

# 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

### October 3–Auditorium NYSEC Membership Conference We Are the Ones Building an Ethical Society

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

### Our Relationship to the Future *Andra Miller, President* Dr. Kathleen O'Connell Presides

### October 10–Ceremonial Hall How Do I Know I Have an Ethical Problem and What Can I Do About It?

*Dr. Howard B. Radest,  
Dean Emeritus of the  
Humanist Institute*  
Tom Weishaar Presides

### October 17–Ceremonial Hall Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves

*Steven Alan Hassan, M.Ed.,  
LMHC, NCC, Psychologist,  
Cult expert, author*  
Monica Weiss Presides

### October 24–Auditorium Building Centennial Celebration Our Proud Legacy and the Road Ahead

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

### October 31–Ceremonial Hall Rethinking Henry James' The Turn of the Screw: A ghost Story for our time

*Curt Collier, Leader*  
Dan Hanson Presides

## October Happenings

On Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm, the NYSEC Advocacy Forum will present a panel on **Right-Wing Populism and the Progressive Response**, cosponsored by the Nation Institute. Auditorium. *(See page 7)*

On Saturday, October 23, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, we'll celebrate the **Centennial** of our historic building and rededicate it, with speakers from the political and media worlds. This will be followed by a reception. Admission is free to the rededication; the reception is a benefit. Auditorium. *(See page 9)*

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



This is a very special month—one for which we've been planning all year! It's the month we celebrate our amazing building—and rededicate it and ourselves to the future of Ethical Culture. On Saturday, October 23, exactly 100 years from the initial dedication, we'll do it again. You'll read elsewhere about all that will be happening on that day (page 9), but what that article won't say—and what I want to stress here—is that we want to thank Heather Grady for taking on the task of chairing the Building Centennial Committee; Carol Nadell Van Deusen for volunteering to “produce” that special day and, along with Dick Van Deusen, to make the brief film celebrating our history, which will be shown at the rededication; consultant Leslie Doyle for helping with myriad details and events for this celebratory year; Julie Blutstein, *(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Leader's Desk

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*



### Holy Ground

This month we celebrate the centennial of our meeting house, an important milestone in the history of Ethical Culture, founded in 1876 by Felix Adler. Plans have been afoot for over a year now for the gala on October 23 (the same date as the original dedication) and accompanying journal, a documentary film about the building, and peripheral events that highlight our social reform history. A luminous Centennial Advisory Council has been assembled to guide us through this process and, we hope, garner media attention. Kudos to the members and staff who have worked with such diligence and dedication!

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**President's Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

our Development and Communications Director, for publicity; and countless other dedicated members of the staff, the Board, and the Society who are helping out in one way or another.

You, too, can help. We'll be preparing a list of volunteer jobs that need to be filled, and ask that you sign up for one or more of them. Part of the joy of being a member of a group like ours is that there are always opportunities coming up for you to give of yourself—which usually means having a good time while being productive with other generous people.

This month we also have a day of celebration and rededication just for members. On Sunday, October 3, we'll all get together and get an update on what the Leaders and the Board have been doing, and how it fits in with our future—and we'll be open to your suggestions. Our management consultant, Linda Haley, will be on hand to answer any questions about the progress she has helped us make, and the plans she's making with us for expanding our membership reach, increasing our diversity, finding funding, and working smarter. This membership "pep rally" will continue with four short discussions with you (15 minutes each) after lunch, led by Anne Klaeysen and Meg Chapman, Tom Weishaar

and Bob Liebeskind, Curt Collier and Andra Miller, and Linda Haley and Julie Blutstein. See the full program on page 3.

But that's not all that's coming: there's the Advocacy Forum on October 12, and the Women's Ethical Edge on November 1, as you'll see on page 7 and page 9. And jumping ahead, save New Year's Eve for a very special holiday party and concert arranged by Ed Gross—see page 9.

This all leaves me breathless. It's hard to keep up!

**Leader's Desk**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Milestones on a journey offer opportunities to stop and catch our breath, to reflect upon the ground we have covered, and to look ahead, far down the road, to the future. We have lost some people on the way and gathered up others. Their stories keep us going when we falter, inspiring us with a faith in the goodness of humanity, in our capacity to make the world a better home for everyone.

The first members of the New York Society for Ethical Culture found that the stories they were told as children, religious doctrines that were "true and precious to others," no longer held any meaning for them. They wanted to tell their children new stories about

a journey to a place where moral and social reform was at the center. They were women and men “with a religious nature, but without a religious home.” So they built one! Led by Dr. Adler, they placed a cornerstone between the dogmatism of traditional theists and the materialism of radical atheists, organizing a religion of ethics that put them “in touch with something transcendently holy—an ideal of ethical authority.”

This was no mean feat, yet they succeeded in creating a legacy that we celebrate today. We tell stories about the parts we played in the settlement house movement by founding Hudson Guild and the Visiting Nurse Service; in education by founding the Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools and the Encampment for Citizenship; in human rights by helping to establish the NAACP and ACLU; and in so many other areas of social reform. Today we support a shelter for homeless women and a Supervised Visitation Project for non-custodial parents. We partner with people who share our ethical ideals, including the Justice for Juveniles Coalition.

Let us also remember—and celebrate—the spirit these first members brought to their task and find a place for it in our future. They “consecrated” their lives to the supremacy of ethics. They firmly believed that “The supreme good of life is to be found in the act of creating harmonious relations.” Do we still believe that? When we enter the Auditorium and see the wording above the stage—“The Place Where People Meet to Seek the Highest is Holy Ground”—do we understand what they meant and why it is still important?

Ethical Culture has always offered the invitation to explore, individually and in community, the meaning of “holy” in practical, here-and-now, terms. For Adler it was an experience of the infinite striking against the finite through

an absolute moral law. He imagined people experiencing their spiritual natures through their ethical relationships with one another.

Whether or not we are comfortable today with words like “holy,” “spiritual,” and “consecrate,” let us appreciate the meanings that they held for our ancestors, to whom we owe so much, and cherish not only the *thought* that went into creating a place where we can seek the highest, but also the *feeling* that nourished it. Our task remains to increase goodness in the world. As we reflect upon the road we have travelled and plan for the future, perhaps we will find that we, too, are standing on holy ground.

\* \* \*

**Note:** Quotations are from Alfred W. Martin’s essay, “Distinctive Features of the Ethical Movement,” on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ethical Culture (1926).

**NYSEC Membership Conference  
Sunday, October 3, 11:00 am–3:00 pm**

**“We Are the Ones Building An Ethical Society”**

*Address by Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

**“Our Relationship to the Future”**  
*Update by Andra Miller, President*

**Music and Collection for the NYSEC**

**Building Fund**

**Having Our Say Q & A**

*Moderated by Curt Collier*

**Lunch in Social Hall**

**Micro-Workshops**—Everyone will participate in 15-minute small group discussions on: Membership, Volunteerism, Fundraising, Finance.

Please RSVP to Moe-Swe Myint, [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org), or 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

**Sunday Morning Platform Meetings  
11:15 AM** *(Except as noted)*

**Oct. 3**—Our Membership Conference is taking place today (11:00 am-3:00 pm).

This will be an exciting day, during which we’ll hear inspiring talks by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and President Andra Miller and, later, meet with Society officers to discuss issues vital to the future of Ethical Culture. See the Conference Program on this page.

**“We Are the Ones Building An Ethical Society”**

*Address by Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

A saying from the Xhosa of southern Africa expresses our understanding that individuals become fully human within a community of caring and responsible people: “I am because we are.” Founder Dr. Felix Adler knew that the essential nature of human beings is social: “In our innermost selves, we are related to others, in such fashion that we live in them and they in us.” What holds a community together are the values shared by the people within it. At the center of Ethical Culture is the supremacy of ethics; the importance of establishing and nurturing ethical relationships is our ultimate concern.

**“Our Relationship to the Future”**  
*Update by Andra Miller, President*

As good citizens, we’re concerned about the future of our planet. What sort of world will we leave to those who come after us? And so, among other things, we conserve energy, we vote for candidates who reflect our concerns about the environment, and we support humanitarian organizations. But we also need to make sure that Ethical Culture itself is a vital part of the future. Whether it is still called “Ethical

Culture” or not, our faith in the worth of every single person and the power of our communities to inspire us to ethical living will be essential to the world that exists after we are gone.

This membership “pep rally” is a day to focus on where we’ve been, where we are, and where we’re going. It will continue with four short discussions with you (15 minutes each) after lunch, led by Anne Klaeyen and Meg Chapman; Tom Weishaar and Bob Liebeskind; Curt Collier and Andra Miller, and Linda Haley and Julie Blutstein.

**Oct. 10—How Do I Know I Have an Ethical Problem and What Can I Do About It?**

*Dr. Howard B. Radest, Dean Emeritus, The Humanist Institute*

Ethics seems to be the art of deciding between good and evil. But, more often than not, experience presents us with a choice between one good and another, between one evil and another, or else—and most often—the situation is ambiguous, unclear. What then shall I do? These are the questions I will be exploring in this platform address.

Dr. Radest is a member of the National Council of Ethical Culture Leaders; a consultant to the Center for Preparedness, School of Public Health, USC; a member of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophic Thought; and the Advisory Committee of the Appignani Center for Bioethics. He is a Senior Fellow of the Center for Inquiry, Board Chair of the Ethical Community Charter School in Jersey City, and a member of the Board of the North American Committee for Humanism. He is a former Executive Director of the AEU, and a former Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County. Dr. Radest is also a member of many other major philosophical organizations.

From 1992 to 2008, he was Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at USC-Beaufort, where he taught medical ethics and comparative religion. He served as Director of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and Ethics Consultant to Hilton Head Hospital. Prior to that he was Professor of Philosophy and Director of the School of American Studies at Ramapo College, NJ.

In addition to numerous articles, his books include: *Bioethics: Catastrophes in a Time of Terror* (Lexington, 2009); *Biomedical Ethics*, editor (Prometheus, 2007); *Ethics and Public Health in a Time of Terror* (Center for Preparedness, School of Public Health, USC, 2006); and *From Clinic To Classroom—Medical Ethics and Moral Education*, (Praeger, 2000) among others. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 17—Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think For Themselves**

*Steven Alan Hassan, M.Ed., LMHC, NCC, psychologist, cult expert, author*

In a talk based on his book of the same title, Steven Hassan, one of the foremost authorities on cults and mind control, will share his knowledge and expertise on cults and mind control gained through personal experience—his own recruitment into the Moon cult at Queens College at age 19, including a radical personality and belief system change. He’ll discuss brainwashing and influence techniques; his model of mind control; and his approach to helping people who have been indoctrinated into one of these groups (which can be couched as a religion, political, therapy, or educational group, or even a business). He’ll offer insight into discerning destructive groups from healthy, ethical groups, and discuss ways to protect ourselves and our loved ones through independent research and due diligence.

Steven Hassan is a Nationally Certified Counselor, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and the author of two authoritative books about cults, *Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves* (FOM Press, 2000) and *Combating Cult Mind Control: The #1 Guide to Protection, Rescue and Recovery from Destructive Cults* (Park Street Press, 1988).

With more than 30 years of cult awareness activism, he has been a definitive source for major national, international, and local media outlets including: CNN, “60 Minutes,” “Night Line,” “Good Morning America,” the “Oprah Winfrey Show,” *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, and National Public Radio, among many others. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 24—Our Proud Legacy and The Road Ahead**

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

**Building Centennial Celebration**

As we celebrate the centennial of Ethical Culture’s majestic Meeting House, I will take a look at the historical legacy which has emerged from within our walls. What were the factors that enabled the New York Society to flourish as a remarkable wellspring of social justice in its first 50 years? How can we build on our achievements to ensure a creative and distinctive future for our Society? Auditorium.

**Oct. 31—Rethinking Henry James’ *The Turn of the Screw*:**

**A ghost story for our time**

*Curt Collier, Leader*

Henry James created a masterpiece of psychological intrigue with his famous novella, *The Turn of the Screw*. This platform will explore the roots of the literary classic and what lessons it offers to us today. Ceremonial Hall.

## Early Sunday 10 AM *(Except as noted)*

(Rooms subject to change)

**Oct. 3—Parenting Issues.** Dr. Anne Klaeysen presides. Room 514.

**Oct. 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 morning and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 10—Colloquy: "Habits."** Phyllis Kreuttner presides. Room 408.

**Oct. 17—Poetry Reading.** Bring some poems about autumn or some lines that fill your ears with something special. We'd love to hear you read them. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

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

**Oct. 31—Coffee 'n Chat.** Room 408.

## Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM *(Except as noted)*

**Oct. 3—Ethics in Action: Membership Conference Phase II—Workshops.** Continuation from the morning program. 1:30 pm. Social Hall.

**Oct. 10—Age-friendly NYC—Community Forum.** NYSEC in conjunction with the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) will hold this forum. The initiative was launched by the Mayor, the City Council, and NYAM to make the city a better place for older adults.

One of the first neighborhoods the project is focusing on is the Upper West Side. Staff from NYAM will be there and they want to hear from you about how the community can be

improved. Tell them about how streets, parks, stores, businesses, housing, and your neighborhood in general can be made better. What they learn from you will be shared with politicians, business owners, and the city. So, if you are an older New Yorker, or know someone who is, come and make your concerns heard and participate in a chance to make New York more user friendly for you, your family, and your neighbors. Room 514.

**Oct. 17—Releasing the Bonds workshop—Steven Alan Hassan, M.Ed., LMHC, NCC.** Following his morning platform talk on cults and the way they work, Steven Hassan, will lead a workshop on how to productively engage friends or loved ones who have been programmed with "black/white" and "us/them" ideologies of any type and offer a number of recovery techniques to free them from their involvement in one of these destructive groups. Social Hall.

**Oct. 24—Ethics in the News.** Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

## Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month: **Behavioral Science.**

**Oct. 7—Are Whales and Dolphins Nonhuman "Persons"?**

**Oct. 14—"Does Your Language Shape How You Think?"** by Guy Deutscher, *The NY Times*, 8/26/10.

**Oct. 21—"What Is It About 20-Somethings?"** by Robin Marantz Henig, *The NY Times*, 8/18/10.

**Oct. 28—"Outdoors and Out of Reach, Studying the Brain"** by Matt Richtel, *The NY Times*, 8/15/10.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office. Please come and join the discussion.

## Our Ethical Family

*Moe-Swe Myint*

Please welcome our new members, **Daniel Altman, Lisbeth Eng, Dr. Miguel A. Pinzon, and Daniel Stewart.**

Daniel Altman is a retired accounting professional. His interests are theater, music, and French.

Lisbeth is a financial services representative. She is a member of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, Amnesty International USA, the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and People for the American Way. She is interested in fiction writing and has just published a book, *In the Arms of the Enemy*, online. Lisbeth is also a member of Romance Writers of America.

Miguel is a professor of business. He volunteers to help the homeless at St. Paul the Apostle Church, and works with the poor in Latin America. He is taking a writing course at the Society.

Daniel Stewart is a member of the New York State Commission of Correction. He served in the military for eight years, and in various capacities with the Mayor's Office and the City Council for 13 years, and also with the NYS government.

\* \* \*

NYSEC opened our fall season on September 12, with Sunday platform meetings reverting to their regular hour, 11:15 am. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen presented an update on the "Justice for Juveniles: A Call to Ethical Action" conference held at the Society in April (see the June *Ethical Outlook*) and the follow-up conference held here in July to

promote an activist agenda to reform our unjust juvenile justice system (see the July-August issue). A panel discussion followed the social hour, with workshops including “Developing Community and Faith-based Programs,” “Supporting Community Oversight,” and “Redirecting Funding to New York City.”

Representatives of various community outreach organizations participated to help make this third in a series of discussions a very well-attended and successful event. Special thanks go to Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross for their inspiring words and participation, and to staffers Julie Blutstein, Sheleigah Grube, and Emily Newman for their hard work.

**Here’s one ethical action you can take to promote justice for juveniles: call Mayor Bloomberg to urge the closing of Spofford Bridges Juvenile Detention Center for good. The number is 212-788-3000. Do it!** Call me at extension 113 if you need some background on Spofford and why it should be closed.

\* \* \*

Our indefatigable Women’s Shelter director, Maria Fridman, is always looking for volunteers for the Society’s women’s shelter. If you can spare one night a month to help homeless women in need get their lives back on track, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to make a difference. Please call me at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

## Ethical Enrichment Reading Group

*“... the most effective agent of the moral imagination has been the novel. . . Its greatness and its practical usefulness lay in its unremitting work of involving the reader in the moral life.”*—Lionel Trilling

NYSEC’s **Ethical Enrichment Committee** has initiated a new reading

group, **Literary Ethics**, led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen. Each session starts and ends with a poem and includes a discussion of a novel from the syllabus provided to participants. The group’s first meeting was in September, and it will meet on the first Monday of each month, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, in Room 507. If you love to read and share your thoughts and feelings about what you’ve read with other book lovers, be sure to join us at our upcoming gatherings:

**Oct. 4—*Say You’re One of Them*,**  
Uwem Akpan.

**Nov. 1—*This Child’s Gonna Live*,**  
Sarah E. Wright.

**Dec. 6—*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*,**  
Jean-Dominique Bauby.

**Jan. 3—*Gilead*,** Marilynne Robinson.

**Feb. 7—*The Periodic Table*,**  
Primo Levi.

**Mar. 7—*The History of Love*,**  
Nicole Krauss.

**Apr. 4—*A Sand County Almanac*,**  
Aldo Leopold.

**May 2—*The Puttermesser Papers*,**  
Cynthia Ozick.

**June 6—*Time’s Arrow*,** Martin Amis.

**July 11\*—*Galileo’s Daughter*,**  
Dava Sobel.

*\*July 4, is a holiday, so the group will meet on the following Monday.*

There is no charge for NYSEC members; the cost for nonmembers is \$5 per session. Please register with Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders’ Office, 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at [sgrube@nysec.org](mailto:sgrube@nysec.org). We look forward to seeing you.

## Joy of Personal Writing Returns

*Elaine Berman*

Our two series of ten-week writing workshops will continue this fall. These

workshops are safe places to start writing, stay focused, and learn and practice your writing skills. Both new and experienced writers are welcome in this nurturing atmosphere. The Monday classes will meet from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, starting on October 4, and the Thursday classes will meet from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, beginning on October 7. Course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. For more information, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

If you’d like to read material by some of our past workshop writers, go to <http://www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space>.

## Films at NYSEC

Our various film series, which use popular movies to explore important ethical issues, are continuing this season. Here are three October offerings you won’t want to miss.

## Ethics in Film

*Chris Everett*

Join other sci-fi film lovers on **Friday, October 1**, in Ceremonial Hall to watch *RoboCop* and, after the film, participate in a lively discussion of the ethical issues it raises. I’ll be leading our discussion.

In Paul Verhoeven’s landmark sci-fi thriller, the monolithic corporation controlling a futuristic, crime-riddled Detroit transforms a dead cop (Peter Weller) into a cybernetic law-enforcement unit called RoboCop—and soon the streets are safe. But as Robo cleans up the city, he seeks to avenge his death, and uncovers a conspiracy stretching from its back alleys to the boardroom of the company that re-engineered him.

The movie starts at 7:00 pm (doors open 6:30 pm). The suggested donation is \$5, which includes refreshments (popcorn and soft drinks). Coming in November, we’re in for a real treat: Fritz

Lang's 1927 classic, *Metropolis*. I hope to see you there.

## Shrinks on Film: Romance

Finding Mr./Ms. Right isn't easy, as the upcoming film in our Shrinks on Film series will demonstrate. Come to this screening of *Moonstruck* (1987), directed by Norman Jewison, and afterward participate in an exciting discussion of the ethical issues the characters face, moderated by Dr. Sheila Kaplan, on **Friday, October 8, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall.

The film tells the story of a widowed Brooklyn bookkeeper who is torn between her fiancé and his brother. As always, after each movie, members of the audience will have a chance to discuss their thoughts and reactions. The suggested donation is \$5.

For more information you can email Sheila Kaplan at [kaplanphd@aol.com](mailto:kaplanphd@aol.com). We hope to see you there.

## Contemporary Documentaries

Join us on **Monday, October 18, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**, in Room 514, for a film and discussion led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen. We're showing *The Corporation*, directed by Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbot, a documentary that explores the genesis of the American corporation, its global economic supremacy, and its psychopathic leanings, with social critics including Noam Chomsky and Milton Friedman lending their insights. With their "merciless quest for profit and insatiable aim to sway every aspect of culture," conglomerates' inner workings are scrutinized by the directors to draw conclusions about "business as usual." After the film, Dr. Klaeyen will lead

an in-depth discussion of the ethical issues raised.

In this new film series, Contemporary Documentaries, we'll be screening movies on topics associated with our Sunday Platform addresses and social justice projects, followed by lively discussions about the issues explored in the films. Our moderator for this series is Dr. Anne Klaeyen.

Admission for NYSEC members is free; the cost for nonmembers is \$5 per session. Please register with Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at [sgrube@nysec.org](mailto:sgrube@nysec.org).

## Advocacy Forum- Right-Wing Populism

As we head toward the November midterm elections, the "Tea Party" movement seems to have become the most prominent voice in opposition to the current administration: the media-grabbing antics of Glenn Beck, Sarah Palin and others threaten to derail civil discourse. What can progressives do to counteract this aggressive march towards the politics of fear?

Join us on **Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm**, as the NYSEC Advocacy Forum presents **Right-Wing Populism and the Progressive Response**, with Jim Hightower, radio commentator, author, and America's #1 populist; Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Professor of Politics and African-American Studies at Princeton University; Juan Gonzalez, co-host of *Democracy Now!*; and moderated by *The Nation's* Ari Melber. The event is cosponsored by The Nation Institute. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers and available online at [\[rum.eventbrite.com\]\(http://rum.eventbrite.com\). NYSEC members should contact the Membership Office for the online discount code.](http://populismfo-</a></p>
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## Fall Bike Ride

*Henryka Komanska*

Join us on **Saturday, October 9, at 9:30 am**, for our fall bike ride. We'll meet at the Eleanor Roosevelt statue at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan.

Come ride with us on this four-hour adventure traveling to Wave Hill Garden in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. The cycling distance is approximately 22 miles on mostly flat terrain with a couple of low hills. Most of the time we'll be riding along the Hudson River bike path, and some of the ride will be on quiet city streets.

Bring water, a bicycle lock, and money for the garden entrance fee (\$5). You must wear a bicycle helmet to participate. You can either bring your own lunch or purchase food at the garden café. You don't need to sign up, just show up at the appointed hour. Rain cancels.

## Wisdom Lab

Come to our new **Personal Growth** workshop series, **Wisdom Lab**, led by LeeAnn Renniger, Ph.D., Director, Life Labs NY. Our first session will be on **Thursday, October 14, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**; we'll meet again the next three Thursday evenings.

The quality of "being wise" is usually reserved for old age, because learning how to live wisely often takes a lifetime of navigating life's ins and outs. The Wisdom Lab is designed to help participants collect life-changing insights and experiences sooner—a wisdom treasure hunt. Explore the best new "A-Ha's" that science has to offer, resulting in strat-

egies to make better decisions, feel confident in difficult situations, and experience a sense of inner calm.

The cost for NYSEC members is \$15 and for nonmembers \$35. Please register with Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office, 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at [sgrube@nysec.org](mailto:sgrube@nysec.org).

## Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday evening, October 20, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Ethics and the Theater will present *Double Solitaire*, by Robert Anderson.

When Charley and Barbara Potter are asked to renew their wedding vows as part of Charley's parents' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, they are forced to confront the state of their own marriage. It's not a pretty picture. And discussions with both the older generation, in the persons of Charley's mother and father, and the younger, their twenty-something son, as well as with friends who have followed less monogamous paths, pose questions about the viability of the very institution. Is it a safe haven for couples after the heat of passion has cooled? Or is it a prison that poisons passion and saps our separate strengths? Does it really join two as one, or merely throw into uncomfortable intimacy individuals who forever remain strangers? Playwright Robert Anderson, perhaps best known for *Tea and Sympathy*, presents no easy answers, instead painting a very touching, and often funny, portrait of people who are seeking connection and consolation.

Come and participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play,

led by Muriel Berger. Susan Horowitz directs our cast, which includes Pat Berens, Alex Bone, Maria Demarse, Tiffany Esteb, Dan Hanson, John Lovelady, and Antonio Pagliarulo.

Please join us at 6:30 pm for a wine and cheese reception before the play. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

## You Can Please Some of the People

Andra Miller

I learned a valuable lesson at Lay Leader's Summer School. I was assigned to a little group planning an end-of-day ceremony, and I suggested that since we had several different parts, we signal moving to a new part with a chime. Of course, I was selected to do the chime—but I protested. Part of the ceremony entailed people spontaneously saying something (I don't remember what), and these sorts of events make me nervous. With my stage background, silence usually means somebody forgot their lines, and moving on becomes the thing to do. And with this spontaneous thing, somebody speaks—there's silence—somebody else speaks—there's silence, etc. How do you know when everybody who wants to speak has spoken? If there's a long silent period, is the speaking over? How do you really know when to chime and move on? The group assured me I'd do fine with my own sense of things and that I should trust my own judgment.

So we did the ceremony and the "ad-lib" time came, and after several people talked a particularly long silence ensued. So I chimed.

At the group's critique meeting the next morning, one of the first comments was, "I think Andra chimed too soon." I got all huffy and said, "I told you I wasn't secure about when to call a halt," and thought that was the end of it. But after breakfast, the whole student body critiqued our ceremony, and our advisor, Kate Lovelady, surprised me by asking them, "Who thinks Andra chimed at the right time?" Half the hands went up. And "Who thinks she chimed too soon?" The other half went up. And so it came home to me; there will always be someone you don't please.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ETHICAL ACTION!

**TUESDAY, OCT. 12 – 7:00PM**  
**Right-Wing Populism and the Progressive Response**  
Jim Hightower—National Radio Commentator and Author  
 Melissa Harris-Lacewell—Princeton University  
 Juan Gonzalez—Democracy Now!  
 Moderated by Ari Melber—The Nation  
 RSVP required at [www.nysec.org](http://www.nysec.org)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 - 4:30PM**  
**Centennial Rededication of our Landmark Building**  
David Brancaccio—Television and Radio Journalist  
 Scott Stringer—Manhattan Borough President  
 Amy Goodman—Host, Democracy Now!  
 ESFC Chorus  
 CEREMONY & BENEFIT RECEPTION  
 RSVP required at [www.nysec.org](http://www.nysec.org)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
**Women's Ethical Edge**  
*A Conversation with Inspiring Women about Five Things We Can Do Differently to Live a More Ethical Life*  
Marie Wilson—The White House Project  
 Susan L Taylor—National CARES Mentoring Movement  
 Amy Goodman—Democracy Now!  
 other guests TBA  
 CEREMONY & BENEFIT RECEPTION  
 RSVP required at [www.nysec.org](http://www.nysec.org)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11**  
**7:30PM**  
**University Glee Club Concert**  
 Join us for an unforgettable celebration of song to benefit NYSEC's Stained Glass Window fund.  
 RSVP required at [www.nysec.org](http://www.nysec.org)

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## Building Centennial Celebration

**Saturday, October 23, 4:30–6:00 pm**, NYSEC will celebrate the Centennial of its landmark building with a rededication ceremony exactly one hundred years to the day after it was first dedicated on October 23, 1910. Speakers include Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and television and radio journalist David Brancaccio, who will present the keynote address, “**Fixing the Future: Making the Economy Work for More of Us.**” We will premiere *The Meeting House*, a documentary on the history of NYSEC narrated by Tony award-winning actor, James Naughton. The Ethical Culture Fieldston School chorus will perform, mirroring events of the original dedication. The rededication ceremony is free and open to the public. It will be followed by a reception to benefit NYSEC’s landmark building and programs. The reception will feature remarks by Amy Goodman, principal host of *Democracy Now!*

Tickets to the reception are \$50. **Reservations for both are required** and can be made online at [www.nysec.org/rededication-10-23-2010](http://www.nysec.org/rededication-10-23-2010). For more information contact Sheleigah Grube at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at [sgrube@nysec.org](mailto:sgrube@nysec.org).



*Historic Landmark building*

## Save the Dates! Savvy Women Speak

The Building Committee has arranged a special program for **Monday, November 1, at 7:00 pm**, starting some very famous women. The program, **Women’s Ethical Edge**, will feature a panel on how women can live more ethical lives and how they can get more out of their lives.

The panelists include Marie Wilson, author of *Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World*; Amy Goodman, principal host of *Democracy Now!*; and Susan Taylor, past editor of *Essence* magazine and founder of the National CARES Mentoring Movement. These three are currently signed up for the program; others have been approached and responses are expected soon.

This star-studded event is a fundraiser for the building fund. Tickets to

the panel alone are \$15; tickets for the panel and wine and cheese reception, \$25. Announcements will be made soon regarding how to purchase tickets. This is a don’t-miss evening, even for those of us who are not women!

## Human Rights: The Idea of Our Time

Join this new discussion group, facilitated by Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, which will meet on **Tuesdays, November 9, 23, and 30, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. We’ll be discussing issues relating to the theory and practice of **human rights** and the role of grassroots activists in advancing the human rights project.

The sessions are free to NYSEC members; the cost for nonmembers is \$10 per session. Please register with Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders’ Office, 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at [sgrube@nysec.org](mailto:sgrube@nysec.org).

## New Year’s at NYSEC

Let’s celebrate **New Year’s Eve** together at NYSEC on **Friday, December 31**, in Ceremonial Hall, starting at **8:00 pm** (doors open at **7:30 pm**)!

The festivities will include a chamber music concert by the Ensemble Thomscha. We’ll feature a Beethoven piano trio and string quartet, and two Mozart arias sung by the gifted soprano, Yumi Thomas. We’ll have light refreshments—wine, cheese, fruit, coffee, tea, and dessert—as well as dancing. At midnight we’ll go up to our rooftop for a bird’s-eye view of the spectacular fireworks in Central Park.

The cost for this wonderful evening is \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers. For tickets, contact Moe-Swe Myint, 212-874-5210; ext. 113 (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), or Gloria Chandler, ext. 117 (Thursday and Friday).

## Photography Club Meets At NYSEC

*Valerie Leiman*

The **Photography Club**, a special interest group of the New York Historical Society’s 50 Plus Club, will be meeting here at NYSEC, and we hope that you’ll be interested in participating. At each meeting, members discuss the club’s last photography project and view each other’s submissions. Members recently completed a project to photograph wonderful “nooks and crannies” of New York City and shared with each other why their selected place is special.

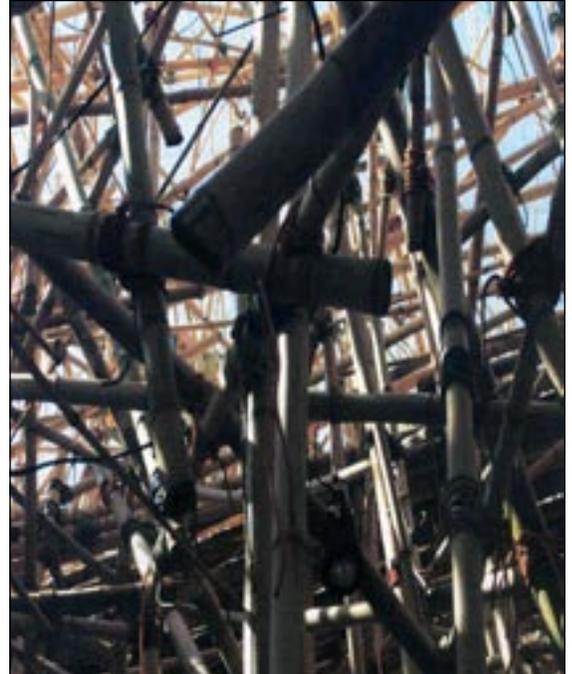
Below is the schedule of the club’s coming meetings. If you love photography, here’s a great opportunity to share your interest. We look forward to seeing you here.

**Oct. 12, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm**, Ceremonial Hall.

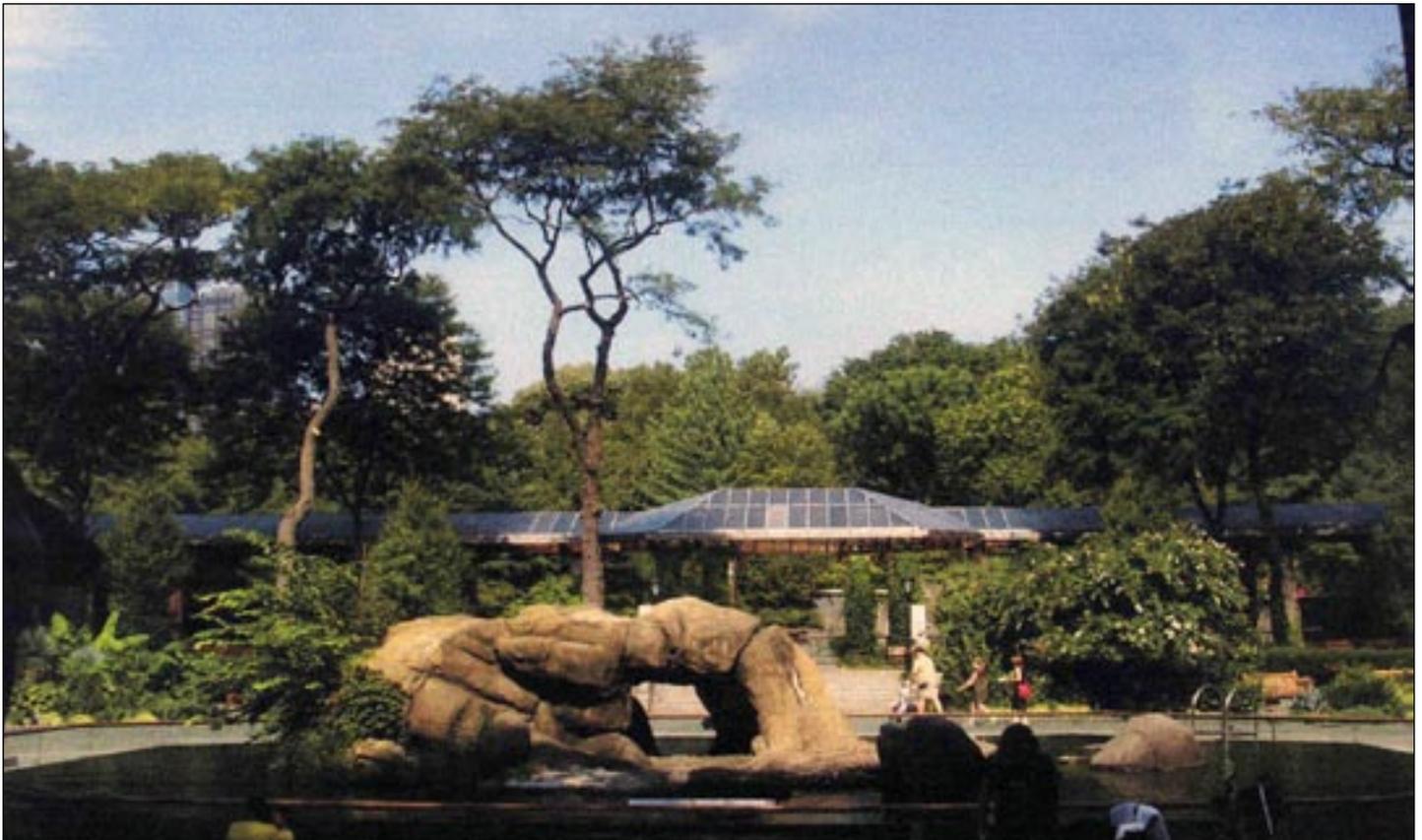
**Jan. 20, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm**, Adler Study.

**Mar. 23, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm**, Adler Study.

**May 4, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm**, Adler Study.



*Big Bambú (2010) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art rooftop, August 11, 2010*



*The Sea Lion Pool in Central Park, August 18, 2010*

# October 2010

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday
Literary Ethics: A Reading Group October 4 – Uwem Akpan, <i>Say You're One of Them</i> Ethics in Film: <u>Contemporary Documentaries</u> October 18 – <i>The Corporation</i>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 am – Chorus Practice 10:00 am – Parenting Issues 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:30 pm – Membership Rally	2:00 pm – Literary Ethics: A Reading Group 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	2:00 pm – Drawing Class 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Craft Circle (off-site)	6:00 pm – Black Film Festival	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Foundations of Ethical Culture	7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Robocop</i>	No Supervised Visitation program today 9:30 am – Bike Ride
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – Lacté Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Age-Friendly NYC	<b>Society Offices Closed</b> <b>Columbus Day</b>	2:00 pm – Drawing Class 2:00 pm – Photography Club 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Advocacy Forum	6:00 pm – Black Film Festival	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Wisdom Lab 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	7:00 pm – Shrink's on Romance: <i>Moonstruck</i>	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – Lacté Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Releasing the Bonds Workshop	2:00 – Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	2:00 pm – Drawing Class 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Prospective Members Reception	7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Wisdom Lab 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – Lacté Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	2:00 pm – Drawing Class		12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Wisdom Lab 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
31	Beyond Sunday Platform October 18 – Dr. Anne Klaeyssen – <i>Marriage is So Gay</i> October 25 – Curt Collier – <i>The Corporation: Good, Bad, or What?</i>					
10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – Lacté Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch						

*The New York Society for Ethical Culture is a welcoming home for humanists. We've provided nontheistic services in a congregational setting since 1876. We embrace the diversity of our city and invite all to join us in celebrating life's joys, supporting one another through life's crises, and working together to make the world a better place.*

*Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. Members are committed to personal ethical development in their relationships with others and in activities involving social justice and environmental stewardship.*



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