

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**

January 6

**Committing to Ethical
Community**

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader
Tod Whitaker Presides

January 13

**Simply Because It Is the Right
Thing To Do**

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

January 20

**Stories from the Front Lines of
Reporting on the New
American Mainstream**

Maria Hinojosa
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

January 27

**Tales of Turtles and Tigers:
The Narrowest Spiritual Path**

Curt Collier, Leader
Richard Van Deusen Presides

January Happenings

Join us on **Friday, January 4, 7:00 pm**, for a vision of Earth's post-apocalyptic future, in which cruel supercomputers rule our world. In this film, *The Terminator*, directed by James Cameron, they have sent a cyborg assassin, known as "The Terminator," (played by Arnold Schwarzenegger) back to 1984 to kill a woman whose unborn son is destined to lead a revolt by humans against these mechanical monsters. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 6.*)

Come on **Sunday, January 20**, for a **Life with Health** interactive presentation on the benefits of "**Laughter Yoga**," by certified laughter yoga leader Beverly Faith Schutzman. In this complementary one-hour session we'll learn and practice the fundamentals of Laughter Yoga, which Schutzman says quickly reduces stress, increases mental clarity, boosts immunity, and releases pain-suppressing endorphins. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 5.*)

President's Notes

Andra Miller



As we begin a new year, I want to thank all who have worked so hard to make the old year such fun and so rewarding. I'd name names, but it's the newsletter deadline and in my haste, I'd be sure to leave somebody important out. My thanks go, though, not only to those who've spent time and talent furthering our mission, but also to those who've just showed up with their warm hellos and expressions of appreciation. This Society is all of us and it is we who make it strong. Small, maybe, but strong!

The new year begins in a special way with a reconnection to the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, which was under our direction until 1995. Your Board's Executive Committee and

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Leaders Dr. Anne Klaeyesen and Dr. Joseph Chuman Reflect on the Connecticut Shooting

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen



Our hearts break when children die, and we feel moral outrage when they are killed. The shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday, December 14, call forth both our love and a commitment to stop such violence.

Twenty children and six adults were killed at the school by a deeply disturbed young man, barely more than a child himself, who had at his disposal deadly automatic weapons owned by his mother, whom he had shot earlier at their home. It came as no great surprise that he ended his barrage of

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Save the Date!!

Pledge Party

Saturday, January 26

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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 Wally Patawaran, and Mark Zilberman

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

our Executive Director met with the new co-chairs of the School Board, the financial officer, and the head of school (who has been there for a year)—so we could find ways to work together for the good of the School and the good of the Society. There are projects for the building in which we both have a stake. One such is the ramp for disabled access to our front door. Its design is currently being submitted to the city's building department for input, and then it will also have to be approved by the Landmarks Commission—both of which are expensive and time-consuming procedures. We'll also explore projects that might use students' participation so they can gain "outside" community service experience—and we will look

to find better ideas for allocating the space we share, while addressing concerns about fire safety, security for the kids, and access when needed. We are sure that this open partnership will help speed us both to the goals we each have set for ourselves in the next few years and beyond.

Speaking of goals, your Leaders are working on an education project designed to find out how we can reach families with kids who need some of the special brand of ethical thinking and behavior that we promote. In these days when both acquisition and consumerism seem to be the focus of so many, we need to find and offer new ways to help the next generation gain the social and emotional learning that will make our world a better place. You'll be hearing more about this project and will soon be asked for your help in making it come about.

Dr. Anne Klaeyen and I spent some time with Katherine Stewart, the author of *Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Attack on America's Children*. Katherine's book is an exposé of the way fundamentalist Christian groups are using after-school clubs to gain converts in extremely unethical ways. Katherine says the little kids don't know that this end-of-the-day club is not a sanctioned school class, and believe what they are told there. You'll hear more about this when she comes to speak to us next year.

Katherine is excited we are looking for ways to help children cultivate empathy and self-control through the experience of interdependent family life and with the help of classes like Ethics for Children.

Be sure to come to our next **Community Meeting**. It is Sunday, January 6 at 1:30 pm, and we'll be telling you of the exciting plans and accomplishments of the Membership Development Committee.

To one and all: Happy New Year!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

bullets—and his inner torment—by killing himself.

In the midst of shock and mourning came the public analysis, the human impulse to give voice to the unspeakable: a cacophony of words about mental illness, gun control, and a society poisoned by violence. One teacher said, "I can't imagine who would do this to our poor little babies."

The truth is: We all did it.

Every time a tragedy of this nature strikes—and there have been far too many in this country—we hear that it is disrespectful to talk the politics of gun control. Comfort the families, tighten safety procedures in public spaces, and

dissect the perpetrator's personality. But let's not talk about the proliferation of weapons that rapidly fire multiple rounds and accommodate large magazines. We're not talking about hunting deer; these weapons, so easily available to disturbed individuals, are instruments of murder.

When he addressed the nation, President Obama said, "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics." Saving lives is not "political." Taking concerted action to control guns is an ethical imperative.

* * *

Dr. Joseph Chuman



After expressing our profound compassion for the families of the victims (and I personally find myself deeply

shaken by this) I think we need a specific statement on gun control. The President's speech implied that he is ready for action, and I think we need to take him and Congress up on this. Given the recent despicable reversals on gun control, reversing the ban on assault rifles, allowing concealed weapons to be more liberally toted around, allowing weapons in national parks and other venues where they were previously banned, I think we need at least to call for the reinstatement of these modest restrictions. Beyond these, I think we need call for more rigorous background checks (my state requires the concurrence of the spouse when his/her partner applies for a gun permit), and checks need to be applied to guns bought at gun

shows. And we also need to drastically limit the number of guns one may purchase and own.

I think it is high time for us to demand courage on the part of our national leaders, pegged to an attack on the NRA. I would also look to the position of numerous mayors around the country who are among the few elected officials who are calling for gun control.

Admittedly laws, no matter how stringent, are not going to stop a lunatic who is committed to mayhem and self-destruction. (Look at Norway, which has some of the tightest restrictions). But I do think there is a copycat and aggregate effect. By curtailing access to weapons that have no use except in war zones, those who are deranged and violence prone might be deprived of the models and inspiration that send them over the edge.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

Jan. 6—Committing to Ethical Community

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

At every newcomer reception and new member interview, I emphasize the "Four T's" of membership: time, talent, treasure, and training. We discuss what it means to put ethics into action. Many people may agree with our values and identify themselves as humanists. They may attend our programs and enjoy our company. Becoming a member means taking seriously the commitment to ethical community, being dedicated to its principles, and participating in its growth. It is about walking the talk.

The shared charity is Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Jan. 13—Simply Because It Is the Right Thing To Do

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Felix Adler referred to Ethical Culture as “the Religion of Duty.” It is a rubric in this age of individualism we probably would not wish to promote to advertise the movement. We live in an age in which we highly prize our individual freedom, our desire to do as we please unencumbered by obligations to others. The American idea is often equated with such individualism.

But I will argue that the notion of rights requires responsibilities and duties, and the very idea of freedom implies a constraining context. In addition to a defense of individualism, I will put forth the idea that we are born into a web of social obligations, and recognition of such obligations is a vehicle toward a richer humanism. Ceremonial Hall.

The shared charity is Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Jan. 20—Stories from the Front Lines of Reporting on the New American Mainstream

Maria Hinojosa

Is there a new civil rights movement in our country? For 25 years award-winning television journalist Maria Hinojosa has been reporting on stories missed by mainstream media. In this talk she will discuss her reporting on the immigrant experience in America, the power of the Latino vote, and the roots of democracy.

She is the first Latina to anchor a “Frontline” report. Her “Lost in Detention,” about deportation and detention of immigrants, aired in 2011 and sparked public engagement and conversation from Capitol Hill to mainstream media to the Spanish language media. She interviewed dozens of notable Latinos for Timothy Green-

field-Sanders’ “The Latino List,” which premiered on HBO in October 2011, as well as its 2012 sequel, “The Latino List 2.” As anchor and executive producer of the long-running weekly NPR show, “Latino USA,” and anchor of the Emmy Award-winning talk show, “Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One from WGBH/ La Plaza,” she has informed millions of Americans about the fastest-growing group in our country.

Hinojosa has won four Emmys, the John Chancellor Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Reporting on the Disadvantaged, the Studs Terkel Community Media Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Overseas Press Club for her documentary, “Child Brides: Stolen Lives.” In 2012 she was named among the top 25 Latinos in Contemporary American Culture by the *Huffington Post*. She has received the Ruben Salazar Communications Award from the National Council of La Raza and was inducted into the “She Made It” Hall of Fame at the Paley Center/Museum of Television and Radio in a program that honors women trail blazers in the media. In 2013, Hinojosa will be teaching at DePaul University as the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz chair of its Latin American and Latino Studies program. Ceremonial Hall.

The shared charity is Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Jan. 27—Tales of Turtles and Tigers: The Narrowest Spiritual Path

Curt Collier, Leader

Drawing upon popular literature and film, this talk will explore the age-old existential questions about life, purpose, and mortality with some surprisingly new twists. Ceremonial Hall.

The shared charity is Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Sandy Relief Project

Curt Collier

NYSEC will partner with Groundwork Hudson Valley this coming spring on a restoration project, working with the US National Park Service (NPS) in habitats destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

I will coordinate the effort with NPS, and we’ll assist with transportation, field supervisors, tools, and meals. Volunteers from NYSEC will join with trained Groundwork crew leaders and other volunteers helping to clean up and rebuild sites or restore vegetation. We expect each outing to a work site to cost about \$1,000 for organizing and transporting people to the site, and providing supervision and lunch. Each outing will last about four hours, plus transportation time.

We will shortly be sending out a call for volunteers. This will be a great way to show our support for people who have been so hard hit by this devastating hurricane.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Jan. 6—Chorus Practice: Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We’ll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

Jan. 13—Colloquy: Spirituality. Phyllis Kreuttner presides. Room 408.

Jan. 20—Poetry Reading: Happy 2013! Ring in the New Year! Read poetry with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Jan. 20—Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Rooms subject to change)

Jan. 6—Community Meeting. Reports from NYSEC committee members about their current projects and programs and their plans for future activities.

Jan. 13—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Jan. 20—Life with Health: The Benefits of Laughter. All are welcome to participate in a complementary session of Laughter Yoga led by certified laughter yoga leader Beverly Faith Schutzman.

At this one-hour presentation of the fundamentals of Laughter Yoga, no special clothing or fitness level is required. Schutzman says “research supports claims that therapeutic laughter quickly reduces stress and increases mental clarity; boosts immunity and releases pain-suppressing endorphins; promotes healthy, productive cardio workouts (one minute of therapeutic laughter equals 10 minutes on a rowing machine); and provides many more benefits,” which will be discussed during this interactive session.

After losing more than 100 pounds to slim down in her sixties, Schutzman “discovered the fountain of youth fullness” right under her nose and began laughing her way to a booming new career as a certified laughter yoga leader. She has been a belly dance instructor, an artist, and a developer of international programs for success training and workforce development. Admission is free. Ceremonial Hall.

Jan. 27—Sustainable Living Support Circle—for those seeking to live more in harmony with the natural world. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share them. This course

is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living. Led by Leader Curt Collier. Admission is free. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

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

Jan. 3—“Mexico: Risking Life for Truth” by Alma Guillermoprieto, *The NY Review of Books*, 11/22/12.

Jan. 10—“Freedom & Diversity: A Liberal Pentagram for Living Together” by Timothy Garton Ash, *The NY Review of Books*, 11/22/12.

Jan. 17—“Defending Free Speech in the Digital Age” by Columbia University President Lee Bollinger and **“2012’s Global Marketplace of Ideas and the Thinkers Who Make Them,”** *Foreign Policy* at <http://www.foreign-policy.com>, 11/28/12.

Jan. 24—Various articles on the cease-fire in Gaza.

Jan. 31—“India’s Feckless Elite” by Sadanand Dhume, *The Wilson Quarterly*, autumn 2012.

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

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

As we welcome a brand-new year, 2013, we also welcome new member **Kenneth R. Lashins**. Ken is a JD, working as a legal consultant. He’s also taught English in Shanghai, China. Ken’s mother attended the Ethical Culture Fieldston

School, and he learned more about NYSEC when he came to the Gladwell-Gopnick debate on the Ivey League that took place at the Society in 2007, as part of the New Yorker Festival. He has participated in the Leader Lunch Discussions and Life with Health, and attended Sunday Platforms. Ken is interested in the history of the formation of the Ethical Culture Movement and the New York Society and is attracted to the organization’s “intellectual vigor in seeking the universal truths.” Ken’s other interests are architecture, classical music, design, and reading.

* * *

Wrapping up the last few weeks of 2012: on Wednesday, November 28, for the fourth year in a row, NYSEC participated in the annual **Winter’s Eve @Lincoln Center. Ethics for Children** staffers Amy Reid and Audrey Kindred, along with **Meg Chapman, Clara Malekshahi**, and volun-

teers worked extra hard preparing for the event. We set up a “Good Deeds Craft Activity” table where we helped children make and decorate “Books of Deeds” in which they wrote down chores and other good deeds they would do for their families, instead of giving them traditional holiday gifts. We also held a raffle, with books and CDs as prizes. A very impressive crowd of parents and children stopped by to have fun and learn about ethical giving, crafts, and non-consumerism, and to take home a gift that they



(L-R) Audrey, Anne and Clara help out.



Children decorating Good Deeds Book.

made themselves. **Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen** and NYSEC Communications Manager **Beth Zucker** were there to help at the table.

* * *

We hosted a very successful cosponsored program, “New Yorkers Against Fracking,” on November 29 and an **Advocacy Forum**, “Democracy in America,” on December 4, with the help of our members **Abe Markman, Dan Hanson, and Monica Weiss**. And, on the subject of fracking, the **Environmental Stewardship Committee**, including **Abe Markman** and member **Virginia Arnold**, kept up the pressure on New York’s Governor and Legislature to ban fracking in the state with their letter-writing campaign.

* * *

On December 9, the **Teen Leadership Program** presented the facts about hunger in NYC to the Sunday Platform audience to announce the food drive they were running (December 9–18) to help feed 260,000 hungry New Yorkers in one week. They asked for donations of nonperishable food items. Also, on December 16, NYSEC’s **Ethics for Children** celebrated the season with a “Goodies-’n-Goodness Winter Gathering” at which they welcomed families and friends for a creative celebration that grounds the season in deeply rooted values—the G’s: goodness, generosity, and gratitude. They created Art-from-the-Heart, hand-made gifts, thank you cards, and gingerbread pets.

* * *

Bonnie Bean reported that the **Ethical Adventures** trip to the New York Historical Society to see the exhibit “New York During WWII” on December 1 was a tremendous success, with 22 people showing up. So, please contact

Bonnie or Pat Berens to learn about their next big adventure!

* * *

The year ended with the **Social Service Board’s** very excellent **New Year’s Eve Party**, and special thanks go to **Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Helen Mecs, Nicola Demarco**, and all the rest of the SSB members for the incredible planning, coordination, and all-around bang-up job they did.

* * *

And last but not least, as we say *Au revoir* to **Marlon Rice**, who is leaving NYSEC and NYC for better climes in Maryland, we welcome **Leonardo Gib-**

son as the new Facilities Manager. Leonardo has worked for NYSEC for the past 16 years as an integral part of the building maintenance crew. Congratulations!



Leonardo Gibson

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in January: **Elizabeth Ungar**, 1/6; **William Charlton**, 1/13; **Bonnie Bean**, 1/14; **Phyllis Kreuttner**, 1/14; **Stephanie Rosenblatt**, 1/14; **John Hwang**, 1/16; **Robert Berger**, 1/17; **James Gara**, 1/24; and **Ed Gross**, 1/31.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Come **Friday, January 4, 7:00 pm** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall to see *The Terminator* (1984), directed by James Cameron.

In the post-apocalyptic future, reigning tyrannical supercomputers teleport a cyborg assassin back to 1984 to murder Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton), whose unborn son is destined to lead insurgents against 21st century mechanical hegemony. Meanwhile, the human resistance movement dispatches a lone warrior (Michael Biehn) to safeguard Sarah.

The donation, \$5, includes snacks and beverages. After the film, join me in our lively post-film discussion.

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **Monday, January 7, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library,

Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will host a discussion on *Here* by Wislawa Szymborska, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996.

“No reader, not even poetry-phobes, should miss the bright revelations of Nobel laureate Szymborska... Szymborska is sharply ironic and lithely philosophical, pondering the phenomenal precision of dreams and the elusiveness of meaning. The neat, prancing lyrics collected in this slender, piercing book are delectable and profound.” –*Booklist*

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

Adler Reading Seminar

Join Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, in the new year on the second **Tuesday*** of each month from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**, in the Leaders’ office, Room 502. Dr. Chuman will host the seminar 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 Yalitzia 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.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, January 14, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *With All Deliberate Speed* (2004). Documentary filmmaker Peter Gilbert unearths the legacy of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, in which it was ruled that "in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." This documentary contains via never-before-heard stories from people directly responsible for, and greatly affected by, the original case.

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

Winter Writing Classes

Elaine Berman

Joy of Personal Writing classes will continue for the coming winter semester. The **Tuesday** class will meet from **12:30 pm to 2:30 pm**, beginning on **January 15**; the **Thursday** class will meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** starting on **January 17**. Both workshops will run for ten weeks.

As always, we welcome new members at our workshops—people who want to get started writing, as well as those with more experience who value belonging to a group of writers.

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

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

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner



On **Friday, January 18, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm**, in the Auditorium, **Ethics and the Theater** will present a reading of *Mizlansky/Zilinsky or "Schmucks"* by Jon Robin Baitz. Set in the ever-so-sleek and slick Hollywood of the '80s, this dizzily funny, yet jarringly sober, play revolves around the manic film producer Davis Mizlansky, who is on the brink of being done in by the IRS. Desperate to save himself, and morals be damned (if he ever had any to begin with), he comes up with a scheme he's sure will save the day—and might just make him some money, to boot—to produce celebrity-narrated Bible stories for children and then sell shares in the deal as a phony tax shelter. When he tries to convince his former partner, Sam Zilinsky, to come on board, chaos ensues.

Pat Debrovner directs our cast, which includes Carole Chamlin, Jerry Chamlin, Curt Collier, Maria Demarse, Charles Doraine, John Gurney, James Lorenzo, Antonio Pagliarulo, Terry Perlin, and Greg Redlawsk, with stage directions by Beverly Newman. Come

at 6:30 pm for a reception in the Social Hall, 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.

Pledge Party

"Let's Get Ethical!" is the theme of the **Pledge Committee's Cocktail Party on Saturday, January 26**, and this year's pledge campaign. Join these dedicated volunteers at **5:00 pm** in Ceremonial Hall to thank them for all their hard work and to launch a new year when all of us work together to make the New York Society for Ethical Culture a more dynamic—and fiscally sound—community. We have a lot to celebrate, including new members, vital programming, and a shared commitment to ethics. There is also much to look forward to, and your participation will make the future brighter. We hope to see you there.

The Welcome That Makes a Difference

Elinore Kaplan

We have "official" Newcomer Hosts—and we always need more. But, it's also important that each of us act as a Newcomer Host for a day (or the hour) at a couple of events throughout the year. Think about whether you'd like to be the one to make a newcomer welcome at the next discussion group you attend, at Ethics and the Theater, an Ethics in Film talk, or at the social hour following the next Platform Meeting. It would be just a once-in-awhile commitment, but it really matters. (Think back to when you've been a newcomer, and you'll remember how

the welcome by just one person into the group changed everything.)

Drop in and talk with Moe-Swe Myint, our Membership Associate, or contact her via email at: mmyint@nysec.org to tell her at which upcoming event you'll be the one to make that personal outreach and help make a newcomer feel welcome. Tod Whitaker, co-chair of the Membership Development Committee and Newcomer Host Orientation and Membership Hospitality facilitator, will give you a call before that day, with a couple of tips. This sort of personal touch makes such a difference! Please volunteer a.s.a.p.

Committee Close-Up: Membership Development

Elinore Kaplan

An organization, no matter how wonderful, doesn't "just happen" to grow, especially after the enthusiasm of its founders has gone into the stratosphere. There are two aspects to developing an organization. One is that the group does everything it can to retain its current members. The other is that it makes every effort to attract new members. It requires the input of ideas on how to accomplish these two goals and ongoing action to implement those ideas. That's what the **Membership Development Committee (MDC)** is all about.

Without a doubt, ever since the establishment of the New York Society for Ethical Culture 136 years ago, such efforts have gone on, and for much of the past year, there's been an energy surge—with some impressive results. Today the Committee is actively finding ways to update the

Society's image for the 21st century, and to present a truly welcoming face to prospective members.

Committee members—co-chairs Elinore Kaplan and Tod Whitaker, Marilyn Baker, Vinny Brancato, Leader Joe Chuman, Renee Goodstein, Cheryl Gross, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyson, Ken Lashin, Pamela McGhee, President Andra Miller, Sharon Pope, Carol Van Deusen, and staff member Moe-Swe Myint—are all bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to what seems to be a huge undertaking. "We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Paula Claycomb, who so ably chaired the Committee through October," says Tod. "Paula inspired and facilitated so much of what we've undertaken." Paula has just moved to Taos, New Mexico, where she promises us she'll start another chapter of Ethical Culture. How's that for growth!

Here's a capsule version of what's been happening or is in the works:

- **Hospitality:** Newcomer Host and Member Hospitality Awareness sessions have been professionalized, thanks to the efforts of Tod Whitaker, a professional himself in the hospitality business.

- **New Look:** Our print materials, from member cards and letterhead to flyers and brochures, have been given a new, very contemporary look—thanks to member Patrick Arenas, graphic designer.

- **Surveys:** These have been circulating, in hard copy and via email. One member survey asks about your interests, involvement, and suggestions for going forward; the other inquires about your volunteerism activities here and beyond, so we can publish an Ethical Volunteerism brochure. (Although we've collected the responses to both, do consider them ongoing, so if you have further input, pick one up in Yalitza's office on the 5th floor, fill it in, and

resubmit it.) A third survey is for non-members, to find out what they'd like to see offered that would entice them to come more often and to consider joining. The expertise of Board member Richard Van Deusen in designing the interest surveys and putting them online at Monkey Survey was indispensable.

- **Activities:** Since the first potluck dinner and jazz concert were enthusiastically received, we've added more, and hope to add a potluck picnic this summer. Social events like our monthly Ethics in the Theater play readings are the kind of crowd pleasers that keep us coming, and draw in guests and potential members. Keep telling us what you like and what else you want.

- **Community Outreach:** We'll be networking to the community through various organizations, such as community boards, museums, or youth groups, among others. Committee members are going to their meetings, talking about Ethical, inviting leaders to cosponsor events and members to visit NYSEC. Sharon Pope, who has community board experience, is promoting this effort. If there's an organization you think we should contact for this purpose, tell us. Or, if you're already a member and would like to make a presentation, let us know, and we'll help you "script" it.

- **Committee Collaboration:** We'll be meeting with the chairs of other committees to keep you informed and get your input on what we're doing, how you can help, and what else you suggest.

- **Clarification of Membership:** In an effort to clarify and expand our categories of membership so as to increase retention and recruitment, MDC submitted a proposal to the Board regarding friends, associates, and new member fees and benefits. The experience of longtime members on the Committee, like Carol

Van Deusen, Anne Klaeyen, Andra Miller and Joe Chuman was most helpful. Paula Claycomb’s experience in proposal writing sure helped.

- On the “**To Do**” List: We’d like to bring back a couple of once-popular events, giving them a fresh touch, of course. For members, it will be a “Committees Showcase,” at which all of the committees would share with us news about what they’ve been doing, what they’re planning, and how we can help or participate. For the community, we’d like to hold an “Open House,” inviting them to see who we are and what we do.

The Committee relies on you. If you’d like to join or help, contact any

of us. We need, for example, photos (loads of photos!) of people at our events and activities—in-house and beyond—to post on our website, publish in our newsletter, and plaster on the walls of our home at Ethical. They can be downloaded and emailed to Beth Zucker at bzucker@nysec.org, or you can bring your camera in, and Beth will help you download the photos.

All this being said, it’s not and never will be a committee, even one named “Membership Development,” that will take ultimate credit or responsibility for increasing the membership of this or any organization. It is the members. Always.

Poetry Corner Humanity’s Epitaph

Abe Markman

They sailed past hades
Climbed heaven’s gate,
Took a giant lunar step,
Sighted the “God Particle,”
And the Big Bang’s Inflation
But they were deaf to global thunder,
Hence, they died before they knew
why they were here.

Photography Arts Club

Peter Houts and Valerie Leiman, co-chairs

See! Origami modular 3D models. Explore! Origami model folding demonstration. Learn! Geometric Origami. NYSEC’s Photography Arts Club invites members and friends to an Origami program on **Sunday, February 17, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.**

(Photos by Valerie Leiman)



Save the Date!

The first annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Clergy Forum**, cosponsored with the Police Reform Organizing Project, is set for **Wednesday, January 23, 6:30pm–8:30pm.**

Acting in the inspiring spirit of the great civil rights leader as the conscience of our city, clergy leaders representing New York-er’s diverse faiths will present the need for sweeping police reform as a compelling moral issue.

There is no charge for admission. Ceremonial Hall.

January 2013

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
Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group Jan. 7 – <i>Here</i> , by Wislawa Szymborska Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries Jan. 14 – <i>With All Deliberate Speed</i> (2004), by Peter Gilbert		1 Society Offices Closed New Year's Day	2 February 2013 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm – Strength Exercise Class	3 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders	4 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>The Terminator</i> (1984)	5
6 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children Open House 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 pm – Teen Leadership 1:30 pm – Community Meeting	7 1:00 pm – Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees	8 7:00 pm – Felix Adler Seminar	9 1:00 pm – Strength Exercise Class	10 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion	11	12
13 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 pm – Teen Leadership 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News	14 1:00 pm – Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries	15 12:30 pm – Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 pm – Wisdom and World Affairs	16 1:00 pm – Strength Exercise Class	17 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Class	18 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	19
20 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 pm – Teen Leadership 1:30 pm – Life with Health	21 Society Offices Closed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday observed	22 12:30 pm – Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	23 1:00 pm – Strength Exercise Class	24 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Class	25	26 5:00 pm – Pledge Party
27 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 pm – Teen Leadership 1:30 pm – Sustainable Living Support Circle	28	29 12:30 pm – Tuesday Writing Class	30 1:00 pm – Strength Exercise Class	31 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Class	Ethics and the Theater Jan. 18 – <i>Mizlansky/Zilinsky</i> or " <i>Schmucks</i> ," by Jon Robin Baitz	

ANIMATING PEACE

An Ethics for Children course helping children develop ideas & stories about peace using stop-motion video animation with teacher Amy Reid

WHEN:
January 13th -
March 24th
11am-12:30pm

Ages 5 to 12 years old

Preregistration is required by January 10th, 2013

Cost is \$100 for 8 classes

email ethicsforchildren@nysoc.org

CLAYMATION
LEGO MATION
CUT-OUT ANIMATION
AND MORE!

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

Entry to our 100-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements. Please call ahead (212-674-5200 x 207) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time. A member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union, 2 West 48th Street - New York, NY 10023 212-674-5200 - www.nysoc.org

Dear Ethical Member,

Please help us to create an Ethical Culture Guide to Volunteerism:

Many of our members have the time, ability, and desire to do volunteer work. In fact, many already do volunteer within Ethical, as well as in other organizations in the community. More of our members would like to volunteer, and would appreciate knowing what it is you do and where you do it. For that purpose, we'd like to create an Ethical Guide to Volunteerism, and we'll need your input. It will have two sections, one for volunteerism at Ethical Culture, and one for outside of Ethical Culture.

Please complete this questionnaire, answering any or all the questions that are relevant to you, and return it to Yalitzia Garcia, whose office is on the 5th floor.

Many thanks,
The Membership Development Committee

At Ethical

1. If your work stems from your involvement on a committee, what committee is that, and what does it do? If there's more than one committee or area in which you volunteer, please describe all of them.
2. As a volunteer, what is it that you do?
3. If there are other volunteer activities done within that group, please describe them.
4. As far as you know, are more volunteers needed?
5. Realizing that you might be quoted, please describe the gratification you get from this participation.

Outside of Ethical (in NYC)

1. At what organization(s) do you volunteer? If you volunteer at more than one, please describe each.
2. What is the name of the committee or group within the organization, and what does that committee/group do?
3. As a volunteer, what is it that you do?
4. If there are other volunteer activities done within that group, please describe them.
5. As far as you know, does the organization need more volunteers in a particular area?
6. Realizing that you might be quoted, please describe the gratification you get from this participation?

Please feel free to add any further comments or information.

Name: _____

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.