

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

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## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

### December 5 – Ceremonial Hall On the Longing for Home

*Dr. Henry M. Seiden*

*Clinical psychologist*

Monica Weiss Presides

### December 12 – Ceremonial Hall Reflections on Illness and Pain

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

Muriel Berger Presides

### December 19 – Ceremonial Hall WinterFest 2010

*Curt Collier, Leader*

Bonnie Bean Presides

### December 26 – Ceremonial Hall Remembrance Sunday

*Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader*

Andra Miller Presides

## December Happenings

On Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 pm. **Ethics and the Theater** will present three short plays about marriage, families, and relationships: *Puzzles*, by Elaine Berman; *Breakfast at the Track*, by Lanford Wilson; and *Lovers and Other Strangers*, by Renée Taylor and Joe Bologna. Afterward, we'll have a lively discussion of the ethical issues raised. Ceremonial Hall. (See page 6)

Let's start 2011 with a **New Year's Eve** party here at the Society on **Friday, December 31 (doors open 7:30 pm)**. The festivities will begin at **8:00 pm** with a concert and song recital, dancing, and a chance to view the fireworks in Central Park. Ceremonial Hall. (See page 6)

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



As I write this I've just come from a program evaluation meeting of our Building Centennial Year Committee, chaired by Heather Grady, which wrapped up its work this week. She and Carol Nadell Van Deusen, Leslie Doyle, Julie Blutstein, Henryka Komanska, Frank Prescod, Janice Buzby, Meg Chapman, Dr. Anne Klaeyen, and others involved in planning and producing all the super events of the year spent some time looking back on our accomplishments and what we can learn from them for the future.

It's good to have volunteers, Leaders, and staff meet to review what we've done and focus on ways to make things go more efficiently in the future—and at

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Leader's Desk

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*



For those of us who are political progressives, the outcome of the midterm elections can only be fretful. The exuberance that many shared with the extraordinary and historic triumph of Barack Obama in 2008 was matched on November 2, 2010, by the deflation of the hope we believed in, or thought we could believe in.

Though many of us detected that Obama's politics were not quite as progressive as we may have wanted, his place on the political spectrum and his persona stood in stark contrast to those of his predecessor, indeed to what we had seen for a long time. Moreover, it was assumed that Obama's

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*A Healthy and  
Happy New Year  
to all!!*

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**President's Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

the same time celebrate the work of all involved in the year's special events.

The first of these events was spurred by Dr. Anne Klaeysen's January talk on Justice for Juveniles—a talk that led to programs in April, July, and September to focus us, and those who joined us, on the problems faced by at-risk youth. We closed out the year with a program (in concert with DOME, *Developing Opportunities Through Meaningful Education*) directly involved in giving some of these kids much-needed help with their homework, invaluable in keeping them from getting behind and dropping out of school.

In March we had a reading of the play *At Home on Henry Street* by Clare Coss, about one of the most famous women in the history of Ethical Culture, Lillian Wald. Then, in May, we had the huge "Putting New Yorkers Back to Work" job fair, with a couple dozen employer-participants and 1,500 job seekers.

In June, there was the fundraiser concert performance of the musical, *Titanic*. The biggest undertaking of the committee, which pulled in many other members and people from Ethical Culture Societies around the country, was the October 23 Rededication Ceremony to celebrate our building's 100 years as

a home for our Society and a treasure for the community—featuring the film, *The Meeting House*, and accompanied by the warm and wonderful journal of good wishes. Also in October, there was the exciting Advocacy Forum, "Right-Wing Populism and the Progressive Response." In November we capped the year with a fundraising event, "Women's Ethical Edge," with Amy Goodman and a stellar line-up of inspiring women. More information on all of these events is available on our website.

Thanks to the many volunteers and staff who worked for these events by staffing the ticket desk, ushering, telling the curious about Ethical Culture at the literature table, redecorating the lobby, or doing behind-the-scenes work in many other ways. Your generous volunteering helps make these "happenings" such successes, and I'm sure that it not only brings you the great feeling of being a part of an exciting program—but that you also just plain have fun!

For those of you who have not yet chosen to get involved, there will be plenty of opportunities in the future. Please call me if you want to join in—either as an event volunteer or as a committee member. If you're a newer member, this gives us a chance to chat and find something that would be rewarding for you to help us do. My number's 212-627-3944.

A note about our radio show. WBAI has shuffled its program schedule, and **Ethics on the Air** is now aired on the third Wednesday each month at 10 pm. Those who can't stay up that late can get it on the web from the WBAI archives. Our first show in this new slot is December 15. We plan to be talking about the humanism of Jesus. Tune in on 99.5 FM or on your computer at <http://stream.wbai.org>.

I hope to see you all at the New Year's Eve Concert and Dance; it's an appropriate end to a very special year. Space is limited, so please don't put off buying your tickets. Per the time-worn phrase: you snooze, you lose! (*See page 6*)

Keep warm, and have a very happy holiday season!

## Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

presidency would open up requisite space for progressives on the ground to push ahead their agenda. What occurred was paradoxically and tragically the opposite: the space was filled by conservatives and right-wing extremists.

Let me step back to first principles for a moment. Ethical Culture is not primarily a political organization, and it certainly it is not a partisan one. We are first and foremost a religio-philosophical community, of which political engagement is an essential but derivative component. And we do not officially support political candidates, not solely out of fear of jeopardizing our tax-exempt status, but out of recognition that no political candidate has a monopoly on ethics.

But having said that, there is no doubt that Ethical Culture places itself on the progressive end of the political spectrum. Our illustrious history, so aptly celebrated at our Meeting House Centennial on October 23, beautifully confirms this

fact. This is no surprise, in that an activist and progressive stance flows from our philosophy. If we affirm the dignity of all human beings, the most cursory observation of the human condition confirms the reality that we live in a world in which the dignity of women and men is degraded at every turn. Hence, the Ethical Culturist is inspired to a passionate commitment to transform the human condition by the light of our ideals—the ideals of justice, equality, and fundamental respect for human worthiness.

Our Ethical Culture philosophy also has something to say in the present political climate. When I look at the extraordinarily rapid shift in the political landscape between the euphoria of 2008 and now, what disturbs me greatly is how unanchored in deep-rooted political ideology and values so-called independents ostensibly are. They seem to be swayed by the conditions of the moment and change their direction depending on which way the winds are blowing.

We who are invested in Ethical Culture, I conclude, are not prone to such vicissitudes, but hold our political views with greater seriousness and tenacity. For us politics is not merely concerned with the expediency of the moment, but is constitutive of our world view; it is part of our moral fiber.

There is strength in this, as well as a source of enduring hope. The Ethical Culture Movement has its own history, its own traditions of progressive social reform. Its roots are sturdy. We who are part of this movement, therefore, can tap into this tradition and invigorate ourselves by the realization that its values are our values. In short, our movement and its history can be wellsprings of strength and constancy in dark times.

Our inspiration does not come solely from the past, however. It comes from the future, as well. Dr. Adler believed that those who see Ethical Culture in religious terms fortify themselves against despair in ways in which purely secular activists may not. He believed that a religious view of life, in its dedication to timeless ideals, inspires us to see things over the long range. If we are reactive merely to the rewards and frustrations of the moment, then we are perhaps more prone to give up when the political environment turns negative. But if we have our hearts and minds set on the ideal—the ideal of a society of justice and peace which transcends any particular circumstance—then this commitment can serve as the hook that can lift us out of the doldrums of the moment and inspire us to keep on working for the society we most cherish and long to realize.

In short, though we have our political work cut out for us (when have we not?), Ethical Culture bids us to look back, and look ahead, and keep the faith!

## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

**December 5—On the Longing For Home**

*Dr. Henry M. Seiden, clinical psychologist*

The longing for home—a home of origin—is universal and recurring in our cultural narratives and personal stories. It's there in Homer's *Odyssey* and in Adam and Eve's (that is, our universal) mourning for a lost paradise; it's there in our movies, novels, and popular songs. It can be seen, sometimes conscious and sometimes submerged, to orient our most important life choices,

in small and inconsequential things like the foods we love; in large and important ones like the way we engage our husbands and wives; and in the way we raise our children.

Of course, it is a longing that can never be entirely fulfilled. As Thomas Wolfe said, “You Can’t Go Home Again.” Things change, we change—and the home from which we come may never have been what we wished it to be. Still, there are ways of making reconciliation—in a kind of creative mourning that gets expressed in the way that we affirm what matters most to us.

Henry M. Seiden, Ph.D. ABPP, is a clinical psychologist and a third-generation Ethical Culturist. He lives and practices in Forest Hills, New York. Dr. Seiden writes and speaks on poetry and psychoanalysis, and is currently writing a book on the longing for home. His poems have appeared in a number of magazines and poetry collections. In 2009 he published a titled chapbook, *Tinnitus*, and he is coauthor of *Silent Grief: Living in the Wake of Suicide*. Ceremonial Hall.

**December 12—Reflections on Illness and Pain**

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

Illness and pain are unavoidable elements and experiences of the human condition. So is our mortality. Confronting them, especially when they are severe, inspires reflection about our values, which may help us to place our circumstances in context and thus enable us to cope.

My address this month will be unusual, since it will draw heavily from recent personal experience. My hope is that it will be useful to others who have faced or are facing similar life challenges. Ceremonial Hall.

**December 19—WinterFest 2010**

*Curt Collier, Leader*

Join us for **WinterFest 2010** a celebration of winter, the season of reflection and rest. Too often in our busy lives we don’t create enough opportunities for renewal. Winter, with its snowy days and snuggly evenings, is a great time for semi-hibernation, for taking stock of the year that’s past, and for wondering playfully about the year to come. This WinterFest will include music and activities for all ages that honor the stillness of winter. Ceremonial Hall.

**December 26—Remembrance Sunday**

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader*

All of us are touched by loss. So it is that on this last Sunday of the year, we set aside time to look back before embarking on a new year—to remember our dead, honor those who have touched our lives so profoundly, and immortalize them in the way we choose to lead our own lives. We face tomorrow with hope made stronger by the lessons we have learned and the love we have shared. Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in this participatory platform service in Ceremonial Hall.

**Early Sunday 10 AM**

(Rooms subject to change)

**Dec. 5—Chorus Practice**—All voices are most welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

**Dec. 12—Colloquy—Soul.** Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

**Dec. 19—Poetry Reading.** Join us as we read and respond to poems. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

**Dec. 19—Chorus Practice**—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

**Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM** (Except as noted)

**Dec. 5—Memorial Concert** at 3:00 pm. Violinist Kurt Nikkanen and pianist Maria Asteriadou will present a free concert in memory of long-time NYSEC member **Dr. Norma Hymes**. The concert will include the Debussy *Violin Sonata*, the Schumann *a-minor Sonata*, and the Beethoven *Kreutzer Sonata*, and a few short pieces by the contemporary composer Steven Gerber, Norma’s long-time partner. Ceremonial Hall.

**Dec. 26—Ethics in the News.** Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

**Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon**

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month’s topic is: **Religion** (again!).

**Dec. 2—“U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey”** by *The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*, September 2010.

**Dec. 9—“Rush Hour for the Gods”** by William Dalrymple, *The National Interest*, 4/20/10.

**Dec. 16—“Tolstoy’s Guiding Light”** by Charlotte Alston, *History Today*, 9/10.

**Dec. 23—“What Did Jesus Do?”** by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, 5/24/10.

**Dec. 30—“Cosmology, Cambridge Style: Wittgenstein, Toulmin, and Hawking”** by Carlin Romano, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 9/26/10.

Folders with relevant articles will be available in the Leaders’ Office. Please come and join the discussion.

# Our Ethical Family

*Moe-Swe Myint*

As we all know, the New York Society for Ethical Culture celebrated 100 years of our magnificent landmark building with the **Centennial Rededication** on October 23. Members, invited guests, neighbors, and the community at large came together to make it a great day. (See page 8 for the details.) The honor of rededicating our Meeting House fell to Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens, who did an excellent job, with the help of the Ethical Culture Sunday School students. Then, it was on to the reception in Ceremonial Hall. The public ceremonies came to a close with Gerald Ranck playing John Lennon’s “Imagine”.

Kudos all around go to the Centennial Committee, consultant Leslie Doyle, Carol and Richard Van Deusen, our Leaders, NYSEC staff, and the building crew, for planning and carrying out this tremendously successful event. Many thanks to volunteers Pat Berens, Paula Claycomb, Sara Dillon, Lisbeth Eng, Chris Bernhardt, Maria Fridman, Heather Grady, Henryka Komanska, Emily Newman, Susan Pollet, Carol Rost, and Sam Smith. Extra, extra special thanks go to members Patrick Arenas and Tod Whitaker for their incredible generosity in donating the catering of the reception. Last, but not the least, to all the members who bought and helped sell ads in the journal and to those who donated to the Building Centennial: Thanks for your generosity and team spirit.

\* \* \*

Just when we thought we could rest a bit after the biggest event of the year,

on November 1 NYSEC and the White House Project presented “**Women’s Ethical Edge: A Conversation with Six Remarkable Women.**” In conversation, Abigail E. Disney, Amy Goodman, Naomi Klein, Gail Sheehy, Susan L. Taylor, and Marie Wilson explored their perspectives on how to live a more ethical life. Our thanks go to members Janice Buzby, Paula Claycomb, Heather Grady, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Henryka Komanska, Emily Newman, and Carol Van Deusen for volunteering at the event, and to staffers Julie Blutstein, Leslie Doyle, Bob Liebeskind, Antonio Pagliarulo, and Marlon Rice and his crew for the incredible job they did. Kudos also to Tod Whitaker for once again taking care of the catering for the reception that followed.

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Quite a good number of members and interested guests showed up for the fourth leg of the **Justice for Juveniles** program on Sunday, November 7. NYSEC is partnering with the local DOME (*Developing Opportunities Through Meaningful Education*) Project to tutor children enrolled in DOME’s “early diversion” program. Members learned more about how they can make a difference in a young person’s life and many signed up to serve as volunteer tutors afterwards.

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A reminder to all members: this is the time to make sure that your pledge for the year is in, and if you haven’t already done so, please send it in to the Society.

\* \* \*

After 38 years in New York City, including four-plus years at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, I have decided to move upstate to my

weekend home permanently. It is with sadness that I part from the Leaders (especially Anne), but it is with great excitement that I begin this next big adventure with my husband, Michael. My last day at the Society will be on Friday, December 10. Thank you to all the members who were kind to me and the staff who were so delightful to work with. Thank you to Anne, Joe, and Curt for your leadership. Thank you, specifically, to Anne for your inspiration and friendship. Thank you to Tony for taking a chance on me. I wish you all a happy and adventurous new year. And I wish the Society continued success with all its worthy endeavors. Be kind and helpful to one another. –Sheleigah Grube

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## In Memoriam

Ethical Culture lost a dear and long-time friend, **Dr. Norma Hymes**, who died in July. Norma learned about Ethical Culture in ethics classes at the Fieldston School and those teachings remained with her throughout her life. After graduation, she became a primary care physician and a mother who enrolled her son in the Ethics for Children program.

In 1986 Norma joined the New York Society for Ethical Culture, and in the years that followed she served on several committees and eventually was elected to the Board of Trustees. It was her stated goal as a Trustee “to steer the Society toward a greater emphasis on ethics itself, helping our members to grow ethically in their personal lives and to work towards a better world.”

This core mission was apparently never far from her thoughts. Norma

succumbed to an illness before her time, but the Society's needs and its works were always in her thoughts. She bequeathed a very generous contribution to the New York Society for Ethical Culture to help continue its work. The Society accepts with deep gratitude and hopes others will remember us when preparing their last will and testament.

Norma and her caring spirit will be deeply missed. The New York Society will hold a memorial concert for her on Sunday, December 5, at 3:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall.

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Beloved NYSEC member and former Membership Director, **Ben Bean**, died last month. A celebration of his life was held at the Society on Saturday, November 27.

All his life Ben collected friends and books. Staff from Strand Bookstore, who picked up almost 200 cartons of his books, said they had never collected so many tomes from a single household. Myriad people from around the world feel the loss of his companionship. He loved every book and every friend dearly. Ben also loved trains and railroad stations, the University of Michigan, Japan, Germany, history, and politics. He was proud to have been a Marine and a member of the Scottish McBean clan.

Ben had many jobs. He worked for several textbook publishers and enjoyed a career as a film extra. (His favorite role was appearing in *Wall Street* on screen full-face.) But the job he most loved was Membership Director at NYSEC. Ben knew everyone, and was everyone's friend. It wasn't just a job to him; it was a vocation. Throughout his life, Ben also volunteered: as a Big Brother, in the Lincoln

Center Library, and in our homeless shelter. In addition, every day for many years he collected food from a D'Agostino's store and delivered it to food pantries and churches in Harlem.

This man who grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, made New York City his home and loved it fiercely. We shall miss him and strive to carry on his work.

## Ethics and the Theater

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*

On **Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will feature three short plays:

*Puzzles*, by Elaine Berman; *Breakfast at the Track*, by Lanford Wilson; and *Lovers and Other Strangers*, by Renée Taylor and Joe Bologna.

In *Puzzles*, Betty and Kay are sisters-in-laws who used to live down the street from one another. But Kay and her husband, who is Betty's brother, have retired to Arizona. Now they've returned for a visit because Kay needs Betty's help. Will this experience dredge up the bad feelings that have existed between the two women, or will standing together against misfortune knit the families together? Our cast includes Pat Debrovner and Frieda Lipp, under the direction of Elaine Berman, the playwright.

In *Breakfast at the Track*, it's summer in Saratoga, 6:30 in the morning, and *he* wants to have breakfast at the track, while *she* wants to sleep in. "Different as night and day" is more than a cliché. It's grounds for divorce—or possibly manslaughter. In Wilson's play, it's high comedy. Jamie

Scott and Dan Hanson play the mismatched couple, under the direction of Richard Van Deusen.

In *Lovers and Other Strangers*, after six years of marriage, Richie and Joan are breaking up, and Richie's parents are distraught, outraged, disbelieving, hysterical—and hysterically funny, as they try to persuade the couple to stay together. Their arguments, which include the revelation of marital secrets the younger pair try hard not to hear, boil down to this: no one, married or single, is happy, and we're all strangers to one another. But in marriage, "you become deeper strangers, and that's a sort of love." Susan Horowitz directs our cast, which includes Vince Navarro, Carol Rost, Craig Jorzak, and Bonnie Rosenbaum.

Come, enjoy the plays, and afterward join in our lively discussion of the ethical issues raised in these three plays, led by Muriel Berger.

And please be sure to join us at **6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception before the play. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.



## New Year's Eve Party: A Reminder

*Edward Gross*

Celebrate New Year's Eve at NYSEC on **Friday, December 31**. Our festivities will begin at **8:00 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm)** with a concert by the Ensemble Thomscha. This talented,

professional group performed at our Valentine's party back in February, and the audience loved them. As reported earlier, the concert will include two Mozart arias by soprano Yumi Thomas, as well as a Beethoven piano trio and string quartet. Both pieces reflect Beethoven at the pinnacle of his genius.

Seating is at tables, cabaret-style, and light fare (wine, cheese, fruit, coffee, tea, and dessert) will be available. Vince Navarro will lead us in a sing-a-long. After the concert there will be dancing, and at midnight we'll go up to our roof for a bird's-eye view of spectacular fireworks in Central Park. Join your friends in greeting 2011. This will be a fabulous welcome to the new year. The cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers (please invite everyone you know). Our Valentine's party was sold out. If you missed that wonderful event, don't miss New Years Eve! A limited number of tickets are available. To order contact: Moe-Swe Myint (Monday–Wednesday at 212-874-5210, ext. 113), or Gloria Chandler (Thursday and Friday at ext. 117).

## Save the Dates!

### Joy of Personal Writing Returns

*Elaine Berman*

Our ten-week writing workshops will continue this winter. These are safe places to start writing; stay focused, and learn and practice writing skills. Both new and experienced writers are welcome in this nurturing atmosphere. The Monday classes will meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, starting on **Tuesday, January 18**, (Jan. 17 is

a holiday), and the Thursday classes will meet from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, beginning on **January 20**. Course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. For more information, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

If you'd like to read material by current and past workshop writers, visit our website at [www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space](http://www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space).

### SSB News: Empowering Ethical Elders

*Helen Mecs, Secretary, SSB*

If you are an "Ethical Elder looking for Empowerment," what better way to greet the new year than by attending a Social Service Board-sponsored series of the same name on everything you want to know, where to go for help, and the questions to ask about the many health-care, legal, financial, family, and housing issues facing seniors today. These free monthly presentations, which will begin in **January**, will initially be limited to members, with the intention of expanding later to the Upper West Side community.

The first meeting will give you the opportunity to suggest additional topics you would like to add to those under consideration: What is Healthy Aging?; Controlling Pain; What Constitutes Depression?; Finding the Right Doctor; Exercise and Diet; When Should Memory Problems be a Concern?; Legal Preparation; Where to go If We Can't Live Alone Any More?; Intergenerational Family Relations; Financial Management; and Sex and Dating: Depictions of Elders on Stage

and Screen. Each topic will be presented by an expert in the field, with NYSEC Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens reprising her "Ethical Wills" talk as part of the series.

### Dollar Days Drive

*Dr. Ruth Cohen*

Following is a little update on our **Dollar Days Drive** for the Green Kitchen Initiative.

This is our first year—and we are pleased to let you know that we have received about \$1,500. This money will allow us to think about the purchase of our next large machine—a dishwasher. Thank you all for your continued support. Keep up the good work. A report on the status of the Corner Kitchen Cookbook will be out soon.

### Personal

**For Sale:** 1,500 square feet of great living space located south of Washington Square. The apartment has a large (13'x 20') living/dining room; two bedrooms plus a third 10'x10' room, which cannot legally be called a bedroom (although my daughter slept there for years) because it has no window but has a slatted door for light and air; a 7'x10' computer nook; two bathrooms, and an 8'x15' kitchen. The apartment faces east and is on a wide street, so on sunny days it is filled with light until 1:00 pm (depending on the season). For more information or a tour, call Mary Ellen Goodman at 212-533-0318, or email her at [melleng33@verizon.net](mailto:melleng33@verizon.net).



## Rededication Celebration

Mayor Bloomberg proclaimed Saturday, October 23, 2010 as “New York Society for Ethical Culture Day in the City of New York” in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ethical Culture Meeting House. We commemorated the Centennial of our beautiful landmark building with a **Rededication Ceremony** one hundred years to the day after it was originally dedicated in 1910. The event was the culmination of our Building Centennial Celebration and it was a festive and joyous occasion attended by NYSEC members and friends, Leaders and members of other Ethical Culture societies, descendants of NYSEC founding families, local dignitaries, and members of the community.

Leader Curt Collier acted as emcee for the occasion. Society President Andra Miller offered reflections on Ethical Culture, how the building came to be, and its importance to the community. As his predecessor had done a century ago, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer brought greetings from the city. He also presented the Society with a proclamation from the Borough of Manhattan proclaiming “New York Society for Ethical Culture Centennial Rededication Day.” Attendees were then treated to the premiere of a short documentary film, *The Meeting House* (produced by members Carol and Richard Van Deusen and generously funded by Chuck and Pat Debrovner), on the vibrant history of our building over the last century.

Keynote speaker, television and radio journalist David Brancaccio discussed “Fixing the Future: Making the Economy Work for More of Us,” and Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman took a moment to acknowledge the many notables present including City Council member Gale Brewer, State Senator Liz Krueger, Community Board 7 Chair (and Ethical Culture parent) Mel Wymore, and NYSEC Leader Emeritus Khoren Arisian. Taking us from our history up to the present day, the Ethical Culture Fieldston School Chorus sang two beautiful songs, and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and “Ethical Culture Kids” Kira Santiago, Clara Malekshahi, and Emily Newman rededicated the building, reading quotes from the original dedication. The ceremony ended with a quote from Yoko Ono and music director Gerald Ranck playing John Lennon’s “Imagine.”

The ceremony was followed by a festive reception in Ceremonial Hall, which raised money for our building and programs. Advisory Council member Amy Goodman (“Democracy Now!”) provided brief remarks of welcome to the reception and Carol Van Deusen took a moment to thank all who had helped make the Building Centennial Celebration a success. The reception was generously donated and included local wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres (from local sources at the Union Square Greenmarket). A wonderful time was had by all (see photos) and it was a fine way to celebrate the proud history of our organization and this landmark over the last one hundred years. *(Photos by Joel Simpson)*



*Scott Stringer and Andra Miller present the proclamation*



*Dr. Anne Klaeysen*



*David Brancaccio*



*(L-R) Curt Collier, Andra Miller, and Joe Chuman, preparing for the dedication*



*Amy Goodman*



*Kira Santiago*



The box office display was created by our Lively Arts Group. The collage with the New York Times article was created by Valerie Leiman (left), Barbara Litke (right) and Chuck Debovner, who provided the photographs of the unique sculptures in the Auditorium



Ethical Culture Fieldston School Chorus

## At the Reception



(L-R) NYSEC members Muriel Berger, Cheryl Gross, Bob Berger, and Stephanie Rosenblatt



(Center) Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Board member, flanked by her former assistant, Susane Berg, and Bradley Cherna, her current assistant



(L-R) Julie Blutstein, Society staff; Law'nence Miller, AEU Director of Administration; and Antonio Pagliarulo, Society staff



(L-R) NYSEC members Caroline Debovner and her mother, Patricia Bruder Debovner



(L-R) NYSEC Member Moira Whittington, Leader Hugh Taft-Morales, and member Vincent Navarro

# Women's Ethical Edge

On Monday, November 1, the night before the midterm elections, NYSEC presented “**Women’s Ethical Edge**,” which brought together six remarkable women discussing how to create a more ethical future.

Panelists Abigail E. Disney, producer of the award-winning 2008 film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*; Amy Goodman, author, host, and executive producer, “Democracy Now!” (who also served as moderator); Naomi Klein, best-selling author and award-winning journalist; Gail Sheehy, best-selling author of 15 books, including *Passages*; Susan L. Taylor, editor-in-chief emeritus of *Essence* magazine and founder of the National Cares Mentoring Movement; and Marie Wilson, founder and President of The White House Project, discussed a variety of issues affecting all of us, and each brought a unique perspective to the conversation. The discussion ended with questions from the audience of approximately 400. The forum was



*Panelists discuss ethical issues*

followed by a wine and cheese reception with the panelists. This was the final event under the umbrella of the Building Centennial Celebration and the latest in our ongoing effort to bring timely, thought-provoking programs to the community.

*Panelists:*



*Abigail E. Disney*



*Amy Goodman*



*Naomi Klein*



*Gail Sheehy*



*Susan Taylor*



*Marie Wilson*



*Heather Grady, Building Centennial Committee Chair*



*(L-R) Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Gail Sheehy, and Dr. Joseph Chuman*



*(L-R) Heather Grady, Julie Blutstein and Leslie Doyle*



*After the panel discussion the panelists mingled with some of the guests at the reception*

# December 2010

Office hours for the month are: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm  
Shelter: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 6–Jean-Dominique Bauby, <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> <u>Ethics In Film: Contemporary Documentaries</u> December 13 – <i>Examined Life</i> Beyond Sunday Platform	Literary Ethics: A Reading Group December 6–Jean-Dominique Bauby, <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> <u>Ethics In Film: Contemporary Documentaries</u> December 13 – <i>Examined Life</i> Beyond Sunday Platform	December 13 – Curt Collier – “10 Shopping Tips That Sustain an Ethical Economy” December 20 – Dr. Joseph Chuman – “Religion and Temperament: Further Explorations”	1 January 2011 Newsletter Deadline	2 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	3 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Outsourced</i> (2006)	4 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
5 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 3:00 pm – Dr. Norma Hymes Memorial Concert	6 1:00 pm – Literary Ethics: A Reading Group 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	7 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Craft Circle (off-site)	8 7:00 pm – Black Film Forum	9 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	10 7:00 pm – Shrinks on Romance: <i>Knocked Up</i> (2007)	11 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
12 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch	13 1:00 – Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	14 7:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Prospective Members’ Reception	15 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 10:00 pm – Ethics on the Air	16 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	17 7:00 pm – Shrinks on Romance: <i>Knocked Up</i> (2007)	18 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
19 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch	20 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	21 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Prospective Members’ Reception	22 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 10:00 pm – Ethics on the Air	23 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	24 Society Building Closed (Observance of Christmas Day)	25 Christmas Day Society Building Closed No Supervised Visitation program today
26 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News	27 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	28 6:00 pm – Social Service Board	29	30 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion	31 Society Building Closed (Observance of New Year’s Day) 8:00 pm – New Year’s Eve Party	1 2011 New Year’s Day Society Building Closed No Supervised Visitation program today

*The New York Society for Ethical Culture is a welcoming home for humanists. We've provided nontheistic services in a congregational setting since 1876. We embrace the diversity of our city and invite all to join us in celebrating life's joys, supporting one another through life's crises, and working together to make the world a better place.*

*Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. Members are committed to personal ethical development in their relationships with others and in activities involving social justice and environmental stewardship.*



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