

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

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**Sunday Morning  
Platform Meetings  
Ceremonial Hall  
10:15 AM**

**July 3**  
**The Ethics of Patriotism**  
*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

**July 10**  
**What Do We Stand For?**  
*Catherine Bordeau*  
*Brooklyn Ethical Society*  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

**July 17**  
**Reverence**  
*Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader*  
*Baltimore Ethical Society*  
Bonnie Bean Presides

**July 24**  
**Science in the Courtroom: An  
Examination of the Role Reason  
Plays (or Doesn't Play) in  
Modern Law**  
*Derek C. Araujo*  
Andra Miller Presides

**July 31**  
**Kissing Cousins: Peace, Climate  
Change, and Ethical Culture**  
*Martha Gallahue, Interim Leader*  
*Essex Society, Maplewood, NJ*  
Monica Weiss Presides

**August 7**  
**Why Did They Do That?  
Practical Ethics in a Time of  
Business Amoralty**  
*Richard Koral, Leader-in-Training*  
Tom Weishaar Presides

**August 14**  
**Where's the Movement in this  
Ethical Movement?**  
*Richard Kiniry, Leader Emeritus*  
Monica Weiss Presides

**August 21**  
**Can Democracy Survive a  
Second Tea Party?**  
*Dr. Howard Radest, EC Leader*  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

**August 28**  
**Ethics and the Theater**  
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

## Summer Happenings

Join us on **Tuesdays in July, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, as we initiate our new series on **Building a Culture of Peace**. On **July 5**, we'll hear Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury speak. Elliott Library, Room 507. (See page 6)

On **Friday, August 5, at 7:00 pm**, **Ethics in Film** will present *Moon*, a 2009 sci-fi thriller about an astronaut stationed on the moon who comes to believe the conglomerate for which he works is up to no good. Ceremonial Hall. (See page 7)

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



Just got back from the American Ethical Union Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. It's always a pleasure to see again the friends I've gotten to know at past Assemblies, and exciting to attend the workshops and celebrations of people who've made big contributions to the Ethical Culture movement.

Among those recognized this year were our own Pat and Chuck Debrovner, who were honored with the Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award for all the wonderful contributions they've made to the life of the New York Society for Ethical Culture and the EC movement in general. They weren't able to attend the Assembly and so responded to the award via a delightful video. Pat was charming and Chuck was very amusing explaining the tribulations he experienced trying to arrange a flight from Williamsburg, Virginia (where they were attending a family reunion), to Columbus, Ohio.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Leader's Desk

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen*



### Beware of the "Nice Guy"

Last month, we hosted a viewing of *In God We Teach*, a documentary by Vic Losick that featured Matthew LaClair, who received NYSEC's Ethical Humanist Award in 2007 for "courageously standing up to defend the principles of religious freedom and separation of church and state in the face of extreme opposition from his peers, teachers, and principal." The film tells the story of when he was a student at Kearny (NJ) Public High School and secretly recorded statements made in class by David Paszkiewicz, his history teacher. Here's an example of those

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**President's Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Elliott-Black Award, given to someone outside the EC movement who has made a significant contribution to society at personal risk and hardship, was presented to Frances Fox Pivin, who is tireless in her work against war and seeking ways to end poverty in the United States. Those who attended the Howard Zinn movie last month may remember her, as she was involved in much that Zinn did.

Workshops followed the Assembly theme, Choices That Matter. Those I attended included: Peace-Building Initiatives That Spell Success, at which we learned about ways to contribute to our communities and to promote a green economy to further economic justice; Society Focus: Creative Adult Programming, which encouraged having regular small group discussions and programs for solidifying membership; Promoting Economic Justice, which presented personal and collective actions we can take to work towards an economy more in line with our values; and Challenging Privilege, a consciousness-raising session on

understanding our own privileges and realigning our purchasing-and-discarding to better suit our world.

I also joined with a group of 15 others to do a volunteer stint at the Mid-Ohio Workers Association. We learned all about the association while having a pizza dinner, and then folded invitations to their fundraiser, and hand-addressed and stuffed envelopes. The founder, Cathi Steele, was delighted that we got the whole project done that night, something they hadn't expected.

I was very impressed with the work they do and the huge number of people they help. They are part of the National Labor Federation, an organization of small worker groups in various parts of the United States. They are like a union, except that they don't work to unionize workplaces, they focus instead on getting members by knocking on doors. They provide necessities for the working poor, and serve as a place to come to do volunteer work and to help each other. It is an amazing service that was started by one woman who found a calling.

Would that we could all be so inspired. Enjoy your summer!

## Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

statements: "He [Jesus] did everything in his power to make sure that you could go to heaven, so much so that he took your sins on his own body, suffered your pains for you, and he's saying, 'Please, accept me, believe.' If you reject that, you belong in hell." Mr. Paszkiewicz also held forth on creationism, treating it as science rather than religion, a distinction that the courts have clearly directed public schools to make.

We viewers follow the process of Matthew approaching the local school board for redress, receiving none, and then going public with his recordings, at which point the story exploded nationwide. His teacher defended himself in the local paper by claiming that he was exercising academic freedom and expressing his personal opinions in response to students' questions. While Matthew received support from legal and scientific luminaries like Alan Dershowitz and Neil deGrasse Tyson, David Paszkiewicz was embraced by his neighbors. As one minister pointed out to the LaClair family, "They like him, and they don't like you." It didn't matter that a public school teacher had crossed the line between personal belief and public expression by "preaching" his brand of Christianity in class. He was a nice guy.

Vic Losick does a commendable job of presenting his two subjects' cases even-handedly and provides a portrait of Kearny, an average, blue-collar town where people are not accustomed to discussing politics and religion in the public square. Even if they had heard of the concept of "separation of church and state," they didn't understand what it meant in terms of the public school classroom. For many, it came down to making a choice between religious

belief and civil law. In a town where 89 percent of the residents identify themselves as Christians, the choice was clear.

The first showing of *In God We Teach* was in a movie theater in Kearny with Vic, Matthew, and David Paszkiewicz present. By several accounts, the discussion was tense, with the audience overwhelmingly supporting their native son. As moderator in our meeting house, I was determined to keep a firm hand on the proceedings. Members of the audience interested in posing questions were instructed to write them on index cards that were distributed and collected by our members, and then given to me to read. Sensing that his former teacher might feel that Matthew had a home-court advantage, I reassured him that we appreciated his participation and would treat him respectfully.

My task was challenging: Matthew and Mr. Paszkiewicz rarely answered the questions directly. Like politicians in a debate, they each had points to make and were determined to make them. Realizing that this unrepentant classroom evangelist was someone Felix Adler would call an "intellectual enemy," I listened for the piece of truth that Ethical Culture's founder believed was held even by those whose beliefs we find abhorrent. In the end, I believe I succeeded in creating a safe space for everyone and maintaining a civil discourse. But I heard no true statements from Mr. Paszkiewicz.

My personal encounter with him following the panel discussion deeply disturbed me. I experienced him as arrogant and ignorant—a dangerous combination, employing a strat-

egy of playing victim and not taking responsibility for his actions. He defiantly stated that he has not changed his teaching methods, even though he was required to do so in an agreement made between the LaClair family and the local school board. His "relationship with God" allows him to promote his brand of Christianity in the classroom disguised as personal opinions. Rather than teaching critical thinking, he collects religious disciples.

Having heard Mr. Paszkiewicz's "honest conviction," as Ethical Culture strives to do, I decided to also take a stand and drafted a letter to the Kearny School Board. "It is not enough to allow students to opt out of this teacher's class," I wrote. "Those who can distinguish personal opinions from facts will always seek out teachers who respect true learning. It is your responsibility to protect students who have yet to practice critical thinking and can fall under the influence of someone who dishonors the profession of teaching by presenting fantasy as reality."

Nice guys can be charming, but they aren't always ethical. We can offer them a place at our table, but we must pay close attention to what they say and do. To stay at the table as welcome and honored guests, we must demand of ourselves and others honesty, integrity, and responsible behavior.

### Membership Retreat

There are two places with shared bath still available, with a sink in each room. To reserve, or to be on the waiting list, contact Moe-Swe Myint. If you have already registered and paid your deposit, please send in the balance by July 31.

## Sunday Platform Meetings—10:15 AM Ceremonial Hall

### July 3—The Ethics of Patriotism

*Dr. Anne Klaeyssen, Leader*

During the long years of the Bush administration, I wore a button that read “Dissent is patriotic” in response to the national climate of “my country, right or wrong.” I packed it away after Obama’s election, but recently took it out again and dusted it off. Patriotism is a complex idea and emotion. It implies love of homeland, as well as a responsibility to hold leaders—political and cultural—to high ideals. This participatory platform will explore the ethics of patriotism in these most difficult times.

### July 10—What Do We Stand For?

*Catherine Bordeau, Brooklyn Society*

In his opening address, Ethical Culture’s founder, Felix Adler, asked and answered the question, “What do we stand for?” It has been 115 years since Adler spoke on the topic and our youngest Leader candidate since Adler’s time will explore this theme. Celebrating our movement’s accomplishments, we’ll consider our movement’s contributions and future in light of Adler’s vision.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Catherine first came to New York to work with nonprofit organizations doing advocacy at the United Nations. After five years of challenging structures of injustice at the international level, she made a decision to focus her work closer to home. She received a B.A. in history and women’s studies from Cardinal Stritch University, and has a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary.

### July 17—Reverence

*Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader  
Baltimore Ethical Society*

For the world to heal, do we all need to think the same way? Paul Woodruff, author of *Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue*, does not believe so. He says, “If you desire peace in the world, do not pray that everyone share your beliefs. Pray instead that all may be reverent.” What is reverence, and how can it contribute to living a more ethical life? For many people, reverence plays an important role in their traditional religious faith. But it can serve non-theists and secularists as well. A common definition is “a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe.” Felix Adler applied reverence to how we should manage our relationships with others. Hugh explores reverence as it arises in Ethical Culture and in a broader humanist context, as well as how it can enrich ethical living.

After a 25-year teaching career, Hugh Taft-Morales transitioned into Ethical Culture leadership. In addition to serving as Leader of the Baltimore Society, he is a consulting Leader with the Ethical Society Without Walls. This summer he will also begin serving as Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. He has a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Kent, at Canterbury and graduated from the Humanist Institute in 2009.

### July 24—Science in the Courtroom: An Examination of the Role Reason Plays (or Doesn’t Play) in Modern Law

*Derek C. Araujo*

Does our legal system suffer from a lack of scientific and mathematical literacy? How would our legal system differ if more judges, lawyers, and jurors possessed a working knowledge of basic mathematical and scientific

concepts? Scientifically trained attorney Derek C. Araujo explores these and other topics at the intersection of science and law through examining actual legal arguments and court opinions in which reason failed.

Derek is the former Vice President and General Counsel of the Center for Inquiry, director of CFI’s legal programs, and its representative to the United Nations. He graduated from Harvard College with an A.B. in physics, and earned a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, where he served as a senior editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. He recently left the Center to pursue a Ph.D. in physics at Columbia University.

### July 31—Kissing Cousins: Peace, Climate Change, and Ethical Culture

*Martha Gallahue, Interim Leader  
Essex Society, Maplewood, NJ*

Martha Gallahue will demonstrate the shared ethical underpinnings and evolving strategic policy developments within the contemporary peace movement, climate change frameworks of action, and Ethical Culture. In addition, she will describe how we might engage in all three of these with both ecological consciousness and “one step at a time” sensibilities.

Martha is a certified Leader of the AEU serving with the National Ethical Service as Main Representative. (For more information about the NES, see the June issue of *Ethical Outlook*, page 2.) In this role, she facilitates a Working Group on Climate Change at the UN. This NGO working group pursues a robust commitment from all governments to reduce the impacts of climate change as well as a moral/ethical perspective on the interrelatedness of climate change and peace. She initiated several AEU resolutions on behalf of the International Crimi-

nal Court, Dept. of Peace, within the Pentagon, and secured AEU endorsements for the Student World Assembly and the United Religions Initiative. She has written two articles published on the AEU website about passion and lay leadership as tools for growth in the movement. She has presented many workshops during National AEU Assemblies, written articles for AEU's *Dialogue*, and spoken at 15 Societies and Circles across the country. Martha is certified as a psychoanalyst by the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis.

**August 7—Why Did They Do That? Practical Ethics in a Time of Business Amoralty**

*Richard Koral, AEU Leader-in-Training*

The study of ethics has always been in the domain of philosophy. But today, research in psychology and cognitive studies has revealed a great deal about how people make choices, including choices they must otherwise “know” are wrongful. Are there better ways to encourage ethical behavior than to simply promulgate a code of conduct?

Richard is a Leader-in-Training with the American Ethical Union, and a long-time member and past President of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester. He attends the Humanist Institute and is a candidate for Doctor of Ministry at Hebrew Union College. He practiced law for many years in the field of commercial and insolvency law.

**August 14—Where’s the Movement In this Ethical Movement?**

*Richard Kiniry, Leader Emeritus, Philadelphia Society*

Ethical Culture members in their Societies do many good and worthy things. But do we constitute the “movement” that founder Felix Adler imagined? What is the message we have to offer

the world, and how do we communicate it so as to move people to great ethical action? Richard Kiniry has contemplated these questions and will share his thoughts about what we need to do to live up to our name as an Ethical Movement.

**August 21—Can Democracy Survive A Second Tea Party?**

*Dr. Howard Radest, Ethical Culture Leader*

The contemporary cultural phenomenon that calls itself the “Tea Party” has split the nation and degraded political discourse to mindless bullying. Democracy requires civility, opposing parties respectfully listening to one another and genuinely seeking understanding. Dr. Howard Radest will look at the many changes we have seen in public dialogue over the last few years and examine the roots of the Tea Party and discuss its likely consequences.

**August 28—Ethics and the Theater**

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*  
Today’s platform will consist of an **Ethics and the Theater** reading of *Interview: A Fugue for Eight Actors*, by Jean-Claude van Itallie, directed by Richard Van Deusen. *Interview* is a deeply profound and moving portrayal of eight characters struggling to achieve authentic relationships with other human beings amid the dehumanization of modern life. At turns absurd, hilarious, and unsettling, the play explores the dark side of technology, challenging the notion that progress is inherently good or desirable. After the play reading we’ll have an opportunity to participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play.

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

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.**

In July and August the discussion topics are: **Miscellaneous.** During the year, many topics come up that don’t fit neatly into a category, so summer provides us with an opportunity to explore them somewhat randomly.

**July 7—“Abused and Used”**—a series of articles in *The NY Times* examining treatment of the developmentally disabled in New York State and how money is spent on their care.

**July 14—President Obama’s Mideast Speech (5/19/11)** and responses.

**July 21—“The Internet: For Better or Worse”** by Steve Coll, *The NY Review of Books*, 4/7/11, and **“Anonymity and the Dark Side of the Internet”** by Stanley Fish, *The NY Times*, 1/3/11.

**July 28—“The Legacy of Malcolm X”** by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Atlantic*, May 2011, and **“Rescuing Malcolm X From His Calculated Myths”** by Peniel E. Joseph, *The Chronicle Review*, 5/1/11.

**Aug 4—Global Climate Change and the Food Supply: “A Warming Planet Struggles to Feed Itself”** and **“Reverend Malthus and the Future of Food”** by Justin Gillies, *The NY Times*, 6/4/11 and 6/6/11.

**Aug 11—“The Failure of American Schools”** by Joel Klein, *The Atlantic*, June 2011.

**Aug 18—“Danger: Falling Tyrants”** by Jeffrey Goldberg, *The Atlantic*, June 2011, and **“Shy U.S. Intellectual Created Playbook Used in a Revolution”** by Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *The NY Times*, 2/16/11.

**Aug 25—“Can the Brain Explain Your Mind?”** by Colin McGinn and **“The Science of Right and Wrong”** by H. Allen Orr, *The NY Review of Books*, 3/24/11 and 5/12/11.

Folders with relevant addresses will be available from Yalitzia Garcia in the Leaders' office. Please come and join the discussion.

## Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Summer is here at last! Please remember to get up earlier because our summer Platform Meetings start at 10:15 am from the Independence Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend. There will be coffee and bagels in Ceremonial Hall afterwards, but no lunch in Social Hall. We have a lot of ongoing programs and a couple of new ones, so don't forget to check them out. Ken Gans' **Socrates Café** is continuing on the first and third Tuesdays during July and August as usual, as are Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens's **Lunch Discussions** on Thursdays at noon. Two new series are starting this summer. **Living Faiths**, on Wednesdays, July 6, 13, and 20, at 7:00 pm, with special guest speakers, will explore how people live their faiths. **Building a Culture of Peace**, on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, will explore Peace Education, Peace Research, Peace Practice, and Peace Policy with Dr. Anne Klaeyens and other guests. **Empowering Ethical Elders** continues on the first and third Thursdays of each month and, of course, **Ethics and Film** will be offered on the first Friday of the month. So come one, come all, and don't forget to bring your friends!

\* \* \*

Many of us turned out for the June 8 **Volunteer Appreciation Awards Dinner** that was held for NYSEC members and others in the community who help in our Women's Shelter. Kudos go to our indefatigable Maria Fridman for organizing the Shelter and the volunteers every year since its inception and, of course, to all the volunteers

who've spend nights helping those who need help the most. We need you and cannot do without you. If you know anyone who'd be a good candidate for volunteering for the Shelter, please let us know by calling Dr. Maria Fridman at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

\* \* \*

### Member News:

The following NYSEC members will be celebrating birthdays in the months ahead:

**July Birthdays:** Mark Hofmaier, 7/4; Amy Schwarz, 7/5; Charles Debrovner, 7/12; Debra Curtis-Green, 7/12; Hasoni Pratts, 7/21; Sheila Kleinwald, 7/21; Judith Graeff, 7/22; William Kulok, 7/24; Janice Buzby, 7/25; Joan Blumberg, 7/26; Robert Hofman, 7/26; Kathleen O'Connell, 7/26; Monica Weiss, 7/26; Leonard Farbman, 7/28.

**August Birthdays:** David Lee, 8/6; Nicola DeMarco, 8/7; Henry James Bunch, 8/9; John Lovelady, 8/11; John Kreuttner, 8/12; Sara Seiden, 8/12; Phyllis Harrison-Ross, 8/14; Janet Jeppson Asimov, 8/16; Barry Gurland, 8/17; Carolyn Sapir, 8/18; Carol Nadell Van Deusen, 8/19; Lily Friedman, 8/20; Sheila Kaplan, 8/20; Leah Lieberman, 8/22; Alan Gardner, 8/26; Sabine Rosenberg, 8/27; David Leiman, 8/27; Jane Ungar, 8/29; Sondra Stein, 8/29.

\* \* \*

### In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Life Member **Richard Lawnhurst** on March 9. Mr. Lawnhurst would have been 100 years old in April. He joined the Society in 1940 and was devoted to NYSEC and its ideals. He and his wife of 67 years, Leila, were married here by Algernon Black in 1943. He is survived by Leila and their four children.

\* \* \*

**Rose L. Walker**, a Friend of the Society, died on June 17 at age 101.



She was a force of nature: diminutive in physical stature (*"I could wrap my arms all the way around her and hold her close"* —Anne Klaeyens) but possessing an energy that seemed limitless. She made her mark at the Brooklyn Society as its Children's Sunday Assembly Director, at the United Nations as Director of the National Ethical Service, and at the NY Society as matriarch, resplendent in her trademark hats. Rose didn't just smile; she beamed. Her love for Ethical Culture, which she often called "a mature religion that needed yet to realize itself fully," was a flame she kept burning all her life, and she generously shared its light and heat with everyone she met.

Rose was the oldest living NGO representative at the UN. She received the national Eleanor Schnurr Award for service from the UN Foundation in the 90's, and last year she received the Felix Adler Award for longtime service to the American Ethical Union. As EC Leader Martha Gallahue writes, "Her motto was family comes first, though I suspect the whole world was her family."

## Two New Summer Series Building a Culture of Peace

On **Tuesdays in July, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens and guest speakers for a series of talks on **Building a Culture of Peace**. Registration is required, and readings will be

provided to participants. Call Yalitz Garcia in the Leaders' office at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, for details.

Our speakers will include Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, who will kick off this new series on **July 5**. In 1999 he spearheaded a pioneering initiative of the United



Ambassador  
Anwarul K.  
Chowdhury

Nations General Assembly for adoption of the landmark Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. He served from 2002 to 2007 as the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, responsible for the world's most vulnerable countries. He now teaches courses on "The Culture of Peace" at the Soka University of America, Los Angeles, and the City University of New York.

An annual International Day of Peace was established by a UN resolution in 1981 and designated for celebration on September 21 the following year. "Peace Day is Every Day" is the motto of myriad organizations throughout the world dedicated to "peacebuilding." This is different from "peacemaking" and "peacekeeping" in that it focuses on creating a long-term culture of peace, rather than solving existing conflicts or preventing old ones from reoccurring. Peacebuilding activities aim at building understanding and tolerance among individuals, communities, and societies and establishing new structures of cooperation. Using materials from the National Peace Academy, we will explore four interdependent, synthesizing, and catalytic cornerstones of peace learning and action: Peace Education, Peace Research, Peace Practice, and Peace Policy.

## Living Faiths

Join us for this new series that asks: "**How do I live my faith?**" in which our guest speakers will share their experiences of living their faiths. At each session (**Wednesdays, 7:00 pm** in the Adler Study, Room 514), we'll have an opportunity to ask questions. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

**July 6—Dr. Azza Karam**, Culture Advisor, UN Population Fund—Islam.

**July 13—Gadadhara Pandit Dasa**, Columbia University Hindu Chaplain.

**July 20—Rev. William Heisley**, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church—Christianity.

## Ethical Enrichment

### Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, to see *Planet of the Apes* (1968), directed by Franklin J. Schaffner. Charlton Heston stars in one of the sixties' most beloved camp classics. Bewildered astronaut George Taylor (Heston) crash-lands on a strange planet ruled by intelligent apes that use primitive humans for experimentation and sport. Taylor quickly finds himself among the hunted as he struggles to escape the apes' great power—and uncover their darkest secret.

I'll be leading the always emgrossing post-film discussion. The suggested donation is \$5.

On **Friday, August 5, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, come to see *Moon* (2009), directed by Duncan Jones. As he nears the end of a lonely three-year stint on the moon base, Sarang, astronaut Sam Bell (Sam Rockwell)

begins to hear and see strange things. It's not long before Sam suspects that his employer—the conglomerate LUNAR—has other plans for him. Featuring Kevin Spacey as the voice of a robot, this sci-fi thriller also stars Matt Berry and Kaya Scodelario. The film was an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival. Once again I'll be leading the post-film discussion. The suggested donation is \$5.

## Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

On **Monday, July 11, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will host a discussion of *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love*, by Dava Sobel.

Galileo's daughter, the oldest of his three illegitimate children, gives readers a new perspective on his life and work. Sobel's translation into English of Clarisse nun Sister Maria Celeste's 124 surviving letters to her father accompanies the story of Galileo himself and his trial before the Inquisition for arguing that the Earth moves around the Sun. (Galileo's letters to her are lost, presumably destroyed by her convent.) She voices the aspect of faith and piety often missing from the traditional retelling of her father's story, showing that the great scientist acted not out of self-interest but a genuine desire to align himself with his church.

Join us for a lively discussion of the ethical issues raised and the social and psychological forces at work in Galileo's trial, as well as the political pressures of the Thirty Years' War and the passage of the plague through Italy, which cut off travel between Florence and Rome, delaying the

Vatican's proceedings. There is no charge for members; for nonmembers the cost is \$10.

## Ethics and the Theater

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*

On **Wednesday, July 20, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall, **Ethics and the Theater** will present Gregory Sullivan's play, *Bo*. Bootleg booze, betting, and turning tricks may not be the ideal recipe for raising a family, but they've enabled Bo, the tart-tongued black woman at the center of this play to keep herself and her four children going through the Depression and both overt and tacit discrimination. As her story unfolds in a series of monologues that skip back and forth in time from her childhood in Birmingham to old age in Harlem, Bo may not always be admirable, but she is always funny. And she gives new meaning to the word "indomitable."

Willie Anne Gissendammer portrays the title character, under the direction of the playwright, with stage directions read by Barbara Fennell. Come at **6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Dr. Terry Perlin. The suggested donation is \$5.

## Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, July 25, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Adler Study, Room 514, as we screen *Soldiers of Conscience*, a documentary film that profiles eight American soldiers stationed in Iraq, four who decide not to kill and

become conscientious objectors, and four who believe in their duty to kill if necessary. All of them grapple with the morality of killing in war, not as a philosophical problem, but as soldiers experience it. Admission is free.

## Writing Workshop

*Elaine Berman*

The five-week summer semester of "**The Joy of Personal Writing**" offers a great opportunity to get started writing, or to return to it after a time away. In these classes, new and experienced writers work together in

a supportive atmosphere that helps everyone stay focused on writing.

This summer's workshop will meet on **Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** beginning on **August 4** and ending on **September 1**. The course fees are \$100 for members and \$140 for nonmembers.

For more information, you can phone Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders' office at 212 874-5210, ext. 118.

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

## Ethical Adventures

*Patricia Berens*

A new **Ethical Adventures Committee** has been formed. Members are: Bonnie Bean, Barbara Levenson, Carol Rost, and Pat Berens. We'll be organizing social/cultural activities that we can all do together to learn new things and enjoy each other's company. If you have any suggestions for future activities, please let us know.

Our first adventure (see photos below) was a visit to the Groundwork USA Science Barge in Yonkers, on Saturday, June 11. Next, we'll celebrate Independence Day with a **picnic in Central Park, on Sunday, July 3**, after the Platform Meeting. On **Saturday, August 27, 12:00 noon–4:00 pm**, we're invited to Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen's home in Park Slope, Brooklyn. So that Anne will know how much food to provide, please let Barbara Levenson know if you plan to be there (212-799-2920 or [bar.lev@verizon.net](mailto:bar.lev@verizon.net)). We hope you can make it and join in the community fun.

In the fall we're planning a trip to the Dia Museum in Beacon, NY, and a walk on the High Line in Manhattan. When the weather gets cool, our indoor



(L-R) Members Barbara Litke, Chris Everett, and Leader Curt Collier

*Photos by Beth Zucker*



(L-R) Members Barbara Levenson, Barbara Litke, Chris Everett, Leader Curt Collier, and Bonnie Bean

possibilities include bowling, folk dancing, and perhaps a visit to a local museum. Look for the flyers you'll find in the Sunday program for details of our upcoming adventures.

## Ethics for Free Thinkers

Join us on **Saturday, August 20, 7:00-9:00 pm**, in the Auditorium, for "**Good Without God: Ethics for Free Thinkers**," a panel discussion cosponsored by the NY Society and the Coalition of Reasonable New York. Our panelists will include Anne Klaeyens, NYSEC Leader; Michael DeDora, Executive Director, Center for Free Inquiry NYC; Massimo Pigliucci, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Lehman College, CUNY; and Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director, American Humanist Association. The moderator will be John Rafferty, President, Secular Humanist Society of New York.

A wine and cheese reception will follow, from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm, in the Social Hall. The suggested donation is \$10.

## Shelter Volunteer Awards Dinner

*Barbara Litke*

Wednesday, June 8, saw many happy, albeit warm, volunteers join together to celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the **Women's Shelter** sponsored by NYSEC's Social Service Board.

The evening was hosted by the untiring Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman and cohosted by the SSB. Maria's steadfast commitment to the nightly operations of the Shelter and to the semi-annual artists' program, which

the Society and SSB also cosponsor, has been ongoing for many years.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens spoke briefly about what the Society and the SSB have accomplished working with the Olivieri Center for Homeless Men and Women and the Partnership for the Homeless. She introduced Maria, who thanked the Center for their cooperation with the Shelter's objective. NYSEC President Andra Miller spoke about the extra benefit from volunteering to sleep over a night at the Shelter, and she repeated "sleep" – for what could be more fulfilling than to stay the night and sleep as you volunteer? (A loud guffaw was heard from the volunteers in the room.)

She addressed members of the Society who had not yet volunteered, emphasizing the ease of giving one night a month and encouraged them to do that. Andra thanked Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chairperson, for her support. (Unfortunately, Dr. Harrison-Ross was unable to attend, due to other commitments.)

Maria introduced the guest speaker, Arnold S. Cohen, President and CEO of the Partnership for the Homeless. After acknowledging the pleasure of being at the awards dinner, he added a bittersweet note to the evening's good spirits. With numbers based on fact that were a somber reminder of the gravity of the homeless situation, he noted that more homeless families were entering the shelter system every day, so many, in fact, that their school-aged children could fill three school buildings, from elementary to middle school through high school, and the cost we are paying by depriving stability to their families.

Before evening's end, Maria gave special thanks to the Shelter volunteers who attended. Pride was evident

as each accepted a personalized certificate of appreciation.

The following volunteers attended:

**Volunteer Shelter Members:** Patrick Arenas, Chris Bernhardt, Vincent Brancato, Paula Claycomb, Pat Cohen, Chester Lane, Andra Miller, "L" Miller, Tod Whitaker, and Lisa Woodul.

**Emeritus Society Volunteers:** Margaretha Jones, Frank Prescod's daughter Robin, Virginia Scherer, and Moira Whittington.

**Volunteer Shelter Friends:** Craves Bryan and guest, Elizabeth Ducat, Ed Fitzgerald and his spouse, Diana Glantecnik, Laurette Harper, Jim Heaney, Lydia Raw, and Jane Tuttle.

**Society Members – Friends of the Shelter:** Carole and Jerry Chamlin, Barbara Levenson, Helen Mecs, Carol Nadell Van Deusen, and Richard Van Deusen.

**Maria's guests:** Robert Podimore and Carrie Winkler.

The following did not attend:

**Society Member Volunteer:** John Hwang

**Volunteer Friends:** Judi Caron and Elder Maxwell.

"We have received a letter from the Urban Pathways Drop-In Center at the Olivieri Center expressing how important our Shelter is to them:

*"The ladies of the Olivieri Drop-In Center daily express how much they appreciate NYSEC and USS for being open five days per week year-round, so that they have a place that feels safe and secure and where they no longer have to sleep in chairs. They are looking forward to finding a place of their own.... So, we want to thank you for your time, effort, and patience."*

*Valencia Shelton, Respite Coordinator; Nadia Sadloski, Director of Social Services. Guests Linda, Melody, Elizabeth, Juliette, and Inez.*

## At the Shelter Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Photos by Dr. Maria Fridman



(Front row L-R) Member and Friend of the Shelter Carol Nadell Van Deusen, and Stephanie Podmore (Maria Fridman's daughter) (Back row L-R) Members and Friends of the Shelter Carole Chamlin and Maria Fridman with Carrie Winkler (Maria's granddaughter)



Andra Miller, Society President, and Arnold S. Cohen, President and CEO of Partnership for the Homeless



(L-R) Members Pat Cohen, "L" Miller (Trustee) and Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate



Guests of the NYSEC Shelter



Member Frank Prescod and his daughter, Robin



(L-R) Members Paula Claycomb and Barbara Levenson

## Summer Calendar

### July Calendar

Office hours for the month are:

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

### Morning Platforms

Sundays, 10:15 am–Ceremonial Hall

### Ethics in Film

Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm (doors open 6:30 pm)–Ceremonial Hall

*Planet of the Apes* (1968)

### Picnic in Central Park

Sunday, July 3, after Sunday Platform

### Society Offices Closed

Monday, July 4–observance of Independence Day

### Building a Culture of Peace

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

### Socrates Café

Tuesdays, July 5 and 19

6:00 pm–Room 508

### Living Faiths

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, and 20

7:00 pm–Adler Study, Room 514

### Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

### Empowering Ethical Elders

Thursday, July 7, 6:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

### Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Monday, July 11, 1:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

*Galileo's Daughter* by Dave Sobel

### Board of Trustees

Monday, July 11, 6:30 pm

Adler Study, Room 514

### Ethics and the Theater

Wednesday, July 20, 7:00 pm

Ceremonial Hall

*Bo*, directed by Gregory Sullivan

### Empowering Ethical Elders

Thursday, July 21, 6:00 pm

Adler Study, Room 514

### Advocacy Forum

Thursday, July 21, 6:00 pm

Auditorium

### Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

Monday, July 25, 1:00 pm

Adler Study, Room 514

*Soldiers of Conscience*

### August Calendar

Office hours for the month are:

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

### September Newsletter Deadline

Monday, August 1

### Morning Platforms

Sundays, 10:15 am–Ceremonial Hall

### Socrates Café

Tuesdays, August 2 and 16, 6:00 pm  
Room 508

### Ethics in Film

Friday, August 5, 7:00 pm (doors open 6:30 pm)–Ceremonial Hall  
*Moon* (2009)

### Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

### Thursday Writing Workshop

Thursdays, 6:30 pm–Room 508

### Empowering Ethical Elders

Thursdays, August 4 and 18, 6:00 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

### Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)

Wednesday, August 17, 10:00 pm

### Ethics for Free Thinkers

Saturday, August 20

7:00 pm–9:00 pm–Auditorium

Wine and cheese reception

9:00 pm–10:00pm–Social Hall

### Brunch at Anne Klaeyesen's Home

Saturday, August 27

12:00 noon–4:00 pm

*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.*

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR  
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**CULTURE** 

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