

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

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL.212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

Sunday Programs

September 1

Social Gathering
Frank Prescod Presides

September 8

"Learning to Live with Courage
and Candor in a Post-9/11 World"
Dr. Khoren Arisian
Senior Leader
Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh Presides

September 15

"The House I Live In: Democracy
in America—De Tocqueville's
View and Ours"
Dr. Khoren Arisian
Senior Leader
Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

September 22

"We Are The Ones Building an
Ethical Community"
Anne Klaeyen
Leader Intern
Dr. Khoren Arisian and
Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh
Preside

September 29

"Today's Students, Tomorrow's
Citizens: A Community
Conversation"
Michael A. Rebell
Executive Director and Counsel,
Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc.
Dr. Khoren Arisian Presides

WQXR-FM (96.3)

Broadcasts

1st and 3rd Sundays of
the month at 7:30 am

September 1

"The International Criminal Court
Arrives: Establishing An Ethics
Of Peace And Justice"
John L. Washburn

September 15

"Learning to Live with Cour-
age and Candor in a Post 9/11/
World"
Dr. Khoren Arisian

September Happenings

Wednesday, September 4: 6:00 pm—Meet the Author

Another book by Society member Warren Allen Smith has been published: *Celebrities in Hell*. Warren will talk about the book, and autographed copies will be available. Admission is free.

Thursday, September 12: 7:00–8:30 pm—Dead Man Walking Symposium

New York City Opera is premiering this opera and holding a related symposium at the Society. The panel will include Sister Helen Prejean, author of the book on which the opera is based, Terence McNally, librettist, Jake Heggie, composer, and others. We have secured 40 free seats for NYSEC members. Call Ben Bean to reserve your place. To volunteer as an usher, call Carol Rost, Co-Chair, Ethical Action Committee, at (212) 982-9403.

Sunday, September 22: 11:30 am—Autumn Friends and Family Day

Invite your friends and family to join us for a daylong series of events, including:

- **11:30 am "We Are the Ones Building an Ethical Community"**—a special Sunday Meeting presented by Leader Intern Anne Klaeyen
- **1:00 pm Autumn Luncheon in Ceremonial Hall—featuring seasonal favorites**
- **2:00 pm Harvest Square Dance** in the Social Hall, featuring James Ream and the Barnstormers (\$10 for adults; \$5 for children under 12, and free for children under 3)

Wednesday, September 25: 7–9:00 pm—WNYC Moderated Debate Between *The Nation* and *The Economist*

Sparked by Naomi Klein's new book, *No Logo: No Space No Choice No Jobs*, criticizing the globalization of logos and brands, representatives of *The Nation* and *The Economist* will debate this issue. Brian Lehrer of WNYC will host. A Q&A session will follow. Admission is free.

Sunday Morning Meetings

September 1—Social Gathering

10:30 a.m. in Ceremonial Hall—4th floor

Frank Prescod presides

A time to renew old friendships and initiate new ones. Our last summer Sunday program in beautiful Ceremonial Hall. The social hour will be enhanced by refreshments—coffee, bagels, and breakfast cakes.

(continued on page 2)

Note: As of September 8, Sunday meetings will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Society Auditorium.

September 8– “Learning to Live with Courage and Candor in a Post-9/11 World”

Dr. Khoren Arisian

With the first anniversary of the horrendously spectacular assault upon the twin towers of the World Trade Center fast approaching, we are again caught up in the heartbreaking tragedy and unimaginable cruelty of so unparalleled an event in American history. Ceremonial observances are planned to take place all over the city throughout the day and into the early evening—even as Mayor Bloomberg encourages us to attend to our regular work schedules! In anticipation, religious and related groups are apparently gearing up to help spark a metropolitan-wide, and probably nationwide, awareness of our continuing need to try to find some meaning in what happened. The reverberations and repercussions of 9/11—spiritual, financial, political, social and economic—sent shockwaves all over the globe. May we rise to the challenges now facing us.

September 15– “The House I Live In: Democracy in America—De Tocqueville’s View and Ours”

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Is there a commonly regarded moral side to politics in a secular democracy? Yes! Is a commonly regarded religious side equally acceptable? No! A religious democracy would be a contradiction in terms. Perhaps the first question a public figure needs to ask himself or herself is: Whose side am I on—that of special interests or that of the citizenry at large? Second, more important than whether or not an action or decision is legal: Is it

fundamentally right, essentially ethical? Alexis De Tocqueville, who made his celebrated visit to these shores in the 1830s to study emerging reform movements, concluded that a new political breed in the history of the world had arisen—the American—largely owing to “the general equality of conditions.” Can freedom and order, liberty and security, the individual and the state, be reconciled with one another even when the nation appears imperiled? We need to enter into this defining conversation of our time.

September 22– “We Are The Ones: Building an Ethical Community”

Anne Klaeyesen

There is an African song called “We Are the Ones.” The low and high parts sing “We are the ones. We’ve been waiting,” and the middle part sings the punch line: “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.” The lyrics were used in a message from the elders of the Hopi Nation in Arizona, imploring people to “Know your garden. Create your community. Be good to each other.” I was struck by the universality of the words “We are the ones” and the message to build an ethical community.

As this first Friends and Family Day celebrates autumn with its traditional harvest, let us remember that we are always planting seeds in our ethical garden: listening and paying attention to each other and our needs, nurturing caring relationships, building community together, and working to create a more humane world for others. Our intergenerational morning program will include music, storytelling, and a conceptual framework for thinking about and experiencing community.

September 29– “Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Citizens: A Community Conversation”

Michael A. Rebell

With this forum, CFE and the New York Society will launch a major new statewide public engagement project about “The Role of the Schools in Preparing Students for Civic Participation” with a panel of invited speakers. The statewide project will be co-sponsored by CFE, the League of Women Voters of New York, and Public Agenda.

Following the discussion, the Society will present CFE and Simpson Thatcher and Bartlett, co-counsel in the landmark suit ruling that “all children are entitled to a sound basic education consisting of knowledge and skills that would afford them decent jobs and prepare them to be capable citizens,” with its Community Service Award.

We have all read about a recent appellate court ruling that an eighth-grade education is all the state need provide its students—enough, it holds, to prepare students to assume their responsibilities as voters and jurors and to hold low-level jobs. CFE will take the case to the Court of Appeals for a final ruling.

Advance Alert: *Sunday, October 13, we will participate in Amnesty International’s “Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty” with David Kaczynski, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, giving the morning address, and a fund raiser to provide DNA testing for a death row prisoner in the afternoon. Save the date; details in the October Outlook.*

Our Ethical Family

Ben Bean & Members

Janet Asimov has edited a new book about her husband, Isaac. *It's Been a Good Life* includes the three volumes of his autobiography, edited, excerpts from his letters to Janet, his favorite short story, an article on science, and an epilogue Janet has written for the book.

Margaretha Jones broke her ankle on her last day of vacation in Switzerland. At this writing, she hopes to return home after two weeks in the hospital and much TLC from her family in Switzerland. We wish you a quick recovery, Margaretha.

Anne Klaeyesen has accepted a position as Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. She will complete her internship by working half time at the NY Society and half time at the LI Society through January. In February, she will assume the position of Leader at the LI Society. Congratulations, Anne, and the same to the Long Island Society!

Warren Allen Smith was feted last October when several humanist institutions organized a gala 80th birthday party for him. This year, the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia has planned a picnic in Warren's honor on October 6. See page 1 for news about a Meet the Author event at the Society celebrating the publication of Warren's new book, *Celebrities in Hell*.

George Kartychak died in a nursing home in Brazil. He had been recovering from fractures sustained in two falls. We will miss this faithful participant in

the Men's Group and longtime member of the newsletter mailing crew.

Arnold Sylvester, a former Board of Trustees member of the New York Society died after a long illness. He was a talented artist and gourmet cook (a true Renaissance man). He was also a past president of the American Ethical Union.

Women's Group

Dr. Bernice Cornyetz

The Women's Group will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month 6:15-8:00 pm, starting September 10, in Room 408. If you are interested in joining for the year 2002-2003 and are not currently part of the group, please call Dr. Bernice Cornyetz at (212) 595-7107 and leave your name and number. You will be contacted promptly.

Membership Committee

Barbara Levenson

Film Forum. In conjunction with other Society activities this Fall focusing on issues related to the death penalty, the Film Forum will resume on Friday, September 20, with *Dead Man Walking*. The acclaimed film, directed by Tim Robbins, stars Susan Sarandon as Sister Helen Prejean and Sean Penn as a condemned prisoner awaiting execution. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the film begins at 7:00 pm. Admission: \$3.00 members; \$4.00 non-members. All proceeds will go to the DNA testing project sponsored by the Ethical Action Committee. Join us for a stimulating night of film and discussion.



Dance Lessons. If you like to dance, you'll love these Tuesday evening dance lessons. Nathan Hescocock of Rhythm Break Productions will be in Ceremonial Hall on September 10, 17, and 24 and October 1 to teach Salsa 7:30-8:30 pm and Swing 8:30-9:30 pm. \$40 for 4 one hour classes and \$75 for 8 classes (payable in advance or on Sept. 10). \$13 for one hour and \$20 for two hours. First night's one or two hour fee may be credited to the package rate if you decide to continue. Call Ben Bean at (212) 874-5210, ext. 113 for more information or to register.



Program Committee

Christine Swann

Activities Fair. Our annual Activities Fair will be held September 8, immediately after the Sunday Meeting. Lunch and the fair will be held in the Social Hall. Come and see what's going on; join a group or a committee. You will find activities for evenings, Sunday mornings, daytimes to fit your schedule.

Make a difference in somebody's life on the Social Service Board; read good books; share experiences in a choice of groups; learn to sing; care for other members; organize to attract more members; push for social change and ethics in public life; discuss and study Ethics or Leaders' Writings; plan programs and events; do Yoga meditation; help guide the improvement of our lovely building, use your fundraising skills; read poetry; have fun and learn with the children in Sunday School; become active in the American Ethical Union.

IHEU 50th Anniversary World Congress, Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands

Dr. Ruth L. Cohen

Recently I attended the IHEU 50th Anniversary World Congress held in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands. What a thrill to see, meet, and be with the hundreds of Humanist participants from all over the world! And dozens of young people, members of the IHEYO (International Humanist and Ethical Youth Organization) too.

Topics focused on Humanism in Society: refugees; human rights; human values; education; the media; caring for the elderly; the indigent; euthanasia; Humanism in a memorial service; diversity and gender. We saw a moving film of Humanist counselors from the Dutch Humanist League who were sent to Bosnia to meet with their soldiers, Dutch Peacekeepers on a six-month peacekeeping tour.

For us, the most important message was from the IHEYO members, who didn't know an Ethical Culture existed. They were as excited to meet us and learn about Ethical Culture as we were to meet them.

September Calendar

WQXR-FM (96.3)
Sundays, September 1 & 15, 7:30 am
Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, September 3
Meet the Author
Wednesday, September 4, 6:00 pm
Ethics for Children
Sundays, 11:00 am (starting Sun., Sept 8)
Sunday Meetings
September 1, 10:30 am; 8, 15, 22, & 29, 11:30 am
Shelter
Sundays–Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Women's Chorus
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
Activities Fair
Sunday, September 8, 1:00 pm
Executive Committee
Monday, September 9, 6:00 pm
Women's Support Group
Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 pm
Dance Lessons
Tuesdays, September 10, 17, & 24;
October 1: 7:30 pm–Salsa
8:30 pm–Swing
Caring Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 4:00 pm
Dead Man Walking Symposium
Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm
Sunday Program Committee
Sunday, September 15, 9:45 am
Membership Committee
Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 pm

Film Forum
Friday, September 20, 7:00 pm
Supervised Visitation
Saturdays 21 & 28, 9:30 am
WNYC debate between The Nation and The Economist
Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 pm
Ethical Action Committee
Thursday, September 26, 6:30 pm
Reading Programs
Ethical Culture Retirement Activities
Wednesday, September 11, 3:00 pm
William Gaddis, *A Frolic of His Own*
Great Books Discussion Series – Fiftieth Anniversary Series
The Evil and The Guilty
Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 pm
Leo Tolstoy, *After The Ball*
Sundays at the Society Mornings at 10:30 am
Sept. 8 Colloquy
Sept. 15 Classical Poetry
Sept. 22 Yoga Meditation
Sept. 29 Coffee Hour
Afternoon Programs
Sept. 8 Activities Fair 1:00 pm
Sept. 15 Orientation, no program
Sept. 22 Autumn Luncheon 1:00 pm
Square Dance 2:00pm
Sept. 29 Human Faith Project 1:30 pm



Advance Alert from the AEU. *The 2002 Growth and Development Conference will be held at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture on Friday evening, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. The Conference is designed to stimulate the growth of Ethical Societies by serving as an exchange of ideas for strengthening key programs and enhancing Societies' visibility and attractiveness. It is intended for board members, committee chairs, and committed volunteers from all Societies. Save the date, and watch for details in the October Outlook.*