

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

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL.212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

Sunday Morning Meetings **11:15 AM—Music & Reflection** **in the Auditorium**

June 5

A Living Faith

Fritz Williams

Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society

Dr. Khoren Arisian Presides

June 12

It's Not Easy Being Green

New Member Recognition Sunday

Kate Lovelady

Leader Intern

Dr. Khoren Arisian Presides

June 19

Life & Death

James Coley

President, North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture

Andra Miller Presides

June 26

Final Cut: To Dwell in Possibility— What's Retirement Got to Do with That?

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

Bonnie Bean Presides

New Board of Trustees

Congratulations to our new Board of Trustees. If you wish to contact trustees, you will find them listed in your Members Directory.

Bean, Bonnie
Bogdanffy-Krieger, Michael
Chamlin, Carole
Farer, James
Harrison-Ross, Phyllis
Jones, Margaretha
Kreuttner, John
Levenson, Barbara
Miller, Andra
Nadell, Carol
Nargolwala, Christina
Ribbens, Jirina
Schultz, Steven
Swann, Christine
Wallach, Sylvan

Sunday Morning Meetings

June 5—A Living Faith

Fritz Williams, Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society

Fritz Williams will attempt to liberate faith from its escapist bondage to supernatural beliefs, and he proposes a new and more dynamic definition of faith. It is a definition that grounds faith in our real-life experiences and responses and weaves these humble raw materials into a transformative commitment to making something of our lives. Real faith, he says, is both rational and visionary.

Fritz Williams is Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society. He brings an unusual combination of ministerial and broadcast communications experience to this work. Fritz is a graduate of the Philadelphia Lutheran Theological Seminary, and he has a master's degree in biblical studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. He served several Episcopal churches in the Philadelphia area as a parish priest.

After leaving the Episcopal ministry, Fritz wrote and produced television programs and videos at public television stations in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Detroit, Michigan. His most notable productions include *Peacework*, a print and video campaign against family violence, *Parenting Puzzle*, a series of educational videos for parents, and *The Pennsylvania Germans*, a documentary on one of America's most important ethnic groups.

June 12—It's Not Easy Being Green; New Member Recognition Sunday

Kate Lovelady, Leader Intern

"Being Green" is a song from my childhood, sung by Kermit the Frog from *Sesame Street*. In the song, Kermit bemoans being the same color as the leaves and grass; he longs to stand out "like flashy sparkles in the water, or stars in the sky." Yet, by the end of the song, he has decided that the humble and ubiquitous color green also has nobility, and even grandeur. When I was younger, I thought the moral of the song was that those of us who are ordinary should be content with our ordinariness, if only for our own peace of mind. Now, however, I realize that the protagonist of the song could just as easily have been one of those flashy stars—who, no doubt, would think that the "grass is greener" down here on Earth, with the lovely trees, leaves, and even frogs.

One of the first steps in ethical development is becoming comfortable with ourselves, so that we don't feel threatened by those who are different. The next step beyond "tolerance" for difference, however, is true gratefulness for the rich diversity of humanity—whether in gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, color, belief, abilities, or the thousand other ways in which we are different from one another. If we are to grow as ethical beings, we require the differences of others to challenge and stretch our understanding of life and to help us find, or develop, common ground from which to launch positive action.

As we celebrate New Member Recognition Sunday, we will welcome some of the dozens of new members who have joined the Society in the past year. Many folks join Ethical Culture seeking the fellowship of like-minded individuals, comfort in a society where the humanistically inclined often feel isolated or unrecognized. This they find in abundance here.

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Staff Directory

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The Membership Committee invites your attendance at a program in support of the **Fall Weekend Retreat**

Jon Liechty presenting

A Reading Program
 Analysis and Performance of
 Music by Ludwig van Beethoven
Sunday, June 12 at 1:45 PM
 Ceremonial Hall
 Admission: Members \$10
 Non-Members \$15

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

But we can only be a vital Ethical Society if we also recognize and celebrate the many ways in which we are not alike, including the ways in which we disagree. Ethical communities are places to learn and practice how to share and appreciate differences. So, as we welcome our new members into our community, let us reflect on the uniqueness of each of us, and the challenges and opportunities that creating a community out of unique “non-joiners” brings.

June 19 – Life & Death

James Coley, President, North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture

Sometimes, moral perplexity and confusion about issues such as abortion, euthanasia and stem-cell research result from a lack of clarity in our concepts of “life” and “death.” In this morning’s talk, philosopher James Coley will present a practical humanistic philosophical framework that gives these terms clear meaning, and he will address the age-old question of the meaning of life. James will take questions after the morning meeting. He will also present an afternoon workshop on how to make ethical choices, “Prima Facie Duties and the Practical Ethical Theory of W. D. Ross.”

James Coley, president of the North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture, has a master’s degree in philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has taught medical ethics for many years.

June 26 – Final Cut: To Dwell in Possibility – What’s Retirement Got to Do with That?

Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader

In a world where Popes die in harness and Supreme Court justices don’t retire until a very advanced age, and a metropolis (NYC) where the classic work ethic is alive and well as nowhere else, I have of late found myself interrogated re my prospective second retirement, the question being, “But what will you *do now*?” The answer: renovate and refurbish our next home in Lambertville, New Jersey, built in 1873; then settle in and get our bearings in that somewhat quirky, delightful, and largely liberal old community; winnow down two huge home and office libraries, since our available living space will be half of what we presently enjoy in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Once the above is dealt with, Leigh and I will take a short vacation to rest up from the considerable exertions that such resettlement requires. Plotting our future will take a bit longer! Retirement is a far cry from what it used to be in our country, its changed prospects affecting whatever projects and activities (let alone part-time work) Americans choose to undertake.

Meanwhile, the conjoined religious and political right in our country continues systematically to infiltrate every aspect of American life. PBS is now chaired by a Republican, Kenneth Tomlinson, whose notion of “balance” in programming for “a broad constituency” of viewers is but typical right-wing wordplay for ideologically upending the legacy of Bill Moyers, a national moral treasure whose partisanship in the quest for truth rather than political spin and cultural domination is anathema to the majority conservatives in power almost everywhere. Even a policy analyst from the Cato Institute, Radly Balko, concludes: “This country’s laws are being rewritten by puritans, prigs, and busybodies” (*Forbes*, 5/9/05). Next on the list of

takeovers are the nation's universities and completion of the right's stranglehold on the media.

I'd say there's still a lot to occupy us all for a long time! May our ethical humanism serve us in good stead in the struggles ahead.

Sundays 1:45 PM

- June 5 The Bible's *Rapture*,
Fritz Williams
- June 12 Music Appreciation,
Jon Liechty
- June 19 Workshop on W. D. Ross's
Practical Ethics, James Coley
- June 26 Movie: *Stolen Childhoods*

Riverside Park Walk & Talk

Valerie Leiman

The Membership Services Committee invites you to a Riverside Park Walk & Talk on Sunday, June 26. Save the date to join Society Members and "Explainers" for our third annual stroll in Riverside Park. Meet us at the Eleanor Roosevelt monument, 72nd Street and Riverside Drive, at 2:00 pm.

Riverside Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, is an urban park design gem winding along flat surfaces, always in sight of the majestic Hudson River. As we walk along we'll talk about a variety of landmarks, including the equestrian statue of Joan of Arc on a tiny park island; Villa Julia mansion, now a Yeshiva; the Soldiers and Sailors Civil War monument; ASPCA's memorial to New York's firehorses; the playful, colorful mosaic benches honoring the famous Barcelona architect, Antonio Gaudi; Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Park and other unexpected delights.

Everyone is welcome—bring your friends! Rain will cancel this free event.

Letter to the Editor:

To the Newly Elected Board of Trustees:

Sunday, it has always seemed to me—or Friday (whatever the Sabbath) has been a day when we put aside worldly matters, a day of spiritual (emotional) revival.

I have stayed away from most of the Sunday meetings (except for the ones dealing with Ralph Waldo Emerson or "Plato's Cave") because I was not interested in the ever repeated theme of politics, politics, George W. Bush, George W. Bush, etc., etc. I would hope that the new Board of Trustees would consider that many have been turned away from Ethical Culture for this very reason.

A humanistic approach to politics seems to be a very noble endeavor, but although I have never been a Christian, I do subscribe to Christ's "man cannot live by bread alone." I so strongly believe if this Society is to grow and attract new members, it should strongly consider the need for BEAUTY. We cannot live without it—the need, as Khoren so beautifully said it last Sunday, for "sacred illumination." We need depth of thought, how do we live in relations to friends, lovers, strangers, in relation even to ourselves?

I am grateful to have found a place where no "God" is worshipped. The problem it seems to me is how do we revere mankind?...put our trust in him or her? How do we fill our souls?

We are all, even though I deplore the word "spiritual" on a spiritual quest. In my religion, beauty and love are the only recourses to such fulfillment.

I am in hopes that the new Board of Trustees will strongly consider a wider commitment to truly "humanistic" values.

Sincerely yours,
Harriet Bigus (Koppel)
May 3, 2005

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

New Members

H. Penelope Ghartey has attended our Comedy Club, Friday get-togethers, and orientation. She lived and worked in Africa for many years and is a writer enrolled in Elaine Berman's writing course. Penelope has taught at BMCC and is fluent in Spanish and French.

Daniel McCrimons is a surgeon and classical pianist who graduated from Harvard. He learned of the Society from his friend, new member Dr. Sondra Wilson, and is drawn to our goals of bringing people together for community and social justice, regardless of religious origin, race, sex, or ethnic background. He is also a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

April Hike

Henryka Komanska

On Saturday, April 16, 22 intrepid hikers (18 adults, 2 kids) plus two dogs enjoyed the great weather and gorgeous views of the Hudson River from Mt. Taurus in Cold Spring, New York.



The vigorous hike provided enough physical challenge to start the season on the right note. After four and a half hours on the trail, the stop at an outdoor cafe was a welcome conclusion to a great day. The event was publicized on the Society website and in fliers.

June 2005

(Office hours for the month: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p align="center">Great Books June 1 – Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) June 8 – E. Annie Proulx, <i>Accordion Crimes</i> Great Books: "Happiness and Discontent" June 15 – TBA</p>			1 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:30 pm – Great Books 7:30 pm – Shelter	2 July 2005 newsletter deadline 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	3 6:00 pm – Ethical Family Friday	4 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
5 10:15 am – Everyday Ethics 11:15 am – Morning Meet- ing 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – The Bible's <i>Rap- ture</i> , Fritz Williams	6 6:30 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	7 7:00 pm – Meditation Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	8 3:00 pm – ECRDG 7:30 pm – Shelter	9 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	10	11 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
12 10:30 am – Colloquy 11:15 am – Morning Meeting New Member Recognition 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Music Appreciation, Jon Liechty	13 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	14 6:00 pm – Women's Group 7:00 pm – Meditation Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	15 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – Great Books: "Happiness & Discontent"	16 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:30 pm – Shelter	17	18 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
19 10:15 am – Poetry Reading 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Workshop on W.D. Ross's Practical Ethics, James Coley	20 6:30 pm – Writing Workshop 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 7:30 pm – Shelter	21 7:00 pm – Meditation Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	22 7:30 pm – Shelter	23 7:30 pm – Shelter	24	25 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
26 10:30 am – Yoga Meditation 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Movie: <i>Stolen Childhoods</i> 2:00 pm – Riverside Park Walk & Talk	27 7:30 pm – Shelter	28 7:00 pm – Meditation Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	29 7:30 pm – Shelter	30 7:30 pm – Shelter		

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
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