

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings

**10:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall
4th Floor**

July 5

Colloquy

Phyllis Kreuttner

Holiday Picnic

July 12

Life As a Bowl of Gumbo

Curt Collier, Leader

July 19

The Art and Ethics of Storytelling

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

July 26

**No One Is an Island....Except
Some Secular Humanists**

Dr. Charles H. Debrovner

August 2

**Crazy Enough For You?
Ethical Issues in Psychiatry
And Psychotherapy**

Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D.

August 9

Art and Healing

Dr. Ruth Cohen

August 16

**The Nature and Meaning of
African-American Humanism**

Anthony B. Pinn, Ph.D.

August 23

Ethics From the Heart

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

August 30

Ethics and the Theater:

Seven Jewish Children

By Caryl Churchill

September 6

My First 10 Years at Ethical

Abe Markman

July Happenings

Holiday Picnic—It's Picnic Time on Sunday, July 5, 11:30 am, and we'll celebrate the **Fourth of July** as a community just one day late! We'll meet in front of the Society after the morning's platform, and walk over together. *(See page 3)*

Come to **Ethics in Film on Friday, July 10, 7:00 pm**, to see the 1967 film, *The President's Analyst*, a fast-paced movie that pokes fun at Cold War politics, psychiatry, spy films, the counterculture, liberalism, etc., and discuss it with other avid movie lovers. *(See page 5)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



Our Board officers for the new fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) were elected at the June meeting. They are Andra Miller, President; Tom Weishaar, Vice-President; Chris Everett, Secretary; and Heather Grady, Treasurer. Heather and I are continuing in our posts; Tom and Chris are newbies. We're all looking forward, as are the rest of the Board, Leaders and staff—along with you, I am sure—to an exciting year of setting and meeting new goals.

Coming soon, July 6, we will have a very special celebration for a very special guy. It's to mark the five-year employment anniversary of our executive director, Bob Liebeskind. I hope you can join us at 6:00 pm for an hour-long wine, cheese, and nibbles celebration to honor Bob and thank him for all that he's accomplished for the Society in those five years. It will be right before our Board meeting, so if you'd care to see what those meetings are like, you can stay and watch our deliberations—and altercations. (No! Really, I'm kidding!) Actua-
(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Ah, summer . . .

Once upon a time, when ours was an agricultural society, winter was the season of reflection. The hard work and celebration of harvest were over. Food was stored for people and animals alike; wood was piled high for the stove; and everyone rested. Of course, there were always chores to do, stray animals to find, and blizzards to endure. But winter was welcomed for the opportunity to settle in and renew family connections, read books, and tell stories.

Today we live in a technological society. The forty-hour work week is a thing of the past now that we are all electronically connected. The ring of the telephone was intrusive

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 Homeless Artists Workshop: Dr. Maria Fridman
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 EBAY Project: Eric Norlander

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

ally, guests at our Board meetings aren't required to silently watch—you can raise your hand like the rest of us when you have something to say—and I'll call on you. By the way, there's no obligation. Once you're there you are not required to stay for the whole darn thing!

Hey-ho, hooray, retreat time's coming! We've reserved 17 rooms for 34 people at the Warwick Center for our Fall Members' Retreat. The rooms are double, with private bath, and for \$236, you will get bed, board, and country fun from October 2, Friday night dinner through October 4, Sunday lunch. Choose your roommate and then each of you gives Moe-Swe a \$100 deposit to hold your places. We're asking that you be sure to have your paid reservation in by August 1. The balance will be due by September 15. Sign up soon so you won't miss out on the autumn leaves display.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer.

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

enough; now we have Blackberry devices that twitter. We no longer live with the natural rhythms of the seasons;

instead, we create artificial environments and schedule every day's activities. Even vacations, though escapes to other places, are programmed to deliver maximum pleasure.

When do we allow ourselves time to reflect upon our lives? How can we find meaning and purpose in our lives if we do not listen to ourselves, learn from our experiences, and share what we have learned with others and listen to them? We need to stop and take a deep breath, feel that breath in our bodies, and draw inspiration from the simple fact of breathing. Then we need to settle in and renew our connection with ourselves.

Summer offers me some respite, and it started in June at the American Ethical Union Assembly in St. Louis. Yes, there were meetings many and long, but there were also conversations with colleagues and members that inspired me. I had an opportunity to reflect upon the nature of Ethical Humanism and why it still offers my life such meaning.

As we struggled at the National Leaders Council meeting to articulate a clear identity and definition of Humanism as a philosophy, a way of life, and a religion to offer our members, I thought about my own spiritual journey. I was brought to the religion of Roman Catholicism by my family: Gram taught me to recite prayers, Mom and Dad took

me to church with them, and my sister and I saved our allowance to give to the missions in Africa. I loved growing up in St. Anne's community and cherish what I learned there. As a young adult, I explored the literature and practices of other religions, drawn as many people of my generation were, to exotic Eastern philosophies. When I married and had my own family, Glenn and I found Ethical Culture, and the Brooklyn Society became our spiritual home.

Now my children are grown and on their own, and I stay. Humanism is my religion, and Ethical Culture is my denomination. It's not just about the belief—"a naturalistic philosophy that rejects supernaturalism and relies primarily upon reason and science, democracy, and human compassion," as Corliss Lamont put it—but about the practice of engaging with others and the world. That is where I find religious meaning.

Religion should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. It should provide a transformative experience. I can settle in with like-minded people and create a comfort zone for us where we are never challenged to think or feel differently. I can also choose to test the limits of what I believe by engaging with people and groups who form other circles, challenging myself, as well as them, to find common ground. That's what founder Felix Adler encouraged us to do. That's what my uncle, Father Thomas O'Keefe, encouraged me to do, too, whether it was supporting my journeys to other countries or to other books in the library.

Bringing out the best in others and in ourselves means looking for the unique gifts every human being possesses, connecting with their goodness, no matter what their beliefs. I am changed when I listen deeply to others. My life is transformed when I engage in human relation-

ships. I want that challenge and change in my life. It gives my life meaning.

Take some time this summer to reflect. You just might find religion.

Sunday Morning Meetings

10:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall—4th Floor

July 5—Colloquy: Faith
Phyllis Kreuttner

We have a long tradition of doing a Colloquy once a month before the Platform. We adopted this tradition from the Long Island Humanist Society, where it was originated and conducted by Ethical Culture Leader Arthur Dobrin.

The Colloquy is an opportunity for us to focus on a topic that can have deep personal meaning to us, such as Love, Humility, Friendship, or Change. It combines music, meditation, personal sharing, and discussion. It gives us a chance to know ourselves in a deeper way and to get to know the thoughts of others in a deeper and more personal way. Please join us for a warm learning experience.

Phyllis is a long-time member of NYSEC. She has always been very active in the life of the Society. She has been a Board member, Sunday School Director, leader of the Personal Journey talk group, and a member of several other committees; she is currently co-leader of Life with Health.

July 5—Holiday Picnic
Barbara Levenson

We'll be celebrating July 4 as a community a day late! On Sunday, July 5, we'll picnic in the park immediately following the Sunday Platform. We'll meet in front of the Society at 11:30 am and walk over together. Bring your

food, something to share, and a blanket or chair. We'll be located near the Ballfield Café where you can purchase inexpensive food and beverages if you prefer. All are welcome. Plan to come.

July 12—Life As a Bowl of Gumbo
Curt Collier, Leader

Food is not simply something we eat, but an experience shaped by history, cultural tradition, sociology, politics, and place. When we lose that connection, we lose our soul. Too often, food gets reduced to nutritional ingredients, saying nothing about the world that gave rise to it. Of Cajun descent, Curt Collier will prepare a dish of Big Mama's (his grandmother's) Gumbo, sharing something of its stories and the spiciness of human passion, all peppered with a celebration of Life.

July 19—The Art and Ethics of Storytelling
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

We have been telling each other stories since we could first talk. Our brains are hard-wired for metaphor and narrative. Stories are entertaining, comforting us through long winter nights. They also carry the history and wisdom of humanity, passed along as precious treasures from generation to generation. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will tell the story of storytelling and how it can help us live more ethical lives.

July 26—No One Is an Island..... Except Some Secular Humanists
Dr. Charles H. Debrovner

Ethical Culture correctly balances the worth and freedom of every person with his or her responsibilities to the community. Not all branches of Humanism do so, he says, but they must if Humanism is to unite and speak with a stronger voice.

Charles H. Debrovner M.D. (or "Chuck," when he is wearing his Ethical

Culture hat) has been a member of our Society for almost 25 years. He served as President from 1988 to 1994, and has been an active Honorary Trustee since that time. He has represented the Society on the Board of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School since 1988, and this year became an Honorary Trustee.

Chuck graduated from Yale University and received his M.D. degree at NYU School of Medicine. He trained in obstetrics and gynecology at the NYU-Bellevue Medical Center, and recently retired from clinical practice after a 43-year career.

August 2—Crazy Enough For You? Ethical Issues in Psychiatry And Psychotherapy

Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D.

Is there a dividing line between eccentric behavior and mental illness? Why does mental illness, nearly seventy years after the death of Freud, remain a taboo subject in many circles? And why are so many diagnoses and treatments regarded with skepticism? Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D. will raise several ethical concerns, including the medicalization of everyday life, the responsibility of family and friends in “dealing with” the mental illness of loved ones, and issues of justice regarding gender and social class in the mental health context.

Dr. Perlin is Emeritus Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research Fellow, Scripps Gerontology Center, at Miami University, Ohio. He has served as Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and as Visiting Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. He is the author of *Clinical Medical Ethics: Cases in Practice* (Little, Brown and Co.).

August 9—Art and Healing
Dr. Ruth Cohen

In “Art and Healing,” our own “Dr. Ruth” Cohen, will discuss her book, *Art With Heart: Assisting the Work of Wellness*.

People often say about art: “I don’t know much about art, but I know what I like.” Yet art can assist in the healing process for loved ones in a transitional space and we can be a part of that caring work when we visit.

While Dr. Cohen served on the art committee of a local hospital, she was invited to present an “art-in-room” program. She was later inspired to conduct research on art and healing, which later became her Ph.D. dissertation and, ultimately, her book.

August 16—The Nature and Meaning Of African-American Humanism

Anthony B. Pinn, Ph.D.

Many assume that the black church covers the various ways in which African-Americans express their religiosity. This is a misconception that ignores the presence of Humanism within African-American communities. Dr. Anthony Pinn will present a historical survey of Humanism within those communities, from the period of slavery to the present. The talk is shaped by the question: What is the look and “feel” of African-American Humanism?

Dr. Pinn received his Ph.D. from Harvard and is currently the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University, Texas. The author/editor of nineteen books, his interests range from hip-hop to Humanism.

August 23—Ethics From the Heart
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Ethical Culturists pride themselves on the importance they give to reason—and to ethics, too. There is a long tradition in philosophy that seeks to ground ethics in our rational natures. But is this correct? In this address, Dr. Chuman

will argue that our ethics do not come from reason, but from our emotions.

August 30—Ethics and the Theater: Seven Jewish Children

Directed by Richard Van Deusen, this controversial new play by Caryl Churchill raises compelling moral and ethical issues. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will serve as our presider and discussion moderator.

Sept. 6—My First 10 Years at Ethical Abe Markman

Affirmation—embraces our humane fellowship; *Critique*—wonders how certain views of Feliz Adler may have evolved over time; *Vision*—suggests a path to a more ethical and unified humanity.

Abe Markman, a long-time activist and Chair of NYSEC’s Public Issues Committee, reflects on his experiences with his dedicated PIC partners and friends. (PIC ended as a committee in June. For a fuller evaluation of the PIC experience see the September issue.)

Abe, who has a BA in sociology and psychology (CCNY), and a master’s in social group work (NYU), served in settlement house settings for 50 years. Before retiring in 1998, he co-founded, ran, and was a consultant for a social service agency.

**Lunch Discussions
Thursdays, 12:00 Noon
Room 507**

Contrary to what you read in last month’s newsletter, we’ll continue to meet during July and August; we just couldn’t imagine Thursdays without our usual stimulating ethical discussions. We’ll explore a variety of topics, as you’ll note from the list below. So, bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen for a lively and informative afternoon.

Folders with relevant articles are available from Sheleigh Grube in the Leaders' office. Please come by and pick one up.

July 2—"Geologist," Dr. Thomas Berry.

July 9—**Twenty Years After Tiananmen Square.**

July 16—**In Defense of Distraction** by Sam Anderson (*New York Magazine*, 5/17/09).

July 23—**Going Dutch** by Russell Shorto (*NY Times Magazine*, 5/3/09).

July 30—**What Makes Us Happy?** by Joshua Wolf Shenk (*The Atlantic*, 6/09).

Aug. 6—**A Boy's Life** by Hanna Rosin (*The Atlantic*, 11/08).

Aug. 13—**A Nation of Jailers** by Glenn Loury (*Cato Unbound*, 3/11/09).

Aug. 20—**Does the Free Market Corrode Moral Character?** (Essays from the John Templeton Foundation.

Aug. 27—**Can Pakistan Be Governed?** by James Traub (*NY Times Magazine*, 4/5/09).

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Last month NYSEC was humming with activity. On May 17, **Founder's Day**, many members and friends of the Society celebrated by going on a history tour of Mt. Pleasant, the Ethical Culture Cemetery where Felix Adler and his wife, Helen, along with other notables of the Ethical Culture Movement, are buried. We also briefly visited the Ethical Culture School and the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture and passed by the home of Felix Adler. Leader Curt Collier was our very knowledgeable and indefatigable host and guide, and we all had a wonderful time.

Our Music Director, **Gerald Ranck**, concluded his 25th anniversary concert series on May 19 with an excellent

program of music by Bach, Prokofiev, Reinecke, and Martino. Beverly Radin accompanied him beautifully on flute. What a treat for all! Afterwards, Gerald was honored with a scrumptious desert and drinks reception organized by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen. He was presented with a small gift in appreciation for all his years of providing beautiful music to the Society. Thanks to Sheleigh Grube for the energy she put into making the event happen and to all the members and friends who came together to honor our beloved Music Director.

On May 27 the Society co-sponsored a program, "Eduardo Galeano in Conversation with Lawrence Weschler," with *The Nation*, *Democrats.com*, *Haymarket Books*, *Democracy Now*, *Latham's Quarterly*, and *The Paris Review*. We drew a sold-out crowd and kudos go to members Arlene Donar, John Kreuttner, Lee Loshak, JoAnn Mason, Margaret Murphy, and Monica Weiss for being excellent volunteers, as always.

* * *

NYSEC and the Social Service Board gave a dinner party to honor those who volunteered for the **Homeless Women's Shelter** that the Society operates in our basement. (*See page 9 for more.*) Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Chairperson of the SSB, and SSB Member Dr. Maria Fridman, along with Society President Andra Miller, thanked all those wonderful people who gave their time to the shelter by staying overnight once a month. It is truly heart-warming to see so many people who care. If you are interested in volunteering for the shelter, or if anyone you know is, please talk to Maria; she is always looking for more volunteers.

* * *

Congratulations to **Janice Buzby**, **Chris Everett**, and **Tom Weishaar** on their election to the NYSEC **Board of Trustees**.

SF Films Fascinate

Andra Miller

Our first Friday science fiction film series is proving to be a big success. Thirty people attended in June, munching on popcorn and chips and drinking soda or beer while they watched *Forbidden Planet*, a 1956 film. With a story and setting inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the flick had great color, a fast pace, an intriguing mystery, and an exciting "id" denouement. It was followed by a lively discussion ably led by Eric Volpe, who'd done his homework on the film and its making.

Our next offering is *The President's Analyst*, a delightful 1967 film, with James Coburn playing the title role with tongue-in-cheek. It will be shown on **Friday, July 10, 7:00 pm**, as the first Friday of the month is on Independence Day weekend. Coburn plays Dr. Sidney Schaefer, who is recruited by the CEA (Central Enquiries Agency) to help relieve the US President of the pressures of office, and winds up under too much pressure himself. Schaefer's not allowed to leave, so he escapes, and is pursued by the Federal Bureau of Regulation, the Canadian Secret Service, and the KGB, among others. This fast-paced movie makes great fun of Cold War politics, psychiatry, spy films, the counterculture, liberalism—you name it. And the final "villain" in the piece is one of the best jokes of the movie.

Though some may question the "science-fiction" designation, the film is listed that way (comedy, political satire, and some science fiction) on Wikipedia, and since I (the discussion leader) am fond of it, the Ethics in Film Committee of the Membership Cultivation Club has graciously included it. We're requesting a donation of \$5, and there will be popcorn and drinks available.

Friday, August 7, 7:00 pm, the flick will be *Gattaca*, a name reflecting the initial letters of the four DNA nitrogenous bases: guanine, adenine, thymine, and cytosine. It is the newest of our SciFi movies, a 1997 thriller starring Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman, and Jude Law. *Gattaca* presents a vision of a world driven by eugenics.

Society now discriminates against your genes, instead of your gender, race, or religion. The Hawke character has been categorized as less than suitable, given his genetic make-up, and he has become one of the underclass of humans who are only considered useful for menial jobs. Despite this, he wants to be an astronaut and is determined to realize his dream. The movie draws on concerns over reproductive technologies that facilitate eugenics, and the possible consequences of such technological developments for society. Even today we can wonder what part our genes play in our destiny. Chris Everett will lead our discussion.

Writing Workshop

Elaine Berman

NYSEC will offer a five-week writing class again this summer. Both new and experienced writers are welcome. Led by Elaine Berman, our workshop is a safe place to start writing, stay focused, and polish your writing skills. The class will meet on **Thursdays** beginning **August 6**, from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** in Room 508. For more information, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

You can read essays by members of past workshops at www.nysec.org. Click on the Table of Contents and scroll down.

What I Learned In Eating Class

Andra Miller

The 15 of us who attended the free workshop in May on how to eat for spiritual enlightenment were treated to two hours packed with wholesome food information and tips on how to eat properly. Our nutritional coach, Marcia Berry, handed out portfolios chock full of food lists, chewing secrets, recipes, book and video lists, and other helpful information. Some of what I learned is:

Your blood plasma is totally replaced every 10 days, your red blood cells every four months, and your white blood cells take a year to renew themselves. You “get” a new liver every one to two years. You replace your brain, your nervous system, and your bone marrow every seven to eight years, and your skeleton and skull every 10 years. Obviously, if you want all those systems to be in top shape, the building materials you supply to your body’s machinery so that it can produce really good parts (cells), should be of the highest quality.

The highest quality is not the Standard American Diet. For one thing, we don’t eat enough whole grains, which are especially good for the brain and the nervous system—to help you keep calm. Did you know that grains contain *all* the major nutrients, and that those simple carbohydrates (“refined” grains and sugar) are not good building blocks? Their effect on your blood (which is instantaneous) is to load it with sugar and make the pancreas shoot out insulin, which is not good. You get a sugar high, and then it goes equally quickly back down for an energy crash.

So back to whole grains, which help to clean out your digestive system. A system, by the way, that is not helped by huge helpings of meat. Meat is hard to digest and can, instead, just sit there, disintegrate, and decay. For this reason, heavy meat-eaters are more prone than the rest of us to colon cancer.

A big surprise for me was to learn that bread is not particularly good for you; even whole grain! That’s because it is made of flour, which turns into gunk in your stomach. And even whole grain flour acts much like a simple carbohydrate inside your body, which is not good for your blood sugar level. Berry says, “Bread impedes spiritual development.”

What is good besides grains? Vegetables! Aside from their nutritional aspects, they alkalize blood, which is good. They should be eaten in season and fresh to do their best for you. Different vegetables have different vitamins, energy, and effects on the body. Asparagus, for example, when eaten in the spring, when harvested, is a terrific cleanser of your arteries. As we all know, vegetables are less fattening than other foods—and when grown organically, freshly picked and delivered, and properly cooked, they are delicious. Berry’s response to the expensiveness of buying “organic” is, “I’d rather pay an organic farmer than a doctor.”

There was much more to the class: tips on how to make sure you eat at the right times and in the right way, the pull of yin and yang foods, the effect of chakras and electricity, how to have great skin, good breakfasts—way more than there is space for here. I just want to add a note to thank Anne Klaeyen for setting up this valuable, and free, Leader workshop.

Benefit Concert

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Back by Popular Demand—Our 11th annual Benefit Concert for the Stained Glass Windows, so mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 25, 4:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall. We will have an exciting program, with new music, new artists, refreshments after the performances, and a chance to meet the artists.

This year, the proceeds will be used to pay for stabilizing part of the north windows of the balcony of the Auditorium. We'll have more information about this in the future. We look forward to seeing you again at this event.

Green Kitchen Project

Dr. Ruth Cohen

At its most recent meeting, the Building Committee voted in favor of our Green Kitchen Project to refurbish our kitchen space, so that we can have an in-house kitchen facility. Once we have a functioning kitchen, the food we eat at our Sunday lunches here will not have to be delivered by car, thus reducing our carbon footprint.

To help the project along, we are inaugurating a Dollar Day Drive. With the donation of one dollar for each meal, every time we dine in the Social Hall, we'll be coming closer to our goal of creating an In-House Green Kitchen. This \$1.00 per meal represents "the power of a dollar." For example, there were 50 diners at the first day's drive, each contributing \$1.00. So, we took in \$50.00.

This drive is intended to continue—watch the posted thermometer heat up—until we are able to purchase the required equipment. So, participate,

and within a year, we hope to see our kitchen "go green." For more information about this initiative, please contact me at 212-860-4096.

IHEU Receives Major Bequest

The International Humanist and Ethical Union, an organization to which we belong through our American Ethical Union network, has just received a bequest of \$2.5 million from the estate of Victor Kay, a Humanist in Los Angeles. The IHEU is instituting the Victor Kay Humanitarian Fund, and will use income from the fund to support it in furthering its mission "to represent and support the Humanist Movement to build a world in which human rights are respected and all can live a life of dignity." A nongovernmental organization at the United Nations, IHEU works with UNICEF, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

IHEU's current campaign themes are to promote a Humanistic approach to social issues; constitutional secularism; separation of religion and state; respect for the human rights of all; and freedom of religion, belief and conscience. It is for the abolishment of blasphemy and apostasy laws, child marriage, genital mutilation, persecution based on religion and belief, and the practice of "untouchability."

Ron Solomon, a member of the Ethical Society Without Walls, is on the Executive Committee of the IHEU. He was a member of the Baltimore Society and now lives in Wisconsin. For more information, contact: <http://www.iheu.org/>.

Ethical Blasts From the Past

David Muzzey, Leader
Ethics as a Religion, 1980

"The first postulate of Ethical Culture is the existence of a moral law as permeating as the physical laws of nature. . . The second postulate [of ethical religion] is the existence of a spiritual element in human nature which makes us capable of seeking the fulfillment of the moral law in our daily conduct. It is on the ground of this capability that we attribute worth to human beings."

* * *

William M. Salter
First Leader of the
Chicago Ethical Society, 1899

"O, there is need for voices today that shall awaken men out of the moral sleep into which so many have fallen; there is a need for voices that will stir the sense of right once more, of unalterable standards by which individuals and communities are judged, the sense of higher ends of living than simply to eat and sleep and propagate our kind, the sense of a great goal for which humanity should strive, and in the striving for which these lives of ours, our homes, our business, and all our pursuits may be touched by holy light."



PIC Celebrates at O'Neals'

Pat Berens

PIC's final celebration brunch was a rousing success and everyone had a great time. O'Neals' smaller room turned out to be an excellent choice; we had it to ourselves and the service and food were excellent.

Abe Markman asked everyone to talk briefly about their experiences with PIC and we all had worthwhile comments to make. When Lee Loshak, a PIC member, presented Abe with our gift certificate, we could see that Abe was very touched and pleased. And we were pleased to have done it. Then we relaxed with some amusing general conversation while enjoying the good food. Mike O'Neal stopped by and told us at length why he had not come to our Paid Sick Leave breakfast.

When Abe mentioned writing a long article for the August *Ethical Outlook* summing up our PIC activities, Andra Miller tried to convince him to do it for the July issue. Abe and I (I'll help him edit the piece) said "No Way!" Andra then suggested that Abe prepare a full account of PIC's activities for the September issue.

We shared a lovely afternoon of real camaraderie as we wound up our festivities. Although PIC formally ended its run at the end of June, all of us—as committed NYSEC members—will continue to be active and to fight the good fight.



Abe Markman and Virginia Arnold



(Clockwise from left): Barry Snider, Lee Loshak, Abe Markman, Virginia Arnold, JoAnn Mason, Pearl Katz, Pat Berens, Jim Hyland, Nancy Ambruster, Maria Fridman, and Alan Gardner. Ken Gans, the photographer; Andra Miller; and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross were present but not photographed. PIC members unable to attend were: Josh Adams, Pat Cohen, Pauline Kravath, Beth Zucker, Carol Rost, and Eric Volpe.

Social Service Board – Shelter Volunteers Honored

Barbara Litke

“Another success story! I would like to announce that Ms. Sylvia Rivera has moved into her own apartment this month. This letter is to thank the Ethical Culture Society for the support that is continuously provided to our ladies through the shelter bed program. With your excellent coordination we have been able to work together to improve Ms. Rivera’s life. It is a tremendous success for our ladies to regain independence and move on to a better place. Thank you for making such a remarkable difference.”

–Letter from the Rehabilitation Coordinator of the Antonio G. Olivieri Center for Homeless Women, NYC

On June 2, NYSEC’s Homeless Shelter volunteers were honored at a gala dinner. Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chair, and Andra Miller, President of the NY Society, welcomed members, guests, and friends. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen also attended, having managed to make room in a very busy schedule to join us. Member Dr. Maria Fridman was recognized for her ongoing dedication in helping to redirect the lives of the women who are our shelter guests several nights each week.

A few shelter guests who have benefited from this program attended and one of them spoke about how much being a shelter guest has meant to her. Judy Vicinanza, Director of the Olivieri Center, also spoke, emphasizing the need for continuity of services, and Zoilo Torres, Director of Community Relations and Volunteers for the Partnership for the Homeless, said that he was optimistic about the future of our shelter, regardless of its present tenuous position as a city program.

Volunteer members who attended included Pat Cohen, Chester Lane, Andra Miller, Margaretha Jones, Law’nence (L.) Miller, John Hwang, David and Valerie Leiman, and Pauline Kravath. Dr. Fridman presented them with certificates of appreciation for service to the shelter, noting that they have served tirelessly and given up nights at home to spend them at the shelter, and she thanked Chris Williamson and the Parents’ Committee of the Fieldston School for contributing special treats for our shelter guests on many Mondays throughout the year. Also attending the dinner were honorary volunteers—members Virginia Scherer, Moira Whittington, and Frank Prescod, and volunteer Friends of the Shelter Jane Tuttle, Deborah Titus, Grace Campagna, Miguel Crane, Elder Maxwell, Joanna McElrath, Edward Fitzgerald, Sheleigah Grube, Kathy Gordon, and Kathryn Casey-Quigley.

Volunteer friends who weren’t able to attend included Katrina Lear, Diana Glantecnik, Jessica Hunter, Jim Heaney, Leah Freedman, and Win Jackson. Volunteer members who were unable to attend were Ben Bean, Talat Ali, Jane Unger, Marcella Montaruli, and Sabine Rosenberg. Adam Bozari and Roham Sud, students at Columbia University, coordinators and sometime overnight volunteers, also did not attend the celebration. We regret that they couldn’t join us. They also received certificates of appreciation, which were mailed to them.

Photos taken by Maria Fridman, continued on page 10.



(L-R): Andra Miller and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross



Robert Liebeskind and Dr. Anne Klaeysen

SSB Volunteers Honored (cont'd)



(L-R): Moira Whittington, Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, and Virginia Scherer



(L-R): Richard Van Deusen, his wife Carol Nadell, and Jerry Chamlin



(L-R): Barbara Litke and Kathy Gordon (Pat Cohen's sister)



(L-R): Volunteers Elder Maxwell and Margaretha Jones



(L-R): An overnight guest; Dr. Maria Fridman; and Heather Edmonson, Coordinator at the Olivieri Center



(L-R): Staffers Moe-Swe Myint, Sheleigah Grube, and Julie Blutstein

July Calendar

Society office hours for the month: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–5:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am–1:30 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

Please Note: Earth Rise at 10:30 am; the Early Sunday (10:00 am); and Sunday Afternoon (1:45 pm) events will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Men's Group

Wednesday, July 1, 6:00 pm, Room 508

Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm, Room 507

Society Offices Closed

Friday, July 3

Supervised Visitation

Saturdays, (except July 4), 9:30 am,
Room 408

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:15 am, Ceremonial Hall

Holiday Picnic

Sunday, July 5, 11:30 am

Celebration Honoring Robert Liebeskind

Monday, July 6, 6:00 pm, Room 507

Board of Trustees

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm, Room 514

Socrates Café

Tuesdays, July 7, July 21, 6:00 pm,
Room 508

Ethics in Film

Friday, July 10, 7:00 pm,
Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor

Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)

Friday, July 24, 11:00 am

August Calendar

Society office hours for the month: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–5:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am–1:30 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

Please Note: Earth Rise at 10:30 AM; the Early Sunday (10:00 AM); and Sunday Afternoon (1:45 PM) events will resume on Sunday, September 13.

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:15 am, Ceremonial Hall

September Newsletter Deadline

Monday, August 3

Board of Trustees

Monday, August 3, 6:30 pm, Room 514

Socrates Café

Tuesdays, August 4, August 18, 6:00 pm,
Room 508

Men's Group

Wednesday, August 5, 6:00 pm, Room 508

Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm, Room 507

Thursday Writing Workshop

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Room 508

Ethics in Film

Friday, August 7, 7:00 pm,
Ceremonial Hall

Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)

Friday, August 28, 11:00 am

Fall Members' Retreat - 2009

Join us for a weekend of good company—a time to get to know each other, commune with nature, discuss, contemplate, play, relax and grow.

When . . . Friday, Oct. 2—Arrive before dinner (informal welcome party at 5 pm) through Sunday, Oct. 4 lunch.

Where . . . The Warwick Center in Warwick, New York
<http://www.campwarwick.com/>

Rooms . . . Accommodations are 17 double rooms, each with private bath, for 34 people. First come, first served. Cost is \$236 per person. We'll let you know the rate later for day-trippers.

Getting there . . . 196/197 Bus from Port Authority—current fare round-trip is \$22 for adults, \$10 for seniors. Or by car if you have one, or if a ride is available at our pre-trip meeting.

Reserve by . . . Reserve with Moe-Swe Myint by August 1. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person. Balance will be due September 15.

*With questions or suggestions, see or call
Andra Miller—212-627-3944.*

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.