

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

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**Sunday Morning
Platform Meetings
11:15 AM
Ceremonial Hall**

October 7

Ethics in International

**Development: Who Decides
What Is Best and How to Do It?**

Paula Claycomb

Richard Van Deusen Presides

October 14

A Politics That Is Worthy of Us?

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Bonnie Bean Presides

October 21

The Ethics of Work

Kate Lovelady, Leader

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

October 28

Ethical Election Issues—Part 1

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Vince Navarro Presides

Save the Date!!

Sunday, November 11

**NYSEC Ethical
Humanist Award to
Irshad Manji**

(See page 3 for more)

October Happenings

If you want to make a real commitment to eco-living, join us on **Sunday, October 7, 1:30 pm**, when our monthly **Sustainable Living Support Circle** will gather for a discussion on how we can live a more sustainable lifestyle. We'll discuss the impact of our choices on the planet and share information about the many ways we can make a meaningful difference, including culinary choices, commuting alternatives, and how our purchases aid or hamper the natural world, among others. Elliott Library, Room 507. *(See page 5.)*

On **Friday, October 19, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will present **Family Feelings**, a performance that weaves together scenes from A.R. Gurney's **Cocktail Hour** and poems by John Foy and others to examine our closest relationships. Richard E. Van Deusen directs our cast and will lead our discussion. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 8.)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



We just learned that our longtime member (since 1986) Margaretha Jones was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Services to Humanism award for 2012 by the International Humanist and Ethical Union. (Please see more on this on page 6.) Congratulations, Margaretha! We are all so proud of you and happy for the reflections your award brings on our NYSEC community.

This year has sure flown—it's October already! We had a lively opening of the "regular season" with several exciting events in September. I hope you all managed to attend some or all of them: the Ethical Adventures boat trip, the NYSEC Board meeting, the three-day Membership Retreat, the joint event with

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



To Life—"L'Chaim"

I don't remember when it started, but when our children were young, they wanted us to toast at dinner and bring our four glasses together. I called out "L'chaim—to life!" and it became a family tradition. One evening at the end of August, this ritual took on a special meaning as I told my children, now adults, about a young woman, a freshman at Columbia University, where I serve as Ethical Humanist chaplain, who fell to her death from a 14th floor dorm room and landed on the corner of 114th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, where she was discovered by two classmates. It happened only

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the screening of a film about Simone Weil and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen's interview with the director, the Advocacy Forum featuring two young and exciting mayors that was cosponsored with the Stanford Alumni Association, the jazz session with Leonore Raphael, and our Community Meeting. Also in September were the always highly anticipated NYSEC happenings: Ethics and the Theater, fitness classes, the Compassionate Communication workshop, and other sessions and discussions. I call this particular season opening hitting the ground at a full run. Thanks to all who took part in making these things happen—volunteers, Leaders, and staff.

And while I'm in the thank-you mode, let me give my thanks to those who responded to the request I made last month to call or email me if you read *Ethical Outlook*. I got 13 calls or in-person contacts and seven emails, mostly from members, but some also from nonmembers, and all made it clear that they valued *Ethical Outlook* very much. Thank you, **Carol, Mary, Virginia, Ken, Maria F., Pearl, Annette, Bruce, Tod, Cheryl, Hope, Barbara,**

Sheila, Elaine, Amy, Maria Q., Raquel, Peter, Elinore, and Lucille.

Not a lot of response from many of our most active members which is OK, as their volunteer participation is so appreciated. Time spent volunteering is probably more valuable than time spent reading! Most delightful to learn was that some of our avid readers are far away—one even in Kabul! Twenty is a small portion of our mailing list, but the enthusiasm of these 20 gave me and Selma Friedman and Deborah Foster—who edit, produce, and mail *Ethical Outlook*—the inspiration to carry on.

Some of the respondents are of the opinion that receiving the newsletter in the weekly emailing was part of the problem. We all have the tendency when doing emailing to say "I'll read it later," and later never comes. One respondent said that although she receives the emails, she still picks up a copy from the table on the fifth floor and reads the hard copy. Another said that having a hard copy makes it easy to read during commercials on TV or while traveling on public transit. The suggestion was made that we make sure we have copies in all our brochure racks, and I think that's a good idea.

It was also mentioned that *Ethical Outlook* is an accessible record of what we've done—and one respondent said that he went online to read back issues

of our newsletter on our website before he joined. Now *there's* a reader!

If you have any ideas on how to increase readership—or even how to improve the *Ethical Outlook*, do send them to me at andramariemiller@gmail.com or 517 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036.

And now, we're on to October. There's lots of fun—and serious—stuff going on this month, too. Check the calendar at the back of this issue, and add to your list of coming events an *extra special* one in November. We will present the **NYSEC Ethical Humanist Award to Irshad Manji** at our **November 11 Platform Meeting**. She's a very special woman; I invite you to check her out on the web. We expect a crowd for this event and so we are asking you to do something you have never had to do before: **make a reservation for the 11:15 am meeting on November 11**. If you don't reserve soon, you may miss out—an unheard of thing for our Platform Meetings! Make your reservation at <http://humanistaward.eventbrite.com>. **Note:** if you want to attend the lunch that day, the cost will be \$40.

And, the day before the award, **Saturday, November 10**, there will be “**A Taste of the States of America**” potluck supper. (*See page 11 for details.*)

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

hours after new student orientation; classes hadn't started yet.

Martha Corey-Ochoa was valedictorian of her high school class in Dobb's Ferry, Westchester County. “It feels really good,” she told the Rivertowns *Daily Voice* about this distinction. She planned to double-major in English and math at Columbia and looked for-

ward to earning a Ph.D. and teaching mathematics at a university, while continuing to write poetry and compose music for the violin, an instrument she played since the third grade. She was also working on a novel. Dobbs Ferry school superintendent Lisa Brady called Corey-Ochoa a brilliant student who maintained a challenging course load. Her father, who called his daughter “gentle and intense,” said that she “was my life and, without her, my life seems to be gone.”

Why did she do it? That's what everyone wanted to know. Why would a young person with what most people would consider a bright future kill herself?

My mother, who was probably depressed all of her life, often talked of suicide. As a child, I remember her talking about driving the family car off the road into a ditch. When she was in a nursing home during the last months of her life, suicide was a common refrain, although she no longer had the means to accomplish it. As a child, I was frightened; as an adult, I understood, and I think she was surprised when I told her that. Catholic theology taught Mom that committing suicide was a mortal sin that would damn her to hell, and I am convinced that her faith (and fear) is what kept her alive.

Young Martha was a Catholic, too.

I have officiated at two memorials for suicides: both middle-aged married men with children. One hanged himself in the basement of his home; the other breathed carbon monoxide in the cabin of his boat. Their families made no secret of the causes of their deaths, and their memorials addressed the pain they

had endured for so long. Few are the families untouched by suicide. After each memorial, I heard stories about loved ones who had taken their own lives, and received thanks for not hiding the truth, a common experience for what is still considered a shameful act, even a sin.

I can only imagine the well of pain from which the urge to kill oneself comes. That pain has many causes. Teenagers are bullied and don't believe the slogan “It gets better.” Students set lofty goals, or are given them by demanding parents, and feel they can never reach them. Veterans return home and are tormented by memories of war. Depression envelops some people and casts them into an impenetrable prison from which death is the only escape. For every suicide there is a different stimulus, but at its core is a sense of worthlessness.

Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler drew a distinction between worth and value. The former is inherent and inviolable in every individual; the latter is defined in terms of one's usefulness. It is an ethical act to choose to attribute worth and dignity to everyone no matter what his or her value may be. Adler bemoaned those who did not act ethically towards themselves, who thought themselves worthless.

To live or not to live is an ethical choice. Some suicides can be prevented; some pain can be eased. This is especially true for the young who cannot see a future beyond the moment in which they are suffering. At the end of this article is information about indicators of possible risks and resources for prevention. You can save someone's life. Listen to others, observe their behavior, reflect back caringly what you hear and see, offer them empathy, and seek counseling.

That night my family gathered for dinner. We lifted our glasses, and I called out “L’chaim—to life!” as we clinked them together. I recalled a verse from *Fiddler on the Roof*:

*To life, to life, l’chaim.
L’chaim, l’chaim, to life.
Life has a way of confusing us,
Blessing and bruising us.
Drink, l’chaim, to life!*

* * * * *

Excerpted from a Columbia University bulletin

There is no simple formula for determining if someone is severely depressed and/or at risk for suicide, but there are behavioral “red flags” that may warrant seeking professional assistance. The more signs that are present, the greater the cause for concern.

- * Suicidal thoughts, even if indirect. “I don’t ever want to wake up again.” “Everyone would be better off if I just died.”
- * Talking about “not being around” or about death. “What’s the difference? I won’t be here anymore for finals.” Giving away personal possessions.
- * Extremely depressed mood, feelings of hopelessness, despair, “feel like I’m in a hole and I can never get out. Things will never change.”
- * Expressions of helplessness, loss of personal agency.
- * Dramatic changes in personality, presentation, hygiene, or functioning.
- * High levels of anger, aggression or, alternatively, flattening of emotional expression, profound indifference.
- * Reckless, risky, or impulsive behavior.
- * Thinking not grounded in reality; delusional beliefs.
- * Very diminished self-esteem; chronic feelings of guilt, worthlessness.

Resources

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).
- The Trevor Project for LGBTQ youth: 1-866-488-7386.
- SPEAK Suicide Prevention Education at <http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/speak/>: SPEAK is an information kit for the public, health care providers, and educators to help them understand the terrible frequency and toll of suicide, and to discover ways and methods to aid in preventing it.
- Suicide Prevention Initiatives at <http://www.suicidepreventioninitiatives.org/>.
- The Jed Foundation at <http://www.jedfoundation.org/>: The Jed Foundation’s mission is to promote emotional health and prevent suicide among college and university students.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

Oct. 7—Ethics in International Development: Who Decides What Is Best and How To Do It?

Paula Claycomb

The term “development,” especially applied to other countries, is often used loosely and with little understanding of its deeper meanings. When we think about providing safe drinking water, health facilities, primary schools, or improved housing for communities in other countries, we believe these actions are part of “good” development. But do we really think about consultation and dialogue with community residents? Are there ethics involved in providing health facilities or schools in poor communities? This talk will examine development ethics, which addresses these and other ques-

tions, usually with respect to poor or low-income countries.

Paula Claycomb is Senior Adviser, Communication, for Development, at the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). She joined UNICEF in 1989 and in mid-1994 was asked to serve in the Rwanda Emergency Office. She then served as Communication Officer in Mozambique, Afghanistan, and Brazil. From 2002-2003, Claycomb worked as a consultant to UN agencies. Prior to joining UNICEF, Claycomb served as Director of the Northeast Region for the US Fund for UNICEF and as Deputy Director for the Northeast Region of Amnesty International USA.

The shared charity today is UNICEF.

Oct. 14—A Politics That Is Worthy Of Us

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

We are in a presidential campaign that has grown particularly nasty.

With the race very close, an incumbent vulnerable to charges of weakness and a challenger who seems desperate to win at any cost and with access to unlimited funds, this electoral slugfest has grown unusually brutal. With the American public as witnesses, one has to conclude that our politics is less than elevating. It has been said that politics is warfare by other means, and few believe that it can be altogether high minded and clean. But if it does not reach for something better, if it is totally bereft of humane values, it debases rather than improves American society.

Ethical Culture was founded with the mission of injecting ethical ideals into all the dimensions of life, even the grit of electoral politics. In this address I will suggest how our

national politics can reach for something better. I sense that you, like I, believe that much is at stake.

The shared charity today is AFCECO.

Oct. 21 – The Ethics of Work

Kate Lovelady, Leader

This address will explore the relationship between American mainstream culture and work. How have attitudes toward work changed over the centuries? Why do Americans work so much more than people in other countries? Should we be using the recent recession as an opportunity to challenge norms about work hours? And what is ethical work?

Kate Lovelady is Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. As a Leader Intern, Kate served the New York Society for Ethical Culture in 2004-2005. She is a proud product of its public school system.

The shared charity today is West Side Hunger Campaign.

Oct. 28 – Ethical Election Issues – Part 1

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

For me every presidential election is important, and every citizen should register to vote, study the positions taken by the candidates, and make an informed decision when casting a ballot. This year’s election highlights two radically different sets of values. Critical thinking, and caring, are required.

What makes voting an ethical act is the decision to consider not only our own interests, but also the needs of others. Ours is a religion of duty that calls upon us to “act for the good.” In this first of two platforms, I will guide us through a process of ethical discernment and address three issues: poverty, education, and the environment.

The shared charity today is Ali Forney Center.

Thanks, Summer Greeters

Amy Schwarz

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who filled in as coordinator/greeters during the summer months. Apologies if some names have been missed, but I include, with gratitude, **Bonnie Bean, Paula Claycomb, Stephanie Rosenblatt, Carole Chamlin, Eva Yachnes, Jamie Scott** and, for always assisting, **Ken Gans and Peter Stewart.**

Volunteerism is what keeps NYSEC operating for everyone. It’s also a great way to get to know our members and friends. And, let us not take for granted the fine staff employed at the Society!

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Oct. 7 – Chorus Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall

Oct. 14 – Colloquy: Humor—Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, presides. Room 408.

Oct. 21 – Poetry Reading—Bring poems to read and enjoy the wonderful readings of our friends. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Oct. 21 – Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Rooms subject to change)

Oct. 7 – Sustainable Living Support Circle, led by Leader Curt Collier—for those seeking to live more in harmony with the natural world. Each month we discuss the impact of our lifestyle choices on our planet and ways to make a meaningful difference. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share them.

This course is for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living. Admission is free. Elliott Library, Room 507.

Oct. 14 – Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Oct. 21 – Life with Health: Nutrition. Welcome to health counselor Liz Mulhall Collier, who leads this popular series. In the coming months, Liz, a graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, will invite other experts and encourage us to live more healthfully. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.** This month’s topic: **Election Issues.**

Oct. 4 – Religion and the Presidential Candidates: various articles from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Oct. 11 – Presidential Candidates and Domestic Policy—various articles.

Oct. 18 – Presidential Candidates and Foreign policy—various articles.

Oct. 25 – “Slugfest” by James Fallows, *The Atlantic*, September 2012.

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

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Welcome back, everyone, from your vacations and other worthy endeavors. Our Ethical Society is back in full swing, with Sunday Platforms starting at 11:15 AM, a full schedule of morning and afternoon programs such as “Coffee ’n Chat,” poetry and play readings, thought-provoking discussions, classes, brunch in the school’s 6th floor cafeteria, and many, many other events (see the calendar of events at the end of this newsletter). Our Ethics for Children program classes started on September 23, so please encourage your friends and neighbors with children to come over and check us out.

Our Photography Arts Club met for a “photo shoot” on the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s roof one day in September. Members **Jim Hyland** and **David** and **Valerie Leiman** were there to enjoy the art, the weather, and the camaraderie of fellow club members and to have some fun taking pictures. (See page 9 for the photo David Leiman took of Tomas Saraceno’s installation “Cloudy City.”) For information about future photo trips, contact Photography Club co-chairs **Peter Houts** and **Valerie Leiman**. **Bonnie Bean** and **Pat Berens** coordinated a wonderful Circle Line excursion for Ethical Adventures on September 8. Please let any of them know if you have any suggestions about other interesting places for us to visit.

Kudos to **Sheila Kleinwald** for taking charge of the **2012 Membership Retreat**, September 14-16, in Stony Point, NY. President **Andra Miller**, **Valerie** and **David Leiman**, **Cheryl** and **Ed Gross**, **Talat Ali**, **Sheila Kleinwald**, **Pat** and **Chuck Debrovner**, **Sy Amkraut** and **Bernette Rudolph**, **Ellen** and **Richard McBride**, **Mary**

and **Peter Houts**, **Tom** and **Aida Kennedy**, **Pat Cohen**, **Pat Malkin**, **Carol Rost**, **Susan Horowitz**, **Elaine Berman**, **John Gurney**, **Alex Mogieleff**, and **Paul Berman** all went up for the weekend to bond with each other, enjoy nature, and contemplate life, love, and other serious and not so serious issues that concern us as individuals and as a caring community. Also attending as day trippers were **Carole** and **Jerry Chamlin**, **Bob** and **Muriel Berger**, **Bonnie Bean**, **Beverley Newman** and, of course, our Leaders **Anne Klaeyen**, **Joe Chuman**, and **Curt Collier**. There were workshops, meditations, games, and cocktails, and everyone had a grand time.

Member **Ruth Cohen** will be starting the Green Kitchen Project again, so please donate what you can during Sun-

day brunch. All the money collected will go towards the purchase of kitchen equipment that will keep our kitchen in the basement “green.” We also need people to volunteer as cashiers during lunchtime so, if you can help, please leave your name on the sign-in sheet during brunch.

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in October: **Susan Horowitz**, 10/3; **Daniel Altman**, 10/6; **Sara Dillon**, 10/6; **Lucile Kleiman**, 10/9; **Elaine Berman**, 10/12; **Edward Jackson**, 10/13; **Eric Norlander**, 10/18; **Patricia Cohen**, 10/20; **Muriel Berger**, 10/21; **David Day**, 10/24; **Cheryl Gross**, 10/24; **Hollis Bogdanffy-Kriegh**, 10/27; **Lisbeth Eng**, 10/27; **Warren Smith**, 10/27; and **Renée Goldstein**, 10/31.

IHEU Award to Margaretha Jones

At their General Assembly in Montréal in August, the International Humanist and Ethical Union gave their **Distinguished Service to Humanism Award** for 2012 to **Margaretha Jones**, a New York Society for Ethical Culture member since 1986.

Margaretha was honored because of her many years of work for the rights of women and children around the world. She is one of the representatives for the IHEU, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) accredited to the United Nations, where she co-chairs the NGO Committee on Children’s Rights.

Many thanks to Margaretha from NYSEC for all her tireless service—which began with her studies in anthropology and continues through her UN service today. And thank you, Margaretha, for bringing this honor to us at NYSEC by being one of our longtime and loyal members and by the many responsibilities you have shouldered for Ethical Culture itself.

IHEU is the world union of more than 100 humanist, rationalist, laïque, ethical culture, atheist, and freethought organizations in over 40 countries with a mission to represent and support the worldwide Humanist Movement. Its goal is a humanist world in which human rights are respected and everyone can live a life of dignity. The American Ethical Union has been a member organization of IHEU since its inception in 1952.



Margaretha Jones

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **Monday, October 1, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens will host a discussion on *So Rich, So Poor: Why It's So Hard to End Poverty in America* by Peter Edelman.

Income disparities in the United States are now wider than at any time since the Great Depression. In 2010, the average annual compensation for CEOs on the S&P 500 was over \$11 million, while a quarter of all jobs in the nation paid less than the poverty line of \$22,000 for a family of four.

Author Peter Edelman, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, explains what is happening to the people behind the statistics.

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

Fall Writing Classes New: Daytime Sessions

Elaine Berman

If you've long wanted to take part in a workshop where you can hone your writing skills and be part of a group of writers, or if you want to finally get started writing, but your schedule didn't permit it, you're in luck! After eight years of having two evening **Joy of Personal Writing** workshops, as reported in the September issue of *Ethical Outlook*, this fall we are offering a daytime class as well as our usual evening class.

This new class will meet on **Tuesdays from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm** beginning on **October 2**, in Room 507; the **Thursday** evening class will meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** starting on **October 4**, in Room 508. Both workshops will run for ten weeks.

If you'd like to read pieces by current and past workshop writers, please visit our website, www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space. As always, we welcome new members.

The course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. For more information, call Yalitzza Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, October 5, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, to see *Unforgiven* (1992), directed by Clint Eastwood.



Retired gunslinger William Munny (Clint Eastwood) reluctantly takes one last job—and even more reluctantly accepts a boastful youth (Jaimz Woolvett) as a partner. Together, they learn how easily complicated truths are distorted into simplistic myths about the Old West.

Gene Hackman (who won an Oscar) and Richard Harris stand out as old foes who have an unhappy reunion. The film also earned Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director (Eastwood).

The suggested donation is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages. Afterward, join me and the audience in our post-film discussion.

Adler Reading Seminar

Plan to join Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, on the **second and fourth Tuesday*** of each month beginning on **October 9**, from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**, in the Leaders' office, Room 502. Dr. Chuman will continue to host the Society's group on the works of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and humanist philosophy. There will be assigned readings for each session, and light refreshments will be served.

*The schedule is subject to change. Please contact Yalitzza Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118 or email her at ygarcia@nysec.org to confirm the date of the meeting before you plan to attend. Admission is free, but registration is required.

Compassionate Communication

Join moderator Dr. Anne Klaeyens and guest facilitators for a new series of workshops aiming to help us create, improve, and sustain our relationships. The workshops, which started on **September 27**, are held on alternating **Thursdays: October 11, October 25, November 8, November 29, December 13, and December 27, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

Relationships don't just happen; they're made—and nurtured with loving care. To bring our best selves to others and elicit their best, we need empathy and social skills. We'll explore the nature of relationships

and the ways in which we can better connect to one another. The workshops are free to members; for guests, \$5 a session. Registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Yalitzza Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118 or ygarcia@nysec.org.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On Monday, October 15, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing the film, *The People Speak* (2009).

Inspired by historian Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, a slate of top performers takes the stage to recreate the voices of American history's most eloquent dissenters, many of whom are excluded from traditional history books. The words of slaves, authors, politicians, poets, protesters, and others come to life in this film directed by Chris Moore, Howard Zinn, and Anthony Arnove.

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

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Friday, October 19, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, **Ethics and the Theater** will present *Family Feelings*, which is a collaborative blend of poetry and play reading. It pays tribute to those relationships we know best, or least. Using scenes from A.R. Gurney's *Cocktail Hour*—an appeal to gain a father's approval for the staging of his son's play—and selected poems by John Foy and others, the perfor-

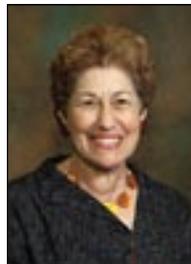
mance weaves together poems and script in counterpoint so that, through echoes and associative logic, they get to the psychic truth of unspoken family feelings.

Richard Van Deusen directs our cast, which includes Burt Edwards, John Foy, Cordis Heard, and Mark Hofmaier. **Come at 6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Richard. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

* * *

Compassion & Choices

The New York Society for Ethical Culture and **Compassion & Choices of New York** present **Approaching the Grand Finale: Starting the Difficult End-of-Life Decision-Making Conversations with Your Family, Doctor, Clergy, and Others**, on Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall, with Barbara Swartz, JD, MA, MPH. The format for this creative program is a talk and a role-playing exercise with active audience participation, followed by questions and answers.



Barbara Swartz

Barbara Swartz is a Distinguished Professor of Law at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, NY, and a longtime Board member of Compassion & Choices of New York. She teaches law, medicine, and ethics and is also a mediator in private practice.

Admission is free and a reception will follow the program. Please register at www.ccnycny.eventbrite.com. If you don't have access to the internet or

have questions, call Jared Hughes at 202-277-4557.

KONY 2012: Congo Panel

On Friday, October 12, 7:00–9:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall—we'll cosponsor, with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Congo in Harlem 4, a panel on Invisible Children's video KONY 2012, which took the internet by storm in March. It launched LRA leader Joseph Kony into the international spotlight and rallied millions of supporters.

It also provoked a fierce public debate about activism and awareness. Our panel of distinguished speakers will explore the implications this campaign has on policy in DR Congo.

Admission is free. Visit our website, www.nysec.org, for details.

Fall Bike Ride

Henryka Komanska

Come ride with us to Wave Hill Garden, in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, on Saturday, October 13. We'll meet at 9:30 am in Manhattan at the Eleanor Roosevelt statue (72nd Street and Riverside Drive) for this four-hour biking adventure. We'll be traveling approximately 22 miles on mostly flat terrain with a couple of short hills. Most of the ride will be on the Hudson River bike path, with some of the ride on quiet city streets.

Bring water, a bicycle lock, and money for the garden's entrance fee (\$5). You can either bring your own lunch or purchase one at the café.

And, remember, you must wear a bicycle helmet if you plan to participate. You don't need to sign up, just show up at the appointed hour. Rain cancels.

Meet the Author–Book Talk, Reception

“We now live in a nation where doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy knowledge, governments destroy freedom, the press destroys information, religion destroys morals, and our banks destroy the economy.” –*Chris Hedges*

Join us on **Monday, October 15, 6:00 pm**, for a reception, followed at **7:30 pm** by a talk, “Stand Up for Truth,” by **Chris Hedges**, author of *Days of Destruction Days of Revolt*. The evening will be hosted by Hugh Hamilton, of “Talkback,” which is broadcast on WBAI radio. The talk, in the Auditorium, will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

Tickets for both the reception and the talk are available online at: <http://chrishedgeswbai.brownpaper tickets.com>. General admission is \$90, and includes a copy of Hedge’s book. Tickets for only the talk and the Q&As, at **7:30 pm**, are \$30, and for students, seniors, and the financially challenged, they are \$20.

Proceeds from the event will benefit WBAI/Pacifica Radio, 99.5 FM, wbai.org, which airs “Occupy Wall St. Radio,” “Talkback,” and “5 O’clock Shadow.”



Chris Hedges

Photography Arts Club

Valerie Leiman

The first solo exhibition by a member of the Society’s Photography Arts Club, David Alpert, was held in our building lobby during the month of August. David is an accomplished photographer, as his exhibition clearly showed, and visitors to the Society saw for themselves.



Photography Arts Club member David Leiman took this picture of Tomas Saraceno’s installation, “Cloudy City.” (See “Our Ethical Family,” page 6.)

Membership Retreat

On the weekend of September 14–16, thirty-five NYSEC members trooped up by car, bus, or train to the lovely buildings and grounds that comprise the Stony Point Center in upstate New York for our annual **Membership Retreat** (some coming just for Saturday).

The weekend was lovely, with sunny weather, and trees and plants still bright and green before the arrival of fall. The program began with a wine and cheese party on Friday afternoon, followed by a buffet dinner in the dining hall, and then it was on to watch the hilarious movie that **David** and **Valerie Leiman** had brought, Mel Brooks' *High Anxiety*.

Saturday after breakfast, **Andra Miller** facilitated a colloquy on "Identity," and then **Curt Collier** led a walk on Bear Mountain, describing the native and invasive fauna and showing the intrepid hikers part of the Appalachian Trail. We raced back in time for lunch, and the program continued with a meeting, led by Leaders **Curt**, **Joe Chuman**, and **Anne Klaeyesen**, on the Society's identity and on compassionate communication. There was free time before and after dinner to get to know assigned "partners," and then the evening's fun was supplied by the Storycrafters, a couple of brilliant and entertaining storytellers, one of whom was also a harpist! Our die-hard card players enjoyed a lively poker game on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday morning, after breakfast, those of us still enjoying the upstate countryside gathered for a Platform Meeting conducted by Curt, with the assigned partners introducing each other. We learned previously unknown tidbits about our fellow NYSEC members—or in some cases, nonmembers.

A hearty "Thank You" to **Sheila Kleinwald** and her crew, for arranging this wonderful retreat from the city and assuring that things went smoothly. All-in-all, the weekend was filled with fellowship and fun, and no doubt all who attended are looking forward to next year's retreat. Hope to see you there. Photos by Beth Zucker.



(L-R) Bear Mountain hike: Alex Mogieleff, Bob and Jean Liebeskind, Mary Houts, John Gurney, Pat Malkin, Paul Berman, Peter Houts, and Joe Chuman.



Andra Miller and Bob Liebeskind on the Bear Mountain hike.



(L-R) Bear Mountain hike: Sy Amkraut, Curt Collier, Peter Houts, and Bernette Rudolph.

Remember to contact **Stephanie Rosenblatt** of the Caring Committee at 212-586-0017 if you or another member you know of needs help.

Membership Retreat



(L-R) Chris Everett, Bob Liebeskind, Muriel Berger, Richard McBride, Edward Gross, and Curt Collier enjoy a lively poker game.



(L-R) Meeting with Leaders: Beverly Newman, Pat Malkin, Ellen McBride, Alex Mogieleff, Carole Chamlin, and Tom Kennedy. Andra Miller (left foreground).



(L-R) Colloquy: Pat Cohen, Pat Malkin, and Mary Houts.

Save the Date!

A Taste of the State(s) of America: A Post-Election Get-Together



The NYSEC Membership Committee
Is Happy to Coordinate a Potluck Dinner

Saturday, November 10 @ 6:00 PM
Ceremonial Hall (4th Floor)

Friends, members, families and everyone
interested in our Ethical Community are invited!
Bring a regional potluck entrée, side dish,
dessert or wine to share (for six people).
Suggestions on Opposite Side

Please let Marilyn Baker & Tod Whitaker
know what you are bringing or to ask questions.

Email: Marilyn Baker – mbaker411@msn.com and
Tod Whitaker – tod.whitaker@citi.com



You must RSVP by November 3

Suggested Regional Cuisine Dishes

Vegetarian Versions Welcome

New England — chowder, lobster rolls, succotash, Boston baked beans, hasty pudding, Boston cream pie

New York — smoked salmon, bagels & cream cheese, hot dogs, Buffalo chicken wings, corned beef, egg creams, New York cheesecake, New York wine

Philadelphia/Mid-Atlantic — cheese-steak sandwiches, hoagies, shoofly pie, pretzels

Pennsylvania Dutch — Amish chicken pot-pie, corn pudding, apple butter

Chesapeake Bay — crab cakes, mint juleps

Low Country — she crab soup, country captain, red rice

Dixie/The South — Southern-fried chicken, red-eye gravy, biscuits, grits, boiled peanuts, pulled pork, collard greens, black eyed peas, corn bread, hushpuppies, sweet tea, banana pudding, pecan pie

Florida — stone crab claws, Cuban sandwiches, key lime pie

Cajun/Creole — muffaletta sandwich, oyster/shrimp po'boy, dirty rice, gumbo, fried okra, king cake, crawfish, hurricane cocktails

Texas — Texas chili, chicken fried steak, BBQ brisket, margaritas

Midwest — corn dogs, Chicago dogs, deep-dish pizza, Cincinnati chili, wiener schnitzel

Southwest — fajitas, taco salad, chile relleno, chile verde, guacamole

California — Caesar salad, Cobb salad, green-goddess dressing, fish tacos, sushi, salmon, California rolls, California wine

Hawaii — ahi poke, spam, macadamia nuts, pineapple salad

October 2012

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 November 2012 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm–Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 pm–Board of Trustees	2 12:30 pm–Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 pm–Wisdom and World Affairs	3 1:00 pm–Strength Exercise Class 6:30 pm–Moral Philosophy: The Basics	4 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Class	5 7:00 pm–Ethics in Film: <i>Unforgiven</i> (1992)	6
7 10:00 am–Chorus Practice 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm–Sustainable Living Support Circle	8 Society Offices Closed Columbus Day	9 12:30 pm–Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 pm–Felix Adler Seminar 7:00 pm–Compassion & Choices	10 1:00 pm–Strength Exercise Class 6:30 pm–Moral Philosophy: The Basics	11 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Compassionate Communication 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Class	12 7:00 pm–Congo Project Part 2	13 9:30 am–Bike Ride
14 10:00 am–Colloquy 11:00 am–Ethics for Children 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm–Ethics in the News	15 1:00 pm–Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:00 pm–Chris Hedges 7:00 pm–Prospective Members' Reception	16 12:30 pm–Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 pm–Wisdom and World Affairs	17 1:00 pm–Strength Exercise Class 6:30 pm–Moral Philosophy: The Basics	18 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Class	19 7:00 pm–Ethics and the Theater	20
21 10:00 am–Poetry Reading 10:00 am–Chorus Practice 11:00 am–Ethics for Children 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm–Life with Health	22	23 12:30 pm–Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 pm–Felix Adler Seminar	24 1:00 pm–Strength Exercise Class 6:30 pm–Moral Philosophy: The Basics	25 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Compassionate Communication 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Class	26	27
28 11:00 am–Ethics for Children 11:15 am–Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Brunch/Social Hour	29	30 12:30 pm–Tuesday Writing Class	31 1:00 pm–Strength Exercise Class 6:30 pm–Moral Philosophy: The Basics	<p>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group Oct. 1–<i>So Rich, So Poor: Why It's So Hard to End Poverty in America</i>, by Peter Edelman</p> <p>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries Oct. 15–<i>The People Speak</i> (2009)</p> <p>Ethics and the Theater Oct. 19–<i>Family Feelings</i>, based on A.R. Gurney's <i>The Cocktail Hour</i></p>		