

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

May 2-Auditorium
J.S. Bach, the Greatest
Humanist: The Joy of Music
Gerald Ranck, NYSEC
Music Director

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

May 9-Ceremonial Hall The Irrational Richness of The Individual

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader Richard Van Deusen Presides

May 16-Auditorium
Founder's Day:
Past, Present, and Future
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Andra Miller, President,
Presides

May 23-Ceremonial Hall Ethical Mysticism

Curt Collier, Leader

Dan Hanson Presides

May 30-Ceremonial Hall Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk

Massimo Pigliucci, Professor of Philosophy, CUNY Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

SAVE THE DATES!

AEU's 95th Assembly

Thursday, June 17 to
Sunday, June 20

OUTLOOK

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

May Happenings

On **Monday**, **May 17**, **6:00–8:00 pm**, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and her son, Andrew Newman, in conjunction with the NYC Parks Department, will present the documentary, *Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement*, and lead a discussion on the activities of faith-based environmental activists. Ceremonial Hall. (See page 6)

Maneuvering in today's job market can be difficult and frustrating. If you're out there, on **Tuesday, May 18, 10:00 am-3:00 pm**, you'll get a chance to hone your resume-writing and interviewing skills and meet representatives of companies wishing to hire. Come to a free **Job Fair** here at NYSEC. (See page 6)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Moral Injury

On Sunday, March 21, a public hearing of the Truth Commission on Conscience in War was held at Riverside Church in Manhattan. It was inspired by the documentary film *Soldiers of Conscience (http://www.pbs.org/pov/soldiersofconscience/*) and brought together testifiers, including veterans and conscientious objectors of the Iraq War, who talked about their brutal experiences; expert witnesses on religious and

legal understandings of war who discussed its impact on society; and almost eighty commissioners from across the country and from many faith traditions who listened.

I was fortunate enough to serve as a commissioner, representing the NY Society for Ethical Culture and the American Ethical Union, both of which co-sponsored this historic event. On Monday the commissioners met to deliberate over the testimony we had heard (Continued on page 2)

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

May 2-J.S. Bach, the Greatest Humanist: The Joy of Music

Gerald Ranck, NYSEC Music Director

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) is generally regarded as the greatest of all musicians in our culture, but we know very little about his personality and day-to-day life; thus, we have to go to his music to seek out his humanity and life philosophy. What, if anything, does his transcendently beautiful music (much of it concerned with Lutheran theology) have to do with Ethical Culture? A whole lot, it would seem. Answers and musical illus(Continued on page 3)

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Staff

Selma Friedman, Editor Jon Liechty, Reporter Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor Deborah Foster, Production

Andra Miller, President
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Curt Collier, Leader
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Dr. Khoren Arisian, Leader Emeritus

Robert Liebeskind, Executive Director
Julie Blutstein, Director of Development
and Communications

Rita Chawla, Director of Family Programs Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Leaders Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate Antonio Pagliarulo, Rental Associate Gerald Ranck, Music Director Marlon Rice, Facilities Manager

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

,	
Julie Blutstein	ext. 144
Gloria Chandler	117
Rita Chawla	106
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Antonio Pagliarulo	106
Marlon Rice	107

NY Society for Ethical Culture Officers:

Andra Miller, President, andramariemiller@gmail.com
Tom Weishaar, Vice President,
tom.weishaar@gmail.com
Heather Grady, Treasurer,
heathergradynyc@gmail.com
Chris Everett, Secretary,

Trustees:

Bob Berger, bobandmuriel@mindspring.com
Janice Buzby, janice345@verizon.net
Margaret Chapman, md.chapman@earthlink.net
Dr. James W. Farer, jfarer@earthlink.net
Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, phrmd@yahoo.com
Margaretha Jones, marjones@nyc.rr.com
Henryka Komanska, henryka@verizon.net
Sheila Kleinwald, sheila _ kleinwald@yahoo.com

Leader's Desk

chrisanddelise@hotmail.com

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and to start the process of writing a report on our findings. The most important concept I learned was "moral injury." Veterans said they could no longer hide the truth of what they had witnessed and done; they had become disclosers and teachers. Many, including Tyler E. Bourdeau, author of the memoir *Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine*, spoke of post-traumatic stress in terms of moral injury, not a psychological disorder, and longed for a community of conversation where they could speak and be heard.

To my dismay, none of the students in the freshman seminar I teach at Adelphi University had ever heard about conscientious objection until I screened *Soldiers of Conscience*, and most of them were adamantly against it. "If someone volunteers for the military," one student said, "then it's a commitment. I wouldn't want to serve with anyone who decided one day not to fight." Somehow volunteering, as opposed to being drafted, made a difference; although there wasn't much sympathy for conscientious objectors from past wars either.

How times have changed, I thought. When I was a college freshman, my campus, with countless others across the country, was engaged in peace activism from the classroom to the

interfaith chapel house. We rallied and marched, burned draft cards, and offered sanctuary to conscientious objectors. My students seemed impervious to the plight of a soldier who, perhaps after relentless recruitment or economic need, signed a contract at the age of seventeen and later realized he just couldn't kill another person. How, I wondered, would they console one of the testifiers: the Gold Star mother of a Pennsylvania National Guardsman who was killed in Baghdad searching for weapons of mass destruction? The courage I recognized in people who took a stand against violence they saw as cowardice.

So I talked about the moral injury that one suffers in war, the "crystallization of conscience," as the military guidelines phrase it, that one can experience, and drew their attention to the epidemic of suicides and domestic abuse among returning soldiers. I recommended that they read Mr. Bourdeau's book and I closed this message with his wise words: "While counselors strive diligently to never ask about the morality of war, there will be a great many veterans who cannot stop asking: 'Is this war just?' . . . For a veteran, sharing war stories is part of the process of reintegration into his community. . . . War stories also have a moral value. . . The ethical problem of war is no small issue and demands the attention of all people."

To learn more about the Truth Commission and follow its work, visit the website at http://www.conscienceinwar.org/.

* * *

Last spring NYSEC members, together with people from across the globe, joined CODEPINK, a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to knit pink and green squares that, when stitched together, spelled out lines from the following proclamation by Julia Ward Howe. The finished product was placed over the White House fence—a declaration that we would not raise our children to kill another mother's child. Yet here we are, a year later, still mired in wars. On Mother's Day, let us again recite Julia's anthem and remember that this holiday was conceived as International Peace Day. For more information visit http:// www.codepink4peace.org/.

Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

Mother's Day was originally started after the Civil War, as a protest to the carnage of that war, by women who had lost their sons. Here is the original Mother's Day Proclamation:

"Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: 'We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall 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 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 the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says 'Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.'

Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow 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 then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of 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 at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

trations will be provided. Bach opens the doors to a vast treasure of other music that equally enriches our lives, inviting us to enjoy *all* music.

Gerald Ranck was born in Pennsylvania and began piano studies at age six. He studied 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. Since then he has performed internationally, in London, Teheran, and Stockholm, among other cities, and has recorded for Soundspells, Cantilena, and Decca. His most recent appearances were with the Strathmere Ensemble, of which he is a founding member, where NYSEC is its home, and the Metropolitan Opera Chamber Ensemble with James Levine. Jerry regularly performs with the Orchestra of St. Lukes, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Throughout this past year, he has entertained us a with his outstanding concert series. Auditorium.

May 9-The Irrational Richness Of the Individual

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

The ancient playwright Terence famously said, "I am a human being, therefore, nothing human is alien from me." Fine and good. However, as humanists we are also rationalists, who give pride of place to reason to govern our lives and the life of society.

But what are we to do, and how are we to understand the vast swath of human behavior that is irrational, and often wantonly so? For we are given not only to reason, but to aggression, jealousy, resentment, violence, war, and a host of other expressions, which, undeniably, are human as well. Do humanists write these excesses off? Or is there a richer understanding of what it means to be a human being who strives to incorporate irrationality into the full panoply of the human, and thereby to learn from it? Ceremonial Hall.

May 16-Founder's Day: Past, Present, and Future

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Founder's Day is always an occasion for celebration. We are especially

appreciative this year as we look forward to our building's centennial in October. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will evoke the past by sharing with participants a copy of Felix Adler's Founding Address from May 15, 1876. She will bring the ideals expressed that day into the present by addressing contemporary ethical problems that confront us. The future will be represented by Matias Santiago, who graduates from the Ethics for Children program and officially comes of age. Matias will be accompanied by his parents. Gil and Lucia, and his mentor, member Chris Bernhardt.

During our social hour, we will recognize our newest members and celebrate the anniversaries of longtime members. New members since June 2009: Patrick Arenas, Vincent Brancato, Stacy Cheriff, Debra Curtis-Green, Nicola Antonio DeMarco, Ben Gersten, Reba Mirsky Goodman, Renee Goodstein, Judith Graeff, Dina Gregory, Tunc Iyriboz, Sheila Kaplan, Tom Kennedy, David Lee, Linda Lynton, Vered Mallon, Leonard Manoff, Terry Perlin, Irena Polkowska Rutenberg, Susan Pollet, Douglas Proops, Tod Whitaker, Judith Zisserson, and Charles Zorn.

Anniversaries: 70th anniversary: Life Members Richard Lawnhurst and Leah Lieberman; 60th anniversary: Life Members Patricia O'Malley and Carolyn Sapir; 50th anniversary: Life Member Virginia Scherer; 45th anniversary: Edward Finfer; 40th anniversary: Sylvan Wallach and Moira Whittington; 30th anniversary: Lily Friedman and Dr. Judith Wallach; 20th anniversary: Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh and Florence Ottenberg; 10th anniversary: Henry James Bunch, John Langsdorf, Ellen McBride, Dr. Kathleen O'Connell, and Tom Weishaar; 5th anniversary: Hilda Classon, John Lovelady, Nancy McGeorge Lovelady, Eric Volpe, and Dominick Zollo. Auditorium.

May 23-Ethical Mysticism

Curt Collier, Leader

While Ethical Culture is a religion, many view it as a purely humanistic type of movement, and by that, they mean a worldly and grounded way of life. Notions such as "the sacred," "holy," and "mystical" not only sound alien to many members' ears but some might even argue that the use of such terms goes against our ethical grain.

This talk will explore the possibility of an Ethical Mysticism and what it might look and feel like, including its comparison to historical mystical movements. Are you a mystic? Come find out. Ceremonial Hall.

May 30-Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk

Massimo Pigliucci, Professor of Philosophy, CUNY

Science is the most effective way humanity has invented to discover how the universe works. And yet it is much abused and vilified, largely by people who either dismiss it in favor of some fuzzy mystical notion or by those who wish to abuse it to advance their own political or social agenda. It is very important for our personal lives and for the benefit of our open society to be able to tell science from bunk, to see why alleged scientific "controversies" (evolution, global warming, the HIV-AIDS connection, and a vaccinesautism link) are indeed, as philosopher Jeremy Bentham famously put it, nonsense on stilts.

Massimo Pigliucci's research interests include the philosophy of biol-

ogy, the relationship between science and philosophy, and the relationship between science and religion.

Professor Pigliucci has been elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science "for fundamental studies of genotype by environmental interactions and for public defense of evolutionary biology from pseudoscientific attack." Pigliucci writes the "Rationally Speaking" blog (rationallyspeaking.org), hosts the podcast of the same name, and publishes the "Five-Minute Philosopher" videos on YouTube. His new book is Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk (University of Chicago Press). Ceremonial Hall.

Early Sunday

10 AM (Except as noted) (Rooms subject to change)

May 2-Singing Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's a lot of fun, so join us! Room 507.

May 2-Parenting Issues. 10:30 am. Dr. Anne Klaeysen presides. Room 514.

May 9–Colloquy–"Hurt." Joseph Marvel presides. Room 408.

May 16–Singing Practice. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

May 16-Poetry Readings. We welcome your selections at our poetry reading. In the past months, we've read poems by Rita Dove, Langston Hughes, Yeats, Theodore Roethke, Philip Levine, and others. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

May 30-Coffee 'n Chat. Room 408.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM (Except as noted)

May 2-Annual Membership Meeting. 1:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

May 2-Teen Leadership Program. 2:00 pm. Room 514.

May 9-Teen Leadership Program. 2:00 pm. Room 514.

May 16–Life with Health: Rapid Relief from Fear, Anger, Worry, Negativity, and Stress–the Easy Way, speaker Scott E. Weiner, Ph.D. Do you want easy and fast relief, so you can enjoy the benefits of more positive attitudes and a less stressful life? Learn easy one-minute self-help techniques to let go of your stressful thoughts, relax rapidly, and proactively prevent fear, anger, worry, negativity, and stress. Enjoy the wonderfully soothing guided relaxation and calming imagery in the session.

As a philosopher, Scott Weiner believes we can learn to think, interpret, and imagine in powerful stress-relieving ways. This relaxing seminar teaches you how to easily interpret and imagine stress away.

Dr. Weiner earned his Ph.D. in philosophy and did several years of doctoral research in Germany. He is a certified hypnotist and an NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) Master Practitioner. Known for helping people make significant positive change in just a few sessions, Dr. Weiner has presented mind-body seminars at the United Nations, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Learning Annex. He is writing a book on creative techniques for stress relief throughout one's life.

For further information, contact Scott_*E_Weiner@yahoo.com* or *www. ScottEWeiner.com*. Ceremonial Hall.

May 16—Teen Leadership Program. 2:00 pm. Room 508.

May 23-Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Founder's Day Month—Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm, for a series of talks from past Ethical Culture Leaders.

May 6-Chapter One: "First Steps Towards a Religion" by Felix Adler, *The Religion of Duty*, 1905.

May 13—"Social and Personal Ethics: Does the Code of Social Ethics Annul the Law of Private Morality?" by Anna Garlin Spencer, 1908.

May 20—"An Ethical Confession of Faith" by David Saville Muzzey, 1926.

May 27-"Are We Religious," 1975, and "An Ethical Concept of God," 1950, by Algernon D. Black.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office. Please come and join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome new members: Patrick C. Arenas, Sheila J. Kaplan, Irena Polkowska Rutenberg, and Tod D. Whitaker.

Patrick is a graphic artist who loves reading and book arts and is a bibliophile. He learned about the Society through our website and from Greg Epstein's book, *Good Without God*. Patrick has attended our Sunday Plat-

forms and Leader Lunches, and is drawn to the fellowship and the family feeling he finds at our Society. He is also a member of the American Humanist Association.

Sheila, a psychologist, is a longstanding member of the NYS Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association, and is also a member of the Executive Board of the Manhattan Psychological Association. Sheila likes the Society's liberal political activism. She has attended a number of events here and recently brought the "Shrinks on Film" series to the Society.

Irena is a sculptor, teacher, and life coach who trained with Jean Houston at the Mystery School. She is a "regular" at our Leader Lunch discussions and has attended the Non-Violent Communication workshop. Irena is fluent in Polish.

Tod, who is Patrick's partner of 18 years, learned about the Society though our website and also from Patrick. He works in the hospitality department at CitiGroup.

* * *

Kudos goes to MCC (Membership Cultivation Club) members Chris Everett and Rich Sander for organizing the very successful Spring Equinox party on March 20. About 100 friends and members of NYSEC and other social groups within the Reasonable New York Coalition joined us in Ceremonial Hall to celebrate the start of spring, and had a wonderful time.

Thanks to members Bob Berger, Ruth Cohen, Arlene Donar, Rich Sander, and Monica Weiss who helped out as volunteers at the World Without Nuclear Weapons event on April 8. We really do appreciate your help, and it's always a great pleasure to know that we have such dedicated members.

* * *

In Memoriam-Florence Weinstein

On February 12, Florence died. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 29, at 2:00 pm in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will officiate.

Florence Weinstein, born on July 26, 1907, was interviewed by Leader Algernon Black and became a member of the NY Society on February 8, 1948. When asked how she had heard of the Society, she replied that "having been brought up in New York," she had known about it since she was a child. Florence was an active member of the National Service Conference and was honored by the Society in 1991, receiving a crystal apple, which she called "a stunning surprise." As she grew older and lost her vision, Florence became homebound in her apartment on West End Avenue and then moved to The Jewish Home in Rockleigh, NJ. Caring Committee member Marilyn Baker visited her often and enjoyed reading to her. "Florence's mind was sharp as a tack," she said.

Florence is survived by her niece, Eleanor Lippman. Her grand nephew, Dave Lippman, has created a memorial website at *www.davelippman.com*, which family and friends can visit and add their own messages.

Ethics in Action: Environmental Stewardship

Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and her son, Andrew Newman, Coordinator of MillionTreesNYC, on Monday, May 17, 6:00–8:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall for a program of the NYC Parks Department, a screening and discussion of the documentary film, *Renewal: Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement.*

Renewal offers insight into the contributions that faith-based communities can offer towards protecting the environment. Building on the themes of stewardship and ecological restoration, important components of MillionTreesNYC, this film captures the vitality and diversity of today's religious-environmental activists who, from within their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions, are becoming caretakers of the Earth. Refreshments will be provided by the Parks Department.

Putting New Yorkers Back To Work

Come to a free Job Fair on Tuesday, May 18, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Registration for this timely event is required; contact http://www.eastcoastcareerfairs.com/ethicalculture/jobseeker_register.html.

In response to the continuing unemployment dilemma plaguing our community, NYSEC is partnering with East Coast Career Fairs and Manpower Inc. to host this Job Fair. Putting New Yorkers Back to Work is a community service project to help people in New York who are struggling to find employment and help recruiters showcase their hiring needs and meet face-to-face with qualified candidates.

The Society will provide space to companies that want to fill traditional job positions, and allocate a separate space for companies that are seeking to fill more senior positions. We will also hold workshops on resume-writing and interviewing. The Job Fair is free for all participants. Come, learn, and make valuable contacts.

Green Kitchen

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Thank you all for your continuing participation in our Dollar-Day Drives, Ongoing! The Green Kitchen Fund has now reached \$1,000. Bravo!

It is now possible for us to leverage this fund—to ask donors to match what we have achieved or contribute to the fund. The money also enables us to begin an inventory of the equipment required for the kitchen. Let us hear your ideas.

We are also awaiting a report from Marlon Rice about the status of money received from the recycling project—for the soda cans and all other bottles handled at the Society. We hope it is proceeding apace and look forward to the first \$300 in order to purchase an ice-maker and, following that, a sealing machine.

Thank you all, and our compliments to the chefs who have contributed recipes for the Corner Green Kitchen Cookbook. The deadline has been extended—continue to send in those recipes!! I'll keep you posted.



NYSEC Members in Action



Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen with Wayne Francis, Masonic Master of Adelphic Union Lodge #14, on her visit on March 23 to the Masonic Temple, where she participated in a panel discussion about the "Golden Rule" in various faith traditions



March 25 Rally at City Hall for Paid Sick Leave. (L-R) Abe Markman, Nancy Ambruster, and to their left, Andra Miller (partially blocked from view) Photo taken by Jim Hyland



Eleven NYSEC hikers on March 27. The weather was perfect for hiking (cool temperatures that made it easier to go uphill and sunshine and blue skies that made it fun)

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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 5 – Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass portions ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) May 12 – Anne Enright, The Gathering (2007 Man Booker prize)								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
10:00 am – Singing Practice 10:30 am – Parenting Issues 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting	June 2010 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm – Monday Writing			12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion		9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation		
12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:00 pm – Annual Meeting 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	Workshop 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform	6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Crafts Circle (Off site)	7:00 pm – Black Film Festival 7:30 pm – Great Books	6:30 pm – Drumming Circle 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: Sci-fi, Contact			
9 Mother's Day 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	11	3:00 pm=ECRDG	13 12:00 pm-Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm-Drumming Circle 7:00 pm-Thursday Writing Workshoo	14	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation		
16 Founder's Day 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Life with Health 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	17 6:00 pm- Ethics in Action 6:30 pm- Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm- Beyond Sunday Platform 7:00 pm- Prospective Members' Reception	18 10:00 am – Job Fair 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	7:00 pm – Employment in American 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	20 12:00 pm-Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm-Drumming Circle 7:00 pm-Thursday Writing Workshop	21	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Beyond Sunday Platform			12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Drumming Circle 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	11:00 am – Ethics on the Air	No Supervised Visitation program today 2:00 pm – Memorial for Florence Weinstein 6:00 pm – Encampment Reunion		
30 10:00 am-Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am-Ethics for Children 11:15 am-Morning Meeting 12:30 pm-LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm-Sunday Brunch	31 Society Offices Closed Memorial Day	Great Books: Great Conversation II May 19 – Joseph Conrad, <i>The Shadow-Line</i>						



TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023-7179