

# 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

### October 2–Ceremonial Hall **Let's Go Dutch: A Heritage of Dutch Humanism**

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader*  
Richard Van Deusen Presides

### October 9–Ceremonial Hall **The Looming Specter of Reinhold Niebuhr**

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*  
Andra Miller Presides

### October 16–Ceremonial Hall **Ethics and the Theater**

Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

### October 23–Ceremonial Hall **Clarence Darrow: Ethics, the Law, and Monkeys**

*Gerald Ranck, Music Director*  
Clara Malekshahi Presides

### October 30–Ceremonial Hall **The Disappearance of Public Lands: Why Our National Parks Are In Jeopardy and What We Will Lose By Their Demise**

*Curt Collier, Leader*  
Bonnie Bean Presides

*Bring a Friend  
on Sundays*

## October Happenings

Come on **Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm**, for the gala launch of our newest public program, **OUT@NYSEC**, a series of workshops, talks, and social events that will serve the LGBTQ (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer) community. You'll learn about our wide range of programs and services, meet old and new friends, and celebrate! On **Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm**, join us for an evening on **Same-Sex Love Signs and Soul Mates**. Ceremonial Hall (both events). (*See page 7*)

Join us on **Saturday, October 15, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**, for an all-day "**Excursion in Environmental Ethics.**" We'll travel to the Dolan DNA Learning Center and Oyster Festival, in Oyster Bay, Long Island, where we'll learn about the work being done to map the human genome. Then, we'll visit the Oyster Festival, one of the largest seafood festivals in the region, sample delicious foods, tour historic ships, and shop. (*See page 7*)

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



October already! We're just ripping through another year!

Coming up is a **Community Meeting on October 16**, after our regular Platform meeting and brunch. It promises to be a lively, exciting time, as we will be presenting ideas and proposed programs for your advice, consent, and even volunteering.

The Board just completed the second in a series of brainstorming sessions, focusing on the questions: What is our **mission** today? And how do we want that to play out in the near and far future? In other words, what is our **vision**?

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Leader's Desk

*Dr. Anne Klaeyesen*



### Ethical Culture Last Rites

Last month my mother received last rites from her cousin, a Roman Catholic priest. My father, sister, and two other cousins were with her at the nursing home where she was under hospice care. The next day my father was surprised to hear my mother reciting the rosary with one of her nieces; he had never heard her pray outside of church. As I write this, my mother is still breathing, but it is labored, and she is on morphine. My siblings are on the road or in the air, traveling from the far flung places they now call home. Mom could never understand why we all abandoned the town where generations of our family were born and died. She never imag-

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**President's Notes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

We concluded that we have six steps to our **mission**: To provide a public platform for important ideas, to provide moral instruction for children, to provide continuing ethical-living education, to provide fellowship for members and visitors, to initiate and support social action, and to collaborate among ourselves and with organizations that support the ethical actions we undertake.

Some of our Trustees have observed that it would be good to have a more focused set of activities that would mobilize and organize us around big issues. That's something that requires more thought and organizational planning. We'll be working on it.

As for **vision**, the Board's four dreams for the future are:

That our Society is the place where you go to dig into the questions of the day, the place to seek the reality behind the issue while respecting the worth and dignity of all involved. It is a place to bring your doubts. And thus, it is a place that develops and provides leadership on these issues.

That there are strong connections between members, as well as between the Society and its "parts"—our committees, the Board, United Social Services, and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School—and between us and community social action groups with whom we collaborate.

That we have a vibrant and active family program with diversified participants. It includes our Sunday School, a Youth in Ethical Societies group (high school students), a Future Ethical Societies group (college kids), and parent- and family-support programs. Programs for the children, as well as the adults, are concerned with the development of empathy, respect, critical thinking skills, and the ability to provide moral analysis for problems.

And, finally, that the New York Society for Ethical Culture has a robust fellowship and strong community relations.

So that is where we are at this writing. But before we meet with you on October 16, we will have done some more work on how we're organized, how the Board governs, and what programs will bring about the fulfillment of our vision. Be sure to share any insights you have with

a Leader or a Board member or two. They are Bob Berger, Janice Buzby, Meg Chapman, Nicola DeMarco, Chris Everett, Heather Grady, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Henryka Komanska, Lawrence Miller, Terry Perlin, Tom Weishaar, and me. Also regularly attending Board meetings are Chuck Debrovner, ex-officio; and Helen Mees, Social Service Board representative. We look forward to your participation.

## Leader's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

ined a world outside of Palmyra, nestled along the Erie Canal, and was never comfortable visiting us.

I've taken my minicomputer down to the northern shore of Canandaigua Lake. Technology has taken the place of the bound journal with flowers on the cover that I once carried with me. I listen to the lapping waves carried ashore by the wake of a passing boat and try to imagine this place as it was when the Seneca, one of the five nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, dwelled in their longhouses. What were their last rites? We actually know about them because a remnant community lives nearby and maintains a learning center. Whatever words are spoken, the most important aspect is a loving presence and gratitude for life.

When she was diagnosed with cancer, one of our members asked, with a sly reference to a film from the 1960's, "What's it all about, Alfie?" Why we are born to die is a question that has plagued humanity since we evolved consciousness and grew painfully aware of our mortality. Myriad answers have been proposed over the ages, many forming the basis for the world's religions and philosophies. Those who find no answer—or no comfort—may commit suicide, the final personal answer to one's existence.

More puzzling still is why death can be so painful, prolonged, and downright

mean. It is a challenge for those who believe in a loving deity, an existential crisis for the rest of us. In the last decade we have given the process of death the attention we gave to the process of birth decades earlier. I attended Lamaze classes when I was pregnant and breastfed my children. Today I am sitting with my mother in hospice holding her hand, listening to gentle strains of music. We have attended to the mundane details: health proxy, funeral arrangements, and obituary (with a photo: Whenever Mom saw an obit in the paper without a photo, she would exclaim, "The family's too damned cheap.") Now we wait with her, believing that she can hear and feel us.

What are Ethical Culture's last rites? We don't often think in those terms, and yet I believe that we should. We are a brainy bunch, so perhaps we should have a collection of essays at hand to read and discuss. I have told my family (after half-joking with them about giving me good drugs) what music I want them to play if I wind down rather than go out with a bang. My husband protested one klezmer selection, so I told him that he could wear ear plugs but still had to hold my hand.

It is an ethical act to put one's affairs in order: health proxy, power of attorney, legal will, ethical will, etc. Let us also think in terms of our spiritual selves. As you know, I send out personal birthday cards. Starting this month, I will also include an invitation to meet with me to discuss "last rites." Our religion of ethics is a unique experience for every member. No one ceremony will fit all our needs. Come in and talk about what your wishes and needs are. I look forward to having this important conversation with you.

## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

### October 2—Let's Go Dutch: A Heritage of Dutch Humanism

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

The Dutch established New Amsterdam at the mouth of the Hudson River in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and Jacob Klaeysen established a Dutch family in western New York in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen explores her roots through the works of two Dutch Humanist philosophers, Erasmus and Spinoza.

The shared charity is International Humanist and Ethical Union. Ceremonial Hall.

### October 9—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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, at the same time he 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 its

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 Bergen County Sanctuary. Ceremonial Hall.

**October 16—Ethics and the Theater**  
*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*

Today's Platform will consist of an **Ethics and the Theater** reading of *The Last Man Standing*, by Lorey Hayes. What impact will one's personal life, aired publicly, have on one's career? Can a person really protect success by living behind a mask? Or is it better to have the courage to reveal the truth and risk the consequences? A highly well-regarded executive of an ultra-conservative corporation in one of the country's most conservative cities has been named "Man of the Year." Can he protect his success and his most valued personal relationship by coming out from behind his own mask?

After the reading we'll have an opportunity to participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play. Richard Van Deusen directs the cast, which includes Abraham Alvarez, Patricia Berens, Michael J. Burg, Jack Marshall, and Carol Van Deusen. Stage directions are by Patrick Arenas, and the discussion moderator will be Tod Whitaker. The shared charity is Broadway Cares AIDS. Ceremonial Hall.

**October 23—Clarence Darrow: Ethics, the Law, and Monkeys**  
*Gerald Ranck, Music Director*

Although Clarence Darrow spoke on more than one occasion at the Chicago Society for Ethical Culture, and warmly supported Jane Addams and

other progressive leaders, he was famous for being a colorful, controversial, and sometimes ethically dubious high-profile attorney.

Nonetheless, his legacy, taken all in all, stands as a heroic and eloquent monument to the defense of poor against rich and support for women's suffrage. He vigorously opposed capital punishment; he defended African-Americans and attacked racism; and, most famously, he confronted religious and anti-scientific bigotry in the "trial of the century." This is an affectionate and unblinkered tribute to Darrow and all the other "bad boys" (Steffens, Dreiser, Mencken, *et. al.*) who exemplified Ethical Culture values as Adler's visionary movement emerged into the maelstrom of 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

The shared charity is Legal Aid Society of NYC. Ceremonial Hall.

**October 30—The Disappearance of Public Lands: Why Our National Parks Are In Jeopardy and What We Will Lose By Their Demise**  
*Curt Collier, Leader*

Although America still leads the world in park creation, attendance at our National Parks continues to fall. Park attendance by ethnicity also does not reflect the growing diversity of America. These two factors lead to a troubling trend in our country. Beyond preserving beautiful spaces and protecting biodiversity, parks also yield a variety of cultural benefits from public health to social and civic advancement. If we lose the parks, we lose an intrinsic part of American culture that will never be reclaimed. Why do we need public lands, and what do we stand to lose if we don't promote them? The shared charity is Groundwork USA. Ceremonial Hall.

## New Sunday School Director

**Gabrielle Abousleman**

is excited to be joining the New York Society for Ethical Culture as the new Sunday School Director. Gabrielle has worked in early-childhood education for more than six years and has recently moved from her home state of New Mexico to begin studying for her Master's in Public Health at Columbia University. Gabrielle believes that children have many lessons to teach others, and she cannot wait for the learning to start!



## Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

**Oct. 2—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. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 9—Colloquy**—topic TBA. Room 408.

**Oct. 16—Poetry Reading**—Bring your favorite poems or lines of poetry, and share your experiences with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

**Oct. 16—Chorus Practice**—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 30—Coffee 'n Chat:** discussion subject "Teamwork." Room 408.

## Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Except as noted)

**Oct. 2—Foundations of Ethical Culture.** Admission is free, registration is

required. Ceremonial Hall. (See flyer for all the dates.)

**Oct. 9—Life with Health: Danger Zone? Surviving the Hospital.** Speaker Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D., is a consultant in Medical Ethics; Visiting Professor of Pediatrics, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (NY); and Professor Emeritus of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research Fellow, Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University (Ohio).

Being hospitalized presents both benefits and risks to patients, families, and friends. This discussion will focus on many of the newer opportunities and dangers found in hospitals today. For example, the dangers of infectious disease, medical and pharmacological errors, and the explosion of unnecessary procedures are worrisome. Yet innovations in hospital care—the development of palliative care programs, the “check list” approach to limiting errors in intensive care, and the development of family conferences and ethics consultation—give reason for optimism. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 16—Community Meeting**—the emphasis will be on discussion. The Board will present their reaffirmation of NYSEC’s mission and vision and ask for members’ thoughts. We will also explore various proposed programs. Ceremonial Hall.

**Oct. 23—Ethics in the News.** Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

**Oct. 30—Ethical Economics.** Throughout history humans have developed a variety of economic systems. Participants will explore how our current economic system(s) work and begin to develop a working list of strategies for confronting the shortfalls of our economic system and ways these strategies can be implemented in our communities. Admission is free. Leader Curt Collier will moderate. Room 514.

Now a Sunday afternoon program, this course covers the key concepts of Ethical Culture, its history and its contemporary applications to social justice. Registration is required and admission is free.

**Foundations of Ethical Culture**

To register contact: ygarcia@nysoc.org or 212.874.5210 x 118

SUNDAYS at 1:30pm – Ceremonial Hall

Oct 2	Nov 6	Dec 4	Feb 2
Mar 4	Apr 1	May 6	Jun 3

## Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month’s topic: **Foreign Affairs**.

**Oct. 6—“Libya: How They Did It”** by Nicolas Pelham, *The NY Review of Books*, 9/29/11; **“For Libyan Family, a Deadly Encounter and Search for Justice”** by Marc Herman, *The Atlantic*, 9/15/11; and **“Libya’s War-Tested Women Hope to Keep New Power”** by Anne Barnard, *NY Times*, 9/12/11.

**Oct. 13—“Everything You Think You Know About the Collapse of the Soviet Union is Wrong”** by Leon Aron, *Foreign Policy*, 6/20/11.

**Oct. 20—“Our Strange Dance With Pakistan”** by Elizabeth Rubin, and **“Why They Get Pakistan Wrong”** by Mohsin Hamid, *The NY Review of Books*, 5/6/11 and 9/29/11, respectively.

**Oct. 27—“Under the Table: An American Living in Cuba Discovers Havana’s Black-market Epicurean Scene”** by Julia Cook, *Guernica*, 8/15/11.

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*

### Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in October: **Susan Horowitz**, 10/3; **Daniel Altman**, 10/6; **Sara Dillon**, 10/6; **Lucile Kleiman**, 10/9; **Faye Joyce**, 10/11; **Elaine Berman**, 10/12; **Edward Jackson**, 10/13; **Eric Norlander**, 10/18; **Patricia Cohen**, 10/20; **Phyllis Kreuttner**, 10/20; **Muriel Berger**, 10/21; **David Day**, 10/24; **Cheryl Gross**, 10/24; **Hollis Bogdanffy-Kriegh**, 10/27; **Lisbeth Eng**, 10/27; **Warren Smith**, 10/27; **Renee Goodstein**, 10/31; **Frank Prescod**, 10/31.

## Ethical Enrichment

### Ethics in Literature Reading Group

On Monday, October 3, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will host a discussion of Nobel Peace Laureate Wole Soyinka’s memoir, *Ake: The Years of Childhood*. When he was four years old, spurred by insatiable

curiosity and the beat of a marching drum, Wole Soyinka slipped silently through the gate of his parents' yard and followed a police band to a distant village. This was his first journey beyond Ake, Nigeria.

In writing from a child's perspective, Soyinka expresses youthful idealism and unfiltered honesty while escaping the adult snares of cynicism and intolerance. His stinging indictment of colonialism takes on added power owing to the elegance of his attack. He also speaks Nigeria's increasing Westernization and its movement toward modernity and materialism, as he describes his beloved village market deteriorating from a "procession of magicians" to rows of "fantasy stores lit by neon and batteries of colored bulbs," where the "blare of motor-horns compete with a high-decibel outpouring of rock and funk and punk and other thunk-thunk from lands of instant-culture heroes."

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

## Personal Writing Classes Start

If you've been planning to participate in one of our "Joy of Personal Writing" workshops, led by member Elaine Berman, please note that the **Monday** sessions will begin on **October 3** and the **Thursday** sessions will begin on **October 6**, both of them lasting from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. Fees for the course are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers.

For more information about this popular offering, call Yalitzza Garcia in the Leaders' office at 212-874-5210, ext. 118; see the September issue of *Ethical Outlook*; or visit our website, [www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space](http://www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space).

## New! Ethical Mindfulness And Inner Peace

We are offering a new program at NYSEC, on **Thursdays, October 6 and 20; November 3 and 17; and December 1 and 15, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen.

Ethical Mindfulness and Inner Peace is a six-session 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 classes are free for members and \$5 per session for guests.

## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett



Join us on **Friday, October 7, at 7:00 pm** (the doors open at **6:30 pm**), in the Adler Study, Room 514, to see the 2002 film *Dirty Pretty Things*, directed by Stephen Frears and written by Steven Knight.

Undocumented immigrants Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and Senay (Audrey Tautou) work at a posh London hotel and live in constant fear of deportation. One night, Okwe stumbles across evidence of a bizarre murder, setting off a series of events that could lead to disaster—or freedom. This gritty, complex thriller received an Oscar nod for its screenplay. Sophie Okonedo and Sergi López costar. Our post-film discussion will be led by Sharon Pope. The suggested donation: \$5.

## Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, October 17, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma* (2007). Writing a book about his past experiences and the current situation in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and former head of Doctors Without Borders Dr. James Orbinski travels to Somalia, Rwanda, and the Congo, where he confronts disturbing truths.

This acclaimed documentary follows Orbinski's incredible journey as he recalls troubling memories of violence and despair, but also finds signs of solidarity, compassion, and true humanitarianism. The film showing is free to members, \$5 for guests.

## Excursions in Environmental Ethics

We are excited about a new "field trip" program at NYSEC focusing on environmental issues. The purpose of these periodic excursions is to provide an experiential setting for discussing some of the pressing environmental issues facing our country. These are trips by van that will start at the Society, providing "door to door" transportation. Leader Curt Collier will provide tour information along the way, including opportunities for discussion, with handouts. Here's the first one:

**Oct. 15—Dolan DNA Learning Center and Oyster Festival, Oyster Bay, Long Island**

There are two parts to this trip. First, we'll have a tour of the Dolan DNA

Learning Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where we will learn about the Watson-Crick-Franklin race to discover the underlying structure of DNA and the history of mapping the human genome.

Following our tour of the museum, we'll travel to the Oyster Festival at Oyster Bay, one of the largest seafood festivals in the area, where participants can sample various foods, tour historic ships, listen to music, watch a pirate show, and shop at the arts and crafts booth. The event runs from **10:00 am to 4:00 pm**. For those wishing to return earlier, the LIRR Oyster Bay train station is a short walk away.

The price of \$24 includes a van seat (15-passenger vans), as well as entry fees into the tour sites.

## Ethics and the Theater

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner*

On **Friday evening, October 28**, from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will present Harold Pinter's play, *Betrayal*. Based on Pinter's real-life affair with Joan Bakewell, *Betrayal* opens with a meeting between two of the characters—Jerry, a literary agent, and Emma, the wife of his best friend, Robert, a book publisher—years after they have ended an adulterous romance, and proceeds backwards, to the beginning of the relationship. It is in many ways a mystery play, slowly revealing who knew and did what and when, throwing in misdirection, twists, and surprises.

Like much of the playwright's work, it manages to be simultaneously mordantly funny and grim, almost frightening, in its portrayal

of the pain people inflict even on those of whom they are genuinely fond.

Richard Van Deusen directs our cast, which includes Susanna Frazer and Mark Hofmaier. 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. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

## Ethical Adventures *Freud's Last Session*

*Barbara Levenson*

**The Ethical Adventures Committee** has secured discounted group-rate tickets to a performance of *Freud's Last Session* on **Sunday, October 23, at 3:00 pm**. The play is being presented at the Little Theater of the West Side Y (the entrance is on 64<sup>th</sup> Street, next door to the Society). Following the performance, we'll have a discussion of the play with the two actors appearing in it. The cost is \$39.50 for adults and \$25.00 for students.

The play imagines a meeting in Freud's study between the dying atheist Freud and the deeply religious C.S. Lewis at the outbreak of World War II. The discussion that ensues should be of interest to all Ethical Culturists.

If you are interested in attending, contact Renee Goodstein at 212-362-5945 or speak to any of the other committee members (Bonnie Bean, Pat Berens, Barbara Levenson, and Carol Rost). The **deadline** to purchase tickets is **Sunday, October 2**, and payment must be made by that date to any of the committee members (only cash or check made out to Renee Goodstein).

## OUT@NYSEC

NYSEC is proud to announce our newest public program, **OUT@NYSEC**. Serving the LGBTQ (Lesbian-Gay-

Bisexual-Transgender-Queer) community, **OUT@NYSEC** is an innovative series of workshops, lectures, and social events with a broad spectrum. Designed to foster awareness, wellness, and fellowship, **OUT@NYSEC** will include programs on health care and spirituality, as well as relationships, parenting, ethics, activism, and outreach. A Distinguished Speakers component will bring well-known authors and artists for evenings of lively conversation. Two monthly singles nights will invite women and men to learn more about our community and each other.

NYSEC's commitment to youth empowerment remains steadfast, which is why we will also be hosting a program for LGBTQ teens. Through partnering with other organizations and inviting you to share in our unique vision of pride, we aim to take public programming to new heights. Like the community it serves, **OUT@NYSEC** promises to be daring, bold, and passionate. Come, join us at our next events. We're glad to welcome you home.

**October 12, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm:** Join us for an inaugural evening mixer to launch **OUT@NYSEC**. Learn more about upcoming programs and services, see old friends and meet new ones, and come out and celebrate! Held in our beautiful Ceremonial Hall overlooking Central Park, the evening promises to be as informative as it will be fun. Refreshments will be served.

**October 26, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm:** **The Alchemy of Same-Sex Relationships:** Tips from mystical traditions for attracting and harmonizing **Same-Sex Love Signs and Soul Mates**. Ceremonial Hall.

Workshop leader Gahl Sasson is a respected spiritual teacher with an enthusiastic international following for his workshops on mythology and astrology. His book, *A Wish Can Change Your Life*, was endorsed by His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama and translated into numerous languages.

Gahl has customized this session to look at how homosexual relationships differ from heterosexual relationships in terms of dynamics. This will be a fun and entertaining event that will blend practical relationship advice from different mystical traditions with storytelling and myths—all designed to make your partnerships a tool for growth. Tickets are \$20 for NYSEC members and \$30 for nonmembers.

## New! Theater Troupe at NYSEC

*Beth Zucker*

The Society is proud to welcome **Theater of the Oppressed NYC** this month. We have invited this progressive-minded troupe to use our facilities for rehearsals and meetings. This is a very exciting project, and we hope you get a chance to see one of their exceptional performances.

Theater of the Oppressed NYC works with local communities, including the homeless, immigrants, prisoners, teenagers, and teachers to establish “popular theater troupes” all over New York City. These ensembles create and tour with original, interactive plays inspired by real-life struggles, in order to engage audiences in problem-solving and inspire transformative action. The troupe believe that every person is an actor in his or her own life: Absolutely no theater experience is necessary to participate.

Katy Rubin, the group’s founding artistic director, is a teaching artist, actor, and circus performer.

She has facilitated Forum Theater workshops and performances in dozens of NYC public schools, as well as with the NYC Coalition Against Hunger, bilingual community members at the Inwood/Washington Heights YM/YWHA, young women at the Sadie Nash Leadership Institute and at the Eileen Fisher Foundation, at Riverside Church, and with clients of the Jan Hus Homeless Outreach Program.

Rubin trained with the founder of the troupe’s technique at the Center for Theater of the Oppressed in Rio de Janeiro and co-facilitated in psychiatric hospitals and prisons in Brazil.

## Emergency Shelter Network Faces a Crisis

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen, who serves on the Clergy Advisory Council of the Emergency Shelter Network, an interfaith coalition that provides not only beds, but also fellowship to more than 500 women and men every night, reports that funding for food has abruptly ended.

Although the women who come to NYSEC’s Shelter still receive meals from Urban Pathways, a drop-in center, the hospitality they shared with our volunteers over a snack and breakfast has been jeopardized.

The City of New York is acting on the premise that a bed and a meal at one of its large institutional settings sufficiently meet the needs of our neighbors without homes. But many people need the warmth and stability offered by volunteers in small, local faith- and community-based shelters.

Volunteers also need the opportunity to serve the needs of people who have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own.

Please donate non-perishable food for our shelter and contact Anne with your suggestions for obtaining food for other shelters in the network.

## Women’s Shelter Needs Volunteers

*Barbara Litke*

Awareness of the need to have a safe place to stay during last month’s Hurricane “Irene”—and every night—affected almost everyone. However, not everyone has a home. Since 1982 the New York Society for Ethical Culture has been providing overnight shelter for up to seven women, from Sunday to Thursday, all year ’round. Dr. Maria Fridman is the Shelter Director.

But without overnight volunteers, we would have to close our Shelter. This would mean depriving these women, whose only alternative would be to sleep in a chair at the Olivieri Center, of a safe place to spend their nights. That is something we have never had to do, and something we never want to do. But we very much need more volunteers to stay overnight, and so we are reaching out to our NYSEC community and friends for help. We ask little of your time. We’re asking for a commitment of only one night a month, but it is a commitment that brings our volunteers great satisfaction and the opportunity to experience a meaningful connection with our guests. We hope you can arrange your calendar to spare that one night a month and participate in this vital activity.

For further information, and to become a Shelter volunteer, please contact the NYSEC membership office, at 212-874-5210, ext.113. I would like to thank our Society members and friends for your continuing dedication to the Women's Shelter.

## LA Liga Soccer Teams and Global Peace Games

The **Social Service Board** sponsors soccer teams for teenagers 14 to 16 years old: a boys' team and a girls' team. The teams' mission is to keep these young people off the streets while teaching them leadership skills, values, and good sportsmanship, and giving them the chance to share a great time. Each September, the teams participate in the Global Peace Games, this year held in Brooklyn's Washington Park.

About 4,000 kids from every corner of NYC participate in LA Liga, most of them from underprivileged families that have emigrated from various Latin American countries and now live in Queens. They are mostly beginners in the sport, and they practice twice a week after school, developing their soccer skills as well as the discipline required for participating in a team sport. In addition, they spend one day a week after school involved in leadership development and educational activities, while on Saturdays they participate in the LA Liga Soccer League. In the warmer months, the teams play outdoors in Queens and during the winter, they play indoors. Social Service Board Member Henry Bunch is the lead organizer of the LA Liga Soccer program and is responsible for its activities. *(Photos from the 2011 Global Peace Games in Brooklyn are by SSB Director Dr. Ivan Quervalu.)*



*Watching the teams in action*



*Henry Bunch, soccer program coordinator*



*Team members share a global handshake*



*LA Liga team players learn the finer points of soccer*

## Save the Date! University Glee Club Sings

Join us on **Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 pm**, in the Auditorium, for a concert by the renowned **University Glee Club of New York City** to benefit the New York Society. Be here for an inspiring evening of joyful choral music by this 100-man chorus whose members represent more than 70 colleges and universities.



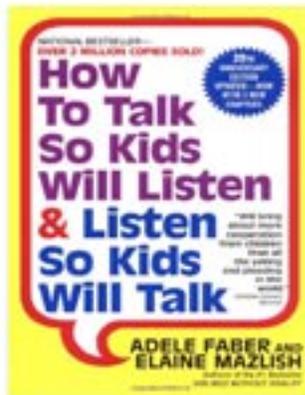
The group's conductor is Francisco Núñez, a composer, conductor, leading figure in music education, and only the fifth conductor since the chorus was established in 1894! As a composer, he is best known for works that bring Latin culture to life. His music includes serious compositions as well as fresh arrangements for chorus, orchestra, and solo instruments.

Tickets are available at [www.UGCBenefit.eventbrite.com](http://www.UGCBenefit.eventbrite.com). The price is \$25 for members and students and \$35 for guests. For more information contact Beth Zucker at 212-874-5210, ext. 144.

Save the  
Date!



The 2011  
AEU Religious Education  
Fall Conference and Family Weekend  
“Ethically Talking So Kids Will Listen  
and Listening So Kids Will Talk”



Workshops and conversations based on the ideas outlined in the book “How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk” by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish

November 4 - 6, 2011

Stony Point Conference Center  
Stony Point, NY

Registration materials will be available in August, 2011  
For more information, contact Aimee Neumann at [aneumann.aeu@gmail.com](mailto:aneumann.aeu@gmail.com).  
Visit the web site of the American Ethical Union at [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)

# October 2011

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>Foundations of Ethical Culture October 2</p> <p>Ethical Mindfulness and Inner Peace October 6 and 20</p> <p>Seminar on Felix Adler's Writings October 11 and 25</p>				1
2 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	3 <b>November 2011 Newsletter Deadline</b>  1:00 pm – Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	4  6:00 pm – Socrates Café	5  	6 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm – Ethical Mindfulness 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	7  7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Dirty Pretty Things</i> (2002)	8  10:00 am – Excursion in Environmental Ethics
9 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Life with Health	10 <b>Society Offices Closed Columbus Day</b>	11  6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Adler Seminar	12  7:00 pm – OUT@NYSEC: Program Launch	13 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	14  	15  
16 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 – Community Meeting	17  1:00 pm – Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	18  	19  	20 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 pm – Ethical Mindfulness 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	21  	22  
23 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News	24  6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	25  6:00 pm – Socrates Café	26  7:00 pm – OUT@NYSEC: The Alchemy of Same-Sex Relationships	27 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	28  7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	29  
30 10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Light Brunch 1:30 pm – Ethical Economics	31  6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	<p>Oct. 3 – <i>Ake: The Years of Childhood</i>, Nobel Peace Laureate Wole Soyinka's memoir Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group</p> <p>Oct. 17 – <i>Triage: Dr. James Ordinski's Humanitarian Dilemma</i> (2007) Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries</p> <p>Oct. 28 – <i>Betrayal</i> by Harold Pinter Ethics and the Theater</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.*

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR  
**ETHICAL**  
**CULTURE** 

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