

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

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Sunday Programs

July 6

How I Value Independence

Amy Schwarz, Society Member

July 13

Teaching Children to Read : What Do We Really Know?

Phyllis Kreuttner, Reading Teacher & Educational Evaluator, NYC Schools

July 20

Bush & Co. vs. the Mute Liberals: Where's the Beef?

Gerald Ranck, Music Director

July 27

Sojourner Truth and Margaret Sanger: Vignettes from the Lives of Two Pioneering Women

The Cathy Bagley Drama Group

August 3

Ethics in the News

Mary Ellen Goodman, Society Member

August 10

Poverty and Cultural Diversity: Challenges to Human Health

Dr. Jon Kerner, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute

August 17

Democracy, Endangered Species

Dean Robert B. Tapp, Humanist Institute

August 24

Service Learning: What It Is, Why We Need It, and How to Get It

Frank Susa, Editor and Webmaster, National Services-Learning Center

August 31

Responsibilities of Citizenship

Dr. Larry R. Yates, Society Member

WQXR-FM (96.3)

Broadcasts

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 7:30 am

July 6

What Are You Waiting For? Living With Conviction in Tumultuous and Cynical Times

Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader

July 20

Humanism's Temporary Eclipse: Pushing the Envelope When Moral Outrage Has Elapsed

Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader

August 3

Spirituality Without God

Kate Lovelady, Leader Intern

August 17

Born Again: A Personal Conversion Story

Fritz Williams, Leader

Baltimore Ethical Society

SUNDAY MORNING MEETINGS (10:30 AM)

July 6—How I Value Independence

Amy Schwarz, Society Member

Opening with a brief presentation of the topic, including examples, Amy Schwarz, long-time member of the Society, will then invite audience participation in a discussion.

July 13—Teaching Our Children to Read: What Do We Really Know?

Phyllis Kreuttner, Reading Teacher & Educational Evaluator, NYC Schools, and Society Member

The subject of reading failure, usually associated with dyslexia, has been a hot topic for ages. The latest research, including brain imaging studies, is giving us valuable information about causes and effective treatments. Are the public and private schools keeping up with the research? Can the families looking for help access treatment in a timely and effective way? We will explore what the newest research is saying and how we are delivering on this information.

July 20—Bush & Co. vs. the Mute Liberals: “Where’s the Beef?”

Gerald Ranck, Music Director

With all the disastrous policies of the Bush administration—the Patriot Act(s), the war in Iraq, tax cuts for the wealthy, and the evangelization of our democracy—perhaps the greatest danger of all is the abject failure of liberals and democrats to advance a cogent and convincing alternative policy to turn the tide. Where are Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, and Chuck Schumer, to name a few? Finding a resolute resistance to the Bush counter-cultural regression is harder than finding weapons of mass destruction or bin Laden. Herewith, a liberal call to arms.

July 27—Sojourner Truth and Margaret Sanger: Vignettes from the Lives of Two Pioneering Women

The Cathy Bagley Drama Group

The Society drama group will present readings originated by the actors and based on their research. A discussion following the readings will focus on these themes: (1) How applicable today is Sojourner Truth's contention that freedom cannot be confined, i.e. if it exists it must be for blacks and whites as well as for men and women, and (2) Margaret Sanger's life battle for women's right to be in charge of their bodies; only then could they have freedom in other spheres of life. How valid is this? The audience will have the opportunity to raise other questions.

August 3—Ethics in the News

Mary Ellen Goodman, Society Member

Members and visitors will have the opportunity to sample our regular monthly Sunday afternoon program on the ethical aspects of current events. Mary Ellen Goodman, a long-time Society member, will present important current issues and facilitate an audience discussion.

August 10–Poverty and Cultural Diversity: Challenges to Human Health

Dr. Jon Kerner, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute

Dr. Kerner’s talk will explore how both poverty and cultural diversity within the U.S. represent both barriers to promoting health and preventing disease and opportunities for developing culturally sensitive intervention approaches. He will also highlight the ethical dilemmas posed by growing health disparities in the U.S.

August 17–Democracy, Endangered Species

Robert B. Tapp, Dean of the Humanist Institute

Political democracy emerged from the left wing of the Protestant Reformation and more fully from Enlightenment deists. The US form demanded a secular federal government. Rejecting absolutisms of the old countries and religions, this new society relied on reason, conscience, and compromise—and upon educated voters. An ethic of equality, combined with a commitment to the common good, was eventually applied to all citizens.

Public education was created to assimilate children to these new values. Today, increasing corporate manipulations threaten this democracy as they control media, surfeit us with consumerism and entertainment, and vocationalize education. Humanists and their liberal and progressive allies need to rethink their communicative strategies if we are to counter the pushes toward theocracy, corporate dominance verging on fascism, and a permanent war economy.

Dean Robert Tapp is Professor (Emeritus) of Humanities, Religious Studies, and South Asian Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

August 24–Service-Learning: What It Is, Why We Need It, and How to Get It

Frank Susa, Editor and Webmaster, National Services-Learning Center, and Society Member

Support for a teaching methodology known as service-learning is on the rise. This important development in the education reform movement is good news for educators and communities everywhere. When students use what they learn in their classrooms and apply it in the service of real community needs, everyone benefits. Society member Frank Susa is the editor and webmaster of the National Service-Learning Partnership, and will share his insights into the ethical and the humanistic roots of service-learning.

August 31–Responsibilities of Citizenship

Dr. Larry R. Yates, Society Member

How do we protect our cherished freedom? How do we protect American lives and our nation? How do we resolve conflicts arising from our protecting these values? And how do we reconcile these conflicts with our humane principles? We may want to embrace all humans as our brothers and sisters, but some hate us so much that they would kill and maim us if they could. That was a brutal lesson of 9/11 with which we humanists are still struggling. We will examine the ideas of Adler, Emerson, Dewey, and others for help with our struggle to be responsible citizens in this era of moral crises.

Ethical Action Committee

Carol Rost and Christine Swann

DNA Project. We have again reached the \$2,500 mark in our dedicated DNA fund, and we are notifying the Innocence Project, which will shortly choose a deserving recipient for DNA testing. Stay tuned!

Letter writing tables will continue. Please come to our July 24 meeting at 6:00 pm, when we will focus on preserving reproductive rights.

Rockefeller Drug Laws. The favored Aubrey bill (for repeal of RDL) will be reintroduced into the state senate. We will continue to follow developments.

Death Penalty. We support New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty. If you wish to go to a Yankees baseball game this summer, call Carol Rost at 212-982-9403, or better yet e-mail RTABAK@probonolaw.com for access to discounted tickets, and you will be supporting NYADP. Ticket prices vary, but they are not too expensive!

Senator Charles Schumer responds to letter on April 17, “When considering candidates for the U.S. Court of Appeals, I account for issues of diversity, legal excellence, and ideological moderation. In my mind, our courts should remain moderate, not too far left and not too far right. After many months of careful study of Judge Pickering’s record, I decided that I could not comfortably promote him to the Court of Appeals.” Thanks, Senator Schumer!

Film Forum

Barbara Levenson

The Friday night Film Forum will be on hiatus for July and August. We will return on September 19.

Report on the 89th Assembly of the American Ethical Union May 23-26

Christine Swann

The title of this year's Assembly was "Our Common Faith: Building a National Ethical Presence." Its focus was the need for unity across the movement. It was a very rich and rewarding Assembly. It took place in Philadelphia at the Philadelphia Society and the nearby Radisson Hotel. I have selected only a few of the many meetings and topics to report on.

Welcome. The Assembly began on Friday evening at the Philadelphia Society's lovely building. Several introductions were made. John Hartman, the new Executive Director, was presented. A major part of the evening was devoted to the General Ethical Platform. A new publication, "An Invitation to Action: A Vision of Ethical Culture," prepared by the National Leaders Council of the AEU, was released, and readings were rendered by Leaders of all the Societies. This document is the result of an exhaustive compilation and compression of many materials. It is seen very much as a work in progress and is under comment and revision. Copies are available in the AEU office. The two Leader Interns, Kate Lovelady and Randy Best, were then introduced.

Saturday Business Meeting. The meeting, at the hotel, began with a statement of Board tasks. These are: (1) articulating the vision of the organization; (2) setting policies; and (3) oversight of management. AEU President Brian King introduced the new Executive Director, John Hartman, who had been selected by a search committee at the request of the board and the National Leaders Council. John then introduced himself as a very nuts and bolts manager with extensive experience and many successes behind him. He sees himself as the first empowered executive director of the AEU. His intent is to make a real difference and to make the AEU important to the Ethical Culture movement, to each Society, and to individual members. His hope is to enable a movement united by vision, not divided by (often petty) issues. John expects to make a difference in months, not years. He has already made changes in the operating of the AEU office with new tools to increase services to members. Two of these are a new data base and new financial reporting. He made a strong case for starting with a full evaluation and information collection, starting in October, which would last about 2 years and lead to an in-depth strategic plan. His hope is to include every member so that it will be a members' plan. He stated that we need a common vision, common action, and a unity never seen before. This will take courage and discipline. John paraphrased Adler: "The time calls for action. Up, then, and let us do our part faithfully and well."

The delegates then voted for what John and the Board saw as necessary to start this new plan of action—a budget for the evaluation and strategic planning and a by-laws change allowing the AEU to solicit members directly

for funds. Another by-laws change will establish a board committee responsible for advance planning of future Assemblies.

Certification ceremony. At the Sunday Meeting at the Philadelphia Society, in a delightful ceremony, the three new leaders, Robert Greenwell, Anne Klaeyen and David Reis, were certified. All made uplifting speeches. Following their words, the Leaders gathered on the platform in an impressive ceremony.

Sunday Business Meeting. Voting for **new board members** took place at the afternoon business meeting. Our own Judy Wallach was elected, as were Martha Gallahue of the National Service Conference and Kate Lovelady, Leader Intern. Committee reports followed. A sampling:

Membership aims to enable Societies to share ideas, spread skills, be an on-line resource, and train Societies to do a better job at building membership. The Annual Growth and Development Conference will take place this year at the Long Island Society October 24-25.

Religious Education supports local RE directors. There are now 23 RE directors in 16 Societies. A major concentration is on "Raising Ethical Children in a Conflicted World."

Youth Leadership. The youth are bubbling with ideas. They are putting up a website, have a program targeted at college age youth, and aim to support communication between youth advisors and cross-pollinate ideas. They need support and funds.

Lay Leadership Summer School is a popular program in which members learn to build community and find their lives transformed. It includes deep learning about Ethical Humanism, networking, congregational development, and personal growth. The next program is scheduled for summer 2004.

Summer School II. This is a new plan for a program for those who have already attended the summer school. It may be open to families.

An **open-mike session** followed, allowing members of various Societies to talk about their activities. We announced our DNA testing fund, which was well received—and raised \$100!

There were many and varied **workshops** on Saturday and Monday, including one on “Developing Authentic Ethical Culture Holidays” presented by our member Sheila Kleinwald. Being in such a large, active group of ethical humanists excited me about the future of our movement and our opportunity to pull together. It was also fun and stimulating.

News from the Caring Committee

Stephanie Rosenblatt

Two years have gone by and my term as Chairperson of the Caring Committee has come to an end. Please note that for the months of July and August Marcella Montaruli will act as Chairperson. If you need to contact us, please do call Marcella at 631-589-4651 or 212-737-1071. Should Marcella be unavailable, please contact me at 212-586-0017 or Ben Bean at the Society. Wishing you all a good summer. May peace be with all of us.

Leader and Staff Summer Vacations

Khoren Arisian will be on vacation July 7-21 and August 1-11. Ben Bean

will be on vacation from June 30 to July 25. Paula Sheldon will be on vacation July 10-16. Other staff members’ vacations will be staggered throughout the summer. Should you wish to contact the Membership Office during Ben’s vacation, Barbara Levenson will be there to answer the phone.

Our Ethical Family

Ben Bean & Members

New Members

Elaine Berman is a writer and has already volunteered as an usher for the WBAI event, served in the cafeteria, and joined the Ethical Action Committee. She found us through Martha Gallahue, NGO representative for the AEU at the UN.

Hope Bernstein has a granddaughter who attended our Ethics for Children program. She started to attend and has enjoyed our philosophy. She is looking forward to being active in some of our new drama activities.

Dr. Barbara J. Hunter is a part time writer with a Ph.D. in Social Work. She was encouraged to join by **Howard Parker** and **Ruth Garbus**. She is looking forward to working with the SSB on a new project that she has been developing.

News of Members

Cyla Gurewicz, a new member, died suddenly. She was looking forward to being very active in the Society. We are sad that we will never know her better.

Roy R. Neuberger will be feted in honor of his 100th birthday on July 17 at the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, New York.

Mona Roset is home recovering from minor surgery.

Members Dropped

Henry Braun
Frances Wiesenfeld

July Calendar

Office hours for the month are
Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, July 1 (annual reports)

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:30 am

Shelter

Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Society Offices closed

Friday, July 4

Supervised Visitation

Saturdays, 9:30 am (except July 5)

WQXR-FM (96.3)

Sunday, July 6 & 20, 7:30 am

Ethical Action Committee

Thursday, July 24, 6:00 pm

Support Group

Thursday, July 24, 6:30 pm

August Calendar

Office hours for the month are
Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, August 1

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:30 am

Shelter

Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

WQXR-FM (96.3)

Sunday, August 3 & 17, 7:30 am

Support Group

Thursday, August 21, 6:30 pm

*Enjoy Your
Summer*