

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

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## **Sunday Programs**

**November 3**

**"There Is Infamy in the Air: The Enemy Within and the Enemy Without"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh

Presides

**November 10**

**"The Catholic Church and Sexual Abuse: An American Reformation?"**

*Gerald Ranck*

Music Director

Carol Nadell Presides

**November 17**

**"How War Affects Thinking in a Thoughtless Time"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

John Kreuttner Presides

**November 24**

**"Struggling for Moral Courage in a Time of Extremes"**

*Dr. Matthew Iles Spetter*

Leader Emeritus

Frank Prescod Presides

**WQXR-FM (96.3)**

**Broadcasts**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of  
the month at 7:30 am

**November 3**

**"Shall We Invade Iraq Now? President Bush and the Age of Preemption"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

**November 17**

**"Must a Free Nation Put Itself 'Under' Something? Why Justice Scalia Is Dead Wrong About the Constitution"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

## **November Happenings**

**AEU Growth and Development Conference.** Learn how to enhance our Society's growth in programs, visibility, and attractiveness. Time: Friday evening, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. Place: Brooklyn Society. Who: board members, committee chairs, and volunteers. For details, see the October issue of *Ethical Outlook* or contact the AEU office at (212) 873-6500, office@aeu.org.

## **Fourth Annual Stained Glass Window Benefit Concert Sunday, November 3, 2:00 pm – Ceremonial Hall, 4th fl.**

Works by Georg Philipp Telemann, Claude Debussy, Antonin Dvorak,  Domenico Scarlatti, Georges Enescu and Paul Hindemith. Artists: Shirley Schnitzer and Jon Liechty – piano; Kathryn Wylie-Marques – flute; Stanley Hoffman – viola; and Javier Ovieda – tenor saxophone. Ticket prices: Students and Senior Citizens – \$5.00; all others – \$15.00. Call (212) 860-4096 for reservations. Spell your name, state number of tickets to reserve and at what price. At Door: \$20.00 per ticket.

## **Archibald Macleish's "J.B."**

### **A Modern Retelling of the Story of Job in Verse Starring Brendan Loftus and Curt Collier, Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society**

In 1958 poet Archibald MacLeish won a third Pulitzer Prize for his dramatic retelling of the story of Job in a contemporary setting. Written in verse, the play follows the story of devout "J.B." and his struggle to make sense of the seemingly meaningless calamities that befall his family. MacLeish's *J.B.* gives voice to the paradoxical expression of human misery and hope in brilliant poetic form.

For ticket holders, a free seminar will be offered on the life of Archibald MacLeish, understanding the play, and a textual look at the Book of Job in modern criticism.

Performance: Saturday, November 23, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Seminar: Saturday, November 23, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$15, including performance and seminar. Purchase in advance by calling Ben Bean at the Society, (212) 874-5210, or at the door.

## Sunday Morning Meetings

**November 3—“There Is Infamy in the Air: The Enemy Within and the Enemy Without”**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

When we have an Administration that desperately wants to invade Iraq in order to bring to it the blessings of democracy after it has demolished Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction; that tries to persuade ordinary American citizens to become amateur snoops; that rejoices that half the population of the country believes First Amendment rights are excessive; that thinks the selling of a war is akin to introducing a new product in the marketplace; that ensures that the U.S. military can now bully its way back onto law school campuses on pain of the host university losing federal money; that regularly attempts to impede women’s access to reproductive health care; that confuses workers’ civil service protections with being insufficiently patriotic by not gladly surrendering their union-guaranteed rights in the name of national security, we have ample cause, in Emerson’s prophetic phrase, to suspect “there is infamy in the air.” As Felix Adler publicly excoriated the imperialism of the Spanish-American War in 1898, so should we expose the underpinnings of the imperialism of our day.

**November 10—“The Catholic Church and Sexual Abuse: An American Reformation?”**

*Gerald Ranck*

One of the principal causes of the Protestant Reformation was institutional corruption in the Catholic Church

coupled with insensitivity and apathy towards its faithful congregants. The appalling and burgeoning sex-abuse scandal and its cover-up could signal a modern reformation of sorts, and threatens the stability of Roman Catholicism. How does this scandal pose questions for Ethical Culture, and what are they? In our zeal and outrage towards these crimes committed by priests against children, and in our government’s efforts to prosecute the offenders as well as their facilitators, do we endanger our country’s bedrock principles of freedom of religion? Are we in danger of stereotyping clergy and the institution of the Catholic Church? This frightening moral lapse holds important and meaningful reflections for us all.

**November 17—“How War Affects Thinking in Thoughtless Times”**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

We live in an age that’s often hard to get hold of—it slips away just as you’re sure you’ve finally got a handle on the zeitgeist. Way back in the 1930s Albert Schweitzer could see how the post-WWI depreciation of thinking was causing the loss of a deep feeling for truth. Meanwhile, in our own day, spin replaces candor, theatricalization replaces reality. Reason has a hard time making its way through such prolonged periods of sustained uncertainty. We’ve been steadily at war since 1914 and there’s no end in sight, what with the newest phantom complication, the so-called war on terrorism. Nothing is more dangerous to the fabric and well being of modern civilization’s creations—like humanism, democracy, secularity. It’s never enough to bemoan

the maddening complexities and perils of the times in which we live. We are required by virtue of our humanity to confront the world for what it is and make sense/carve meaning out of it. The world, in short, is always worth our time, our love, and our concern. If it proves to be thoughtless and hurtful, let us seek to learn why and plant our own thoughtfulness and strength wherever the pain and the need are the greatest.

**November 24—“Struggling for Moral Courage in a Time of Extremes”**

*Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter*

The issue is that war is not the inevitable fate of humankind. Humanism will not accept such fatalism. In our daily actions we can translate “human dignity” into action for human needs—for deliverance of millions from hunger, neglect and homelessness. It depends on how we see ourselves in this time of crisis.

## A Thanksgiving Story

You know that Thanksgiving originated with the Pilgrim Fathers to celebrate the harvest. In 1621 the feast included four wild turkeys, corn, sweet potatoes, nuts, berries, and squash. Not until 1863 was the event transformed into a national holiday by President Lincoln.

Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving at the Society by collecting nonperishable foods for Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center, the Jewish Guild for the Blind, and our Shelter guests. Please bring your SMALL packaged items, such as canned foods, dried fruits, cookies, and crackers to the Society on Sundays in November.

## Our Ethical Family

*Ben Bean & Members*

### *New Members*

**Aaron Alexander** is retired and was active in the Society in the 1970s.

**Mary Domowicz** is a graphic designer and found us through our web site.

**Alan Gardner** is an industrial researcher for IEEE; his son attended the EC Sunday School.

**Alexander Mogieleff** is a software engineer and was a long time member of the Brooklyn Society.

**Howard Kipp Parker** is a film producer/director and also fills in as the secretary for our Social Service Board. He attended the Society meetings as a high school student.

**John Pavelko** is an actor and heard of the Society through a friend.

**Davis P. Platt** is a retired bookstore manager who listened to Algernon Black on the radio. He knew he was a member of the Society before he attended our Sunday Meetings.

**Lucille Rhodes** is retired and was head of a school for troubled teens. She heard of us through the Fieldston School.

**Paula Sheldon** is the Administrator of our Society.

### *News of Members*

**Matthew Ainsworth** has just had his third review published in *Sceptic* Fall 2002 about a book written by Laurie W. Carlson titled *A Fever in Salem*. Our Congrats!

**Khoren Arisian**, our Senior Leader, will, on November 24, in his words, “have reached the venerable age of 70... I intend to observe my birthday privately with Leigh on the delightful island of Maria Galante (named after a dashing early 20th-century French spy) and Ile de Saintes. We shall fly from New York to Guadeloupe on November 23 and then take a ferry to Terre Haute, the little tropical paradise where we shall spend most of our time.” Happy Birthday Khoren!

**Connie Flynn** has been ill for some time and is no longer able to work in the AEU office. She has been given an indefinite leave of absence. Our thoughts are with you, Connie.

**Jean Somerville Kotkin**, Leader and long time active member of our Society, and past executive director of both the AEU and the Humanist Institute, will be celebrating her 80th birthday this month. Our best wishes for a joyous birthday and a spectacular year!

**George LaMothe** fell and was hospitalized at Maimonedes Medical Center. A speedy recovery, George!

**Ivan Starr** has moved and is being dropped from the membership roles.

## Fall Hike

*Henryka Komanska*



On Saturday November 9, we will hike a section of the Long Path, which stretches for 330 miles from Fort Lee, NJ to John Boyd Thatcher State Park, NY. But don't worry; we will only hike 8 miles of this wonderful trail. From the summit of Hook Mountain we will

see spectacular views of the Hudson. Meet at the information booth at the GW Bridge Bus Terminal at 8:50 am. We will travel on a Route 9A Red and Tan bus. The round trip ticket is \$9.00. Wear comfortable clothing and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes. Bring water and a light snack or a sandwich for the trail. We may have a light meal at a local cafe at the end of the hike. For more information about the hike call Henryka at (212) 582-5192. RAIN CANCELS.

## Film Forum

Friday November 15, at 7:00 pm.  
Watch for flyers at the Society.

## Membership Development Committee

*Barbara Levenson*

The new Membership Development Committee met for the first time on Oct. 3. Senior Leader Khoren Arisian and President Michael Bogdanffy Kriegh defined our mission—to create a climate for membership growth and to develop methods for proactively reaching out to prospective members. A wide-ranging discussion ensued, from building a prospective member data base of individuals attending Society sponsored events to ways we can make the Sunday experience of newcomers a more positive one. On Nov. 3, we will begin to develop specific plans. Membership growth cannot be accomplished by one committee, and we will be asking all of you for your ideas and assistance. For our Society to grow and thrive, the help of every member is essential!

## Newsletter Tips

Here are some guidelines to ensure that your item gets published in *Ethical Outlook*:

1. Send it to Deborah Foster, preferably as an e-mail attachment ([dfoster@nysec.org](mailto:dfoster@nysec.org)).
2. Be sure it arrives by the deadline, the first of the month preceding the publication date.
3. Confine items for mini-issues (Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, July) to brief announcements of forthcoming events and very short reports of recent events. Longer articles are welcome for the remaining issues (except for the August Annual Report issue).
4. Announcements of events at the Society may be made in the newsletter only after space has been reserved for them. Deborah will check with Administration.
5. All items must include name(s) of author or authors. Unsigned articles will not be published.
6. Abstracts of Sunday Addresses should be approximately 150-200 words. This will give an appropriate amount of information not only for the newsletter but also for our web site.
7. Please feel free to submit reports of events, letters to the editor, original poetry, etc. Know that they may be published intact, edited and/or abbreviated, or, occasionally, rejected. (If your item is *very* good, we may try to draft you as a regular reporter!) All poetry is vetted by the poetry editor; if published, it will appear exactly as submitted.

## November Calendar

*Ethics for Children*  
Sundays, 11:00 am

*Morning Meetings*  
Sundays, 11:30 am

*Shelter*  
Sundays–Thursdays, 7:30 pm

*Women’s Chorus*  
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

*Support Group*  
Fridays, 6:30 pm

*Supervised Visitation*  
Saturdays, 9:30 am & 1:30 pm (except Nov. 30)

*Newsletter Deadline*  
Friday, November 1

*WQXR-FM (96.3)*  
Sundays, November 3, & 17, 7:30 am

*Benefit Concert*  
Sunday, November 3, 2:00 pm

*Board of Trustees*  
Monday, November 4, 6:00 pm

*Men’s Group*  
Wednesday, November 6, 6:00 pm

*Foundations of Ethical Culture*  
Thursday, November 7, 6:30 pm

*Fall Hike*  
Saturday, November 9, 8:50 am

*Women’s Group*  
Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 pm

*Caring Committee*  
Wednesday, November 13, 4:00 pm

*Film Forum*  
Friday, November 15, 7:00 pm

*Social Service Board*  
Monday, November 18, 6:00 pm

*Membership Committee*  
Wednesday, November 20, 6:00 pm

*Ethical Action Committee*  
Thursday, November 21, 6:00 pm

*Performance of “J.B.,” Archibald MacLeish’s Pulitzer Prize Winning Play*  
Saturday, November 23, 7:00 pm

Seminar at 4:00 pm

*Society offices closed*  
Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29

### Reading Programs

*Great Books Discussion Series*  
Wednesday, November 6, 7:30 pm  
Weber, *The Spirit of Capitalism*  
Euripides, *Medea*

*Ethical Culture Retirement Activities*  
Wednesday, November 13, 3:00 pm  
Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita*

*Great Books Discussion Series—  
Fiftieth Anniversary Series*  
*The Evil and The Guilty*  
Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm  
Robert Musil, *Moosbrugger*

### Sundays at the Society

#### Mornings:

Nov. 3	Leaders’ Writings	10:15 am
Nov. 10	Colloquy	10:30 am
Nov. 17	Classical Poetry	10:30 am
Nov. 24	Yoga Meditation	10:30 am

#### Afternoon Programs:

Nov. 3	Ethics in the News	1:30 pm
	Benefit Concert	2:00 pm
Nov. 10	Ethics Study	1:30 pm
Nov. 17	Orientation	1:00 pm
Nov. 24	TBA	