

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

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Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

November 6—Ceremonial Hall Wall Street: Good and/or Evil?

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

November 13—Ceremonial Hall The Looming Specter of Reinhold Niebuhr

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Cheryl Gross Presides

November 20—Auditorium The Corporate Assault On America

Frances Fox Piven
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

November 27—Ceremonial Hall Sustainability as a Spiritual Practice

Curt Collier, Leader
Paula Claycomb Presides

*Happy
Thanksgiving!!*

November Happenings

Come to the Society on **Thursday, November 17**, at **7:30 pm**, to hear the 100-man **University Glee Club of NYC** sing to benefit NYSEC. This will be an inspiring evening of song by a 107-year-old chorus whose members represent more than 70 colleges. For more information, see the October issue of *Ethical Outlook* (page 9) or contact Beth Zucker at 212-874-5210, ext. 144. Auditorium.

On **Sunday, November 20** at **1:30 pm**, the **Life with Health** committee will present an introduction to “time banking,” an alternative economic system that promotes the exchange of services for credit for the time spent on providing the service, regardless of what that service is. As the committee notes, “time is what counts, and time is the currency.” Come and hear Time Bank members share some of their experiences over the years and their perspectives on the challenges and rewards of time banking. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 4*)

President’s Notes

Andra Miller



I’m writing this after an exciting Board meeting, at which we investigated five new ideas for far-reaching programs. By the time you read this, we’ll have discussed with you at the October Community Meeting the two we figured we could handle. And next month we’ll tell you more about how we’re strategizing for the future.

I just returned from our **Membership Retreat**, Bringing Out the Best, which was held at Stony Point Center, in Stony Point, NY. I had a great time; some said it was the best retreat we’ve ever had. Co-chairs

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader’s Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Economics Is a Moral Issue

On October 5, fifteen stalwart NYSEC members headed to Foley Square to participate in one of many **Occupy Wall Street** actions. Several of us had participated as individuals at the daily protests and general assemblies. Since this march was legal (a city permit had been obtained), I felt comfortable approaching our Board of Trustees for support and reaching out to our community for participation.

Barricades staffed by the NYPD kept us in line all along the route, where we mingled with people of all ages and professions, workers, and unemployed. The

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

Sheila Kleinwald and Bob Berger did a wonderful job finding us a new place to hold it (Stony Point Center) and booking our Leaders for some in-depth exploration of (1) end-of-life triumphs and tragedies; (2) the basics of our ethics; and (3) plants, growth, and friendship. It was Sheila's idea to pair people who didn't know each other well to spend some time together, then on Sunday introduce and give some information about each other. It was an enlightening experience, and we learned interesting background facts, while discovering some hilarious comedic talents.

The informal evenings, with wine, cheese, and other snacks, were all about having fun. Card games were featured and for the first time in my life, I won at poker. Me! Amazing! It was so exciting! (To show my ignorance about the game, I had the best hand when I thought I was bluffing.) Thanks to Beth Zucker and Curt for leading all us neophytes along. We (well, I, for sure) had a grand time. Also exciting were the Ghost (word spelling) sessions. In this case, I was the teacher, and although she lost the first game, Renée Goodstein was so enthusiastic about the challenge, she made a wonderful ghost. Then there

was a rousing game of Hearts, an old favorite of mine. Winner of that game (the person with the lowest score) was Pat Cohen, a masterful player. Aside from movies and a form of Scrabble, I don't know all the rest of the activities, as I was so deeply involved in those in which I took part.

Being in the country, on Saturday we had to have a hike, arranged by Chris Bernhardt and Henryka Komanska. We climbed a beautiful stone stairway up a mountain towards the Appalachian Trail, with expert commentary on the history of the trail, the trees we saw, and the other natural wonders along the way by Curt. It was magnificent.

Stony Point is a serene place, a quick hour's drive by car and a bit longer for those taking the bus. The accommodations were lovely, the food OK, and the camaraderie terrific. I won't go into more details; photos are on page 10, but thanks to Sheila, Bob, our three Leaders, and our wonderful members, we all had a terrific time.

A group from the Social Service Board are meeting right after I write this to plan our fundraising **New Year's Eve** party. A NYSEC committee is also planning a **New Year's Day** party, so for those of you who like to stay in on the evening of revelry, we still have a way for you to celebrate the new year. For those of you who want to get out and get a little wild, with live music and dancing, we'll

have an ethical New Year's Eve, including midnight fireworks-viewing from our roof. Do join in for one or the other.

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

title of this column was the slogan I held aloft throughout the march. Some of the myriad other posters read: "Lost my job, found an occupation," "I Can't Afford a Lobbyist," and "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." We chanted with thousands of others: "We are the 99%," "The banks were bailed out, we were sold out;" and the ever popular "This is what democracy looks like!" (See photo of some of our members.)

It took the mainstream media a long time to acknowledge that something important was happening in Zuccotti Park (aka Liberty Plaza) on the corner of Broadway and Liberty Street in lower



(L-R) Meg Chapman, Anne Klaeyesen, and Sharon Pope with other marchers.

Manhattan, the makeshift headquarters for Occupy Wall Street, a grassroots process movement that came alive on September 17. According to its website, www.occupy-wallst.org, this is a "leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders, and political persuasions. The one thing we all have in common is that We Are the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%. We are using the revolutionary Arab Spring tactic to achieve our ends and encourage

the use of nonviolence to maximize the safety of all participants." Arun Gupta, editor of *The Occupied Wall Street Journal*, a print broadsheet, struck a revolutionary note: "For over two weeks, in the great cathedral of capitalism, the dispossessed have liberated territory from the financial overlords and their police army."

Friends of my generation have been humming and posting the lyrics to "For What It's Worth," Steven Stills' 1966 song with the memorable lyrics "There's something happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear." From the beginning, I appreciated that rather than issuing a neat list of demands, the group asked questions. That's so Ethical Culture! You gotta love a movement that proclaims, "Educate yourself!" So many political pundits have missed the boat because they want digestible sound bytes to broadcast. This is a revolution that won't be easily televised; it will be discussed in person and online, in the streets and on YouTube. It will defy analysis because it is grassroots and consensus-building.

A recent Census Bureau finding is that nearly one in six Americans—46.2 million—live in poverty, the highest number ever reported by the bureau. On his PBS series, Tavis Smiley traveled across the country with Princeton Professor Cornel West to examine poverty. "They [the poor] sense that they're being rendered invisible," Smiley says. "They sense that the focus has been on Wall Street, not Main Street, much less on the side street." Every day on my commute from Brooklyn to Manhattan at least one person (and often more) enters the subway car asking for money. Some entertain by singing, dancing, or playing an instrument; others simply beg, shar-

ing stories of loss and need. One place they are sure to receive a hot and nutritious meal is at Liberty Plaza. I know because I have visited and contributed to the food table there.

Democracy is boisterous and messy; it's also generous. It's high time we turned away from the oligarchy that has overtaken our country and reclaim a democracy that values all its members for their inherent worth and dignity.

Postscript: You can practice ethics in economics by completing your annual pledge (minimum only \$1 a day).

NYSEC cannot continue its work in the community without your support.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

**November 6—Wall Street:
Good and/or Evil?**

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

Since September 17, protesters—"We Are the 99%"—have occupied Zuccotti Park and marched on Wall Street, gathering more supporters every day and spreading their nonviolent message across the nation and around the world. What are the issues and what is at stake? Is Wall Street a real or symbolic target? Can our economic system be reformed to include the many voices finding expression in these protests? Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen explores these questions in her address.

The shared charity is Just Food. Ceremonial Hall.

**November 13—The Looming Specter
Of Reinhold Niebuhr**

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Jimmy Carter claims him as an inspiration. So do Madeleine Albright, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain. Most tellingly, Barack Obama states

that he was a formative influence on the development of his thought. Reinhold Niebuhr was the most important theologian of the 20th century. A brilliant but complex and paradoxical thinker, Niebuhr at various times was claimed by both liberals and conservatives. Though he believed that society must strive for improvement, he at the same time held that because of inherent flaws in human nature, especially our blinding self-love and pride, social betterment is not really in the cards for us. For decades, Niebuhr and his disciples at Union Theological Seminary engaged in philosophical combat with the humanist John Dewey and his followers at Columbia University, who believed that human beings possess adequate resources to steadily improve the human condition. At the deepest level, Niebuhr's philosophy represents an anti-humanism against which we can hone our own beliefs. In my address, I plan to sketch an outline of Niebuhr's contributions to American thought and politics and the challenges they present.

The shared charity is City Harvest. Ceremonial Hall.

November 20—The Corporate Assault on America

Frances Fox Piven

I will examine the growth of corporate political power over the past four decades and its impact on government revenues, services, and regulatory capacity. I will also consider the prospects of popular resistance capable of thwarting corporate power.

Frances Fox Piven is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. She is the author or co-author of *Regulating the Poor*; *Poor People's Movements*; *The*

New Class War; *Why Americans Still Don't Vote*; and *Challenging Authority*.

The shared charity is Oxfam. Auditorium.

November 27—Sustainability as a Spiritual Practice

Curt Collier, Leader

Most of us have been socialized to act exactly like “consumers,” people who use up large quantities of disposable products without any thought of their production impact or what happens to them after they are discarded. Most of us don't realize that this way of thinking only evolved in the last century, and whether we choose to accept it or not, is only possible for a limited number of years. Sustainable living requires a shift in lifestyle and consumerism. My talk will explore the history of consumerism and the benefits of a more sustainable life.

The shared charity is Project FIND. Ceremonial Hall.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Nov. 6—Chorus 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! Ceremonial Hall.

Nov. 13—Colloquy—Pain. Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

Nov. 20—Poetry Reading—“Fall” into fall and come and read your verses with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Nov. 20—Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Except as noted)

Nov. 6—Foundations of Ethical Culture. Admission is free, registration is required. To register contact: Yalitzia Garcia at ygarcia@nysec.org or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 118. Ceremonial Hall.

Nov. 20—Life with Health: Time-Banking, An Alternative Economic System To Promote Health and Wellbeing.

Learn how this worldwide movement empowers people and helps to build healthy communities.

A trade, a task, a visit, a phone call, a trip, a workshop—a serendipitous gift awaits in every exchange.

“I've used Womanshare to expand my skills, sharpen my awareness of the needs of others, and push beyond what is comfortable.”

The **Life with Health** committee offers an introduction to the idea and practice of time banking. A time bank is, in essence, a service exchange. Members perform services for one another and receive credit for their time. One hour always equals one credit, no matter what the nature of the service, whether it's helping with a resume, cooking a meal, or simply taking someone to the doctor. Time is what counts, and time is the currency.

The Time Bank concept originated with Edgar Cahn, an anti-poverty activist. In 1987, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded three start-up time banks. Today, there are about 300 in 23 countries. One of the largest is right here in New York: Community Connections, run by the Visiting Nurse Service of NY. One of the most intimate time banks is Womanshare,

which was founded twenty years ago here on the upper West Side, and which has recently become an affiliate of Community Connections. Time Bank members will share some of their experiences over the years and their perspectives on the challenges and rewards of time banking.

For more information, see *The New York Times*, September 15, 2011: "Where All Work is Created Equal," by Tina Rosenberg, or contact: *Womanshare.com*. Ceremonial Hall.

Nov. 27 – Ethical Economics. Leader Curt Collier presides. Room 514.

Nov. 27 – Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month's topic: **Social Ills and Remedies**.

Nov. 3 – Occupy Wall Street Movement: various articles.

Nov. 10 – "More Than 1 Billion People Are Hungry in the World" by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2011.

Nov. 17 – "Maslow 2.0: A New and Improved Recipe for Happiness" by Hans Villarica, *The Atlantic*, 8/11; and **"What Is a Good Life?"** by Ronald Dworkin, *The NY Review of Books*, 2/10/11.

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day!
Happy Holiday!

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders' office. Please come and join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

This has been an exciting period for the Society and our members. Here are some highlights; you'll find more in-depth coverage in this and also the October issue.

NYSEC, NYPIRG, 350.org, and other organizations worked together on a petition campaign and march on Saturday, September 24, **Moving Planet Day**. **Abe Markman** and **Paula Claycomb** tirelessly coordinated the gathering of signatures at the entrance to Central Park and successfully garnered hundreds of signatures. The purpose was to demand that the news media report more comprehensively on climate change. The organizers were also invited to appear on the Today show on that morning. Also on hand to join the action were **Patrick Arenas, Virginia Arnold, Bonnie Bean, Pat Cohen, Curt Collier, Renée Goodstein, David McCants, Carole Nadell, Carol Rost, Rodney Williams**, and others. (See story on page 8.)

* * *

On September 25, during the Platform Meeting, Queens Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer presented a Proclamation to **Henry Bunch** and NYSEC's **Social Service Board** for taking a leading role in teaching leadership, values, self-worth, and community-building through his outreach sports program, **LA Liga soccer teams**. Henry has dedicated his time and energy to working with immigrant teenagers. He is a man who builds world peace one kick at a time! Henry gets a kick out of world peace and to show it, he tirelessly coaches soccer teams with teenagers from immigrant and underprivileged families year round. Recently, NY1 selected Henry Bunch to be its New Yorker of the Week. Congratulations! (See story in the October issue, page 9.)



(L-R) Henry Bunch; Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., SSB Chair; Law'nence (L) Miller; Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer; and students.

* * *

On September 27, 16 of us enjoyed a sunset cruise of the Brooklyn Harbor where we learned a great deal about the past, present, and future of what was once a thriving working port area.



(L-R) On board: Pat Berens, Bonnie Bean, Barbara Levenson, and Ellen McBride.



(L-R) Nancy Ambruster, Jim Hyland, and Carol Rost enjoy the view.

* * *

Thirty-seven enthusiastic members and our three Leaders trekked to the Stony Point Center



The Gilmor Sloane House, in Stony Point, NY.

the last week of September for a wonderful and productive annual fall **Membership Retreat**. Thanks to the hard work of co-chairs **Sheila Kleinwald** and **Bob Berger**, everyone had a grand old time of reflecting, connecting, learning, playing, and bonding. (See more photos on page 10.)

* * *

Leader **Anne Klaeyesen** and other members marched with the NYSEC banner to Wall Street as part of the



Occupy Wall Street mass movement on October 5. Members of unions and the community impacted by the economic crisis have been demanding that Wall Street and New York's wealthiest pay their fair share of taxes. We marched to Wall Street to welcome the protesters and to express solidarity with New Yorkers hardest hit by corporate greed. We are proud to stand together with United Federation of Teachers, 32BJ SEIU, 1199 SEIU, Workers United, Transport Workers, PSC-CUNY United NY, the Strong

Economy for All Coalition, Working Families Party, Vocal-NY, New York Communities for Change, Community Voices Heard, Alliance for Quality Education, and the many others who are joining this movement daily, to continue what was started in Wisconsin! (See Leader's article on page 1.)

* * *

OUT@NYSEC was inaugurated on October 12, and received with great warmth by an intimate but very excited crowd. Bravo to our Director of Special Events **Antonio Pagliarulo** for coordinating it from conception to the launching of the event, and thanks to Leader **Curt Collier**, who helped make this a very fun evening, and to **Yalitzia Garcia**, Assistant to the Leaders, for her invaluable help in putting the evening together. Great work, everyone!

* * *

On Saturday, October 15, Leader **Curt Collier** led a group of intrepid members on an **Excursion in Environmental Ethics**. They visited the Dolan DNA learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where they learned the history of mapping the human genome. The group also traveled to the Oyster Festival at Oyster Bay, L.I. toured historic ships, watched a pirate show, and shopped for crafts. The trip aimed to provide an experiential setting for discussing some of today's pressing environmental issues, and to have fun. As usual, Curt managed to make the day both fun and educational. (See October issue, page 6.)

* * *

A **Community Meeting** for members and friends of NYSEC was convened on Sunday, October 16. The Board of Trustees has been focusing on the future after reviewing our past state-

ments of mission, and thinking about the NYC community today. The Board asked for our members' help in setting plans and ideas about how we can realize our vision for the future, and received heart-felt responses from the members. (See President's Notes in the October issue.)

* * *

Last, but not least, say "hello" to our new Sunday School teachers, if you haven't already. **Gabrielle Abousleman** is the lead teacher; the assistant teacher is **Sarah Nurbhai**. **Ishmael Islam** is our new teen leader. Welcome aboard!

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in November: **Henryka Komanska**, 11/1; **Heather Grady**, 11/3; **Richard Van Horn**, 11/4; **William Baker**, 11/7; **Sheila Navarro**, 11/7; **Florance Ottenberg**, 11/7; **Aaron Balasny**, 11/12; **Selma Friedman**, 11/14; **Hilda Classon**, 11/16; **Donna Damhorst-Pang**, 11/17; **Alexander Mogieeff**, 11/17; **Steven Schultz**, 11/17; **Virginia Scherer**, 11/19; **Harriet Bigus**, 11/21; **Ruth Oppenheimer**, 11/21; **Henry Seiden**, 11/22; **Gail Appelbaum**, 11/23; **Khoren Arisian**, 11/24; **Maria Quon**, 11/24; **Jamieson Scott**, 11/24; **Lisa Woodul**, 11/24; **Vincent Navarro**, 11/25; **Patrick Arenas**, 11/28.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethical Mindfulness And Inner Peace

Thursday, November 3, (November 17 canceled due to conflict w/Glee Club). **6:30 pm–8:30 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514. This will be led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen.

Ethical Mindfulness and Inner Peace is an exploration of how different traditions cultivate mindfulness and a process of developing a uniquely Ethical Culture approach. Each session will include a meditative experience. Reading materials will be provided. The program is free for members; guests pay \$5 per session.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett



Join us on **Friday, November 4, 7:00 pm** (the doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, to see the 2007 film *Atonement*, directed by Joe Wright.

When 13-year-old Briony Tallis (Saoirse Ronan) discovers a lustful letter and witnesses a sexual encounter between her older sister (Keira Knightley) and a servant's son (James McAvoy), her confusion prompts her to finger the young man for a violent crime. Her half-truth changes their lives forever in this Oscar-nominated drama based on the critically acclaimed novel by Ian McEwan. Brenda Blethyn and Vanessa Redgrave costar. Our post-film discussion will be led by Jamie Scott. The suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics in Literature Reading Group

Join us on **Monday, November 7, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

Civil rights lawyer Michelle Alexander argues that the imprisonment of unusually large numbers of young blacks and Latinos, most harshly sentenced for possession or sale of illegal drugs, mainly marijuana, constitutes "a stunningly comprehensive and well-designed system of racialized social control." The "warehousing" of inner-city youths is a new form of Jim Crow under which drug offenders are denied employment, housing, education, and public benefits; face a lifetime of shame; and rarely successfully integrate into mainstream society. Most people who use or sell illegal drugs are white, but in many states 90 percent of those admitted to prison for drug offenses are black or Latino. Police departments, given financial incentives to focus on drug enforcement, find it easier to send SWAT teams into poor neighborhoods, where they will face less political backlash, than into gated communities and college frat houses. Alexander hopes that a new grassroots movement will foster frank discussion about race, cultivate an ethic of compassion for all, and end the drug war and mass incarceration.

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

Felix Adler's Writings

Join us for a seminar on Felix Adler's writings on **Tuesdays, November 8 and 22, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Room 502. Leaders Dr. Joseph Chuman and Dr. Anne Klaeyen will guide us in a close study of Adler's writings, with the goal of our gaining a thorough understanding of his thoughts and aims through probing discussion.



For more information, see the Fall/Winter 2011 issue of the **Ethical Enrichment** brochure. The seminar is limited to eight participants with a strong commitment to attend *all* of the sessions. Five have already signed up; three places are left. Admission is free, but registration is required.

Please contact Yalitza Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, to register.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **Friday, November 18, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will present *Mrs. Farnsworth*, by A. R. Gurney. Gurney applies his familiar cast of upper-class WASP characters to potent political satire.

Mrs. Farnsworth is attending a night class in creative writing because she has a very important story she must tell. It soon becomes clear that the novel is autobiographical and the cad in it is very possibly the current "leader of the free world," who is now running for re-election.

The liberal-leaning teacher is understandably enthusiastic. Not so Mr. Farnsworth, who follows his wife to class intent on stopping her, not by force, of course, but through Gurney's typically witty repartee. The debate that ensues is nuanced, revealing, and always entertaining.

Susanna Frazer directs our cast, which includes Josh Banks, Stephen Bradbury, and Cecelia Riddett.

Come at **6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by

Richard Van Deusen. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On Monday, November 21, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Food, Inc.* (2008). Drawing on Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation* and Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, director Robert Kenner's Oscar-nominated documentary explores the food industry's detrimental effects on our health and environment. Kenner spotlights the men and women who are working to reform an industry rife with monopolies, questionable interpretations of laws and subsidies, political ties, and rising rates of *E. coli* outbreaks.

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

Ethical Adventures

Carol Rost

The Ethical Adventures Committee is planning a **Bowling Night Out!** We'd like to know how many people are interested in this activity. As for the cost, the more expensive lanes cost about \$50 per hour, so five or six players could share the expense. If you have bowling shoes, bring them. We have not decided on a month or time yet, because we need to know how many people are interested.

Please contact me at 212-260-4703, or email at carri888@verizon.net.

Green Kitchen Initiative

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Thanks to our Sunday Program Committee and other members, we are still able to enjoy a lovely post-platform Sunday brunch in the Social Hall!

I want you to know that the renovation of the kitchen space is still in our plans, and we will be resuming our Dollar Day collection drive now that fall has arrived, along with some other options for the project! Happy Fall! And, once again, thank you all for your participation.

We Moved the Planet But the Media Didn't Notice!!!

Abe Markman and Paula Claycomb

Determined to bring awareness of the climate crisis to people around the world, about 1,000 grass roots events took place from Indonesia to Africa, Europe, and the U.S., but this was not covered by the U.S. media before, during, or after **Moving Planet Day**, Saturday, September 24. The silence sent a riveting message.

Months before, a few of us, with Leader Curt Collier's support and advice, decided to join Moving Planet Day with a petition urging national media to do more to educate the public about the growing threat to life from the burning of fossil fuels. We were invited to be on NBC's Today show; afterward there was a march to UN Plaza. What followed was frustrating, and then exhilarating.

At the Today show, wearing T-shirts designed by Paula Claycomb were: Paula, Pat Cohen, Patrick Arenas, Heather Grady, Monica Weiss, and 350.org recruits Denise Hampton and Laura Bradburn. After promising to air a segment on the climate crisis, the show did not film us, which was frustrating—although a number of people signed our petition.

The exhilaration came later. In Central Park, we gathered 709 adult and 30 children's signatures and several children's drawings from New Yorkers and tourists. These were mailed to 60 Minutes, the Associated Press, and USA Today. What continues to lift our spirits is that member Heather Grady's daughter is determined to get 300 more signa-



(L-R) Leader Curt Collier, Paula Claycomb getting someone's signature.



(L-R) Monica Weiss, Patrick Arenas, Heather Grady, Denise Hampton, Laura Bradburn and Paula.

tures on the children's petition; Paula plans to meet with Jackie Johnson of 350.org, who set things up with NBC, to see if they can find ways for us to work together; and Bill McKibben has called on all the Planet Movers to meet as a group at City Hall for a march to the Wall Street campgrounds.

From time to time, Ethical OUTLOOK will publish "Op-Ed" articles from members on a variety of issues.

Ethical Healthcare For Prisoners

Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Trustee and Chair, Social Service Board

I am not sure which group is more marginalized or more expendable in our society—the mentally ill, the substance abusers, or the incarcerated—but I do know that if people are mentally and/or physically ill, abusing substances, and incarcerated, they are triply cursed. And, if they are of color, well, forget it.

Anyway, of this you can be sure: while local jail and prison healthcare is insufficient, most of the inmates are not receiving adequate healthcare anywhere. Nationally, there are 2.26 million people in jails and prisons, the highest rate on the planet, about 751 of every 100,000. In New York State there are roughly 57,000, 48 percent of whom are African-American. Incarceration remains the criminal sanction of choice, and minority incarceration remains disproportionate. A study in the *American Journal of Public Health* reported that mental health problems—such as depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, and personality disorder—are pervasive in

prisons. Among federal inmates, 14.8 percent had a mental health diagnosis, while at least one psychiatric disorder was diagnosed in 25 percent of both state prison and jail inmates.

In 301 state prisons and local jails, for inmates reporting a prior diagnosis of mental disorder, 42.8 percent were also chronically ill, with rates of diabetes, hypertension, prior myocardial infarction, and asthma that exceeded comparable rates in the general population. HIV disease was twice that of the outside population. Yet, 20 percent of state prisoners and a startling 68.4 percent of local jail inmates in surveyed jurisdictions had received no medical examination since incarceration. Many injured in prison—12 percent of state prisoners and 24.7 percent of jail inmates—saw no medical provider after serious injuries such as fractures, sexual assault, and traumatic unconsciousness.

I have witnessed prisoner health, psychiatric, and substance-abuse care over the past four decades, and I can tell you that though the systems have been somewhat improved, such care remains subordinate and rudimentary nearly everywhere. We need to find a way to stop what I, as a medical professional, view as inhumane treatment. Prisoners are suffering and dying because jail and prison officials cannot provide a level of health care comparable to that received by civilians in their local communities. Prisons are not sufficiently staffed, that staff is not adequately trained, and the community itself has not prioritized this issue.

I am working to encourage public health officials, physicians, psychiatrists, and addiction and other treatment providers to discuss their experiences with judges, prosecutors, public defenders, correctional officials, and probation and parole

officers. If they could strengthen their relationships and build consensus, they would find ways to support a workable public health approach. We must also work to encourage health care professionals to consider inmates' employment, housing, education, spiritual values, and family relations in their treatment planning and counseling. Adequate resources must be given to them to enable them to take a comprehensive approach.

But we, within the system, can't right these wrongs on our own. Concerned members of Ethical Culture can encourage these improvements and help shine a bright light on the inhumane health care our public health and justice system allows. I'm sure we all agree that our prison population is not beyond the reach of the ethics central to Ethical Culture.

You can help in this campaign. Here is a list of organizations that are working to foster this needed improvement in detention centers, prisons, and jails. Please join in to speed up the solutions. And if you have any ideas on the subject that you'd like to share with me, send them to SSBEC@NYSEC.org or the following: Correctional Association of New York, Attn: Ms. Soffiyah Elijah, Esq., selijah@correctionalassociation.org; Osborne Association of New York, Attn: Mrs. Liz Gaynes, egaynes@osborneny.org; Urban Justice Institute, Attn: Mr. Bob Gangi, RGangi@urbanjustice.org; Center for NuLeadership in Urban Solutions, Attn: Dr. Divine Pryor, drdpryor@gmail.com or infor@centerformuleadership.org; Addiction Research and Treatment Center, Dr. Reginal Fluellen, rfluellen@fluellenassociates.com; New York Society for Ethical Culture, Andra Miller and Dr. Anne Klaeyen, ygarcia@nysec.org.

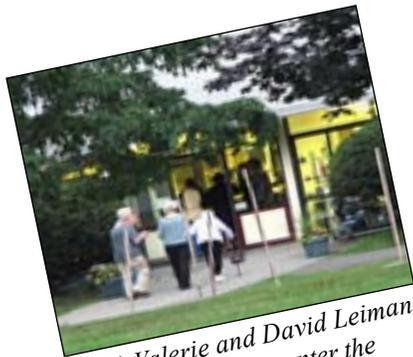
NYSEC's Membership Retreat



(L-R) Henryka Komanska, Carol Rost, Pat Cohen, Chris Bernhardt, Curt Collier, Pat Berens, Muriel Berger, Chris Everett, Bob Berger, David Leiman, Sheila Kleinwald, and Andra Miller at the wonderful first night cocktail party.



(L-R) Jerry Chamlin, Anne Klaeyesen, Barbara Levenson, Bernice Cornyetz, and Sy Amkraut at a serious discussion in the Meditation House.



(L-R) Valerie and David Leiman, Andra, and Bernice enter the dining room.



Sunday morning in the Meeting House.



(L-R) Henryka, Curt, and Chris enjoy a meal in the dining room.



(L-R) Henryka, Susan Horowitz, Chuck Debrovner, Bernice, Chris, Curt, Andra, and Pat visit Bear Mountain.



(L-R) Chuck, Pat, Bob Liebeskind, Dina Gregory, David Lee (holding Cassian), Chris, and Henryka on the trail.



(L-R) David, Cassian, and Dina climb up the path to the Appalachian Trail.

November 2011

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><u>Foundations of Ethical Culture</u> November 6</p> <p><u>Ethical Mindfulness and Inner Peace</u> November 3 and 17</p> <p><u>Seminar on Felix Adler's Writings</u> November 8 and 22</p>	1 December 2011 Newsletter Deadline	2	3 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm – Ethical Mindfulness 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	4 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Atonement</i> (2007)	5
<p>6 Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> <p>10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Foundations of EC</p>	7 1:00 pm – Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	8 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	9	10 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	11	12 8:35 am – Fall Hike
13 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch	14 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	15 7:00 pm – Adler Seminar	16	17 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – University Glee Club 10:00 pm – Ethics on the Air	18 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	19
20 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Life with Health	21 1:00 pm – Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	22 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	23	24 Society Offices Closed Thanksgiving Day	25 Society Offices Closed	26
27 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Ethical Economics 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News	28 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	29 7:00 pm – Adler Seminar	30	<p>Ethics in Literature: Reading Group Nov. 7 – <i>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</i>, by Michelle Alexander</p> <p>Ethics and the Theater Nov. 18 – <i>Mrs. Furnsworth</i> by A.R. Gurney</p> <p>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries Nov. 21 – <i>Food, Inc.</i> (2008)</p>		

The New York Society for Ethical Culture is a welcoming home for humanists. We've provided nontheistic services in a congregational setting since 1876. We embrace the diversity of our city and invite all to join us in celebrating life's joys, supporting one another through life's crises, and working together to make the world a better place.

Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. Members are committed to personal ethical development in their relationships with others and in activities involving social justice and environmental stewardship.

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