

This season's **TUESDAY** Ethical Culture writing class will meet from **12:30 PM to 2:30 PM**, for ten weeks, starting on **OCTOBER 8**, and the **THURSDAY** class will meet from **6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**, starting on **OCTOBER 10**.

This semester we begin the tenth year of our nonfiction workshops, "The Joy of Personal Writing." Participants are always a mix of continuing and new students, some with writing experience and others who want to give writing a try. All are welcome, but registration in advance is a must. For registration and information contact, ygarcia@nysec.org or 212-874-5210, ext.118.

Class fees: \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers.

Ethics in Stories From Faith and Folk Traditions

This new program, moderated by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen, will be offered on



THURSDAY evenings: OCTOBER 10 and 24, NOVEMBER 14, and DECEMBER 12 and 26, at 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

We will explore ethics communicated in myths, parables, and stories from cultures around the world. Each session will focus on a different aspect of the human experience, e.g., family, friendship, and integrity.

There is no fee for this program.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 7:00 PM, in Ceremonial Hall, Ethics and the Theater will present a play reading of *Sin (A Cardinal Deposed)* by Michael Murphy. The abuse of children by Catholic priests provoked outrage not only because of the crime itself but also because of the way the church hierarchy seemed to protect the perpetrators at the expense of the victims. Michael Murphy has crafted the transcripts of actual depositions by Cardinal Bernard F. Law, Archbishop of Boston when the scandal came to a head, into a gripping portrayal of how the pastoral bureaucracy came to fail the flock it purported to protect.

I will direct our cast,

which includes Bonnie Bean, Stephen Bradbury, Jerry Chamlin, Luke Hofmaier, John Lovelady, Andra Miller, and Tom Weishaar, with stage directions read by Beverly Newman. 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.

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

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM), in Ceremonial Hall to see *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994).

In 1946, a banker named Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is convicted of a double murder, even though he stubbornly proclaims his innocence. He is sentenced to a life term at the Shawshank State Prison in Maine, where another lifer, Ellis “Red” Redding (Morgan Freeman), picks him as the new recruit most likely to crack under the pressure. The *Shawshank Redemption* was the directorial debut of screenwriter Frank Darabont. I’ll lead our



post-film discussion.

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

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1:00 PM — 3:00 PM, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We’ll be showing *Mad Hot Ballroom* (2005), directed by Marilyn Agrelo.

This one is just for fun! Ballroom dancing goes from lame to cool for a group of New York City students in this insightful documentary, which follows a group of 11-year-olds as they learn to dance old-school styles, including the merengue, rumba, tango, foxtrot, and swing. Candid interviews capture the kids’ initial reluctance to learn ballroom dancing and their transformation into serious competitors determined to win a citywide competition.

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



West 64th Street Jazz

An Evening of Great Jazz, featuring Lenore Raphael and Friends, is planned for **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8:00 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall.

Renowned jazz pianist Lenore Raphael will perform with her trio Hilliard Greene, bass; Bob Kindred, tenor sax; and Jerry Mandel, tenor sax.

Tickets for general admission are \$20; for members, seniors, and students they are \$15, <http://nysecjazz.eventbrite.com>.

Fall Hike

Join us on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**, for a hike to Mt. Taurus in historic Cold Spring, NY.

This 5-hour hike will take us to a summit over the Hudson River. You will be rewarded with stunning views of the river and, on a clear day, Manhattan. We will take a scenic train ride to the town of Cold Spring. The town, set on the east bank of Hudson, has many antique stores, nice coffee shops, several restaurants, and a lovely small park. This town is worth a day's visit even if you do not hike!

The ride on Metro North Hudson line takes an hour and twenty minutes and offers

spectacular views of the river. We will meet at the information booth in Grand Central Station at **8:35 AM**. If you arrive later, find us on the train that leaves at **8:43 AM**.

The round trip ticket is \$26.50 (seniors \$17.50). Please buy your own tickets.

Bring a water bottle, light lunch and/or snack for the trail, and a few dollars for a coffee stop at a local cafe. It will be a great treat.

Wear hiking or sturdy walking shoes (there are some steep parts on decent), and dress in layers. Rain cancels.

A History of Ideas Through Western Art



A Tour of Art History

Join us on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 28**, and the fourth Monday of each month (we started on September 23), from **7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514. Leader Curt Collier will moderate our sessions.

This will be a whirlwind tour of art history from the pre-Renaissance to the modern age. We will explore how

religious ideals, thoughts, and history shaped what we see on the canvas.

At the end of the series, participants should be able to look at most art and tell when it was created and what influences shaped its unique perspective.

There is no fee for this program.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

2 W 64 ST • NEW YORK, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • WWW.NYSEC.ORG

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK

Comes to the New York Society for Ethical Culture

Saturday, October 12

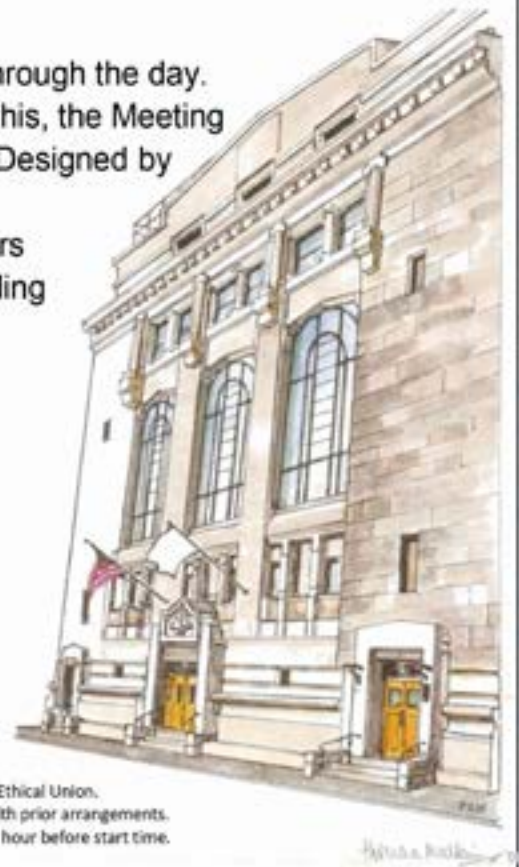
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JOIN US IN THIS CELEBRATION OF THE CITY'S ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN.

Yes! We're opening our doors and inviting the public to see our beautiful and unique historically-landmarked building, as we participate in the 11th Annual Open House New York (OHNY).

Come on one of our 1/2-hour tours, which will run through the day. Learn about the architectural history and design of this, the Meeting House of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. Designed by noted architect Robert Kohn (Macy's, Newsweek, Temple Emanu-El, etc.) the building opened its doors in 1910, and was quickly recognized as an outstanding example of the Viennese Secessionist Movement.

To learn more about the full OHNY weekend, visit:
www.ohny.org/weekend/overview.



NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union. Entry to our 100-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.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

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Tuesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m.

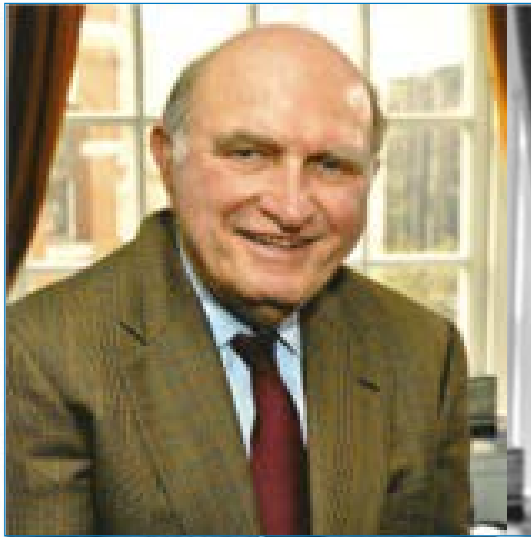
Ceremonial Hall

THE SECULAR HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
presents

NORMAN DORSEN

Past President, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
on

“THE SEVEN CRISES OF THE ACLU”



Norman Dorsen is Stokes Professor of Law at NYU School of Law, and the author or editor of many articles and 15 books on constitutional law and human rights.

A longtime member of SHSNY, Norman served as president of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1976-1991. Earlier, while general counsel to the ACLU, he argued many Supreme Court cases, including those that won for juveniles the right to due process, upheld constitutional rights of out-of-wedlock children, and advanced abortion rights. He also helped write petitioner's brief in *Roe v. Wade* and appeared *amicus curiae* in the *Gideon* case, the *Pentagon Papers* case and the *Nixon Tapes* case, among many others.

All of which will inform a fascinating presentation on the history of - and the crises faced by - the organization that has proven time and again to be the most stalwart defender of our constitutional liberties from attacks both left and right.

Don't miss this outstanding presentation, and the spirited (we're sure) discussion that will follow.

The doors of Ceremonial Hall will open at 6:30 p.m.
for a wine-and-cheese reception. Coffee and tea will also be on offer.

Suggested donation: \$5

NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union.
Entry to our 100-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.

Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11:15 am

OCTOBER 6

WE ARE THE ONES: BUILDING ETHICAL COMMUNITY



Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

Andra Miller Presides

A saying from the Xhosa of South Africa expresses our understanding that we become fully human within a community of caring and responsible people: “I am because we are.” What holds a community together are the values shared by the people within it. At the heart of Ethical Culture is the call to making the world a better place for everyone and sustaining our precious environment. Our ultimate concern is establishing and nurturing ethical relationships. It is that call to ethical action that Leader Anne Klaeyesen will address in a participatory platform.

The shared charity is East Harlem Tutorial.

OCTOBER 13

WHY NEW YORK IS LOSING THE FOOD BATTLE



Curt Collier, Leader

Kathleen O’Connell Presides

Each year the number of farmers markets, community gardens, and farm co-ops (CSAs) continues to grow in the New York metropolitan area. These have done a great job in not only providing area residents with farm-fresh produce, but they help them gain greater control over the quality of their food and the sustainability of its production practices.

However, in many ways we are becoming victims of our own success. As the uproar over the unprincipled corporate control of American food production continues to swell, more families are turning to local growers to provide healthier food, but this increase is not sustainable. This is leading to market demand that is great for area farms but is pricing out many lower-income families. What should we do? Is localism alone sustainable, and to what extent will the movement towards “urban” agriculture honestly fill the growing demand?

Leader Curt Collier is directly involved in this challenge and currently manages a farmers market, a CSA, community gardens, and an agriculture program serving several schools. He has spoken before the USDA about this looming crisis and will give his opinion about the changes needed to win the battle against corporate malfeasance.

The shared charity is Just Food.

OCTOBER 20

BEYOND A FRACTURED FUTURE



David Braun

Dan Hanson Presides

The oil industry has known for years that by extracting oil from its reserves faster than they can be replaced, the global supply of oil is waning. Facing the inevitable end of their business, companies like Exxon and others are diversifying their business models by purchasing and acquiring hydraulic fracturing companies and spending millions of dollars in ads and lobbying to thereby ensure that their business will continue into the future. Unfortunately, this business model is not only catastrophic for the climate, but it is also dangerous and toxic for local commu-

nities. This discussion will explore the downsides of fracking, as an extreme form of energy extraction, and look at sustainable clean energy solutions that could be implemented instead and the movement that can get us there.

David Braun works as a director and organizer for both Americans Against Fracking and New Yorkers Against Fracking. He is the President and co-founder of United for Action and helped found the National Grassroots Coalition, a precursor to Americans Against Fracking. Previously, he was a key member of the *Gasland* team, and ran the grassroots campaign for the film *Gasland* and also created the outreach plan for the second installment, *Gasland Part 2*. Previously, he was an organizer for MoveOn and has worked on numerous social, environmental, and economic justice campaigns.

The shared charity is New Yorkers Against Fracking.

OCTOBER 27

CAN VIOLENCE BRING PEACE? THE CASE OF SYRIA AND OTHER CASES



Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Chris Bernhardt Presides

As Ethical Culturists we abhor violence and war. But the contemporary world continually confronts us with the painful dilemma of using military force to curtail genocide or other mass atrocity crimes. The world has been riveted to the civil war in Syria and the threat of a cruise missile attack by the United States in the name of upholding international norms forbidding use of chemical weapons, which cannot distinguish between military targets and noncombatants.

The issue of “humanitarian intervention” in various forms raises ethical issues of great consequence. I’ll look at some of those issues in my address.

The shared charity is International Rescue Committee.

THIS MONTH’S SHARED CHARITIES

EAST HARLEM TUTORIAL PROGRAM, founded in 1958, provides students with the academic skills, strength of character and emotional well-being to excel in high school and college, to lead in their communities, and to realize their best possible selves.

JUST FOOD, a nonprofit organization that connects communities in all five New York City boroughs with fresh, locally grown food, provides regional farmers and food producers, CSA organizers, and everyday eaters with the resources and support they need to establish and experience healthy food systems—in every neighborhood.

NEW YORKERS AGAINST FRACKING was created when the need arose for a broad-based coalition of New York State residents to call for a ban on the dangerous and polluting practice of fracking. The coalition includes members from every part of the state and a diverse collection of consumer advocacy, health, religious, food, and environmental organizations and dozens of grassroots groups.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE is a nonsectarian, nongovernmental, international relief and development nonprofit organization based in New York, with offices in the UK and Belgium and operations in 22 US cities and over 40 countries. The IRC’s mission is to provide emergency relief, post-conflict development and resettlement services; to work for the protection of human rights; and to advocate for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression.

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

OCTOBER 6

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. Ceremonial Hall.

OCTOBER 13

COLLOQUY: GREED AND ITS SOCIETAL IMPACT.

Joseph Marvel presides. Room 408.

OCTOBER 20

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. Ceremonial Hall.

OCTOBER 20

POETRY READING

Join us! Come read and talk about your favorite poems. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm *(Rooms are subject to change)*

OCTOBER 6

COMMUNITY MEETING.

OCTOBER 13

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

OCTOBER 13

DEATH CAFÉ: COMPASSION AND CHOICES, presented by David Levin. Compassion and Choices is the leading organization in New York working to improve health and end-of-life care and expand end-of-life options, to ensure a humane and peaceful death with dignity, with a primary focus on support for dying patients and their families. David will lead a discussion, with Q & A's. Ceremonial Hall.

OCTOBER 13

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

Participate in serious, pragmatic, and practical discussions about culinary choices, commuting alternatives, and how our purchases aid or hamper the natural world, among other topics. 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. Admission is free. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Adler Study, Room 514.

OCTOBER 20

SPECIAL CHORUS REHEARSAL. Ceremonial Hall.

more Ethical Enrichment...

Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — Elliott Library, Rm 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: **HEALTH AND SCIENCE**. Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

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- OCTOBER 3** "HOW THE LIGHT GETS OUT" by Michael Graziano, Aeon online magazine, 8/21/13, and "BURSTING THE NEURO-UTOPIAN BUBBLE" by Benjamin Y. Fong, *The NY Times*, 8/11/13.
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- OCTOBER 10** "THE MIND ON FIRE" by Jerry Adler and "ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE" by Tom Vanderbilt, *Smithsonian*, June 2013; "THE VITAMIN MYTH: WHY WE THINK WE NEED SUPPLEMENTS" by Paul Offit, *The Atlantic*, July 2013.
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- OCTOBER 17** "SPEAK, MEMORY" by Oliver Sacks, *The NY Review of Books*, 2/21/13, and "AMNESIA AND THE SELF THAT REMAINS WHEN MEMORY IS LOST" by Daniel Levitin, *The Atlantic*, December 2012.
-
- OCTOBER 24** "BORN TO BE MILD" by Abigail Tucker, *Smithsonian*, January 2013.
-
- OCTOBER 31** "TIME REGAINED!" by James Gleick, *The NY Review of Books*, 6/6/13, and "HOW MUCH SHOULD IT COST TO FIND GOD?" by Natasha Scripture, *The Atlantic*, October 2013..

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

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ETHICAL CARES

We care, and we'll be there for you. 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. We can do shopping, pick up a prescription or a meal — or help prepare it, bring you to the doctor, or just visit by phone or in person. All you need do is call the committee chairperson, **STEPHANIE ROSENBLATT** at 212-586-0017, and she'll make the arrangements.

Stephanie says, "Don't hesitate. Call me; that's why we're here."

Our Ethical Family



MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

We'd like to welcome our newest members, [STEPHEN JAMES](#) and [ROSEMARY IRVING](#).

Steve is a media producer with special training in video production. He is a member and organizer for the Ernest Becker Foundation and a member of the Humanist Society of Metropolitan NY. He heard about NYSEC through a friend, and he is drawn to our non-theistic philosophy. He has attended our prospective members' reception. His hobbies are cartooning and carpentry.

Rosemary is a psycho-therapist, with special training in community social work and dealing with dementia/memory. She works with the Social Service Board and is the social worker for its Empowering Ethical Elders Program. Rosemary is co-Chair of the Citywide Mental Health Coalition. She likes photography, reading historical novels and autobiographies, singing, and listening to music.

Welcome aboard to Steve and Rosemary!

We held our Annual Members' Retreat weekend (October 20-22)

up at the Stony Point Center again. Quite a few of our members attended, and spent some quality time together, reflecting on ourselves, our relationships, our Society, and beyond. This year's theme was "Peace," to coincide with the International Day of Peace. We'll feature details of our activities and plenty of pictures in next month's *Ethical Outlook*, since the weekend was held too close to the end of October to be included in this issue. Suffice it to say that this year's Retreat Committee of Andra Miller, Elinore Kaplan, and Tod Whitaker did a bang-up job of coordinating all the activities.

Now that summer is over and we're back on our full schedule, you might want to get hold of the Fall Ethical Enrichment Program brochure, which was beautifully produced by Leaders' Assistant Yal-tza Garcia-Krawczyk. You will find a whole new crop of programs that the Ethical Leaders and members have added. Curt Collier is moderating "A History of Ideas Through Western Art," on the fourth [MONDAY](#) of each month at [7:00 PM](#); this started on [SEPTEMBER 23](#). Dr. Anne



The following members are celebrating birthdays in October:

- [SUSAN HOROWITZ](#).....10/3
- [DANIEL ALTMAN](#).....10/6
- [SARA DILLON](#).....10/6
- [LUCILE KLEIMAN](#).....10/9
- [FAYE JOYCE](#).....10/11
- [ELAINE BERMAN](#).....10/12
- [EDWARD JACKSON](#).....10/13
- [ERIC NORLANDER](#).....10/18
- [PATRICIA COHEN](#).....10/20
- [MURIEL BERGER](#).....10/21
- [DAVID DAY](#).....10/24
- [CHERYL GROSS](#).....10/24
- [LISBETH ENG](#).....10/27
- [WARREN SMITH](#).....10/27
- [RENÉE GOODSTEIN](#).....10/31

Klaeyesen is moderating a five-part series, "Ethics in Stories from Faith and Folk Traditions," on **THURSDAYS** at **7:00 PM**, starting in October. Member Peter Houts is leading a six-session discussion series, *Ethical Perspectives: 20th Century Photographers*, on **THURSDAYS** at **6:30 PM**, which started on September 19.

Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman is again moderating the Adler reading seminars, on the second Tuesday of each month, starting in October. All these wonderful new offerings are in addition to our regular and ever-popular discussions, such as our Leader Lunch Discussions on Thursdays; *Ethics in Literature: A Reading*

Group, on the first Monday of the month; *Sustainable Living Support Circle*, on the fourth Sundays; *Death Café*, on the third Wednesdays and first Sundays; *Wisdom and World Affairs*, on the first and third Tuesdays; *Arts and Culture* programs such as *Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries*, on the third Mondays; *Ethics and the Theatre*, once every month; *Ethics in Film*, on the first Fridays – our cup runneth over! And don't forget to check out member Elaine Berman's ten-session workshop, *The Joy of Personal Writing*, on Tuesdays (which starts October 8),

or on Thursdays (starting October 10).

Brochures are available in the information kiosks in the lobby; you may also request the brochures from the membership office.

Member Bernette Rudolph is having an Open Studio on **OCTOBER 12, 13** and **14** [Columbus Day weekend] from **12:00 NOON** to **6:00PM**.

This will be at 457 Third Street, #2R, between 6th and 7th Avenues, Park Slope, Brooklyn 11215.

President's Notes (continued from page 2)

students in Class 18. Also, Dr. Joseph Chuman mentored Class 6 and was an assistant dean.

If you are interested, let me encourage you to sign up for the Humanist Institute certification course. And if you'd rather skip the class work and study at your own pace, there is the Continuum for Humanist Education, which is several online courses that you'd find fascinating: *Humanist Activism and Organization*, *Science and Humanism*, *Psychology and Humanism*, *Law and Politics*, *Religion and*

Spirituality, *Ethics*, *Philosophy and Humanism*, and *Humanist Parenting*, <http://www.humanistinstitute.org>, <http://cohe.humanistinstitute.org>.

While I'm on the subject of classes, let me encourage you also to take a week in the mountains next July learning about *Ethical Culture* — the *Lay Leaders Summer School*. It's a glorious time to meet and get to know up-and-coming lay leaders from other Societies. Those friendships are forever.

Although when you are

reading this our membership retreat will be long gone, as I write it we're all involved in doing the final stages of organization for the retreat.

Led by Tod Whitaker and Elinore Kaplan, a team of members/Leaders are preparing for lots of fun and uplifting sessions.

We'll tell you all about how we spent our Stony Point getaway time in the upcoming November issue of *Ethical Outlook*.

Leader's DESK *(continued from page 4)*

rows and joys poured out: so many people held so dearly by this community.

Other file drawers held Sunday platform addresses, workshop handouts, and many committee agendas and minutes: the day-to-day work of an Ethical Culture leader and a community of dedicated members. I realized that over five years we have come a long way organizationally. We have a skilled Board of Trustees to guide this institution, staff and

volunteers who provide intergenerational programming, a caring network that reaches out to housebound and recuperating members, and social justice projects that connect us to the larger community. And, thanks to the creative genius of a couple of members, we now have “branding” that identifies us as “Ethical,” giving our message a real kick.

Where do we go from here? Three years ago we celebrated the centennial of our meeting house. It's time now

to make it truly a House of Ethics. We have been discouraged by building rentals that are necessary to keep the roof over our heads but that neither reflect our values nor convey our message. We must grow in membership and influence, reaching out to populations – and generations – that share the common ground of ethics revealed by founder Felix Adler in a rented hall on May 15, 1876. It will take time, energy, and determination, but I firmly believe that we can reclaim our heritage and carry it into a brighter future for everyone.

Fostering Accessibility at NYSEC's Historic Building



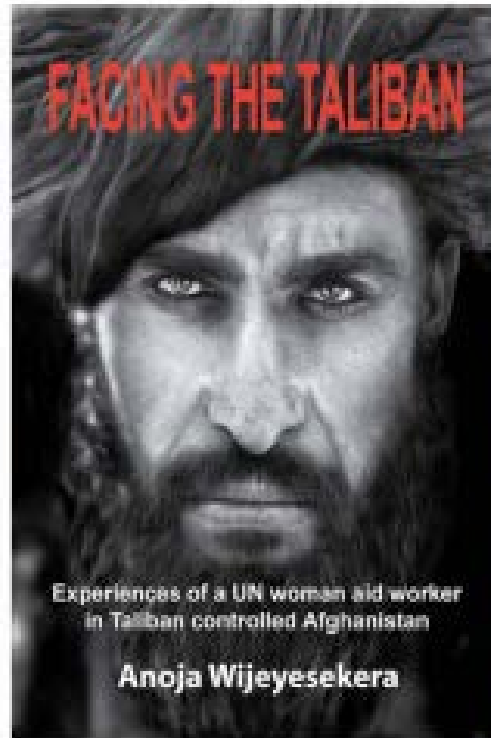
Members of the Society's Building Accessibility Subcommittee met on September 8 to study the issue and develop a questionnaire about this project.

(L-R front row): Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and David Leiman, (L-R back row): Henryka Komanska, Chris Bernhardt, and Valerie Leiman. Photo by Pat Debrouner.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

2 W 64 ST • NEW YORK, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • WWW.NYSEC.ORG



BOOK LAUNCH
Monday,
October 21st
7PM
Ceremonial Hall
FREE EVENT



Join author and United Nations aid worker Anoja Wijeyesekera for her NYC book launch with Guest of Honor Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director UNICEF, and James Mohan, former UNICEF Representative for Afghanistan. Following their presentations, Dr. Anne Klæyssen will moderate a Q&A period.

"This extraordinary story, written by one of the few women international aid workers to serve in Afghanistan under the Taliban, is compelling from first to last...Anoja Wijeyesekera's spirited efforts to outwit the agents of Vice and Virtue from the weirdest administration in the world is touching, amazing, funny, appealing – you will not be able to put it down."

-Maggie Black, UNICEF Historian

Facing the Taliban by Anoja Wijeyesekera may be purchased through www.amazon.com or at the book launch.

NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union. Entry to our 100-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.

The New York Society for Ethical Culture Presents

WEST 64th STREET JAZZ

An Evening of Great Jazz
featuring Lenore Raphael & Friends



Renowned Jazz Pianist
LENORE RAPHAEL



HILLIARD GREENE
Bass



BOB KINDRED
Tenor Sax



JERRY MANDEL
Tenor Sax

Friday
October 25, 2013 8pm

Ceremonial Hall, 2 West 64th Street- 4th Floor, New York, New York 10023
Tickets: General Admission \$20; Members, Seniors & Students \$15
TEL: 212.874.5210 <http://nysecjazz.eventbrite.com>

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE
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2 West 64th Street • New York, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • www.nysec.org
Our 100 year old building is accessible for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements.
Please call ahead (212 874 5210 x 107) for set up of our portable system and plan to arrive
one hour before start time.

Monde. Talented members of our Society will also lend their artistry to our program, offering short poetry readings, including sonnets by Shakespeare. All of this will be followed by dancing. This will be a truly outstanding and memorable experience, one not to be missed!

Our menu will include elegant finger food, wine, desserts, coffee, and tea – and all this for just \$30 a ticket for members. Guest tickets are \$40 and tickets purchased at the door are \$50. It's the best deal in town for Valentine's Day, or any other day. So, save the date, and please buy your tickets now. You won't want to miss this party, and it may be sold out by the end of October. It's shaping up to be a very special and memorable evening.

To purchase tickets online, contact: www.nysec-valentine.eventbrite.com.

To purchase tickets by mail, please write to: New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023, to the attention of Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate.

For more information, about the concert contact Moe-Swe, 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Save the Date! Valentine's Day Concert

Ed Gross

On **FEBRUARY 14, 2014**, the Society will hold its second Valentine's Day Cabaret Concert and Party. I was involved in organizing the first party three years ago, a sold-out, standing-room-only-event that won high praise from our members who attended. We expect that this party will be even better!

The musical portion of the evening will include two sublimely beautiful Mozart arias, "Per Pieta," from *Così fan Tutte*, and "Dove Sono," from *Marriage of Figaro*, sung by soprano Katherine Howell. We'll also hear Mozart's Sonata for Violin and Piano, K. 296, and Schubert's Trout Quintet, a chamber music masterpiece, performed by members of Ensemble du

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>Blasphemy</i>, by Sherman Alexie — October 7 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Sin (A Cardinal Deposed)</i>, by Michael Murphy — October 11 Ethics in Film: <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> (1994), directed by Frank Darabont — October 18 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>Mad Hot Ballroom</i> (2005) — October 21						
		1	2	3	4	5
		November 2013 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	1:00 Strength Exercise Class 7:15 Humanist Culture Open Mic	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion Empowering Ethical Elders 6:00 20 th Century Photographers		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Community Meeting	1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 Board of Trustees	12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 7:00 Faith and Folk Traditions	7:00 Ethics and the Theater	10:00 Open House NY
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00 Colloquy 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Death Café 1:30 Ethics in the News 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	Society Offices Closed Columbus Day	12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	1:00 Strength Exercise Class 2:30 Death Café	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 20 th Century Photographers	7:00 Ethics in Film	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Ethics for Teens	1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries Facing the Taliban 7:00 Prospective Members' Reception	12:30 Writing Class 7:00 The Secular Humanist Society of NY	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 20 th Century Photographers 7:00 Faith and Folk Traditions	8:00 West 64th St. Jazz	8:35 Fall Hike
27	28	29	30	31		
11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Ethics for Teens	7:00 A History of Ideas through Western Art	12:30 Writing Class	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 20 th Century Photographers		

NYSEC Members in DC for 50th Anniversary of Civil Rights March



(Front row, right) Nicola DeMarco and his nephew were among those representing the Society in Washington, DC, at the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom, a defining moment for the Civil Rights movement.

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

October 2013

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