

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

11:15 AM—Music and Reflections

In the Concert Hall

February 5

**Artz, Rootz, and Rhythm: A
Celebration of Art and Culture**

Harlem Arts Alliance

Introduction: Michael

Bogdanffy-Kriegh, Society

President

HAA Master of Ceremonies

February 12

**Darwin's Dangerous Idea—and
the Even More Dangerous**

Reaction to it

Tony Hileman

Senior Leader

Frank Prescod Presides

February 19

**Gwendolyn Brooks: Poetry and
the Heroic**

Dr. D. H. Melhem, poet

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Presides

February 26

**The One-Hundred-Year-
Commitment: Ethical Culture and
African-American Rights**

Dr. Marc Bernstein

Archivist

Tony Hileman Presides

*Bring a
Friend on
Sunday*

February Happenings

Harlem Arts Alliance—Sunday, February 5, 11:15 am. The Harlem Arts Alliance will present a rich multi-ethnic cultural program featuring vocalists Jan Forney, Letha, Claude Jay, Imani Scott, and Lee Olive Tucker; poet M. Malcolm King; classical musicians the Lon Gar Ebony Ensemble; pianist Tevin Thomas; the young dancers of the Uptown Dance Academy, and the young actors of the Impact Repertory Theatre.

Anyone Can Sing—starting February 9, 6:00 pm. This 7-week class for current and new students, will be taught by Phyllis Lynd, noted vocal teacher and coach.

Ethics and the Theater—Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm. In honor of Black History Month, our Ethics and the Theater series will present *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, by Emily Mann, a play about two fascinating, strong, and entertaining women: 103-year-old Sadie and her 101-year-old sister, Bessie.

Pay Attention to Love: A Celebration—Sunday, February 26, 7:30 pm. All members in committed relationships are invited to take time out to pay attention to those relationships at a special after-dinner reception. All area couples married by Ethical Culture officiants and leaders are being invited as our special guests.

Sunday Morning Meetings

February 5—Artz, Rootz, and Rhythm: A Celebration of Art and Culture
Harlem Arts Alliance

The Alliance is a multi-service association of cultural organizations and artists dedicated to preserving, promoting, and presenting the rich cultural legacy and contributions of African-Americans, Hispanics, and others creating works in their respective Harlem institutions and studios. The organization produces an annual showcase, "A Great Day in Harlem," in Ulysses S. Grant National Memorial Park, sponsored by Harlem Week, which attracts 20,000 people. The HAA website is www.harlemaa.org.

**February 12—Darwin's Dangerous Idea—and the Even More Dangerous
Reaction to it**

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

Published in 1859, after being self-censored for two decades in a justifiable fear of public, academic, and religious reaction, Darwin's theory of natural selection as the driving force of evolution threatened the authorities and traditions of his day. It was deemed so dangerous that even today, a century and a half later, a growing number of traditional-

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Sunday Morning

(Continued from page 1)

ists and fundamentalists are mounting a considerable threat to science itself. Tony Hileman, Senior Leader, digs below the surface of the continuing heated debate and offers his insights into its cause and effect.

February 19–Gwendolyn Brooks: Poetry and the Heroic

Dr. D. H. Melhem, poet

D. H. Melhem’s *Gwendolyn Brooks: Poetry and the Heroic Voice* was the first comprehensive study of the poet, and is recognized as the definitive work on Brooks. The first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize, among her many awards, Brooks held 70 honorary doctorates at the time of her death, December 3, 2000. D. H. Melhem, a poet herself, was encouraged by Brooks to publish *Notes on 94th Street*, the first book of poetry in English by an Arab-American woman. In the course of Melhem’s study of Brooks, which began as a doctoral dissertation at the City University of New York’s Graduate Center, the two women became friends. The author will discuss Brooks’ life and work, its influence, and her legacy. She will read from Brooks’ poetry and offer some personal glimpses into their relationship.

We’ll also have a Song Fest with the New York City Labor Chorus, a multicultural, multi-generational chorus representing more than 20 labor unions. From 11:15 to 11:30 am, the 40 to 50 singers, accompanied by their pianist, will sing “No More Auction Block,”

“Follow the Drinking Gourd,” and “Look Over Yonder,” among others. During the 11:30 to 12:30 sing-a-long, the featured song will be the African-American National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” with lyrics by James Weldon Johnson. The Labor Chorus’ CD, which includes vibrant union songs and folk songs of liberation, will be on sale during lunch.

February 26–The One-Hundred-Year Commitment: Ethical Culture and African-American Rights

Dr. Marc Bernstein, Archivist

Race riots and lynchings; the founding of the NAACP; the struggle for fair housing; Freedom Summer and the murders of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney; the rise of Black Power and the decline of American liberalism all figure in the story of Ethical Culture and African-Americans. Pulling these elements together and drawing on rarely seen photographs, Marc Bernstein will offer a narrative history of Ethical Culture’s efforts toward racial healing. In the afternoon, Marc will conduct a discussion group on Ethical Culture and Black Culture.

Early Sunday 10:00 AM

Feb. 5—No program

Feb. 12—Colloquy—Room 408. A meditative hour exploring our thoughts about a presented subject. Larry Yates will guide this probing, quiet, and contemplative session.

Feb. 19—Poetry Reading—Room 408—A peaceful hour to read the

poems we especially like. Come to read or just to listen. Cheryl Gross will direct the proceedings.

Feb. 26—Singing Practice—Ceremonial Hall—4th fl. All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings—and get some tips to improve our singing technique. Are you a little rusty voice-wise? It doesn't matter. Join us!

Sunday Afternoon 2:00 PM (except as noted)

Feb. 5—Ethics in the News—1:30 pm
An ongoing discussion of the ethical positions the Democratic Party should take as the 2006 Congressional elections approach. Led by Mary Ellen Goodman.

Art & Inspiration: A Creative Dialogue—2:15 pm

This will be the "Artz" section of the Artz, Rootz & Rhythm program by the Harlem Arts Alliance. A panel of five artists, moderated by Dr. Ademola Olugebefola, will discuss the art on display (some of which may be available for purchase) and how the works were conceived and executed. The program will feature the work of Gwendolyn Black, Aleathia Brown, Rhadames Ramirez, Ruben Sinha and Emmett Wigglesworth. The panel will end with a question-and-answer session.

Feb. 12—Unsung Heroes on the Road to Montgomery

Abe Markman

To this day, stories of great courage by African-American heroes are little known, primarily due to the fear of retribution by succeeding generations of relatives. But the contributions by these heroes helped pave the long road to the Montgomery bus boycott.

In this session, we will present documentary evidence about an African-American slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, who was placed in the home of Jefferson Davis in order to spy for the northern armies during the civil war. We will also tell the story of an African-American doctor, Horace B. Cochran, who organized a boycott of an Atlanta supermarket in the late 1930s. What infuriated his African-American middle-class neighbors was the lynching of a twelve-year-old boy who had wandered into an all white neighborhood. Soon after, a white A&P clerk slapped an African-American customer and forcibly evicted him from the store. While they were boycotting, the KKK came by and Dr. Cochran told the protesters to hold their ground. The KKK members started to leave but didn't get far before the protesters pulled off their sheets in order to expose them. After a long siege the A&P closed and another supermarket replaced it.

We'll also hear about Dr. Cochran's daughter, a high school senior, Charlotte Cochran Markman, who organized a sit-in at a segregated park in the 1940s, about 20 years before the sit-ins of the 1960s. Because of her valiant leadership, the park was opened to her fellow African-American students.

Our thanks to Valerie Leiman, who researched Mary Elizabeth Bowser's incredible story and Abe Markman, who has on tape his deceased wife Charlotte's oral history of the latter two events.

Feb. 19—Film: *Amistad*—1:30 pm, (no charge)

Based on an actual incident that took place in 1839, this 2-1/2 hour film chronicles the incredible journey of a group of Africans who took charge of their captor's ship and attempted to return to their homeland. After they seized the ship, *La Amistad*, they were brought to the United States, charged with murder, and awaited their fate in prison. The freeman involved in the case of the Africans' rights is at the center of an enthralling court battle that captured the attention of the entire nation, confronting the very foundation of the American system. But for the men and women on trial, it was simply a fight for the basic right of all humankind . . . freedom.

The film, by Steven Spielberg, features the outstanding acting of Morgan Freeman and Djimon Hounsou.

Feb. 26—Ethical Culture and Black Culture—A Conversation

This will be an open-ended discussion with Marc Bernstein, our Archivist that will raise a number of questions: (1) Why does EC have so few African-Americans members? (2) What projects can this Society undertake in the future to contribute to racial amity? (3) How can the materials in our archives help us talk about our past accomplishments and thereby help us define ourselves to others?

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

A hearty welcome to NYSEC's new members:

Ivan Sandford Augenblick has served in the U.S. armed forces and is now retired. He was drawn to the Society for its political discussions. Ivan sings with Karaoke for NYC.

Harold Krieger is a photographer and advertising expert. He was first drawn to the Society when he attended the "End of Faith" lecture by Sam Harris.

George H. Macduff is retired; he has worked as a salesman and has worked with mainframe computers. He has attended many of the Society's events, Sunday platforms, and our New Year's Eve party.

Roberta Russell the wife of Harold Krieger, is a writer and has an extensive background in real estate. She also runs web sites dedicated to lifestyle and culture. Roberta was drawn to the feeling of community at NYSEC.

Sheila Schwartz is a former professor of writing and music at SUNY, New Paltz. She speaks French and Italian. Sheila was attracted to the Society's secular approach and has attended the Sam Harris lecture and our New Year's Eve party.

Gaetana Tammetta was formerly a stockbroker and her interests include politics and business. She was attracted to Ethical Culture because she agrees with our basic ideals.

What's New?

Long-time and well-loved member **Frank Prescod** has had major surgery at St. Luke's hospital and is now recovering well at home. Frank and Barbara wish to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, and support.

Dahlia Cohen writes: "Hello, fellow Ethical Culturalists! I've spoken to some of you in ambiguous terms about moving to Seattle someday...but that someday has arrived sooner than I thought it would! I've taken a job out there that starts January 30 and I am currently working to pack up my New York life and transport it all the way out west. I anticipate leaving New York in mid-January; I'll definitely make contact with the Ethical Society of Puget Sound once I settle into my Seattle life. I wanted to thank each of you for your support and for including me into the life of the New York Society, and of Ethical Culture in general. Summer school was an experience I'll never forget, and I look forward to seeing you all again at future AEU assemblies! Best of luck to each of you as Ethical Culture continues to grow and flourish."

Resignation:

Dorothy Rangel regrets that she has to end her membership due to personal and schedule issues.

Film Forum



Cheryl Gross

Join us on Friday, February 3, to watch *The Little Fugitive* (1955) an independent film directed and produced by Ruth Orkin and Morris Engel on a shoestring budget.

Its plot weaves around two brothers, played by nonprofessional actors, Richie Andrusco as Joey Norton, a seven-year-old who is left in the care of his 12-year-old brother Lennie (Ricky Brewster). Disappointed that he must look after his younger brother and postpone his own trip to Coney Island, Lennie and his friends hatch a scheme to make Joey believe he has shot and killed Lennie. A mood of sadness and humor is evoked as frightened Joey runs off to Coney Island, where he plays games and collects bottles to pay for rides while his older brother searches for him. Hailed as a film classic, this important movie of the 1950s was shot on location in Brooklyn and offers richly photographed scenes of Coney Island's famous beach, boardwalk, rides and the elevated train. The film is on the *New York Times* list of the Best 1,000 Films Ever Made and was one of the winners of the Silver Lion award at the Venice Film Festival. Francois Truffaut acknowledged *The Little Fugitive's* influence on his own New Wave Cinema.

Once again, film historian Richard Bruno will lead a stimulating discussion and deepen our experience of this seminal film. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the movie begins at 7:00 pm. Admission: \$3.00 for members and \$4.00 for nonmembers. Popcorn and beverages are included.

Anyone Can Sing!



Barbara Litke

This 7-week class for current and new students, will be taught by Phyllis Lynd, noted vocal teacher and coach.

Thursdays, February 9 – March 23

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Members: \$120; Nonmembers: \$150

For information call 212-874-5210, ext. 113. To register, please send the registration form below, along with payment, to the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

American Express Visa

MasterCard

Check made payable to NY Society for Ethical Culture

Card # _____

Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Socrates Café

Ken Gans

Join us at the Socrates Café starting this month on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm, in Room 508.

Ken Gans and John Gurney will initiate a stimulating philosophical discussion on Humanism and basic philosophical questions. If you are interested

please contact Ken Gans at 212-787-7000, ext. 1039. There is no charge and no reservations are required.

Ethics and the Theater



Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday, February 15, 7:00-9:00 pm, and in honor of Black History Month, our Ethics and the Theater series will present *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, by Emily Mann, a play about two fascinating, strong, and entertaining women: 103-year-old Sadie, and her 101-year-old sister, Bessie. The story of the Delany sisters is a narrative of the history of blacks and whites in America, slavery, reconstruction, the rise of Jim Crow, the two world wars, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights Movement. As they recount their lives, we laugh, are moved, reflect on the past, and consider what this century holds for us. Our cast will include: Cheryl Gross as Sadie and Barbara Fennell as Bessie, and Jackie Pope will be our moderator.

Pay Attention to Love: A Celebration

All members in committed relationships are invited to take time out to pay attention to those relationships at a special after-dinner reception the evening of Sunday, February 26, 7:30-9:30 pm. Sweets, wine, soft drinks, and coffee will accent the post-Valentine's Day festivities. All area couples married by Ethical Culture officiants and leaders are being invited as our special guests.

We all too often take the love in our lives for granted. This is an opportunity to pause and recognize the central role that a significant other plays in your life. Come and enjoy the company of others who have found enrichment with another. Senior Leader, Tony Hileman will offer reflections on love and commitment.

Please RSVP to Judy Wank by Thursday, February 23, by email to jwank@nysec.org or by phone at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, so we can know how many people to expect. The cost to members is \$15 per couple.

AEU Needs Volunteers

Andra Miller

The American Ethical Union is updating its database and organizing its archives, and needs volunteers to help with this important project. Our thanks to Migdalia Rodriguez, Eva Yachnes, John Gurney, Ruth Cohen, and Sheila Kleinwald, who have generously provided computer and filing services. There is still much more to be done, so if you would like to contribute an hour or more to help out, please contact Andra Miller at 212-627-3944.

Lost and Found Policy

Andra Miller

All found items will be brought downstairs to the security area and left with the receptionist. Items will be held for two weeks, at which point, if not

claimed, they will be discarded unless they are considered valuable, such as reading glasses or tape recorders, etc. So if you think you've left something behind, check with the receptionist (212-874-5210, ext. 138), or, if it has been more than two weeks, check with Gloria Chandler in the administration office (Room 510, ext. 117). Unclaimed items will be announced in the next issue of *Ethical Outlook*.

Sunday Dinners at Lunchtime

Andra Miller

We're calling our experiment with the new *prix fixe* lunch, which we've decided to call Sunday Dinner because it's so "dinnerish," a success. Like anything else here at Ethical Culture (and in life, for that matter), it hasn't been perfect, but it's pretty clear that there's been a real improvement to the meal and the way it is presented. We have Sheila Kleinwald, lunch planner and supervisor, and Jean Donnay, caterer, to thank for this. It is through their creativity and enthusiastic collaboration that continued quality and selection are maintained. Our thanks to both of them for all their hard work, and also to Suzy Frazer for helping with details and finding cashiers, to the Sunday Program Committee for sticking with this transition when the outcome sometimes seemed doubtful, and to our members for giving us your opinions and suggestions.



Homeless Night Out

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

It was very cold, icy rain was falling, and guests slipped and slid to NYSEC, but the warmth from the good feeling and wonderful, talented artists in the Social Hall on Tuesday, December 13 melted our shivers and chills. There were singers, pianists, poets, rappers, drummers, and tambourine players, all of them first class. They sang "oldies, but goodies" like Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child," hard rock, rap songs, and Christmas carols.

The music got so good that David Sutcliff found himself doing a solo dance. Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross' rhythm with a wooden percussion instrument was so bad that one of the homeless artists came over and gently directed her hand movements

until she caught on. As usual, Dr. Maria Fridman, from NYSEC's Social Service Board, had quietly and expertly facilitated the entire evening—leaving the design and implementation program to the artists, musicians, and staff from the various Homeless Shelter programs that were represented. She also acted as the event photographer and showed us the "Thank You" cards she had received from the guests in our Woman's Shelter. NYSEC Trustee, vice-president and secretary Barbara Levenson and member Barbara Litke, who teaches our art classes, were all smiles with twinkling eyes as the musicians sang their songs. Artworks, T-shirts, writings, etc. were on display and for sale.

Our guests were of all ages and included children of the artists. This event is a true neighborhood treasure. As Barbara Levenson noted, "The evening was great. We hope that it will be attended by more artists and NYSEC members next spring. Such an event should be supported by all of us."



Co-chair, Judith Ginsburg, and homeless artist performer



L-R front: Barbara Litke, Barbara Levenson
L-R rear: Maria Fridman, Talat Ali

February 2006

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Great Books February 1 – Melville, <i>Billy Budd</i> , Sailor Smith, <i>Wealth of Nations</i>						
ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) February 8 – Gertrude Stein, <i>Autobiography of Alice B. Tokias</i>						
5 10:00 am – No program 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News 2:15 pm – Art & Inspiration	6 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	7	8 3:00 pm – ECRDG	9 6:00 pm – Anyone Can Sing 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	10 6:30 pm – Nutrition	11 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
12 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Unsung Heroes	13 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	14 6:00 pm – Women's Group	15 3:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Great Books: Clashes of Culture	16 6:00 pm – Anyone Can Sing 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	17 6:30 pm – Nutrition	18 No Supervised Visitation today
19 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Film: <i>Armistad</i>	20 Society offices closed	21 9:00 am – Drama Workshop with American Place Theatre 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	22 9:00 am – Drama Workshop with American Place Theatre	23 9:00 am – Drama Workshop with American Place Theatre 6:00 pm – Anyone Can Sing 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	24 9:00 am – Drama Workshop with American Place Theatre	25 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
26 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 12:45 pm – Orientation 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 2:00 pm – EC and Black Culture 7:30 pm – Pay Attention to Love: A Celebration	27 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	28	Great Books: “Clashes of Culture” February 15 – Derek Walcott, <i>Poetry</i>			

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.

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