

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

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## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

### June 5 – Ceremonial Hall Creating an Ethical Economic System: What We've Learned

*Curt Collier, Leader*

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

### June 12 – Ceremonial Hall

*Danny Dromm*

Monica Weiss Presides

### June 19 – Ceremonial Hall

#### A Tribute to Fathers

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

Bonnie Bean Presides

### June 26 – Ceremonial Hall

#### Tribalism, Universalism, and the Destiny of Humankind

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

Muriel Berger Presides

**AEU 96<sup>th</sup> Assembly  
in Columbus, Ohio  
Friday, June 16 to  
Sunday, June 19**

## June Happenings

Participate with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and members of other organizations at the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing's **walk and overnight vigil** for housing justice on **Wednesday, June 1**. We'll walk from Grace Church to City Hall (**8:00 pm to 9:00 pm**) and spend the night in City Hall Park. (*See page 9*)

Join us on **Sunday, June 26, 2:00 pm, United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**, when NYSEC will host the presentation of two short documentaries, *Repairing the Brokenness* and *Preventing Torture Everywhere*, followed by a panel discussion on the need for accountability and ways to create a torture-free future (panelists to be announced). Social Hall. (*See page 5*)

Come on **Wednesday, June 29, 7:00 pm**, when **Ethics and the Theater** presents Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, and join our lively post-presentation conversation. This 1950s tragedy of illicit attraction and revenge among a family of struggling dock workers unfolds against a background of economic desperation driving illegal immigration. There will be a wine and cheese reception at **6:30 pm**, Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 7*)

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



I want to welcome the new members of the Board, **Nicola DeMarco, Law'nence (L) Miller** and **Dr. Terry Perlin**; and thank all of you good "Society citizens" who attended our annual meeting last month. The Board's next meeting is a special session to think about the future and set some goals for NYSEC, so if you get any inspiring ideas for our future, be sure to let one of the Trustees know your thoughts so they can be considered. The rest of the Board members are Bob Berger, Janice Buzby,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Leader's Desk

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen*



### Expressions of Faith

If you are reading this column, then either you have been left behind while others judged more worthy have been "raptured" into heaven, and you are awaiting the annihilation of the universe on October 21, or there are some very disappointed post-Millerites trying to understand why they are still here with us. Let me explain: According to evangelist Harold Camping, the 89-year-old founder

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**President's Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Meg Chapman, Heather Grady, Chris Everett, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Henryka Komanska, Tom Weishaar, and me. Also, regularly at our Board meetings are our Leaders, the Executive Director, and ex-officio President Chuck Debrovner. The brainstorming/planning meeting will be Monday, June 13, so get your ideas to one of us asap!

This month is the American Ethical Union Assembly (June 16-19)—please let me know if you plan to attend. One of the special events there will be the National Ethical Service Luncheon. Our member, Dr. Jacqueline Pope, is president of NES—and she and other Ethical Culture members are very active in all the work that NES does at the United Nations.

For those not familiar with the NES, it was started by members of the New York Society and is now supported by all of Ethical Culture through the AEU. The President Emerita, Rose Walker, is from our Society, and she is also the inspiration for a special fund in the NES for “developing mutually beneficial partnerships,” The Rose L. Walker Fund. If you'd like to contribute, it's on the bottom left of the NES home page: <http://nationalserviceaeu.org/>.

The main purpose of NES is to promote peace, and so it serves as one of the many NGOs (non-governmental organizations) ensconced at the United Nations. Per the NES website, “National Ethical Service has been dedicated to the principles embodied in The United Nations from the time of its formal association with the Department of Public Information in 1947. Over the years, we have supported peace-building principles in collaboration with the Missions, UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations. We measure our success by our transforming educational initiatives, programs and actions in local Societies that promote global citizenship and support for the highest ethical principles at the UN.”

The NES members work to support all humanitarian work that is based in reciprocity and mutuality as they understand humanitarian work is vital not only to the relief of suffering but as essential to building a peaceful world. To that end, the folks at NES advocate for universality in human and earth rights and pluralism based in transparency and accountability, and they work to promote cooperation between nation states.

How do they do this? Through coalitions with other NGO's, through programs to educate the participants at the UN, and through programs out-

side of the UN. Just a small part of the list of the NGO group efforts are: The Working Group on Climate Change; The American Coalition for the International Criminal Court; The Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns; The Subcommittee on Racism (of the Human Rights NGO Committee); The Committee on the Aging, and its subcommittee, The Virginia Hazard Legacy Fund; The Universal Ethics and Global Concerns Working Group; The Earth Values Caucus; Millennium Development Goals; National Peace Academy; and Coalition for One Voice.

As you can see there's a lot happening as Jacqueline and other NES officers energetically pursue their mission and serve as chairs or members of the various NGO collaborative committees. Other NES officers are: Ms. Kay Dundorf, Riverdale, Treasurer; Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, Bergen, Secretary; Ms. Martha Gallahue, Brooklyn, Leader/Secretary; Dr. Kurt Johnson, ESOW, Vice President; Ms. Lucile Kleiman, NYSEC, Vice President; and Ms. Rose L Walker, Sarasota, FL, President Emerita. And brand new to the NES is Ms. Catherine Bourdeau, Brooklyn, Leader.

If you'd like to give some financial or personal support to the work of National Ethical Service, please check out their website or talk with Jacqueline or Lucile. In any case, do give them your warm thanks for all that they do to promote world peace.

## Leader's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

of Family Radio, a Christian network worth more than \$100 million, there was to have been an apocalyptic earthquake heralding the Second Coming of Jesus on May 21. Like William Miller

(1782-1849), founder of the Adventist church, who predicted October 22, 1844 as Judgment Day, Camping practices a branch of theology called eschatology, a study of "End Times" that relies upon interpreting codes hidden in the *Bible*.

Camping has gone down this road before, having also predicted September 6, 1994 as Judgment Day, but his 2011 recalculation was trusted by innumerable people across the country, including Adrienne and Joel Martinez, a young couple with a two-year-old daughter and another child due this month. "Knowing the date of the end of the world changes all your future plans," said Adrienne, who planned on going to medical school, until she began tuning in to Family Radio. She and her family moved from New York City to Orlando, FL, a year ago, rented a house and passed out tracts about Judgment Day. "Why are we going to work for more money? It just seemed kind of greedy to me. And unnecessary." They budgeted their savings so that on May 21 they would have nothing left.

The Millerites of the 19<sup>th</sup> century also attracted many thousands of people, transforming what was an obscure movement in upstate NY into a national campaign by pioneering mass journalism and rallies to disseminate their message. When October 22, 1844 ended like any other day, the "Great Disappointment" left them bewildered and disillusioned. The majority simply gave up their beliefs; others rejoined their previous denominations. They learned an important lesson about the dangers of date setting and returned to scripture to read this warning from Jesus to his disciples: "No man knoweth the day nor the hour of my coming."

I often wonder what kind of faith motivates people like Camping—not just the date setting, but the doctrine of the Rapture that keeps believers in a state of constant readiness, convinced that they can be snatched from the earth at any moment. Does it encourage ethical behavior or judgment of others who do not share their beliefs? The man who handed me a pamphlet in Grand Central Station warned me to put my life in order before it was too late. I told him that every day offers us opportunities to act ethically. When he said that Jesus was coming to judge me, "end of story," I rushed to catch my train.

Judgment seems to be an expression of many faiths. On what basis are we judged—beliefs or behavior? What is the purpose of judgment—to win a place in heaven or to learn better ways of living on earth? Who judges and by what authority? Does this judgment lead to punishment or reconciliation? There are so many questions and so many people who think they have the answers.

Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler observed, "Theologians often say that faith must come first, and that morality must be deduced from faith. We say that morality must come first, and faith, to those whose nature fits them to entertain it, will come out of the experience of a deepened moral life as its richest, choicest fruit."

My faith is in the capacity and desire of people to act out of goodness. I believe that the reality of human mortality, not the hope of an afterlife, calls us to give meaning to our lives by appreciating the wonder of our existence, by learning all that we can about the world around us, and by working with others—no matter what their beliefs—to make life worth living for everyone. We are sorely challenged by environmental and social

catastrophes. We can choose to read these as signs of divine judgment and close up shop or we can take responsibility for our lives and roll up our sleeves. I choose to believe in people and look forward to the day when we all do.

And here's my judgment of Harold Camping: On the morning of May 22, he should have distributed Family Radio's \$100 million dollars among his followers with an abject apology and a sincere promise to never mislead them again. Of course, human nature being what it is, they might readily follow the next Millerite.

## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

### June 5—Creating an Ethical Economic System: What We've Learned

*Curt Collier, Leader*

The **Ethical Economic Exploration Group** has been meeting for several months, exploring the benefits and pitfalls of modern-day capitalism. My talk will reveal the results of these conversations and ways in which we might tweak our American economic system to make it more responsive to our societal and environmental needs. Ceremonial Hall.

### June 12—LGBTQ

*Danny Dromm*

Topic: TBA. Ceremonial Hall.

### June 19—A Tribute to Fathers

*Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader*

Let's face it: Father's Day is an afterthought, and it just doesn't get the traction that Mother's Day does. Sonora Smart Dodd, inspired by Mother's Day advocate Anna Jarvis, helped establish

this holiday in memory of her father, who raised six children by himself after the death of her mother. Such paternal devotion was uncommon in 1910, when most widowers put their children in other people's care. Much has changed in the last century. Fathers play more active roles, including taking paternity leaves and providing primary child care. We will explore the history of fatherhood and celebrate our fathers at this participatory platform. Ceremonial Hall.

### June 26—Tribalism, Universalism, And the Destiny of Humankind

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

Ethnic loyalty seems to be the scourge of humankind. Especially since the end of the Cold War, ethnic divisions have become the markers, if not the cause, of so much violence and tension. We think of the warfare in Congo, the genocides in Rwanda and the Balkans, and dynamics underlying the "Arab spring," as well as anti-immigrant fervor in the United States.

Ethical Culture and humanism, more broadly, rest on universal principles such as reason, science, and, politically, justice and equality. In this regard, there are humanists who dream of a world without ethnic loyalties as they dream of a world free of religion. But there is another vision, more in alignment with what is possible, I would argue, namely that of pluralism. My talk will look at pluralism and what it means, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. Ceremonial Hall.

## Summer Greeters Sought

*Amy Schwarz*

There are 10 Sunday meetings this summer in Ceremonial Hall. As is done every year, volunteers will

replace me as coordinator/greeter, although I do fill in the gaps. This involves getting an assistant greeter from the attending audience, handing out programs, counting the attendees, and doing the collection. It's fun and not difficult, but it requires commitment. The more volunteers we have, the less any one person has to do. Last summer, we each served on two Sundays, as our schedules permitted.

Please let me know by phone at 212-666-5219 (home), or email (work) at [schwarz@frick.org](mailto:schwarz@frick.org), if you are interested in volunteering.

## Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

**June 5—Chorus Practice**—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings—and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's always a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall.

**June 12—Colloquy—Love.** Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen presides. Room 408.

**June 19—Poetry Reading**—Come and share some of your favorite poems with us at this last poetry reading of the season! Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

**June 19—Chorus Practice**—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

## Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

(Except as noted)

**June 5—Photography Meet-up Group**—A retrospective of photos by

Society members submitted during 2010-2011. Room 514. (For more information, and a sampling of photos taken by our members, see page 11).

**June 12—Ethics in Action—*In God We Teach***, a documentary film. “*He 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.*”

This in-depth documentary by filmmaker Vic Losick tells the story of Matthew LaClair, a student at a public high school in Kearny, NJ, who secretly recorded this and other similar statements made in class by his history teacher, David Paszkiewicz. After approaching the local school board for redress and receiving none, LaClair took his recordings to the media, accusing Paszkiewicz of illegally proselytizing in the classroom. When these recordings were made public, the story exploded, engulfing Kearny and rippling across America. While the average American is familiar with the concept of “separation of church and state,” how many understand what is legal and what is not when it comes to the public school classroom? *In God We Teach* explores the blurred lines between personal belief, religious dogma, and civil law through the eyes of residents of an average, blue-collar American town.

In 2007, Matthew LaClair was awarded the Ethical Humanist Award, our Society’s highest honor, established in 1970 “to honor an individual who has acted with extraordinary moral courage, without regard for the sanction or acclaim of his or her peers or of society, and whose actions have had

broad humanizing implications.” Join us to view the film and hear from both LaClair, now a college student, and Paszkiewicz. This event will take place at 2:00 pm in Social Hall; it is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.ingodweteach.com](http://www.ingodweteach.com).

**June 19—Life with Health: “eHealth And You: Using Consumer Technology to Support Your Health,”** an exploration of technologies that can help you manage and support your health and the health of those for whom you care.

Rapid advances in consumer technologies are creating opportunities for people to take charge of their health in ways that previously have not been possible. This presentation by Robert Finkenthal will focus on how individuals can access comprehensive and up-to-date health information, track their own health and exercise indicators, and communicate with others who share their condition, using the Internet, applications on mobile devices, and health gadgets.

Robert Finkenthal has developed and presented technology training programs for seniors in partnership with health and social service providers across New York City. He has led professional seminars for technology trainers, and conducted group classes and individual sessions for older adults in institutional and community settings in NYC, among them Maimonides Medical Center, the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America, Union Settlement, and DOROT. 2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

**June 26—Ethics in the News.** Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

**June 26—Ethics in Action. “Because It’s Wrong: June Torture Awareness Month.”** June 26 is United Nations International Day in Support of Victims

of Torture. Several years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared June Torture Awareness Month, to give greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country. As a member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, NYSEC is showing two short documentaries, *Repairing the Brokenness* and *Preventing Torture Everywhere*, followed by a panel discussion (panelists to be announced).

We have joined other congregations to focus on the need for accountability for U.S.-sponsored torture since September 11, 2001 and call for a non-partisan commission of inquiry to be appointed by the President and/or the Congress. Learning from the past is the best way to build a torture-free future.

Join us to learn more about this issue and take ethical action. The event, at 2:00 pm in Social Hall, is open to the public and admission is free.

## Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month’s topic will be “**Economics and Energy.**”

**June 2—President Obama’s speech on reducing the budget.**

**June 9—Nuclear Energy: “Washington’s Pro-Nuke Consensus,”** by Joshua Green, *The Atlantic*, March 2011, and “**Japan’s Nuclear Crisis: Lessons for the U.S.**” in *The NY Times*, “Room for Debate” commentary on the news, 3/14/11.

**June 16—“Rise of the New Global Elite”** by Chrystia Freeland, *The Atlantic*, Jan/Feb 2011.

**June 23**—“**Secret Fears of the Super-Rich**” by Greame Wood, *The Atlantic*, April 2011.

**June 30**—**Hydrofracking in NY State**—various articles.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders’ office. Please come and join the discussion.

## Our Ethical Family

*Moe-Swe Myint*

Please welcome new members **Beverly DeMaggio Newman** and **Lew Widoff**.

Beverly worked as Assistant to the President of the Sloan Foundation until her retirement. She learned of the Society through a friend and is drawn towards our humanist ideals. She likes music, singing, and playing the piano. Lew has a master’s degree in education and his interests are in economics, history, and creative thinking. He discovered NYSEC when attending one of NY Historical Society’s events and he is interested in pursuing truth through original thoughts and concepts. Lew is in apparel manufacturing.

\* \* \*

A very special thank you to Dr. Ruth Cohen for organizing the Annual Benefit Concert for the Stained Glass Windows, held on Sunday, April 24, and “Bravo!” to musicians Jon Liechty and Eshagh Shaoul for their splendid music. Members and supporters enjoyed the music and the wine-and-cheese reception afterwards.

\* \* \*

On Sunday, May 1, NYSEC held its Annual Meeting, at which three new Trustees, **Nicola DeMarco**, **Law’nence**



*Nicola DeMarco*



*Law’nence Miller*



*Dr. Terry Perlin*



*Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross*

**(L) Miller**, and **Dr. Terry Perlin**, were elected to the Board in place of Jim Farer, Sheila Kleinwald, and Vincent Navarro; **Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross** was reelected. Congratulations to the incoming Board members and thanks to our outgoing members for all they’ve done for the Society. Pat Berens, John Kreuttner, Alex Mogieleff, and Moira Whittington served as Inspectors of Election and we are grateful for their efforts and spirit of volunteerism. As always, they did a great job!

\* \* \*

Thanks to member **Rich Sander** for hosting the BBQ social on Saturday, May 14. Everyone, member and newcomer alike, had a wonderful time at Rich’s place. This is the eighth in a series of small gatherings that we’ve held at members’ homes. We will be planning more of these, so stay tuned!

\* \* \*

The latest membership directory is available in the Membership office. Please call Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or email her at [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org) for your copy.

## Member News

The following members are celebrating birthdays this month: **Judith Wank**, 6/1; **Joseph Marvel**, 6/3; **Bernice Cornyetz**, 6/6; **Ruth Cohen**, 6/7; **Chris Everett**, 6/7; **Lee Loshak**, 6/10; **Susan Kulok**, 6/11; **Tod Whitaker**, 6/11; **Maria Fridman**, 6/17; **Jerome Chamlin**, 6/19; **Theresa Schultz**, 6/20; **James Hyland**, 6/25; **Eric Volpe**, 6/29; and **Daniel Stewart**, 6/30. **Happy Birthday to all!**

## “Love Your Society” Pledge Drive Update

After a successful and well-attended party in February, the Pledge Committee followed up with letters of appreciation to members who submitted pledges and letters enclosing the pledge brochure to other members. In April quarterly statements were sent out so that members could check their records and advise the office of any discrepancies. Unfortunately, there were a few errors, which have been corrected. We appreciate the patience and understanding members have exhibited during the pledging process.

Pledging is an important ethical commitment to your community. By knowing what you plan to donate and at what time periods, the Finance Committee can better manage the Society’s expenses. To date as many as 70 members have not submitted pledges, making it difficult to budget for the rest of the year.

In mid-July half-year statements will be sent to members. They will include the annual amount pledged, amount paid, and amount owing. Every effort is being made to ensure accuracy, but mistakes can happen. Please help the committee and staff do their best to serve you and the Society by contacting

them with any questions, concerns, and suggestions you may have.

**Save the Date!** Our **Winter Solstice Pledge Party** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 10, at 5:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall.

## Newcomers' Reception

A warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to NYSEC! Every month

Membership Associate Moe-Swe Myint and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen host a reception to offer information and hospitality to those who want to learn more about our Ethical community. If you are interested, or if you know people who are, please invite them and join us on **Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

For more information, or the dates of future receptions, contact Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Adler Study, Room 514, for a showing of Howard Zinn's *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*. The renowned historian, activist, and author of *A People's History of the United States* is inspiring a new generation. His acclaimed film looks at his life—from his early days as a shipyard labor organizer and a bombardier in World War II to his maturity as an academic rebel and leader of civil disobedience. There is no charge for members; the general public's suggested donation is \$5.

## Ethical Enrichment

### Ethics in Film

*Chris Everett*

Join us on **Friday, June 3, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, to see *Full Metal Jacket*. In this 1987 film, Marine recruits (including Matthew Modine and Vincent D'Onofrio) endure the grueling ordeal of basic training and later face the unrelenting Viet Cong during the 1968 Tet Offensive. This grim Stanley Kubrick drama is based on a novel by Gustav Hasford. One of the most authentic depictions of warfare ever put on the big screen; the film teems with howling madness, stark images, and troubling questions about duty, honor, and sacrifice.

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

### Ethics in Literature Reading Group

On **Monday, June 6, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will host a discussion of *Time's Arrow*, by Martin Amis. From *Amazon.com's* review:

"For decades, writers have been striving to comprehend the Holocaust, and while its horror remains indelible, readers may wonder if there is another way of going over this relentlessly examined ground. In this swift, incisive little book, Amis succeeds in rendering the shock of the Holocaust wholly new by traveling backward in time. At the end of his life, the German-born American doctor Tod T. Friendly suffers a paralysis from which emerges 'the soul he should have had.' This innocent soul follows 'time's arrow' back through Tod's life in America and his flight to Germany, finally arriving at the concentration camp where Friendly, as Odilo Unverdorben, served as a doctor of death."

Come and join in a lively conversation about the ethical issues raised in the book. There is no charge for members; nonmembers' cost is \$10.

### Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, June 20, at 1:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the

### Ethics and the Theater

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*

On **Wednesday, June 29, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall, **Ethics and the Theater** will present Arthur Miller's award-winning play, *A View from the Bridge*. It's a cozy family group: Eddie Carbone, a longshoreman who works hard, when work is to be had, on the docks of 1950s Brooklyn; his wife, Beatrice; and her 17-year-old niece, Catherine, an orphan whom Eddie and Beatrice have brought up. But as the three discuss the imminent arrival from Sicily of two of Beatrice's relatives, who have obtained passage to the U.S. illegally to work on the docks and send money back to their family in Italy, fissures in the calm façade become apparent. Eddie's attention to and concern for Catherine seem more possessive than paternal, and Beatrice struggles to gloss over the sexual tension. Her task becomes impossible with the arrival of their house guests, the married Marco and his younger brother, Rodolpho, with whom Catherine is instantly smitten. A tragedy of

illicit attraction, betrayal, shame, and revenge unfolds inexorably against a background of economic desperation driving illegal immigration that strikes a very contemporary chord.

Susan Horowitz will direct our cast, which includes Alex Bone, Jerry Chamlin, Jay Fink, Vincent Navarro, Anne Newhall, Antonio Pagliarulo, and Jessica Woodard, with stage directions read by Andra Miller. 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 Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen. The suggested donation is \$5.

## Personal Writing Summer Classes

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 an atmosphere that helps everyone stay focused on writing.

We’ll 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, call Yalitzia Garcia 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).

## Annual Wedding Couples Social Gathering

On **Friday, June 10**, at **6:00 pm**, NYSEC officiants Leader Dr.

Anne Klaeysen and Patricia Bruder Debrovner will once again welcome couples who were married by a NYSEC officiant at a social gathering in Ceremonial Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to reconnect with other couples and to make friends with one another, and also for families to learn more about our community.

If you were married by a NYSEC officiant, or you know someone who was and you have not received an invitation, please let Yalitzia Garcia know. You can reach her at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org), or 212-874-5210, ext 118.

## Advocacy Forum

Dr. Joseph Chuman

On **Thursday, June 30**, from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm** (Ceremonial Hall), I will interview writer Susan Jacoby on her latest book, *Never Say Die*, as a program in our **Advocacy Forum** author interview series.

In *Never Say Die*, the Pulitzer Prize nominee Susan Jacoby exposes the mythology surrounding the glories of old age. According to Booklist, “As the older members of the baby boom generation approach 65, marketers are at the ready with an abundance of “age defying” products and services. But is aging as trouble free as marketers tout and aging consumers would like to believe? For her part, journalist Jacoby, herself in her 60s, admits to rage at the efforts to redefine old age without facing up to the unavoidable realities.”

The interview will be an adjunct to our **Ethical Elders** series and should attract a wide audiences concerned with the myths and realities of aging. Susan Jacoby is the author of *Freethinkers* and



Susan Jacoby

*The Age of American Unreason*, among other volumes. Admission for members is \$5; for nonmembers \$10.

## Retreat Reminder!

Sheila Kleinwald

There are only 15 reserved places left for this year’s **Membership Retreat**, which is being held at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, NY, from **Friday, September 30 to Sunday, October 2!** Please make your reservation as quickly as possible with Bob Berger, Moe-Swe Myint, or me, and include a \$100 deposit.

For more information, see the April issue of *Ethical Outlook*, page 7, or contact Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

## Calling All Members!

Our website now has a Members Only section. Over the next few months we will be adding content for members’ eyes only. But for now we urge you to create your own account on the website so that you can participate in the newly formed NYSEC Forums. Here you will have the opportunity to join discussions, start topics of your own, and interact with each other and the Leaders. Simply go to our Members page at <http://www.nysec.org/members-only> and create your account. Once you are activated, you will be able to start adding your voice at [www.nysec.org/forum](http://www.nysec.org/forum). Our current forums are:

- Welcome
- Leaders Lair
- Beyond Platform

Please send any requests for new forums to [bzucker@nysec.org](mailto:bzucker@nysec.org) and have fun connecting online.

## Stained Glass Windows Concert

*Dr. Ruth Cohen*

The sun helped to brighten the day, and the concert to benefit our stained glass windows was a sparkling holiday event. We featured a debut performance by violinist Eshagh Shaoul and some new music he wrote, as well as piano pieces brilliantly played by Gerald Ranck and Jon Liechty. The music was riveting, and some of us were moved to tears!

Thank you all for making this a lovely afternoon. We look forward to many more such enjoyable events.

## Teen Leadership

*Rita Chawla*

NYSEC's **Teen Ethical Leadership Program** began three years ago as an 8- to 10-week workshop for our students, and grew into an ongoing Sunday program. The teens participate in a wide range of activities designed to develop good character and ethical leadership skills. In addition to attending the weekly Sunday meetings, most of the teens volunteer at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Shelter on Thursday evenings, working together as a team cooking and serving dinner to the guests; they don't even mind all the cleaning up they do afterward!

If there is one message I want to share with everyone, it is that with a little positive direction and guidance, teenagers can accomplish wonderful things. For example, a few weeks before the March 21 fundraiser for the AFCECO orphanages in Afghanistan, I organized a songwriting workshop for the students and suggested they

write a song to perform at the event. After only three sessions, they were confident and ready to perform "Same Dream." It was a proud moment for them and also a humble one, an offering of gratitude for the Afghan children's example of "beauty, hope, strength, and peace." Here are some of their comments about what being part of this program means to them:

*"....My favorite experience was getting to meet Afghan orphans who were my age and learning about how they overcame their hardships. I think it's important to learn about world issues so we can improve people's lives, starting in our own community and working our way outward until we have a global impact on the world." –Julia Cohen*

*"....The teen program gives me a place to come where I don't feel judged. It makes me more comfortable and confident outside of Ethical Culture. Coming to the program is really beneficial as it keeps me thinking about 'real' problems. I also enjoy doing the community-building activities." –Elizabeth Mallinson*

*"....I feel that this program is a very important experience for developing and maturing teens. It emphasizes the importance of serving one's community as well as being open to one another, in order to achieve a goal. All in all, the program proved to be a great learning experience as well as an enjoyable one." –Matteo Maroun*

*"....The program is important to me because it allows me to express myself freely in a safe environment...to help others out and exercise my leadership skills. I will keep coming to this program because I believe that I will get many great opportunities out of it." –Sydney Riemer*

*"....I have gained confidence in myself and in my peers, that when something needs to be done, it is done. That applies especially with the fundraiser and the song we wrote. I hope to gain leadership skills while being in this program." –Kevin Ryans*

*"....Every time I'd come to the meetings on Sundays, I would feel welcomed and comfortable with the people around me....Going to the soup kitchen really opened my eyes and made me appreciate what I have in my life. This group also helped me believe that people of different backgrounds can come together for a specific reason, e.g. to help the orphans in Afghanistan. That was a fun experience." –Anabel Sosa*

*"....The teen leadership program is important to me because it introduces ethics and leadership skills that I would not have learned elsewhere. I hope to continue the program and participate in the events to come." –Noah Velazquez*

## Vigil to Support Housing Justice

The Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, of which NYSEC is a member, is holding its 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Interfaith Convocation and Overnight Vigil for Housing Justice** on **Wednesday, June 1**. This is an opportunity for New Yorkers to come together and bear witness to those who are forced to call the streets of New York their home every night. This experience will be a humbling and enlightening one as participants walk from Grace Church to City Hall from **8:00 pm to 9:00 pm** and settle down for the night in City Hall Park until 9:00 am.

As New York City establishes its budget and determines how its resources will be allocated and crucial decisions are made in the state legislature that affect the lives of those struggling to find or maintain a home,

our moral voice must be loud and clear. Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen by registering at <http://www.blessednightout.org/register> or sponsor her participation. Pledge forms are available in the office of the Leaders' Assistant, Yalitza Garcia.

## New Institute Will Foster Critical Thought

*Andra Miller and Dr. Anne Klaeysen*

We were visited by Dr. Anne Marie Oliver and Sarah Kantrowitz of the **Institute for Actionable Ideas (IAI)**, a new masters degree program at the Pacific Northwest College of Art (in Portland, Oregon). The Institute's purpose is to bring ethics and critical thought to the core of artistic creation, and to promote questioning and challenge of generally accepted truths, be they political, social, or personal. "We want to help artists do with images what rhetoric has done for words," said Dr. Oliver, "to help our students get past standard 'sentimentalization' to see what is actually going on there."

The Institute for Actionable Ideas is being established as an institute, rather than as simply a new degree program, because critical thinking and concern for core ethics are relatively rare in the pandemonium of the world today.

How is NYSEC involved? Oliver and Kantrowitz were looking to gain insight from the history of our accomplishments and our experience in starting the Ethical Culture School. We talked about the aims of Ethical Culture, and how our Society and Leaders have worked through education and inspiration to develop a social movement. We also talked about helping to further the goals of the Institute, and providing a source here in the east for the fostering of actionable ideas.

## Building World Peace; Restoring Cultural Artifacts

Last summer member Nicola DeMarco gave a Sunday platform address with NYSEC staff member Marlon Rice that explored the role of restoring cultural artifacts to address the healing of racism and the promotion of world peace. Join them on **Saturday, June 4, 10:00 am–2:00 pm**, in the Elliot Library, Room 507, for a follow-up presentation with keynote speaker Professor Tullio Scovazzi, who teaches international law at the University of Milano-Bicocca in Milan, Italy. Dr. Scovazzi is an expert on the return of the Axum Obelisk to Ethiopia, the Law of the Sea Treaty, and the return to Libya of the Venus of Cyrene statue from Italy in 2008. His biography can be found at [http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Scovazzi\\_LS.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ls/Scovazzi_LS.html).

### Summer Schedule

In July and August Sunday Morning Platform Meetings in Ceremonial Hall will begin at 10:15 am.

After the Platform Meetings relax with bagels and coffee – in Ceremonial Hall.

There will be no Sunday morning or afternoon programs in July and August. They will resume Sunday, September 11.



*L-R - Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Sarah Kantrowitz, Andra Miller, and Dr. Anne Marie Oliver*

# Calling all NYSEC shutterbugs! There is a new club at NYSEC for you.

**A chance to show, discuss and learn about photography.  
No entrance requirements, no fees. Just fun.**

*Our first meeting will be on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at 1:45 to 3:00  
in the Adler Study*

**Agenda:**

- 1. Show and discuss photos by NYSEC members**  
Anyone attending is welcome to show some photos (Maximum 3)  
but you can attend just to see and discuss.
- 2. Peter Houts will show how he creates oil paintings from his photographs.**



**For more information, contact Moe-Swe Myint at (212) 874-5210 ext. 113.**

*Top row, (L-R) Lucile Kleiman, Soldiers and Sailors Monument; John Hwang, Home Mural; Elizabeth Jacobs, Ecosphere*

*Bottom row, (L-R) David Leiman, \$3,000 Listening Pod (in Hammacher Schlemmer Window); Valerie Leiman, Home Loom Beadweaving; Peter Houts, Lecturing at a Museum*

# June 2011

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group</u> June 6–<i>Time's Arrow</i>, Martin Amis</p> <p><u>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries</u> June 20–<i>You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train</i>, Howard Zinn</p> <p><u>Ethics and the Theater</u> June 29–<i>A View From the Bridge</i>, Arthur Miller</p>			<p>1</p> <p><b>July 2011 Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 pm–Ethics in Film: <i>Full Metal Jacket</i> (1987)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am–Building World Peace through the Restoration of Cultural Artifacts</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am–Chorus Practice 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm–Ethical Economics 1:45 pm–Photography Meet-up Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00 pm–Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 pm–Socrates Café</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 pm–Volunteer Dinner</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 pm–Wedding Couples Social Gathering</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am–Colloquy 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm–Ethical Economics 2:00 pm–Ethics in Action: film: <i>In God We Trust</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm–Board of Trustees 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 pm–Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>AEU 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly</b> 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>AEU 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>AEU 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly</b></p>
<p>19</p> <p><b>AEU 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly Ends</b> 10:00 am–Poetry Reading 10:00 am–Chorus Practice 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Sunday Brunch 2:00 pm–Life with Health</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00 pm–Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm–Socrates Café 7:00 pm–Prospective Members' Reception</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm–Ethics in the News 2:00 pm–Ethics in Action: "Because It's Wrong: June Torture Awareness Month"</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 pm–Ethics and the Theater</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm–Advocacy Forum</p>		