

# 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–Auditorium**

**May 4**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

**Democracy**

*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

Andra Miller Presides

**May 11**

**Our Identity—What and Where?**

*Robert Tapp, Dean Emeritus*

*Humanist Institute, NYC*

Tony Hileman Presides

**May 18**

**Founder's Day**

**Ethical Culture Then and Now**

*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

**May 25**

**Resistance in the Ranks:**

**Organizing GIs Against the War  
Through Outreach and Testimony**

*Jose N. Vasquez*

*Adjunct Lecturer*

Bonnie Bean Presides

**AEU Lay Leadership  
Summer School**

**August 9–16**

For more information  
contact the AEU at  
212-873-6500.

## **May Happenings**

**NYSEC's Annual Membership Meeting**—Sunday, May 4, at 11:15 am.

**Founder's Day**—Sunday, May 18, at 11:15 am. *(See page 4)*

## **President's Notes**

*Andra Miller*



I'm writing this on a beautiful summery spring day—and the sunlight pouring through the window makes me feel that living is luxurious. Times like these make us all feel thankful for the good things we have.

I certainly feel thankful for all the work done generously by our hard-working Board in this year of my presidency, most recently the tasks taken on by Heather Grady and Pat Cohen. Heather spearheaded the ad hoc Personnel Committee that hired Julie Blutstein and Moe-

Swe Myint—and is now the fearless fundraising Pledge Committee chair. Her enthusiasm for these daunting tasks is desperately needed by a President who often quails at the scope of the jobs we face. And Pat was the survey guru—did a beautiful job, and is now head of the Nominating Committee, the results of which are listed in the enclosed flyer.

It is a delight to work with Henryka Komanska, head of the Co-Sponsored Programs Committee and wise adviser who volunteers for and completes all tasks with creativity, accuracy, and alacrity. And then there's Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, tireless worker on too many commit-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **From the Leader's Desk**

*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*



### **A Mathematics of Meaning**

*"A society is a link of relationships among people and institutions, so that we can live together. But it only works if we have a culture—which implies that we share meaning; i.e., significance, purpose and value. Otherwise it falls apart."*

—David Bohm, quantum physicist, *On Dialog*, 1990

We would all like to see a healthier Ethical Society and a heartier Ethical Movement. It's easy to surrender to pessimistic temptations in the face of the numeric challenges both face today—declines in membership and contributions, a lower public profile, a general lack of resources both volunteer and financial. Things are difficult, as they have been in the recent past and as they likely will be in the near future. But as a long-time, long-term optimist, I do not feel threatened, let alone defeated, by short-term challenges.

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 Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Archivist  
 Jon Liechty, Reporter  
 Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor  
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 Rita Chawla, Director of Family Programs  
 Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Senior Leader  
 Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate  
 Gerald Ranck, Music Director  
 Marion Rice, Rental Operations

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**United Social Services, Inc.  
 Social Service Board Directors**

Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Chair  
 Margaretha Jones, Vice Chair  
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 Program and Board Development, David Leiman, Chair

**Working Groups’ Coordinators:**

DNA Project: David Leiman  
 Scholarships: Valerie Leiman  
 Soccer Program: Henry Bunch  
 Supervised Visitation: Margaretha Jones  
 Women’s Shelter: Dr. Maria Fridman  
 Homeless Artists Workshop: Dr. Maria Fridman  
 Brochure Update: Lucile Kleiman and Margaretha Jones

**President’s Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

tees and projects to name. In the works is a huge event she’s helping arrange at the Society for June 4, the visit by the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who will be giving the commencement address at Harvard that morning and will be receiving an award from the Global Fund for Women the next night. She will speak at a huge gala here, celebrating the work of the women of Liberia and the New York City-based fund, The Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund.

Also up on the action front is Dr. James Farer, fearless investigator and tireless advocator—antsy about our slow progress, but hanging in for doing it right. His involvement with various aspects of our administration and finance is invaluable. Then there’s the sage advice and ever-present volunteering of Maria Fridman, who is also the world’s most delightful noodge. She keeps us on our toes, and she does the things others are loathe to do, like nailing down details and making phone calls. Right up there also are Sylvan Wallach and Margaretha Jones, who are always willing to take on ad hoc assignments; Bob Berger, both treasurer and Building Committee chair—and then the rest of the crew: Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, Meg

Chapman (chair of Family Programs), Christina Nargolwala, and Steven Schultz, as well as our honorary Board members, prior Presidents Charles Debrovner and Judith Wallach.

I need to thank an ex-Board-member, Jirina Ribbens, for all that she has done for us and the honest thoughts she has shared with us in the consideration of Board business. She continues to be a Society member, but has resigned from the Board because of her conscientious objections to several of the decisions the Board has made. Jirina would have preferred for us to be far more conservative in some of our budget allocations, and to be more concerned with the efficiency of our employees. We take her views to heart, and will carefully reevaluate these functions and expenditures—and at the same time, we will miss her sorely.

This thank-you listing is just Board folks. It doesn’t include all the work done by committees, by the staff, and by you members from time to time, not to mention the Social Service Board. It’s great to be a part of the New York Society—where a helping hand is always available.

And that brings us to Moe-Swe Myint, our new Membership Associate. Although her first day was Monday, March 31, she volunteered to join us for a few evening events before she was

officially on staff: the Pledge Party and the March Orientation dinner. It gave many of us a chance to get to know her ahead of time, and we find her to be superb. We all look forward to the contributions of Moe-Swe and our other new employee, who has already proved invaluable, Julie Blutstein, our Development and Communications Director.

We're happy to say that Susanna Frazer, our prior membership staffer, has an exciting new career teaching acting and directing at Brooklyn College, and is pursuing an MFA in directing. As a regular NYSEC member, she will be here often—and she promises that she will volunteer from time to time and will continue to be involved in Ethics and the Theater.

It was my pleasure to speak at the March 30 meeting on “Unity and Diversity”—and both the text and video are available on our web site—the video thanks to Chuck Debrovner and web guy Tom Weishaar. I'd like to give special thanks to Dr. Marc Bernstein, who is always eagerly helpful to those of us who want to make use of his treasured archives. As soon as you let him know what you think you need, he takes on the task of finding you books, speeches, dissertations, and whatever else is appropriate for your quest. It would have been very difficult to prepare my talk without his gracious and generous help. Thanks, Marc!

I'm sure you're all anxious to know about the progress of the Leader Search Committee. As of the time of this writing (April 15), the core committee is studying the membership survey and the Board criteria for the position, setting out its “snares” and preparing to evaluate the applications that come in. Members are: Bonnie Bean, Jerry Chamlin, Chuck Debrovner, Chris Everett, Sheila Kleinwald, JoAnn Mason, and Carol

Nadell Van Deusen. Advisers are: Marc Bernstein, Jim Farer, Mary Ellen Goodman, Phyllis Kreuttner, and David Waltzer. We are confident that the matter is in hand, and we'll keep you posted along the way. You can address questions or comments to any of these people.

And, finally, start saving up to join us in Warwick, New York, for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual NYSEC country retreat. It will be October 3-6, and is being planned by Janice Buzby, Sheila Kleinwald, and Moe-Swe Myint.

## Leader's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

It's all too easy to shift our focus from what inspired the Ethical Movement to greatness and get caught up in numbers of members, numbers and amounts of contributions, numbers of projects and activities, or the number of mentions in the media, which has grown from newspapers to radio to television to the World Wide Web over the course of our history.

I have difficulty picturing the founding generation of lay and professional leaders of the Ethical Movement sitting around having the kind of conversations we're prone to today. It's far easier to imagine them discussing the potency and importance of ethical living, the needs of our surrounding community, the level of dedication among members, and our wherewithal to transform society.

Their focus was not on the raw numbers of money and members. Theirs was not an accounting of institutional success but rather of meaning: a simple equation of fiscal solvency—do income and outgo match?—and an assessment of involvement—how fully do members participate in the Society? And, much, much, much more importantly, what does the Society mean to its members, to the community, and to our culture?

These are things that cannot be balanced in debits and credits. These calculations require a mathematics of meaning, one that calculates significance and value. A ciphering that assesses the resonance and relevance of our message, that weighs our aspirations against our capacities and lends guidance to our undertakings, that values the connections we foster among people and institutions, not in raw numbers but in an evaluation of purpose and significance.

These are the kinds of evaluations I imagine having taken place in our early days and in our most vibrant years. And they are the kind of examinations I would like to see us more involved in today. Part of being progressive is continually being at a crossroads—an intersection at which we must examine not only our present situation but our options for the future and our history.

Raw numbers hint at our institutional health but they are not, in and of themselves, guidance on more important considerations. For that we need a mathematics of meaning.

## Sunday Morning Meetings

**11:15 AM—Auditorium**

**May 4—Democracy**

*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

*“The great forces that have brought about change are science and democracy, especially the latter ... leaving behind us the age in which authority prevailed in the realm of thought, and privilege in the realm of action, (we) must adopt for our guidance in the world of thought, freedom; and in the world of action, true democracy.”*

—Felix Adler, *The Religion of Duty*, 1905

Democracy, like Humanism or ethics, is a word that struggles with a surplus

of meanings. For example, what did Adler mean by “true democracy”? Was it direct democracy in which the people decide all matters of consequence by referendum or representative democracy under which citizens or members elect those who will govern them in their best interest? Each has its virtues and their merits often fluctuate with size, the number of those governed, and the extent of the government. How should these considerations impact your decisions as you contemplate the elections of 2008?

**May 11—Our Identity—  
What and Where?**

*Robert Tapp, Dean Emeritus,  
Humanist Institute, NYC*

Are we atheists, humanists, agnostics, ethicals, religious liberals, progressives, spiritual but not religious, bright, post-traditional, cosmopolitan? Most of us give varied answers depending upon our questioner and on the occasion.

When we ask why we keep coming back here, is it not because “here” is that rare community of people whose values we share, and whose commitment to make this a better world excites us? Wherever the chance of birth may have started us, we now have become part of this new family. As more of our neighbors outgrow the limitations of their birth cultures, it becomes more urgent for the ethical option here to become a living option.

Robert Tapp is Professor Emeritus of Humanities, Religious Studies, South Asian Studies at the University of Minnesota and Dean Emeritus of the Humanist Institute, NYC. He received the Horace Mann Humanist Education Award from the American Humanist Association in 2005 and was editor of *Ecohumanism* (2002) and *The Fate of Democracy* (2006).

**May 18—Founder’s Day—  
Ethical Culture Then and Now**  
*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

*“The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.”*

*—A Quaker Book of Wisdom*

Ethical Culture is bound to the shifting realities of an advancing culture that carries us along with it. It follows that we must continually examine, refine, and likewise advance this precious treasure of ours in order to keep it consistent with the world around us. That we have done and continue to do. Over the 132 years since our founding, external and internal changes have impacted our thinking, our actions, and our organization. Senior Leader Tony Hileman retraces our steps from the vaguely transcendental idealism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the philosophic naturalism of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**May 25—Resistance in the Ranks:  
Organizing GIs Against the War  
Through Outreach and Testimony**

*Jose N. Vasquez, Adjunct Lecturer  
John Jay College, CUNY*

As America enters its sixth year of occupation in Iraq and nearly eighth year in Afghanistan, the strain on US military personnel has taken a major toll. Over 4,000 service members have been killed in action and there seems to be little sign that the so-called War on Terror will come to an end any time soon. Within the military ranks, there is a growing movement to stand against indefinite war and to hold leaders accountable for their policies.

Mr. Vasquez will highlight some of the strategies soldiers and veterans are using to resist the occupations and show how communities are getting involved in supporting GI resistance.

Jose Vasquez is an active member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, serving

as the President of the NYC chapter and on its Board of Directors. He recently headed the verification team for Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan ([www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier](http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier)), collecting veterans’ testimony.

**Conversation With  
The Leader:  
Back to Basics**

*Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

*“Consider what the need of humankind is at the present day. Consider what your own strengths are, and where you can best make them count.”*

*—Felix Adler, December 1923*

Felix Adler made few institutional proclamations, focusing his considerable energies instead on a unique and inseparable joining of individual and social ethics. But in the above-quoted advice he puts forth the formula that guided the Ethical Movement through its formative stages: What are the social wants, what are our capabilities, and how can we best give expression to our ethics toward social reform? How can we best make our strengths count in a world in desperate need of moral anchorage? That will be the focus of our conversation on **Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 pm**. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Early Sunday  
10 AM**

**May 4—Singing 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 a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall—4<sup>th</sup> fl.

**May 11—Colloquy—Ideals.** Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

**May 18—Poetry Readings**—We'll read poems that we have written. We hope to see you, so join us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

**May 18—Singing Practice**—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

**May 25**—No program today.

## Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

**May 4**—No program today.

**May 11—Open PIC Meeting.** Showing a DVD of Tom Brokaw and discussing his book, *Boom! Voices of the Sixties*, and letter writing. Abe Markman presides. Room 514.

**May 18—Life With Health.** Phyllis Kreuttner and Jacqueline Pope preside. Social Hall, lower level.

**May 25**—No program today.

## Board Meeting Highlights

*Sheila Abrams Kleinwald*

At the April Board meeting, the Trustees welcomed our newest staffer, Membership Associate Moe-Swe Myint, and formally approved new members Edward Gross, Hasoni Pratts, Michael Pratts, and David Sheridan Waltzer.

The passing of long-time member Edna Schleifer was noted. Monthly reports to the Board from the President, Senior Leader, Executive Director, and Social Service Board had been previously submitted.

At the request of SSB chair, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, the Board approved the SSB's appointment of Vincent Montaruli as its secretary. There was renewed discussion of the pros and cons of hiring a rental manager for our building, based on a

presentation by Dr. James Farer. The motion to provide an exploratory budget failed by a margin of one vote.

The issue of the optimum number of trustees was revisited. At the annual meeting this May, the entire membership will be asked to vote on a motion, previously approved by the Board, to change the Society's by-laws, reducing the number of Trustees from fifteen to twelve. Former Board President Judy Wallach presented her thoughts as to why this change would be ill-advised. You should have already received the packet that includes this motion. Since last month's Board approval of the reduced number, some Board members have changed their minds after hearing further arguments on both sides of the issue. Dr. Pat Cohen, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that anyone interested in running for the Board may still be able to do so. If you are interested, or would like to suggest a candidate, please get in touch with her or any member of the committee.

The AEU has asked for more office space, as has the School. So far, we have not offered them any. They urged that we consider the AEU request, since they were promised that we would try to accommodate their needs. They have suggested that they may have to move from our building if we cannot do so.

A motion to provide partial financial reimbursement to the two people who have signed up for this summer's AEU Lay Leadership Summer School was passed unanimously.

It was agreed that this year's Weekend Membership Retreat will be held outside the city, probably again at the Warwick Center. Janice Buzby, a guest member at the meeting, offered to take charge of the arrangements, and I will assist her. (Anyone who would like to help plan and organize, or assist with

the weekend, please contact Janice, me, or Moe-Swe.)

Development and Communications Director Julie Blutstein reported on her continued efforts to obtain outside grants or other funding. As a result of her contact with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, she plans to develop a program proposal that might qualify for assistance through his office. Julie is also working on an e-mail marketing plan for Society programming. She is comparing the costs and benefits of several companies that execute such plans. She estimates the cost to be between \$40 and \$90 a month. A motion to budget that amount was approved unanimously

## Our Ethical Family

*Suzy Frazer*

**Please welcome our new members!**

**Edward Gross** is a psychologist whose wife, Cheryl, is a long-time member. He has attended many events, retreats, platforms, and cultural programs here. Ed likes history, classical music, and the French language. He is also a long-standing member of the New York Freudian Society.

**Hasoni Pratts** is the Chief of Staff of the New York State Assembly. With her husband, Michael, she has attended many NYSEC Sunday meetings and events and she is drawn to Ethical Culture by its ability to improve society. Hasoni is a member of the Black Psychiatrists of New York.

**Michael Pratts**, Hasoni's husband, is a psychiatrist who works with children. They were introduced to NYSEC by Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and they've attended many programs here. Michael enjoys the arts, movies, and theater and is a member of the American Psychiatric Society and the Black Psychiatrists of New York.

**David Sheridan Waltzer** is an attorney with a B.A. in philosophy and an M.P.A. in organizational development and policy. His interests include music, outdoor sports, Spanish and Portuguese. David's parents are members of the Ethical Society of Westchester and he shares the values of Ethical Culture.

Sadly, member **Dr. Frank Berger** died on March 18 in Manhattan at the age of 94. Dr. Berger helped start the modern era of drug development with his invention of Miltown. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 14, at 5:00 p.m. at All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington Ave.

We have also learned from Virginia Scherer, chair of the Caring Committee, that long-time member **Edna Schleifer** died two months ago in Florida, where she lived. This year would have been her NYSEC 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Edna served on various committees, and her husband, Cy, was a NYSEC Trustee for three terms.

**Christine Swann**, former Board member, has resigned from the Society.

Thanks to all for two very successful events, the Pledge Party and the Dedication of the Jean Somerville Kotkin Terrace.

Please welcome **Moe-Swe Myint**, our new Membership Associate, who arrived on March 31.

Moe-Swe was born in Burma. She is an artist and has worked as a translator for an independent film company on a documentary about Burma's popular game, Chinlone. Before that she was office manager for the NYC Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center at Hunter College. While there Moe-Swe served as one of the artist-judges for the Annual Chinese



Moe-Swe Myint

Lunar New Year Art Competition for K-12 students sponsored by the NYC and NYS Education Departments.

\* \* \*

On a personal note, by the time you read this, I will have left my post at the Society to pursue a unique opportunity to teach acting at the college level. I've treasured my time here and will remain a member. Love and thanks to all.

## Our Unsung Heroes

*Helen Mecs*

We want to introduce some of our "unsung heroes" here at the Society. We'll start this month with three of the dedicated, hard-working members of NYSEC's maintenance staff—the behind-the-scenes folks who work so tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. (Due to lack of space we will introduce the remaining three in the next issue.)

**Marlon Rice** is Facility and Events Manager and author of a soon-to-be self-published first novel, *Blow One Down*. Set in the Washington D.C.,



Marlon Rice

area where he lived after graduation from Morgan State University with a telecommunications degree, the novel deals with how the choices we make in life affect not only us but our families and the people around us.

Marlon came to the Society in 2003 as a security guard determined to apply for the first position that opened up. In 2005, that happened to be Facility Director, and although he had never managed a building before, he was good at the work, which he loves. Marlon lives with his fiancée and their two

daughters. He spends time he has left over from his family and his job on his writing. His next goal: creating a web site and selling his book.

### Leonardo Gibson

has an associate's degree in computer/electronics from York College. He loves the hands-on aspect of his job; in fact he has turned down several job offers from law firms and corporations to stay on here for that reason. He is also the longest-serving member of the maintenance staff, having come to NYSEC twelve years ago as a high school intern in a Board of Education program. He worked weekends and also on the late shift, as he still does, while getting his degree.



Leonardo Gibson

Working the night shift enables Leonardo to devote time to getting his name known in the music production industry. He creates demos and sound tracks for friends and has already produced some 100 CDs. Leonardo and his wife have a two-year-old son and a nine-month-old daughter.

### Anwar Bramble

also came to NYSEC as a high school intern through the same Board of Education program ten years ago, making him the second longest-serving member of the staff. He began his work life two years earlier, at the age of 16, working for a messenger service. As a high school freshman, his talent as a cartoonist was recognized when he placed third in a city-wide high school competition, Cityscape.



Anwar Bramble

Anwar is a single father with a seven-year-old daughter.

## Teen Leadership Program

Rita Chawla

Our spring session, which began on March 30, will continue on Sunday afternoons May 4, 11, and 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The program is a series of interactive workshops that aim to inspire ethical leadership and social activism in young people, ages 13-16. Participants are engaged by the process of “doing,” learning the art of leadership through group activities, role-playing, simulations, case studies, community service, and journaling.

Our goal is to provide teens with the foundation, tools, and techniques for ethical leadership based not only on knowledge and skills, but also vision, integrity, and character. Workshop topics include: self-confidence and positive character traits, effective leadership and team-building, awareness of social justice issues, and engagement in social action.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, email me at [rchawla@nysec.org](mailto:rchawla@nysec.org), or call 212-874-5210, ext. 106.

## Film Forum

Sue Dye

Join us for the Oscar-winning Czech film, *Divided We Fall*, on Friday, May 2, at 7:00 pm.

During World War II in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia, a childless couple hide in their tiny apartment a young Jewish former neighbor who has escaped from a Nazi death camp. Their domesticity becomes tense when their friend, a collaborator, keeps dropping by for meals. We'll see how people have to make unorthodox choices to protect their friends while they save their own lives.

The filmmakers explore not only the banality of evil, but also the banality of goodness, and the ridiculousness, as well as the tragedy, of their collision. The admission fee of \$5 will cover the cost of refreshments.

## PIC News

### Social Unionism

Patricia Berens, Abe Markman



(L-R) Abe Markman; Professor Alex S. Vitale, guest speaker; and Pat Berens

On Sunday, April 6, Dr. Alex S. Vitale, a professor of sociology at Brooklyn College and a member of the executive council of the Professional Staff Congress, CUNY, spoke about problems in the labor movement today, focusing on the differing approaches of the entrenched union leaders of the past, who were “business oriented,” and the newer, younger union leaders, who are more focused on “social unionism,” which advocates positions on the larger social and political issues facing the US and union members.

### Paid Leave Passes

Abe Markman

A signature PIC issue, paid family leave, was approved by the New Jersey legislature in early April and Gov. Jon S. Corzine said he would sign the bill into law. New Jersey would then become the third state to offer workers the right to take paid leave to care for a newborn or a sick relative.

Deserving great credit for passage is the New York State Paid Family

Leave Coalition, an eight-state coalition of unions, women's, children's, and older adults' organizations, and think tanks. NYSEC joined the coalition in 2007 and PIC members have been active players. The next step is to bring paid leave to workers in New York. For more information log on to: <http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/public-issues-committee/>.

## SSB Gift

David Leiman, Treasurer

The Social Service Board has received a matching gift of \$2,500 from Board member Paul Berman.

Paul encourages Society members to consider contributing toward matching his gift, in any amount. Make the gift to United Social Services Inc., by June 30.

## Memorial Terrace

Ruth Cohen, Sheila Kleinwald



Dr. Khoren Arisian

The dedication of the Jean Somerville Kotkin Memorial Terrace on Sunday, March 23, was a wonderful tribute to Jean's memory. We welcomed about 50 guests, including former presidents, leaders, and speakers.

We received numerous generous contributions to the Terrace Garden Fund—along with many good wishes.

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers whose dedicated efforts made this possible. We also thank the Redeemer Church for their donation of white lilies for the event.

# May 2008

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><b>Great Books:</b> May 7 – Montaigne, <i>Of Experience</i> (complete work) Hamilton et al, <i>The Federalist</i></p> <p><b>ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group)</b> May 14 – Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i></p> <p><b>Great Books: Great Conversations I</b> May 21 – Leo Tolstoy, <i>Hadji Murad</i></p>				1  <b>June 2008 Newsletter Deadline</b>  7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	2  7:00 pm – Film Forum	3  9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
4 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Annual Membership Meeting 12:45 pm – Annual Luncheon 1:45 pm – No program 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	5  6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6  7:00 pm – Paul Krugman	7  6:00 pm – Men's Group 6:00 pm – Conversation with the Senior Leader 7:30 pm – Great Books	8  7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	9	10  9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
11 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – PIC: Open Meeting- DVD of Tom Brokaw 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	12  6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	13  6:00 pm – Women's Group	14  3:00 pm – ECRDG	15  7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	16	17  9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
18 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Founder's Day 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Life with Health 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	19  6:30 pm – Social Service Board 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	20  7:00 pm – Adult Education	21  6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:30 pm – Great Books: Great Conversations I	22  7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	23  11:00 am – Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)	24  No Supervised Visitation Program today
25 10:00 am – No program 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – No program	26  <b>Memorial Day Society offices closed</b>	27  6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	28  6:00 pm – Ethical Culture Today?	29  7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	30	31  9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR  
**ETHICAL CULTURE** 

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# Candidates for NYSEC's Board of Trustees

On Sunday, May 4, at the Annual Meeting, we'll be voting for new members to join the Board of Trustees. Below is a list of the candidates and a brief bio on each of them.



**Phyllis Harrison Ross**—I am a community mental health administrator with over 35 years of experience in program development, hospital and clinical administration, teaching, research, mental health community service, consultation, and education. As a psychiatrist and pediatrician, I have served on major government commissions at the federal, state, and local level, and have lectured widely and appeared in the media.

I've been an active member of NYSEC since 2002, and chair of the Social Service Board since 2003, a Trustee since 2005, a member of the Board's Finance Committee since 2005, chair of the Endowment Committee, and a member of the Audit Committee. I'm also on the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee, the Public Issues Committee (PIC), and the Radio and Media Committee, and co-host of "Ethics on the Air," the WBAI radio program.

In addition to these ongoing activities, I have recently been appointed as one of the Society's representatives on the Board of the Ethical Culture School, and I've worked with Dr. Marc Bernstein to develop and submit a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce a NYSEC historical video. As a member of the SSB, I have served as convener for several large events co-sponsored by NYSEC. I have also been able to represent the ethical positions of PIC to Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in small meetings.

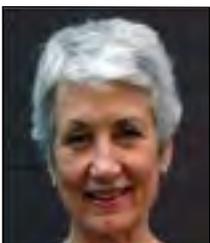
As chair of the Endowment Committee, I am convening a series of educational opportunities for Trustees to learn about the history and management of our endowment investments and to plan a strategy for increasing the endowment. This includes convening a meeting with neighborhood residents to get them to participate in and support the Society and its wonderful building. I have volunteered to join the Search Committee for a new leader. I would like the opportunity to continue these projects and efforts.



**Sheila Abrams Kleinwald**—Since joining NYSEC eight years ago, I have enjoyed acting as a Sunday Platform presider, newcomer host, and Sunday lunch server. I have served on the Building Committee (5 years, including two as co-chair); several Membership Committees (Activities, Development, Growth); and the Board of Trustees Nominating Committee. As a concerned member. I attend nearly all Board of Trustee meetings, in order to understand how the Society is run. This year I resumed writing a "Board Meeting Highlights" column for *Ethical Outlook*. I have attended the AEU Lay Leadership Summer School, which I recommend for every Trustee.

Currently I am on the Leader Search Committee and the By-Laws Committee. I also participate at all House Committee meetings and am seeking ways to renovate our kitchen. I worked with Ruth Cohen to accomplish the completion of the Memorial Wall in our building lobby and the dedication of the Jean Somerville Kotkin Terrace. In addition, for the past two years, I have coordinated the lunch service during Sunday Social Hour, working with the caterer, all of our lunchtime volunteers, and the maintenance staff. We all strive to smoothly serve a tasty, balanced, attractive lunch at an affordable price, in a congenial atmosphere.

Looking ahead, I believe we must more clearly define our identity, educating both ourselves and the public as to what Ethical Culture truly is. We must broaden our vision of "appropriate members," and learn to reach out effectively to a more diverse group of people. I believe we can once again be the birthplace of wonderful organizations. And I believe I can work most effectively to advance these goals as a member, rather than an observer, of the Board of Trustees.



**Andra Miller**—I've been a member since April, 2003; joined the Board in May, 2005; and was elected President in June of last year. I am in the Women's Group and a book group; and serve as a presider, speaker, shelter volunteer, and Officiant. As President, I serve ex-officio on every Society committee and I am on the Board of the Fieldston School. I was a Board member of the AEU through last April, and I continue to serve on its Board Development Committee.

An alumnus of the Lay Leadership Summer School (2004), I have presented several platform addresses: on Adler's "Supreme Moral Rule" at this Society and the Bergen Society; a

year-end talk, “Goodbye 2006,” on the activist legacy of the Society; and on “Unity and Diversity” last March. I also served as one of the three hosts of the Society’s WBAI programs. In the past, I’ve been on the Sunday Programs, Music, Adult Education, and several Ad Hoc Committees (on Leader Evaluation, Membership Development, Leader Search, Restructuring, and Building Fund Development).

I read books onto tape for the blind at JBI, interview political candidates for Citizens Union, and have served on the Watershed Protection Committee of the state Sierra Club. I’ve “done” community theater (acting, singing, and directing) and my professional background includes business writing and magazine editing. My first connection with public service and leadership skills was through childhood participation in the Camp Fire Girls.

I wish to be reelected as a Trustee of NYSEC so that I can continue developing new programs to draw membership and secure our financial future. We have lots of plans on which I am thrilled to be working—to refurbish our building, to work with neighborhood groups to accomplish good things, and to find ways to increase awareness of the Society and its value to the community.

**Christina L. Nargolwala**—I’ve been a member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture for several years, and would like to continue as a Trustee for a second term. I live on the Lower East Side and work as a lawyer.

On the Board my legal training has proven helpful, less on specific legal issues than for my ability to analyze and respond to complicated issues. I enjoy participating and through the years have been a member of the Ethical Action Committee and of a prior Leader Evaluation Committee.

I was until recently co-chair of the Younger Members Group, which last year sponsored a huge social event and contributed funds to the Society’s Building Fund.

I actively participate in Board business and attended our local NYC retreats for both Trustees and members. Representing Ethical Culture, I joined in the March on Washington for Women’s Rights and in last winter’s local March against the Iraq War. Outside of the Society, I am an active member of the Network of Spiritual Progressives; I previously volunteered for Election Protection; and continue to help organize local educational events for an international anti-poverty program, the Global Marshall Plan. I also volunteered on short-term projects in Costa Rica and Ireland through Global Volunteers.

If elected to my second term as Trustee, what are my goals? Short-term, to help in hiring an excellent new Leader for the Society, and long-term, to increase our profile in the media so that we become the “go-to” nontheistic religious organization responding on issues of public concern. NYSEC will then contribute to a more reasonable and ethically minded public discourse, perhaps stimulating activists and concerned citizens to join us.



**Sylvan Wallach**—I have been a member of the Board for six years and a member of NYSEC for 26 years. I am active on the By-Laws and Fundraising Committees, and I have recently served on several ad hoc committees related to management, structure, and leadership.

I have also been editor and producer of our newsletter, *Ethical Outlook*; chair of the Newsletter and Internet Committees and web master. I reprogrammed our web pages to improve maintenance and reduce download times, and worked on making our web site accessible to the handicapped, including the blind. In the past, as a member of the Building Committee, I commissioned a study of access for the disabled and I was instrumental in increasing the number of Trustees on the Board from 12 to 15, so that the Board would be more representative of the Society’s membership.

I have served as a delegate to several Assemblies of the AEU and before joining the New York Society, I was a member of the Long Island Society.

I am Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at C.W. Post College and I hold a Ph.D. in mathematics from Johns Hopkins University. I have government and industrial experience as a chemist, patent examiner, member of the War Production Board during WW II, developer of applications of nuclear power, mathematician, computer programmer, and web site designer.

My outside activities include playing tennis and chess and helping my wife, Judy, in the establishment of a charter school. Some of my happiest moments involve keeping up with our numerous children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.