

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

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

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

April 4—Ceremonial Hall The Ethics of Taxation

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader, and
Glenn Newman*

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

April 11—Ceremonial Hall Work and Worth: The Crisis Of Joblessness

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Heather Grady Presides*

April 18—Ceremonial Hall Hurrah for the Intransitive Verb!

Rev. Ann Fuller

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

April 25—Auditorium Spring Festival

Curt Collier, Leader

Bonnie Bean Presides

April Happenings

Join us on **Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, when **Ethics and the Theater** will present John Steinbeck's classic, *Of Mice and Men*, a story of love and pain, and the struggle for new beginnings, taking place during the Great Depression. Then join the lively discussion of the issues Steinbeck raised. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 6)*

Come on **Friday, April 23, at 8:00 pm**, prepared for *El Salto*, an exciting new kind of exploration of sacred subjects and images from various traditions featuring contemporary music, readings, a talk, and community singing. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 7)*

Be part of the solution! Join us at the conference—**Justice for Juveniles: A Call to Ethical Action!**—that NYSEC is convening here at the Society on **Saturday, April 24**, starting at **8:30 am**. The event, which will feature speakers from government and local organizations, aims to help catalyze a coalition that will advocate for the reform of New York State's juvenile justice system. Auditorium. *(See page 7)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



Writing this on my birthday, I wish a happy birthday to everybody, whenever yours comes. Another year older and wiser—it's amazing how time's ticking away continues to bring enriching experiences and appreciation. I thank you for the honor of serving as your president and learning A LOT!

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, consultant Leslie Doyle, and I are busy rounding up speakers, panelists, and discussion
(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Joseph Chuman



Ethical Culturists Gather at White House

Representatives of the American Ethical Union gathered at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House, on Friday morning, February 26, to discuss a wide range of issues concerning the separation of church and state and abuses of religion in the public square.

The meeting took place under the banner of the Secular Coalition for America, a five-year-old organization seeking to promote secular government and raise respect for nontheists in society at large; the AEU is one of ten members. This was the first time an
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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

group leaders for the big, one-day conference **Justice for Juveniles—A Call to Ethical Action!** on Saturday, April 24, here in our Auditorium. It promises to be a major event, with the following folks already signed on: Gladys Carrión, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, who will give the keynote speech; Michel Martin, of National Public Radio's "Tell Me More" show, who will lead the panel discussion; and Denise O'Donnell, former State Commissioner of Criminal Justice Services, who will discuss State issues. We have invited several other notables to speak, as well, and we have the support of several nongovernmental agencies serving at-risk children. We'll get a brochure on the event out to all of you very soon.

As promised, here is a list of those who have signed their pledge cards or otherwise made a pledge for 2010. If your name is not on it but should be, please let me know. There are those who don't feel comfortable with our publishing this list, and so they are not named even though they have pledged. To those of you who are not on this list and who have not yet turned in your

pledge card, we ask that you please do so (you can send in the form on page 10). To other members who have not yet pledged or have questions, please contact Moe-Swe Myint at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Pledge cards for 2010 have been received from: Majid and Talat Ali, Virginia Arnold, Steven and Jean D. Baker, William and Marilyn Baker, Aaron Balasny, Benjamin Bean, Patricia Berens, Robert and Muriel Berger, Chris Bernhardt, Barbara Nan Bernstein, Janice Buzby, Jerome and Carole Chamlin, Joseph Chuman, Hilda Classon, Flannery Cleaver, Patricia Cohen, Ruth Cohen, Curt Collier, Bernice Cornyetz, Charles and Patricia Debrovner, Laura Fandino-Swedowsky, Bruce Feld, Maria Fridman, Selma Friedman, Kenneth Gans, Mary Ellen Goodman, Reba Mirsky Goodman, Heather Grady, Larkin Maguire Greene, Edward and Cheryl Gross, Daniel Hanson, Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Susan Horowitz, Edward Jackson, Elizabeth Jacobs, Margaretha Jones, Sheila Kaplan, Pearl Katz, Tom Kennedy, Sheila Kleinwald, Joan Klips, Henryka Komanska, Pauline Kravath, John and Phyllis Kreuttner, William and Susan Kulok, Alice Ladas, John Langsdorf, David and Valerie Leiman, Annette Lewis, Marvin Liebman, Lee Loshak,

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Thanks to you all for pledging your support of our Society. We trust that the programs and opportunities we provide will prove enriching to your lives.

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

organized group of nontheists had been invited to the White House to discuss their concerns.

The entire delegation, which included about 50 representatives from the ten national groups, placed three items on the agenda: proselytizing in the military, the Faith-Based Initiative, and religious exemptions in matters of parental medical neglect of their children. In terms of the Initiative, our primary concerns related to the use of tax money by religious groups for proselytizing and discrimination in hiring of personnel for church-run social service programs. The issue of religious exemptions for parental neglect relates to cases in which parents—for religious reasons—neglect

a child in medical distress. Thirty-seven states have laws that hold such parents harmless of criminal sanctions if they, for example, substitute prayer for medical intervention.

We were greeted by Tina Tchen and Paul Monteiro of the White House office of Public Engagement. Our discussions were friendly, welcoming, and appropriately formal. We were on each others' wavelengths, and the Administration understood, without ambiguity, our concerns. The Coalition spokespersons—impressively informed and very articulate—presented our positions on the respective issues, and the Administration's perspectives were then offered.

A moving narrative was read concerning Liz Heywood (who was unable to attend), who as a child in a Christian Science home contracted a bone infection her parents refused to treat medically. This led to the need to amputate her leg when she was 45. Bryan Samuels, an official from the Department of Health and Human Services, responded, underscoring the fact that this was primarily a state issue, and though a federal law requires documentation of all cases by the appropriate state officials, the federal role in such issues is quite limited.

We gained much greater traction on the issue of proselytizing in the military. The government spokesperson, Undersecretary of Defense Bill Carr, was emphatic that proselytizing has no place in the armed forces, and noted that violations receive appropriate sanctions, including holding back promotions. Although he seemed to minimize the scope of the problem, he welcomed our representatives serving in the military to be

his eyes and ears regarding cases of inappropriate religious practices.

With regard to the Faith-Based Initiative, the issue with which I am most concerned, the Administration's response was the least satisfactory. Mr. Mazen Basrawi, an attorney from the Civil Rights office of the Department of Justice, skirted the issue altogether and recounted, instead, the duties and responsibilities of the Civil Rights bureau. I surmise that what seemed an evasion could be explained by the fact that in a high-profile speech in Zanesville, Ohio, in February, 2009, President Obama unequivocally pledged to reform the Faith-Based Initiative he inherited from the Bush Administration by explicitly doing away with proselytizing with tax-payer dollars and discrimination in hiring. After a year, these pledges have been unmet.

As I noted, despite the immediate specific outcomes, the meeting was historic and the officials who hosted us reiterated several times that this initial event was just the first step in a process of further dialogue with the Administration. The Secular Coalition will, no doubt, hold them to that promise.

AEU representatives at the briefing included Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, and Professor of Human Rights at Columbia University; Frank Brown, land use attorney from the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County; Dr. Oliver Pergams, a member of the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago Board of Directors, a biology professor at Oliver-Harvey College, and a visiting research professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago; Arnold Fishman, a member of the AEU Board of Direc-

tors, Past President of the American Ethical Union, and Past President of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia; and Katharine Archibald, Executive Director of the American Ethical Union and a member of the Ethical Society Without Walls.

Sunday Morning Meetings 11:15 AM

April 4—The Ethics of Taxation

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader, and Glenn Newman

Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once observed, “Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society.” Even if the price sometimes seems too high and our society isn’t always civilized, taxes must still be paid. With Tax Day, April 15, just around the corner and the Tea Party Movement kicking into high gear, it’s time to seek a better understanding of the role taxation plays in our lives. Dr. Anne Klaeyesen interviews tax expert Glenn Newman on the ethics of taxation.

Glenn Newman is the first person to head the two agencies that handle property and business tax appeals in the City of New York. Until his appointment by Mayor Bloomberg as President of the Tax Commission and the Tax Appeals Tribunal, Glenn was a partner in a law firm concentrating on taxation, where he handled tax planning and matters of controversy involving state and local taxes including personal income tax, corporate tax, sales tax, and real property transfer taxes. Prior to that, Glenn was a Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Finance, and previously

was chief of the Tax and Bankruptcy Division of the Office of the Corporation Counsel, where he drafted legislation and regulations and litigated matters involving both city and state taxes, and represented the city in federal courts, including the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts. Ceremonial Hall.

April 11—Work and Worth: The Crisis of Joblessness

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Few things we do are more important to our identities and our self-esteem than our commitment to work. Yet American society is facing an unemployment crisis unprecedented since the Great Depression. What are the effects of prolonged joblessness on individual lives and on communities? How can we find a way out? These will be some of the issues I will explore in my April address. Ceremonial Hall.

April 18—Hurrah for the Intransitive Verb!

Rev. Ann Fuller

Language can be a source of anxiety for secular humanists and other nontheists. Those of us who were raised in religious households may wrestle with words we find personally meaningful and helpful, but have traditional and commonly accepted definitions that no longer seem appropriate. Some of us reject religious language entirely, but that isn’t the only option. We can reclaim religious language if we so desire. As a religious humanist, Rev. Ann Fuller engages in worship. As we explore this word and reclaim it, the concept of worship for nontheists may not be as odd as it sounds.

Rev. Fuller is an ordained minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard (UUCB) in West Melbourne,

FL, and teaches adult religious education courses, specializing in comparative religion and mythology. She is also a Certified Marriage Educator with the National Marriage Centers and facilitates marriage preparation classes. She operates an independent ritual ministry for secular and interfaith families, performing independent weddings, commitment ceremonies, child dedications, and memorial services in addition to her part-time congregational duties.

In August Rev. Fuller will complete a three-year program of study in humanist leadership with the Humanist Institute. Ceremonial Hall.

April 25—Spring Festival

Curt Collier, Leader

Join us for a celebration of spring. The program will include music and a presentation by children from our Sunday School. Auditorium.

Beyond Sunday Platforms

On Mondays, April 12, 19, and 26, and May 3, 17, and 24, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leaders Dr. Joseph Chuman, Curt Collier, and Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will offer a series of programs that will expand upon selected topics and provide participants with reading lists and resources for personal exploration. This new program is for those of us who just can’t get enough from the regular Sunday morning addresses and want more.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Except as noted)
(Rooms subject to change)

Apr. 4—Singing Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat

Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Room 507.

Apr. 4—Parenting Issues. 10:30 am. Dr. Anne Klaeyen presides. Room 514.

Apr. 11—Colloquy: Creative Aging. Irena Polkowska-Rutenberg presides. Room 408.

Apr. 18—Singing Practice. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

Apr. 18—Poetry Readings. Bring some of your favorite poems to read aloud. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

Apr. 4—Ethics in Action: Update on Haiti with Lisel Burns, Leader Emerita, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. The Brooklyn Society has worked with the Haitian community in Brooklyn and on the ground in Haiti for decades. The late Charles Horwitz dedicated his last years to Fonkoze, "Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor," a microfinance institution serving more than 55,000 women borrowers, most of whom live and work in the countryside, and more than 175,000 savers. Lisel has made two trips to Haiti since the earthquake working with Fonkoze and Leogane, a school started by BSEC member Marie Yoline. She will share her experience with us and talk about how to work with grassroots partners. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 11—Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance and Genocide Prevention with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen. April is Genocide Prevention Month, and April 11 is Yom Hashoah, a day set apart by Israel as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen for a solemn remembrance of

genocide world-wide and an advocacy workshop to prevent future genocide.

Apr. 18—Life with Health. Topic TBA.

Apr. 25—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, for a series of talks on "Science and Health."

Apr. 1—Excerpts from Jill Bolte Taylor's book, *My Stroke of Insight*.

Apr. 8—"The Science of Success," by David Dobbs, *The Atlantic*, 12/09.

Apr. 15—"A Life of Its Own," by Michael Specter, *The New Yorker*, 9/28/09.

Apr. 22—"Depression's Upside," by Jonah Lehrer, *NY Times Magazine*, 2/28/10.

Apr. 29—"Autism—The Way I See It," by Temple Grandin.

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 new members **Vincent Brancato, Judith A. Graeff, Susan Pollet, and Douglas Proops.**

Vincent works in sales for the steel industry. His hobbies are hiking and reading. He has been a member of the Appalachian Mountain club for 25 years, and he also belongs to the Sierra Club and the Woodbury Lion's Club.

Judy works as an international development consultant and is a social scientist

in behavioral psychology. Her interests include French, biking, and the outdoors. Judy and her husband, Douglas, were members of the Essex County Ethical Society and she looks forward to becoming active in the NY Society. She is also a member of her co-op board.

Susan attended the Encampment for Citizenship reunion last summer, and is interested in art, crafts, and dancing. She is a lawyer, a Past President of the Westchester Women's Bar Association, and a Past Vice President of the Women's Bar Association of New York, and has trained in mediation, written articles, and given lectures.

Douglas is a physician, and he is interested in hiking and gardening. He has attended Sunday Platforms and is a former member of the Essex County Ethical Society. Douglas is joining together with wife, Judy.

We want to thank members Pat Berens, Dan Hanson, Hugh McGuire, Rich Sander, and Beth Zucker, who helped out as volunteers for the cosponsored programs: "Marx in SoHo, a Tribute to Howard Zinn" on March 6 and "Obama: Change We Can Still Believe In?" on March 9.

* * *

We are very sorry to report that member **Florence Weinstein** died on February 12. She was 102 years old and was a Life Member of the Society, having joined NYSEC in 1945. Details of the memorial will be announced as we receive them.

* * *

Reminder: Don't forget to send in your recipes for the Society Cookbook that's in the works.

Please send them, along with the story behind the recipe, if you wish, to staffer Sheleigah Grube at sgrube@nysec.org. Let's all make this project a great success!—Bon appetite!

Is a Non-nuclear World Possible?

Join us on Thursday, April 8, 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm), Auditorium, as Peace Action Fund of NY State and The Nation Institute present a panel of experts discussing “A World Without Nuclear Weapons: Obama’s Vision, Our Mission.” The panelists will include Jonathan Schell, bestselling author of *Fate of the Earth* and *The Unconquerable World*; Kennette Benedict, publisher of the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, and others. The discussion will be moderated by Phil Donahue.

Participate in a conversation about the ongoing international struggle for the containment and eventual reduction of the nuclear threat, and how President Obama can be pushed to fulfill his promise of a world without nuclear weapons. This is occurring in the run-up to the UN’s regular review of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Cosponsored by NYSEC; Public Concern Foundation; Democrats.com; Haymarket Books; Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, NY; and Peace Action Education Fund, this panel discussion is part of the Doris Shaffer Memorial Lecture Series.

For more information please go to www.nationinstitute.org.

Ethical Enrichment

Barbara Levenson

Everyone is invited to the Ethical Enrichment Committee’s Wine and Cheese Party on Friday, April 9, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This is the new name of the Society’s Adult Education Committee. It will continue to sponsor reading and discussion groups, arts and

culture programs and personal growth and leader-led courses.

NYSEC is committed to every person’s growth and development throughout all of life within the context of a caring and committed community. We hope you join us.

We’d like you to bring your thoughts and suggestions for programs and courses that you would like to see offered by the Society. All your ideas will receive consideration.

Come and enjoy a lively social evening brainstorming plans for our fall 2010 offerings. Ceremonial Hall.

End-of-Life Considerations

Please join us on Tuesday, April 20, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall, for “**Stories From the Bedside: End-of-Life Conversations, Choices, and Planning,**” a program cosponsored with Compassion & Choices of New York. The purpose of this program is to share stories that describe challenges and strategies for receiving good end-of-life care.

Expert panelists will include Jane Brody, *New York Times* health columnist and author of *Jane Brody’s Guide to the Great Beyond*; Reverend Jennifer Brower, Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Long Island; Joanna B. Sheinfeld, M.D., Mount Sinai Medical Center; and Judith Schwarz, RN, PhD, Clinical Coordinator, Compassion & Choices of New York. Barbara Swartz, JD, Compassion & Choices NY Board member, will moderate. They will describe frequently encountered difficulties and paths to achieving personal end-of-life goals. There will

be an opportunity for the audience to interact with the panelists and get their questions answered.

A reception and book signing by Ms. Brody will follow the program. The event is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Drumming Circle

Every Thursday in April and May, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Adler Study, Room 514, we’ll have an opportunity to learn drumming from internationally

acclaimed Senegalese drummer, teacher, and *Djembe* master drum maker **Ibrahima Diokhane**. Ibrahima owns Keure Djembe, a drum shop in Park Slope,



Brooklyn, and teaches rhythms that can be incorporated into all types of music.

When people talk about West African drums, they usually are referring to the *djembe*, a tall drum shaped like a top-heavy hourglass with a web of taut ropes attached to the head. With its wide tonal range, the *djembe* is the most popular hand drum in the country.

The course fee is \$10 for NYSEC members; \$20 for nonmembers per session. Bring your own drum, and if you don’t own a drum, you may rent one for \$5 per session. Registration is required! For more information, contact Sheleigah Grube at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

“*Try to understand men; if you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing a man well never*

leads to hate and nearly always leads to love.”

So John Steinbeck described his approach to writing, an approach evident in his classic, devastating play about men and women fighting to hold onto their humanity and their dreams in the midst of the Great Depression. On Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Ethics and the Theater will present Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*.

Quick-witted, cynical George and physically powerful but mentally disabled Lennie are migrant field workers and unlikely friends hoping to earn enough to buy a farm of their own. Arriving at a ranch for a new job, their goal suddenly seems within reach. But, to paraphrase the Robert Burns poem that gave Steinbeck his title, “the best-laid schemes of mice and men go oft astray.”

Come and participate in our discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Dr. Anne Klaeyen. Elaine Berman directs our cast, which includes Carole and Jerry Chamlin, Curt Collier, Tiffany Esteb, John Gurney, Dan Hanson, Craig Jorczak, John Lovelady, Vince Navarro, Gregory Taylor, and Tom Weishaar. Please join us at 6:30 pm for a wine and cheese reception before the play. Suggested donation: \$5. Elliott Library, Room 507.

***El Salto* – A New Experience!**

Join us on Friday, April 23, at 8:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall, for *El Salto* (“the leap”), a unique forum for contemporary music, presented in a context of religious humanist inquiry. Alongside live performances of new classical music, *El Salto* features short readings from literature, journal-

ism, and philosophy; a short talk (by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen), and a new, easy (and optional) kind of community singing.

First conceived and presented at Yale’s Institute of Sacred Music in 2005, *El Salto*, created by Robin McClellan, explores sacred subjects and images from various traditions. It is a musical and intellectual experiment designed to promote new music and to provide a forum for broad exploration of relevant ethical and spiritual questions. Mr. McClellan is a composer, scholar, and teacher whose diverse choral and instrumental music is performed regularly in the U.S. and Europe. In May, 2008, he was appointed composer-in-residence of ActorCor, a NYC-based choir dedicated to bridging religious divides. He has also been in residence at Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony, and is a doctoral candidate in composition at the Yale School of Music.

There is no charge for this event, but donations to support this innovative program will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Justice for Juveniles

If you are concerned about justice for disadvantaged youth, come to an important event at the Society on Saturday, April 24, in the Auditorium. Starting at 8:30 am, NYSEC will convene a conference—**Justice for Juveniles: A Call to Ethical Action!** that aims to help catalyze a coalition of concerned organizations and citizens and the media to demand the immediate restructuring and reform of the

statewide juvenile justice system that is charged with the care and assessment of children in need.

Speaking out to demand fairness for disadvantaged youth has been an important part of Ethical Culture’s history. More than 1,600 youths enter New York State’s institutional placement facilities each year, at an estimated annual cost of \$210,000 per child. But many of these young people leave more angry, fearful, or violent than when they entered. NYSEC and our conference partners believe that by incarcerating thousands of children in facilities, the largest of which closely resemble adult prisons, the state is harming its children, wasting money, and endangering the public. We believe that the need for system-wide reform is urgent, and we plan to use the day to share information and energize for ethical action.

Gladys Carrion, Esq., Commissioner, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and Denise O’Donnell, former Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, NYS Office of Public Service, will address the morning session. Local organizations, including the Dome Project, will make afternoon presentations.

Admission is free, but registration is required. For more information, contact Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen at 212-874-5210, ext. 118

The Joy of Personal Writing

Elaine Berman

Our two ten-week writing workshops, which I will lead, will resume this spring. You’ll find that these are safe, nurturing places to start and stay

focused on writing, and to learn and polish your skills. Both new and experienced writers are welcome.

Monday classes will meet 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, starting April 26. Thursday classes will meet 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, beginning on April 29.

For more information, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117. You can find essays by workshop writers at www.nysec.org. Click on the Table of Contents and scroll down.

NYSEC Building Centennial Events

*Heather Grady, Chair,
Building Centennial Committee*

Our 2010 Building Centennial events are underway. In March NYSEC hosted a reading of the play by Clare Coss, *Lillian Wald: At Home on Henry*



NYSEC's landmarked building

Street, about one of the most famous and remarkable women in Ethical Culture's history.

This month a conference on Juvenile Justice will highlight our interest in scaling up support for at-risk youth—a theme that has been important throughout the Society's history.

In May we will host an Advocacy Forum on jobs and a Jobs Fair for those seeking work, to address both

the policy changes and the practical actions needed to tackle the serious problem of unemployment with which Ethical Culture has concerned itself over the years. We are also planning to present a program dealing with environmental sustainability.

If you'd like to help out with these programs or with any other activities for our Building Centennial, please contact our Membership Associate, Moe-Swe Myint (mmyint@nysec.org), or me (heathergradynyc@gmail.com).

Save the Dates!

AEU's 95th Assembly

The 95th American Ethical Union Assembly will be held at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania, from June 17 to June 20.

Our Assembly is an important event in our lives as Ethical Culturists. It is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in what it really means to belong to Ethical Culture. During the Assembly we gather with like-minded people and we experience the Movement in a larger context.

By participating in our annual Assembly we show each other, newcomers, and the greater community that we are people with strong ideals, willing to declare our ethical principles for the betterment of humankind.

The Assembly is also where we are able to renew acquaintances and get to know members of societies from across the country. It's an exciting opportunity to learn from our peers, not only through the many workshops offered but by strengthening commu-

nication among members of all Ethical Culture societies.

To register online go to <http://www.regonline.com/aeuassembly>, or you can download the paper brochure/registration form by going to the AEU website (www.aeu.org). You can also pick up a copy of these here on the 5th floor.

This year's AEU Assembly will offer many new and innovative workshops and Open Space Technology sessions, as well as a special fundraising event that will support the Pennsylvania LGBTQ community.

We look forward to seeing you at the Assembly!

Lay Leadership Summer School

If you'd like to spend a marvelous week up in the Smoky Mountains, communing with nature and the great folks from Ethical Societies all across the U.S., sign up for the American Ethical Union Lay Leadership Summer School—six and a half days from July 24 through July 31.

Yes, there's some actual class work and you learn about the history of Ethical Culture and ways to help your Society grow and thrive (Curt Collier is one of the teachers)—but there's also good food, camaraderie, and a bit of relaxation. Each day features group exercises to broaden your sense of teamwork and ability to lead, a ceremony to develop your creativity and organizing skills, and a "Journeys" group meeting for winding down and reflecting on your experience.

This year's Summer School is being held at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North



Some of the attendees at a previous Lay Leadership Summer School at “The Mountain,” Highlands, NC, take “time out” from learning and networking

Carolina, <http://www.mountaincenters.org/>. You get there by flying to Atlanta and taking a two-hour van trip. The cost is \$1,200 for the school, \$150 for the van to and from the center, and about \$300 for your roundtrip

airfare—with each New York Society attendee being reimbursed \$500 by the Society. Note that you can also apply for a \$150 scholarship from the American Ethical Union, should you need additional help.

Register by downloading the application form and getting an OK from the NYSEC Board; the form is on the AEU website (aeu.org upper right side). For the AEU brochure on the program, contact: http://aeu.org/library/forms/2010sum_sch.pdf. For the sign-up form, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AEUSummerSchool2010>. (Note that the form shows March 1 as the deadline for registration, but that time has been extended to April 5.)

Already signed up for this session is our Treasurer and Building Centennial Committee Chair, Heather Grady. Also contemplating attending are a member and two more Trustees. And, maybe you?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact Andra Miller at 212-627-3944. Or for AEU information, call L. Miller, Director of Administration, at 212-873-6500.

Save the New Date! Stained Glass Benefit Concert

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Please note a change of date for our Building Centennial Stained Glass Restoration Benefit Concert.

Hear new music at a new date and new time. Be here with us on Friday, September 24, 6:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall. We will cel-



brate fall and inaugurate our new effort to stabilize the historic stained glass windows in our Auditorium.

Details will follow. To volunteer, and to get further information, call Moe-Swe Myint at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Calling All Campers

If you attended last year’s reunion of Encampment for Citizenship alumni, or know someone who did—you know it’s time to get ready to do it again!

As a result of that very successful event, an alumni group was formed and members have kept in touch since then and planned another get-together.

We’ve mentioned the upcoming second reunion before in this newsletter but we think this very special evening is worth mentioning again. So, bring your Encampment photos, memories, and souvenirs to NYSEC on Saturday, May 29, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We’ll gather in Ceremonial Hall.

Encampment for Citizenship was a summer youth program founded in 1944 by Algernon Black, a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. The program was organized as a summer camp “at which young adults of many religious, racial, social and national backgrounds learned the principles and techniques of citizenship in a liberal democracy through lived experience.”

Celebrating Jazz

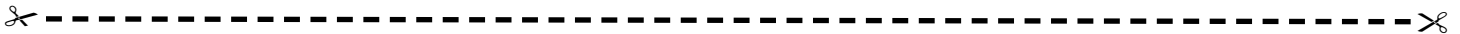
Valerie Leiman

Five members of NYSEC’s Lively Arts Group were in the SRO audience on Sunday, February 28, at a three-part jazz celebration cosponsored by the New York Historical Society and the National Jazz Museum, in Harlem.

The exciting program consisted of an Academy Award-nominated documentary film: *A Great Day in Harlem*, an interview/conversation with the film’s producers, and a jazz concert. The concert, featuring Juilliard instructors and students, and a surprise guest musician “sitting in” with the group, sent the wildly enthusiastic audience singin’ and swingin’ on their way home! Wish you’d been there.



Jazz Portrait, Harlem 1958, by Art Kane, shows 57 jazz musicians photographed on a street in Harlem



Here is my 2010 Pledge:

Name _____

Pledge Amount \$ _____

To be paid Monthly Quarterly Semi Annually Annually Other _____

by Check

by Credit Card (Number) _____ (Exp. Date) _____

Signature _____

Please mail to: NY Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023

April 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	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Great Books Apr. 7 – David Hume, <i>Of Justice and Injustice</i> Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> (complete work) Charles Darwin, <i>The Moral Sense of Man and the Lower Animals</i> ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) Apr. 14 – Alice Hoffman, <i>The Third Angel</i> Great Books: Great Conversation II Apr. 21 – Hannah Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>					
4 10:00 am – Singing Practice 10:30 am – Parenting Issues 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethical Action	5 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees	6 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Crafts Circle (Off site)	7 7:00 pm – Black Film Festival – <i>The Last Supper</i> 7:30 pm – Great Books	8 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Drumming Circle 7:00 pm – The Nation	9 7:00 pm – Ethical Enrichment Committee – Wine and Cheese Party	10 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
11 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Yom Hashoah Remembrance & Genocide Prevention 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	12 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	13	14 3:00 pm – ECRDG	15 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Drumming Circle 7:00 pm – Finance Committee	16 6:30 pm – Games Café	17 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
18 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Life with Health 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	19 4:00 pm – Building Committee 7:00 pm – Prospective Members Reception 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	20 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:00 pm – End-of-Life Considerations	21 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	22 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Drumming Circle	23 11:00 am – Ethics on the Air 8:00 pm – <i>Ei Saito</i> Concert	24 8:30 am – Justice for Juveniles: A Call for Ethical Action 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
25 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	26 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	27 6:00 pm – Social Service Board Meeting	28	29 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Drumming Circle 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	30	

Ethical Culture is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
ETHICAL
CULTURE 

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