

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 – Ceremonial Hall**

February 5
***Inherit the Wind Revisited: An
Update on the Evolution Wars***
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Tod Whitaker Presides

February 12
Ethical Culture in a Positive Key
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Terry Perlin Presides

February 19
Racial Profiling After 9/11
Udi Ofer
Monica Weiss Presides

February 26
***The Devil's in the Details: The
Faulty Moral Philosophy of Our
Conservative Candidates***
Curt Collier, Leader
Dan Hanson Presides

February Happenings

Come on **Friday, February 17, 7:00 pm**, when **Ethics and the Theater** screens *Anna in the Tropics*, Nilo Cruz's Pulitzer-winning play set in 1929 in Florida. A group of Cuban exiles who have set up a local cigar industry face the loss of income as machines begin replacing hand rolling and the use of lectors, who read to the workers. A new, charismatic lector has come to one factory and he is stirring things up and making the characters reexamine their lives. After the film, join our discussion of the issues raised. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 7.)*

If you would like to understand why you do, or don't do, particular things that would be good for your health, come to the Society on **Sunday, February 19 at 1:30 pm**, for **Life with Health**. Kathleen O'Connell, Ph.D., RN, psychologist and nurse, will discuss current theories and techniques for changing health-related behaviors. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 5.)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



For NYSEC, 2012 got off to a running start with a lively New Year's Eve party starring the Lucky Dogs Jazz Band and their great dance music, along with singer Yumi Thomas, and then the warm and wonderful New Year's Day party starring singer/guitarist/song writer Pat Wictor, along with delightful poetry read by our members under the direction of Pat Debrovner. Both events were full of great fellowship, and I was glad I didn't miss either one. Thanks for the great jobs done by the Social Service Board (chaired by Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross) for event #1, and the Sunday Program Committee (co-chaired by Meg Chapman and Monica Weiss) for event

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From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Occupy Faith – and Voices

On a blustery day in January, I stood in City Hall Park with interfaith colleagues to mark the two-year anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* with protests and a call for an amendment that would reverse the court's century-long application of the 14th Amendment to corporations, making them "persons" for due process and equal protection. In a 5-to-4 vote in January 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations also have First Amendment rights and that the government cannot impose restrictions on their political speech, clearing the way for corporations and other special-

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***Concert Series for
Ethical Culture
(See page 6 for details)***

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

#2. As a wonderful bonus, the New Year's Eve party raised over \$3,000 for the programs of our United Social Services (run by the more familiar name, the Social Service Board).

As of this writing, I'm looking forward to more fun—the January 28 Pot Luck Pledge Party—which, of course, will probably happen before you read this. However, if you read this before then, please come; it's not at all necessary to bring a dinner item. I hope most of you do come, especially if you missed one of the New Year parties. It's always fun to get together socially, and this offers us another time to relax and enjoy one another and maybe start a conversation with someone you haven't gotten to know yet.

Speaking of pledges, it's always an unpleasant duty for the Pledge Drive Committee members to call and write for year-end contributions from those who have not yet paid. It's also no fun to do the same at the beginning of the year for those who have not made their

pledge for the current year. I ask that you remember the wonderful events and warm fellowship the New York Society for Ethical Culture makes possible for you, and turn in your pledge a.s.a.p. to support the Society financially. As you know, this is a requirement for membership and a duty that I, for one, don't think any of us should find onerous. I hope you'll be happy to make a substantial commitment to the Society that is, in turn, committed to you.

We ask that even if you generally make your annual donation towards the end of the year, please still sign your pledge card at the beginning of the year. If you're unsure about the final amount, make a pledge that you know you will be able to meet, and go beyond it if the year proves financially fruitful for you. For those of you who can't make it to the Pot Luck Pledge Party, please fill out the form on page 11 and give or send it to Moe-Swe Myint. If you'd prefer to call Moe-Swe with your pledge, her phone number is 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

As most of you know, the donations collected for NYSEC through pledges,

Sunday collections, and other contributions do not meet the total costs of the Society and the maintenance of our wonderful building. It is a hard fact that renting some of our building space is necessary to help meet the aggregate costs of programs, Leader and support staff salaries, maintenance costs, and building repair expenses. As was discussed after the January 22 platform meeting, our contract with Vision Church for the Auditorium space on Sundays from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm, continues as it has for several years, but our long-term contract with Redeemer Church for early morning use of our Auditorium and Social Hall will come to an end on February 12, losing us the very necessary income of \$200,000+ per year.

However another church, Remnant Westside, has stepped in to rent the Auditorium from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, and Social Hall from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm, starting February 19, replacing that lost income. The unfortunate result of this good news is that during those hours we will not have access to the Auditorium and Social Hall. Therefore we will continue to hold our Sunday meetings exclusively in Ceremonial Hall, and we'll have lunch in the 6th floor school cafeteria. Remnant Westside's contribution will make our financial future secure and we will, of course, have access to these spaces at other times. It is tempting to say this might be a blessing in disguise and that if, in order to use the Auditorium ourselves, we moved our weekly meeting to another time or added an additional meeting at another time we just might bring in more new people. It's a thought...

And now, please read on to find out about all the exciting things we have planned for this month, after I take one more moment to add your thanks to mine for the excellent work in editing and producing our *Ethical Outlook* newsletter by volunteer Selma Friedman

and staff member Deborah Foster. Thanks, Selma and Deborah! And a happy year ahead for all.

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

interest groups to spend unlimited amounts of money on elections.

As snow and sleet pummeled us, and Parks Department plows encircled us, we sang and chanted, holding up signs that read: "Corporations Are Not People," "Money is Not Free Speech," and "This is what a real person looks like."

Why did we members of Occupy Faith, one of many Occupy Wall Street (OWS) working groups, care so much to expose ourselves to the elements? Justice John Paul Stevens, in his dissent, expressed it best:

"Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established."

President Obama's statement read: "The Supreme Court has given a green light to a new stampede of special-interest money in our politics. It is a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies, and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans."

Last month the New York City Council joined localities across the country in passing a resolution opposing the Supreme Court's decision and supporting an amendment to the Con-

stitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech.

We are now witnessing the influence of so-called "super PACs" (political action committees) that can raise unlimited sums of money to mount direct attacks on candidates and advance the outcome of a political issue. In the spirit of an Occupy Wall Street "teach-in," political satirist Stephen Colbert registered a super PAC called "Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow" with the Federal Election Commission and is demonstrating how it operates, to the delight of his viewers and the consternation of his detractors.

I have also joined Occupy Voices, a new OWS working group that is reviving protest songs of past struggles and composing new ones. How inspiring it was to lift our voices in song! Here are lyrics, sung to the strains of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" that we introduced last month:

Corporations! Corporations!
 We're so happy, we're so sunny 'cause
 we've got money.
 Corporations! Corporations!
 We got our share and we don't care if
 it's not fair.
 For the Supreme Court of our great
 nation
 Made us people, made us human,
 made us persons.
 Corporations!
 Now we can buy the votes when we
 need them.
 We get our say, we get our way,
 'cause we can pay.
 Corporations!
 The power in the world is become

Connected with the banks and those
 who fill
 The corporate ranks.
 And we shall reign forever and ever!
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 Tax loopholes, political goals, screw
 those in need,
 Bank bailouts and rules to flout,
 Top one percent, we're heaven sent.
 And we shall reign forever and ever!
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

February 5—*Inherit the Wind* Revisited: An Update on the Evolution Wars

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

February 12 is Darwin Day. The author of *On the Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin, was born in 1809 and published “the book that shook the world” in 1859. Within ten years, scientists around the world had accepted his theory and set about exploring its mechanisms. In the United States evolution has had a colorful history in the courts and politics. The famous Scopes “Monkey” Trial, which inspired the play *Inherit the Wind*, took place in Tennessee in 1925.

In 1987 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states cannot require public schools to “balance” evolution lessons by teaching creationism; and in his 2005 ruling U.S. District Judge John E. Jones decried the “breath-taking inanity” of Dover, PA, school board members who tried to insert “intelligent design” into its science curriculum. Today, only one Republican presidential candidate supports evolution. What motivates this anti-science attitude? How can we understand this conflict?

The shared charity is National Center for Science Education.

February 12—Ethical Culture in a Positive Key

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Many of its members are inclined to describe Ethical Culture by what it is not—“No God, no supernaturalism, no dogma, no holy books, no holy personalities.” This is often joined to a critical attitude toward the traditional religions.

But how much better to describe Ethical Culture by what it affirms! This address takes up that challenge. In addition, I will briefly describe in what ways we can understand Ethical Culture as religious and what our stance toward the historical religions might be.

The shared charity is Love 146.

February 19—Racial Profiling After 9/11

Udi Ofer

Racial profiling not only goes against our constitution and our country’s values of equality and justice, but it also hinders effective law enforcement. Yet racial profiling continues to persist today: historic profiling against black and Latino residents in day-to-day policing operations such as stop and frisk; the post-9/11 intelligence-gathering practices against Arabs, Muslims, and South Asians; and the profiling of Latinos and other people of color in the context of immigration and border enforcement. My talk will focus on this phenomenon, and what New Yorkers and policymakers can do to stop racial profiling from continuing in our communities.

Udi Ofer is the advocacy director at the New York Civil Liberties Union, and is also an adjunct professor at New York Law School.

The shared charity is New York Civil Liberties Union.

February 26—The Devil’s in the Details: The Faulty Moral Philosophy of Our Conservative Candidates

Curt Collier, Leader

Many of the current candidates vying for the Republican nomination have stressed their conservative credentials as a test for their readiness to serve. All of them have based their conservative stance on particular interpretations of Christian theology. The problem is, even given their highly nuanced beliefs, none of the candidates have demonstrated a consistent application of that belief system, and most are guilty of violating their own religious standards. If their moral beliefs are capricious at best, how are we, the voting public, to judge the veracity of their approach? Is moral philosophy really needed in American politics, and if so, what would a consistent and practical moral system look like?

The shared charity is 350.org.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Feb. 5—Chorus Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we’ll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings and get some tips to improve our singing technique. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 12—Colloquy—Conversation. Harriet Bigus presides. Room 408.

Feb. 19—Poetry Reading—Find poems on subjects that strike your heart: the cold and crisp air, Valentine’s Day, or Black History Month. Bring them along and read with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Feb. 19—Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 26—Psalms of the Land. Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Except as noted)

Feb. 5—Foundations of Ethical Culture. Dr. Anne Klaeyen presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 12—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Feb. 19—Life with Health: Kathleen O’Connell, Ph.D., RN, a valued member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, is a psychologist and a nurse who teaches Health Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. She’ll discuss current theories and techniques for changing health-related behaviors. Such theories include self-control, using implementation intentions for improving your health, and how Pavlovian conditioning might affect you in your daily life. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 26—Ethical Economics. Curt Collier presides. Adler Study, Room 514.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month’s topic will be: **Economics: Personal, Corporate, and Global.**

Feb. 2—The European Union and the Financial Crisis—various articles.

Feb. 9—“End Corporate Personhood” by Thom Hartmann; to read, visit www.truth-out.org.

Feb. 16—“Creation Myth” by Malcolm Gladwell, *The New Yorker*, 5/16/11.

Feb. 23—Class, Self-Reliance, and Jobs—various articles.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders’ office. Please come and join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome new members **Susan Needles** and **Robert Eber**.

Susan is a psychotherapist and social worker, working with mentally and physically ill individuals. She has also given workshops for couples through the Interfaith Community for ten years. Susan has lived in NYC for 32 years, and her daughter attended the Ethical Culture School. She likes music, dogs, plants, and cooking and is interested in interfaith work.

Robert is retired, with a background and experience in finance and conservation. His interests are bridge, the Central Park Conservancy, and working out at the gym. Bob has attended our Leader Lunch Discussions, Ethics and the Theater presentations, and film showings, and he is taking a Joy of Personal Writing course with Elaine Berman this winter.

* * *

Our **New Year’s Eve Party 2011** was a ringing, rocking success! A very diverse group of the Ethical Culture community—more than 100 people in all—showed up to say goodbye to the old year and hello to 2012! There were good food and an open bar and great music from the Lucky Dog Jazz Band playing New Orleans Jazz, Yumi Thomas singing, and our DJ spinning terrific music. Some wonderful dancers danced up a storm, and there were

great conversations, raffles, door prizes, and plenty of good cheer. The night ended with everyone greeting the New Year with glasses of champagne as we watched the marvelous Central Park fireworks from the Society’s rooftop! Kudos to everyone at the Social Service Board for their incredible work in making this a super fun event, while raising funds for their various worthy causes.

To see photos from this marvelous event, turn to page 9.

* * *

An impressive number of people showed up for the NYSEC **Photography Club** meeting on January 8. We watched *American Experience*, a documentary film about Ansel Adams, followed by a discussion of Adams as a photographer, an exhibit of his photographs, and a discussion of his photographs in terms of their composition, technique, social relevance, and personal relevance for viewers.

Then, audience members showed their own photos, followed by a discussion of those photos led by member **Peter Houts**, a graphic designer and photographer. The next Photography Club meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, at 1:45 pm in the Adler Study, and **Chuck Debrovner** will lead the discussion. Anyone interested is welcome to show some of your own work (a maximum of three 8”x10” or larger prints), or to just view the photos and participate in our discussion.

* * *

Also on January 8, the **Social Service Board’s Empowering Ethical Elders (EEE)** and the **Caring Committee** co-hosted a showing of a new documentary film, *Bubby*, which recounts the life of Shura Saul, teacher, author, poet, social worker, and social activist, who celebrated her 90th birthday in 2010. Matthew Rosvally, her writer-

director grandson, Shura herself, members of her family, friends, and colleagues, along with a large crowd of admirers, showed up to view the film. Thanks so much to EEE SSB Coordinators NYSEC members **Rob Hofman** and **Wally Patarwaran**, Trustee and SSB Chair **Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross**, and Leader **Dr. Anne Klaeyen** for all their wonderful work. Thanks also go to EEE co-directors **Rosemary Irving** and **Mark Zilberman**, who can be reached at 212-721-4407 if you have any questions about the EEE program.

* * *

Volunteers Wanted:

Member **Valerie Leiman** is looking for NYSEC members who are Columbia University alums. She is working with the Columbia Alumni Arts League to be a cultural partner of the League to bring NYSEC events to a wider audience. Please contact her if you are a Columbia alum and a member of the Society, and would like to work with her.

Member **Dr. Maria Fridman** is always looking for volunteers for the Woman's Shelter. Just staying overnight at the Society once a month will enable us to keep our shelter open year round and help our guests get their lives back on track. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact me at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

* * *

NYSEC Music Director **Gerald Ranck** will give a series of concerts on first Tuesdays of the new season—February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1—to celebrate his 70th birthday! This is his birthday present to the Society, so mark your calendars and support the Society while enjoying great music.

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in February: **Elinore**

Kaplan, 2/2; **Vincent Brancato**, 2/4; **Bernette Rudolph**, 2/7; **Ken Gans**, 2/8; **Pat Berens**, 2/9; **Flannery Cleaver**, 2/12; **Michele Donney**, 2/17; **Roger Michaels**, 2/18; **Edward Finfer**, 2/24; **Robert Worth**, 2/28.

* * *

Some sad news....

Frances Tait, a Society member for 25 years, died on September 16, 2011, at Hospice of Cincinnati, after a long illness. She was a devoted friend, a loving family member, an advocate for those in need, and a champion for animals, especially cats. Frances was born in Charlottesville, VA, and after graduating from the University of Richmond with a degree in English, she obtained a Masters in Library Science from Columbia University. She lived in Manhattan for the next 65 years, pursuing careers as a Montessori School teacher, and as a librarian. She loved literature and culture, was an avid reader, and showered affection on her large family and friends. She was a sister of Robert Tait, III, and the late Mary Burns; aunt of John G. Burns, Jr., Marianne Tait, Elizabeth Tait, George C. Tait, and Robert N. Tait; and great-aunt to nieces Jabre and Jennifer Burns, Maggie Close, and brand new great-nephew Morgan. She will be missed.



Frances Tait

Memorial contributions may be sent to the New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York NY 10023, or to www.nysec.org. You may send condolences to: www.strawserfuneralhome.com.

Member **Suzie Frazer's** father **Dan Frazer's** memorial service was held on Saturday, January 7. Dan Frazer,

who died on December 19, 2011, was a character actor whose Hell's Kitchen upbringing prepared him for a long run of roles as a blue-collar type or a cop, most notably as the beleaguered supervising officer Capt. Frank McNeil on "Kojak." In addition to a career in television, Dan Frazer had roles in films, including *Lilies of the Field* and two of Woody Allen's early comedies, *Take the Money and Run* and *Bananas*. He also had a role in the soap opera "As the World Turns," where he worked with NYSEC member Pat Debrovner, and in dinner theater companies. In the old neighborhood, where he was a regular at local restaurants, shops, churches, and community centers, he was known in later years as the "Mayor of 43rd Street."



Dan Frazer

Concert Series for Ethical Culture

Gerald Ranck

To celebrate my 70th birthday, this coming season I'm presenting four monthly concerts for the benefit of the NY Society. They'll be on the first Tuesday evenings of February through May, at 8:00 pm, here in our beautiful landmark building.



The first concert will be held on February 7, and I'll partner with Jon Liechty to offer a program of piano duets by Schubert and Mozart. For the other dates and names of the performers, please see the January issue of *Ethical Outlook*.

Tickets for members (including seniors and students) are \$15; for all others tickets are \$25. Please mark your calendars, and support the sound of great music in our marvelous Auditorium.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, February 3, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial



Hall, to see the 1985 film *The Color Purple*, directed by Steven Spielberg.

Whoopi Goldberg stars as Celie, a Southern woman whose correspondence with her sister in Africa helps her escape an abusive husband (portrayed with a scary edge by Danny Glover) and a life of bitter circumstance. Steven Spielberg directs this Oscar-nominated drama, a sterling adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, which boasts an evocative soundtrack by Quincy Jones and a moving performance by Oprah Winfrey. I will lead our post-film discussion.

The suggested donation: \$5.

Ethics in Literature Reading Group

Come on **Monday, February 6, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will host a discussion on *Soul Mountain*, by Gao Xingjian.

Gao Xingjian (whose name is pronounced gow shing-jen) is the first Chinese recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Born in 1940 in Jiangxi province in eastern China, he has lived in France since 1987. In 1983 Gao was diagnosed with lung cancer, the disease that had killed his father. At the same time, he had been threatened with arrest for his counterrevolutionary writings and was preparing to flee Beijing for the remote regions of southwest China. Shortly before his departure, a

second set of x-rays revealed no cancer at all. Upon this extraordinary reprieve, he began the circuitous journey that would lead him to the sacred (and possibly mythical) mountain of Lingshan—and to this poignant novel.

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

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, February 13, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *The Betrayal*, (2008). During the Vietnam War, the United States performed secret operations in Laos, causing much destruction in that country. After the war, the fallout of U.S. foreign policy remained, forcing Thavisouk Phrasavath and his family to flee the country. This documentary follows Phrasavath's journey from war-torn Laos to his painful reunion with his family in Brooklyn, years later.

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

Felix Adler's Writings

Join us on **Tuesdays, February 14 and 28, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**, in the Leaders' office, Room 502.

Leaders Dr. Joseph Chuman and Dr. Anne Klaeysen will guide us in a close study of Adler's writings, with the goal of our gaining a thorough understanding of his thoughts and aims through probing discussion.



For more information, see the Winter/Spring 2012 issue of the **Ethical Enrichment** brochure. Admission is free, but registration is required. Please contact Yalitz Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118 to register.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **Friday, February 17, from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will



present Nilo Cruz's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Anna in the Tropics*. The play takes place in 1929, and the world is changing around the group of Cuban exiles who have set up a small cigar industry in Florida. Machines are replacing hand rolling and lectors. But in the factory where the play is set a new lector arrives and roils the placid community, because he is a handsome, passionate reader and because he has chosen to read *Anna Karenina*. Inspired by this book, the characters reexamine their lives, their work, and their relationships.

Richard Van Deusen directs our cast, which includes Adriana Degirolami, Vince Navarro, Antonio Pagliarulo, Evgeniya Radilova, Thom Rivera, Alejandro Santoni, and Carol Van Deusen, with stage directions read by Muriel Berger. 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 Dr. Anne Klaeysen. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

Poetry Corner

Chanah

Sy Amkraut

There is a birthday I will be happy to celebrate.
It is for my mother, she was great.

Her name was Anna. Chanah was her real name
She was petite and gentle, not destined to fame.

Her voice was weak. Her message was strong.
Lead a life filled with good, do no wrong.

If you are attacked with a voice filled with abuse.
Don't respond in anger and hate, it's no use.
It will only result in more anger and abuse.

The attacker is angry at something that makes him very mad.
Deciding to be angry is a self-inflicted wound. It really is very sad.

Help the attacker in his time of grief.
Try to calm him and help him get some relief.

Happy Birthday mother, your teaching has achieved fame
Your advice lives on; Ethical Culture is its name.

9/11/11

Sy Amkraut

On 9/11/01, a mushroom cloud reached for the Islamist terrorists' heaven.
Instead, it fanned out and its tentacles blanketed the earth.

This dark cloud obscured the fragile light of tolerance and trust
that was beginning to show its worth.

It turned our hopes into hate.

War in Afghanistan and global terrorism was our fate.

Ten years have passed and we are still in the fight.

The cloud still hovers over us, obscuring the light.

For us to be content and for us to stay alive,

The cloud must go, tolerance and trust we must revive.

Save the Date! Stained Glass Windows Benefit Concert

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Winter
Solstice is
over! We
celebrated
the holi-
days, and
now we
want to
celebrate
spring with you.



So, mark your calendars and be sure to join us at our **Annual Benefit Concert on Sunday, March 18, 2:00 pm** in **Ceremonial Hall**.

We will have an exciting new program, with many artists. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For information, tickets, or to volunteer at the concert, please call: 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or 212-860-4096. Please leave your name and the number of tickets you are ordering. We look forward to seeing you here.

Elliott Library Project

Dr. Ruth Cohen

The Friends of the Elliott Library Project would like to know if anyone can tell us something about how the Library got started, who provided the books, to what was the Library supposed to be devoted, and who is currently in charge of the Elliott Library Collection.

Please respond to me by email at rlc0200@verizon.net. Thanks for your help.

Sparks Fly at Our New Year's Eve Party!

Nicola Antonio DeMarco

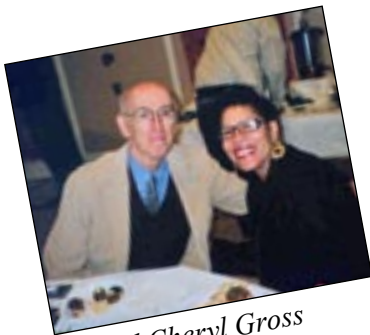
BAM! BOOM! Shooting colors in every direction, fire and sparks...and that was just the dance floor! Our first Social Service Board fundraiser celebrating the New Year (and our work) was hot, hot, hot. Our NYSEC President Andra Miller had the wonderful idea of using the event as a fundraiser and NYSEC staff, volunteers, and SSB members and friends met the challenge. We raised awareness, money, and our spirits!

Everyone seemed to be chipping in and assisting with decorating, taking tickets, and getting the word out, as well as having a great time. The evening included jazz, opera, and Latin and other fantastic dance music. The food and drinks were unlimited and we even had an opportunity to view the Central Park fireworks at midnight! A blast, to say the least. How hot was this party, you ask? One dancer came with his own towel.

We proved that doing our work at Ethical Culture can be fun, energizing, and unifying. Don't miss our 2013 party! *(Photos below by Ken Gans)*



(L-R) Andra Miller, Society President; Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chair; and Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader. Photo by Ivan Quervalu



Ed and Cheryl Gross



Beth Zucker and Chris Everett



Phyllis and John Kreuttner



Pat and Chuck Debrovner



Lucky Dog Jazz Band



Vincent and Sheila Navarro



(L-R) Vincent Navarro, Tom Weishaar and wife Kathleen O'Connell



David Day and Ruth Cohen

Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day

In commemoration of the life and work of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, who fought and gave his life in the struggle for civil rights, NYSEC hosted a panel of activists representing a few of the more than 80 working groups active within the Occupy Wall Street movement. They joined us at the January 15 platform meeting and took part in a discussion of the meaning and future of this outspoken grassroots movement.

The panelists were (L-R): Amin Husain, Natasha Singh, Joseph Blankholm, Juan Carlos Ruiz, Nomi Teutsch, and Hannah Shirey.

To view—and to share—the video of the morning’s platform, please visit www.nysec.org.



The panelists. Photo by Beth Zucker

Kudos to a Friend

The New York Society for Ethical Culture; the Social Service Board; and Dr. Maria Fridman, Chair of the Women’s Shelter, wish to extend a special thank you to Friend of the Shelter **Brigette Nioche**.

Brigette has taken it upon herself to make a thoughtful—and very welcome—gift of new sweaters to each of the women staying in our women’s shelter. Their appreciation to her is also extended to you for your caring.

As mentioned earlier in this issue (page 6) the Shelter is always in need of volunteers. Anyone interested should call Moe-Swe Myint at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, for information.



Brigette Nioche, third from left, along with some of the women who received new sweaters.

Photo by Maria Fridman

NYSEC kids, 2012

Audrey Kindred, Sunday School

On Sunday, January 8, NYSEC’s young students gathered at the Society with me (the visiting teacher) and welcomed the New Year with an invocation: “Hello Earth, Hello Sky, Hello Heart, and Hello Friends!” They played Earth Ball on the roof in the surprising warmth of the winter morning, and then in the Adler Study they tackled elements of the Ethical Body curriculum I have been developing.

The group explored “personal space” as a domain for generating peace, and rolled around playfully in their “personal-space bubbles.” Then they connected to one another’s “bubbles” through respectful and gentle touch and experienced a “bubble meditation,” lying down to relax and watch the bubbles float in the air above them (without grabbing them, which takes enormous self-discipline!). They envisioned whole communities of people all around the world, in which all the people shine inside their “personal-space bubbles” and take charge of the peace within their own reach. With the inspiration of the Ethical Culture symbol, the children drew pictures of themselves within their own bubbles, illustrating their shining energies and their guiding values. Over snacks, they described the drawings to one another, and to close the exploration, they collaborated on creating collective New Years cards to send to one another via old-fashioned mail.



Students showing pictures of the peace-bubbles they made.

February 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
<u>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group</u> Feb. 6– <i>Soul Mountain</i> , by Gao Xingjian <u>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries</u> Feb. 13– <i>The Betrayal</i> (2008)			1 March 2012 Newsletter Deadline	2 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop	3 7:00 pm–Ethics in Film: <i>The Color Purple</i> (1985)	4
5 10:00 am– Chorus Practice 11:00 am– Ethics for Children 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Light Brunch 1:30 pm–Foundations of EC	6 1:00 pm–Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm–Board of Trustees 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop	7 6:00 pm–Socrates Café 8:00 pm–Gerald Ranck and Friends	8	9 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop	10	11
12 10:00 am– Colloquy 11:00 am– Ethics for Children 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Light Brunch 1:30 pm–Ethics in the News	13 1:00 pm–Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm–Advocacy Forum	14 7:00 pm–Felix Adler Seminar 7:00 pm–Evil, Ethical, Psychological and Social Issues	15	16 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm–Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop	17 7:00 pm–Ethics and the Theater	18
19 10:00 am– Poetry Reading 10:00 am– Chorus Practice 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Light Brunch 1:30 pm–Life with Health	Society Offices Closed Presidents' Day observed	21 6:00 pm–Socrates Café 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop	22	23 12:00 pm–Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm–Thursday Writing Workshop	24	25
26 10:00 am– Psalms of the Land 11:00 am– Ethics for Children 11:15 am– Morning Meeting 12:45 pm–Light Brunch 1:30 pm–Ethical Economics	27 6:30 pm–Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm–Prospective Members' Reception	28 6:00 pm–Social Service Board 7:00 pm–Felix Adler Seminar	29	<u>Ethics and the Theater</u> Feb. 17– <i>Anna in the Tropics</i> by Nilo Cruz		



Here is my 2012 Pledge:

Name _____

Total Annual Pledge Amount \$ _____ in payments of \$ _____ made:

Monthly Quarterly Semi Annually Annually Other _____

by Check

by American Express Visa Discover MasterCard

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card if different from above: _____

Address and zip code for card _____

Signature _____

Please mail to NY Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023, attn. Moe-Swe Myint

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

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

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