

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium

October 5

Organic Religion: Towards an Authentic Earth-based Spirituality

Curt S. Collier, Leader

Chris Everett Presides

October 12

City of Disorder: How the Quality-of-Life Campaign

Transformed New York Politics

Dr. Alex S. Vitale, Assistant

Professor of Sociology

Brooklyn College

Curt Collier Presides

October 19

In Defense of the Secular State

Robert Boston, Assistant

Director of Communications for Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

October 26

The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Carol Nadell Van Deusen Presides

**Tenth Annual
Stained Glass Windows
Benefit Concert**

Sunday, October 19

4:00 PM

October Happenings

Cultured Comedy Club Benefit: Join us on **Saturday, October 4, at 8:00 pm**, for an evening of serious election-related fun. *(See page 5)*

Truth and Reconciliation: On **Sunday, October 26, at 1:45 pm**, we'll see a documentary about a 1979 armed attack on protestors preparing to march against the KKK by a caravan of Klansmen and Nazis, and meet two survivors of the attack. *(See page 4)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller, President



So many members have come to me or called to tell me that they are thrilled—as are we, the Leader Search Committee and the Board—about our new leaders. (This is written with the assumption that the members will ratify the leadership proposal at the members' meeting on September 28.) We welcome Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Mr. Curt Collier, and Dr. Joseph Chuman to the New York Society for Ethical Culture, and we look forward to exciting days ahead of challenges and accomplishments. Their official start date is October 1.

As was conveyed in our ratification meeting notice, each will speak at one Sunday meeting a month. Beyond that, Anne will have the bulk of the job, and will be here most of the time. She will be available for pastoral counseling and will work with various committees and the Sunday school, and guide us in the development of new and needed programs. Curt *(Continued on page 2)*

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium

October 5–Organic Religion: Towards an Authentic Earth-based Spirituality

Curt S. Collier, Leader

Becoming “organic” means more than paying higher prices for lettuce. It's also more than changing your incandescent light bulb to a compact fluorescent bulb. Going organic is being aware of our infinite interrelatedness with all being. Is Ethical Culture an organic way of life, and if so, what does that mean?

Curt Collier is newly appointed to join the NY Society's Leadership Team. For more than ten years he was Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture. Originally from rural south Texas, Curt says that he has found a home in Ethical Culture after *(Continued on page 3)*

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

plans to institute an alternative Sunday morning meeting with an eye to increasing membership. He has other ideas for special activities, classes, and outreach and will present them over time. Joe plans the reinstatement of the evening series of Advocacy Forums that he worked on in the past with Khoren Arisian. He will also be addressing issues through the local media and networking with groups to work on human rights and civil liberties concerns. Naturally, all three will be working with our Executive Director, Bob Liebeskind; our staff; the Board; and, of course, you to polish up the vision and mission of NYSEC and to lead us forward to new goals. To repeat myself, there are exciting days ahead.

Speaking of the Board, our Bylaws order that we begin now to form our Nominating Committee, whose mandate will be to find, evaluate, and approve candidates for the Board of Trustees to be elected at the Annual Meeting on May , 2009. You may ask why it takes seven months to find and approve a slate; it is because of complicated rules set up long ago, when the Board only met every other month. Anyway, yours truly hopes that we can streamline the two pages of dense type giving detail after detail on how to select the committee members, and

vote in a more sensible procedure at that May meeting.

As the Bylaws require, you've received notice of the committee's formation and you know that Bob Berger has volunteered to be its chairperson (thanks, Bob). Talk to Bob or me if you want to be on the committee, or if you'd rather, you can join the committee by petition, with signatures of 15 members (forms for this have been mailed to you). Petitions must be submitted by October 31. (Remember, however, that committee members can't run for the Board.) After that date, again according to our Bylaws, we will send you a list of the committee members and you can give them the names of any members you recommend for the Board of Trustees.

A word about pledges: please make sure you've done your duty as a member and have made your commitment for 2008 – and are paying it in accordance with your pledge. It's not just a duty, it's a pleasure to do your part to support this fine organization that you can depend on to be there for you. Ethical Culture is not just a place to hang your hat, it's a place where we do all we can to bring out your best, as you do for others.

Thanks to those of you who volunteered to help list the maps stored in the Executive Director's office. The project is underway. More help would be most welcome.

Have a lovely autumn. For those of you going, enjoy the retreat.

Sunday Morning

(Continued from page 1)

a lifelong quest to find an authentic spirituality that resonates with his love of nature. He is also the deputy director of Groundwork USA, an organization that works to restore urban habitats through community-based activism. A picture of Curt leading a group of young people working to restore the Saw Mill River in Westchester County was recently on the cover of the National Park Service's *Green Beat* newsletter.

October 12—City of Disorder: How the Quality-of-Life Campaign Transformed New York Politics

Dr. Alex S. Vitale, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College

Professor Alex Vitale will address the role of democratic mayors in the rise of homelessness in New York and the political backlash that brought neoconservative mayor Rudolph Giuliani to power. He will discuss the inadequacy of efforts by current mayor Michael Bloomberg to deal with hunger and homelessness.

Professor Vitale is the author of a recent book with the same title in which he elaborates on these issues. During Social Hour, he will be available to sell and sign his book. Later, at the 1:45 pm afternoon program (a PIC open meeting), he will discuss the topic of his talk and book with the attendees and respond to challenges and questions. Everyone is welcome to attend this afternoon PIC-sponsored program.

Professor Vitale teaches criminology and the sociology of law at Brooklyn College. He has published articles in a variety of academic journals and worked as a consultant for the New York Civil Liberties Union and other organizations.

October 19—In Defense of the Secular State

Robert Boston, Assistant Director of Communications for Americans United for Separation of Church and State

In his talk, Robert Boston will debunk claims that secularism is an anti-religious or corrosive force. He will defend secularism as the best mechanism to achieve religious and philosophical freedom and will explain why the mixture of religion and government is harmful to society.

Mr. Boston, who joined the Americans United staff in 1987, is recognized as a leading writer and researcher on church-state topics and a tireless advocate for the separation of church and state. He frequently writes about religion in public schools, tax aid to sectarian education, religious freedom, and the political goals of the Religious Right. He also covers the US Supreme Court for *Church & State*, AU's monthly magazine.

Robert Boston is the author of three books: *Close Encounters With the Religious Right: Journeys Into the Twilight Zone of Religion and Politics* (Prometheus Books, 2000); *The Most Dangerous Man in America? Pat Robertson and the Rise of the Christian Coalition* (Prometheus Books, 1996); and *Why the Religious Right Is Wrong About Separation of Church and State* (Prometheus Books, 1993 and 2003). Representing AU, he has appeared on many national television news programs.

October 26—The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Ethical Culture is a religion of relationships, yet we live with many misconceptions about the nature of forgiveness that keep us from repairing our relationships. Forgiveness is not an isolated

act but an important process. A journey toward forgiveness can help us give voice to our anger without doing more harm and acknowledge our part in what has gone wrong. Leader Anne Klaeysen explores the personal and public aspects of forgiveness. Join her for an afternoon follow-up program on "Truth and Reconciliation in Greensboro, NC."

Dr. Klaeysen is also the first Humanist Chaplain at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY; part-time Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Queens; and co-mentor of the Humanist Institute's Class 15. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hebrew Union College and Masters degrees in Business Administration from New York University and in German from the State University of NY at Albany. Anne lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with her husband, Glenn Newman. Their children, Andrew and Emily, are graduates of the Brooklyn Society's Ethics for Children program.

Musical Notes

Gerald Ranck

For the past 24 years, I have been honored to share with you the sublime, unending joy of music. I can only hope that a sizable portion of the joy that playing music here has brought to me has somehow transmitted itself to you, my dear friends and colleagues in Ethical Culture.

Because music is not only joyous, but inexhaustible, I am able to announce an especially rich program for the coming 25th year of my tenure at NYSEC. Here are some upcoming programs: guitar music with keyboard from the great Italian guitarist/composer Fernando Caruilli (with William Zito); full-blown Romanticism—Schumann and the viola (with Louise Schulman); heartrendingly beautiful songs by Gustav Mahler

(with Myra Vassian); three programs of Broadway theater music; extensive explorations of lesser-known piano works by Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms; and, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Ralph Vaughn Williams' death, we will present the profoundly beautiful "Songs of Travel" (Robert Louis Stevenson's poems) (with Melton Sawyer); and more.

In January I will begin a series of five monthly solo chamber music concerts (with Mayuki Fukuhara, violin; William Zito, guitar; Louise Schullman, viola; and Beverly Radin, flute). Each program will present major masterpieces (Kreutzer "Sonata," Shostakovich "Viola Sonata" Prokofiev "Flute Sonata," etc.). This series is a gift from me to you at Ethical Culture on the occasion of my silver anniversary here; please come and enjoy (dates to be announced soon).

Finally, on a Sunday morning in April, 2009, we will present a concert and comment platform: Brahms' "Liedeslieder Waltzes" will be the principal music; the topic will be: "Brahms and the Humanity of 3/4 Time."

We have resumed singing practice. Please join us; we will soon be singing in parts.

A wonderful year to all!

Early Sunday 10 AM

Oct. 5—Singing Practice—Everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate our love of singing. 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 very rewarding and a lot of fun, so come and raise your voices with us! Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

Oct. 12—Colloquy: Spirituality. Phyllis Kreuttner presides. Room 408.

Oct. 19—Poetry Readings—Spend a peaceful hour with us as we share the poems we especially like. Come and read your favorites, or just come and listen. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Oct. 19—Singing Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

Oct. 12—PIC Open Meeting. "City of Disorder...." Dr. Alex Vitale will lead a discussion of this morning's Platform address and his book, both titled: *City of Disorder: How the Quality-of-Life Campaign Transformed New York Politics*. In this PIC-sponsored program, he will welcome questions and challenges from his audience. Everyone is welcome at what should be a lively, thought-provoking session. Abe Markman presides. Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

Oct. 19—Life With Health. Phyllis Kreuttner and Jacqueline Pope preside. Room 514.

Oct. 26—Dr. Anne Klaeysen Workshop: Public Forgiveness: Truth and Reconciliation in Greensboro, NC. Ceremonial Hall—4th fl. (See next article)

Reconciliation Workshop

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

On the morning of November 3, 1979, a group of black and white demonstrators were preparing to march against the Ku Klux Klan through the streets of Greensboro, North Carolina, when a caravan of Klansmen and Nazis opened

fire on them. Eighty-eight seconds later, five demonstrators lay dead and ten others were wounded. Four TV stations recorded their deaths by Klan gunfire. Yet, after two criminal trials not a single gunman spent a day in prison. Despite this outrage, the survivors won an unprecedented civil court victory in 1985 when a North Carolina jury held the Greensboro police jointly liable with the KKK for wrongful death.

Twenty-five years later, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the first in the United States, was formed in Greensboro. To learn about the commission and its conclusions, come on October 26 to view a documentary, "Greensboro: Closer to the Truth," and meet with two of the survivors, Sally and Paul Bermanzohn, and Pat Clark, one of the commissioners.

Dr. Paul Bermanzohn, the son of Jewish Holocaust survivors, who was born in Germany after WWII, was permanently injured during the shootings. Sally Bermanzohn, a child of the New York suburbs who came south to join the Civil Rights Movement, watched in horror as her friends were killed and her husband was wounded. Dr. Bermanzohn graduated from Duke University School of Medicine and went into psychiatry. After his injury he returned to the practice of psychiatry and for 20 years has been a clinician and an award-winning researcher studying schizophrenia.

Dr. Bermanzohn remains a political activist and is a member of the Board of the Greensboro Justice Fund. Sally Avery Bermanzohn is a Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College and the author of *Through Survivors' Eyes: From the Sixties to the Greensboro Massacre*, published by Vanderbilt University Press. The Bermanzohns have two grown daughters.



Sally and a wounded Paul Bermanzohn, November 3, 1979 (Photo courtesy of Greensboro News and Record)

Pat Clark is Director of the Newark, NJ-based Criminal Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee's NY Metro Regional Office and coordinator of the Center for Healing and Transformative Justice. The Center's goal is to provide a space and a methodology for communities to reflect on, create, and provide a response and solution to violence, domination, and exploitation, using self-determined practices based on responsibility, mutuality, and love.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome our newest member:

Samuel Ford is originally from New Orleans. To live and work in New York City has always been Sam's dream and he loves being here. He has been busy visiting the city's landmarks, including the Empire State Building, Carnegie Hall, and Central Park. Walking along Central Park West one day, he saw our statement of belief and came in for more information. Sam was delighted to learn that the Society helped establish the ACLU, among other organizations. He attended several of our Summer Sunday Platforms and decided to join after attending an orientation in August. Sam

also loves puzzles and reading and is interested in archeology, science, mathematics, and physics. He has been a member of Ordo Rosae Crucis since 2001.

My thanks to members **Moira Whittington** and **Pat Malkin**, who served as greeters over the summer, for the excellent job they did.

Member **Linda Enayati** resigned in August; we will miss her presence at the Society.

The updated Membership Directory should be out soon. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

Memorial Plaque Dedication

Ruth Cohen

Dear Friends, Members and Family,
Please join me as I dedicate a memorial plaque honoring my late father, Philip Abraham Levin on Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 pm at the Memorial Wall in the Society's lobby. There will be brief remarks, followed by light refreshments in the Social Hall.

Many thanks to our Leader, President, Board of Trustees, and Executive Director for making this event possible.

The New York Society's Memorial Plaque tradition was begun with great generosity by member Eva Yachnes. If you would like more information about honoring a loved one with a plaque on the Society's Memorial Wall, please contact Julie Blutstein, Director of Development and Communications, at 212-874-5210, ext. 144.

Cultured Comedy Club Benefit

Suzy Frazer

Revered by the left, reviled by the right, mulled over by the middle, NYSEC'S

very popular Cultured Comedy Club returns for another smashing season! You know you don't want to miss this. Please join us on Saturday, October 4, at 8:00 pm, in Social Hall, for the CCC's special election program. The evening stars our own favorite, Scott Blakeman, fresh from performing at the Democratic Convention in Denver, plus other exciting guests. Tickets are \$20 at the door and include soft drinks, coffee, snacks, and a wonderful ambiance. So come, bring friends, and enjoy!

This is a benefit for a very good cause; the net proceeds will go toward saving our Social Service Board's lauded Supervised Visitation Program, which helps troubled families stay in contact. For more information about this seriously funny event, please call 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Stained Glass Windows Benefit

Ruth Cohen

Join us Sunday, October 19, at 4:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall for our Tenth Annual Benefit Concert for the Stained Glass Windows. Be a part of the celebration; there will be wonderful new music and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones. A reception will follow the concert.

Make your reservation now: tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. If you would like to support this concert, and make reservations please call me at 212-860-4096, or 212-874-5210, ext. 113, and tell us your name and the number of tickets you are ordering. We look forward to welcoming you back for a new season at NYSEC.



Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Friday evening, October 24 (7:00–9:00 pm), Ethics and the Theater will present a reading of *The Heiress*, by Ruth and Augustus Goetz, which was suggested by Henry James' novel, *Washington Square*.

Set in New York in the 1850's, *The Heiress* tells the story of a shy, plain girl, the daughter of a successful doctor. When a handsome, penniless young man proposes marriage to her, her father is highly suspicious of her charming suitor's motives, and his efforts to break up the relationship set into motion a series of dramatic events. The play raises many moral questions about people's ability to inflict cruelty on one another.

Susan Horowitz will direct our cast, which includes Jerry Chamlin, Maria Demarse, Craig Jorczak, Pat Debrovner, Muriel Berger, Clare Patterson, and Frances O'Flynn. Following the reading, Muriel Berger will lead our discussion of the ethical issues raised by the play. Suggested contribution: \$5–\$10.

PIC News: Paid Sick Leave Panel Set

Abe Markman

The Public Issues Committee will sponsor a breakfast forum on the issue of paid sick leave on Thursday, November 20, at 8:00 am (in Ceremonial Hall), so mark you calendars.

We are pleased to announce that we have four excellent panelists, as

well as a highly informed moderator, Erika Miller. Ms. Miller notes that her story "Is the US Workplace Family-Friendly?" aired on August 21, as well as on September 1, Labor Day, on Channel 13's "Nightly Business Report." The program, which included a discussion about sick leave and whether mandatory employment benefits are a good or a bad thing, gave both the liberal and conservative viewpoints. In addition, Sherry Leiwant and Nancy Rankin, staff members of the nonprofit organization A Better Balance, will provide background information.

Our panelists are: NYC Councilwoman Gale Brewer, whose district includes our landmark building and who is leading the effort to pass a paid sick leave bill in the City Council; Chuck Hunt, Executive Vice-President of the NYS Restaurant Association, who brings his extensive business experience and his organization's concise, explicit paper on paid sick leave; Donna Dolan, Chair of the NYS Paid Family Leave Coalition, who is as knowledgeable and compelling as anyone I know on family-friendly workplace issues, and Nancy Ploeger, President of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, who is sensitive to the plight of the local businessperson who would have to cover for absent employees if a bill is passed. The panelists' willingness to create greater understanding and empathy for each side on this issue is deeply appreciated.

Examining a Complex Issue

Paid sick leave has very high approval ratings among families on both sides of the values divide. However, its enactment into law would cause difficulties for business people. In the spirit of Felix Adler, Ethical Culture's

founder, we will try to bring out the best in people with different positions on this subject. Among the many accomplishments of Felix Adler was his work as a mediator of worker/management conflicts.

In his acceptance speech on August 25, Barack Obama propelled the issue of paid sick leave to a position high on the radar screen. He said that, "*One of the ways that we measure the economy is whether a waitress who lives on tips can take a day off to look after a sick child without losing her job.*" It will be interesting to see if other presidential nominees take a similar position.

Tabling for NYSEC

Janice Buzby

On August 23 Andra Miller, Helen Mecs, Eric Volpe, and Beth Zucker joined me as we set up our table on the corner of 64th Street and Central Park West and asked people passing by if they had any questions for the presidential candidates that were not being answered in the mainstream media. We also talked about the Society and handed out brochures and event schedule flyers. We received a wide range of questions and comments touching upon issues such as the Federal Reserve, torture, and criminal justice. These are being sent to the candidates and also to Brian Lehrer of WNYC who, as part of the pre-election coverage, will be running his "30 Issues in 30 Days" program.

I want to thank them all for their help and excellent company, and thank staff members David McCants and Rodney Williams for being so helpful with set-up and take-down.

We also tabled on September 21 at the Columbus Ave Street Fair.

October 2008

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>October 1 – Freud, <i>On Dreams</i> Kafka, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>* October 8 – Shirley Hazzard, <i>The Great Fire</i> Great Books: Great Conversation II October 15 – The Bible, <i>The Story of Samson (Judges 13-16)</i> * Complete work</p>						
5 Fall Retreat Ends 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 2:00 pm – Plaque Dedication 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	6 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	7 7:00 pm – Orientation	8 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:30 pm – Great Books 3:00 pm – ECRDG	9 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	10 Fall Retreat Begins →	11 8:00 pm – Comedy Club No Supervised Visitation today
12 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – PIC Open Meeting 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	13 Society Offices Closed Columbus Day	14 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	15 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	16 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	17 11:00 am – Ethics on the Air (WBAL-99.5 FM)	18 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
19 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Life with Health 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership 4:00 pm – Benefit Concert	20 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	21 6:00 pm – Discussing Ethical Issues Group	22 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	23 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	24 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	25 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
26 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Anne Klauyksen Workshop 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	27 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	28	29	30 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	31	31

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.

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