

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings

10:30 AM—Ceremonial Hall

July 4

Members' Sunday
Ethical Dilemmas
Frank Prescod Presides

July 11

Musical Program
Jon Liechty
Carol Nadell Presides

July 18

The Hidden History of the Israeli-
Palestinian Conflict
Joseph Kaye
Andra Miller Presides

July 25

How Shall We Live? Answers
From Ethical Culture's Last Hero
Dr. Marc A. Bernstein
Archivist, AEU and NYSEC
Elaine Berman Presides

August 1

Ethics in the News
Phyllis Kreuttner
John Kreuttner Presides

August 8

The Iron Is Hot: A Last Minute
Pep Talk for Liberals
Gerald Ranck, Music Director
Dr. Sylvan Wallach Presides

August 15

Ethics of Healthy Living
Speaker TBA
Stephanie Rosenblatt Presides

August 22

TBA
Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross
Barbara Levenson Presides

August 29

The AEU Is You!
John F. Hartman
Executive Director
The American Ethical Union
Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

From the Leader's Desk—Summer Notes



Dr. Khoren Arisian

It's beginning to shape up as a busy summer, what with our crowning public event on June 30th when the third Advocacy Forum will coincide with the handing over of whatever partial sovereignty to Iraqi leaders our government wishes to extend. Again, I urge you all to be present on June 30 at 7:00 pm to get a first-hand view of what we are attempting with this new undertaking. The remaining two Advocacy Forums will take place on the Wednesday evenings of September 8 and October 27.

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Sunday Morning Meetings **10:30 AM in Ceremonial Hall**

July 4—Members' Sunday—Ethical Dilemmas

July 11—Musical Program
Jon Liechty

July 18—The Hidden History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Joseph Kaye

Joe Kaye, husband of long-time member, Sarah Elizabeth Wright, will speak on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Joe has been active on the issues of peace and social justice for almost half a century. He has been active in fighting U.S. intervention in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, the Congo, and the Mideast; and during the Cold War he was active in the struggle for nuclear disarmament and for détente. After the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 he became a leading member of the Palestinian solidarity organization, called the November 29 Coalition. He continued to follow developments through the two intifadas and the "peace process" and has spoken at a number of Palestinian-sponsored events. He will bring to our attention some facts rarely brought to the attention of the general public, facts of which he claims even a great number of progressives are unaware.

July 25—How Shall We Live? Answers From Ethical Culture's Last Hero

Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Archivist, AEU and New York Society

For many decades, no Ethical Culture Leader had more admirers than Algernon Black. This talk examines the lessons of his life for those who never heard him speak, and who may not even know his name.

Marc received his Ph.D. in sociology from Stanford University and taught sociology at Oberlin College. He has published more than a dozen articles in newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times* and *New York Newsday*. He is now working on a biography of Algernon Black. During his years in the Ethical Culture Movement, Marc has served as director of Religious Education at the Westchester Society and Chair of the Bergen Society's Institute for Ethical Education.

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Ethical Culture: Who We Are

From An Invitation to Action: A Vision of Ethical Culture
 The National Leaders' Council of the American Ethical Union
 May, 2003

Ethical Societies seek to be the spiritual common ground where we model the better world we envision. Our recognition of the interdependence of humanity calls us to respect and celebrate diversity, to practice ethical communication, and to deepen compassion and empathy.

At the same time, we reach beyond our walls to uphold universal worth and dignity. We offer social critiques and promote nonviolent policies, calling on all people to become more just, more open, and more caring, and urging a universal humility that would respect the contributions of all individuals and groups. We seek to build bridges and encourage constructive engagement, even as we oppose unethical actions.

Ethical Societies promote social justice by

- Providing workshops on conflict-management and dialogue skills
- Offering public platforms for diverse voices
- Engaging in numerous social action projects and coalitions

“The vice that underlies all vices is that people hold each other cheaply, and worse, that in our innermost being, we hold ourselves cheaply as well.”

—Felix Adler

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

August 1—Ethics in the News

Phyllis Kreuttner

August 8—The Iron Is Hot: A Last Minute Pep Talk for Liberals

Gerald Ranck, Society Music Director

As the 2004 presidential election approaches, the necessity to unseat George W. Bush and end his calamitous misjudgments looms ever larger. If this disastrous and incompetent administration is re-elected, the blame will be on us—liberal, humanist America. We must strike while “the iron is hot.”

August 15—Ethics of Healthy Living

Speaker TBA

An introduction to holistic health and wellness, addressing common health concerns related to food and diet choices and how to make simple changes to improve overall health.

August 22—TBA

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

August 29—The AEU Is You!

John F. Hartman, Executive Director, The American Ethical Union

An update on what the AEU is doing and how it benefits your Society.

John F. Hartman has been Executive Director of the AEU since January, 2003. He has had 30 years of experience within the not-for-profit sector. During the last 15 years, Mr. Hartman has served as Executive Director and later President of the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS in New York City. He has raised millions of dollars for the homeless, youth, environment preservation, people with AIDS, urban planning, and children with cancer. He is a strong believer in planning and process and prides himself on his fine-tuned management and organizational skills and training. He stated, of joining the AEU, “It is an honor to be join-

ing a truly unique movement which prides itself on service to Ethical Culture throughout the United States.”

Leader’s Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Summer is usually a time when we stagger staff vacations. We do this to ensure that there’s sufficient office coverage. As usual, Sunday meetings, though informal, continue through the summer, and are just as important as any other meeting throughout the regular heavy program season from September through June.

As for Leigh and myself, we plan a two-week driving vacation half way down the Atlantic Coast, circling back inland in order to visit Charlottesville and Williamsburg, Virginia, thereby catching up with some historic American sites (e.g. Jefferson’s Monticello) and perhaps Washington’s home as well. I’ll be away from July 5th to 21st.

It has been a year of tremendous developments around the world, as well as numerous significant staff reductions and changes at the Society. A very good summer to each and all of you.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

New Members

Joyce Brenner went to Ethical Culture’s Sunday school as a child, and her granddaughter Ava attends Fieldston. She and her husband Frank, a member since 2001, live nearby and attend many events and meetings.

Rita Dawson lives very near the Society and has attended the meetings for many years and taken part in numerous seminars and courses. She recently decided to become a full member and support NYSEC directly.

Ryan Paulson is an actor and musician. He has attended our meetings,

joined us on the Pro-Choice March on Washington, and volunteered at the Ethics for Children Workshop. He looks forward to working with children and music and with our Ethical Action Committee.

Deborah Kay Yaffe is a librarian at McGraw-Hill with expertise in research online, print, and photography. She has attended many meetings, an orientation, and our book sale.

Deborah is attracted to the Society’s congenial environment and ethical activities.

Changes in Membership Status

Keyvne Baer has resigned her membership.

Dahlia Cohen is now fully reinstated as a member and has been attending meetings.

Margaret Mullaney has moved from membership to Friend status.

Ethics Online

Suzy Frazer

Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and Humanities Professor at Hofstra University, will be teaching his fifth class online for Barnes & Noble. This free course, entitled “Everyday Ethics,” provides a brief introduction to ethical theory and case studies of ethical problems, helping participants to increase their ability to think more clearly about the ethical choices we face in everyday life. Arthur reports, “At least one person from a previous class contacted the AEU because of the course.... [It exposes] our point of view to a larger world. So far I’ve had students from more than 30 states, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Kuwait and China.... I think [your members] will find it interesting.” To register, go to www.barnesandnobleuniversity.com.

Comedy Club News!

Suzy Frazer

The Cultured Comedy Club had its first smash opening show on May 20. The comedians were Scott Blakeman and Dean Obeidallah, and their very popular show is called *Standup For Peace*. The duo have performed it all over the US at top colleges and clubs. They dive into their different backgrounds and similarities, a Jewish family and Palestinian Muslim/Catholic family, their takes on politics and the current administration (bleak, yet hilarious!) and of course the search for dates, dates and dates in the big apple. Scott and Dean got a great response and great review from Theatre.com. They loved the educated, sharp, informed crowd here at EC and want to come back! Scott is also helping us book new political comedians in the months ahead. (The conventions/election should be great fodder.) Our second show was a boffo event featuring three comedienne. Join us on July 15th and every third Thursday for evenings of smarts and laughs. The casts of new, hot comics will be announced. Call for information at 212-874-5210 ext. 113.



Dean Obeidallah Suzy Frazer Scott Blakeman

Walking and Talking in Riverside Park

Valerie Leiman

Blue skies and bright sunshine greeted twenty Ethical Culturists and friends on the May 15 Walk and Talk in Riverside Park.

The 86-degree temperature failed to lower our spirits as the prepared information cards of the guides Henryka, Chris, Kathleen, Tom, Valerie, David, and Howard were enhanced by added facts volunteered by hikers and other park regulars.

A highlight of the walk was information shared by Ed Gross about the meaning of the placement of the horses' legs on equestrian statues that related to the rider:

- Both front legs of the horse are lifted = the soldier died in battle;
- One front leg lifted = the soldier died from battle wounds;

- All four legs on the ground = the soldier died from natural causes.

Twelve thirsty and hungry hikers, having completed a leisurely walk of more than 3-1/2 miles, stopped at a favorite Columbia restaurant for cool drinks, appetizing food, and good fellowship.

Friday Night at the Movies

Vincent Navarro

The movie *Rabbit Proof Fence*, set in 1931 Australia, was our Friday night movie on April 16. The movie illustrates the courage and wisdom of a 14-year-old half-caste aborigine girl who led two other girls, aged 6 and 10, on a 1500-mile walk across the semi-arid interior of Australia back to their homeland. The girls had been forcibly taken from their family to a missionary settlement to be converted into "white"

children. Half-caste children were taken to the mission with the goal of erasing their aboriginal genes over the course of a few generations. The law setting up the state as their protector was passed as a way to overcome the moral outrage at the white men who fathered these children and then moved on (soldiers in Vietnam and other G.I.'s). It also reflected a colonial mentality that saw it as morally decadent for half-white children to be raised in the aboriginal community instead of in the "superior" white culture. It reflected Kipling's "white man's burden," although his poem pointed out that the colonialists would only receive criticism and scorn. (Bush should have read this to realize what would happen in Iraq.)

The film succeeds in part because it personalized the patronizing and arrogant attitude that the industrialized Australians had toward the aborigines. Their nomadic life style was devalued,

their views were not considered, and they were denied their human rights in the attempt to improve them. As a result their life style was trampled upon as they became dependent upon a welfare system administered by the Australians for their existence.

The girls manage to evade the police and without equipment other than their wits and determination, to make a several month journey back to their homeland. The state had to admit defeat as the girls showed that the pull of culture enabled them to be reunited with their family.

The parallel circumstances with our country and its treatment of Native Americans are striking. Perhaps I will elaborate on these in a future article. The group enjoyed a lively discussion with this provocative film.

July Calendar

Office hours for the month are Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, June 30 (annual reports)

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:30 am (Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor)

Shelter

Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Society Offices Closed

Monday, July 5

Supervised Visitation

Saturdays, 9:30 am (except July 3)

Cultured Comedy Club

Thursday, July 15, 8:00 pm

August Calendar

Office hours for the month are Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, August 2

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:30 am (Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor)

Shelter

Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Cultured Comedy Club

Thursday, August 19, 8:00 pm

Save the Date Fall Retreat

**Friday, September 17 to
Sunday, September 19**

The Annual New York Society for Ethical Culture Retreat will take place at Jeronimo Resort and Conference Center, located in Walker Valley, N.Y. Visit the web site at www.jeronimo.com.

Cost: \$120 per night double occupancy and \$160 per night for single occupancy. This includes meals from dinner on Friday and ending with lunch on Sunday.

Please contact Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or email her at sfrazer@nysec.org, if you wish to attend. Since space is at a premium, we need to hear from you and receive your \$50 deposit ASAP!

Society Phone Directory

Name	Ext.	Department	Room
Arisian, Khoren	119	Senior Leader	502
Bernstein, Marc	112	Archives	Lower Level
Bramble, Anwar	109	Maintenance	Lower Level
Chandler, Gloria	117	Administration	510
Chobot, Joseph	109	Maintenance	Lower Level
Doyle, Leslie	144	Events Coordinator	503
Foster, Deborah	115	Leader's Office	504
Frazer, Suzy	113	Membership	501
Gibson, Leonardo	109	Maintenance	Lower Level
Kosmaczewska, Yolanta	104	Accounting	510
Kriegh, Michael	122	President	510
McCants, David	109	Maintenance	Lower Level
McCarthy, Nora	118	Leader's Office	504
McPherson, Antony	126	Facilities Manager	511
Ranck, Gerald	118	Music Director	
Reception	0, 121	Reception	Lobby
American Ethical Union		(212) 873-6500	
Roberts, Donna	142		406
Abbott-Smith, Michelle	142		406
Hartman, John	142	Executive Director	406
Social Service Board			
Leiman, David	143		505
Parker, Howard	143		505
Wernz, Kenneth	143		505
Supervised Visitation		(212) 721-4407	
Pagones, Christine	110		505
Lobby/Hall Phone		(212) 874-8740	
Shelter	105		Lower Level

Ethics for Children

Suzy Frazer

Early Bird Registration for September

Our new fall/winter/spring Sunday School term will begin on Sunday, September 12. At the school, the children engage in discussions as well as art, music, and improvisational activities to explore everyday ethical dilemmas and social issues, using Ethical Culture's highly respected and innovative curriculum. We provide a caring, safe, and progressive environment.

There are two groups, ages 4-7 and 8-11 (childcare is available for younger children.) Classes are held on Sundays, September 12, 2004–June 6, 2005, 11:00 am–1:00 pm, on the 5th floor. For more information call Suzy Frazer, 212-874-5210 ext. 113. These classes were strongly recommended by Laurel Graeber in *The New York Times*.

Shelter Wins Award

Barbara Levenson

The Society was honored with one of the first Annual President's Volun-

teer Awards by the Partnership for the Homeless at their Annual Meeting on June 3, 2004. Given in recognition of our shelter, which is sponsored by the Social Service Board, the award reads: "In recognition of exceptional service, dedication, and commitment to homeless New Yorkers." Maria Fridman, our shelter coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the Society. Congratulations to Maria and all our volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the shelter going and to make it a success.

National Service Conference 75th Anniversary Luncheon

Martha Gallahue, President, National Service Conference of the AEU



In Back: Lyndon Wilburg, Dr. Kurt Johnson, partially visible
In front: Lucile Kleinman, Phyllis Ehrenfeld, Martha Gallahue, Rose Walker, John Hartman

Fifty friends and representatives of eight Ethical Culture Societies attended the 75th anniversary celebration luncheon of the National Service Conference. The event was held at the New York Society for Ethical Culture on Saturday, May 29th. John Hartman, Executive Director of the AEU, was the Master of Ceremonies. Temma Fishman and Arnold Fishman, Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Ethical Union, participated, and Khoren Arisian, Leader of NYSEC, and his wife, Leigh McKay, sent kind regrets. The main speaker was Jeffrey Huffines, Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Based Caucus for the International Criminal Court at the UN and member of the Baha'i Religion. Members from NYSEC included Lucile Kleinman, Chair of the Event and Vice-President of the NSC, Carol Rost, Co-Chair of the EAC at the New York Society, Elaine Berman, Dr. Ruth Cohen, Vivian Saladone, and Bernice Stephens. Dr. Kim Jones was pianist. Rose L. Walker was honored for over 50 years service to the American Ethical Union, with over 25 years as representative at the United Nations. She received

many notes of support and thanks from those who could not attend the Luncheon. Officers of the NSC are: Rose, President Emerita, Martha Gallahue, President; Lucile Kleinman and Lyndon Wilburg, Vice-Presidents; Phyllis Ehrenfeld, Secretary; Kurt Johnson, Treasurer. Those Societies represented at the luncheon in addition to New York included Bergen, Brooklyn, Essex, Long Island, Philadelphia, Queens, and Westchester.

Five Week Workshop of Ethics for Children

Suzy Fraser, Membership Director



Top Row: Hope, Conner, Nyree, Ivan, Amelia, Eizabeth
 Bottom Row: Jasmine, Thea, Harry, Ben, Clara, Julian, Veronica

The special five-week Workshop of Ethics for Children was a huge success. Many saw the excellent write-up in Laurel Graebers' column in the *New York Times* and we actually had to turn away many applicants.

The aim of the workshop was to engage the children in discussion, art, music and improvisation to explore everyday ethical issues and dilemmas. The kids acted out the story in the book *My Friend, the Monster*, by Clyde Robert Bulla, and lived through the adventures and challenges. They pointed out the problems and feelings of the characters. Bravo to brilliant, sensitive teachers Rebecca Mason and Joanna Rush, and assistant teacher Megan Keane. This was the final phase of the current Sunday School year; several families have already re-enrolled for next September. For more information please call 212-874-5210 x 113.



Joanna Rush

Megan Keane

Rebecca Mason

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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