

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

May 3

Brahms, the Romantic Humanist
Gerald Ranck, Music Director
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

May 10

Evolution and Ethical Culture
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Joseph Marvel Presides

May 17

Founder's Day: Long Live the
Encampment for Citizenship
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Andra Miller Presides

May 24

Ethical Culture, Psychotherapy,
And My Grandmother the Spy
Hugh Taft-Morales, Ethical
Culture Leader-in-Training
Curt Collier Presides

May 31

Art Reflecting Our Mood: 700 Years
Of Art History in Under an Hour
Curt Collier, Leader
Bonnie Bean Presides

*Bring a
Friend on
Sunday*

May Happenings

Celebrate **Founder's Day Sunday, May 17**, with a bus tour to Ethical Culture's historic cemetery, Mount Pleasant, in Hawthorne, NY. We'll leave at **1:45 pm** and return by **5:00 pm**. (See page 8)

Join us on **Tuesday, May 19**, at **8:00 pm**, for a benefit concert celebrating Gerald Ranck's 25 wonderful years as Music Director of the NY Society. (See page 9)

On **Thursday, May 28**, at **6:30 pm** in Ceremonial Hall, we'll have an opportunity to learn more about a less well known aspect of Albert Einstein's political beliefs, as Fred Jerome discusses his new book, *Einstein on Israel and Zionism*. (See page 10)

President's Notes

Andra Miller



This gets to you shortly before our Members' Annual Meeting, May, 3 at 1:45 pm. Hope all you members can make it—we'll be voting for new Board members and to change the nominations procedure. See the item on the meeting on page 6.

It's time now to get your reservations in for the American Ethical Union Assembly—it's being held in St. Louis, June 11-14. Brochures are available at NYSEC, on the fifth floor hall table, or on the web at http://aeu.org/library/articles/2009assembly_brochure.pdf. Let me remind you that the sooner you decide to go, the cheaper your airfare will be. I got a good one from American Airlines going from LaGuardia. The Assembly is being held at the Comfort Inn Airport and Conference Center, so there's no big fuss getting there after you land. Be sure to check it out, as it is always fun to meet folks from other Societies and find out what they
(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



The Freedom to Doubt—and the Right to Believe

"This freedom to doubt is an important matter in the sciences and, I believe, in other fields. It was born of a struggle. . . I feel a responsibility to proclaim the value of this freedom and to teach that doubt is not to be feared, but that it is to be welcomed as the possibility of a new potential for human beings."

—Richard Feynman, physicist

"I just don't know what to believe any more."

—A Caller from Alabama

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

Sunday Morning Meetings 1
 May Happenings 1
 President's Notes 1
 From the Leader's Desk 1
 Sunday Morning Meetings 3
 Earth Rise 4
 Early Sunday 5
 Sunday Afternoon 6
 AEU 94th Assembly 6
 Lunch Discussion 6
 Our Ethical Family 6
 Ethical Action For Peace 7
 Founder's Day History Tour 8
 Two Reunions 8
 Gerald Ranck: 25 Years of Music 9
 CSA at NY Society 9
 Ethics and the Theater 9
 Nutrition and Enlightenment 9
 Looking at Einstein 10
 PIC: Responses to Obama 10
 Jekyll & Hyde to Sing for NYSEC 10
 Advocacy Forums 11
 Calendar 12

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 Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate
 Gerald Ranck, Music Director
 Marion Rice, Rental Operations
 New York Society for Ethical Culture
 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023
 Phone: 212-874-5210; Fax: 212-595-7258
 Email: office@nysec.org
 Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Staff Directory

Marc Bernstein ext. 112
 Julie Blutstein 144
 Gloria Chandler 117
 Rita Chawla 106
 Joseph Chuman 145
 Curt Collier 145
 Deborah Foster 115
 Sheleigah Grube 118
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 Yolanta Kosmaczewska 104
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 Maintenance 109
 Moe-Swe Myint 113
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 Phyllis Harrison-Ross and Vincent Montaruli
 EBAY Project: Eric Norlander and Michelle Rickborn

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

are doing. There are also all sorts of interesting workshops to attend and, of course, evening partying. St. Louis is a great town to explore if you add a few days to your trip, or skip a workshop or two. Interesting excursions include the Arch, University City Loop, City Museum, LaCledes Landing (river-front restaurants and shops), Jefferson Expansion Museum, and Ace Stables (if you enjoy horseback riding, join me, I love it!). Let me know if you're going, as we may be able to include you in our list of delegates (official voters at the two business meetings). *(See page 6 for more details)*

I'd like to invite all who are interested to come to the next Membership Cultivation Club meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm. It's actually the Membership Committee, but we call it a club for fun. For more fun, its full name is the Membership Cultivation, Motivation, and Retention Club. Current members of this committee (it's flexible, people come and go) are Josh Adams, Janice Buzby, Chris Everett, Rich Sander, Eric Volpe, and Beth Zucker. We have advisers who are not members and, of course, Moe-Swe Myint and Anne Klaeysen are also involved.

The committee is working on a way to track new members to make sure they feel welcome and get as involved as they'd like. We also are gearing up to do some summer tabling at street fairs to spread the word about Ethical Culture. Of course, we also plan events that are fun for our members and sometimes even raise money! That's why our meetings are open—we welcome new ideas either for events or for helping us expand our membership. Come and join us; especially welcome are new or prospective members. We need views from both inside and outside our Society to stay current and effective. Happy May!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Ethical Culture does not lay claim to certainty—moral or spiritual—as traditional Western religions do. We live in the question, learning from our experiences and relationships how to lead good lives. I remember a young man from the Brooklyn Society who was ready to graduate from Sunday school. His parents were Jewish, and, after attending a cousin's bar mitzvah, he asked them if he could attend Hebrew School. Although they were surprised, they agreed. A month or so later, Sam

returned. He said it was because of the questions. In Hebrew School, teachers asked questions for which there were certain answers, and he was expected to recite them. “In Ethical Culture,” he said, “everyone asks questions, and we discuss what we think and feel about them. We all learn together and figure things out.”

Not everyone is comfortable with that kind of moral teaching. Commandments, after all, are to be obeyed, not questioned or discussed. Divine revelation must be trusted, not doubted. Yet to doubt their efficacy, to wonder whether they are relevant thousands of years later, is necessary if we are to confront and solve the problems of today.

Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler wrote, “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.” By modeling ethical behavior, by permitting the possibility that we cannot be certain about everything, and by engaging them in a rigorous conversation about what it means to be good, we “leave the door open to the unknown,” as Richard Feynman put it, and give our children the capacity to live with doubt and, with “abject honesty” to understand the situations they confront and decide how to act morally.

One day a man from a small town in Alabama called the Leaders’ office. He was married with two young children and attended the local Baptist church. He enjoyed “surfing the net” and had discovered Ethical Culture and Humanism online. Now he had doubts about his religion and didn’t know what to believe. He was concerned that it was a sin to doubt, that he was putting his soul and the souls of his children in jeopardy. There was no one he could talk to, so he and I had a long conversation. Although not his pastor, I became his pastoral counselor, creating the

place for him to honestly tell himself what he was thinking and feeling. I couldn’t give him answers, but I could honor his existential struggle. Fathers must be certain about things; church-going Baptists must toe the creedal line. But he was questioning: a door to the unknown had opened, and he was afraid to go through it.

I asked him about the god he believed in and whether he could believe that this god would hold him safely and lovingly while he doubted. After all, Jesus still loved his disciple Thomas, even when he doubted him. I asked what goodness meant to him and if he thought he was a good person. He wasn’t sure that it was good to question belief.

We ended with a discussion about our favorite books and authors. I haven’t heard from him again. I wish him well and hope he finds a way to live with doubt and to believe in goodness.

“Act the Good, and you will believe in it.” –Felix Adler, Life and Destiny

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium

May 3–Brahms, the Romantic Humanist
Gerald Ranck, Music Director

We will present a brief appreciation of Brahms, his music, and his philosophy, with a look at his Humanist (German) Requiem, followed by a performance of his vocal and keyboard music.

Gerald Ranck was born in Pennsylvania and began piano studies at age six. He was a scholarship student at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, before coming to New York City in 1961 to study the harpsichord. His New York debut was in 1967, and since then he has performed interna-

tionally, including concerts in London, Teheran, and Stockholm.

Jerry has recorded for Soundspells, Cantilena, and Decca. His most recent appearances have been with the Strathmere Ensemble, of which he is a founding member, and the Metropolitan Opera Chamber Ensemble, with James Levine. He performs regularly with the Orchestra of St. Lukes, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. *(See related item on page 9)*

May 10–Evolution and Ethical Culture
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

This is the year of Darwin—the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 150th year since the publication of his *Origin of Species*. As everyone knows, Ethical Culture is a world view based on reason, with a foundational respect for science and the scientific method. As such, it has always stood foursquarely in support of evolution.

Not so fast! Our founder and seminal thinker, Felix Adler, was of two minds about evolution. Adler came of age when Darwinian evolution had gained acceptance by the scientific luminaries of his day. And while he felt that the Darwinian explanation for the evolution of species, including our own, from other forms of life, was essentially sound, he believed that it shed no light whatsoever on ethics and ethical theory. Like many of the religious thinkers of his day, Adler was troubled by the implications of Darwinism, in ways that many of us probably would not be.

Dr. Chuman will locate Adler and Darwin in their time and within the context of the struggle that pitted a belief in divine creation and providence as imminent in the world against those who saw nature standing on its own.

May 17–Founder’s Day: Long Live The Encampment for Citizenship
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Dr. Klaeyesen will talk about the EFC's history and urge listeners to dedicate their efforts to a revival of this extraordinary youth program.

The EFC was founded in 1944 by Leader Algernon Black as an innovative youth-leadership program to teach the principles and techniques of citizenship in a liberal democracy through lived experience. It began as a summer camp that brought together high school juniors and seniors of various religious, racial, social, and national backgrounds. They spent six weeks in hands-on and academic experiences aimed at learning how to achieve social change through volunteerism and community action.

Over the years, Encampments were held near New York City and in Washington, DC; Kentucky; Montana; Colorado; Arizona; and California. Eleanor Roosevelt, an early supporter, routinely invited program participants to workshops at Hyde Park. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a later supporter, recruiting students and participating as a speaker. For campers, this was an experience of a lifetime, and many grew up to serve their communities admirably.

May 24—Ethical Culture, Psychotherapy, and My Grandmother the Spy
Hugh Taft-Morales, Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training

The Victorian Felix Adler was not a big fan of therapeutic exploration of the psyche; he resisted what he considered a narcissistic invasion of the private world. Today, however, counseling is an important part of Ethical Culture. It nourishes our ethical relationships and our congregational life. Two counseling orientations that resonate with Ethical Culture are those of Alfred Adler and of existential therapists such as Victor Frankel. Hugh Taft-Morales will explore their inspirational power while

weaving an amazing tale of his own family's psychotherapeutic adventures.

Hugh Taft-Morales is an Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training serving as an Intern Leader at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society, who recently graduated from the leadership certification program of the Humanist Institute. He taught philosophy and history for 25 years in Washington, DC, and served on the Board of the Washington Ethical Society from 2002 to 2006, the last year as President. He was on the AEU planning committee for two years and served as co-coordinator for the AEU Presidents Council.

May 31—Art Reflecting Our Mood: 700 Years of Art History in Under an Hour
Curt Collier, Leader

Certainly, much can be said for art "for art's sake." However, art can also be thought of as a means for loudly proclaiming the beliefs and opinions of the artists, reflecting the mores of the milieu in which they worked. What have artists been saying for centuries, and what does this tell us about ourselves? Curt Collier will fly through 700 years of art history, showing examples of the art of the period, and helping the audience understand the mindset of the artists.

Earth Rise

Curt Collier, Leader

"Spirituality is awareness of our infinite interrelatedness." —Felix Adler

Since March, we have been offering an additional Sunday morning service at 10:30 am in Ceremonial Hall. Its name, "Earth Rise," to distinguish it from "Platform," at 11:15 am, was inspired by a photo taken by astronaut William Anders during the 1968 Apollo mission. Rounding the "dark side" of the moon in his spacecraft, Anders caught sight of the Earth "rising" from the desolate

moon's surface and captured the image. The sight of our beautiful blue planet hanging in the emptiness of space had a profound impact around the globe, and was helpful in inspiring many new environmental efforts.

In a similar vein, Earth Rise strives to inspire us to affirm the worth and dignity not only of our species, but others as well. It is awareness that humanism must be balanced with biocentricism. Earth Rise also focuses on raising environmental awareness and fostering activism and a greater reverence for Life. It echoes Adler's emphasis on our infinite interrelatedness. Given the major challenge of climate change and the potential for significant environmental destruction, it reminds us that the time to act is now.

Earth Rise is also an attempt to introduce Ethical Culture's unique emphasis on relational ethics using a style other than that of the Platform address. We already have a Platform, which has been used effectively to address environmental issues. Earth Rise focuses more on alternative modalities, such as the use of theater and direct hands-on activities to inspire participants to reflect, to feel, and to act. By using two different formats, Platform and Earth Rise, we can appeal to a much broader audience.

Instead of the Platform address, actors will present short but powerful plays chosen for their emphasis on the relational aspect of human beings. These performances are followed by discussions which help us to open up the experience and to discuss how we relate to one another. Then, an environmental theme is introduced and together we explore how our capacity to relate can be extended to the larger world. Earth Rise's emphasis on music also helps to foster a reflective mood. Our music director, Max Zbiral-Teller, is a gifted artist who can change his

musical style to emphasize the energy and mood in the room. Max is joined by other visiting artists, who add their musical talent.

One important emphasis of Earth Rise is our weekly call to action. Each Sunday opportunities are offered, so that participants can use the morning for needed eco-actions. Sometimes these are done in the room, and sometimes we travel to other areas. For example, our vine-cutting trip along the Saw Mill River was a wonderful example of getting outdoors to make a difference. We also spent one Sunday making 200 recycled plant pots from newspapers, which will be used to teach people about plants in order to get them outside and working in their gardens.

We hope that you will join us one Sunday morning. As with Platform, all our activities are open to everyone, and you may participate as you wish. Come reflect, share, act, and make a difference!

Volunteer Activities

Please contact me at 914-375-2151 during the day, or by email at ccollier@nysec.org if you would like to participate in any of these activities.

Act Outside! Our Drama Troupe

Volunteer actors are needed to participate in our theater project. We rehearse each Wednesday night from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Our director, Theresa Mas-saro, has a gift for helping new actors to “find their voice.” You will work with other actors to rehearse and then will present your play on a Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning Greeters

Help to welcome others to NYSEC and provide information about our community. You’ll also help me set-up on Sunday mornings and act as an usher during the gatherings. You’ll need to arrive by 10:00 am and remain until after the service.

Crochet and Knitting Circle

We are looking for people who enjoy knitting and crocheting to be a part of our circle creating items for families in need. If you know how to crochet or knit and would like to teach others, please let me know right away. This circle will meet after Earth Rise, at 11:30 am. Participation also means that you are willing to help with face-to-face distribution at our service sites in the Bronx and Manhattan.

Community-Supported Agriculture

We are hoping to create a CSA program at the NY Society. As part of this, I’ll truck fresh organic vegetables into the city, which will then be distributed to participants. We need volunteers to help carry the vegetables into the building and staff a distribution program. We also need “cashiers” and people who can help with set-up. The program will run from Memorial Day weekend through mid-November. (*See related article on page 9*)

May Actions

During May we will focus on helping to run programs aboard the Science Barge, a self-contained floating greenhouse and classroom run by Ground-work Hudson Valley, an environmental organization that restores urban habitats through community participation, and teaches sustainable energy and urban agriculture.

The Science Barge is located in Yonkers on the Hudson River, but is easily accessible by public transportation. We need volunteers each Saturday (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) and Sunday (12:30 pm to 4:00 pm). Here is our list of volunteer opportunities:

May 2-3: We will have a table where we teach children about wind energy, assist them in making a wind speed indicator and a pinwheel, and talk

about wind generators and how they create energy.

May 9-10: This will be our bottled water challenge to show people that there is nothing bad about tap water and how discarded bottles are polluting our rivers and oceans. There will be four types of water for participants to sample. If they can tell the difference they’ll win a prize.

May 16-17: We will teach people about pollen and the role that it plays. We’ll have various forms of honey for people to sample, as well as magnified pictures of pollen. We’ll talk about symbiosis between bees and flowers, and children will be allowed to act as “pollinators” and pollinate tomato plants using a feather.

May 23-24: This will be a tribute to Rachel Carson, with pictures of her and samples of her work, as well as quotes by Carson around the barge. We’ll talk about how her *Silent Spring* was one of the most important pieces of environmental literature.

May 30-31: We will talk about solar cooking and demonstrate various solar cookers. We’ll also provide vegan hotdogs for people to cook using hand-held solar cookers.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

May 3—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. It’s a lot of fun, so join us! Room 507.

May 10—Colloquy: Needs. Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

May 17—Poetry Readings—Join us. Some of us will read poems written in the past 20-30 years. We'll also read poems we have crafted, and we may listen to a published poet reading his or her own work. So, slip a poem into your pocket and practice it on your way here. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

May 17—Singing Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

May 31—Coffee 'n Chat. Room 408.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM (Except as noted)

May 3—NYSEC Annual Meeting—Be sure to be here to vote for your candidates for the Society's Board of Trustees. Those running are Dr. James Farer and Henryka Komanska (second term) and first timers Janice Buzby, Chris Everett, and Joan Klips. Also running is Tom Weishaar, who had a short stint on the Board in the past. You should have received information on all of them in our March 9 mailing; you may request another copy from the Administration Office.

In addition, we'll be voting on streamlined bylaws for the nominations procedure. You'll also hear reports on our progress in the past year and our plans for the year ahead. Be sure to be here; we need 45 members present to constitute a quorum. Ceremonial Hall.

May 10—PIC of the News Club: Health Reform, with Dr. Patricia Cohen, an epidemiologist on Columbia's faculty. Abe Markman presides. Room 514.

May 17—Life With Health: Stressless Work and Life. Guest Scott E. Weiner earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy, including several years of doctoral research in Germany. He is a Certified Hypnotist and an NLP (Neuro-Linguis-

tic Programming) Master Practitioner. Phyllis Kreuttner presides. 1:30 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

May 17—Founder's Day History Tour: Mt. Pleasant EC Cemetery
Bus departs 1:45 pm, returns by 5:00 pm. Meet after lunch in the Social Hall. Curt Collier presides. (*See related article on page 8*)

AEU 94th Assembly

The American Ethical Union's 94th Annual Assembly, hosted by the Ethical Society Mid Rivers, St. Louis, June 11–14, will be held at the Comfort Inn Airport and Conference Center in St. Louis. Our Assembly is an important point in our lives as Ethical Culturists and an opportunity to immerse ourselves in what it really means to belong to Ethical Culture.

During our annual Assembly, we gather with people from across the country and experience our movement in a larger context. We show each other, newcomers, and the greater community that we are people with strong ideals who are willing to declare our ethical principles for the betterment of humankind. At the Assembly we also have an opportunity to reconnect—and make new connections—with members of Societies from across the country.

Visit the new Assembly website, (www.regonline.com/aeu) or the AEU's website (www.aeu.org), which will give you an overview of what is being offered this year. To reduce the AEU's carbon footprint, online registration is available. For those who require a paper copy of the Assembly brochure and registration form, these are available in the fifth floor lobby and at the following web address: http://aeu.org/library/articles/2009assembly_brochure.pdf.

For more information about the Assembly, please contact the AEU at 212-873-6500 or email Law'nence "L" Miller, lmiller@aeu.org or Donna Pang, at dpang@aeu.org.

Lunch Discussion Founder's Day Month Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

On Sunday, May 17, we'll celebrate Founder's Day, but one day is just not enough! Therefore, in anticipation of that celebration, we'll read and discuss Platform addresses given in the early days of the Society. All of the topics resonate with contemporary ethics. Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Elliott Library. Copies of relevant articles are available in the Leaders' office.

May 7—"The Negro Problem in the United States" by Felix Adler (with special reference to W. E. B. Dubois' book, *The Souls of Black Folks*).

May 14—"The Hope for the City" by John Lovejoy Elliott.

May 21—"Must We Believe in Mortality?" by Henry Neumann.

May 28—"Woman's Influence in Public Affairs" by Lydia Avery Coonly and Mary J. Wilmarth.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome **Jo Bernard**, our newest member, who was introduced to NYSEC by other members. Jo has been coming to our programs, Sunday Platforms, and Social Hour. She likes the diverse community that our Society attracts. Her interests are in teaching and volunteering and she speaks French, Spanish, and Italian. She works in accounting and she loves databases.

* * *

Leader Curt Collier presented and presided over “Spring Fest 2009” in March. It was billed as a fun and fellowship event for the whole family, with a musical program featuring Gerald Ranck, our Music Director, on piano and Wayne Bennett on guitar and Max Zbiral-Teller on hammer dulcimer (both of Earth Rise) and the Ethical Society Chorus with Pat Debrovner directing. There were also a dance performance, a short play, and a presentation by the Sunday School children led by Rita Chawla and Jamie Cid. It was a most wonderful and enjoyable “Fest.”

We also presented two very well received co-sponsored programs at the Society. *Meltdown: The Economic Collapse and a People’s Plan for Recovery*, on March 6, drew a full house; we even had to turn away more than 100 people. The NYSEC Advocacy Forum presented *Obama and the Future of the Imperial Presidency* on March 25, with Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman presiding.

I’d like to thank NYSEC members Pat Berens, Janice Buzby, Meg Chapman, Ruth Cohen, Dan Hanson, Barbara Levenson, Lee Loshak, Clara Malekshahi, JoAnn Mason, Hugh McGuire, Margaret Murphy, Brigitte Nioché, Rich Sander, and Eric Volpe, who volunteered for these events and made them the successes they were.

Thanks also to Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen for guarding the members’ entrance, and Jamie Scott, who—although not yet a member—deserves special mention because she was very helpful at both events and a joy to work with. And last but not least, kudos go to Julie Blutstein, Director of Development and Communications, for all her efforts in getting the word out and getting us a lot of press coverage; Executive Director Bob

Liebeskind for coordinating and overseeing both affairs with great aplomb; Facilities Manager Marlon Rice, and the entire building crew for their great work before, during, and after the events. It was really a great pleasure to work with all of you.

* * *

For those who have not yet filled out your 2009 Pledge Card, please fill it out and turn it in. If you need one, please contact me at the Membership Office.

Ethical Action For Peace

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

In honor of Mother’s Day, CODEPINK, a grassroots peace and social justice movement, calls upon knitters to create a beautiful quilted cozy to cover the fence in front of the White House. Its message—“We will not raise our children to kill another mother’s child”—is inspired by Julia Ward Howe’s 1870 Mother’s Day Proclamation (*see next column*). It will be pieced together from individual squares knitted by you as part of a 24-hour Mother’s Day vigil for women who live in war zones.

You don’t have to be an experienced knitter to help. This is perfect for knitters of all skill levels. We’ll have a knitters table during Social Hour on Sunday, May 3. You need: 4” x 4” squares, as tightly knit as you can make them using the stitch of your choice and yarn in either dark green or bright pink. We will need a ratio of five pink squares to one green square to spell out the message. All the pieces are needed by May 4, so get out your needles! I’ll collect the squares and send them out from NYSEC. If you wish to do

this on your own, send an email to CODEPINK (*codepinkcozy@gmail.com*) letting them know how many squares you plan to make and in what colors. Send your knitted creations to: CODEPINK House, 712 5th Street NE, Washington, DC, 20002. Please safety pin your name and city to each square, as we hope to be able to show you where your squares are in the finished quilt.

CODEPINK is working to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, stop new wars, and redirect our resources into healthcare, education, green jobs, and other life-affirming activities. It rejects foreign policies based on domination and aggression, and instead calls for policies based on diplomacy, compassion, and a commitment to international law. With an emphasis on joy and humor, its members seek to activate, amplify, and inspire a community of peacemakers through creative campaigns and a commitment to nonviolence.

Pass this invitation on to fellow knitters. It will be a beautiful start to Mother’s Day and we would love to have thousands of women present with us with the love, passion, and desire for no war sewn into their squares.

Mother’s Day Proclamation

*Arise then, women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts!
Whether your baptism be of water or
of tears!
Say firmly:
“We will not have questions answered
by irrelevant agencies,
Our husbands will not come to us,
reeking with carnage,
For caresses and applause.
Our sons shall not be taken from us to
unlearn
All that we have been able to teach
them of charity, mercy and patience.*

*We, the women of one country,
Will be too tender of those of another
country
To allow our sons to be trained to
injure theirs."
From the bosom of a devastated Earth
a voice goes up with
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!
The sword of murder is not the bal-
ance of justice."
Blood does not wipe out dishonor,
Nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the
plough and the anvil
At the summons of war,
Let women now leave all that may be
left of home
For a great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women, to
bewail and commemorate the dead.
Let them solemnly take counsel with
each other as to the means
Whereby the great human family can
live in peace...
Each bearing after his own time the
sacred impress, not of Caesar,
But of God -
In the name of womanhood and
humanity, I earnestly ask
That a general congress of women
without limit of nationality,
May be appointed and held at some
place deemed most convenient
And the earliest period consistent with
its objects,
To promote the alliance of the differ-
ent nationalities,
The amicable settlement of interna-
tional questions,
The great and general interests of
peace. —Julia Ward Howe, 1870*

Founder's Day History Tour

Curt Collier

Join us on Sunday, May 17, for a tour
of Mt. Pleasant, the Ethical Culture

Cemetery. We'll travel
by bus to
Hawthorne,
NY, where
we'll visit
the graves of
founder Felix
Adler; his
wife, Helen
Goldmark
Adler; and other EC notables.



Founder Felix Adler

I'll be the tour host, stopping at vari-
ous graves to share stories of people
and events of the past. Other notables
buried there include Henry Morgen-
thau and Rube Goldberg. We'll pass
Riverdale, NY, home of Felix Adler;
the Ethical Culture School; and the
Riverdale-Yonkers Society. The cem-
etry is also known for its collection
of beautiful trees and wonderful land-
scaping. The trip will require some
walking, as Mt. Pleasant is hilly, but
we'll proceed at a leisurely pace. If you
have not visited Mt. Pleasant before,
you are in for a real treat.

We'll meet after lunch in the Social
Hall; the bus will leave at 1:45 pm from
the front of the building and return by
5:00 pm. A light meal will be provided,
and the tour is fine for families with
children. You must reserve your tickets
(\$20 per person, \$2 for children) in
advance. Please RSVP to Sheleigah in
the Leaders' office, at 212-874-5210,
ext. 118, or sgrube@nysec.org, by
Friday, May 15. For more information,
contact me at 914-648-0009.

Two Reunions— Wedding Couples

On Friday, May 8, at 6:30 pm in
Ceremonial Hall, Leader Dr. Anne
Klaeyen and Officiant Patricia
Bruder Debrovner will welcome

couples who have had Ethical Culture
weddings. This is a social gathering to
reconnect with them and to introduce
them to other couples.

Many people want a unique, non-
traditional wedding ceremony, and
they look for officiants who really
listen to them and understand their
needs. Often bride and groom were
raised in families with different
religious, social, and cultural tradi-
tions. They have grown to love one
another and now need to find com-
mon ground for their families to meet
and celebrate together. Ethical Culture
celebrants like Anne and Pat facilitate
a creative process that allows couples
to explore what is most important to
them and what shared values they
wish to communicate in their wedding
ceremony. It is a wonderful and grati-
fying experience.

Encampment for Citizenship

It is now 65 years since Leader
Algernon Black founded the Encamp-
ment—and high time for a reunion!
Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and former
camper Ruth E. Thaler-Carter (White
Plains, NY, 1970) have partnered to
reach out to alumni across the country
and are looking forward to greet-
ing all of you on Saturday, May 16,
7:00–10:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall.

Alumni will be bringing mementos,
photos, scrapbooks, etc., from their
summer Encampment experiences
to display, as well as many stories
to share. In addition to reconnecting
with each other, our goals for this
reunion include finding a permanent
home for the archives and reviving
this experiment in democracy for
future generations.

Check the Encampment for Citi-
zenship group on Facebook for an

invitation and RSVP to Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen at the NY Society: aklaeyesen@nysec.org or 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Gerald Ranck: 25 Years of Music

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen

On Tuesday, May 19, after his last concert of the season here at the Society, we'll celebrate Gerald Ranck's 25th anniversary as Music Director of NYSEC with a reception in his honor.

Throughout this past year, Jerry has entertained us and raised funds for the Society with his outstanding concert series. This concert, at 8:00 pm in the Auditorium, will feature Beverly Radin on flute and Jerry on harpsichord and piano performing music by composers Bach, Prokofiev, Reinecke, and Martino. Afterward, join members and friends for a reception, with light refreshments, in Jerry's honor in the Adler Study, Room 514.

Admission is free to members and \$15 for nonmembers, and the proceeds will benefit the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

CSA at NY Society

Curt Collier, Leader

Community-Supported Agriculture is a system whereby urbanites support local farmers by buying their produce directly. Not only does this help to guarantee that local farms remain vital (and thus less susceptible to being turned into strip malls), but "buying local" helps to reduce the carbon footprint of our food and reminds us to eat foods grown in season.

At a recent workshop led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen we discussed the benefits of participating in a CSA and several members expressed interest.

Through my contacts at Groundwork I have been offered 10 full shares as part of Sister Hill Farm CSA. Sister Hill is unique in that much of its food is donated to inner cities whose residents don't have access to fresh vegetables (so-called food deserts).

Establishing a CSA here would mean that participants would pay to join our CSA and would get fresh, organically grown vegetables from Memorial Day through Election Day. Participants can get a full share (\$30 a week) or a half-share (\$15 per week). Each Tuesday I would truck the vegetables to the NY Society and I would need volunteers to help unload and bag them for participants, who would pick them up Tuesday evenings. Vegetables that are not picked up within a day would be given away but the member would still be financially obligated. (I've been a member twice before and often I will just tell my friends to take my share if I can't get to it that week.)

To see what a typical share would look like, go to Sister Hill Farm's website: <http://www.sistershillfarm.org/>. Needless to say, if two people wanted to split a share they would split the amounts above....or we could do it for them. If this interests you please contact me at 914-375-2151 or email me at ccollier@nysec.org. I'll tell you in much more detail how such a CSA would work and what our responsibilities would be.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday evening, May 13, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in Room 514, Ethics and the Theater will present *Mornings at Seven*, by Paul Osborne.

"Where am I?" Osborne's play demonstrates that the answer to this

question is not as simple as you may think. In the course of one revelation-packed weekend, four sisters inhabiting the borderland between middle and old age, plus their families and one would-be family member, discover that home, success, and loneliness can have many meanings and come in many forms. On the occasion of its Tony-winning 1980 revival, *New York Times* critic Walter Kerr wrote that this moving comedy was "a uniquely shaped play, merry and mel-low and just possibly a little bit mad."

There will be a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm. So, come early, enjoy the performance, and afterward join in a lively discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Dr. Anne Klaeyesen. Elaine Berman will direct our cast, which includes John Gurney, Muriel Berger, Jerry Chamlin, Pat Debrovner, Fran Harris, Lawrence "L" Miller, Betsy Ungar, Tom Weishaar, and Maria Demarse. Carole Chamlin will narrate. Suggested donation: \$5.

Nutrition and Enlightenment

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen

On Wednesday, May 20, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, nutritional coach Marcia Berry will offer a workshop on how food impacts our emotional and spiritual well-being and how we can choose foods that will nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits. Her work supports the programs we have held in the past at the Society on Ethical Eating and Organic Community-Supported Agriculture.

Marcia writes, "Mystics, yogis, and spiritual masters throughout time have recognized that food directly influences our spiritual progress. . . That is because the food we consume *becomes* our cells and our conscious-

ness. And it all takes place in the time it takes to swallow!”

Workshop participants will receive a take-home kit of support materials to help them get started creating new, positive eating habits. Registration is required; call Sheleigah Grube at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email sgrube@nysec.org. Participation is free to NYSEC members; the suggested donation from nonmembers is \$10.

Looking at Einstein

Dr. Anne Klaeyssen, Leader

Join us on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 pm, in Ceremonial Hall, when author Fred Jerome introduces his new book, *Einstein on Israel and Zionism*, published by St. Martin's Press. We'll celebrate with refreshments, books available for sale, and, of course, a presentation about physicist Albert Einstein by the author.

Those who have heard or read anything about Einstein's politics probably know that Einstein was asked to become President of Israel in 1952 after the death of Chaim Weizmann, the country's first President. Israel's offer was widely publicized then—and since then. But very few people know that when Einstein turned down the presidency, he said, “I would have to say to the Israeli people things they would not like to hear.” *Einstein on Israel and Zionism* focuses on correcting a widely accepted story—that Einstein was a major supporter, a “champion” of the state of Israel—a story told and retold primarily by the mainstream media.

Mr. Jerome has spoken at NYSEC in the past, in 2002 after publication of his book, *The Einstein File: J. Edgar Hoover's Secret War Against the World's Most Famous Scientist*, and in 2005 after publication of *Einstein on Race and Racism*, which he

co-authored with Rodger Taylor. A veteran journalist and science writer, his articles and op-ed pieces have appeared in dozens of publications, including *Newsweek*, *Technology Review*, and *The New York Times*.

PIC: Responses To Obama

Abe Markman

We are fortunate at NYSEC to have members and leaders who have the expertise to bring us up to date on how the PIC initiatives are faring during the Obama administration.

On March 8, Dr. Charles Debrovner explained that because of the Bush administration's restrictions on stem cell research, scientists started working on adult cells, which has led to new opportunities and possibilities in the field. Now that the Obama administration has removed restrictions on stem cell research, scientists can pursue their studies on all types of stem cells without political interference. (Learn more at: <http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/public-issues-committee/>).

On April 12, Dr. Joseph Chuman, who is bringing back the Society's Advocacy Forums initiated by Khoren Arisian, discussed the forum on “Obama and the Imperial Presidency,” held on March 25, and previewed the second forum which will focus on American policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan, scheduled for June 17.

On May 10, Dr. Patricia Cohen will lead a discussion on health care reform.

On June 14, we'll have a forum on President Barack Obama's first 146 days in office.

On June 28, Curt Collier will review U.S. progress in dealing with global warming. That will be a fitting close to this season's “PIC of the News Club.”

To get the most out of these sessions, follow the motto, “Prepare, Inquire, Contribute,” or “PIC” (Public Issues Committee, the sponsor of this series).

Jekyll & Hyde to Sing for NYSEC

Julie Blutstein

Save the date **June 15, 7:30 pm**, for a wonderful event to benefit NYSEC! We'll host a concert staging of Frank Wildhorn's Tony-nominated musical, *Jekyll & Hyde*. The event is being presented by SAW Theatricals, and all proceeds will go to the Society.

The concert will feature Broadway performers Robert Petkoff (*Happiness*, *Fiddler on the Roof*) as Jekyll/Hyde and Brooke Sunny Moriber (*Parade*, *Threepenny Opera*, *The Wild Party*) as Emma, and also marks the New York stage debut of Jennifer Hallie Rosen as Lucy. The performance will feature the song “Bring on the Men,” which was not heard in the Broadway production. The concert will be preceded by a short panel discussion on the ethical issues of the show and followed by a cocktail reception with the performers.

Tickets for the concert will be \$20 for orchestra and mezzanine seats and \$15 for the balcony. A contribution of \$50 more will provide access to the cocktail reception and acknowledgment in the evening's program. For \$75, guests can attend the cocktail reception, be acknowledged in the program, and receive a gift bag and a limited-edition poster signed by the cast. The event has been endorsed by Frank Wildhorn, who said, “I couldn't be more thrilled to hear that it's returning to New York for the night!” For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ethicaljekyll.com.

Advocacy Forums

Dr. Joseph Chuman

On the evening of March 25 almost 400 people gathered at NYSEC for the first of our revived Advocacy Forums. The subject was “Obama and the Imperial Presidency” and featured panelists Michael Ratner, President of the Center for Constitutional Rights; Elizabeth Holtzman, former member of Congress and Brooklyn D.A.; and Lewis Lapham, editor of Lapham’s Quarterly.

Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman moderated the discussion. Khoren Arisian, former Leader, was present and was thanked by President Andra Miller for his role in initiating the Advocacy Forums in 2004.

The forum covered a broad range of topics related to the violations by the Bush administration and how far President Obama has come in redressing those excesses and what he needs to do to restore balance to the executive branch. Topics discussed included Guantanamo, torture and the recommended fate of its perpetrators, and government surveillance, as well as broad policy issues and questions of law. The lively discussion was followed by questions from the floor. All three panelists had recently authored books on the subject of the imperial presidency, and remained for a book signing and informal discussion.

A hearty thank you to all those who labored for months to organize this inaugural event, including Society staff. The next Advocacy Forum will take place on June 17 and will focus on American foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(First four photos taken by Dale Bryant; Last two photos taken by Dr. Maria Fridman)



Elizabeth Holtzman



Lewis Lapham



Michael Ratner



Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman



L-R: Leader Emeritus Khoren Arisian, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, and Society member Janice Buzby



L-R: Society members Dr. Maria Fridman and Amy Schwarz

May 2009

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Great Books: May 6 – Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i> (complete work) ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) May 13 – Cynthia Ozick, <i>Dictation</i>					1 June 2009 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film	2 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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 – Annual Meeting	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Socrates Café	6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:30 pm – Great Books	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Center for Inquiry 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	6:30 pm – Wedding Couples Social	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 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	6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop		3:00 pm – ECRDG 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 7:00 pm – Encampment for Citizenship Reunion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Founder's Day 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 – Life with Health 1:45 pm – Trip to Cemetery	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Socrates Café 8:00 pm – 25 th Anniversary Concert – Gerald Ranck 10:00 pm – Reception for Gerald Ranck	6:30 pm – Nutrition Workshop 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	11:00 am – Ethics on the Air	No Supervised Visitation program today
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	Memorial Day Society Offices Closed	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Discussing Ethical Issues Group 7:00 pm – Earth Rise ACT	12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – An Evening with Fred Jerome 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
31	Great Books: Great Conversation II May 20 – Christina Rossetti, <i>Goblin Market</i>					
10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 10:30 am – Earth Rise 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour						

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
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