

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

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

Sunday Morning Meetings

**10:30 AM—Ceremonial Hall
Earth Rise**

**Platform Meetings
11:15 AM—Auditorium**

**June 7
We Are the Ones Making
Ethical Commitments**

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Cheryl Gross Presides

**June 14
On the Shoulders of Giants: The
Fascinating History of the Visiting
Nurse Service and the
Contribution of Ethical Culture**

Richard Bernstein, MD, FACP
Susanna Frazer Presides

**June 21
The Perfect is the Enemy of
The Good**

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

**June 28
Living in a Post-Existentialist
World, or What To Do When
You're Finished with Kierkegaard,
Nietzsche, and Sartre**

Curt Collier, Leader
Henryka Komanska Presides

*AEU 94th
Annual Assembly
June 11-14, 2009*

June Happenings

Jekyll & Hyde are Coming! Benefit Concert **Monday, June 15, 7:30 pm** in the Auditorium. 100% of proceeds benefit NYSEC. *(See page 8)*

Advocacy Forum—Afghanistan & Pakistan: Why Are We There?—Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 pm, in the Auditorium. A panel discussion on the complexities of the current turmoil in Afghanistan and Pakistan. *(See page 8)*

Adult Education: Welcome to a Parliament of the World's Religions—Thursday, June 18, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, in Room 514. Dr. Anne Klaeysen will give a presentation about the 2009 meeting of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. *(See page 8)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



Thanks to everyone who came to the Annual Meeting. I thought it went well, and am pleased to announce our new Board members: Janice Buzby, Chris Everett, and Tom Weishaar. Henryka Komanska and Jim Farer were reelected, and those five join the current members: Bob Berger, Meg Chapman, Heather Grady, Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Margaretha Jones, Sheila Kleinwald, and me as we contemplate and plan at our Board meetings. It's a good place to be, too, if you'd like to be in on the workings of NYSEC. All are welcome, so visit our next Board meeting if you're of a mind: 6:30 pm, Monday, June 1; if you miss that one, come on Monday, July 13.

The new nominations procedure Bylaws were passed, with a small addition, and so we've attended to all the official business. If you'd like a copy of the Minutes of the

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Gay Pride Month: Equality and Justice for All

"When two people love each other," I remember my father saying, "It's a miracle." We were watching my then two-year old daughter playing in my parents' backyard. I wondered aloud whether it had disturbed him that Glenn and I had lived together for a number of years before marrying. "Not really," he said, although I doubted him. "At least you're married now," he added with a smile.

It is indeed a miracle when two people love each other enough to make a commitment to each other's happiness: sharing life's joys and sorrows, building a family and a future

(Continued on page 3)

Contents

Sunday Morning Meetings 1
 June Happenings 1
 President's Notes 1
 From the Leader's Desk 1
 Reflections on a Surrealist Canvas 3
 Founder's Day 4
 Sunday Morning Meetings 5
 CodePink 6
 Early Sunday 6
 Sunday Afternoon 6
 Lunch Discussion 6
 Our Ethical Family 7
 Delegation to Iran Slideshow 7
 Money-Driven Medicine 8
 Jekyll & Hyde Are Coming! 8
 Parliament of the World's Religions 8
 Afghanistan & Pakistan 8
 Ethics and the Theater 8
 PIC News 9
 Social Service Board News 9
 Hudson River Hike 10
 Heritage Collection Archives 10
 Your Legacy Begins Now 11
 Calendar 12

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Rita Chawla	106
Joseph Chuman	145
Curt Collier	145
Deborah Foster	115
Sheleigah Grube	118
Anne Klaeysen	119
Yolanta Kosmaczewska	104
Robert Liebeskind	116
Maintenance	109
Moe-Swe Myint	113
Marlon Rice	107

Summer Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–5:30 pm
 Friday, 9:00 am–1:30 pm

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

meeting, ask Gloria Chandler in the Administration Office.

Our Nomination Committee is gearing up for the Trustee elections at the 2010 Annual Meeting (put that on your calendar: May 2). The committee members are Carole Chamlin, Pat Debrovner, Dan Hanson, Barbara Levenson, and Betsy Ungar. If you'd like to suggest a candidate for next year, be sure to speak to one of them.

We're looking into locations for our fall membership retreat. I've asked Joan Klips to head the committee, and along with Anne, Curt, and Joe, we're looking for help from those of you who might like to plan and execute the Friday-dinner through Sunday-lunch event. It will cost more than last year, as the Warwick Center has raised its prices. However, we're checking out other possibilities. If we can sneak details in before this goes to press, we will . . .

The Membership Cultivation Committee is planning some table-hopping, er, tabling soon. It's also busy with Ethics in Film—coming up is *Forbidden Planet*. By the way, these meetings are open to all. We especially want to see new members here; this is a good way to get your feet wet and learn a bit about what committees do and how much fun the members have. MCC meets the first Wednesday of the month. Come by and say hi!

Let me know if you're interested in a Crafts Circle—to meet in homes and chat while we knit, crochet, tat, embroider, needlepoint, or whatever. Barbara Levenson suggested the idea and will “chair” the circle along with me. Another idea has come from “The Anonymous Four”: an advice column. If you would like some good-natured advice on how to deal with an ethical dilemma, send your question to me with “The Anonymous Four” up top and I'll make sure they get it. You can be anonymous too; make up a name for yourself in your query. If you think your email address will give you away (and you want to remain anonymous), send your question via post to: Andra Miller, 146 W. 16th St., 4B, New York, NY 10011. My email address is: andramm@juno.com.

I'd be happy to receive your ideas and suggestions at the above address, too. Not that I can promise they'll all get done; ideas, we find, need people to make them happen. That's why we have committees and that's why you should volunteer! Remember, we ask that you give time, talent, and treasure to truly make this Society yours. Speaking of the last, please make this year's pledge if you haven't already done so. It won't be long before the year zips by and we start next year's pledge drive. You don't want to get behind on your pledge!

Happy summer to one and all.

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

together. I witness that miracle almost every time I interview a wedding couple. I see it in the way they look at each other, hear it when they laugh together, feel it when they tell me their stories. Why would some people imagine that such love is limited to heterosexual couples? Why would they deny marriage to same-sex couples whose depth of commitment is every bit as real—and as miraculous—as theirs?

I spent Tuesday, April 28, in Albany with Empire State Pride Agenda, and thousands of supporters, lobbying for the right of other couples, like Glenn and me except in gender, to make the choice that we had made: to legally marry.

Beside the 1,138 rights and responsibilities bestowed upon married couples by the federal government, there are another 1,324 rights and responsibilities that come from New York State, including medical decision-making authority, inheritance rights, immunity from having to testify against a spouse in court, and not having to pay taxes on spousal health insurance benefits. Many of these protections, e.g., a Workers Compensation death benefit for a surviving spouse, can be achieved only through marriage or some other governmental recognition of a family. Neither civil union nor domestic partnership secure the federal rights and responsibilities that come with marriage, such as Social Security survivor benefits and immigration rights.

In the afternoon, I participated in an Interfaith Service at the Albany Convention Center with clergy and lay people from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist traditions. It was a celebratory occasion, full of hope and companionship. Pride in the Pulpit, comprised of hundreds of faith congregations through-

out the state, advocates for the rights of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) New Yorkers and confronts religious-based bigotry. I recited the words of Ethical Culture Leader John Lovejoy Elliott: “The love of the human heart is the most real and the most beautiful of all the realities we know. . . . Whatever the length of time may be, to have known something of this is to have experienced the supreme privilege of being human.”

Being human: That’s what is at stake here. We experience ourselves as fully human in relationship with others; giving and receiving love, building homes and communities that nurture our potential for goodness. We need to protect *all* couples who make a profound commitment to make a home for each other in their hearts and who contribute to the strength and vitality of their communities. It is our ethical obligation.



NYSEC member Josh Adams and his husband Scott Falk demonstrating in Albany April 28

Reflections on a Surrealist's Canvas

Curt Collier, Leader



You have to respect the efforts of the Surrealists; those artists and writers who strove for a revolutionary approach to art.

While all art might be revolutionary, the Surrealists literally thought they were actively arousing an untapped human conscience that would ameliorate the dehumanizing aspects of industrialization.



*I Saw Three Cities
—Kav Sage, 1944*

You see, as the western nations shifted rapidly from a rural agrarian world to an urban industrial one, many in Europe and America felt lost and disconnected. Within a relatively short period of time, family farms were replaced with factories. Their whole world changed. The Surrealists believed that the loss of artisans, the breakdown of communities, and the power struggle over natural resources led to a whole heap of problems, including world warfare. Yet, for the Surrealists, at the heart of this was the loss of human individuality which had previously been preserved through craftsmanship. To create and fashion an object was a means for self-expression. They believed that the rise of mass production had eliminated this possibility, and hence reduced humans to a mere tool, and worse yet, robbed them of their very sense of humanity.

To combat the loss of individual creativity, which factory work naturally discourages, the artists responded with a plan: to heal the loss of imagination which the Surrealists believed led to alienation from the self and fueled hatred and violence, the Surrealists would purposefully create art that was nonrational and dreamlike. Through the juxtaposition of contradictory images, and by creating impossible realities, the artists believed their art would awaken dormant insights and inspiration that could counteract the

horribly reductionist impact of the industrial age. The movement attracted a huge following, including artists like Salvador Dali, Max Ernst, Man Ray, and its chief proponent, Andre Breton; it was considered such a credible threat to the social order that it was openly disparaged by fascists, communists, and capitalists alike.

In many ways, the Surrealist movement had other parallels in human history—the anti-rationalism of the Dionysian cults, Romanticism, Christian pietism, and to an extent, the rise of Islamic zeal in the Middle East and the persistence of revolutionaries in Central and South America, to name just a few. All these groups employed rhetoric that at its heart was a rage against cold rationalism, materialism, exploitation, or the potential for self-alienation in a mechanized world. Some used religion as an antidote and others used passion. Some pushed for retreat and seclusion, while others fought to control images or to regain human creativity by controlling the means to production. And yet, the thread of human yearning that ties these movements together across time and cultures is the longing to be rid of a world where the self is nothing more than a dispensable cog in an exacting, measured, indifferent, and artificial world.

As an Ethical Culturist, I understand this passion and recognize that there are benefits to such movements. But I know there are grave risks to all such efforts, as well. I say this because, it is interesting to note, in each case where thinkers strove to preserve individual self worth, some took those same ideals and used them as weapons against others. Where movements sometimes err is in perceiving that others who may not share their view are stumbling blocks or, worse yet, inessential and unworthy—a formula for atrocities. An answer to dehumanization cannot

be found in actions that in themselves negate the worth of others; how odd that so often in human history our best efforts at protecting the worth of the individual led some to do exactly the opposite. I take as Exhibit A the recent “revelation” that we Americans tortured others in the name of Freedom. Wherein lies the tragic flaw?

The elevation of any ideal, whatever its positive source, above the realities of human experience is a form of idolatry and a formula for malice, especially when the idolaters cannot accept the fallibility of humanity. In Ethical Culture we stress the worth of the individual over and above any creed espousing the worth of the individual, a subtle yet profound religious belief. It builds in the protection against extremism that has plagued all our best human efforts. Yet, this is a difficult concept for some to grasp. Our spiritual striving should always be to *believe less* in the worth and dignity of all as an ideal, and more to *create the conditions* in which that belief can be readily experienced. If it has neither heartbeat nor touch, it should be shunned as a religious path.

The common error of putting the ideal above the human is somewhat understandable. Ideals are often touted as pure and immutable. In comparison, humans appear to fall short of ideals and thus are inferior to them. Get this point and you understand why most human atrocities occur, especially when the purveyors of these so-called pure ideals are also the purveyors of “justice.” Once again, it doesn’t matter how lofty the ideal; all virtues become weapons in the hands of people who cannot accept what it means to be human. Rather than seeing humans as sinful or weak, perhaps it is through our very “brokenness”—our struggles and stumblings—that the full meaning of our

story will make sense and our immense strength as a species can be understood.

The recurring theme of any ethical system would be compassion and forgiveness and a willingness to accept imperfect beings, such as ourselves, within the fold of community. This is not to condone meanness, nor should it dispense with our striving to grow into goodness; rather it serves to remind us that our efforts at channeling the wild passions of the human spirit must be tempered with a true sense of love for the person, not for the perfect.

I wish you a revolutionary and pleasant summer, and peace to your homes.

Founder’s Day

Following is the speech given by Dr. Anne Klaeysen on Friday, May 1 for Founder’s Day at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School:

“Good morning! Welcome to our shared home. I am very happy to be here with you this morning to celebrate Founder’s Day. It’s wonderful to see children filling the hall. When I speak on Sundays, the adults are here in the Auditorium, and the children are on the fifth floor in their Ethics class. I miss them. I was Director of the Children’s Sunday Assembly at the Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society for many years before becoming a Leader.

“Every Ethical Culture Society across the country also celebrates Founder’s Day, usually on the Sunday closest to May 15. That was the day, in 1876, when Dr. Felix Adler, at the age of 25, established a new religion of ethics and a new community of people who would respect one another’s different beliefs and work together to make the world a better place for everyone. That work included building the Ethical Culture Fieldston School.

“Most of the photographs and paintings we have of Dr. Adler portray him in middle and old age. He looks rather old and austere in his portrait on the stage, doesn’t he? But he was once young. Now that my son Andrew is 25, I imagine the young Felix standing before a group of people probably much older than he was, and talking to them about their obligation to lead ethical lives, to be better people.

“One quotation that has stuck with me since my children were very young is this: ‘We should teach our children nothing which they shall ever need to unlearn; we should strive to transmit to them the best possessions, the truest thought, the noblest sentiments of the age in which we live.’ (Adler, *Life and Destiny*, pg. 69) That is what your teachers do. Dr. Adler believed in learning by doing, in mutuality and reciprocity. We experience life through our relationships and explore profound questions together. As much as you have learned from your teachers, I can assure you that they have learned even more from you.

“It is now up to you to decide what ‘the best possessions, the truest thought, the noblest sentiments’ of *your* age are and to share them with other people, especially those of us older than you. Don’t keep such wisdom to yourselves: We need it. And, finally, all I really needed to say was this: ‘Go, Class of 2009!’”

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM—Auditorium

June 7—We Are the Ones Making Ethical Commitments

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

In child development psychology we talk about the importance of experiencing gratitude. A child who has been nourished and loved by a giving parent

learns gratitude and grows into generosity. This is a sign of mental health. A community that nourishes its members also elicits a feeling of gratitude. Members grow into a spirit of generosity, giving so that others might also receive. In an Ethical Culture community, this is a sign of moral and spiritual health. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen explores this dynamic and encourages us to find new ways to grow our generosity.

June 14—On the Shoulders of Giants: The Fascinating History of the Visiting Nurse Service and the Contribution of Ethical Culture

Richard H. Bernstein, MD, FACP

The idea of visiting the sick as a religious obligation is at least 2,500 years old, yet its contemporary form is the result of a confluence of several critical scientific and sociologic changes in the second half of the 19th century. The *zeitgeist* of that period provided the soil for a religious awakening, including the founding of Ethical Culture, the settlement movement, and the development of a more contemporary notion of visiting nursing. Dr. Richard Bernstein will show how this rich soil bore such a variety of fruit, and will highlight multiple connections between NYSEC and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

Dr. Bernstein has been a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County for over 15 years. Since his residency in Social Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, he has practiced general internal medicine while maintaining teaching appointments at various medical centers and served as medical director of group practices and several managed care organizations. He is currently medical director of VNS CHOICE Medicare, the VNS of NY’s Medicare special needs program for those living in the five boroughs of New York who have both

Medicaid and Medicare. He is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

June 21—The Perfect is the Enemy Of the Good

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

In his ethical philosophy, founder Felix Adler bade us to keep our eyes on the prize. For him the prize was the ideal of ethical perfection and the creation of a perfect society. According to Adler, we live in a finite realm, in which we morally fall short all the time. Our task is ethical improvement, and our inspiration should be one of perfection, which we reach for, but which we will never attain.

Clearly there is something ennobling about this scheme. But is a commitment to perfection always advantageous for moral growth? Can there be other approaches and inducements toward this growth? I believe there are, and their exploration is the theme for my June 21 address.

June 28—Living in a Post-Existentialist World, or What to do When You’re Finished with Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Sartre

Curt Collier, Leader

Existentialism was one of the most profound movements of modern times, greatly impacting society, art, literature, politics, and religion. It led to revolutions and inspired generations of everyday citizens. Yet, within the Movement’s greatest strength also lay its greatest weakness. It is misleading to call this a “post modern world,” rather it is more accurate to say that we are living in a “post-existentialist” world. We will review the history of existentialism, its contributions and insights, its tragic flaw, and the way it shaped history. Using these building blocks we can construct a post-existential world, a world that makes the “ethical revolution” possible.

CodePink

Dr. Anne Klaeysen

Knitting for CodePink Women for Peace, a grassroots peace and social justice movement, was held on Sundays, April 19, 26, and May 3 during the Social Hour. Knitters from the Society, contributed 30 squares in pink and green for quilted cozy to cover the fence in front of the White House to honor Mother's Day. Emblazoned on the cozy was the message, inspired by Julia Ward Howe's *Mother's Day Proclamation*, "We will not raise our children to kill another mother's child." Over 300 people across the globe, from the U.S. to Europe to South Africa, and from ages 8 to 85 years, knit squares that were quilted together and displayed this powerful statement.



L-R: Moe-Swe Myint and Anne Klaeysen



L-R: New member Jamie Scott and Andra Miller

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

June 7 – Singing Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's always a lot of fun, so join us! Room 507.

June 14 – Colloquy: Humanist. Joseph Marvel presides. Room 408.

June 21 – Poetry Readings—Everyone is welcome to join us for our monthly gathering of poetry lovers as we speak the words of our favorite bards. So, bring your favorite poems to share as we read and respond in our small-group setting. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

June 21 – Singing Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM (Except as noted)

June 7 – Ethical Endings – Planned Giving, with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Development Director Julie Blutstein, and attorney/estate planner Stanley Ackert.

Planned Giving is a set of ways a donor can leave money/assets to a nonprofit at his/her death, or a way to invest money so that the donor receives benefits during his/her life and then bequeaths the remaining funds to the nonprofit. Bequests and beneficiary designations are the best place to start, since they do not require an infrastructure to receive them. The donor's own financial planner sets up the instruments, and the nonprofit reminds donors of these options and encourages them to make their wishes known.

Planned Giving is a simple way to create a lasting legacy. Be sure to attend this information workshop. Ceremonial Hall. *(For more information, see page 11)*

June 14 – PIC of the News Club – A Forum on the First 146 Days. Room 514.

June 21 – Ethical Action Brainstorming Session—If you have a passion for social justice, bring it to a brainstorming session in the Leaders' Office at 1:30 pm. For more information, please contact Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen at 212-874-5210 ext 118.

June 28 – PIC of the News Club – Global Warming, with Curt Collier, Leader. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussion Thursdays, 12:00 Noon Room 507 (Except as noted)

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen for a lively discussion on contemporary ethical issues. In June we'll ask the question, "How's President Obama Doing?" Folders with relevant articles are available from Sheleigh Grube in the Leaders' Office.

June 4 – The First 100 Days (Leaders' Office – Room 502)

June 11 – Torture Investigation?

June 18 – The Economy

June 25 – Latin America

Due to vacation schedules, the Leader's Lunch Discussion will not meet during July and August, but will resume on Thursday, September 10, at noon. Stay tuned for information about "Ethics in the News" discussions on Sundays during the summer.

* * *

Lunch Discussion Participants: Every Thursday at noon, rain or shine, these hardy people arrive in the Elliott Library for a lively discussion on contemporary

ethics. Since October 2008, topics have included professional ethics, faith and politics, faith and science, world religions, and the platform addresses of the first generation of Ethical Culture Leaders. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen facilitates the discussion, making sure that every voice is heard.

(Photos taken by Maria Fridman)



Sheleigh Grube, member Aaron Balasny, and Leader Anne Klaeysen



Members Charles Debrovner, Sabine Rosenberg, and guest Irena



Guest Jim, members Maria Fridman, and Lee Loshak

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome two new members:

Denise Greene has been taking Elaine Berman’s writing courses and this semester is her fourth. She became interested in joining NYSEC because of the Society’s acceptance of differences in people, open thinking and emphasis on Ethics. Denise came to the Prospective Members’ Reception in April and she has attended Sunday platforms. Denise works as a development officer and has training in nonprofit management and fundraising. She is a member of Women in Development and belongs to the Art Student League.

Jamie Scott came to the “Girls Write Now” event and started coming to the Sunday platforms and Foundations of Ethical Culture series as well as other programs. She likes the community we have. She was enchanted by Marlon Rice’s presentation on King and Obama and decided to join after attending a Prospective Members’ Reception. Jamie worked as a copywriter in a pharmaceutical advertising company and she has experience in writing and advertising. She is a member of American Adoption Congress and Concerned United Birth Parents.

* * *

Members **Sy Amkraut** and **Sue Dye** resigned. They live in assisted-living in Battery Park City and have difficulty coming to the Society. They have been wonderful and involved members who contributed greatly to the Society through their time and effort and we shall miss them greatly.

Hope Bernstein also resigned and is becoming a Friend.

* * *

The Society held its annual membership meeting on May 3. Members voted to elect five Board members and for By-law changes regarding the nominating procedure. Many thanks to Pat Berens, Ruth Cohen, Alan Gardner and JoAnn Mason for serving as Inspectors of Election and kudos to staffers Deborah Foster, Gloria Chandler and Executive Director Bob Liebeskind for their superb preliminary work.

Friendship Delegation Presents Slideshow

Janice Buzby



The Fellowship of Reconciliation arranges Friendship Delegations to Iran throughout the year. Join us on Thursday, June 4, at 7:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall, when Iris Bieri, of the American Friends Service Committee, will present a slideshow and lead a discussion on present-day Iran that will provide perspectives on Iranian society, culture, and religion, with the aim of lifting the curtain on U.S.-Iran relations. Ms. Bieri recently traveled to Iran as part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation’s eighth interfaith peace delegation, along with 14 other individuals, including three rabbis and the Minister General of the Society of St. Francis. Their visit offered a unique platform for interfaith dialogue. Suggested donation is \$5, to be split equally between NYSEC and AFSC.

Iris Bieri is a Project Coordinator with the AFC's (New York Metropolitan Region) Conflict Resolution Program, which focuses on armed conflict in the Middle East. With a background in sociology and anthropology, she spent two years living in Chile, where she studied human rights and worked for Amnesty International. Iris is part of the Coordinating Committee of United for Peace and Justice NYC.

Money-Driven Medicine

Join us on Thursday, June 11, at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium for a screening of the film *Money Driven Medicine*, based on the book by Maggie Mahar, a Century Foundation Healthcare Fellow. This thought-provoking film will be followed by a discussion with Ms. Mahar and producer Alex Gibney. Admission is free. The event is cosponsored by the Century Foundation.

Jekyll & Hyde Are Coming! Be There!



There's still time to buy tickets for *Jekyll & Hyde In Concert*, presented at the Society on Monday, June 15, at 7:30 pm. All proceeds will benefit NYSEC. The concert will feature Broadway performers and is sure to be a lot of fun. It will be followed by a wine and dessert reception with the cast. Concert tickets are a recession-friendly \$15-\$20. Tickets for the reception are \$50-\$75, and include gift bags and acknowledgement in the program. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ethicaljekyll.com or call 212-352-3101.

Adult Education: Welcome to a Parliament of the World's Religions

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen



The first Parliament of World's Religions held in Chicago in 1893

On Thursday, June 18, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, in Room 514, I will give a presentation about the 2009 meeting of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, to be held December 3-9 in Melbourne, Australia. I am an ambassador of the

Council, which was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

First held in Chicago in 1893, the Parliament brings together members of the world's religious and spiritual communities and their leaders at a gathering where peace, diversity, and sustainability are discussed and explored in the context of interreligious understanding and cooperation. Since 1993, a Parliament has convened every five years in a major international city (Chicago, 1993; Cape Town, 1999; Barcelona, 2004). Over 10,000 participants are expected to attend the event in Melbourne, a multireligious, multilingual, and multicultural city. Visit www.parliamentofreligions.org for information and to register.

Afghanistan & Pakistan: Why Are We There?

Advocacy Forum—June 17

With tensions and violence rising in Afghanistan and Pakistan, what is the U.S.'s responsibility in this region of the world and how does it affect us here at home? President Obama has inherited an extremely complex foreign relations challenge and the path ahead is anything but straightforward. Join us on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 pm for this panel discussion with James F. Hoge, Jr., editor, *Foreign*

Affairs; Gretchen Peters, journalist and author, *Seeds of Terror: How Heroin is Bankrolling the Taliban and Al Qaeda*; Professor Fawaz Gerges, the Christian A. Johnson Chair in Middle Eastern Studies and International Affairs, Sarah Lawrence College; and moderator, Vered Mallon. This program is cosponsored by the Nation Institute.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday evening, June 24, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, in Room 514, Ethics and

the Theater will present *Lou Gehrig Did Not Die of Cancer*, by Jason Miller.

As in his Pulitzer- and Tony-award-winning *That Championship Season*, Miller here uses sports as a lens through which to examine issues such as gender identity, sexual conflict, the American obsession with winning, and self-acceptance. The protagonist, Victor Spinelli, is an ex-athlete who now works for his domineering father and whose wife is less interested in their marriage than in furthering her acting career. Even Spinelli's joy in coaching a Little League team is marred by parents trying to fulfill their own ambitions through their sons. One of these parents, however, an abandoned wife who has recently moved to the area, proves to be a kindred spirit. A meeting leads to a drink, an exchange of confidences, and finally the hope of a redeeming relationship for both.

There will be a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm. Come and join in a lively discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Dr. Anne Klaeyen. Richard Van Deusen directs our talented cast, headed by Carol Nadell Van Deusen. Suggested donation is \$5.

PIC News

Abe Markman

PIC to Disband

The Public Issues Committee is set to disband at the end of June. However, we have two activities planned before then. On Sunday June 14, we will gather to write an open letter to President Obama. Once finalized, it will also be sent to state and local elected officials. We need your help to reach a consensus on some of the issues PIC has pursued. Below are some questions we will ask you to comment on:

Health Care Reform: Is there a viable alternative to a single-payer plan?

The Economy: The current policy is to wait for the economy to improve before instituting regulations. However, wouldn't it generate confidence with the public if new financial checks and balances were enacted now?

Climate Change: Will a carbon exchange work? Is there such a thing as clean coal? Should we pursue nuclear energy?

The final PIC-sponsored activity will be a June 28 discussion on Global Warming led by Curt Collier.

This committee has been a wonderful experience and we want to thank Andra Miller, Michael Kriegh, Henryka Komanska, the NYSEC Board, Tony Hileman, and Society members, and express our appreciation for the deep commitment and bottomless energy of the PIC members for their great help and support. We plan to present a full report of our work in the August *Ethical Outlook*.

If you have activities you'd like to pursue, or wish to join the committee, please join the Ethical Action Brainstorming Session with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen on June 21 at 1:30 pm in the Leaders' Office.

Social Service Board News

SSB Scholarship Program 2009

John Hwang and Valerie Leiman

The Social Service Board concluded ten years' sponsorship of four tuition scholarships to the East Harlem School at Exodus House, and the SSB Directors are announcing a new service initiative.

Two girls, ages 7 and 8, have each been awarded a one-week scholarship to the Summer Leadership Camp in Maine, a program sponsored by the Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc., staff who recommended the two children. During their stay at the camp, the girls will meet and learn about horses, and will take responsibility in the care and grooming of their own particular horse. This interaction will be a significant experience for their personal development, one which their families do not have the resources to provide.



A group of girls who attended the Leadership Camp in Maine last year with staff

* * *

SSB eBay Auction To Support Projects

Eric Norlander

The Social Service Board plans to raise funds to support its various projects by auctioning donated items on eBay. By appealing to this vast online marketplace,

we hope to establish a regular stream of income that will keep the SSB operating well into the future. Funds earned would go toward current projects such as DNA Testing, the Queens Soccer Program, and the Supervised Visitation Project, as well as help to create new projects currently on our wish list.

If you have some items that you would consider donating to the SSB for this auction, please email a description of the items (including condition, size, weight, and age) and a digital photo to me at norler1971@gmail.com, or send a written description and printed photo to: Eric Norlander, Social Service Board eBay Project, New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023. Emails will be answered promptly; actual mail will be reviewed when it can be picked up at the office.

The SSB will review each submission to assess its auction potential. Collectibles of all sorts, artwork, vintage clothing, and unique items are good candidates for acceptance. (The SSB may refuse items that don't have much chance of being bought.) If an item is accepted, arrangements will be made for a time to drop it off at the SSB office, or in some cases pickup can be arranged.

Hudson River Hike

Chris Bernstein

April's warm, sunny weather was ideal for this year's spring hike to Mt. Taurus in Cold Spring, NY. Eighteen intrepid NYSEC hikers made it to the top of the mountain, where this picture was taken. A couple of hours later, exhausted but happy, we were back in Cold Spring, where we leisurely shared food, drink, and conversation at an outdoor cafe before catching the train back to New York City. We all had a wonderful day.



NYSEC's happy hikers

Heritage Collection Arts and Archives

Remarks given by Dr. Ruth Cohen at the Annual Meeting:

"I am pleased to inform you that just in time for today's meeting, in time to celebrate Founder's Day, and in anticipation of a celebration in 2010 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of our Society building, the Society has received from the estate and family of our late Leader John Lovejoy Elliott, an unrestricted gift of a beautiful carved statue of the familiar, iconic figures in our Auditorium—The Family of Man, the Community of Man. (These names were created by me to describe these statues when I lead tours of the building.) The statue was created by Estelle Rumboldt Kohn, the wife of the architect of our building, Robert D. Kohn, c. 1910. It is carved of walnut. It stands approximately 20" high, x 11" wide on a base that is 2" x 4" deep.

"The statue is a very desirable addition to our Heritage Collection and Archives. It was in the room and was shown to the members by Eric. We would like to know, by a show of hands, if any of you would like to own an exact replica of this statue, as a piece of memorabilia of the Society for your own collection. We will need a further evaluation to learn what the costs of reproduction will be. We will report back to you. At present, the statue may be viewed by appointment only. Call the Leaders' Office."



Your Legacy Begins Now...

When you support the New York Society for Ethical Culture, you become an integral part of our rich 130+ year history promoting progressive values, furthering social justice and giving voice to those who otherwise might not be heard.

Creating a legacy is not reserved for the wealthy. Your gift, large or small, makes a difference. Charitable bequests and estate gifts to NYSEC come in all shapes and sizes and are as different as the people who create them.

Giving to NYSEC as part of your estate planning is a sensible and simple way to create your legacy and impact the future.

YES! Please send me information on how to include the New York Society for Ethical Culture in my will or living trust.

I have already included the New York Society for Ethical Culture in my estate plans.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Mail to: Julie Blutstein, New York Society for Ethical Culture
2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023
or contact by phone 212.874.5210x144
or email jblutstein@nysec.org.

All replies are confidential.



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Past



NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
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CULTURE**

Commitment to the

Present



Legacy for the

Future

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CULTURE**

June 2009

Office hours for the month are: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–5:30 pm
 Friday, 9:00 am–1:30 pm
 Shelter: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 July 2009 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	2 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:00 pm – SSB Dinner for the Homeless Shelter	3 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception 7:30 pm – Great Books	4 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Friendship Delegation Slideshow	5 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film – <i>Forbidden Planet</i> . Doors open 6:30 pm; \$5 donation, snacks and drinks.	6 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
7 10:00 am – Singing Practice 10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Ethical Endings	8 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	9	10 3:00 pm – ECRDG 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT	11 AEU Assembly → 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Money-Driven Medicine 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	12 AEU Assembly →	13 AEU Assembly → 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
14 AEU Assembly Ends 10:00 am – Colloquy 10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – PIC News Club	15 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Jekyll & Hyde In Concert	16 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	17 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:00 pm – Advocacy Forum II 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	18 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Adult Education 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	19	20 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
21 Father's Day 10:00 am – Caring Committee 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – Ethical Action	22 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 6:30 pm – Program Council	23	24 6:00 pm – Discussing Ethical Issues Group 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	25 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	26 11:00 am – Ethics on the Air	27 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
28 10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – PIC News Club	29 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	30	Great Books: June 3 – TBD ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) June 10 – Evelyn Waugh, <i>Scoop</i> Great Books: Great Conversation II June 17 – Max Planck, <i>Physics and World Philosophy</i>			