

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—Ceremonial Hall**

**June 3
June Is Bustin' Out All Over**
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

**June 10
American Energy Mythologies—
The Truth Behind Our Energy
“Needs”**
Curt Collier, Leader
Cheryl Gross Presides

**June 17
Ethics and the Theater—
There You Are**
Tod Whitaker Presides

**June 24
The Sleep of Reason Gives Rise
To Monsters: America Divided**
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

*Bring a
Friend on
Sunday*

June Happenings

On **Friday, June 8, 6:00 pm**, NYSEC's **Membership Committee** is sponsoring a jolly **“Bring Your Friends” Potluck Dinner**. Come, and bring a dish to share (enough for six of us). You can bring something for vegans, vegetarians, or carnivores to this festive occasion. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 8.)*

Join us on **Saturday, June 9, 8:45 am**, for a **day trip/hike** to Mt. Taurus in Cold Spring, NY. We'll take a scenic train ride to this beautiful town, and then hike to a summit over the Hudson River with wonderful views of the river and even New York City. We'll meet at Grand Central Station. *(See page 8.)*

Want to learn more about natural approaches to health care? Come on **Sunday, June 17, at 1:30 pm**, for **“Choices in Complementary and Alternative Medicine,”** a free seminar with Christiane Siebert, M.S., Lac, sponsored by our **Life with Health Committee**. We'll hear an in-depth discussion of established holistic medical systems, including, among others, acupuncture and an ear treatment for stress relief. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 5.)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



We've had a real musical month—what with the Earth Day Celebration with the Clearwater Chorus and the Red Molly Folk Band; the harpsichord concert “donated” by Gerald Ranck, our Music Director; and the Jazz at Ethical event. I missed the first one; but the second, an evening of harpsichord music, was absolutely wonderful. Somebody remarked something like, “I always thought harpsichords sounded tinny and toneless, but now I know how beautiful they can be.” And it was beautiful,

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Joseph Chuman



A Divided America

I begin this column with a confession. I made a mistake. Not a small one, of which there, of course, have been many, but a big mistake.

When Barack Obama won the 2008 Iowa caucuses, I drew the conclusion that American society had turned a very large corner. That an African-American could win a prominent election in one of the whitest of white states led me to believe that at long last, after

centuries of prejudice and discrimination, institutional, personal, and otherwise, American society had finally put racism behind it. Not entirely, to be sure, but significantly, so

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

thanks to Jerry; Bach; the tuner, Robert Turner; the instrument; and its builder, David Jacques Way. If you missed this amazing concert, you missed an absolutely fantastic evening and some very yummy punch and birthday cake.

I also made it to Jazz at Ethical, something I've long thought would be a good idea, and it turns out it is! The pianist, Leonore Raphel, dazzled us with her tinkling of the ivories; and her bass player, Hillard Green; and drummer, Rudy Lawless, were superb. I have never been a fan of the saxophone, but I have to say the sounds from Ray Blue on the sax and Jerry Mandel on the tenor sax were mellow, wild, and simply outstanding, and have totally changed my thoughts on the matter. All the musicians' joy added to the infectious liveliness of their music as they played such Ellington favorites as "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "Do Nothing 'til You Hear From Me," "Take the A Train," and, finally, "It Don't Mean

a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)," with we audience members providing the "doo-ah, doo-ah, doo-ahs." I'm thinking it was probably a treat for them to play in Ceremonial Hall, to a rapt audience that wasn't drinking or eating or chatting, as one sees done sometimes in some jazz venues. There's talk of it being a series, which would be so terrific. Thanks to the Van Deusens for setting this up and to staffers Antonio Pagliarulo and Marlon Rice for handling the final details.

I was told by many of our members that the Clearwater Chorus and Red Molly event was so exciting. I heard that one person who came to the concert was tired and planned to leave early, but found it way too much fun and stayed to the end, unhappy that it was over. So sorry I missed that, and thanks to the new Environmental Stewardship Committee and Monica Weiss for making this evening happen.

I missed it, however, for a good reason. I was down in Washington, DC, at the Black Psychiatrists of America banquet. They gave our own Dr. Phyllis

Harrison-Ross—a great doctor, admired hospital administrator and teacher, fearless State Commissioner, and leading psychiatrist—their brand new honor, the Legacy Award. I simply had to be there and represent the New York Society for Ethical Culture at the ceremony—and witness Phyllis accepting the award looking bright and smashing under her wonderfully dramatic red straw hat.

For those of you who are new and maybe haven't met Phyllis yet, here is some of what I said, which explains to some extent the phenomenon I call PHR:

"We at the New York Society for Ethical Culture feel very fortunate that our building is situated right across the street from the building that houses Phyllis' home and office. Curious about the imposing façade across from her, and after 30 years wondering about what went on in there, she finally dropped in one Sunday to check us out and join in.

"Well, it was inevitable that her love of service drew her to the work of our Social Service Board, and it wasn't long before she was elected chairperson. She strengthened the programs, recruited new members, and initiated and supervised the addition of services—teaching us along the way of the value of partnerships with other service agencies and organizations.

"As if that weren't enough for our tireless member, she also was elected to the Society's Board of Trustees. She co-chairs the Finance Committee, serves on the Endowment Committee, is one of our radio program hosts, and got involved in reconnecting the Society's ties to the school we had spun off many years prior. She is constantly reminding us to continue finding ways to meet our commitment to diversity. She does not let loose of her standards or of her agenda to make us a better place—to increase our involvement in the community, the city, the state, and beyond.

"All this, mind you—while at the same time she's working more than full time on her job for the State—traveling up to her office in Harlem and way on up to Albany. We are so thankful that her trip to the Society simply amounts to crossing the street!"

That's it for now, my dear fellow Ethical Culture advocates. Have a happy, snappy summer!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

that our future confrontations with that hideous disease would be episodic and not systemic. I have long affirmed that America has tried pretty hard to get beyond its racism (I still believe that) and Obama's victory seemed to suggest that we had become a more inclusive society, at least as far as race and ethnicity were concerned. But I was wrong.

It was not long after Obama took office that the Titanic hit an iceberg, metaphorically speaking. Everything suddenly changed to reveal again the ominous underside of American division. Clearly there were powerful elements of this that were very prominent on the landscape: There were the culture wars, which had divided us into blue states and red states and which were stoked by the political dogmas asserted by the religious right. And though it was lost in the euphoria of the 2008 election, it need be remembered that Obama actually lost the white vote. His notable victory resulted in great measure from a coalition that cobbled together African-Americans, Latinos, and other minorities, as well as liberal white voters.

So here we are: a fractious society in which the cultural divisions, highlighted by such "values" issues as gay

marriage, the place of religion in public life, the professed "piety" of our political leaders, "family," what to do with undocumented aliens, sexual mores including contraception, and even the place of women in society, have divided Americans into ossified warring camps that seem to have nothing in common and no space for dialogue.

How did we get here? How did we move in a few short years from a position of hope and optimism symbolized by the ascent of a young and charismatic leader in the White House to a society wracked by divisiveness and stagnation? In my opinion, the causes go far beyond a broad sense that Obama has not delivered on his promises, both explicit and implied by his freshness, exuberance, and intellect.

In my view, we are witnessing the return of the repressed, so to speak: those angers and fears that have long simmered beneath the surface of the American psyche, both individual and collective. In my view, those repressed angers and fears emerge from two sources that are in some ways linked.

The first one relates to continuing feelings of racism and xenophobia. The American demographic is no doubt changing, and dramatically so. Most obvious has been the recent wave of immigration, which has brought unprecedented numbers of Latinos, East Asians, South Asians, and Muslims to our shores. Just at this moment the number of births in the minority communities has surpassed that of Caucasians. Rather than remain in isolated communities, these minorities, bringing their differing cultural habits, languages, and complexions, have moved to virtually every corner of the nation, including areas that have been homogeneously white for centuries. Despite the heralding of multiculturalism and tolerance, many Americans, I contend, find these

demographic changes very unsettling. They threaten personal identity and perhaps one's presumed place in a hierarchy of authority and power. And when people feel threatened, they are more prone to grab onto simplistic ideologies and belief systems, and hold on to them for dear life. Barack Obama is, of course, the premier symbol of these disquieting changes, and as such has been targeted with calumnies that skirt the issue of race, but we can be confident that racism is what lies beneath.

The second repressed dynamic relates to the cultural and social changes brought on by the 60s. To be clear, the 60s, which ushered in a cultural and sexual revolution, were victorious over older forms, which imposed order if not hierarchy on American social relations. It is my view that many Americans, now much older, were severely disquieted about these changes and took their disgruntlement underground. A half century later, we are witnessing a reaction to the 60s revolution and a call for greater order demanding reactionary sexual mores, the hegemony of conservative Christianity over American public life, and a fear of government as the agent writ large, which imposes by law these "liberal" shifts in public and private life.

So we have a nation divided, in which a politics coming from the right legitimates positions that not long ago would have been consigned to the lunatic fringe. And these divisions are exacerbated by economic insecurity and agonizing unemployment, which have come to define the American environment. It is hard to be outreaching and cooperative when operating out of fear and a sense of dread about the future because you may not have a job later (or don't now) and are worried about making ends meet. Beyond these

determinants, the fact that Congress is stalemated, solidified by recalcitrant ideologies is very dispiriting to public morale. Among other things, Congress is a political role model, and at the moment a very bad one.

We are not at a happy moment. But is it hopeless? It never is. For those of us who are Ethical Culturists, we need to fall back on our basic principles—that people and their welfare count most of all; that at bottom people demand a social and political condition that squares with the ethical values of fairness, justice, and compassion; and that reason, and not extremism, will have the last word. Beyond the specific political initiatives we employ, this is what we have to offer. And gazing out at the darkness of the landscape, it is something America needs very badly.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

June 3—June Is Bustin' Out All Over
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

We all know that June is Gay Pride Month, but did you know that it is also the month for National Safety, Adopt a Cat, Men's Health, Caribbean-American Heritage, Torture Awareness, Dairy, Great Outdoors, National Employee Wellness, African-American Music Appreciation, National Scoliosis Awareness, and Goat Trauma Awareness (no kidding)? And, of course, June is the month of graduations, weddings, and roses. It's also the beginning of summer. Taking all of this diversity into consideration, I will extol the joys of June and engage us in celebratory gratitude for life well lived.

The shared charity is Camp Linden.

June 10—American Energy Mythologies—The Truth Behind Our Energy "Needs"

Curt Collier, Leader

Critics of alternative energy strategies like to point out that renewable energy supplies only 5% of American energy needs. Thus, even if we quadruple our commitment to alternative energy we will still need significant amounts of oil, coal, and methane (natural gas) to meet the demands of the American economy. They also point out that the cost of alternative energy, and its relative inconsistent supply, make it an impractical source for meeting our real energy needs. To what extent are these real concerns? We will explore the realities of American energy needs, using alternative energy to meet those needs, and what is simply hype.

The shared charity is Science Barge Education Center.

June 17—Ethics and the Theater—There You Are

At our June 17 Platform Meeting, we will be honoring Gay Pride. Carole Chamlin and Pat Debrovner will appear in a reading of the play *There You Are*, by Leslie Ayzavian, in which two widows who had known each other many years earlier and been attracted, but chose to remain with their husbands, happen to meet and reconnect. After the reading, Robert Levithan, author of *The New 60*, will lead a discussion of the play and will speak on the issue of aging in the gay community.

The shared charity is the Ali Forney Center.

June 24—The Sleep of Reason Gives Rise to Monsters: America Divided

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

The hope we had leading up to and just following the 2008 election is long gone. Now that we approach the 2012

election we face a deadlocked Congress, deadening unemployment and a society that is viciously divided on issues from the reality of global warming to whether government is an ally or an enemy of the American people, to the appropriateness of laws subjecting women who elect to have an abortion to superfluous vaginal probes. How did we so quickly get to this point?

Where does hope lie for the restoration of sanity to our political life?

The shared charity is Bellevue Survivors of Torture.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

June 3—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 tips to improve our singing technique. Ceremonial Hall.

June 10—Colloquy—Loyalty: Both Good and Bad Aspects. Joe Marvel presides. Room 408.

June 17—Poetry Reading—Slip a poem into your pocket to read to us. And then, relax and listen for the words, rhythms, and images of poems read by other participants. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

June 17—Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

June 24—Psalms of the Land. Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Rooms subject to change)

June 3—Ethics in Action: Congo Project. The NY Metro branch of

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom presents "Making the Connections," a panel discussion to raise awareness about and encourage activism for the severe conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While various factions in the DR Congo have been engaged in a shooting war for economic gain, women have been the targets of another kind of violence. Around 1999-2000, Hutu, Congolese, and other militias began a wave of rapes, sexually assaulting or mutilating thousands of women every year as part of a systematic campaign to demoralize the civilian population.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen moderates a panel that will include Ms. Bibiane Aningina Tshefu, a Congolese consultant who has studied and worked on social community development and social cultural facilitation in several countries in Africa for 20 years with government, NGO, and UN agencies. She is a member of WILPF and a US focal point for various Congolese NGOs. Ceremonial Hall.

June 3—Photography Arts Club. Dr. Charles Debrovner will present a program on "high dynamic range imaging" in photography. **1:45 pm**, Room 514.

June 10—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

June 17—Life with Health—"Choices In Complementary and Alternative Medicine." Join Christiane Siebert, M.S., Lac, at this free seminar, sponsored by the Society's Life with Health Committee (co-chairs Phyllis Kreuttner, Jackie Pope, and Cheryl Gross).



Christiane Siebert

Are you concerned about the safety or rising cost of conventional medicine, or looking for natural approaches to

your health concerns? Come to hear an overview and discussion of established holistic medical systems.

Christiane Siebert is a licensed acupuncturist, board-certified Chinese herbalist, and the owner of Serenity Health Arts, a multidisciplinary practice in New York City. She is also a licensed naturopath in Germany and a member of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. Ceremonial Hall.

June 24—Memorial for Barbara Levenson. 2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month's topic will be: **the Middle East**.

June 7—"Israel's Moral Peril" by Alan Wolfe, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 3/25/12, and **"Israel: The Knesset vs. Democracy"** by Dimi Reider, *NYR Blog*, 3/15/12.

June 14—"Iran and the Nuclear Issue" from *BBC News*, 3/5/12.

June 21—"The Coming Arab Identity Crisis" by Massoud Hayoun, *The Atlantic*, 3/12, and **"The Thought Police"** by Paul Berman, *The New Republic*, 3/14/12.

June 28—"Armenia Survives!" by Tim Judah, *The NY Review of Books*, 5/1/12.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome new members **Lewis S. Smoler** and **Tina Maschi**.

Lewis is a dentist practicing in Manhasset, NY. He is a member emeri-

tus of the American Dental Association, as well as the NY Dental Association; and a Life member and Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry. He taught Sunday School for two years at the Garden City Ethical Society and has been a member on and off since 1957.

Tina is a licensed clinical social worker and a professor at Fordham University. She has special training in research, social work, trauma, and criminal justice. Tina learned of the Society through our Trustee Dr. Harrison-Ross and is drawn to the mission of creating a more humane society.

* * *

On Sunday, May 6, NYSEC held its **Annual Meeting**, at which we voted for new Trustees. **Vincent Brancato** and **Richard Van Deusen** were elected to take the places of **Janice Buzby** and **Tom Weishaar**, who are stepping down. **Chris Everett** and **Henryka Komanska** were re-elected to the Board. **Patricia Berens**, **Ruth Cohen**, **Beverly Newman**, and **Stephanie Rosenblatt** served as inspectors of the election, and we are very grateful for their help.

* * *

We are very excited about the newly regrouped **Membership Committee**, with **Paula Claycomb** at the helm temporarily. The committee is dedicated to increasing the full membership of NYSEC. Its members are: **Patrick Arenas**, **Marilyn Baker**, **Vincent Brancato**, **Danny Choriki**, **Paula Claycomb**, **Renee Goodstein**, **Cheryl Gross**, **Elinore Kaplan**, **Andra Miller**, **Jamie Scott**, and **Tod Whitaker**, and it is supported by Leaders **Anne Klaeyen** and **Joe Chuman** and me. It has two subcommittees: Recruitment, whose goal is to increase NYSEC membership, and Retention, whose major goal is to strengthen the Society's "community fiber" so that

our members are motivated to remain as members and to participate in NYSEC's activities.

If you want to find out more about these committees, please contact the Membership Committee's Chair, Paula Claycomb, at: pmfclay@yahoo.com; the Recruitment Subcommittee's Chair, Danny Choriki, at: dchoriki@igc.org; and the Retention Subcommittee's Chair, Tod Whitaker, at: tod.whitaker@citi.com.

* * *

And in the spirit of strengthening the "community fiber" and recruiting new members, the Membership Committee is inviting everyone in the Ethical Culture community—members, prospective members, friends, and family—to an "**Ethical Culture Community Event**" in the form of a **Potluck Dinner** on **Friday, June 8**, at **6:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall. This will be a great evening of fun, food, friendship, connections, and community! You are asked to bring a dish—main course, side dish, dessert, or wine—to feed at least six people. **Marilyn Baker** has graciously agreed to take on the RSVP's. Please contact her for more information at: mbaker411@msn.com, and invite everyone you know!

* * *

We'd like to thank **Vincent Brancato**, **Danny Choriki**, and **Tod Whitaker** for attending the last prospective members reception. Their participation is much appreciated. The next reception will be on Monday, June 18. If you know someone who'd make a great Ethical Culture member, please let them know about it.

* * *

Last, but not least, remember that our **Sunday Platform Meetings** will start an hour earlier, at **10:15 am**, after Independence Day and through Labor Day!

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in June: **Joseph Marvel**, 6/3; **Bernice Cornyetz**, 6/6; **Ruth Cohen**, 6/7; **Chris Everett**, 6/7; **Eizabeth Henderson**, 6/7; **Lee Loshak**, 6/10; **Susan Kulok**, 6/11; **Tod Whitaker**, 6/11; **Lewis Smoler**, 6/15; **Maria Fridman**, 6/17; **Jerome Chamlin**, 6/19; **Theresa Schultz**, 6/20; **James Hyland**, 6/25; and **Majid Ali**, 6/27.

* * *

In Memoriam

Barbara Levenson (1933–2012)

Beloved friend and NYSEC member **Barbara Levenson** died on Saturday, May 12. Her memorial service will be here on Sunday, June 24, at 2:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall.



Barbara Levenson

Barbara was awarded a PhD in sociology from Columbia University and for many years conducted research at Columbia University's Sociology Department and its Public Health Department. In the 1970's, Barbara and her husband Bernie moved to Baltimore where she directed research for the Social Security Administration. When she retired, they returned to New York City. Sadly, Bernie was very ill. After his death, Barbara sought both comfort and purpose; she found them at the NY Society, and soon became an active member. Barbara was a driving force on every committee she joined, from Membership and Sunday Programs to Ethical Enrichment, and served on the Board of Trustees. She generated new programs and worked tirelessly to support others. She will be dearly missed.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, June 1, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremo-



nial Hall, to see *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), directed by Billy Wilder.

After packing off his wife and son for the summer, doughy middle-aged publisher Richard Sherman (Tom Ewell) lets his imagination run wild, fantasizing about erstwhile ladyloves and his blonde, curvaceous new neighbor (Marilyn Monroe). Inviting her over for a drink, Richard plans to sweep her off her feet and into the bedroom, until he imagines that his flights of fancy are airing nation-wide—with his wife in the audience!

The suggested donation is \$5. Afterward, join me in our lively post-film discussion.

Ethics in Literature Reading Group

Come on **Monday, June 4, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507, to participate in a discussion on the novel, *My Name Is Red*, by Orhan Pamuk, led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen.

In 16th century Istanbul the Sultan has commissioned a cadre of the most acclaimed artists in the land to create a great book celebrating the glories of his realm. Their task is to illuminate the work in the European style. Because figurative art can be deemed an affront to Islam, this commission is a dangerous proposition. Therefore, the ruling elite must not know the full scope or nature of the project, and

panic erupts when one of the chosen miniaturists disappears. The only clue to the mystery—or crime?—lies in the half-finished illuminations themselves. The novel blends mystery, love, art, and religion into a fascinating tale.

There is no charge for members; the public's suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, June 18, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, we'll be showing *American Experience: Stonewall Uprising* (2010). Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Adler Study, Room 514, to look back at an event that made history. Through eye-witness interviews and archival footage, documentary filmmakers Kate Davis and David Heilbroner recapture a pivotal moment in time that mobilized a generation of gay activists and marked the dawn of the modern Gay Rights Movement. Much like Rosa Parks' symbolic refusal to move to the back of the bus, gay bar patrons' refusal to comply with a police raid at Greenwich Village's Stonewall Inn in 1969 would change the course of history.

The film showing is free to members, and \$5 for guests.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **Friday, June 22, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will present *Light Up the Sky*, by Moss Hart. Who better to skewer the absurdities and hypocrisies of the



theater world than Moss Hart, who wrote or co-wrote nine plays and directed many others. In *Light Up the Sky*, he brings together a narcissistic director, an egotistical leading lady, a successful businessman making his debut as producer, and a young, idealistic writer. Hart then shows what happens when opening night on the road in Boston is not the glorious hit all had expected, or at least hoped for. Previous pieties about the importance, poignancy, and poetry of the play and its message are forgotten as egos clash and tempers fray amid recriminations and blistering wisecracks.

Come at **6:30 pm** for a wine-and-cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

Empty Bowls: An Interfaith Action On Global Health And Poverty

Come to NYSEC on **Wednesday, June 6, 6:30–8:30 pm**, for an



opportunity to hear from members of several congregations at an event, held in Ceremonial Hall, that brings them together to celebrate the impact of their collective work to address global health and poverty.

United Sikhs will provide a traditional *langar* meal, which expresses ideals of equality, sharing, community, and inclusiveness. Food will be served in beautiful bowls that guests can choose and keep as unspoken reminders of empty bowls around the

world. There will also be live music by local artists.

Tickets (which cover the bowl, dinner, and entertainment) are \$35 for adults and \$15 for students, children, and NYSEC members. All proceeds will go to the Sri Guru Nanak Food Bank in Nairobi, Kenya.

Potluck Dinner

On **Friday, June 8, 6:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall, NYSEC's Membership Committee is sponsoring a **Potluck Dinner**; come and bring a dish to share. Please let us know now what you're bringing for this fun and festive occasion. Snacks, main dishes, salads, desserts, drinks—all of these will be welcome, but do call Marilyn Baker at 212-665-8965, or email Marilyn at (mbaker411@msn.com) to let her know what you're bringing, or to ask any questions you have. You must RSVP by Monday, June 4.

We ask that you bring enough to feed six folks; vegan and vegetarian foods are welcome, but there will be omnivores here too. Invite your nearest and dearest, and we'll all have a great time!

Spring Hike

Join us on **Saturday, June 9**, for a refreshing day trip/hike to Mt. Taurus, in historic Cold Spring, NY. The five-hour hike will take us to a summit over the Hudson River, where we'll be rewarded with stunning views. We'll take a scenic train ride to Cold Spring, on the eastern bank of the Hudson, which has many interesting antique stores, coffee shops and restaurants, and a lovely small park. The town alone is worth a day's visit.

The trip on Metro North's Hudson line takes an hour and twenty minutes and offers spectacular views of the river. **We will meet at the information**

booth in Grand Central Station at 8:35 am. If you arrive after that time, you'll find us on the train that leaves at 8:47 am. The round-trip ticket is \$24.50. Please buy your own tickets.

Bring a water bottle, a light lunch and/or snack for the trail, and a few dollars for a coffee stop at a local cafe. And remember to wear hiking or sturdy walking shoes (there are some steep parts of the trail on our descent), and dress in layers for the hike. We hope you'll be there. Rain cancels.

AEU 97th Assembly

The **American Ethical Union's 97th Assembly** will be held at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel in Albany, NY, **June 14 to 17**.

This year's theme is "Creating Communities of Hope and Justice." We'll have opportunities to learn what is happening at other Ethical Societies, get the latest news and information on criminal justice, attend a series of great workshops on a wide range of timely topics, and hear from exciting speakers. There are nine of our members/Leaders involved in the program. **L Miller, Donna Pang, and Eva Yachnes** are the AEU administrators. At the awards luncheon on Friday, June 15, there will be two Ana Garlin Spencer awards going to our wonderful volunteers, **Dr. Ruth Cohen** and **Stephanie Rosenblatt**. At 5:20 pm our President, **Andra Miller**, will conduct a one-hour personal development workshop, "What is the Best and How do You Bring it Out?" On Saturday, June 16 at 10:00 am, **Dr. Anne Klaeyen** will preside at the panel discussion on "Humanizing Criminal Justice," and at 2:15 will facilitate the "Justice for Juveniles" workshop on how to undo the "cradle-to-prison pipeline." Anne will also

preside at the 4:30 panel on "Children of the Incarcerated." At the Saturday luncheon, **Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross** will present an award to former NY State Governor David Paterson in recognition of his work and signature to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws. And that night at the Elliott-Black Award Banquet, **Abe Markman** (who suggested the awardee) will present it to Bob Gangi, for his work as executive director of the Correctional Association and the Police Reform Project at the Urban Justice Center. The Elliott-Black Award is AEU's highest honor. Visit the AEU website: <http://aeu.org/>.

Ethics on the Air

Tune in to WBAI (99.5 FM) on **Wednesday, June 20, 10:00 pm**, when **Ethics on the Air** will present a conversation with Vince Brancato on the subject of **hydrofracking for natural gas** and its effect on our environment, highlighting both the scientific and ethical concerns raised by this process. Hydrofracking in our watershed is a threat to New York City's water supply because it leaves behind the water and chemicals that have been pumped into the shale rock in order to cause gas-releasing fissures. The "stew" that is left behind has often leached into water tables and contaminated the water supply. But this is not the only problem with the entire 'fracking process!

Listen, and learn how drilling companies have sometimes obfuscated the facts and led people to believe they are doing good!

Relationships

Join us on Monday, **June 25, 6:30–8:30 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a workshop, **Continuing to**

Build Ethical Relationships, facilitated by Marty Epstein, MS, trainer and mediator.

Communication is at the core of every family, friendship, and organization. When we learn a better way to speak and listen, we can mend broken relationships and build new ones, because we understand both sides.

With 10 years' experience in teaching nonviolent communication and graduate training at Columbia University in negotiation and conflict resolution and 20 years in the corporate world, Marty will share his system of communication with us.

The workshop is free to members and \$10 for nonmembers. To register, contact Yalitzia Garcia at ygarcia@nysec.org or 212-874-5210, ext.118. For more information, visit <http://www.effectiveconversation.com/index.php>.

Close-up on Committees

Elinore Kaplan

Ethics and the Theater

“The Play’s the Thing”

Among our liveliest and most inviting activities are the play readings on one Friday evening every month, presented by the **Ethics and the Theater Committee**, preceded by a reception and followed by a discussion.

The committee reviews plays for consideration, choosing ones that lend themselves both to a reading and a discussion of their ethical issues, and selects the director for each production. Copies of the plays have to be found in the library or purchased,

and edited down to about an hour’s length. Then the scripts have to be formatted, printed up, and prepared for the cast.

Betsy Ungar also describes the play for an item in the monthly *Ethical Outlook* newsletter.

Elaine Berman, Pat Debrovner, Susanna

Frazer, Susan Horowitz, and **Dick Van Deusen** direct the plays and cast them, using both Society members and professional actors recommended by the directors and by **Carol Nadell Van Deusen**, a casting director by profession. Guest actors are paid an honorarium to cover their expenses, according to Actors Equity guidelines. Rehearsals are held at the Society during the week leading up to the performance.

There’s no lack of work for the ardent production staff. A discussion moderator is chosen for each reading. Pat designs the publicity flyers, and **Chuck Debrovner** creates posters. Chuck also sets up the sound-system, and video-records each performance. Carole and Jerry Chamlin purchase the wine and cheese and set them out for the reception. Volunteers greet attendees, collect admission donations, and distribute the programs and flyers. Other members of the committee, onstage and behind the scenes, include **Muriel Berger, Mary Ellen Goodman,** and **John Gurney.**

Pat Debrovner founded the committee in 2005 and chairs it. Her own background in the theater is evident to her co-workers and truly motivates and inspires cast members. As a professional actress, Pat appeared in a number of plays and musicals on and



Dan Hanson and Pat in *I Never Sang for My Father*

off-Broadway, as well as many television dramas, including 35 years on the popular long-running CBS daytime series, “As the World Turns,” in the role of “Ellen Stewart.” “But,” Pat says, “I’m grateful for the opportunity Ethics and the Theater has given me to play some outstanding roles in the history of the theater.”

As Betsy Ungar points out, “Our experiences as theatergoers can help us to define and develop our ethical standards. When we watch a play, we, along with the characters, experience the effects of the ethical choices that they make. We come to understand the motives that underlie their actions, and these may color our judgments of them. Perhaps most importantly, we then bring this deepened understanding into the real world, and apply it to real situations involving real people.”

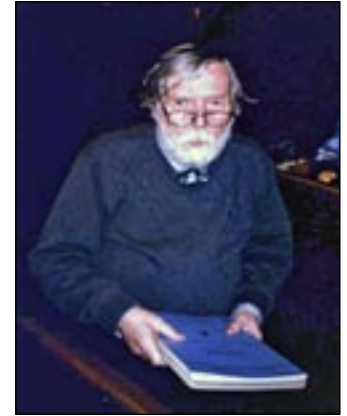
On **Friday, June 22**, Ethics and the Theater presents Moss Hart’s hilarious comedy, *Light Up the Sky*, directed by Dick Van Deusen. On **Wednesday, July 18**, we’ll see *The Diary of Anne Frank*, by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, directed by Elaine Berman. A granddaughter of our beloved member Sabine Rosenberg, Natalie Kropf, will play Anne.

Gerald Ranck Concert Series

The voices of an enthusiastic audience, accompanied by pianist Jon Liechty, rang out in the familiar tune of “Happy Birthday to You” on Tuesday evening, May 1, in the Society’s Auditorium.

This was the final program in a four-concert series entitled “**Gerald Ranck and His Friends**,” which our Music Director presented to NYSEC on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The series raised more than \$2,000 for the New York Society, and had a total attendance of approximately 200, including Columbia University students and faculty, Jerry’s musician friends, people from the community, and many Society members. The celebration ended with a birthday cake, punch, and a giant birthday card signed by all.



Gerald Ranck



Member Jon Liechty with Jerry as they performed in the Auditorium.



Member Sheila Kleinwald cuts the birthday cake presented to Jerry after the concert.



(L-R, Back row) Members Mary Houts, Elaine Berman, and John Gurney.

(L-R, Front row) Pat Malkin and Jon Liechty.

Volunteers Needed for Summer Sunday Programs

Amy Schwarz

The summer Sunday program meets for 10 weeks, commencing July 1 at 10:30 am through Labor Day. Volunteers are needed to replace me as coordinator/greeter. If there are five volunteers, they could take two Sundays convenient to their schedules. I will take the unfilled Sundays.

Responsibilities include: Showing up at least 15 minutes prior to the program; Handing out programs while welcoming attendees; Asking an attendee to assist with gathering and totaling the collection—and counting the audience present (Moe-Swe will help); Giving the collection, etc. to Moe-Swe.

Please see or contact me at 212-666-5219; (work) 212-547-0659; email: schwarz@frick.org.

I will put together a schedule one month at a time to allow for summer plans of volunteers.

Membership Retreat

2012

Friday September 14th - Sunday 16th

LATEST INFORMATION

- Rooms with semi-private or shared baths still available
Preference given in order of deposit
- Total weekend costs (all prices are per person)
Includes 2 nights, 6 meals, all activities, Friday night party and Saturday night special guest event
 - Single Occupancy \$300 - \$330
 - Double Occupancy \$200 - \$250
- \$100 deposit per person should be paid by Sunday July 15
- Payment in full due by Sunday August 26
- Confidential financial assistance available based on need
- Convenient transportation by bus or car

For more information contact

Moe-Swe: Sun -Wed, 9am - 4:30pm 212.874.5210 x113

Sheila: (best times) Mon - Sat, 9am -10am or 8pm - 9pm 212.751.7255

June 2012

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>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group June 4–<i>My Name Is Red</i>, by Orhan Pamuk</p> <p>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries June 18–<i>American Experience: Stonewall Uprising</i> (2010)</p> <p>Ethics and the Theater June 22–<i>Light Up The Sky</i> by Moss Hart</p>					1 July/August 2012 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm–Ethics in Film: <i>The Seven Year Itch</i> (1955)	2
3 10:00 am– Chorus Practice 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm– Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm– Ethics in Action 1:45 pm– Photography Arts Club	4 1:00 pm– Ethics in Literature	5 6:00 pm– Wisdom and World Affairs	6 6:30 pm– Empty Bowls	7 12:00 pm– Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm– Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm– Thursday Writing Workshop	8 6:00 pm– Potluck Dinner	9 8:35 am– Spring Hike
10 10:00 am– Colloquy 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm– Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm– Ethics in the News	11 6:30 pm– Board of Trustees	12	13	14 AEU 97th Assembly Albany, NY→ 12:00 pm– Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm– Thursday Writing Workshop	15 AEU 97th Assembly Albany, NY→	16 AEU 97th Assembly Albany, NY→
17 AEU Assembly Ends 10:00 am– Poetry Reading 10:00 am– Chorus Practice 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm– Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm– Life with Health	18 1:00 pm– Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 7:00 pm– Prospective Members' Reception	19 6:00 pm– Wisdom and World Affairs	20 10:00 pm– Ethics on the Air (WBAI.99.5 FM)	21 12:00 pm– Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm– Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm– Thursday Writing Workshop	22 7:00 pm– Ethics and the Theater	23
24 10:00 am– Psalms of the Land 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm– Brunch/Social Hour 2:00 pm– Memorial for Barbara Levenson	25 6:30 pm– Continuing to Build Ethical Relationships	26 6:00 pm– Social Service Board	27	28 12:00 pm– Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm– Thursday Writing Workshop	29	30



TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023-7179