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# FORTUNE SOCIETY RECEIVES NYSEC 2014 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



The Fortune Society  
 BUILDING PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS



*Robin Prescod, Frank's daughter, and Fortune Society Senior VP Stanley Richards with the Frank B. Prescod Community Service Award.*

## UPCOMING AT NYSEC:

**Sounds of Hope** – Join us on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 7:30 PM**, in the Auditorium, when NYSEC will cosponsor a night of India-inspired jazz, featuring some of the world's most renowned musicians. *(See page 7 for more details.)*

**Book Sale – Everyday Humanism** – Edited by Dale McGowan and Anthony B. Pinn. *Everyday Humanism* seeks to move the discussion of Humanism's positive contributions to life away from the macro-level to focus on the everyday, or micro-dimensions of our individual and collective existence. *(See page 7 for 25% discount details.)*

**Oxfam Hunger Banquet** – Plan on attending **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 11:00 AM**, in Ceremonial Hall. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen presides. *(For more see page 9.)*



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# Leader's Desk



DR. JOSEPH CHUMAN

## How Are We Going To Get Along?

For the past several months the Adler Study Group, which I lead on the third Tuesday of each month, has been looking at the issue of pluralism in America and globally. The question that underlies the articles we read and discuss is, how can people of different ethnic and religious groups live together in relative harmony?

This, needless to say, is a question of great importance at the present moment. With the current wave of immigration the American demographic landscape is radically changing. Regarding religion, the United States historically has been a Protestant-dominant society. But currently Protestants comprise barely 52 percent of Americans, and in short order will constitute a minority of the population. A relevant factoid I frequently cite is that the Supreme Court, a historic bastion of Protestant dominance, today does not have a single Protestant on its bench.

Of the nine Justices, six are Catholics, three Jewish.

But with regard to ethnicity, changes no less dramatic are afoot. With the influx of Latinos and Asians, and African-Americans holding steady, Caucasian Americans will soon comprise less than half the population. The United States will become a nation of minorities. In California, our most populous state, this is already the reality.

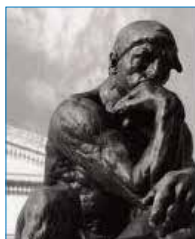
These changes have multiple implications with regard to politics, intergroup relations, and the deeper underlying issue of identity. Politically, in my view, America's changing religious landscape has helped fuel the strengthening of conservative Christian evangelical groups and invigorated a politicization of religious fundamentalism. As America has become more religiously diverse (including a large segment that identifies with "no religion") those of conservative bent have turned further inward to

*Continued on page 15*

# Ethical Enrichment and Events

## Wisdom and World Affairs

Join us on the first and fourth **TUESDAYS, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**, in Room 508, for a philosophical discussion moderated by Ken Gans. We'll cover a wide variety of subjects: the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, among many others. Come, and share your opinions.



*There is no fee for this program.*

## Great Books Discussion Group

Larry Schiff

Join us on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**, from **7:30 PM** till **9:00 PM**, in the



Elliott Library, Room 507. This month we'll be reading Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. All you have to do is buy the books for the year (\$30 from the Great Books Foundation, series one), and think of some questions that come to your mind as you read it.

For more info on how we work please go to <http://www.meetup.com/Manhattan-Great-Books-Discussion-Group/> and click on the "About Us" menu item on the left. Also under "About Us" you'll find the link to the Great Books Foundation where you can purchase the books for our sessions. On the left (and on the top) is our "Calendar" of readings for the year. To get a hard copy of our list of readings go to "More" on the top menu (right under the banner) and then "Files."

New participants may join the group at any time during the year. If you have any questions contact me at 917-749-0695, or at [larry@larryschiff.com](mailto:larry@larryschiff.com).

*The suggested donation is \$5 per session.*

## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), directed by Ron Howard. I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.



## SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

**11:00 am**  
Ceremonial Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### NOVEMBER 2

*Appreciative Inquiry: An Ethical Approach to Life's Challenges*  
**Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader**  
Richard Van Deusen Presides

### NOVEMBER 9

*I'm Spiritual But Not Religious*  
**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**  
Dr. Kathleen O'Connell Presides

### NOVEMBER 16

*Fossil Fuel Divestment Activist*  
**Steve Knight**  
Monica Weiss Presides

### NOVEMBER 23

*Three Conversations About Street Art*  
**Curt Collier, Leader**  
Tom Weishaar Presides

### NOVEMBER 30

*Oxfam Hunger Banquet*  
**Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader,**  
Presides

From the heights of notoriety to the depths of depravity, John Forbes Nash, Jr. experienced it all. A mathematical genius, he made an astonishing discovery early in his career and stood on the brink of international acclaim. But the handsome and arrogant Nash soon found himself on a painful and harrowing journey of self-discovery. After many years of struggle, he eventually triumphed over his tragedy, and finally – late in life – received the Nobel Prize.

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

## Ethical Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**, from **1:30 PM** to **3:30 PM**, and on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26**, from **2:30 PM** to **4:30 PM**, both in Ceremonial Hall. Our moderator is Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, who holds a Doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

We'll gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake. The objective is to

increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Topics include health care proxies, ethical wills, and green burial.

*The suggested donation is \$5.*

## Morality: Its Origins and Resilience

Come on **MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 10** and **24**, at **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**, and **THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 13** and **20**, at **6:30 PM – 8:00 PM** for a discussion moderated by Dr. Anne Klaeyen.

We all experience goodness in our lives. Most humans have an innate sense of morality – which behaviors are right and which ones are wrong. How did humans evolve morality? Brain cognitive science, moral psychology, and contemporary philosophy offer some interesting answers that we will examine in these sessions.

*There is no charge to members for these discussions, for guests it is \$5 per session.*

## Ethics and the Theater



*Patricia Bruder Debrowner*

On **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**, at **7:00 PM**, Ethics and the Theater will present a play reading of *Art* by Yasmina Reza. Who says there's no disputing about taste? Certainly not the three characters in this play, who, even as they try to call timeout, can't stop debating the merits of a large and very expensive white-on-white painting one of them has bought. The men can't even agree on whether it is actually white or just very pale. As the argument becomes heated to the point of comic hysteria, it exposes other hitherto hidden disagreements and disapprovals, leading all to question the past, not to mention the future, of their friendship.

Richard Van Deusen directs our cast, which includes Brian J. Carter, Chris Kipiniak, and Jake Robards.

Come at **6:30 PM** for



a reception and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Betsy Ungar. Ceremonial Hall.

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

## Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**, from **7:00 PM** to **8:30 PM**, in Room 502, with Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman as our moderator.

We'll discuss the works of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and Humanist philosophy.

To register email Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org), or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

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

## Readings in Deep Ecology

Join us on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24**, **7:15 PM – 8:45 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Curt Collier, Leader, will moderate.

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

*There is no fee for this.*

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## Low-Cost and Free Cultural Event Tickets Available

*Andra Miller*

A friend of Ethical Culture, Joseph Beinhorn, volunteers his time to get reduced prices to great cultural events (live music, dance, theater — or occasionally via high-definition broadcast in movie theaters) and offers them as a special service to retired persons who have email. He sends his lists now to eight NYSEC members, but has

asked me to offer his services to any of you who are interested.

I asked Joe how he got started doing this and he says that he used to produce shows and later started a business that arranged for visitors to attend New York City events and, once he retired, wanted to use his knowledge in the business to serve fellow retirees — or anybody else, for that matter. He makes no money from this service. So for relatively low prices and sometimes for free, you can avail yourself of “Joe’s events.”

Once you have signed up (at no cost), Joe emails you his current list of upcoming events (these come at no set interval). You choose those you’d like to attend, call him to reserve tickets, and then you send him a check for the cost of the tickets. They will be on call for you at the box office — or if there’s no box-office service, they’re mailed to you. When that’s the case, it is clear from Joe’s listing that you need to include with your check an envelope addressed to yourself and stamped.

Details for sign-up: Send Joe an email: Joseph Beinhorn [joseph.octoberone@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.octoberone@gmail.com). For the record, his phone number is 646-273-0788, and his address is 720 West End Avenue, Apt. 712, New York, NY 10025.

## GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY NAMED AS RECIPIENT OF OMEGA'S ANNUAL \$10,000 LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AWARD

Omega Institute, home of the award-winning Omega Center for Sustainable Living (OCSL), announced the third recipient of its Annual Leadership in Sustainable Education Award. The award recognizes nonprofit peers who exemplify leadership in sustainable education and who share Omega's commitment to building a more just and sustainable world. This year, Omega recognized Groundwork Hudson Valley, an organization working to help distressed communities in the lower Hudson Valley



*Recipients of the Omega Leadership in Sustainable Education Award with Leader Curt Collier (center, with hat).*

build a sustainable future. Groundwork Hudson Valley was honored with the award on Friday, October 24, during Omega's annual Where We Go From Here conference. The evening included a special presentation on Social Justice & the New Economy by Van Jones, an internationally recognized environmental advocate and cohost of CNN's Crossfire.

"Omega created the Leadership in Sustainable Education Award in 2012 to further our commitment to environmental stewardship and education. This year we are thrilled to recognize the exceptional achievements made by Groundwork Hudson Valley, a nonprofit dedicated to organizing environmental projects driven by local residents and youth to revitalize communities from the ground up," said Robert "Skip" Backus, chief executive officer at Omega and visionary behind the Omega Center for Sustainable Living.

In addition to the \$10,000 award, Groundwork Hudson Valley will receive a strategic planning retreat at Omega, to help strengthen organizational development and further its mission.

"Groundwork is truly honored to be this year's award recipient from the Omega Institute, for our work in changing places, and changing lives in the Hudson Valley. Much like the Omega Institute, our work focuses on transforming people, from the thousands each year who learn and grow on Groundwork's amazing Science Barge to the young people we have mentored from neighborhoods in Yonkers and Newburgh that are changing their own communities and experiencing inspirational places like Yellowstone National Park. We are truly thankful for this recognition," said Rick Magder, Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley .

About Groundwork Hudson Valley - For more than a decade, Groundwork Hudson Valley ([groundworkhv.org](http://groundworkhv.org)) has been a dynamic force for change in distressed communities in the lower Hudson Valley. Groundwork works to make neglected neighborhoods more livable and sustainable through an array of on-the-ground environmental projects that directly involve local residents, especially youth.

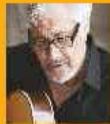
# ETHICAL EVENTS

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

**This concert will  
last just one night.  
A child's life  
will change forever.**

Join us for a night of India-inspired jazz, featuring some of the world's most renowned musicians. Proceeds from the concert will enable underprivileged children from India's slums to stay in school.

### A unique evening of world music, featuring:



**Larry Coryell**  
A pioneer of jazz-rock, Larry's eclectic sounds and brilliant technique has shaped the genre.



**Kai Eckhardt**  
A former bassist with the John McLaughlin Trio, Kai has shared the limelight with jazz greats across the world.



**Osam Ezzeldin**  
One of the brightest stars on piano and keyboard on the world music scene today.



**Aditya Kalyanpur**  
This Tabla maestro has worked with a galaxy of stars including Keith Richards, A.R. Rahman and Katy Perry.

Date: Nov 14th, 2014 | Time: 7:30 pm onwards

Tickets: \$35 - \$100 at <http://sounds-of-hope.eventbrite.com>



## SOUNDS OF HOPE

for the benefit of The Salaam Bombay Children's Fund

[www.sbchildrensfund.org/soundsofhope](http://www.sbchildrensfund.org/soundsofhope) | #soundsofhope



### NOT A MEMBER?

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

### NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

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# Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:00 am

NOV. 2

## APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: AN ETHICAL APPROACH TO LIFE'S CHALLENGES



**Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader**

*Richard Van Deusen Presides*

We often focus on what is wrong or broken and try to fix it. The traditional approach to change is to look for the problem, do a diagnosis, and find a solution. Appreciative inquiry is the cooperative search for the best in people, their organizations, and the world around them. It involves a discovery of what gives us life when we are most effective, capable, and engaged. Together we can strengthen our capacity for positive potential.

*The shared charity is Project Find.*

NOV. 9

## I'M SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS



**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**

*Dr. Kathleen O'Connell Presides*

Twenty percent of Americans now claim to have "no religion" but fewer than six percent profess to be atheists. Hence we can assume that the balance entertains beliefs of some kind which they would consider "spiritual." Indeed, the mantra of "I am spiritual but not religious" has been with us for several decades. But what, more precisely, does this mean? Indeed, it can mean many things, some of which I will discuss in my November address, including approaches to spirituality which may be appropriate for Ethical Culture.

*The shared charity is Project Find.*

NOV. 16

## FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT ACTIVIST



**Steve Knight**

*Monica Weiss Presides*

I will be speaking to NYSEC on my involvement as a fossil fuel divestment activist, which I pursue within both faith-centered (GreenFaith) and secular (350NYC) communities. Among the questions I hope to address are: Why are we in a time of climate crisis? Why is divestment a sound strategy for those concerned with this crisis? Why is divestment and reinvestment a path to hope for the future of the Earth?

I am a longtime Manhattan resident who has been both a college English instructor and a member of the financial services industry. I am a member of an Episcopal congregation on the Upper East Side, where I have served as a senior board member. I am also a cofounder of the congregation's peace and restorative justice ministry. In 2012-13 I was a fellow in GreenFaith, an interfaith religious environmental organization, where I took a leadership role in its Divest & Reinvest Now! Campaign. I have also been active in 350NYC's divestment group, and I am the founder and facilitator of a monthly NYC-area meet-up, Religious Communities for Divestment & Reinvestment.

*The shared charity is GreenFaith: Interfaith Partners for the Environment.*



NOV. 23

## THREE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT STREET ART

*Curt Collier, Leader*

*Tom Weishaar Presides*



Noted mosaic artist Haifa Bint-Kadi joins environmentalist Curt Collier to discuss the role of street art in furthering social and environmental justice and as a mechanism for expressing the wants and needs of a community. Bint-Kadi is the founder of Community Engagement Through the Arts, C.E.T.T.A., an initiative of Groundwork Hudson Valley that uses a community arts model and a grassroots approach in using art to address community needs. Together Bint-Kadi and I will address the impact and critique of street art from Banksy to neighborhood graffiti artists.

*The shared charity is City Harvest.*

NOV. 30

## OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader, Presides*



Life isn't fair—and neither is this. At an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet, the place where you sit, and the meal that you eat, are determined by the luck of the draw—just as in real life some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty. In 1970, a group of volunteers founded Oxfam America in response to the humanitarian crisis created by the fight for independence in Bangladesh. Then, on the Thursday before Thanksgiving 1974, something quite remarkable happened.

Responding to Oxfam's call, 250,000 people nationwide participated in the first Oxfam America Fast for a World Harvest; they fasted for the day or for a meal, raising awareness about hunger and donating their food money to Oxfam. So began a national movement to alleviate hunger and poverty in our world.

*The shared charity is Oxfam America.*

### THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

**PROJECT FIND:** In 1967 the National Council on Aging established Project FIND as part of a federal demonstration project designed to develop a national picture of the elderly poor. The mission of Project FIND is to provide older New Yorkers with the services and supports necessary to live enriched independent lives in the community.

**GREENFAITH** is an interfaith organization fighting for the environment. Its mission is to inspire, educate, and mobilize people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership. "Our work is based on beliefs shared by the world's great religions," the organization states. "We believe that protecting the earth is a religious value, and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility."

**CITY HARVEST**, founded in 1982 as the world's first food rescue organization, City Harvest is dedicated to helping feed the nearly 1.5 million New Yorkers facing hunger. City Harvest will collect 50 million pounds of excess food from restaurants, grocers, bakeries, manufacturers, and farms, and deliver it free of charge to more than 500 community food programs across the city this year. City Harvest exists to end hunger in communities throughout New York City through food rescue and distribution, education, and other practical, innovative solutions.

**OXFAM AMERICA** is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. As one of 17 members of the international Oxfam confederation, who work with people in more than 90 countries to create lasting solutions. Oxfam saves lives, develops longterm solutions to poverty, and campaigns for social change.

## Early Sunday Mornings 9:45 am (Rooms are subject to change)

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- NOVEMBER 2**      **CHORUS PRACTICE**  
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.
- 
- NOVEMBER 9**      **COLLOQUY:**  
“Envy.” Abe Markman presides. Room 508.
- 
- NOVEMBER 16**      **CHORUS PRACTICE**  
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.
- 
- NOVEMBER 16**      **POETRY READING**  
Discussion of John Lennon’s *Imagine* and Sylvia Plath’s *Daddy*. Both texts can be found online.  
Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.
- 
- NOVEMBER 30**      **COFFEE 'N CHAT**  
Room 508.

## Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Except as noted) (Rooms are subject to change)

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- NOVEMBER 2**      **SUNDAY ASSEMBLY**  
2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.
- 
- NOVEMBER 2**      **DEEPENING ETHICAL CIRCLES.**  
Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen presides. Room 508.  
Meaningful personal development and community growth can flourish when people share in the lives of others, especially through empathetic listening and talking about matters of ultimate concern. Small group experiences, provide an opportunity for members to explore their deepest understanding of life in community.
- 
- NOVEMBER 9**      **ETHICS IN THE NEWS**  
Abe Markman presides. 12:45 pm, sixth floor school cafeteria.  
From November until March 2015, nominations will be accepted for the five most Ethical persons in the news.
- 
- NOVEMBER 9**      **ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ**  
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson. Ceremonial Hall.  
A gathering in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake.
- 
- NOVEMBER 16**      **LIFE WITH HEALTH: “Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos.”**  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, who has an MFA in fine arts and a Doctorate in

*more Ethical Enrichment and Events.....*

counseling, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Winds of change blow through our lives daily, and unpredictable circumstances happen regularly that are beyond our control. How do we handle it all? How can we transform any chaotic situation? How do we stay centered and grounded? How do we remain connected and rooted? We will spend some productive time together to answer these questions.

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**NOVEMBER 23**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE**

Leader Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

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

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**Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm**

**Dinner Discussions Tuesdays, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Elliott Library, Room 507 (except as noted)**

Bring your lunch or dinner and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members. This month's topic is: **HUMAN NATURE**. You can now access all of the Leader Lunch and Dinner readings on our website at <http://www.nysec.org/leader-lunch>.

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**NOVEMBER 4** (Adler Study, Room 514) and **NOVEMBER 6**

"**HOW TO STOP TIME**" by Anna Della Subin, *The NY Times*, 9/26/14; "**THE PROCRASTINATION DOOM LOOP – AND HOW TO BREAK IT**" by Derek Thompson, 8/26/14; "**PROCRASTINATION: WORSE THAN PROCRASTINATION**" by Olga Khazan, 9/24/14; and "**WHY WRITERS ARE THE WORST PROCRASTINATORS**" by Megan McArdle, 2/12/14, *The Atlantic*.

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**NOVEMBER 11** and **13**

"**CREATIVITY CREEP**" by Joshua Rothman, *The New Yorker*, 9/2/14, and "**SECRETS OF THE CREATIVE MIND**" by Nancy C. Andreasen, *The Atlantic*, 6/25/14.

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**NOVEMBER 18** and **20**

"**GENDER EQUALITY IS YOUR ISSUE, TOO**" by Emma Watson, *UN Women (unwomen.org)*, 9/20/14; "**15-YEAR-OLD BOY'S 'MAGNIFICENT' LETTER ABOUT EMMA WATSON'S UN SPEECH**" by Rachel Jones, *Telegraph*, 9/28/14; and "**THREATENED BY BEYONCE, EMMA WATSON, AND THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT? GOOD.**" by Susan Rohwer, *LA Times*, 10/1/14.

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**NOVEMBER 25** and **NOVEMBER 27** – **Happy Thanksgiving Week!**

# Our Ethical Family

DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN, LEADER



The following members are celebrating birthdays in November:

- HENRYKA KOMANSKA.....11/1
- HEATHER GRADY.....11/3
- WILLIAM BAKER.....11/7
- SHEILA NAVARRO.....11/7
- SELMA FRIEDMAN.....11/14
- ROBERT EBER.....11/16
- ALEXANDER MOGIELEFF.....  
.....11/17
- DONNA PANG.....11/17
- STEVEN SCHULTZ.....11/17
- VIRGINIA SCHERER.....11/19
- HARRIET BIGUS.....11/21
- RUTH OPPENHEIMER...11/21
- DR. KHOREN ARISIAN..11/24
- VINCENT NAVARRO.....11/25
- DANNY CHORIKI.....11/30

## ETHICAL CARES

The Caring Committee will help you should you fall ill or be incapacitated, whether you're home, in the hospital, in rehab, or in a nursing home. All you need do is call the committee chairperson, **STEPHANIE ROSENBLATT**, at 212-586-0017, and she'll make the arrangements.

A Warm Ethical Welcome to our New Members:

Parents **HAZEL MAY** and **LOREN FOX** with daughter Lillian May-Fox: "Our family first encountered the Society for Ethical Culture in 2003, when it hosted Loren's and Hazel's commitment ceremony, but our sustained engagement with NYSEC really began when we sought to expose our daughter, Lillian, to a broad, values-driven community. In 2011 we enrolled her in the Ethics for Children program. The enriching, affirming experience wound up pulling all of us into NYSEC's embrace. Lillian, now seven, happily extols the virtues of Ethics for Children, its art and activities, and the people she has met there. And NYSEC has also provided a needed "village" for Hazel, a transplant from Britain, and Loren, a native New Yorker. The three of us look forward to becoming more deeply involved in Ethical Culture and augmenting our creed with more deed."

Parents **ANA GRISELDA** (Gris) **SANDOVAL-COBILLOS** and **JESÚS TORRES-VAZQUEZ**

with daughter Maria Fernanda (Marifer) Torres-Sandoval:

"We are originally from Mexico, where we met, and married one month before coming to the USA in 1995." Gris likes to read about psychology, historical novels and murder mysteries and is a homemaker and freelance bookkeeper. Jesús likes biographies and science fiction and is a biologist. Marifer is four-and-a-half years old. She likes potato bugs and chickens and asking lots of questions. She has three imaginary siblings/friends: a bear, a salmon, and a piglet named Huru.

"The three of us are thrilled to belong to this nurturing community and hope to grow in it and contribute positively."

Parents **MARK** and **RINA CRANE** with children Mita and Sylvan: "We live in the Bronx, where we spend much of our time creating art in different forms, including writing, singing, crafting, dancing, songwriting and playing different musical instruments." Mark is a school teacher and Rina is a doula trainer. Mita (nine) and Sylvan (seven) are being homeschooled. "We are very happy that, after more than a decade of interest in joining the Society, our schedules have finally allowed us to join."



In July 2014 the Center for Reproductive Rights sent NYSEC member Dr. Alice Kahn Ladas to Washington, DC to help get more Congress members to sponsor the 2013 Women's Health Protective Act. Dr. Ladas was the only one sent who knew what life was like before *Roe v. Wade*. While at their meeting she met the only other attending elders, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR).



*Dr. Alice Kahn Ladas sports her new GRR T-shirt at her cohousing's annual Feast Day.*



## MEET MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID GRACIA

### *Marilyn Braveman*

The unusual music at a recent Sunday meeting was just one facet of the creative musical life of Music Director David Gracia. Who else would understand that a serious and sometimes solemn Ethical Culture audience would be excited about listening to a teenage combo of saxophone and violin beat out a jazz-like performance? David's creed is the power of music to make the world better. And if the joy of the audience helps to move us to action on environmental and social justice issues, then he is certainly on the right track.

Born in Spain to a musical family, David discovered his

musical talent when, at the age of eight, he realized he could sing as well as his gifted parents. In time he left Spain to earn Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Aaron Copeland School of Music in NYC.

David came to NYSEC when his friend (and NYSEC member) Jon Leichty, Assistant Music Director, told him about our search for a new director. It was and is a perfect match! David and our community are passionate about the same issues, and he selects and plays musical pieces that reflect the theme of our Sunday meetings. His work with our chorus has elicited their best voices beautifully.

David's other professional work is designed to enrich the world. He founded the Washington Heights and Inwood (WHIN) Music Project (<http://www.whinmusicproject.org/program-description>) that brings music to an underserved population. He reaches children as young as six, who would probably have no other way of learning to appreciate the power of music. He is also the head of music education at Playground Sessions (<http://www.playgroundsessions.com>), a music software program cocreated by the legendary Quincy Jones that helps thousands of people learn to play the piano. 🎹



# A E U M A T T E R S

## I N M E M O R I A M



### D R . H O W A R D B . R A D E S T

The American Ethical Union mourns the death of Dr. Howard B. Radest, former AEU Executive Director and recipient of the 2011 Felix Adler Lifetime Achievement Award, who died on Saturday evening, October 11.

Howard lived a life of Humanism and was actively involved with the Ethical Culture Movement for over seven decades. All of us who cherish Ethical Culture are incalculably in his debt.

A graduate of Columbia University, Howard's doctoral dissertation was about the educational philosophy of Felix Adler, founder of Ethical Culture. Following graduation, he became the founding Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, serving from 1956 to 1963. He was later Execu-


tive Director of the AEU and one of the Presidents of the International Humanist and Ethical Union. During his tenure as Executive Director he published his first book, *Toward Common Ground: The Story of the Ethical Societies in the United States*. He also wrote several other books and articles on Humanism, ethics, and Ethical Culture.

Howard's life was also dedicated to education. He served as Director of the Ethical Culture Schools, founded the Moral Education Center at Columbia University, and was a founder and Dean of the Humanist Institute. He also was a lecturer with Highlands Institute in North Carolina, a professor of medical ethics at South Carolina University, a senior fellow with the Institute for Human-

ist Studies, and Chairman of the Ethical Community Charter School in Jersey City.

Perhaps no other person has made a greater contribution to building and sustaining institutions within Ethical Culture and the Humanist world over the past half-century. All of us who cherish Ethical Culture are incalculably in his debt.

Howard is survived by his wife, Rita; sons Rob and Michael and their wives; and numerous grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

\* The Humanist Institute (write "The Rita Radest Scholarship Fund" in the memo field and mail to The Humanist Institute, PMB #220 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55437-4712). 

strengthen their identity and with it the call to identify the United States in Christian terms. Ethnic changes have resulted in strident polarization of our political environment, which has been devastating for the maintenance of a robust democracy. The causes for this polarization and stagnation are many, but in my opinion, a primary cause is the apprehension felt by many older, Caucasian Americans that the country they once knew, and which gave them a sense of privilege over people of color, no matter how poor they were, is no longer the America they feel comfortable with. It doesn't feel like theirs any longer. And when people feel disquieted and fearful, they huddle together and often become more rigid and illiberal in their values and dispositions. Hence entrenched ideologies and a politics that has grown nasty, coarse, and edgy.

These changes make for a troubled social environment. In the past, social harmony in America, however elusive it has been,

was promoted through the ideology of the "melting pot." People came to America from a multitude of European and other cultures, and once here shed the habits and folkways of the Old World and appropriated a new, distinctive identity in which the older identities to a great extent became very attenuated and virtually disappeared.

But since the late 1960s, this melting pot ideology has lost much of its compelling character. Alongside of it has developed an American identity based on what we might call "ethnic pluralism," in which aspects of one's original identity are deliberately preserved. And so, we have hyphenated Americans: Italian-Americans, Latino-Americans, and, of course, African-Americans, and a multitude of others. This ethnic framework has extended to take into account gender orientation, so that some will now identify as "gay-Americans." This tendency has

given rise to an American identity based on multiculturalism that promotes "tolerance" as the prevailing relationship between different communities.

But this tolerance is difficult to achieve. (I always remind myself that "tolerance" is a grudging virtue. "Respect" and "acceptance" are much better.) When tolerance fails, suspicion, fear, contempt, xenophobia, and, in extreme cases, violence take its place. Unfortunately we live in a world in which this is much too common.

It is the great Indian economist, Amartya Sen, having become a social philosopher in recent years, who believes that strife among ethnic communities results in part because people too often identify themselves in monolithic terms. One is either a Latino, a Muslim, a Jew, a Serb, and nothing else. So identified, people tend to form thick lines between themselves and others. The stage is set for xenophobia, for "othering" the one who is not a member of one's own group.

## Leader's Desk

But Sen believes that so defining oneself is false to the way in which personal identity is actually formed. None of us is simply one thing; our identities are, rather, a composite of many ethnic and cultural identities that we can trace through our heritage. We are all in a sense hybrids.

He concludes that if people were to appreciate the variety of identities that flow through them, the walls between self and others would not be so thick and that bonds of understanding and respect, rather than suspicion, would be more readily formed.

When I think of Amartya Sen's contemporary formulation, I am reminded of a centerpiece of Felix Adler's philosophy. In Adler's idea of the Ethical Manifold, as he called it, all individuals are distinct, yet we are all interdependent and joined together within the context of a single organism, so to speak, a single family. What pertains to individual persons pertains to groups as well, including ethnic and religious communities. Each culture has its distinctive values, he believed. But each and

all could relate to others in such a way as to share their distinctive traits and gifts in order to enrich the human family, just as each section of an orchestra plays its part to create the whole.

In our search for ways to heal the rifts of our strife-torn world, we can mine the historical thought of Ethical Culture for ideas that are relevant to our contemporary situation in the service of moving toward greater mutual understanding, peace, and harmony.



*NYSEC Trustees with several guests at a Board Meeting.*



# A VIEW FROM THE AEU



*Linda Napoli  
Member, Ethical Humanist Society  
of Long Island*

As a new member of the American Ethical Union (AEU) Board, I'm excited to report all the wonderful activities we're putting together for our members.

Since its founding in 1889, the AEU, the national organization of Ethical Societies in the United States, has helped form new Ethical Societies, supported existing Societies, and worked to provide a national presence for Ethical Culture. A significant part of the AEU's activities are geared toward national conferences, such as the annual Assembly, and toward training for ethical leadership.

A workshop was held on October 24-25 at the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester featuring a professional fundraiser to familiarize Societies with effective approaches to running annual pledge campaigns that engage members.

This year there will be two conferences in the fall.

The Annual Ethical Education Conference will be held at beautiful Stony

Point in Rockland County, New York, November 7-9. Those involved in ethical education for children at their Societies will meet Dale McGowan, our new National Ethical Education Director. Dale is a knowledgeable, personable, and experienced individual who has published on this subject. Having been involved in (what was called) religious education (RE) almost from the outset of my connection with Ethical Culture 33 years ago, I can attest to how informative and meaningful this program is not only to the RE directors and teachers, but to the families who attend and find others who are raising their children with the same values they are. There is nothing comparable to a young family meeting, sharing, and making friends with other families from different Ethical Societies.

There is also the annual YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) Conference, November 14-16 in New York City. Teens scattered throughout our various locations will get an opportunity to meet

and share their views and concerns, both personal and social. Trish Cowan, the YES Coordinator, organizes the conference with assistance from the teens and advisors of our Societies, and support from the AEU office. An outgrowth of this group is Future of Ethical Societies (FES) for college age students whose commitment to building a better world is only starting to mature as they grow older. FES will have its conference in May 2015.

Our National Director of Ethical Education and our YES Coordinator are the dedicated and inspired individuals the AEU pays to run these annual conferences, as well as to support all involved in our youth education throughout the year.

To continue on the path of lifelong ethical education there is the Lay Leadership Summer School, a one-week course at a beautiful location in North Carolina. Created almost 20 years ago by Ethical Culture Leaders Joy McConnell and Jone Johnson, this program is underwritten by the American Ethical Union as a way to train individuals

in communication, organizational development, and ethics, allowing them to go back to their Societies with enhanced skills to help them flourish. As first a student and then an instructor at Lay Leadership Summer School, I can assure you of the transformative nature of this experience and its value to the over 200 members who have taken part in it.

The AEU supports every Society with information and advice. There are active national committees that correspond with your local committees in membership,

ethical action, communications, finance, and leadership. The AEU office, located at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, is a group of dedicated individuals who are always ready to answer questions, direct calls, and issue communications to all of us.

When inquiries come in from all over the country regarding forming new Societies, the AEU goes into action to develop a support system for the fledgling group. Its most recent activities have been with a coterie in Silicon Valley.

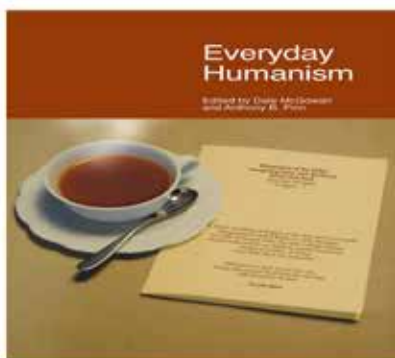
In addition to this, it is well to remember that the American Ethical Union is our national voice on social issues of

the day. Along with other major groups, we speak in favor of, or in opposition to, matters that concern all of us as Americans and citizens of the world.

Last, and most importantly, is the AEU Assembly, which is held in a different city each year to give members an opportunity to meet, discuss, and learn through workshops and meetings. In June 2015, we celebrate the 100th Assembly of the American Ethical Union in Stamford, Connecticut. It is a noteworthy occasion not just for historic reasons, but also for its dedicated mission to meet the needs of you, its members. ☺

# Everyday Humanism

Edited by Dale McGowan and Anthony B. Pinn



2014 256pp 234 x 156mm  
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*Everyday Humanism* seeks to move the discussion of humanism's positive contributions to life away from the macro-level to focus on the everyday, or micro-dimensions of our individual and collective existence. How might humanist principles impact parenting? How might these principles inform our take on aging, on health, on friendship? These are just a few of the issues around everyday life that needed interpretation from a humanist perspective. Through attention to key issues, this volume seeks to promote the value of humanism at the level of the ordinary, typical occurrences and conditions of our existence.

**Dale McGowan** is co-author of *Raising Freethinkers* (2009), co-editor of *Parenting Beyond Belief* (2007) and editor of *Voces of Unbelief* (2012). He currently serves as founding executive director of Foundation Beyond Belief, a non-profit organization focusing, encouraging, and demonstrating humanist generosity and volunteerism. In 2008, he was named Harvard Humanist of the Year.

**Anthony B. Pinn** is Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities at Rice University and Director of Research at the Institute for Humanist Studies in Washington, DC. He is the author of *African American Humanist Principles* (2004) and editor of *By These Hands: A Documentary History of African American Humanism* (2000). In 1999 he received the African American Humanist Award from the Council for Secular Humanism, and in 2006 he was named Harvard Humanist of the Year.

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# NOVEMBER 2014

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

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Ethics in Film: <i>A Beautiful Mind</i> (2001), directed by Ron Howard — November 7</b><br/> <b>Ethics and the Theater: <i>Art</i> by Yasmina Reza — November 14</b></p>  |  |  |   |   |   |   |
| <p>2</p> <p>9:45 Chorus Practice<br/>           11:00 Ethics for Children<br/>           11:00 Morning Meeting<br/>           12:45 Brunch/Social Hour<br/>           1:30 Deepening Ethical Circles<br/>           2:00 Sunday Assembly<br/>           2:00 Ethics for Teens - Coming of Age</p> | <p>3</p> <p><b>December 2014 Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p>6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs<br/>           6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs<br/>           6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion</p> | <p>5</p> <p>7:30 Great Books Discussion Group</p> | <p>6</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion<br/>           6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders</p>   | <p>7</p> <p>7:00 Ethics in Film</p>   | <p>8</p>  |
| <p>9</p> <p>9:45 Colloquy<br/>           11:00 Ethics for Children<br/>           11:00 Morning Meeting<br/>           12:45 Brunch/Social Hour<br/>           12:45 Ethics in the News<br/>           1:30 Ethical Death Café<br/>           2:00 Ethics for Teens</p>                           | <p>10</p> <p>1:00 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience</p>   | <p>11</p> <p>6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion</p>   | <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion<br/>           6:30 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience</p>   | <p>14</p> <p>7:00 Ethics and the Theater<br/>           7:30 Sounds of Hope</p> | <p>15</p> <p>10:00 Memorial Service for Dr. Howard B Radest</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>9:45 Poetry Reading<br/>           9:45 Chorus Practice<br/>           11:00 Ethics for Children<br/>           11:00 Morning Meeting<br/>           12:45 Brunch/Social Hour<br/>           1:30 Life with Health<br/>           2:00 Ethics for Teens</p>                          | <p>17</p> <p>7:00 Newcomers' Reception</p>   | <p>18</p> <p>6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion<br/>           7:00 Felix Adler Seminar</p>     | <p>19</p>   | <p>20</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion<br/>           6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders<br/>           6:30 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience</p> | <p>21</p>   | <p>22</p>   |
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| <p>30</p> <p>10:00 Coffee 'n Chat<br/>           11:00 Morning Meeting<br/>           12:45 Brunch/Social Hour<br/>           2:00 Ethics for Teens</p>   |  |  |   |   |   |   |

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# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

June 2013

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