

E T H I C A L O U T L O O K

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL.212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

Sunday Morning Meetings

10:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall

August 5

The Happiness Myth

Jennifer Michael Hecht

Sheila Kleinwald Presides

August 12

Criminal Justice Reform

Douglas Berman

Elaine Berman Presides

August 19

Spiritual Maturity From A Humanist Perspective

Kendyl Gibbons, Senior Minister

First Unitarian Society of

Minneapolis

Tony Hileman Presides

August 26

Ethics in the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

Carole Chamlin Presides

September 2

The Balancing Actors: A New Silent Plurality

Abe Markman

Andra Miller Presides

Register for NYSEC's Sunday Ethics for Children Program

Beginning Sunday, September 9. Registration forms and more information are available at the Society, on the Youth and Family Programs bulletin board in the lobby.

For more details call:
212-874-5210, ext. 106.

Annual Report

Senior Leader

Tony Hileman

This is an exciting time for the New York Society for Ethical Culture. My core ambition since taking on the responsibilities of Senior Leader has been to be a part of the reinvigoration of this Society and, through that, the revitalization of the Ethical Movement—a return of both to their rightful and necessary positions of social and cultural relevance. Seldom has that been more needed and seldom has that been more possible.

One need only look at the results of the regressive thinking so prevalent in our culture today to be convinced of the necessity for better ways of relating to each other—ways enabled by an Ethical Humanist outlook. Our message is directly relevant to the moral malaise of our global culture, and to the divisiveness and strife brought about by violent ideological and national differences.

Addressing global issues begins at home, and that's the source of my excitement. There's a buzz here at the New York Society, with new initiatives, a new leadership team with new Board members and new officers, and a growing number of new and energetic members. These and other changes will be addressed in separate reports but, from my perspective, they combine to present us with a tremendous opportunity.

Reaching Out to the Community

Already the Society is beginning to turn its attention outward in a number of ways, including public issues proposals and a redirecting of some of my attention. Significant steps have been taken, and more are expected, toward being an active and influential participant in our surrounding community—as we have been so often throughout our long and proud history.

At the same time, efforts are underway to reinforce our sense of community and to magnify the expression of our Ethical Culture beliefs in our social service and action. Both of these accents, the inwardly-focused and the outwardly-projected, were prominent at the times of this Society's greatest involvement and influence. It is gratifying and inspiring to see them meshing again, and exciting to think of what that promises for our future, as well as that of our broader community.

For my part, I meet frequently with the members of the Leader's Advisory Board—Muriel Berger, Carole Chamlin, Jim Farer, Barbara Levenson, Abe Markman, and Sylvan Wallach—on just what my part is and is to be. Each of them is an active presence in the Society who has your trust and respect, and mine. You may speak forthrightly and with confidence to them about anything you wish, and I urge you to do so.

I continue to be active in the National Leaders Council and the American Ethical Union. These efforts are reestablishing this Society in the orbit of the broader Ethical Humanist

Contents

Senior Leader 1
 Board of Trustees 2
 Executive Director 2
 Membership 3
 Archives 3
 Youth and Family 3
 Ethics for Children 3
 Adult Education 4
 Music 5
 Cosponsored Programs 5
 Public Issues 5
 Radio Program 6
 Sunday Programs 6
 Social Service Board 7

Staff

Selma Friedman, Editor
 Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Archivist
 Jon Liechty, Reporter
 Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor
 Deborah Foster, Production

Andra Miller, President
 Tony Hileman, Senior Leader
 Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader Emeritus
 Robert Liebeskind, Executive Director
 Rita Chawla, Director of Family Programs
 Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Senior Leader
 Gerald Ranck, Music Director
 Marion Rice, Rental Operations

New York Society for Ethical Culture
 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023
 Phone: 212-874-5210; Fax: 212-595-7258
 Email: office@nysec.org
 Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Staff Directory

Marc Bernstein	ext. 112
Gloria Chandler	117
Rita Chawla	106
Deborah Foster	115
Sheleigah Grube	118
Tony Hileman	119
Yolanta Kosmaczewska	104
Deirdre Lance	138
Robert Liebeskind	116
Maintenance	109
Marlon Rice	107

NY Society for Ethical Culture

Officers:

Andra Miller, President, andrasm@juno.com
 Margaretha Jones, Vice President,
marjones@nyc.rr.com
 Robert Berger, Treasurer,
bobandmuriel@mindspring.com
 Steven Schultz, Secretary, ss16538@aol.com

Trustees:

Margaret Chapman, md.chapman@earthlink.net
 Patricia Cohen, prc2@columbia.edu

Dr. James W. Farer, jfarer@earthlink.net
 Dr. Maria Fridman
 Heather Grady, heathergradynyc@gmail.com
 Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, phrmd@yahoo.com
 Henryka Komanska, henryka@verizon.net
 Michael Bogdanffy Kriegh, mbkriegh@msn.com
 Christina Nargolwala, cnargolwala@yahoo.com
 Jirina Ribbens, jirinar@aol.com
 Steven Schultz, ss16538@aol.com
 Dr. Sylvan Wallach, swallach@j-2000.com

movement. The New York Society is the founding Society, and our heritage and accomplishments create expectations within the New York community, and beyond. These are responsibilities that cannot be ignored. I look forward to the coming year and to working with you in stepping up to those obligations.

Board of Trustees

This issue of *Ethical Outlook* contains, as does every August issue, reports from our committees on their accomplishments over the past year.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting direction and goals, but it is up to the committees to plan how goals will be met and to do the real work. For this reason, we express our gratitude to the NYSEC committees for all that they've done over this past year—and we look forward to their additional accomplishments in the year ahead.

As well, we thank Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, Tony Hileman and Bob Liebeskind for their part in making this a year of progress through their leadership, guidance and direction.

Executive Director

Robert Liebeskind

I am pleased to report that we have closed the 2006-2007 fiscal year with a \$7,091 surplus. We are very proud to have achieved a surplus for the past two

years and to have operated the Society in a fiscally responsible manner.

Staff—I would like to thank the NYSEC staff for having provided us with another year of excellent service, demonstrating every day how dedicated they are, consistently working hard to ensure that the Society runs smoothly. It's a big job and I thank each of them for their efforts.

Rentals—While we are very pleased that our members have given generously to the Society over the past year, the majority of our revenue continues to come from our rentals. We are pleased that so many excellent organizations have chosen to hold their events in our historic building, bringing a variety of most informative and sophisticated programs to the Society, helping us to make it a very vibrant and visible organization.

Among the organizations that have used our space for their public events are: *The Nation*, Demos, WNYC, WBAI, Amnesty International, Community Free Democrats, the Art of Living Foundation, the Center for Social and Economic Education, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Center for Inquiry. We are also the venue chosen for future events by Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Merkin Hall, the University Glee Club, and One Day University.

Cosponsored Programs—We have cosponsored many programs with

groups including: *The Nation*, Amnesty International, Rock to Save Darfur, and the Center for Inquiry.

Capital Campaign—We are housed in a very beautiful but old building, and we have been confronted with several concerns regarding its upkeep. We have, therefore, begun a capital campaign to raise funds for this, and we thank each of you who has contributed. While we still have a ways to go to meet our financial goal, we have been very successful thus far and we look forward to starting the much-needed work on our building over the next few months.

Looking Ahead—I believe that as we now have a new team of Society officers and several new Board members, as well as new members, we have an excellent opportunity to move forward and make the New York Society for Ethical Culture a more vibrant, visible organization. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year.

Membership

Suzy Frazer

We have welcomed a wonderful group of new members this year: Majid Ali, Sy Amkraut, Emily Ascher, Marilyn and William Baker, Judy Belle, Ella Campi, Jayne Connell, Sue Dye, Jennifer Ellen Frank, Ivanhoe V. Ffriend, John Hwang, Marvin Liebman, Foteos Macrides, Matthew Mallinson, JoAnn Mason, Arthur Cerf Mayer, Hugh McGuire, Paula and Al Miller, Eric Norlander, Michelle Rickborn, Richard Sander, Michael Sands, Lorna Sass, Barry Snider, and Robert Worth.

We held new member orientations throughout the year, and we experimented with holding them on alternating Sunday afternoons and weekday evenings. We also tried having a few informal Member Recognition Sun-

days, rather than one large, formal event per year, and that seemed to be appealing to the “Platform-shy.”

We have also added many new names to our Friends of the Society list and received help with our building fund. We want to attract more new people, we now have a newly constituted Membership Development Committee. We need your support and ideas!

Archives

Dr. Marc A. Bernstein

This year I took on two ambitious projects. First, I proposed and received funding from the Bergen Society for publication of a volume of Joe Chuman’s platform talks. I will be editing these and writing an introduction. My goal is to enrich the literature of Ethical Culture. We have not had a new book that deals with the basic ideas of the Movement since Ed Ericson’s *The Humanist Way* appeared almost twenty years ago.

Joe’s book, *Speaking of Ethics*, will be divided into four sections, dealing with ethics in private life, public questions, humanist heroes, and interpretations of Ethical Culture. Twenty-two of Joe’s best addresses will be included. The book will be published by iUniverse, an on-demand publisher, which will enable us to keep its price down to \$20 and to get the book out fast—we expect publication this fall. For more information about *Speaking of Ethics* contact me at: archives@nysec.org.

My second project, writing additional chapters for Howard Radest’s *Toward Common Ground*, the history of the Ethical Movement, is in its earliest stages. Howard suggested that I bring his book, which concludes with the 75th anniversary of Ethical Culture in 1951, up to date. I have begun

outlining a new chapter on the fifties, covering the proliferation of new societies and the growth in membership, the success of Al Black and his fellow activists in passing fair-housing legislation, and the consequences of the McCarthy years for Ethical Culture. Chapters on later decades will follow. As my work on Joe’s book winds down the new project should begin to move more quickly.

In addition, I led a series of tours of our building, the most recent for the Future of Ethical Societies group, 29 terrific college-age men and women eager to absorb the building’s history and that of NYSEC. I also worked with a number of leaders, scholars, and students interested in using our archival materials, and I have drawn on my knowledge of the movement in my work on the Society’s new radio show, “Ethics on the Air,” serving as host or as a guest.

Youth and Family

Rita Chawla

Ethics for Children

Our Sunday School consists of two classes; the younger children, four to six, are taught by Jamie Cid, and I teach the older children, seven to thirteen. Olga Schmukler is our assistant teacher. During the 2006-2007 year, we had a total of 10 participants.

Two students, Elizabeth Mallinson and Kira Santiago celebrated their “Coming of Age” this year on June 3. Their mentors, Henryka Komanska and Amy Schwarz, played a significant role in their ethical education, leading them to new insights and understandings through outings, discussions, and journal writing.

Through story-telling, arts and crafts, music, and games the younger children learned about important val-

ues such as honesty, kindness, gratitude, respect, cooperation, sharing, fairness, and equality.

The older children learned about world religions and the history and foundations of Ethical Culture. They studied Eastern religions and visited the Sivananda Vega Vendanta Center and the Rubin Museum. They also raised money for UNICEF, collected pennies for the Penny Harvest program, and supported our women's shelter. Parents have also been very involved in school programs, volunteering when needed. From creating *Random Acts of Kindness* books to taking nature walks in Central Park, the past year was full of fun and meaningful activities that our students will long remember.

Adult Education

Patricia Debrovner

Our September 2006-June 2007 Adult Education programs were varied and included the following:

Ethics and the Theater—Our presentations included: *Marvin's Room*, by Scott McPherson; *Intimate Apparel*, by Lynn Nottage; *The Substance of Fire*, by Jon Robin Baitz; *Born Yesterday*, by Garson Kanin; *Racing Demon*, by David Hare; *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry (in honor of Black History Month); *A Delicate Balance*, by Edward Albee; and *The Heidi Chronicles*, by Wendy Wasserstein, an Ethical Culture Fieldston graduate.

We also presented *Other People's Money*, by Jerry Sterner, as a fundraiser for our building fund and charged \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers for that evening.

These play readings, which were followed by lively, thought-provoking discussions, were greatly enjoyed by audiences, cast members, directors, and moderators. The audience for *Other*

People's Money was especially large and enthusiastic.

We will hold the coming season's series in Ceremonial Hall to accommodate larger audiences. Except for *Heidi*, we have been charging \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. (I've been told that perhaps the admission price may be keeping some people from attending more of these readings.)

Foundations of Ethical Culture—We do this series every fall, and both of this season's presentations were excellent. But, as usual, we had a very disappointing attendance. I thought the purpose of this series was primarily to educate new members about Ethical Culture and they knew that their attendance was expected, yet very few have attended. I would appreciate support in getting new members to turn out; otherwise, maybe we should show the video of the past year's series several times during the upcoming season, perhaps as part of a social get-together for new members. The next two Foundations presentations in September will be: History and Roots of Ethical Culture (Joe Chuman) and Moral Education (Arthur Dobrin).

Building Better Relationships—This winter I conducted a three-session workshop similar to an ongoing series I did for five years until 2000. A number of members and nonmembers attended, and seemed to enjoy the sessions very much. At each session, the group was divided into pairs and asked to share something with each other. This exercise facilitated the participants' getting to know each other better and at the session's end I hated to interrupt them, as they were so happily engrossed.

Ethics and Journalism—We held a forum in the Auditorium that attracted a very large audience and was videotaped by C-Span. This was an idea of

mine, which Leslie Doyle worked tirelessly to bring about and which developed into an event cosponsored with *New York Magazine*, Demos, and the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism in honor of Clay Felder, founder of its Felker Magazine Program and of *New York Magazine*. The panelists were Helen Thomas, Hearst Publications journalist; Adam Moss, editor-in-chief of *New York Magazine*; Richard Stengel, managing editor of *Time Magazine*; Jeff Jarvis, BuzzMachine.com; and Randall Pinkston, CBS-TV News correspondent. The moderator was Orville Schell, dean of UC Berkeley Journalism School.

A Humanist Interpretation of the Bible—Anne Klaeyesen revised her topic presented here several years ago, Genesis. Creationists and "intelligent design" proponents would have us believe that the Book of Genesis provides us with everything we need to know about the creation of the world; however, it contains two conflicting stories. Which are we to believe? The event brought in about \$260. Another subject discussed was: "Jesus as Storyteller." This program examined some of the stories Jesus told, as recorded in the gospels and how they affect us today.

Forum on Women's Status—We presented a forum on the status of Arab-American women in their communities, cosponsored with the Network of Arab-American Professionals of New York, in March. Among the speakers was a representative from the United Nations. We wanted to provide an open forum where people could discuss how Arab women are perceived both in and outside of the Arab community and promote an open and honest dialogue.

Meet the Author—Authors who discussed their works here at the Soci-

ety as part of this popular program included Robin Anderson, *A Century of Media*, *A Century of War* and Mark Crispin Miller, *Foiled Again: The Real Case for Electoral Reform*.

Classes—The two personal writing classes that Elaine Berman teaches and the drawing class that Barbara Litke teaches are under our aegis. I proposed to Tom Weishaar that he teach a course on Microsoft *Word* computer skills, but not enough people signed-up for us to offer it in January, as we'd planned. We're awaiting responses from an ad we placed in *The Nation*.

Music

Patricia Debrovner

How fortunate we are to have Gerald Ranck as our musical artist/director! Once again we were treated to beautiful music that greatly enriched our Sunday morning experience. He performed a wide repertoire with passion and delicacy and brought talented colleagues to us as guest artists. We are also grateful to Jon Liechty for sharing his talent with us during July and August.

We've come a long way in making community singing an integral, fun part of our Sunday platform experience. Our repertoire of songs has been steadily expanding and is a mixture of uplifting, moving and spirited music.

We now have a chorus that helps lead the songs each week. We are very grateful to Gerald for guiding our rehearsals, for his encouragement, and for inspiring all of us with his wonderful accompaniments.

Cosponsored Programs

Henryka Komanska

In 2006 the Board approved a revised Program Committee charter that

focused its work on reviewing all programs involving Society cosponsorship. We vetted the proposals submitted for their fit with the Society's mission, their value to the larger community and our members, and the demands they placed on our own resources. After reviewing more than 25 unsolicited proposals submitted by organizations or individuals, we recommended 15 to the Board for approval.

A sampling of those approved by the Board shows the breadth of the programs that were presented at the Society during the last few months. These include: Make Your Vote Count: A Forum on Voting Technology; the PBS program, *The Mystery of Love*; Blackwater USA, cosponsored with The Nation Institute; and *Living in a World of the Unimaginable: A Sustainable Futures Dialog*, cosponsored with Prescott College.

Committee members are: Betsy Ungar and Henryka Komanska, co-chairs; Tom Weishaar, Barbara Levenson, and Christine Swann.

Public Issues

Abe Markman

The **Public Issues Committee** (PIC) became a standing committee of the Society in October 2006. PIC takes action based on carefully researched ethical positions on war and peace, science, family, and health care. These are designed to meet urgent needs in society and, with strong leadership, find common ground with others.

Our original three ideas have become five on: Iraq, Stem Cell Research, Global Warming, Paid Family Leave, and Child Health Coverage. These positions were adopted by the Board and ratified by the members at the Annual Meeting on May 6. Versions of PIC's positions either have been enacted into

law or are being seriously considered on a state and/or federal level. For internet access to these ideas log on to: <http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/public-issues-committee/ideas/>. For hard copies, contact a PIC member.

We join coalitions; conduct a weekly action alert; host monthly forums, films, or debates; and engage in non-partisan, educational lobbying. We also pose a "Question of the Month" on important current issues, both in this newsletter and on our web site and call for answers and a discussion.

We are now in the process of researching positions on labor, paid sick leave, flex-time, and paid overtime. In order to interface with local elected officials, interfaith, and community leaders, we are planning a fund-raising breakfast this year.

Our members are: Nancy Ambruster, Virginia Arnold, Pat Berens, Pat Cohen, Maria Fridman, Ken Gans, Alan Gardner, Jim Hyland, Pearl Katz, Lee Loshak, Abe Markman, JoAnn Mason, Eric Norlander, Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Carol Rost, and Barry Snider. Others who have given generously of their time are Tony Hileman, Michael Bogdanffy-Krieh, Andra Miller, Charles Debrovner, John Gurney, Henryka Komanska, and Barbara Levenson. Last, but far from least, the entire staff has been very patient and skilled, and just wonderful.

New "Question of the Month"; June Winner named—You can post your answer to the August question: "What should the stance of the United States be toward Iran? Give your reasons," on the PIC webpage. The rules are simple: Give your answer in a paragraph or two by Thursday, August 16. The winner will receive two free admissions to NYSEC Adult Education Committee events, the answer will be posted on PIC's web site cover page,

and the winner will be invited to read the answer at a PIC event. Good Luck!

June's Question of the Month was: "Do you think the public will support a single-payer health plan for the nation? Give your reasons." The winner was Norman Levine. The first sentence of his answer was: "Yes, the public will support a single-payer health plan if the issue is presented honestly, and not clouded or propagandized by specific corporate or financial interests." For his full answer go to the PIC webpage. You can add to the dialogue by posting an answer on that page's message board. If you do not have email, look for Abe Markman during lunch on a Sunday.

Radio Program

Andra Miller

The Radio Committee was informed by WBAI (99.5 FM) and WBAI.org that we are now on their schedule for a regular monthly series, **Ethics on the Air**. Except during station pledge months, we have a slot, the fourth Friday of each month, at 11:00 am.

The first program we did this year was also our first live program, with listeners calling in, and we found it quite positive. Anne Klaeyen spoke on Ethical Humanism and Buddhism. In February we used the information from Marc Bernstein's talk on the History of Ethical Culture and African-Americans, A Century of Collaboration. Responses from listeners were very favorable. This year's broadcasts also included: The Companion Paths of Ethical Humanism and Buddhism, Anne Klaeyen; Forgiveness, Anne Klaeyen; Ethnicity, Identity, and Ethical Culture, Joe Chuman; Assumptions That Shape Our Politics, Curt Collier; and Raising Moral Children, Arthur Dobrin.

At the AEU Assembly in June, **Ethics on the Air** was recognized from

the platform, and attendees from around the country enthusiastically let us know that they were listening and enjoying the show. Marc Bernstein is the Radio Committee chair; other members are Andra Miller and Phyllis Harrison-Ross.

Sunday Programs

Carole Chamlin

Our Sunday Morning meetings aim to present Ethical Culture and its principles in a manner accessible to newcomers while providing a deepening experience for longtime members. These should be times when we take a break from our daily lives to enjoy our community and rejuvenate ourselves. The committee selects speakers who are original, educational, and inspiring, and who can contribute to our understanding of Ethical Culture and the world in which we live. They should challenge us to better relate to each other and act on our beliefs.

New Team Structure—Beginning in September 2006, the **Sunday Program Committee** restructured itself into small teams, each focusing on a different aspect of the Sunday experience. The responsibility for choosing and securing speakers goes to the Platform Team. The Afternoon Team leader, Andra Miller, planned our post-Social Hour activities. Jerry Ranck chose the music and, along with Patricia Debrovner, Music Team leader, selected the songs appropriate to each morning's theme. We believe that our July and August platforms have been equal in quality to fall and winter programs.

Senior Leader Tony Hileman spoke twice a month whenever possible, and we also invited other Leaders, including: Bart Worden, Joe Chuman, Curt Collier, Anne Klaeyen, Fritz Williams, Jone Johnson Lewis, Randy Best, and

Khoren Arisian. Judith Wallach, Massimo Pigliucci, and Stephen McKinley Henderson also spoke. In June, we celebrated the Coming of Age of our young Sunday School students Elizabeth Mallinson and Kira Santiago.

Afternoon Program topics have included stem cell research and therapeutic cloning, presented by Charles Debrovner; guided meditation with Felix Adler, presented by Anne Klaeyen; and African-American poetry, presented by the Poetry Group. The **Public Issues Committee** presented one afternoon program a month, including a talk by John Gurney on global warming and other programs on health issues.

Sunday Meetings—We have enhanced the musical portion of our meetings by adding a variety of new songs, and the expansion and increased proficiency of our chorus has greatly added to the experience. Our Sunday school children added their voices several times.

We held the Sunday Meeting on the mornings of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and at each of these programs attendance was much higher than expected. On December 24, Dr. Kurt Johnson gave an updated analysis of how Adler's ideas/proposals are being implemented today. On December 31, Andra Miller spoke on the historical aspects of the Society and our contribution in the area of social welfare. Each week we share our collection with a charity that reflects our beliefs. Since the start of this practice, the congregation has generously doubled its contributions. Charities with which we have shared contributions are Oxfam America, Disabled American Veterans (in honor of Claude Weiler), Save the Children, and Save Darfur.

We will meet during the summer to plan for the 2007-2008 year and we would welcome members' suggestions and ideas. We thank all the staff, especially Sheleigah Grube, Deborah Foster, and Susanna Frazer, for their help and support.

Our committee members are: Patricia Debrovner, Alan Gardner, Tony Hileman, Joe Marvel, Barbara Levenson, and Andra Miller.

Social Service Board

Phyllis Harrison-Ross

United Social Services, Inc., (Social Service Board/SSB), has had a full year, focusing on strengthening our community collaborations and infrastructure and celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Women's Shelter. An ad hoc working committee consisting of NYSEC Trustees and SSB Directors—Andra Miller; Jim Farer, DDS; Sylvan Wallach, Ph.D; Margaretha Jones; David Leiman; Michael Torres; and Phyllis Harrison-Ross, took on the task of reviewing the USS, Inc. incorporation papers and by-laws. The by-laws were revised and will be voted on at the USS, Inc. annual meeting.

Financial audits for 2005 and 2006 were completed by our accountants. The flooring in the Women's Shelter was replaced. The **Supervised Visitation Program** operated for the entire year. Christine Pagonis, our SVP Program Director, received her doctorate degree in June. Margaretha Jones continued to monitor the program and to meet with representatives of other SVP programs about presenting an annual conference in upstate New York on issues of common concern. **The Homeless Artist Programs**

were held and were hosted by Dr. Maria Fridman. The **soccer teams** have grown to 140 members and SSB bought additional uniforms. Henry Bunch continues as Commissioner of the Queens Soccer Team. The **Scholarship Program** awarded three scholarships to students at the East Harlem School at Exodus House and facilitated arrangements for the school to hold its graduation at NYSEC in June. Valerie Leiman coordinated this with the school's staff. She also coordinated a **Greeting Card Project** that created beautiful greeting cards, available to be sent to NYSEC members who have been unable to attend Society events. Also, Lucile Kleiman and Margaretha Jones developed an updated SSB brochure, which is in the process of being finalized for printing.

Women's Shelter—Our Women's Shelter operated all year, coordinated by Dr. Maria Fridman. As the first faith-based shelter, it has received many awards from organizations that work with the homeless, including The Partnership for the Homeless and the Olivieri Center for Homeless Women. The awards were given to us at their annual meetings and at the SSB's annual dinner, which was coordinated by Maria Fridman.

The SSB convened a Citywide Planning Committee to present an inaugural symposium, Celebration of Volunteers—Heroes of Healing: Eliminating Homelessness: A New Agenda for Volunteers, and the 25th anniversary celebration of our Women's Shelter, which were held at the Society on June 19. Many of the committee members, agency representatives and officials, volunteers, and several clients were able to attend. Special guest Phillip Mangano, Executive Director of the US Interagency Council on Homeless Services, spoke and we had

a video greeting from David Brancaccio, PBS NOW.

Other speakers were: Tony Hileman; Rev. Will C. Ashley, who gave a rousing call to action; Commissioner Robert Hess; Phillip Mangano, Randall Pinkston, CBS Evening News; and Rob Hofman, a geriatric care manager and trainer. Mr. Pinkston moderated the panel, which was led by Arthur Cohen, of The Partnership for the Homeless. Panelists included Rev. Ashley, Mae Jackson, Darcel Dillard-Suite, Dr. Martha Sullivan, and Ralph Acevedo. Also attending were representatives of the American Psychiatric Association, the All Healers Mental Health Alliance, the National Medical Association, the American Ethical Union, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the US Interagency Council on Homeless Services.

Although the event took place on a workday, approximately 200 people showed up; we had not expected such a large turnout. A video and photos of the event will soon be available.

This collaboration among NYSEC and so many other organizations dealing with homelessness was proof that working together brings out the best in all of us, and that together we can make a huge difference. We look forward to discussing how we can move our new agenda along in the near future. Here's a partnership and collaboration to bring out the best in us all as we "Put Our Faith into Action."

The SSB officers are: Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Chair; Margaretha Jones, Vice-Chair; Michael Torres, Esq., Finance Officer; and Ken Wernz, Secretary. A new SSB director, Vincent Montaruli, was also elected. David Leiman became Finance Officer at mid-year, as well as Chair of the Finance and Program/Development Committees.

Ethical Culture is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
**ETHICAL
CULTURE** 

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023-7179

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT No. 5686