

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 Programs

(for details see page 3)

October 6

"Shall We Invade Iraq Now? President Bush And The Age Of Pre-emption"

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

Dr. Charles H. Debrovner Presides

October 13

"A Personal Perspective On The Death Penalty In New York"

David Kaczynski

Executive Director, New Yorkers

Against the Death Penalty

Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

October 20

"Must A Free Nation Put Itself 'Under' Something? Why Justice Scalia Is Dead Wrong About the Constitution"

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

Frank Prescod Presides

October 27

"Ethical Questions In Refugee Work"

Susan Benesch

Legal Fellow, Lawyers

Committee for Human Rights

Mary Ellen Goodman Presides

WQXR-FM (96.3)

Broadcasts

1st and 3rd Sundays of
the month at 7:30 am

October 6

"The House I Live In: Democracy in America, De Tocqueville's View and Ours"

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

October 20

"Experiencing The Humanist Faith"

Anne Klaeyen

Leader Intern

October Happenings

Thursday, October 10–November 7, our newly revised course in "Foundations of Ethical Culture" will be presented. With the addition of new presenters, it will appeal even to those who have taken the course previously. And if you have never taken it, it is a must! See flyer page 14 for details.

Sunday, October 13, we will devote the day to observance of Amnesty International USA's "National Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty." Our morning meeting will feature David Kaczynski, brother of the Unibomber and Executive Director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, who will talk about his family's personal experience and recent developments in capital punishment. In the afternoon, a panel of noted specialists on the death penalty will discuss aspects of the subject. This discussion will be a fund raising event on behalf of DNA testing for a death row prisoner. See flyer page 13 for details.



From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Khoren Arisian

What a Summer! And the November Mid-Term Elections are not Far Behind

This past summer was anything but routine for our beloved nation. Terrorist activities, which seem more random than comprehensively planned, instead erupt sporadically around the world; nonetheless they do exhibit a singular purpose—to keep American fears and anxieties at as high a temperature as possible. Our national government's response to all this is not always made clear, to say the least; the Bush

(continued on page 4)

President's Notes

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh

By the time this column appears, we will have been back in the Auditorium for a month, and our fall season will be well underway. We have a lot planned this fall, which can be gleaned from the newsletter and abundant flyers. We will also have come back to a number of changes that have been made over the summer. I would like to take a moment to talk about those changes and make a few comments about what can be expected for the coming year.



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Ethical Culture: Who We Are

What Is An Ethical Society?

[Undated statement from the St. Louis Society, discovered by Archivist Dr. Marc A. Bernstein]

An Ethical Society exists for the purpose of inducing people to think more about conscience, duty, justice, the cultivation of the higher nature, working for others, about High Conduct in all its phases, Morality in all its aspects. It exists for the purpose of persuading people to *do* more than they are doing toward making themselves better men and women and toward improving the rest of the world.

An Ethical Society exists for the purpose of keeping public attention on the moral aspects of the Questions of the Day, and not allowing people to judge on such matters from their own personal interests or from purely material considerations.

An Ethical Society exists for the purpose of organizing practical educational work in social reform on a basis which shall be strictly neutral on all matters pertaining to religion....

An Ethical Society exists in order to serve as a meeting ground for people who are unable to agree in their religious beliefs and yet who are warmly interested in working together for their own moral improvement and for the moral improvement of the whole human race.

An Ethical Society exists for the sake of cultivating the sense of reverence and fostering the moral and spiritual nature of each person, while allowing every man to think as he pleases or as his judgment may compel him to think.

An Ethical Society exists for the purpose of awakening and fostering higher scruples in one’s conduct in the home, personal life, in public affairs, commercial life, and in all one’s relations to the city, the State or the nation to which one may belong....

An Ethical Society represents a world-movement to foster an ethical spirit among individuals and to organize educational and reform efforts along ethical lines.

Sunday Morning Meetings

October 6 – “Shall We Invade Iraq Now? President Bush and the Age of Pre-Emption”

Dr. Khoren Arisian

When Defense Secretary Rumsfeld appeared before NATO to demand that the organization support the prospect of war against Iraq and its all-powerful ruler Saddam Hussein, Rumsfeld arrogantly brushed aside the request for a convincing rationale, pronouncing, “The absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence”: a statement as cleverly self-canceling, evasive and uninformative as the classic Surrealist expression: “Don’t miss it if you can.” Ours has suddenly become an age of pre-emption, signaling the desperate effort to stop something terrible from happening. Steven Spielberg’s current film, *Minority Report*, is an unwitting harbinger of this new nail-biting quest to control the future. No wonder we hear that the U.S. must now reverse Cold War deterrence theory and adopt instead a positive first-strike (even nuclear) capability.

However seemingly justified by the admittedly surreal war on terrorism, such thinking, precisely because of its vagueness, could establish a dangerously inflammable set of precedents. Shall we nonetheless attack Iraq as soon as possible, or shall we first attempt to insist on inspections without notice coupled with an immedi-

ate punitive response if weapons of mass destruction are discovered or the components for them that are not yet assembled? How might all this play out in the present highly charged political atmosphere in which rhetoric too often substitutes for reality? Above all, what principal ethical issues are likely to be at stake? Once the genie of pre-emption is out of the bottle, it won’t be easy to push it back in.

October 13 – “A Personal Perspective on the Death Penalty in New York”

David Kaczynski

David will recount his personal story, especially as it relates to endemic problems with the death penalty. David, brother of the Unibomber, is the Executive Director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and a strong opponent of capital punishment. His personal and family story is a moving account. David will also preside at our afternoon fund raising event on behalf of a death row prisoner.

October 20 – “Must A Free Nation Put Itself ‘Under’ Something? Why Justice Scalia Is Dead Wrong About the Constitution”

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Every now and then we Americans experience a need to revisit that old standby cultural trinity of God, flag and country. With passages from the ironically named USA Patriot Act ringing in our ears, and conventional piety registering shock that anyone would dare take legal steps to delete from

the Pledge of Allegiance the phrase, “under God,” inserted as a result of Congressional legislative pandering to the McCarthyist stampede in 1954, we need to ask anew, what’s God got to do with it? An aroused cultural nationalism that aims to shame or pressure everyone to join the mindless chorus of the rote repetition of words and phrases deemed to be sacrosanct does not a free country make. Majoritarian theological tyranny has effectively become the real third rail of American political and cultural life. Refuting the main thesis of a recent controversial speech by Supreme Court Justice Scalia regarding God and the democratic state will help clarify what really matters.

October 27 – “Ethical Questions in Refugee Work”

Susan Benesch

Refugees, of whom there are an estimated 14 million around the world, present great dilemmas—should money be spent to feed them indefinitely in refugee camps, in the hope that they can remain, or should the same funds be spent to “resettle” only a few refugees? If the latter, how should they be chosen?

“I never told my own religion nor scrutinized that of another. I never attempted to make a convert nor wished to change another’s creed. I am satisfied that yours must be an excellent religion to have produced a life of such exemplary correctness. For it is in our lives, and not from our words, that our religion must be judged” Thomas Jefferson, 1816.
From “Around the AEU,” Stanley Wayne

From the Leader's Desk

(continued from page 1)

Administration is perhaps the most secretive and deliberately uncommunicative in history. As a citizenry, we are not being well informed, more propagandized than educated, sold the usual line that we are in great danger and that domestic freedoms and Constitutional principles have to be reined in. For what? How will that help democracy's cause? All in all, almost every morning's headlines remind me of *Alice in Wonderland*. I'm sure I'm not the only New Yorker (by enthusiastic adoption) who is variously put off by the whole scene as it is mysteriously devised by the "Bushies," as the press frequently refers to the present Administration; then there are the incongruous and sudden disappearances of the Vice-president—also unprecedented. The world has indeed changed!

Be that as it may for the moment, let us turn now to our own Ethical Culture household. The Society's building is in a continuous state of renovation and improvement, including the Main Auditorium, which has been freshly carpeted, although major improvements in lighting and painting and in the cleaning of the pews are postponed until next summer. Our recent Sunday meetings, many of you will be pleased to hear, have been exceedingly well attended and received—averaging about 75 per Sunday. Presentations were stimulating and varied, eliciting considerable interest and response. We are thus poised to enter our fall season in a confident mood and forceful way.

A new position, that of Events Coordinator, has been established by the Board and has already been filled with the hiring of Sari Gadlin, who brings with her 14 years of experience in New York City along with personal sparkle and a quick intelligence. As I compose this Leader's column at the end of August, I'm aware that we are also on the verge of hiring a full time PR/Marketing person who will work in tandem with Sari and the rest of us who are responsible for the fundamental programming of the Society. My one regret, in the midst of all this new energy, is Anne Klaeyen's prospective departure next winter when she assumes full-time Leadership with the Long Island Ethical Humanist Society. This is a great development both for that fine group of Ethical Culturists and for Anne's professional standing, a position which she will doubtless discharge with her usual competence and dedication. Up to the time of her departure next February, she will continue half-time as Leader Intern here and serve half-time as Leader of the Long Island Society. This is a very busy time for Anne, as these two positions will require considerable traveling. We wish her well and every success. My own personal hope is that we shall be able to find another Leader Intern to succeed Anne by the Summer/Fall 2003.

The Society and I have now been working together for two years, the past year having proved to be much busier than the first and far more challenging, in no small part due to the startling exigencies surrounding what we now customarily refer to as Nine-

Eleven. The great question before our nation is, how are we going to come to terms, domestically and internationally, with the threat posed by Al Qaeda/the remains of the Taliban and the Bush Administration's obsessive preoccupation with Iraq? Needless to elaborate, I plan to address such issues along with the usual menu of philosophic and personal concerns that are part and parcel of any genuinely religious and educational movement. Here's a persistent theme for the year ahead: what kind of nation are we becoming versus what kind of nation do we want to be?

Upon returning to the office early in August from our delightfully satisfying but fast-paced vacation—a little less than a week of attending a Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario with a couple of long-time friends, followed by a week's visit with our respective children and their families in San Francisco—I was somewhat amused to receive an anonymous call from an apparently quite concerned NY resident who urged me single-handedly to persuade Democratic gubernatorial candidate Carl McCall to repeal New York state's death penalty! The person in question, of course, didn't know how to bring this about, nor had she the time, but assumed *we*, namely Society members and I, had all the time in the world and therefore could do it on her behalf, the carrot being that in return for Mr. McCall's willingness effectuated by our irresistible persuasiveness, he would receive our decisive endorsement which would clinch his election! The Society's enduring reputation for social activism still lives! I can't begin to enumerate the number

of times I receive communications via phone, e-mail, snail mail and even occasional visits from strangers, on a weekly basis, asking us to save some part of the world with the Ethical Force that we uniquely embody—oh that we could! The political fact is, neither Cuomo nor McCall has the slightest intention, whatever their personal feelings, of including repeal of the death penalty as a critical plank in their electoral strategy—which does not mean that we at the Society cannot persist in precisely that endeavor (Mr. Cuomo, of course, has since opted out of the race, an arrangement brokered behind the scenes and then made public).

Be all this as it may, I truly look forward to engaging with many of you as we attempt to make some sense of this rapidly changing, yet wonderful world. Some of you have undoubtedly long since guessed that I'm regularly troubled by the phenomenally rapid rise of the American Right to the nation's pinnacle points of influence—having ensconced itself throughout the entire texture of all three branches of the Federal Government. Toward this end, I plan to become ever more active in anti-extremist projects of the Institute for Democracy Studies, a relatively new, research-oriented and ethically prescient group that I've publicly mentioned a number of times whose leadership has come to realize that we must *do* something about what we learn. I now associate 9-11 not only with the terrible events that 9-11 represents, but even more so with the effort of the current Administration to use the indefinite War on Terrorism as a cover to further its own repressive agendas. Let

us not be deceived—the USA Patriot Act, which will have been duly lauded in connection with 9-11 observances, but enacted hurriedly a year ago with hardly any Congressional or citizenship give-and-take, among its many provisions is expressly designed to diminish our constitutional freedoms as much as it is to shore up the nation's security apparatus.

More about such issues at a later time—it may seem almost irrelevant here to mention a few personal matters at the end of these opening remarks concerning our forthcoming time together in a new season of intensified ethical concern, but I do so in the assumption that some of you might be passingly interested. My wife Leigh decided in May to terminate her position as Development Director/East Coast with the American Refugee Committee, and will not pursue any immediate employment alternative. There are simply too many domestic household issues to resolve that have had to be put partially on hold this past year because of the necessity for her to have been out of town every other week. This proved to be not merely an exhausting but nearly killing schedule. Furthermore, Leigh has a number of prospective personal interests she's quite eager to pursue, although for the remainder of this calendar year she will oversee (believe it or not!) the usual remaining 10% of renovations and other improvements to our Brooklyn co-op. Frankly, I myself can hardly wait for this two and a half year-long project to come to an end and passionately look forward to not seeing another contractor for the indefinite future.

Let me reiterate my hope: May this coming year prove to be one in which we as a Society take off as a pervasive institutional force and presence in the West Side community and in the city at large, and yet at the same time provide succor and strength in our daily lives.

Warmest greetings to all of you from the two of us.

On Happiness

The purpose of man's life is not happiness, but worthiness. Happiness may come as an accessory; we dare not make it the end.

Felix Adler

If we cannot live so as to be happy, let us at least so live as to deserve happiness.

John Fichte

The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others so.

Robert Ingersoll

The best that life has to offer, is giving others happiness.

Sophocles

There is a type of happiness that has nothing to do with either virtue or duty or ethics. This is the happiness that is found in the joy of existence.... Happiness is ultimately the love of life, the celebration of living.... The mark of happiness is...that we are filled with loving-kindness.

Arthur Dobrin

President's Notes

(continued from page 1)

Our Building

If you were here at all during the summer you experienced having to access the fourth and fifth floors through the school's elevator. This was due to much-needed repair, maintenance and upgrading of our own elevator. The elevator project is one of a number of building projects we are undertaking, mostly to bring our building up to code and address safety issues. At its June meeting the board approved \$450,000 to pay for these corrections and upgrades. We will be addressing issues all year long and have made a good start over the summer. In addition to the elevator, you will have noticed new carpeting in the auditorium, new closet space and reconfigured offices on the fifth floor. Additionally, reconfiguration of space in the basement and fourth floors has been planned and is underway or completed.

These space reconfigurations meet two needs:

- **Storage for tables and chairs:**

We have urgent need for storage of tables and chairs used in our meeting rooms. In the past, we have either stored these items in hallways (a problem with codes and fire safety) or moved them from the basement to the fourth and fifth floors as needed and back again. The new storage space will eliminate code violations and make the maintenance staff's work easier.

- **New Office Space:** We are reconfiguring office space to provide for our anticipated expansion in staff, which

has already begun and will continue in the fall.

On a sad note, as a direct result of our expanded needs for office and storage space, we have chosen not to renew the lease of the Citizens' Committee on Health Care Decisions. The Citizens' Committee has been with us for 12 years and we were very unhappy to have had to ask them to leave, which we did last spring. We wish them the best of luck in the future and remain open to collaboration on programs as we have done in the past.

Finally, as an experiment, the board approved approximately \$12,000 for the refurbishment of room 514, the Adler Study. The work is largely complete and I hope anyone who has the chance to see it will agree that it was worth the expense. The refurbishment was undertaken to spruce up our own image and to verify that a refurbished space will lead to increased income. Paula Sheldon, our administrator, reports that she is having no trouble renting the room at a 75% higher fee and we expect to recover our costs in less than two years.

Our Staff

The budget approved for the current fiscal year, which began on July 1, included money for initiatives to address three areas of Society functioning:

- Events coordination
- PR
- Development

These initiatives were proposed to the board as new staff positions, though we investigated consulting and other forms of outsourcing to accomplish our goals. Our conclusions are that new

staff is the best way to accomplish our goals and we have focused on doing just that.

Events Coordinator

The first need we addressed is events coordination. We are pleased to welcome Sari Gadlin to our staff in this position. The position of events coordinator has several objectives.

- **Management of our rental business:** We have done a good rental business in the past and are working on increasing that business. Sari will assume day-to-day responsibility for the showing of spaces, fielding of inquiries about spaces, negotiation of contracts, and servicing our rental clients. This will free Paula Sheldon, our administrator, to focus on other administrative issues.
- **Assistance to the membership:** Another part of Sari's responsibilities will be to assist the membership with program planning, coordination and execution. In this role, we will be expecting her to work closely with the Program Committee and every committee that does programming to insure that programs and events are trouble-free and that members are well supported in their efforts to create programming on behalf of the Society.
- **Program development:** When Sari has come to grips with these demands, we will also ask her to work closely with the Board, Program Committee and membership to identify and bring

new programming to the Society that is mission-relevant.

Sari is currently sharing office space with Anne Klaeyesen. Please stop in and say hello and if you have anything to do with programming at the Society, make sure she knows it.

Public Relations

At the time of my writing this article, the process of interviewing candidates for a full time public relations position at the Society was in full swing. This person will be responsible for keeping the Society in the public eye and making sure our events, programs and meetings are properly advertised to the New York Community and appropriately covered by the media. A good public relations program is a key piece of the growth puzzle for the Society.

Development Director

If all goes as expected, we should begin to see evidence of increasing revenues in 2003. If that is the case, the board should have a comfort level in proceeding with the hiring of a Development Director. The current budget includes ½ year of salary for such a position. This position would be principally a fund raising position. A development director, in collaboration with the fundraising, endowment and development committees, would plan and execute fund raising initiatives aimed at building up our endowment, developing capital funds, and funding programming we wish to present. Such an individual might also advise us on other development issues such as membership growth.

New And Revamped Committees

Development Committee

In January of this year, the board approved the creation of a Development Committee. During the spring and into the summer, members, staff and board leadership met a number of times to discuss the role of this committee and its structure, as well as to identify potential members for the committee. I am pleased to announce that the committee has been formed. Christine Swann will chair the committee and Sylvan Wallach, Jean Kotkin, Jerry Chamlin, Dr. Charles Debrovner, Faye Joyce, Bonnie Bean, Meg Chapman and Lynn Mallinson (Sunday School parent) will serve as members of the committee.

The charge of this committee is to spend the year reviewing and assessing development issues, such as membership growth, fund raising and building refurbishment, and to make recommendations for action. In short, this committee will help the board paint the broad picture of growth and development for the Society.

Membership Development Committee

Though this committee has been on the “books” for some time, it never got off the ground. Our Senior Leader, Khoren Arisian, has been urging the board to make this committee functional. By the time you read this newsletter this committee should be up and running. The role of this committee will be to focus exclusively on membership recruitment. This committee is to be a subset of the

Membership Committee whose current work is focused largely on retaining members once they arrive.

Looking Forward

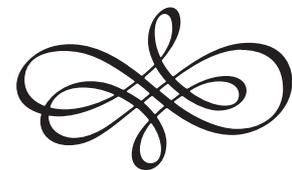
As I have said often, we find ourselves in a position where the stars have lined up for growth, thanks to the hard work of our past presidents, our trustees our Senior Leader and members too numerous to name. In the past year I have pushed a number of initiatives aimed squarely at income development. I have focused on that because there was both a clear need and a clear opportunity.

Some of you have expressed concerns about loosing our sense of mission and our focus on our religion as a result of the need to increase income. My intention this year is to see to it that we don't.

This year my focus will shift and will have two principal objectives:

- **The creation and implementation of a long-term development strategy aimed at ensuring the viability of the New York Society and its mission.**
- **Making sure that the “heart and soul” of the Ethical Culture movement stays central to our institution.**

I invite and look forward to partnership with all of you to realize these important objectives.



From the Board

Christine Swann

Report on Board Meeting September 9

Following opening remarks and greetings after the summer recess, the board approved the minutes of the last meeting.

Next order of business was to approve an Enabling Resolution for our investment company, Morgan Stanley, to open a securities account and to designate Society Authorized Individuals with whom Morgan Stanley will liaise. As there were some questions as to type of account, the decision was deferred until next month, when our Morgan Stanley reps will be available at the Board Meeting.

The Senior Leader's report focused on the need for intentional activity in recruiting new members. He proposed the creation of a Membership Development Committee, separate from but allied to the current Membership Committee. As the latter will now be primarily concerned with current members, its name will be changed to Membership Services Committee.

The Administration report covered several issues:

- Pianos: the sale of one of the older pianos will cover the repair of the piano in the Auditorium.
- We are about to purchase a software package to handle our membership database. It is well established and has a lot of facility and flexibility with very strong security.
- Cafeteria: Our aim is to balance the very reasonable price of the

food with a selection of higher priced but more sophisticated sandwiches. The cost issue is that with improved choices the cafeteria will run at a loss, and it is not clear how members will react to higher prices. We have agreed with the supplier to try adding these new items for 3 months and gauge their success.

- New Hires: We have hired an Events Coordinator Sari Gadlin. She is already on board and will work on outside rentals and with the Program Committee and others on Society activities. Please make her welcome.

We are still in the interview process for a new Marketing/PR position.

The Membership Report: We now have 6 new members since the last Board Meeting.

The President and Administrator's report covered several issues:

- The progress of the interior renovation is going apace. Note the elevator and the new carpet! More offices are being constructed in the basement and on the 5th floor. With the renovation of the Adler Study we have now substantially increased the rent. With the use of the patio there is now more interest in Ceremonial Hall. We are in discussions with the School and with the EOS Orchestra about their contributions to the renovation of the Auditorium.
- They circulated a mock-up of a brochure for rentals which got ready approval.

- New Website Design: A proposal for the design and the designer has been completed.

Frank Prescod was appointed chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee.

The Building Committee presented a mission statement for the Committee, which was approved.

In Executive Session, it was agreed that the Internet Committee should also propose a website design and designer. This will enrich the choice and the Board will then go through a comparison and selection process.

From The Archives

Dr. Marc A. Bernstein

On James Weldon Johnson

A recent discovery: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), a giant in African American culture and politics in the early twentieth century, was a member of the New York Society, as was his wife. Johnson's remarkably diverse talents—he was a writer, a musician, and an activist—suggest comparison with only one other African American: Paul Robeson.

Johnson's career in the NAACP would have been enough to earn him a biography. He was field secretary of the nascent organization from 1916-1920, turning it into a powerful force by increasing its membership and widening its reach across the U.S. Moreover, Johnson's investigations of lynching and race riots brought these issues timely and much-needed publicity. After serving as field secretary, he was chosen to be the first black Executive Secretary of the NAACP.

As a strategist of black advancement, Johnson steered a middle course between Booker T. Washington's conservative call for vocational education and the radical proposals of the firebrand, W. E. B. Du Bois. (Johnson, Washington and Du Bois all spoke at the New York Society between 1900 and 1930.) Johnson argued that black advancement depended on blacks achieving "intellectual parity...through the production of literature and art."

Artistically, Johnson was on a par with other luminaries of his day. He was a successful poet, an editor of poetry anthologies, and a novelist. A leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, Johnson promoted art competitions and won patronage for talented black artists.

He was also gifted musically. He translated a libretto for the Metropolitan Opera and, with his brother, wrote lyrics for both Broadway musicals and comic opera. The two Johnsons also wrote a black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and published two collections of traditional spirituals that claimed for this form its rightful place in American music.

Above all, however, Johnson is remembered for his great 1912 novel, *Autobiography Of An Ex-Colored Man*. So long as race continues to be an issue in American life, the book will speak to us. In one memorable scene, a young boy who believes he is white gets a brutal awakening at school. When he returns home, he stares at himself in the mirror.

"How long I stood there gazing at my image I do not know. When I came out and reached the head of the stairs, I heard the lady who had been with my

mother going out. I ran downstairs and rushed to where my mother was sitting, with a piece of work in her hands. I buried my head in her lap and blurted out: 'Mother, mother, tell me, am I a nigger?' I could not see her face, but I knew the piece of work dropped to the floor and I felt her hands on my head. I looked up into her face and repeated: 'Tell me, mother, am I a nigger?' There were tears in her eyes and I could see that she was suffering for me."

No wonder this book remains a classic.

The Building Committee

is pleased to announce the Fourth New York Society Benefit Concert.

The concert will feature musicians in solo, duet and ensemble performances.

Plan to join us Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall, fourth floor.

Mark your calendar. Call (212) 860-4096 for tickets and information.

Strathmere Season A Feast for the Ears

Jon Liechty

Lovers of fine music will find many delights in the Strathmere Ensemble's concerts this fall. While at press time the specific dates and programs remain to be finalized, here's a peek at what's in store.

Guitarist Bill Zito, previously featured in repertoire ranging from advanced modern works to Renaissance dances, will be in the spotlight for a concert of chamber music involving the guitar; Mr. Zito will perform a guitar concerto as well.

It was said that Georg Philipp Telemann could write an eight-part contrapuntal composition as easily as most people write a letter. Among his vast output are compositions for a wide range of instruments and combinations, even those that other composers have ignored. Even players for whom Telemann did not specifically provide benefit from his genius, for his work almost always sounds well in transcription. The Strathmere Ensemble's New Year's concert will give Telemann his due, featuring several pieces by this under-appreciated master.

The Society's Music Director Gerald Ranck will honor us in May with a performance of the Bach D Minor harpsichord concerto, during the Strathmere Ensemble's traditional yearly Bach concert. Mr. Ranck's recent performance of the Brandenburg Concertos with James Levine in Weill Hall drew praise from the *New York Times*, as did his concert series featuring the sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti.

Strathmere Ensemble concerts take place at the Society for Ethical Culture; watch the Society's web site (www.nysec.org), bulletin boards at the Society, and upcoming newsletters for more information on these concerts.

A C T I V I T I E S

WQXR-FM (96.3)
 Sundays, October 6 & 20, 7:30 am
Newsletter Deadline
 Tuesday, October 1
Morning Meetings
 Sundays, 11:30 am
Ethics for Children
 Sundays, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Shelter
 Sundays – Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Women’s Chorus
 Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
Support Group
 Fridays, 6:30 pm
Supervised Visitation
 Saturdays 9:30 am & 1:30 pm
Dance Lessons
 Tuesdays, October 1
 7:30 pm – Salsa
 8:30 pm – Swing
Fall Retreat
 Friday, October 4 – Sunday, October 6
Caring Committee
 Wednesday, October 9, 4:00 pm
Foundations of Ethical Culture
 Thursdays, (starting October
 10 – November 7, 6:30 pm
Membership Committee
 Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 pm
Film Forum
 Friday, October 18, 7:00 pm
Human Faith Project
 Saturday, October 19 & 26, 9:00 am
Ethical Action Committee
 Thursday, October 24, 6:00 pm
Bike Ride
 Saturday, October 26, 9:30 am
*Workshop on Living & Dying with Your
 Life in Order*
 Saturday, October 26, 12:00 pm

Reading Programs

Great Books Discussion Series
 Schopenhauer, *The Indestructibility of
 Our Inner Nature*
 Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 pm
Ethical Culture Retirement Activities
 Wednesday, October 9, 3:00 pm
 Don DeLillo, *White Noise*

*Great Books Discussion Series –
 Fiftieth Anniversary Series*
The Evil and The Guilty
 Wednesday, October 16, 7:30 pm
 Friedrich, Nietzsche, *On Evil, Guilt,
 And Power*

Sundays at the Society

Mornings:

Oct. 6 Leaders’ Writings 10:15 am
 Oct. 13 Colloquy 10:30 am
 Oct. 20 Classical Poetry 10:30 am
 Oct. 27 Yoga Meditation 10:30 am

Afternoon Programs, at 1:30 pm

Oct. 6 Ethics Study
 Oct. 13 DNA Fund Raiser
 Oct. 20 Orientation/No Program
 Oct. 27 Ethics in the News

**Membership
 Services Committee**

Film Forum

Friday, October 18
Barbara Levenson



Is an eye for an eye just? Does the legal system, in the name of the people and sanctioned by the government, have the right to kill? These are the questions raised in Krzysztof Kuskowski’s powerful film *Decalogue V* to be presented at the Ethical Culture Film Forum on Friday, October 18 at 7:00 pm. Admis-

sion: members \$3.00; non-members \$4.00. All proceeds will go to our DNA innocence fund. Join us for a provocative evening of film and discussion.

Fall Bike Ride

Saturday, October 26
Henryka Komanska



Join us on our Fall Bike Ride from the Upper West Side to the Wave Hill Garden in Riverdale. Start at 9:30 am at the 72nd Street entrance to the Riverside Park (at the Eleanor Roosevelt stature) for a leisurely 20-mile ride (mostly flat with a couple of small hills). In Manhattan most of the ride is on the bicycle path along the Hudson River. Bring \$4 for the entrance fee to the Garden, bicycle lock, water, and snacks or money to buy them at the Garden Cafe. You MUST have a helmet to ride with us. The ride should last about 4 hours. This is a shorter version of the trip we did two years ago. For more information call Henryka (212) 582-5192. RAIN CANCELS.

Ethics Study

Dr. Larry Yates

Our Sunday afternoon “Ethics Study” has been reformulated. Its objective is to understand the main theories of moral philosophy and how they pertain to Ethical Culture. Each month’s session will be based on a chapter of *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* by James Rachels, a book participants are strongly urged to purchase and read. It will usually be held on the second Sunday of the month. However, its first

meeting will take place October 6. If you are interested in philosophy and in Ethical Culture, you will not want to miss this newly organized program. For further information, call Larry Yates at (212) 864-4572 or e-mail him at lry2@columbia.edu.

Ethical Action Committee

Carol Rost

Please attend our regular EAC meeting on Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 pm and be a part of the ethical process! We plan our actions over some of these issues; Death Penalty and DNA testing, Rockefeller Drug laws repeal, letter writing tables to question suitability of Supreme Court Nominees and other issues that matter. Please come and bring a sandwich or go out to dinner afterwards with the group.

Cafeteria News

Check out our new menu—you will be pleased! In addition to our regular sandwiches, which will remain at \$4, including cole slaw, there will be a new selection of gourmet sandwiches for \$1 additional. Main courses will cost \$6, and will include a choice of mixed salad or slaw. Salad alone will cost \$1.50.

We Made the Chicago Tribune

On Sunday, August 4th the Sunday *Chicago Tribune* magazine had a crossword puzzle on their back page. Number 20 across was _____ Culture Society. There is no prize for the correct answer but be prepared to answer the question in the future.

Our Ethical Family

Ben Bean and Members

New Members:

K. Keyvne Baar. She heard of us as a child and joined us as a result of the Sunday Meetings. She works on Sunday so we will see her when she is not working. She is also attending school.

James Farer, DDS. Jim is a prosthodontist with a Manhattan practice. He has been active here at the Society and thought it was time to sign up. He attends a lot of our activities and will certainly be an active member.

Lynn Mallinson. Lynn has been active in the Sunday school with her daughter, Elizabeth. Lynn is a media producer and says she greatly appreciates the work of Curtis Borg with our Ethics for Children program.

Joy Collins. Joy is a retired psychologist and learned about the Society thru Carol Chamlin—so it pays to bring your friends to the Society.

Christine Lavren. Christine is an actor/director/writer who was raised as a Unitarian and is the mother to Evan Anthony, a current member. She joined us after spending time here on the naming day of her grandson.

Leah Wolin. Leah is a freelance graphic artist and painter who has been a member of the Brooklyn Society and started coming to Ethical Culture after hearing Henry Neumann on the radio.

News about Members:

Rachel Aubrey will have hip replacement surgery and will then spend several days in recovery at a rehab center.

Dan Carpenter, 94-year-old Society member of many decades, has moved to Tucson, Arizona, to be near his son. For 32 years, Dan was a director of Hudson Guild, the Chelsea social service organization founded by John Lovejoy Elliott. Under Dan's directorship, the Guild built public housing, provided educational and other programs for children, and organized job development and other adult services.

George Kartychak died in a nursing home in Brazil. He was active in the men's club and participated in many of the Society's activities. We will miss him.

Elsbeth Miller's son, Peter, suffered a fatal heart attack in August. Our profound sympathy to Elsbeth and her family.

Members Requesting to be Dropped:
Paul Knox
Dan and Marilyn Koch

Poetry Corner Trio

Sylvan Wallach

A motley crew, we three:
Musketeers—Silly joke.
A solemn dirge is our song.
Hot and turgid the summer's day.
Buck, spread-eagled nude on parched
grass,
Bayonet scar, livid on his dark belly.
Poor shell-shocked Jacob, mostly far
away.
And 4F Luis who avoided the awful
mess.
What is that glue which binds us?

Human Faith Project

The Human Faith Project is about “Being Ethical Culture” and was developed at the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County. The purpose of this project was to explore our commitment to the worth and dignity of every person and its relationship to our faith in other people. Out of this work came a clear understanding of human faith and how to help each other to strengthen it.

We hope this workshop will expand the Project to Ethical Societies whose members have not been involved. It is also being developed to train prior participants to facilitate similar workshops in their Societies.

The forthcoming workshop will take place at the New York Society for Ethical Culture under the direction of Dr. Calvin Chatlos and members of the Project. Dates: Saturdays, October 19 and 26, 9 am – 5 pm (lunch provided) and Tuesdays, November 5 and 12, 7:00 – 9:30 pm. Registration fee: \$25; course fee \$75. For information or to register, contact Calvin Chatlos (732) 303-7888 or jjchat@optonline.com.



“We are in danger of losing democratic civil society. It is that simple and that dangerous, springing, as it does, not from a generous openness to sharp disagreement—democratic feistiness—but from a cynical and resentful closing off of others. We are all involved in the process—those of us who fight it, those of us who celebrate it, and those of us who acquiesce in it. No one escapes.”

Jean Bethke Elshtain
Democracy on Trial, 1995

You are cordially invited to join friends and admirers of
Jean Somerville Kotkin
at a dinner celebrating her 80th birthday
Saturday evening, November 2nd, at 7 o'clock
The New York Society for Ethical Culture

Dinner fee: \$15.00

Jean says no gifts, but she would be pleased if you chose to make a contribution in her honor to The New York Society for Ethical Culture.

2002 AEU Growth and Development Conference

The 2002 Growth and Development Conference will be held at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture on Friday evening, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. The Conference is designed to stimulate the growth of Ethical Societies throughout the movement by serving as an occasion to exchange ideas for strengthening key programs and enhance Societies' visibility and attractiveness. It is intended for board members, committee chairs, and committed volunteers from all Societies.

This year's program is still under construction, but we are looking forward to a Friday evening keynote address on “What People Are Looking for in an Ethical Community” by Curt Collier, Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, as well as a full line-up of workshops on Saturday, including “Responding Ethically to Tough Issues of the Day as a Way of Building Community” (Jim White, former Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County and Consulting Leader to the Cleveland Ethical Circle); “Designing a Full-Service Sunday Morning” (Bart Worden, Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester and Fritz Williams, Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society); “Ideas on How to Publicize Your Society” (Dorothy Lockhart, Staff at the Ethical Humanist Society of Greater Chicago); “Welcoming and Fostering Diversity” (Lisel Burns, Leader of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, and Donna Roberts, AEU Staff); and “Membership 101” (Hank Gassner, Chair of the AEU Membership Committee). Judy Toth (Former Leader of the St. Louis Ethical Society and new AEU Growth and Development Coordinator) will also talk briefly about how your Society can obtain her advice and assistance.

The cost will be \$65; \$75 for registrants after October 21. Partial travel subsidies will be provided for up to two members per Society for groups more than 300 miles from NYC. More complete information and registration forms are available at each Society and from the AEU office (office@aeu.org). Home hospitality will be arranged for those who live too far away to commute. Out-of-towners are also encouraged to stay over to visit one of the New York area Societies on Sunday, November 3. Please save the dates and plan to attend. And encourage prospective leaders of growth and development at your Society to attend as well.

IN SUPPORT OF

Amnesty International USA's Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty

Sunday Meeting at 11:30 am

David Kaczynski Executive Director, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty

“A Personal Perspective on the Death Penalty in New York”



David Kaczynski

Panel Discussion and Fundraiser at 2:00 pm

NYSEC's Campaign to Support DNA Testing for Prisoners:
“The Death Penalty - Ethical Action Fund for DNA Testing”

David Kaczynski Presiding

Russell Neufeld Attorney-in-Charge, The Legal Aid Society, Capital Defense Unit

Wayne Smith Executive Director, The Justice Project

Carolee Brooks Mother of David Brooks, who was killed during a holdup in 1989

Peter Neufeld Attorney, Co-Founder, The Innocence Project



Peter Neufeld

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2002

Free Admission

Foundations of Ethical Culture

A Course for New and Long-Time Members

October 10-November 7, 2002

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm

Members \$35; Nonmembers \$50

Facilitator: **Dr. Khoren Arisian**, Senior Leader

- October 10* *Social Roots of Ethical Culture*
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, Bergen Society
- October 17* *Values and Ideals: Our Philosophy*
Curt Collier, Leader, Riverdale-Yonkers Society
- October 24* *Early History of the Movement*
Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, AEU and Society Archivist
- October 31* *The Post-Adler Years*
Jean S. Kotkin, Leader, New York Society
- November 7* *The Living Faith: How We Apply*
Ethical Culture to Our Daily Lives
Moderator: **Dr. Khoren Arisian**
Panelists: **Ben Bean, Dr. Charles Debrovner,**
Anne Klaeyesen, Carol Nadell, Frank Prescod

To register, please call (212) 874-5210 and ask for the Leader's Office

October 2002

(Office hours for the month: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 November 2002 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – Salsa 8:30 pm – Swing	2 6:30 pm – Women's Chorus 7:30 pm – Great Books 7:30 pm – Shelter	3 7:30 pm – Shelter	4 Fall Retreat 6:30 pm – Support Group	5 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation Fall Retreat
6 7:30 am – WQXR-FM (96.3) 10:15 am – Leaders' Writing 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Ethics Study 7:30 pm – Shelter	7 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 7:30 pm – Shelter	8 6:00 pm – Women's Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	9 3:00 pm – ECRA 4:00 pm – Caring Committee 6:30 pm – Women's Chorus 7:30 pm – Shelter	10 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:30 pm – Shelter	11 12:00 pm – Metropolitan Leaders 6:30 pm – Support Group	12 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 5:00 pm – Creative Musicians
13 10:30 am – Colloquy 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – DNA Fund Raiser 7:30 pm – Shelter	14 Society Offices Closed 7:30 pm – Shelter	15 7:30 pm – Shelter	16 6:00 pm – Membership Committee 6:30 pm – Women's Chorus 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – The Evil & The Guilty	17 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:30 pm – Shelter	18 6:30 pm – Support Group 7:00 pm – Film Forum	19 9:00 am – Human Faith Project 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
20 7:30 am – WQXR-FM (96.3) 10:30 am – Classical Poetry 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Orientation 7:30 pm – Shelter	21 7:30 pm – Shelter	22 7:30 pm – Shelter	23 6:30 pm – Women's Chorus 7:30 pm – Shelter	24 6:00 pm – Ethical Action Committee 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:30 pm – Shelter	25 6:30 pm – Support Group	26 9:00 am – Human Faith Project 9:30 am – Bike Ride 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 12:00 pm – Workshop on Living & Dying with Your Life in Order
27 10:30 am – Yoga Meditation 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 11:30 am – Ethics for Children 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News 7:30 pm – Shelter	28 7:30 pm – Shelter	29 7:30 pm – Shelter	30 6:30 pm – Women's Chorus 7:30 pm – Shelter	31 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:30 pm – Shelter		

Great Books:

October 2 – Schopenhauer, *The Indestructibility of Our Inner Nature*

ECRA: *(Ethical Culture Retirement Activities)*

October 9 – Don Delillo, *White Noise*

The Evil And The Guilty

October 16 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *On Evil, Guilt, And Power*

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
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