

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

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## Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM—Music and Reflections

In the Auditorium

**November 6**

**Galvanizing Community**

*Tony Hileman*

*Senior Leader*

Dr. Charles H. Debrovner Presides

**November 13**

**Get Real**

*Fritz Williams*

*Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society*

Tony Hileman Presides

**November 20**

**Beyond Exoneration**

*Dr. Richard Dudley*

*Psychiatrist*

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Presides

**November 27**

**Giving Thanks**

*Volunteer Speakers*

Robert Berger Presides

## November Happenings

**Beyond Exoneration:** In his talk on November 20, Dr. Richard Dudley, a psychiatrist, will speak about his work counseling people who have been wrongly indicted and who are either seeking exoneration or who have already been exonerated and are asking for civil damages for their suffering. For more information see page 2.

**Y.E.S. Conference:** A week-long conference for young people, November 4-11. Teens meet to discuss ethical issues and seek solutions to world hunger. See Family Programs on page 3 for more details.

**Ethics and the Theater:** This popular program will present members playing roles in Wendy Wasserstein's *An American Daughter* on Wednesday, November 9, 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more details, see page 6.

**Fall Hike:** Mark your calendar. This year we'll hike in Palisades State Park on Saturday, November 19. See page 6.

## Sunday Morning Meetings

**November 6—Galvanizing Community**

*Tony Hileman*

*Senior Leader*



As the multi-generational, localized personal communities of yesterday give way to a modern mobile society, what kind of void is left in our lives and how do we fill it? Who and what have we come to depend upon through the highs and lows of the stages of life? What brings us together, what keeps us together, and what makes us most aware and appreciative of the intentional community we've formed? Tony Hileman, the new Senior Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, will share his thoughts.

**November 13—Get Real**

*Fritz Williams*

*Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society*

“I think we pay too much attention to lying as an individual deed and too little attention to lying as a state of being... too much attention to the lies that come out of our mouths, and too little attention to the tangle of lies inside, the lies that live in our deepest selves.” Beginning with his vivid memories of sensitivity training, Fritz Williams describes his quest for authenticity.

**Bring a  
Friend on  
Sunday**

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 Tony Hileman, Senior Leader  
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**Sunday Morning**

*(Continued from page 1)*

**November 20—Beyond Exoneration**

*Dr. Richard Dudley  
 Psychiatrist*

“It is extremely difficult for us to think about this issue, because if we focus on how it is that an innocent person can be convicted, imprisoned, and maybe even end up on death row, we begin to realize that it could even happen to us.”

In his work evaluating and treating adolescent and adult males of color, Dr. Dudley has counseled numerous people who are seeking exoneration or who have already been exonerated and are seeking civil damages for their suffering. In addition, he has treated individuals who have been exonerated and are attempting to put their lives back together. It is based in large part on these experiences that he will speak about the enormous toll of being convicted of a crime that one didn't commit on the individual, his/her family, his/her community, and the larger society.

Dr. Dudley is a psychiatrist with a practice in Harlem, where he primarily evaluates and treats adolescent and adult males of color, as well as practices forensic psychiatry. He has testified as an expert in psychiatry in civil, juvenile, and adult criminal matters throughout the United States. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Dudley teaches in the Behavioral Sciences Department of the City University of New York Medical School at City College. He also teaches courses in expert evidence at the New York University School of Law.

**November 27—Giving Thanks**

*Volunteer Speakers*

A panel of four volunteers will explore the things for which they are thankful. These could be a special favor done by a friend, a stroke of good fortune, a fulfilling life, or being part of an Ethical Culture Society; you name it.

Call the Sunday Program Chair, Andra Miller, at 212-627-3944, if you would like to make a five-minute presentation of your own list of things for which you are thankful. After the panel, please join in a general discussion during which we'll share our own lists.

**Early Sunday  
 10:00 AM**

**November 6**—Everyday Ethics:  
 “Happiness”  
*Abe Markman*

**November 13**—Colloquy

**November 20**—Poetry Reading

**November 27**—Singing Practice  
*Gerald Ranck*

**Sunday Afternoon  
 2:00 PM**

**November 6**—Ethics in the News  
*Mary Ellen Goodman*

**November 13**—The Sacrifice of Isaac  
 Workshop  
*Fritz Williams*

**November 20**—Community Meeting

**November 27**—No program



## O Magazine Features Ethical Culture

*Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Archivist*

The November issue of *O*, Oprah Winfrey's magazine, will feature a quotation from the writings of Algernon D. Black, a former Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

The magazine's editors wanted to publish an inspirational quotation on their "Live Your Best Life" page, which is devoted to a single uplifting passage. Suzy Frazer referred them to the Ethical Culture archives, where our archivist, Marc Bernstein, offered them a number of important items to consider. They chose the following words, which Algernon Black first used at an Ethical Culture Meeting during the McCarthy era:

*This is a call to the living,  
To those who refuse to make peace  
with evil,  
With the suffering and waste of the  
world.*

*This is a call to the human,  
Not the perfect,  
To those who know their own prejudices,*

*Who have no intention  
Of becoming prisoners of their own  
limitations.*

*This is a call to those who remember  
the dreams of their youth,  
Who know what it means to share food  
and shelter,  
The care of children and those who  
are troubled,  
To reach beyond the barriers of the  
past  
Bringing men into communion.*

*This is a call  
To the never-ending spirit*

*Of the common man,  
His essential decency,  
His integrity beyond all education and  
wealth,  
His unending capacity to suffer and  
endure,  
To face death and destruction  
And to rise again  
And build from the ruins of his life  
This is the greatest call of all  
The call to a faith in people.*

## Family Programs

*Lynda Kennedy*

Fall is once again bringing a number of exciting programs and events.

We are very pleased to have several new children attending our Sunday explorations of ethics with children. Please join me in making them and their families welcome.

This Fall the Y.E.S. (Youth of Ethical Society) Conference will be held November 4-11 at the Frost Valley YMCA Conference Center. Its theme is "How Can We Help? Teens from the Fattest Country Seek Solutions to World Hunger." This year, the young people who wish to will spend Thursday night here at NYSEC and then meet with Marc Bernstein to learn about the Society's history.

Once again, November means it's Penny Harvest time! Please start bringing in your pennies to support programs that help the homeless in New York City. Last year our Sunday School children gathered 70 pounds of pennies with your help. For more information about the Penny Harvest program, contact Lynda in our Family Programs office, Room 509, or at the phone number below.

Anyone interested in supporting our Sunday group or becoming involved in other family and youth initiatives should contact Lynda at 212-874-5210, ext. 106. We are particularly in need of

mentors for our kids who are nearing their teens.

## Our Ethical Family

*Suzy Frazer*

From members **Holly and Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh**: "To all of our friends at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, with gratitude for their loving support after the death of our dear father, George Henry Bogdanffy."

### The Human Heart

*Algernon Black, adapted from the writings of John Lovejoy Elliott*

The love of the human heart is the most real and the most beautiful of all the realities we know.

It is the richest gift of our manhood and our womanhood.

It is the love that joins us together as lovers, as husband and wife, as mother and father, as parent and child, and as neighbors and friends.

Whatever the length of time may be, to have known something of this is to have had the extreme privilege of being human.

The anguish of parting cannot destroy this most real of all realities.

The love has been.

The affection has existed.

The ties have been woven.

Life has been shared, the joys and sorrows.

This has been as real and strong as anything in life.

For it has become part of us, part of our life, woven into the very texture of our being.

Each of us would wish to leave something of ourselves, some memory, some influence for good.

So here and now we bear witness to one we knew in life, who now in death

bequeaths a subtle part, precious and beloved, which will be with us in truth and beauty, in dignity and courage and love, to the end of our days.

## Farewell to Kate Lovelady

Barbara Levenson



Kate Lovelady

The New York Society's outgoing Leader Intern, Kate Lovelady, was honored for her excellent work over the past year, at a

farewell vegan pot-luck dinner held on September 16. The attendees expressed the Society's appreciation for her dedication and presented her with a one-of-a-kind archival photograph of Ethical Culture's Free Kindergarten.

Good luck Kate. We know you have a wonderful future in the Ethical Culture movement.

## Member and Team



Henry Brunch, Society member and director of the Social Service Board's Youth Soccer Project, with one of his championship teams at the Queens Soccer School. The team placed second out of 12 teams this year.

## Memorial Wall Dedicated

Barbara Levenson

In a moving ceremony in our historic landmarked building on September 11, the Ethical Culture Society dedicated the new East Memorial Wall.

Among the speakers on this occasion were Irene Cox, sister of the architect Frederick Cox, who contributed his services, and Eva Yachnes, who donated the first plaque in memory of her grandmother. The plaque reads: "In Memory of Berthe Jellinek Obersohn—Who perished in the Holocaust. As she saved my life, I will preserve her memory."



(L-R) Sheila Kleinwald, Ruth Cohen and Irene Cox

## NYSEC Reaches Out at Street Fair

Suzy Frazer

NYSEC was a lively presence at the Columbus Avenue Street Fair on September 18. Sponsored by the West Side Chamber of Commerce, we had a large (free!) space near Khiel's and Starbucks. Many people came by to ask questions, take some flyers and join



(L-R) Dominic Venturella, Laurie Broza, Bonnie Bean and Eric Volpe

our mailing list. Thanks

so much to Helene Basist, Bonnie Bean, Laurie Broza, Amira Reason, Dominic Venturella, Eric Volpe, and our crackerjack maintenance staff!



(L-R) Eric Volpe, Bonnie Bean and Laurie Broza



Amira Reason staffed the Ethical Culture table

# Fall Retreat

*Suzy Frazer*

We had a truly serene—and yet stimulating—weekend at the Society’s Annual Retreat, which was held September 30–October 2. The weather was superb and the accommodations at Jeronimo’s in Walker Valley, New York, were as pleasant as ever.

Our new Senior Leader, Tony Hileman, and President, Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, led a far-reaching discussion of Ethical Culture, which ranged across many deep, humanist issues, as well as the practical nuts and bolts of the daily doings at NYSEC.

We also enjoyed hikes in the beautiful countryside, trips to the Farmers’ Market, swimming, a special musical program by the talented Jon Liechty (Thanks!), movies, much talk, and much laughter. Those who were not able to attend this year should seriously consider joining the retreat next year. It’s a most rewarding experience.

Here are some scenes from this year’s Retreat:

## Fall Retreat 2005



(L-R) Tony and Betty Hileman



Good cheer and good talk. (L-R) Dan Morgan, Carole and Jerry Chamlin, Maria Fridman



Attendees gather for a discussion



Conversation at breakfast (L-R) Pat Berens, Christine Swann, and John Gurney

## Film Forum

Cheryl Gross

Join us on Friday, November 4, as we screen *The Naked City* (1948), an exceptional example of film noir that uses a documentary format and New York City itself as a background. Narrated by Mark Hellinger, a New York journalist and the film's producer, the plot centers on a murder investigation shot on location in New York.

*The Naked City* is shot in a realistic, documentary style and expresses the moods of New York in the late 1940s, as police follow clues into various city neighborhoods. The film was directed by Jules Dassin, who was blacklisted and left the United States. He continued directing movies in Europe.

*The Naked City* spawned a TV series of the same name, and viewers will recognize similar elements in a number of current police shows on television that also use the city as the setting for the story. Cinematographer William Daniels and the film's editor, Paul Weatherwax, won Oscars for their work. Barry Fitzgerald gave an excellent performance as the detective in charge of the case. Other actors in the film included Howard Duff, Don Taylor, and Ted de Corsia.

Richard Bruno will lead the discussion following the showing. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the movie begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Popcorn and beverages are included in the admission. Come prepared for a good film, good talk, and a great time.

## Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday, November 9, 7:00-9:00 p.m., our popular Ethics and the Theater series, which brings members

to our "stage" in roles from important plays, will feature Wendy Wasserstein's *An American Daughter*. With great humor and intelligence, the play tells the story of a woman who is nominated to the post of Surgeon General of the United States and, although committed to public health and with an outstanding record as a brilliant health-care administrator, must deal with the consequences of being accused of having avoided jury duty.

Ms. Wasserstein, whose latest play, *Third*, is currently playing at the Mitzi Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center, is a proud graduate of our Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools. Our cast includes Karen Contreras, Ruth Garbus, Richard Hymes, Alex Mogieleff, Vince Navarro, Howard Parker, Nneka Pope, and Betsy Ungar. Christine Swann will moderate the talk.

## Fall Hike

Henryka Komanska

If you love the great outdoors, please join us on a hike in Palisades State Park on Saturday, November 19.

We will begin this four-hour hike with a 15-minute walk over the George Washington Bridge. You will see great views of Manhattan's West Side and the Palisades. The trails in Palisades State Park are fairly flat and offer beautiful views of the Hudson River. There will be one steep descent at the beginning of the hike and one steep ascent at its mid-point. Wear hiking shoes or sturdy walking shoes and dress in layers. Bring water and a light lunch and/or snack for the trail.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m., at the information booth of the Port Authority Bus Terminal at 178<sup>th</sup> Street. To get there, take the A train and go to the ticket office level. We expect to return to Manhattan about 2:30 p.m. For more

information, call Henryka at 212-582-5192. Rain cancels.

## Caring Committee Corner

Christine Swann

### Cell Phones: Friends or Foes?

The Caring Committee offers some helpful advice on using these important—and sometimes annoying—communication tools.

**Users, Prepare the ICE:** In view of the widespread use of cell phones by our members, the committee suggests the following ways to protect ourselves in case of an emergency.

If you carry a cell phone, it's a good idea to program in emergency contact numbers. These are referred to as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) numbers by the city's emergency services. Place the numbers under "ICE," which is where they or anyone who is trying to help will look. Thus, if you are in an emergency, they can locate a contact, tell them what has happened, and perhaps have access to essential medical information. They suggest listing several contacts and naming them, for example, "ICE-spouse," "ICE-son," or "ICE1," "ICE2," etc. Remember to use the phone numbers at which your contacts are most likely to be reached.

### Cell Phones and Marketing Calls:

Very soon, telemarketers will be able to contact you on your cell phone. Apart from the annoyance, this will also mean a cost to you if you pay for incoming calls. To place yourself on a list that will prevent marketers from calling you on land lines or cell phones, call 1-888-382-1222 or go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Using the website is a two-step process, but is easy and you can get a printed record.

# November 2005

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Great Books</b> November 2 – Euripides, <i>Iphigeneia at Aulis</i> Aristotle, <i>Politics</i></p>		<p>1 December 2005 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30 am &amp; 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation</p>
<p>6 10:00 am – Ethics for Everyday Living: “Happiness” 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 2:00 pm – Ethics in the News</p>	<p>7 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>8 6:00 pm – Women’s Group 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>9 3:00 pm – ECRDG</p>	<p>10 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>11 7:00 pm – Film Forum starring New York City – The Naked City (1948)</p>	<p>12 9:30 am &amp; 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation</p>
<p>13 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 2:00 pm – The Sacrifice of Isaac Workshop</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>15 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – In-Laws 101 Workshop 8:00 pm – Strathmore Ensemble</p>	<p>16 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – Great Books: Clashes of Culture</p>	<p>17 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30 am – Fall Hike 9:30 am &amp; 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation</p>
<p>20 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 1:00 pm – Cafeteria 1:00 pm – Orientation 2:00 pm – Community Meeting</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>22 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>24 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>25 Society offices closed</p>	<p>26 No Supervised Visitation today</p>
<p>27 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 1:00 pm – Cafeteria</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>29 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p>30 7:30 pm – Shelter</p>	<p><b>ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group)</b> November 9 – Saul Bellow, <i>Henderson the Rain King</i> <b>Great Books: “Clashes of Culture”</b> November 16 – W.E.B. DuBois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (selection)</p>		

**Ethical Culture** is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR  
**ETHICAL  
CULTURE** 

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