

# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

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

## **Sunday Morning Meetings** 11:30 AM—Auditorium

**March 7**  
**Marriage, Straight or Gay:  
What's Ethics Got To Do With It?**  
*Dr. Khoren Arisian*  
Senior Leader  
Bonnie Bean Presides

**March 14**  
**The Sexual Revolution: Phase Two**  
*Dr. Alice K. Ladas*  
Psychologist and Author  
Society Member  
Dr. Khoren Arisian Presides

**March 21**  
**Ethical Dilemmas In Personal  
Decisions: Balancing Principle  
and Context**  
*Dr. Khoren Arisian*  
Senior Leader  
Muriel Berger Presides

**March 28**  
**Women & Ending Hunger: The  
Inextricable Link**  
*Joan Holmes*  
President of the Hunger Project  
Principal Author of Ending  
Hunger: An Idea Whose Time  
Has Come  
Leigh McKay Presides

*Invite a  
Friend  
on  
Sunday*

## **March Happenings**

**Sunday, March 7, Book Sale** to augment our DNA testing fund for death row prisoners. Please see page 5 for details.

**Monday, March 15, “The Joy of Personal Writing”** workshop begins. Details are on page 5.

## **From the Leader's Desk**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*



### **Moving Boldly “Big Time”**

The above title of my remarks might seem to smack a bit of melodramatic over-reaching, but I hope not. For we have no choice but to seize our future anew if we are to make our institutional mark upon this city. Recall the fabled phoenix, an ancient symbol of recurring hope. According to Hans Christian Andersen, the phoenix came to life in the first rose on a bush beneath the Tree of Knowledge in Paradise. Its “flight was like the flashing of light...” When the fruit was plucked and Adam and Eve ejected from the Garden of Eden, a spark from the guardian cherub's flaming sword dropped into the nest, igniting a fire that engulfed the bird. Yet from another egg in the nest a new bird fluttered aloft which, according to one tradition, soars for 500 years only to return to its abode and be immolated, and like its predecessors, be succeeded by yet another incarnation of the phoenix.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Sunday Morning Meetings**

**March 7—Marriage, Straight or Gay: What's Ethics Got to Do With It?**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*  
Senior Leader

For too long, traditional cultural arrangements have been accepted as a matter of course, but no longer. The decision late last year by the Episcopal Church USA to ordain an openly gay bishop instigated a spate of church switching, for some adherents, merely the last straw in what was perceived as a downward departure from orthodoxy. This inevitably elicited a counterpoise from traditionalists, including President Bush who indicated he'd countenance, as a last resort, a constitutional amendment that would decree legal marriage as that solely between a man and a woman. For religious conservatives who constitute Bush's political base, this seems almost to be a matter of life and death! For many “straights,” what they don't know, namely—that homosexuality is as natural a genetic predisposition as is heterosexuality and that both preconditions dictate different sexual lifestyles—makes them fearful, confused, angry, and unaccepting.

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**Ethical Culture: Who We Are**

**From “The Basis and Obligations of Ethical Fellowship”  
 By Percival Chubb, Assistant Leader, November 1909**

Thanks to Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Archivist

What should membership in a Society for Ethical Culture mean? A pledge of moral endeavor and search, not a pledge of intellectual conformity; an effort to live the good life, to define it for self-guidance, and to find a sure foundation for it, but not the acceptance of any authoritative definition of it; a desire by one’s own life and through associated effort to forward moral progress, but not submission to any collective or majority interpretation of what moral progress means.

The necessity of adopting such a general position as this may be brought home by a perception of the impossibility of majority rule in associations for moral or spiritual ends. Majority rule is an expediency of political and business life and government. It involves no change of mind or surrender of conviction on the part of the minority; it is a method of compulsion to action, when action of some sort is called for. Where moral ends are concerned, compulsion is out of the question. Unanimity as well as unity of spirit is to be striven for, but unanimity without majority domination—the unanimity that results from the clarification of ideas by discussion and research, animated by a desire, not for victory, but for help.

## Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

On February 1, 2004 we inaugurated our freshly renovated auditorium "big time" with *New York Times* columnist and Princeton University Professor Paul Krugman speaking on "The Present National Crisis and America's Future" to 700 people who had eagerly turned out to hear an insightful and hard-hitting message delivered, more or less extemporaneously, with charm, humor and frankness. My appreciative description of this event is not meant in the least to detract from the quality of the other Sunday Meetings that have thus far been held in our reborn physical space. (I'm particularly fond of the magnificent scalloped ceiling that envelops the whole auditorium like a worldly benediction.)

There's something to be said about human beings massing together in large numbers for a common purpose out of

*There's something to be said about human beings massing together in large numbers for a common purpose out of a common need....we feel enlarged, energized, and part of a bigger undertaking. In short, we are momentarily more than the sum of our parts.*

a common need. By their very clustering, they exude a sense of anticipation, excitement, fulfillment, hope and freshly renovated space can enhance the whole experience of being there, enveloping us and intensifying a shared anticipation; we feel enlarged, energized, and part of a bigger undertaking. In short, we are momentarily more than the sum of our parts.

Conversely, if, say, only a 100 or so of us are present at any one time in such a space we can easily feel less than the sum of our numbers: we rattle around, there being too many empty spaces between us; we're spread out rather than sitting close together. What's happening on stage consequently has to make up for our small number, causing us perhaps to expect more but give less of ourselves emotionally to the occasion.

I hope I'm making some sense here. In a late fall, 2003 issue of the Baltimore Ethical Society's newsletter, its President noted that their Leader's splendid talks were hardly being complemented by the frequently low attendance of members in their larger and better hotel meeting space; there was a lack of newcomers as well. Apparently that situation has begun to be significantly improved as of the beginning of the new year. If a sense of significance and excitement still abides, but emanates

mostly from the energy of the presentation, the question arises—don't listeners have some responsibility to respond, bring friends, etc.? Indeed, the bigger an attractive space, the more people it requires to make it come alive. *Human presence* in the form of critical mass is essential, as we witnessed here on February 1. Everyone is

important, everyone counts, everyone has the fire of life in him- and herself; everyone has a chance to make a difference. It wasn't just Paul Krugman who made the Sunday gathering the lively event it proved to be; even more was it all those, including many of you, who made that possible *by your presence*: such is ethical synergy!

To finally be back in our veritable sanctuary is a thrill; we shall quickly get back our groove; there's much good work for us to do together, including the task of taking back our country piece by piece and—like the phoenix—recreating it by reinhabiting it as the active citizenry we can and should be. So let's be alert to whatever "big-time" programming comes along this year, and in the process become big-hearted in our participation with one another in taking advantage of it. We have an opportunity to jump-start a new future, to become more than the sum of our parts. People will not, in the first instance, be attracted to us merely because we are Ethical Culturists, but because they find us to be a vibrant, engaged, and caring community that they want to join and thereby become even more of who they truly are and wish to be.

**Correction:** In last month's *Ethical Outlook*, the final lines of "President's Notes" were inadvertently omitted. The paragraph should have read: "Getting noticed, increasing our membership, raising funds, and balancing our budget are our challenges for the coming months and years. We've come a long way. We have a long way to go."

## Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

The consequence is rampant discrimination and, in some instances, violence and death, as in the tragic case of Matthew Shephard in Laramie, Wyoming a few years ago. Progress in this arena of human interaction is growing, however: New Jersey has

recently extended some, not all marital benefits, to same-sex couples; Massachusetts' highest court has decreed that gays should be allowed to marry; civil unions—which have no legal bearing—have already been conducted for some time. In short, the debate over gay partnership laws is heating up and will intensify during this politically polarized year as we hurtle toward the watershed elections of 2004. This whole conundrum comes down to the issue of basic rights and the ethics of human relationships. Can we not live significant lives without the sexual world being a comfortingly exclusive mirror image of who we happen to be? Meanwhile, whatever happened to such ideals as diversity, pluralism, etc? Not least, how can we justify a Constitutional provision that denies marital rights to a specific group of human beings? Marriage may be a sacrament, but it is first of all a civil contract.

**March 14—The Sexual Revolution:  
Phase Two**

*Dr. Alice K. Ladas  
Psychologist and Author  
Society Member*

Revolutions go through phases and the sexual revolution is no exception. Phase One began with the seminal books of Wilhelm Reich and the comprehensive statistical information about our sexual lives by Kinsey et al. in the 1940s. It continued with the experiment laboratory work of Masters and Johnson in the 1950s and peaked in 1982 with *The G Spot* by Ladas, Whipple, and Perry. These sex researchers and their books brought a scientific viewpoint to sexuality and a greater openness to look at this vital aspect of human experience.

Along with the advent of more and more reliable methods of birth control came an urgent desire to cast off

the puritanical mantle of silence and ignorance that had surrounded sexuality in the United States. This desire manifested itself dramatically in the “hippie” and “free love” movements of the 1960s and '70s. Great advances were made in liberating ourselves from puritanical restrictions. Women reclaimed their right to sexual expression. Phase One, however, was not only liberating and informative, it was also destructive. In our zeal to overthrow the puritanical anti-pleasure paradigm, we failed to replace it with a new one which preserved what was valuable while eliminating what was life-negating. Although many experienced safer, more loving sexual encounters, there were also far too many casualties. Families were hurt. The divorce rate escalated. An epidemic of unmarried teen-aged mothers and sexually transmitted diseases erupted. Many children of the revolutionaries felt overwhelmed and confused.

If the dreams and aspirations of Phase Two are to be realized, we must create a culture which encourages connectedness between consistent loving caretakers (hopefully both mother and father) and every child.

Dr. Alice Kahn Ladas, a grandmother of the sexual revolution and the first of three authors of the aforementioned celebrated *New York Times* bestseller, *The G Spot and Other Discoveries About Human Sexuality*, experienced personally and professionally the ramifications of Phases One and Two. A licensed psychologist and diplomate in sex therapy, Dr. Ladas has been a member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture for over 60 years.

**March 21—Ethical Dilemmas in  
Personal Decisions: Balancing  
Principle and Context**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian  
Senior Leader*

Perhaps the greatest challenge to every religion is to craft a viable ethical theory—as consonant as possible with reality—that helps its adherents make principled personal decisions in their private, public, and professional lives. Such decisions are not made in a vacuum, but in some *context* of space, time, history, and culture. During the turbulent anti-authority decade of the 1960s a liberating moral concept known as “situational ethics” became popular. This represented a 180-degree turn, a reversal, of the absolute claims usually attached to longtime traditional religious principles affirming certain attitudes and actions as either wholly wrong or wholly right, no grey areas allowed, only black and white. “Situational ethics” was thus allotted majority status in the context of personal decision-making, almost to the exclusion of principle.

At this late stage in the modern era we surely can be more sophisticated and nuanced in our moral judgments. While the demands of context and of principle are equally legitimate, more often than not, one or the other carries predominating weight, which then points in the direction of what the more appropriate decision might be. Ours, then, is an open democratic approach leading to a humanist ethos bereft of God-sanctioned certainties (and who does the sanctioning but ordinary mortals?).

In *The Brothers Karamazov* Dostoevsky asserts that if there is no God then “everything is permitted” – an impressive conclusion, but wrong. If God is the rock that saves us from moral chaos, the question arises, who says so and with what empirical evidence? Our first experience in life is neither religious nor theological but ethical. The moment we're born, we start reaching out, relating, seeking

compass points by which to locate ourselves. For whenever we think morals are metaphysically derived, we lose the wise secular touch that keeps us grounded in ourselves and thus in reality. There's no better guide than this in reaching for balance in decision-making between principle and context.

Ethics has power, not just weaponry, official status, or bulging muscles. The more we live out of the ethical ideal, the stronger and more assured we become. Let's look at how it works.

**March 28 – Women & Ending Hunger: The Inextricable Link**

*Joan Holmes*

*President of the Hunger Project*

*Principal Author of Ending Hunger: An Idea Whose Time Has Come*

Joan Holmes has led The Hunger Project since its inception in 1977, focusing her exceptional talents on its mission—to end chronic hunger throughout the world. She has pio-



neered new approaches that empower thousands of people and has built THP into an influential strategic organization and a worldwide movement that unites the likes of Nelson Mandela and Women Food Farmers in its cause.

In 2003, Ms. Holmes testified before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus about how chronic hunger and the status and condition of women are connected. Join us as Ms. Holmes presents the research that proves this inextricable link and the inspirational stories of women throughout the world who, together with THP, are not only ending hunger but are changing their cultures and their belief in a woman's right to a full and fulfilling life.

**Sunday Activities Mornings 10:30**

- February 29 Coffee in Shelter
- March 7 Readings, Ethical Leaders
- March 14 Colloquy
- March 21 Poetry
- March 28 Yoga Meditation

**Afternoons 1:45**

- February 29 Film: Paul Wellstone
- March 7 Ethics in the News
- March 14 Ethics Study
- March 21 Video & discussion: Media
- March 28 Film: *Standing on my Sisters' Shoulders*

**Ethical Action Committee**

*Christine Swann and Carol Rost, Co-Chairs*

**Book Sale:** If you read this before March 7, the date of our upcoming fund-raising book sale, you still have time to donate books and CDs—and to come and buy them! The proceeds will go to our fund for DNA testing for prisoners on death row. We have already helped three prisoners, all of whom have been exonerated and have written us moving letters of gratitude. We had a very successful sale last year and would like to make this even more so.

**March for Women's Lives:** save the date and join us! Sadly, this march to protect women's reproductive rights has now become an annual event. As the current administration continues both publicly and behind-the-scenes to chip away at women's rights, the need to make our voices heard and show our concern has become extremely urgent. There are several sponsors; for more information, check the following: <http://www.marchforchoice.org> and

<http://www.naral.org/takeaction/march.cfm>. We will be organizing a group and would like it to be as large as possible, both to support this important cause and to show the Ethical Culture Society in action. There are flyers and sign-up sheets available—or e-mail [EthicalCulture@NYSEC.org](mailto:EthicalCulture@NYSEC.org) with April 25 March in the subject line—or contact Carol or Christine.

**Voter Registration and Getting Out the Vote:** we'd like to work on this, but it is best done at local political party offices. We cannot support any particular party but will make addresses and contacts available for members and encourage them to volunteer. We will also have voter registration forms available.

**The Joy of Personal Writing**

*Elaine Berman*

**A New York Society Writing Workshop**

The Membership Services Committee is sponsoring an ongoing writing workshop at Ethical Culture, "The Joy of Personal Writing." We envision it as an opportunity to work together as a circle of writers on memoir writing, journal writing, essays, humor, and more. Our efforts will be focused more on developing our creativity than on "writing correctly," so it will be useful for people who want to try writing for the first time as well as for more experienced writers.

Elaine Berman will set up and lead the workshop. For more than 30 years, she has worked as an educational and corporate writer, and has also written plays, and articles. Her desire to start a workshop here was sparked by her

own experiences in writing classes and workshops, where she has seen how people can begin writing, increase the writing skills they already have, amaze themselves with their own creativity, and have a very good time.

If you are interested in joining or want more information, please call Elaine at 212-628-7529. If enough people indicate interest, the workshop will start on March 15.

## First Annual Birthday Party Potluck

*Latanya Frazier*

**Friday, March 26 at 6:30 pm**

When was the last time you celebrated the unique individual that is “YOU”? Well, if you have not it’s about high time you did! You will be the guest of honor as we celebrate your birthday. Come meet somebody new and rekindle old acquaintances as this promises to be a festive evening of fun, music, dancing and games. Please bring an entrée or side dish that four people can share and we will provide the rest; also look for our reservation sheets in the Sunday Morning Program.

Sponsored by the Membership Services Committee.

## Caring Committee

*Stephanie Rosenblatt*

The Caring Committee needs additional active members. Collecting books for disadvantaged children and toilet articles for the homeless; serving Thanksgiving meals to the needy; phoning, visiting, and shopping for the homebound; and bringing us your new ideas.

Please call Stephanie Rosenblatt at 212-586-0017.

## From the Membership Director

*Suzy Frazer*

It’s been a blurry yet delightful first few weeks here as Membership Director! Thank you SO much to all who have helped me get a grasp/grip (however faint).

The Membership Growth Committee would like to start an initiative to bring in some new visitors – let’s call it “Adopt-a-University!” I know many members have close ties to several institutions and we’d love to talk to you about creating strong links to the students, personally inviting them here for Sundays or other events, trying out internship positions here, etc.

More news in upcoming weeks re a possible playwrights group(s) with work featuring social and global issues, comedy nights, and a children’s workshop.

Please contact me with any and all ideas at 212-874-5210 ext 113, or e-mail at [sfrazer@nysec.org](mailto:sfrazer@nysec.org).

## Building Committee

*Dr. Ruth Cohen*

The Building Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank Administration and Maintenance for the careful, cautious crating, storing, cleaning, and reinstalling of the Auditorium’s stained-glass windows. Thank you for a job well done. Now, as we commence planning for the Fall Musical Benefit, we can announce the date: Sunday, October 24, at 2:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you at this most interesting and diverse program. Further details will follow.

## Islam Through Muslim Eyes

**A new course, presented by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf and speakers from the ASMA (American Sufi Muslim Association) Society Thursdays, February 26, March 4, 11, 18, 6:30-8:30 pm**

This course will cover Islam’s creed and rituals, beliefs, sources of faith, relationship to Judaism and Christianity, spirituality (Sufism), and topics selected by the speakers.

Members: \$35, Non-members: \$50  
Call the Leader’s office to register.  
It *may* be possible to register after February 26.

## SSB Benefit Film Showing a Success

*Valerie Leiman*

Thirty-five intrepid Ethical Culturists and friends braved a chilling 13-degree evening on January 23 providing an enthusiastic audience for the Pulitzer Prize-winning film, *On the Waterfront*, and Richard Bruno’s masterful interpretation of the film.

Following a stimulating discussion led by Richard was a raffle of the 2003 book, *The New Biographical Dictionary of Film*; Abe Markman won. There was a surprise donation from Richard of the DVD shown to another lucky winner, Tom Weishaar. The event, a benefit for the Scholarship Project of the Social Service Board, netted \$473.

## Our Ethical Family

*Suzy Frazer*

### New Members:

**Marc Bernstein**—yes, our very own excellent *Archivist* here at Ethical Culture will become a member, as will his wife, **Marlane**. They are also members of the Westchester Society, but wanted to demonstrate their support for the New York branch, especially after attending the recent talk by Paul Krugman.

**Mark Hofmaier** is an actor and presentation coach for job applicants, execs, etc. He would like to get involved in our Ethical Action program and other groups. (He is also the husband of—yes, Susanna Frazer!)

**Ildiko Nyari** is an expert in computer consulting and comes from the Austrian area. She has attended many meetings here, as well as our orientation. Ildiko is eager to get involved in Society projects and events.

**Marlene Stowe** is a designer of fine luxury goods, with her own business, which takes her around the world. She lived in France for many years. Marlene first heard about Ethical Culture from our broadcasts on WQXR and hopes to get involved in worthwhile projects here when she can.

**Alan D. Tucker** is Vice President of Oxygen Advertising and a residential sales associate at The Halstead Property Company. His background is in publishing, editing and marketing, and his interests include playing chamber music (oboe) and reading political philosophy. He was introduced to the Society by his good friend, Jim Farer.

**Les Graifman** has been reinstated to membership.

### News of Our Members:

**Anne Gwynn** is recovering nicely from surgery, at home. Please give her a call.

## It's Not Too Late to Get Your Newsletter Fast!

Save the Society about \$50 a year by receiving your newsletter as an e-mail attachment.

If you want to receive your newsletters in PDF format, please send an e-mail to Deborah Foster (dfoster@nysec.org) requesting that you be put on the list. Each month Deborah will e-mail you with the newsletter as an attachment. Click on the attachment and the document will open. You may print it if you wish. Your name will be removed from the post office mailing list.

Documents in PDF, Portable Document Format, can be read by Acrobat Reader. The reader can be obtained free from Adobe, <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. (If you have a slow internet connection, downloading the Reader may take some time.) It is worthwhile obtaining Acrobat Reader because much material on the Internet is in PDF Form.

Questions? Call Sylvan Wallach at 212-874-7437 or e-mail at [swallach@i-2000.com](mailto:swallach@i-2000.com).

## It's Your Newsletter

Let's have your stuff: Letters to the Editor and articles relevant to Ethical Culture. And if you have artistic or literary leanings, send in your poetry, photographs, and art work. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial review.

"If something is in me which can be called religious then it is the unbounded admiration for the structure of the world so far as our science can reveal it..."

What I see in Nature is a magnificent structure that we can comprehend only imperfectly, and that must fill a thinking person with a feeling of humility. This is a genuinely religious feeling that has nothing to do with mysticism."

*Albert Einstein*

Quoted by Richard Dawkins  
Free Inquiry, February/March  
2004

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey work of the stars,

And the pismire is equally perfect, and a grain of sand, and the egg of the wren,

And the tree-toad is a chef-d'oeuvre for the highest,

And the running blackberry would adorn the parlors of heaven,

And the narrowest hinge in my hand puts to scorn all machinery,

And the cow crunching with depress'd head surpasses any statue,

And a mouse is miracle enough to stagger sextillions of infidels.

*Walt Whitman*  
From "Song of Myself"



Pictures by Jim Farer

## Paul Krugman Attracts SRO Crowd to the Society

(article abbreviated)  
*Warren Allen Smith*

Dr. Paul Krugman, the Princeton economist who writes op-ed articles twice a week in *The New York Times*, spoke to a standing-room-only audience on February 1 at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. After his talk, and with professorial humor, he answered questions from the audience. Following are some of his comments.

It will take a long, long time to repair the damage that Bush, the legislators, and the judges have wreaked.... The radical right is in control. Even when it is stopped, our country will never again be the same. The media is guilty for not having exposed this and, in fact, have gone along. Many of our

political leaders also share the blame. We as a people have become inured to believing lies! Advertisers lie in order to make profits. Friends and acquaintances lie. People in charge lie to those who are not in charge.

The radical right wing...is supported by corporate elements, religious fundamentalists, and powerful political conservatives. Budget statistics are deliberately falsified, then corrected at a later date and with a greater deceit than ever before dared in Washington. Included are Bechtel, Halliburton, Fox News, Coors, Republican senators (who toe the line because otherwise they will not receive support now or even after they leave office), Democrats who have embarrassingly changed their goals, new conservative politicians, anti-environmentalists, and others. They are literally combining forces with the religious right for their personal gain. Religionists at one time represented goodness.

One goal of the radical right is to arrange the tax setup in such a way

that the rich are favored and burdens are shifted to the states. Some members of the media are part of this right-wing machine; e.g., Fox News. Others balance their reports in such a way that readers read slanted articles that do not make the facts clear, e.g. "The earth is not flat, but some think otherwise."

Alleged scandals during the Clinton era were never proven. Now we have corporate heroes providing really huge corporate scandals....

The last election was rigged, and any acceptance of paperless voting will result in further rigging. This can be crucial because in states where voting is almost evenly divided it will be easy to rig the voting machines (manufactured by Diebold, a major supporter of the radical right causes)....

Although matters are egregiously bad, we are not stuck with economic disappointment, bad leadership, and the lies of the powerful. We can better understand how the system got to this sorry state, and it is our patriotic duty to repair that considerable damage.

**Please sign**

**Petition** to rescind President Bush’s tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, which disproportionately benefit the very wealthy.

**NOTE:** *The New York Times* 10/9/03 *Move On*: “Why not allocate equal funds for critical domestic needs? Both guns and butter could be funded by rolling back that portion of the Bush tax cuts that benefit the very wealthy.”

**Petition**

**To the U.S. Congress**

*It’s a Matter of Fairness: Rescind the Federal Tax Cuts*

The tax cuts pushed by the Bush Administration and approved by Congress in June 2001 and May 2003 starve federal programs of needed funding and increase the burdens on struggling local governments while doing little to help the vast majority of Americans or to stimulate the economy.

- The 2001 cuts will mainly benefit the wealthiest 1 percent; those approved in 2003 benefit the top 5 percent. According to Michael Kinsley, writing in the June 2, 2003 issue of *Time*, the tax reductions “represent an extraordinary, even radical, shift of the tax burden from the rich to the middle class.”
- The country has gone from a 10-year projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion to an estimated deficit of \$450 billion for 2003 and \$475 billion for 2004.
- The huge deficits will have a severe impact on federal programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Already, before the cuts go into effect, environmental and educational programs are underfunded. According to the Council for Foreign Relations, as quoted in *The New York Times*, spending on even vitally important homeland security has been inadequate.
- States and localities are already struggling with deficits of their own, which have driven up local taxes and fees and curtailed important services. Projected deficits at the federal level make it unlikely that local governments will get any financial help from the federal government, which continues to push responsibilities onto the states without providing them with the needed money.

*There is still time to act. Let your representatives know where you stand.*

SIGNATURE	NAME	ADDRESS (APT AND ZIP)	PHONE	EMAIL

Please return to Maria Feliz Fridman, New York Society for Ethical Culture  
 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023-7179  
 Tel-212-874-5210; fax-212-595-7258; e-mail-office@nysec.org; www.nysec.org.  
 We will forward this petition to Senators Clinton and Schumer.

# **NEW YORKERS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY**

**Co-sponsored by Ethical Action Committee of  
The New York Society for Ethical Culture**

**MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004**

**Come to Albany to:**

1. Hear from state and national leaders: State Senate Minority Leader David Paterson, NYADP Executive Director David Kaczynski, Equal Justice USA's Jane Henderson, and more.
2. Learn about NYADP's strategy for achieving a moratorium in New York State.
3. Gather with moratorium supporters from across the state.
4. Meet with legislators to discuss concerns about New York's death penalty law.
5. Collect tips on local moratorium organizing.

Legislative Office Building, Room 711A

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be available.

This event is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted to cover costs.

For travel directions or further information, contact the NYADP office at 1-888-224-6579.

## REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in meeting with your State Legislators? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please indicate your State Senator or district # \_\_\_\_\_

and State Assembly Representative or district # \_\_\_\_\_

[Find out who your representatives are by going to [www.elections.state.ny.us](http://www.elections.state.ny.us) and clicking on district maps and representatives.]

Please return this form to NYADP by email ([info@nyadp.org](mailto:info@nyadp.org)), tel 888-224-6579, or fax 518-453-6792.  
Please feel free to distribute this to other moratorium supporters.

# March 2004

(Office hours for the month: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April 2004 Newsletter Deadline	2	3	4	5	6 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
7 10:15 am – Leaders' Writings 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:00 pm – Book Sale 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News	8 5:00 pm – Caring Committee 7:30 pm – Shelter	9 6:00 pm – Women's Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	10 3:00 pm – ECRA 7:30 pm – Shelter	11 6:30 pm – Islam Through Muslim Eyes 7:30 pm – Shelter	12	13 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
14 10:00 am – Membership Growth 10:30 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Ethics Study	15 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 7:00 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	16 7:30 pm – Shelter	17 6:00 pm – Membership Services Committee 7:30 pm – Politics, Leadership, and Justice 7:30 pm – Shelter	18 6:30 pm – Islam Through Muslim Eyes 7:30 pm – Shelter	19 7:00 pm – Film Forum	20 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
21 10:00 am – Program Committee 10:00 am – Sunday Program Ctm 10:30 am – Poetry Reading 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:00 pm – Orientation 1:45 pm – Video Discussion-Media	22 7:00 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	23 7:30 pm – Shelter	24 7:30 pm – Shelter	25 6:00 pm – Ethical Action Committee 7:30 pm – Shelter	26 6:30 pm – Potluck Party	27 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
28 10:30 am – Yoga Meditation 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Film	29 7:00 pm – Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter	30 7:30 pm – Shelter	31 7:30 pm – Shelter	<b>Great Books</b> March 3 – Dante, The Inferno <b>ECRA: (Ethical Culture Retirement Activities)</b> March 10 – Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed... <b>Politics, Leadership, and Justice</b> March 17 – Lao-tzu, Poetry		

**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  
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