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(L-R) Carol Rost, Susan Needles, Chuck Debrovner and Pat Debrovner (foreground)

# Be Proud to Pledge

*Bob Berger, Committee Chair*

The **PLEDGE DRIVE COMMITTEE** would like to commend the members who have responded to our requests to turn in their pledges — their promises of what they plan to pay to support the New York Society for Ethical Culture this year. Just to make sure

our records are correct and that we have all the pledges you have made, a list of those who've specified their financial commitment to their Society is provided on page 15.

If you have turned in or called in a pledge and your name is not on the list, please

call Yolanta Kosmaczewska at 212-874-5210, ext. 104, to have the list corrected. Otherwise, if your name is not on this list, please call her to make your pledge or ask Moe-Swe Myint for a pledge card to turn in so that future lists will include your name.



*Douglas Proops and Dr. Ruth Cohen*



*(L-R) Andra Miller and Carol Van Deusen*



*Chris Everett and Beth Zucker*



*(L-R) Carol Rost and Susan Needles*

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# President's Notes

A N D R A M I L L E R

Looking for background for this month's column, I checked out my first "President's Notes" and found it was published in the July 2007 **ETHICAL OUTLOOK**. July 2007?! That means I'll have been President for six years at the end of our fiscal year in May. Wow! The last two Presidents before me were each in office for six years total, which is a rarity in Ethical Culture Societies. At most Societies, Presidents are in office for one or two years — three, tops.

So, anyway, reading that old column I see that I was fussing about pledges and fundraising. In all these years I have just gotten more and more discouraged that it is *so hard* to get many of our members to make

pledges at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year, to pay them. As far as I'm concerned, as soon as January comes, I turn in my first payment check of the new year with my new pledge amount noted on the memo line. How nice it would be for the Pledge Drive Committee if all the Members assumed that with the beginning of a new year it is time to make their pledge and be sure that their old pledge is paid.

Thanks to those who came to the Pledge Drive Dinner in January. We were pleased that a higher percentage

of attendees turned in their pledge commitments at that event than had done so the year before. We were encouraged by that — and hope that those of you who were unable to come, or came and didn't pledge, will respond promptly to the letters recently sent you asking for this year's NYSEC pledge commitment — before those pledge cards get lost in your home (as things seem to do around my place).

If you didn't come to the Pledge

Party, you missed a lovely event. Good food and drink, good company, and lots of fun; our thanks to all who worked on the event — see *Our Ethical Family* by Moe-Swe Myint on page 14.

It has been

a while since I've recognized our members who cheerfully carry on the regular programs they produce here at NYSEC. We have Ken Gans' twice-a-month **WISDOM AND WORLD AFFAIRS**, Mary Ellen Goodman's monthly **ETHICS IN THE NEWS**, Chris Everett's **ETHICS IN FILM**, Pat Debrovner's group doing **ETHICS AND THE THEATER**, Elaine Berman's class **THE JOY OF PERSONAL WRITING**, Cheryl Gross and friends doing **POETRY** and **COLLOQUY**, Valerie Leiman and Peter Houts with our **PHOTOGRAPHY ARTS CLUB**, Rob Hofman's weekly **STRENGTH**

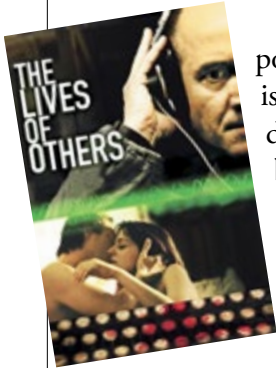
*"It has been a while since I've recognized our members who cheerfully carry on the regular programs they produce here at NYSEC."*

# Ethical Enrichment

## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7:00 PM** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall to see *The Lives of Others* (2006), directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, and starring Ulrich Mühe, Martina Gedeck, and Sebastian Koch.

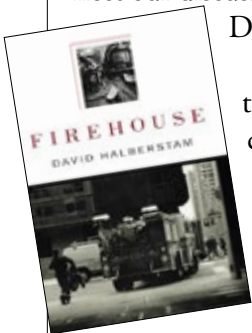


In 1984, secret police agent Wiesler is assigned to eavesdrop on a successful but possibly disloyal playwright in East Germany. As the lonely Wiesler learns more about the man and his lover, a prominent actress, he becomes fascinated by their lives.

*The suggested donation is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages.*

## Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will host our discussion on *Firehouse* by David Halberstam.



Published in 2003, this is a gripping chronicle of a company of firefighters on September 11. Engine 40, Ladder 35, the firehouse near Lincoln Center

and the New York Society, sent thirteen men to the World Trade Center, twelve of whom died.

Through interviews with surviving colleagues and family members, Halberstam pieces together the day's events and offers portraits of the men who perished — from rookie Mike D'Auria, a former chef who liked to read about Native American culture, to Captain Frank Callahan, greatly respected by the men in his company for his dedication and exacting standards.

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

## Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (2012).

Inspired by the book of the same title by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the documentary is filmed in ten countries. The series introduces women who are struggling with some of the most difficult and oppressive circumstances imaginable — including sex slavery and the systematic murder of women — and are bravely fighting to change them.

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



## SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am Ceremonial Hall, Fourth Floor

### MARCH 3

*It Keeps Getting Better*

**Robert Levithan**

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides*

### MARCH 10

*Obama, Philosophically Speaking*

**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**

*Andra Miller Presides*

### MARCH 17

*Women Around the Globe*

**Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader**

*Pat Debrovner Presides*

### MARCH 24

*A Return to Wanton Heathenism*

**Curt Collier, Leader**

*Dan Hanson Presides*

### MARCH 31

*Ethics and the Theater – The Exonerated*

*Richard Van Deusen Presides*



# Leader's Desk

DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN

## Workers Rising: A New Ethical Movement

*“Pamela Waldron makes \$7.75 an hour as a cashier at the KFC in New York’s Penn Station, where she has worked for eight years. That’s just 50 cents above the New York state minimum wage. The 26-year-old nursing student and mother of two says she has asked for a raise but her pleas have gone unheeded for weeks. Finally, on Thursday, around lunchtime she joined a protest of about 40 fast-food workers who walked out of their shifts, carrying placards and shouting slogans to bring attention to their cause of fighting for higher wages and the right to unionize.”— CNN, 11/29/12*

Pamela took part in the biggest wave of job actions in the history of America’s fast-food industry, and in April she’ll do it again, along with thousands like her across our city. Under the banner *Fast-Food Forward*, workers are demanding a \$15 hourly wage and the right to organize for improved conditions free from employer intimidation. For details contact me at the Society. I’ll be there to support her. Will you?

When you go into a fast food restaurant or a retail store, do you notice the people who serve you? Do you really see them and talk with them? I do now, but I didn’t so much until I became active in an interfaith clergy coalition for economic justice. Now I know that although the stereotypical fast food employee is a teenager

earning some money for an iPhone, the reality is very different. Nationally, the average age of the person behind the counter is 29.5 years, and among women — who make up two thirds of the industry — the median age is over 32 years.

What about retail workers? Again, although the perception is that they are primarily teenagers or students, the truth is that about 78 percent of all retail workers in New York City are 25 years and older, and half are over 35. They contribute 60 percent of their families’ income and over one-third are their families’ sole providers.

Here are four troubling facts about our city:

- 1) The unemployment rate nearly doubled from 5.3 percent in 2007 to 9.7 percent today,\* with an average duration of 42 weeks;
- 2) the percentage of New Yorkers living in poverty rose from 15 percent in 1970 to 21 percent in 2011;
- 3) according to *The New York Times* (9/20/12), “the income gap, already wider than almost anywhere else in the country, rivals disparities in sub-Saharan Africa;” and

\*14.4 percent among blacks, 12.8 percent among Hispanics, over 10 percent among people without a college degree, and 17 percent among adults aged 18-24.

*“Long gone is the employer-employee relationship with a social contract...”*

# more Ethical Enrichment

## Ethics & the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **FRIDAY, MARCH 8, AT 7:00 PM**, Ethics and the Theater will present *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller.

It's 1942; six men and a boy sit in a detention center in Vichy, France,

waiting to be examined by a "professor" and a German major. All except one, an Austrian aristocrat, are "undesirables": Jewish, gypsy, Communist.

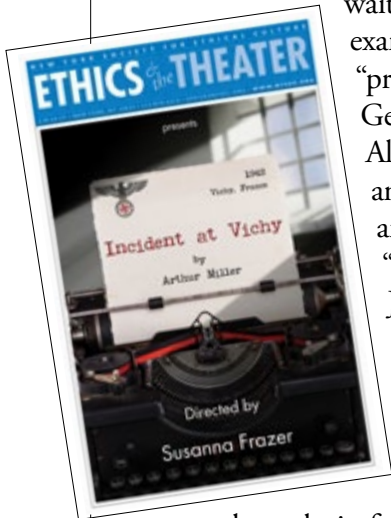
Does that one exception mean they've all been

brought in for nothing more sinister than to have their identity papers inspected? If not, what can be done — by the detainees themselves and by those, neither victim nor victimizer, who bear witness?

Miller's characters struggle to find answers to these questions that will allow them to reclaim their humanity in a world in which, as the major states, "there are no persons any more."

Susanna Frazer directs our cast. Come at 6:30 pm for a reception and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Dr. Anne Klaeyens.

*The suggested donation is \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.*



## Choose Your Food: A Fresh Approach to Health and Nutrition

A new eight-session course, *A Fresh Approach to Health and Nutrition*, presented by Elizabeth Collier, Certified Holistic Health Coach, will help you revitalize your health and wellness. Elizabeth's holistic approach and philosophy of self-care will give you the tools to make sustainable changes and achieve your goals. She will cover topics including processed foods vs. whole foods; medications and the pharmaceutical industry; cravings and sugar addiction; emotional eating, dieting, and cultural norms; exercise; stress reduction; and more. Classes will be held on alternating **MONDAYS, BEGINNING MARCH 11, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

*The cost for members is \$60; for guests: \$90. To register contact Yalitza Garcia at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org), or 212-874-5210, ext. 118.*



### NOT A MEMBER?

All the more reason to attend one of our **Enrichment Activities.**

Contributions for nonmembers are usually only \$5.

## Workers Rising: A New Ethical Movement *(continued)*

- 4) the growing sectors of the city's economy feature low-wage, no-benefit jobs with no hope for upward mobility.

At a recent symposium hosted by CUNY's Murphy Institute Labor Center, I met workers who walk hours to their jobs because they can't afford public transportation and who are forced into "underemployment" because employers keep their schedules in constant flux, requiring them to call in to find out whether they should come in to work. Long gone is the employer-employee relationship with a social contract; businesses want temporary workers, independent contractors, and "free agents" so that they need not pay workers compensation, health benefits, social security, pension, etc.

But 2013 will be a turning point for New York City. Inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement that drew attention to stark income/wealth inequality and challenged the dominant logic of social organizing, workers are creating new campaigns demanding an end to employment violations and standing up for a living wage. Below are four sets of actions that NYC government could take to improve life for low-wage workers. You can read the entire report at the following links: *Workers Rising: Organizing Service Jobs for Shared Prosperity in New York City*, at <http://unitedny.org/files/2012/07/UNY-Workers-Rising-Report-part-1.pdf> and <http://unitedny.org/files/2012/07/UNY-Workers-Rising-Report-Part-2.pdf>.

First, the City should raise standards for low wage work by passing

legislation to guarantee at least five days of paid sick leave for workers – such as the Earned Sick Leave Act – and to protect workers from erratic and unpredictable scheduling that keeps them in poverty – such as the Predictable Scheduling Act.

Second, New York should regulate high-violation industries where wages are low and labor abuses are rampant by passing laws like the Car Wash Accountability Act and establishing an enhanced privilege permitting system at Port Authority airports. Such policies should impose new licensing or permitting requirements, tighten environmental and safety standards, and implement other tailored policies that increase oversight of the lowest-wage, highest-violation industries.

Third, in order to ensure that these new rights make a meaningful difference in workers' lives, the City should establish a Mayor's Office of Labor Standards to educate employers about their obligations, investigate complaints by workers that employers are violating the law, and bring enforcement actions in particularly egregious cases.

Fourth, New York City should pass a resolution urging the State to modify the City's home rule authority so that the City can set a minimum wage that is higher than the state minimum, reflecting the high cost of living here.

I plan to stand together with my fellow New Yorkers in April, and I hope you will join me. This is an ethical movement not only for economic justice but also for dignity and respect on the job.



# more Ethical Enrichment

## What Does Globalization and a Multicultural World Require of Humanity?

Join us on **WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 AND 20, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a dialogue on the vision of *The Coming Interspiritual Age*, moderated by its coauthor, Dr. Kurt Johnson (and published by Namaste Publishers).

In this new book, Dr. Johnson, a longtime Ethical Culture member, authority on comparative religions, and evolutionary biologist, will discuss the implications of a globalizing and multiculturalized world. He predicts that religions will meet “somewhere in the middle” based on their shared ethical and behavioral ideals, just as Felix Adler envisioned when he founded Ethical Culture, whose motto of “Deed Over Creed” is now embraced by most of the world’s movements for transformative change.

Here are questions for both Humanists and nonHumanists: Can Humanism join the rest of the world’s “religious communities” in taking a “universal path,” or has it become parochially secular? What do the world’s “religious and spiritual communities” have to teach, and also learn, from their own challenge to foster a universal path from their followers? Can we achieve Adler’s vision of an “Ethical Manifold” expressed by the founders of “Interspirituality” as “Discovering a Universal Understanding of the World’s Religions”?

*For more information, or to register, contact Yalitza Garcia at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org), or 212-874-5210, ext. 118. These sessions are free.*



## Introduction to Humanism

Ethical Culture fits under the large tent of Humanism. It didn’t start that way, though; founder Felix Adler was an Idealist philosopher, not a Humanist.

Since 1963, in a statement made by the National Leaders Council, Ethical Culture has acknowledged its evolving Humanist philosophy, while still maintaining a primary emphasis on ethics.

This spring, we hope you will join Leader Anne Klaeyesen, co-Dean of the Humanist Institute for Graduate Studies, moderator, as she explores the history of Humanism in the U.S., its major influences, and the major players and organizations of today.

**SIX SESSIONS WILL BE HELD ON ALTERNATING THURSDAYS, BEGINNING MARCH 14 (March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23) FROM 6:30 TO 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

*The course is free, but registration is required. To register, contact Yalitza Garcia at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org), or 212-874-5210, ext. 118.*



## President’s Notes *(continued)*

**EXERCISE CLASS**, Pat Debrovner again with **CHORUS REHEARSAL**, Phyllis Kreuttner and Carol Rost’s **LIFE WITH HEALTH**, Bonnie Bean and group doing **ETHICAL ADVENTURES**, and the class sessions from time to time on philosophy by John Gurney.

And this doesn’t include all the volunteers who plan and staff the Sunday Platform Meetings and the lunches, or who serve on the Board and Committees — or the programs and projects designed, produced, and facilitated by our employees and Leaders. There are just too many to name, but we are all grateful to you all — and we are planning a recognition luncheon the day of the Annual Meeting, May 5.

If you aren’t at the party for my 75th birthday, you’ll still have the chance to say happy birthday on the actual day, March 10th, when I’ll be presiding! Thanks to all who’ve already sent their good wishes. Bless you all!

*“The core of the SSB is a belief that Ethics inspire authentic self-esteem; motivate our dynamic social conscience; and demonstrate the love, care, and trust that are the human glue of our multi-dimensional democracy.”*

## Inside Ethical



ELINORE KAPLAN



NICOLA DEMARCO

## Social Service Board (SSB)

Felix Adler established not only The New York Society for Ethical Culture, but also its social action arm, the Social Service Board (SSB). For more than a century Ethical has been affiliated with United Social Services, Inc. and the Social Service Board, a secular association dedicated to bringing social justice through social service.

The Board lives by its creed of “Putting Ethics into Action” (Adler’s “Deed over Creed”) by overseeing ongoing projects and proposing new ones in which the Society is or can become involved. Here are the current Ethical SSB ongoing programs and projects:

*Empowering Ethical Elders (EEE):* Experts make presentations on a range of issues facing seniors, their caregivers, families, and friends. The focus of the series is on learning to protect and promote good health – physical, mental, and emotional – and empowering people to make informed decisions about health care and social support, and to measurably improve quality of life. The series is free, and light refreshments are served. EEE meets every other Thursday evening at 6 pm. (Check their website for upcoming topics: [www.socialserviceboard.org](http://www.socialserviceboard.org).)

*The Homeless Women’s Shelter:* Women who are temporarily homeless and receiving support and training to empower them to gain jobs and homes are given shelter here, with the assistance of Ethical volunteers.

*The La Liga Soccer Project:* Dozens of immigrant children of all ages receive financial and logistical support through the power of sport and togetherness.

*The Homeless Artists Project:* Talented individuals maintain their talent, integrity, and hope via workshops and annual performances before appreciative audiences.

*Children to Summer Camp:* Funding is provided to help the Puerto Rican Family Institute give children the experience of a riding camp. The Institute is a nationally recognized leader in the field of social, educational, child placement, prevention, and mental health services. It provides an array of services that are culturally and linguistically relevant to children, youth, adults, and families, regardless of their ethnic, gender, or cultural background.



*The Creative Arts Success Academy:* Supports formerly incarcerated youths.

*Young Adults to College:* Provides scholarships through The Osborne Association of New York, which gives young men and women who have been in conflict with the law opportunities for reform and rehabilitation through education, respecting their dignity and honoring their capability to change.

*Expanded Library Services:* Supports the Northside Center for Child Development, which annually provides education and mental health services to over 2,700 New York City children and families.

*The Greeting Card Project:* Helps bring joy and celebration to some of our most isolated seniors.

*Disaster Response Project:* In association with the All Healers Mental Health Alliance, this program helps volunteers provide mental health support locally, nationally, and internationally when people most need it.

*Health Care Disparities Project:* Collaborating with the Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York and Associates to address issues in this area.

*Supportive Televisitation Project:* Partnering with The Osborne Association, this project makes it possible for families of incarcerated persons to visit through videoconferencing.

*The Online Educational Exhibit of the First Universal Races Congress, at Dialog, the publication of The American Ethical Union:*

This event was held at the University of London in 1911 to focus attention on the problems of relations between nations and races of the world. There were more than 2,000 members — official representatives from at least 17 governments, including Brazil, China, England, France, Germany, Haiti, Persia, South Africa, and the USA. Dr. Felix Adler represented the U.S. Bureau of Education.

*The Children's Services Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI):*

Collaboration with this program provides intensive, evidence-based services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, with the goal of reducing the number of delinquent youth in residential facilities, shortening lengths of stay for those youths, reducing recidivism, and improving individual and family functioning.

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At the core of the SSB is a belief that Ethics inspire authentic self-esteem; motivate our dynamic social conscience; and demonstrate the love, care, and trust that are the human glue of our multidimensional democracy. The SSB welcomes individuals who share our faith in the future, and recognize the need for social service and ethics in action, and see the challenging need of our times to build a more ethical world.

Those who respond to the needs by serving on the SSB are the directors: Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross; Vice President

Dr. Ivan Quervalu; Treasurer Nickolai Parker; and Secretary Helen Mecs. Members of the SSB include: Rev. Willard Ashley; Paul Berman; Henry Bunch; Nicola Antonio DeMarco, J.D.; Soffiyah Elijah, Esq.; Dr. Maria Fridman; Robert Gangi; Laurette Harper, Esq.; Rob Hofman; Eric Norlander; Adrienne Opalka; Wally Patawaran; Marlene Williamson; and Roberta Yancy.

Ethical Culture members are invited to support the SSB in a variety of ways:

- Become an SSB member.
- Attend a meeting as a guest.
- Participate in a project as a Friend of the Board.
- Present a project idea for the SSB to undertake.
- Make a monetary donation to the SSB. Options include a one-time contribution, a sustaining contribution, an endowment contribution, development funding, or support to a specific project. *Checks should be made out to: United Social Services, Inc.* As a 501(C) (3) organization donations made to the SSB are tax-deductible.

The SSB reminds us of the words of Felix Adler, “The hero is one who kindles a great light in the world, who sets up blazing torches in the dark streets of life for humanity to see by.”

Through the devoted efforts of our Social Service Board, Ethical Culture has kept that light lit for more than a century. It's up to us “Ethical heroes” to help carry the torch.

# Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11:15 am

MARCH 3

IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER

**Robert Levithan**

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides*



Aging and thriving in the 21st century require flexibility of consciousness. We must embrace the newest technologies while maintaining our roots in 20th century civility. I will be looking at resilience through this lens and through tools such as “Regret Insurance” and “The First Rule of Happiness.”

Robert Levithan is a psychotherapist and writer. His book, *The New 60: Out-living Yourself and Reinventing a Future*, was published in 2012. He is a regular contributor to *The Huffington Post* and writes a sex/relationship advice column as *The Ethical Slut*. Levithan was a columnist for *OPRAH* as *The Design Shrink* and currently facilitates groups and workshops at Friends In Deed, The Crisis Center for Life-Threatening Illness.

*The shared charity is Friends In Deed.*

MARCH 10

OBAMA, PHILOSOPHICALLY SPEAKING

**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**

*Andra Miller Presides*



President Obama’s Inaugural Address was seen as primarily a policy speech, details of which were elaborated in his State of the Union talk before Congress and the American people. But Obama’s eloquent Inaugural Address was also a statement of his underlying philosophy and values. My address of March 10 will be an analysis of that speech with an eye toward Barack Obama as a serious intellectual who is inspired by ideas as a basis of action. The talk will provide a unique insight into a personality that is often perceived as not easily open to view.

*The shared charity is SANDY Relief through Groundwork Hudson Valley.*

## THIS MONTH’S SHARED CHARITIES...

FRIENDS IN DEED is a crisis center providing emotional and spiritual support for anyone with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS; cancer or other life-threatening physical illnesses; any caregivers, family, and friends of those who are ill; and anyone dealing with grief and bereavement. All services are free of charge. To learn more, visit their website at <http://friendsindeed.org>.

GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY is an environmental justice non-profit that works with communities to improve their physical and social environment. This is done by collaborating on projects, among them: turning dangerous vacant lots into community gardens, planting trees, replacing graffiti with murals, and forming alliances within the community. Some of these projects are done through school programs and many of them are intergenerational. We are dedicated to environmental stewardship and community empowerment. All of our projects engage local residents in hands-on projects, from design to planting. Visit them at <http://www.groundworkhv.org>.

THE INNOCENCE PROJECT was founded in 1992 by Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University to assist prisoners who could be proven innocent through DNA testing. To date, more than 300 people in the United States have been exonerated by DNA testing, including 18 who served time on death row. These people served an average of 13 years in prison before exoneration and release. To learn more, visit their website at <http://www.innocenceproject.org>.

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## MARCH 17

### WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE

***Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader***

*Pat Debrovner Presides*



In recognition of Women's History Month, Leader Anne Klaeyesen takes us on a virtual journey to visit individual women and groups of women who are fighting for gender equality, a right set forth by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948, that is still an unrealized dream for the majority of the world's women.

*The shared charity is SANDY Relief through Groundwork Hudson Valley.*

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## MARCH 24

### A RETURN TO WANTON HEATHENISM

***Curt Collier, Leader***

*Dan Hanson Presides*



Learning to see the world as it truly exists, rather than as we deem it to be, has been the subject of debate for philosophers, scientists, and poets for centuries. Despite our advances in meditation, pragmatism, or psychotherapy, few people have mastered the skill of "presence," perhaps because that's the wrong approach. This talk will focus on what keeps us blind to the world around us and why sometimes life is best understood with a poet's heart rather than an analyst's mind.

*The shared charity is SANDY Relief through Groundwork Hudson Valley.*

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## MARCH 31

### ETHICS AND THE THEATER — *THE EXONERATED*

*Richard Van Deusen Presides*

Kerry Max Cook made a mistake: He stole the town sheriff's car. After that, he was the prime suspect whenever any crime occurred, from a lost cat to, finally, a murder, for which he spent 22 years on death row before DNA evidence cleared him. Kerry is one of six men and women wrongly convicted and sentenced to death, and ultimately exonerated, who are the subjects of *The Exonerated*, a documentary play by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen. Blank and Jensen used interview and trial transcripts to allow these people to tell their stories in their own voices. And their voices are extremely powerful: In 2002, Blank and Jensen presented *The Exonerated* for Governor George Ryan of Illinois. On January 11, 2003, just two days before leaving office, Governor Ryan commuted the sentences of everyone on or waiting to be sent to Illinois's death row.

*The shared charity is the Innocence Project.*

## Early Sunday Mornings 10:00 am *(Rooms are subject to change)*

MARCH 3

### CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

MARCH 10

### COLLOQUY: PERSONAL GROWTH

Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

MARCH 17

### POETRY READING

What's on your poetry shelf? Pull out some poems and come read with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

MARCH 17

### CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

## Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm *(Except as noted. Rooms are subject to change)*

MARCH 10

### ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

MARCH 24

### SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

We'll discuss lifestyle choices, our impact on the planet, and ways we can make a meaningful difference. Participate in serious, pragmatic, and practical discussions about culinary choices, commuting alternatives, and how our purchases aid or hamper the natural world, among other topics. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share openly with others in a supportive atmosphere. This course is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living. Admission is free. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

# more Ethical Enrichment

## Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — *Elliot Library, Rm 507*

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: **DOMESTIC RELATIONS**. Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

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**MARCH 7**      **PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS**, the Inaugural poem "ONE TODAY" by Richard Blanco, and "ANALYZING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS" *The New York Times*, 2/13/13.

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**MARCH 14**      "AMERICAN SOUTH: DUMB AMERICA" by Garry Wills, *New York Review of Books Blog*, 1/21/13, and "SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT" by George Packer, *The New Yorker*, 1/21/13.

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**MARCH 21**      "THE FORCE: HOW MUCH MILITARY IS ENOUGH?" by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 1/28/13.

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**MARCH 28**      "WHAT'S INSIDE AMERICA'S BANKS?" by Frank Partnoy and Jesse Eisinger, *The Atlantic*, 1/3, and "FRIENDS OF FRAUD" by Paul Krugman, *The New York Times*, 2/3/13.

### NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# Our Ethical Family



MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

## best wishes



The following members are celebrating birthdays in March:

ELIZABETH JACOBS .....	3/3
TOM WEISHAAR .....	3/3
FRANK CORIGLIANO .....	3/5
BEN GERSTEN .....	3/8
ANDRA MILLER .....	3/10
LEW WIDOFF .....	3/15
PETER HOUTS .....	3/17
PATRICIA O'MALLEY ...	3/17
MARY ELLEN GOODMAN .....	3/20
YSABELLA GARA .....	3/25
LEE OPPENHEIMER.....	3/27
BETH ZUCKER .....	3/29

Please welcome new members **DR. FRANK J. CORIGLIANO** and **ERIC MATTHEW VOLAT**. Frank is a psychologist who is fulfilling his postdoctoral residency as the Coordinator of the Supportive Televisiting Program at NYSEC/SSB. He has special training in psychology-technology and is interested in biking for commuting. He learned of the Society through Dr. Harrison-Ross and has attended panel discussions, Sunday Platforms, and various other programs here. Eric works at Belmarc Realty. He has attended the Newcomers' Reception and several Sunday Platforms. He is very interested in helping advance the Society's mission of creating an ethical world.

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We had a terrific **Pledge Party** in January and the theme was *Let's Get Ethical*. Thanks to the expert hospitality team of **Tod Whitaker** and **Carol Van Deusen** for supplying tasty food, fizzy drinks (Champagne punch), and a classy and fun ambiance, making this one fabulous cocktail party! Kudos go to **Yalitz Garcia** for the invitations, preliminary preparations, and the Member Anniversaries slide show. We are very grateful to the members of the Pledge Committee for coordinating the party and especially to Paul Chamlin, the piano player, for the

wonderful piano music. In addition to Tod and Carol, these great and wonderful members (and some who I might have missed – my apologies!) attended: Virginia Arnold and Abe Markman; Bonnie Bean; Elaine Berman and John Gurney; Constance Berman and John Langsdorf; Bob Berger; Pat Berens; Carole and Jerry Chamlin; Pat Cohen; Ruth Cohen; Pat and Chuck Debrovner; Nicola DeMarco; Mary Ellen Goodman; Cheryl and Ed Gross; Judy Graeff and Douglass Proops; Selma Friedman; Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross; Mary and Peter Houts; Tom Kennedy; Dr. Anne Klaeyens; Henryka Komanska and Chris Bernhardt; Joan Klips; Phyllis and John Kreuttner; Valerie and David Leiman; Bob Liebeskind; Pat Malkin; Helen Mecs; Andra Miller; Susan Needles; Beverly Newman; Carol Rost; Bernette Rudolph and Sy Amkraut; Amy Schwarz; Beth Zucker, and Chris Everett.

Carol Van Deusen, Tod Whitaker, and Anne Klaeyens each talked about what it means to be an Ethical Culture member and the importance of supporting our community with annual pledges. A grand time was had by all. And since this was the **Pledge** party, for those who were not there, you've probably received those letters from the Pledge Committee by now, so please do send them in!



## Start Snapping

Let's celebrate Ethical — who we are and what we do, how greatly involved we are, and how very much we enjoy it all and one another — in an ongoing, frequently changing exhibit of photos: photos of us in a discussion group, at a potluck dinner, jazz concert, or Platform Meeting, on an outing, at our shelter, working in a committee... whatever. We'll post those photos everywhere — in *Ethical Outlook*, on our website, and on our very walls! It's a snap, really. So, go ahead! Just bring your camera, or your cellphone (if it's got decent resolution) to any or all Ethical events you attend, and start snapping.

Ideally you'll be able to download your photos at the computer and send them to Beth Zucker at [bzucker@nysec.org](mailto:bzucker@nysec.org), or come in and we'll help you. Of course, if you're really a techie, you'll make the photos bright and clear in Photoshop or iPhoto, or whatever you use. But the rest of us will just send them in and leave the adjusting to the pros.

Please provide the caption information: what the event was and who's in the photo (standard form calls for naming names from left to right, top to bottom). Don't trust yourself to remember later; write down that information at the time you shoot. Okay, everyone: Lights, Camera, Action!

## Calling Everyone In Our Ethical Community:

Dr. Maria Fridman is looking for volunteers for the Women's Shelter. Volunteers will be asked to stay overnight (7:00 pm to 7:00 am) at our Shelter downstairs. You will be given training beforehand. So, if you are free at least one evening a month, why not spend it here and make it an ethical night out for yourself? Membership Associate Moe-Swe Myint will be helping Dr. Fridman run the Shelter, so if you know someone who is interested in helping others please call or email Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org).



### WELCOMER-FOR-A-DAY

Please volunteer to be the one to extend a warm welcome to a newcomer — inviting him/her to join you at an Ethical event that you attend (discussion group, play-reading, film, Sunday luncheon, etc.) — and to give him/her your Ethical Member card, writing in your name and phone number or email address, as you choose. You can get some new cards from Yalitza Garcia, in the Leaders' office.

If every active Ethical member will do this three times a year, it will make a big difference.

## Proud to Pledge List of Supporters

Sy Amkraut • Virginia Arnold • Janet Jeppson Asimov • Bonnie Bean • Patricia Berens • Robert and Muriel Berger • Elaine Berman • Chris Bernhardt and Henryka Komanska • Barbara Nan Bernstein • Harriet Bigus • Vincent Brancato • Jerome and Carole Chamlin • Ruth Cohen • Frank Corigliano • Bernice Cornyetz • Chuck and Pat Debrovner • Beverly DeMaggio-Newman • Nicola DeMarco • Joan Donnen-Klips • Chris Everett • Bruce Feld • Maria Fridman • Selma Friedman • Kenneth Gans • Mary Ellen Goodman, Renée Goodstein • Heather Grady • Judith Graeff • Edward and Cheryl Gross • John Gurney • Dan Hanson and Monica Weiss • Peter and Mary Houts • Larry Hurst • John Hwang • Tom Kennedy • John and Phyllis Kreuttner • Alice Ladas • John Langsdorf • David and Valerie Leiman • Nancy Lovelady-McGeorge • Patricia Malkin • Abe Markman • Helen Mecs • Andra Miller • Lawrence Miller • Douglas Proops • Louetta Riley • Stephanie Rosenblatt • Phyllis Rosenfield • Carol Rost, Bernette Rudolph • Amy Schwarz • Jane Ungar • Elizabeth Ungar • Carol and Richard Van Deusen • Tod and Patrick Arenas Whitaker • Eva Yachnes • Beth Zucker.

## Member Profile



CAROL VAN DEUSEN, MEMBER SINCE 1997

*“...producing the documentary, The Meeting House, for the Building Centennial... made me so honored to be a member of Ethical Culture.”*

A little something about who I am? I’m a native New Yorker and have lived in the city my entire life. I graduated from the High School of Performing Arts (before the movie, *Fame*) and received a BA from Hunter College. I was a successful professional actress for many years but I didn’t really like the lifestyle, so I decided to leave that field and open my own casting company. This year I will have been in business 25 years. I am happily married to Dick Van Deusen, who has since joined and become very active in the Society. We just celebrated our 6th wedding anniversary. We were married here at Ethical in the Auditorium, and fellow member Pat Debrovner officiated.

### *How did you first hear about Ethical?*

I’ve always known about Ethical because my parents considered themselves Ethical Culturists. Although they never officially were members, they used to listen “religiously” to Ethical Leader Algernon Black’s broadcasts every Sunday morning, back in the 1940’s.

### *What made you return, and keep on returning (people, programs, something else)?*

I’ve always felt a need to belong to a spiritual community. I tried several

churches, and even joined a synagogue for a bit, but I never found what I was looking for. At Ethical I found a community of like-minded people whose values coincided with mine. So, for me it’s about the people.

### *Why did you join Ethical?*

I remember asking Don Johnson, the Senior Leader of Ethical, “What is the difference between being a ‘Friend’ of Ethical and a ‘Member?’” Don explained that as a Member I would feel committed to the community. Commitment meant being part of the Ethical “family.” And that was exactly what I was looking for.

### *What is your favorite aspect about being a member of Ethical?*

Obviously the people, the sharing of ideas, the support in times of joy and sadness (both my parents were memorialized by Ethical Culture Leaders) and the opportunities to make a difference in my community as well as the world outside of Ethical.

### *Describe your involvement in your years with Ethical.*

I have been a Member of Ethical for about 16 years. I was a Trustee and a member of the Awards Committee for 10 years and the Search Committee twice, and I chaired the Rededication Committee for the Building Centennial. Presently



I am on the Pledge Committee and the Membership Development Committee and will be Chair of the Nominating Committee.

*Are there any highlights of your time at Ethical that stand out to you?*

There are so many, but probably the most gratifying was conceiving, researching, and producing the documentary, *The Meeting House*, for the Building Centennial. It made me so honored to be a member of Ethical Culture.

*What does/has having Ethical Culture in your life mean to you?*

Ethical has given me a spiritual home. It has also introduced me to many wonderful people I can call friends. It has made me aware of issues outside my immediate world, and continues to present me with opportunities to make a difference in ways I never could have imagined. I'm stimulated, challenged, and safe as a member of The New York Society for Ethical Culture.

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*The Member Profile column will be a monthly feature in **ETHICAL OUTLOOK**. We want to publish the profiles of all our members, longtime and new. Won't you please email your profile to Elinore Kaplan, Co-Chair of the Membership Development Committee, at [elinore100@gmail.com](mailto:elinore100@gmail.com), or leave it in the office with Yalitzza for Elinore. Use the questions in this month's column as your guideline. Please also send us a photo of yourself. We look forward to hearing from you.*

## The Art of Origami

The Photography Arts Club presented a DVD program introducing the Art of Origami modular geometric model folding on Sunday, Feb. 17th. Attendees, including artists, engineers, therapists, and instructors, were each presented with a gift of a traditional Japanese flying crane.



Photography Arts Club program attendees learn about creating origami models at a well-attended recent meeting.



Office hours for the month are Monday–Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 Shelter hours are Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

# MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>Notes:</b> Ethics in Film: <i>The Lives of Others</i> (2006) — March 1 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>Firehouse</i> , by David Halberstam — March 4 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Incident at Vichy</i> , by Arthur Miller — March 8 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>Half the Sky</i> (2012), by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn — March 18						1 <b>April 2013            Newsletter Deadline</b>	2
3 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership	4 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 Board of Trustees Meeting	5 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	6 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	7 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	8 7:00 Ethics in Film	9	
10 10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Ethics in the News	11 6:30 Choose Your Food	12 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	13 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 6:30 The Coming Interspiritual Age Dialogue	14 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Introduction to Humanism 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	15	16	
17 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership	18 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:00 Choose Your Food 6:30 Prospective Members' Reception	19 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	20 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 6:30 The Coming Interspiritual Age Dialogue	21 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	22	23	
24 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	25 6:30 Choose Your Food	26	27 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	28 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Introduction to Humanism	29	30	
31 10:00 Coffee 'n Chat 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership							

**ETHICS FOR CHILDREN**  
AT THE NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

**Sundays at  
 11:00 am**

**Elliott Library –  
 Room 507**

**For more information call  
 212.874.5210, ext. 118**

**• STORIES • MUSIC & SONGS • ART •**

**LET'S GET  
 ETHICAL!**

**• GAMES • SERVICE PROJECTS •**

# Dear Ethical Member,

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

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

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

Many thanks,  
The Membership Development Committee

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### At Ethical

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

### Outside of Ethical (in NYC)

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

Please feel free to add any further comments or information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

# ETHICAL

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE,  
a community that believes all individuals have inherent worth and  
dignity, and a responsibility to strive for ethical growth.

Ours is a nontheistic religion in which deeds and their results matter more than ideology.  
We believe that leaving the world better than we found it is the highest good.

Learn more about us at our website — or, better still, visit with us.

*You're always welcome.*

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

## ETHICAL OUTLOOK

March 2013

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