

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 Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium
(Except as noted)

10:15 AM–Ceremonial Hall

September 2

**The Balancing Actors: A New
Silent Plurality**

Abe Markman

Andra Miller Presides

September 9

**The Ethical Center of
Social Action**

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

Joseph Marvel Presides

September 16

**Felix Adler and the
Heart of the World**

Dr. Kurt Johnson

Brooklyn Ethical Society

Tony Hileman Presides

September 23

**Walking the Walk: Becoming an
Agent of Change and
A Catalyst for Good**

*Bart Worden, Leader, Ethical Culture
Society of Westchester*

Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

September 30

Ideas Matter

Andrea Batista Schlesinger,

Executive Director, Drum Major

Institute for Public Policy

Muriel Berger Presides

Please Note:

The (10:00 AM) Early
Sunday programs which
precede the Morning
Meetings will resume on
Sunday, September 9.

September Happenings

Ethics for Children presents *Peaceful Children... Peaceful World: The Mud Sisters and Other Tales About Friendship*, told by Laura Simms, on Sunday, September 9. (See page 4.)

AEU Growth and Development Workshop on Saturday, September 29 here at NYSEC, 9:30 am–4:00 pm. This all-day event aims to help Ethical Societies grow and develop authentic community. Registration is required. (See page 7.)

President's Notes

Andra Miller



The Board of Trustees spent the last Saturday of July exploring the Society's current situation and figuring out ways to make our foundation rock-solid, so that we can step more confidently into the future. We're working on developing financial and marketing plans, clarifying the functions of all the sectors of our Society and hiring staff, writing a statement of support for our building, looking into why our membership numbers aren't growing (look for a survey soon), and restating our mission to be more compelling. (Bet you didn't even know we have a mission statement.)

We also came up with lists of events to establish additional outreach and draw current and new members deeper into the life of the Society. More about this later. We reiterated the decision that there must be an open line of communication with members, as you should know what decisions and actions the Board is grappling with. You are invited to attend any of our meetings—generally the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is September 10, as the first Monday is Labor Day.

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Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium (except as noted)

10:15 AM in Ceremonial Hall–4th floor

September 2–The Balancing Actors: A New Silent Plurality

Abe Markman, Public Issues Committee

The “Balancing Actors” are those who care for their infants, toddlers, and/or elderly parents while holding down jobs outside the home. Abe will present a paper, researched in collaboration with JoAnn Mason, which will identify relief measures for this excessively stressed, huge sector of the population. (See page 5 for details.)

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Tony Hileman	119
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 Women's Shelter: Dr. Maria Fridman
 Homeless Artists Workshop: Dr. Maria Fridman
 Brochure Update: Lucile Kleiman and Margaretha Jones
 IT and Website: Kenneth Wernz

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

The Board's day was productive and stimulating because we felt secure that we were getting a handle on things, and because we were able to envision an exciting future for our Society and its participation in the life of the city. As things unfold, we hope you'll be enthused too.

Building Fund Campaign

Those of you who were here the Sunday we distributed *Building Fund News* know that so far we've accumulated \$111,965 for refurbishing our treasured "house." We're deeply thankful for all that you have contributed (79 of you, individuals and couples), and the amount added by renters and others (43). I need to tell you, though, that collecting the \$88,035 yet needed to meet our \$200,000 goal is going to be a lot harder. This is because three of our contributors (one, the challenge grant) were responsible for 69 percent of that \$111,965. We can't expect additional major donations from that sector for Phase 2 of our campaign.

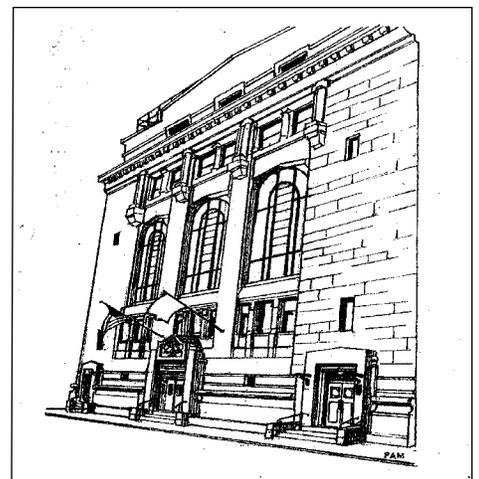
That doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying. If you are willing and able, we ask that you help again (or for the first time). The fundraisers are also looking

into finding grants and other sources to help us out. As for me, I'll turn in my additional contribution today (a check with "Building Repair Fund" on the "for" line). I hope you choose to join me soon! (Look for more special events for the Building Repair Fund in the future.)

...we were able to envision an exciting future for our Society.

Once again, thanks to every one of you who contributed to make that \$111,965. Thanks also to Pat Malkin for the terrific line drawing of our building (below).

(Continued on page 3)



Committees

Speaking of money, the Finance Committee has received permission from the Board to allow it to establish a line of credit for \$500,000, though we don't expect to ever use it. It is simply considered good business practice when reserve funds are insufficient for emergencies to have such a source of credit established.

A special program is being offered this month by the American Ethical Union, and many Board members will be attending. This will be a workshop on membership development, long-range planning, and increasing service and outreach to the community, led by Michael Durall, consultant and author of several books on congregational development. Society members are also invited, so if you'd like to come, let me know. Date: Saturday, September 29; cost \$50.

If you'd like to apply to join a committee and become more involved in the activities and challenges of the Society, please let me or any of our Board officers know. Their names are listed on the second page of this newsletter. Our committees are: Adult Education, Awards, Building, Bylaws and Policy, Caring, Cosponsored Programs, Endowment, Ethical Action, Finance, Fundraising, Internet, Membership Activities, Membership Development, Newsletter, Radio, School Relations, Sunday Programs, Sunday School, and Younger Members. Not all of them are taking new members at this time, but you will be listed for future service if you wish. There will be more about committee openings and volunteer opportunities in the next *Ethical Outlook*.

This place would surely fall apart without all the tireless efforts of our volunteers and staff. Thanks to all of you who so joyfully and generously keep things humming!

Sunday Morning

(Continued from page 1)

September 9—The Ethical Center of Social Action

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

Why do we do what we do for others? In founding Ethical Culture, Felix Adler placed ethics at the center of his new religion and projected that concept outward into the community through social service and action. For him, that meant education, health care, and housing for a poverty-stricken class that constituted the vast majority of New York City's citizenry. There remains considerable work to be done in these areas today and, thanks to the efforts of Ethical Culturists and others, there is an impressive array of social agencies addressing them in both the private sector and through government departments.

Many things motivate us to provide relief to the suffering or financial aid to those in need, to assist those unable to help themselves, or to speak for those denied a voice—compassion, the good feelings we get from helping, an altruistic desire to advance society. Of the myriad inspirations that move us to work for and on behalf of others, what distinguishes Ethical Culture from the social and activist groups involved in many of the same things?

September 16—Felix Adler and the Heart of the World

Dr. Kurt Johnson

Felix Adler's vision was so far ahead of its time that today we see many initiatives worldwide that parallel his idea of the "ethical manifold." World situations, nearing crisis or "tipping point," have forced leaders of many religious, spiritual, philosophical, and even political traditions to see things in the "big picture." This big picture, which some call the "integral view," mandates as Adler

did that "right action" or "deed" must supersede "right belief" or "creed." Dr. Johnson will review a number of these initiatives and show how they relate so closely to the original vision of Adler and Ethical Culture.

Dr. Kurt Johnson is a 17-year member of Ethical Culture and an officer of the AEU National Service Conference. He is a cofounder of InterSpiritual Dialogue, Coalition for OneVoice, World Wisdom Alliance, and Integral Alliance, and also serves on Deepak Chopra's World Networking Leaders group. He is on the faculty of the Humanist Institute and the New York Interfaith Seminary.

September 23—Walking the Walk: Becoming an Agent of Change and A Catalyst for Good

Bart Worden, Leader, Ethical Culture Society of Westchester

So many problems, so little time, so few resources—sometimes the path to ethical living seems more than a little daunting, yet we are called upon to be agents of change for the good. While recognizing the obstacles and limitations of creating a more ethical world, people who are committed to fostering ethical culture can, and do, make a positive difference.

This address explores some of the ethical successes of individuals and groups and considers some ways to seem bigger than our actual numbers in our impact upon society.

September 30—Ideas Matter

*Andrea Batista Schlesinger
Executive Director, Drum Major
Institute for Public Policy*

Public will influences public policy, which influences the quality of people's lives. Unless you shape public will, Ms. Batista Schlesinger says, all of the smaller legal, policy, or political goals will not add up to lasting social change.

Throughout the 70's, think tanks, institutes, and journals of thought were created to generate conservative ideas and to communicate them. They succeeded in changing the way Americans looked at government and its responsibilities and the way they viewed corporations and their responsibilities. Ms. Batista Schlesinger will talk about this phenomenon, the role that New York City has played in this battle of ideas, and how we can become a center of progressive thought.

Since 2002, she has led the effort to turn the Drum Major Institute, founded by an advisor to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Civil Rights movement, into a progressive policy institute with national impact.

Early Sunday 10 AM

Sept. 2—Resumes on September 9.

Sept. 9—**Colloquy**—Phyllis Kreuttner presides. Room 408.

Sept. 16—**Singing Practice**—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

Sept. 16—**Poetry Reading**—Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Sept. 23—**Public Issues Committee**—Abe Markman presides. Room 408.

Sept. 30—**Coffee Hour** with NYSEC Trustees. Room 408.

Our Ethical Family

Tony Hileman

A warm welcome to new member **Helen Mecs**, a member of the Westchester Ethical Culture Society for many years, who recently moved to Manhattan to be closer to her children.

Retired from her position as Director of Development at a nonprofit agency, Helen enjoys reading, NYC life, travel,

and opera. She continues in the Ethical Movement because of our beliefs, the people who are members, opportunities to serve the community, and intellectual stimulation.

Congratulations to **Florence Weinstein**, who on July 26 turned 100! Here



Florence Weinstein

Florence celebrates the occasion at the Williams Residence, where she lives. She joined the Society in 1945 and has been a valued member for 62 years. Happy Birthday, Florence!!

In Memory—**Charlotte Brawer**, who died on July 27 at age 92, was an active member for 20 years. An avid reader, Charlotte started our Wednesday afternoon book club. She was a vital part of the Upper Westside Cluster Group, which met for many years to discuss matters relating to the Society and beyond. She also was generous in her support of the Advocacy Forums that former Senior Leader Khoren Arisian put together, as well as many other Society programs. Each time she saw a need she was eager to help, even after physical problems prevented her attendance. She will be missed.

A memorial service for Charlotte will be held at the Society on Saturday, September 15, at 2 pm.

Ethics for Children

Rita Chawla

Ethics for Children presents: *Peaceful Children... Peaceful World: The Mud Sisters and Other Tales About Friendship*, told by Laura Simms, on September 9. One of the best-known performance storytellers in the world, Ms. Simms combines stories with personal narrative. Just right for families, these tales

aimed at children four to twelve are riveting and meaningful. Please join in as she and her childhood friends dig through the mud in search of China and discover the magic of play and loving kindness. Ms. Simms will also present tales from West Africa, Korea, and the Moduc Indians of Oregon.

Tickets to the program are \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. Please RSVP to Rita Chawla at rchawla@nysec.org or call 212-874-5210, ext. 106.

Drawing Class

Barbara Litke

Artists at all levels are welcome, and beginners are encouraged to participate in this nine-session drawing class, which Barbara Litke will



Barbara Litke

lead. The class is designed to appeal to anyone who would like to freely express his or her personal vision on paper using line, form, shading, and composition. Learning the techniques of various media, e.g., pencil, charcoal, and pastels, enables the artist to gain a new sense of accomplishment. The class will share innovative ideas as artistic skills develop. Accepting new challenges can foster satisfying experiences. So, if you'd like to try your hand please join us. It's never too late to start. Classes begin Tuesday, September 18, 6:00 pm—8:00 pm, here at the Society. For further information, call Gloria Chandler, Administration office, 212-874-5210, ext. 117, or register in person at NYSEC, 2 West 64th Street, NYC.

Ms. Litke, an artist who has exhibited paintings and drawings throughout the tri-state area, has taught art in many adult education classes and in private schools.

Public Issues Committee

Abe Markman

On Sunday morning, September 2, the PIC program will focus on Family-Friendly Policies: The Balancing Act—A New Silent Plurality. This paper, to be presented by Abe Markman, will cover pay for family leave, sick leave, and overtime, as well as subsidizing businesses to provide flex-time.

PIC believes that promotion of these family-friendly initiatives can prepare the political landscape for accepting more complex and far-reaching programs. Establishing universal child care and single-payer health care will depend on the achievement of greater unity in the country. Programs that bring a measure of relief to family care-givers, those who work in and outside the home at the same time, are popular across the family values divide. Thus, promoting and enacting such policies can move us toward national unity, a unity based on a greater sense of caring for each other.

Sunday in the City

Andra Miller

For the in-city retreat on June 23, all those who came brought their ideas on what the Society should be and how they could help. After coffee and muffins, Senior Leader Tony Hileman led us in an exercise that explored Felix Adler's thinking and how we might apply it to the challenges we face. Tony stressed that our impulses to address the problems of today draw from the same well of ethical concern and religious inspiration from which Adler drew.

At the afternoon session, we had an engaging and enlightening discussion, led by Board member Christina Nargolwala, about possible ethical solu-

tions to the problems and personality conflicts in our lives.

And finally, under the leadership of Jim Farer and Andra Miller, we did some thinking about our Society. Ideas on what we are included: Ethical Culture—at heart: community, identity, meaning, and hope—and rational thinking. One of the main benefits of EC is the fellowship of like-minded people.

Then we discussed how we can grow. Among the many suggestions: We need “branding.” Every member should carry and give out cards with NYSEC's main names, phone numbers, and website. Members might “take ownership” and help newcomers become more connected. We need to create a membership booklet with duties and opportunities. Our committee and Board needs should be named. We should provide committee activities updates to members (aside from the August *Ethical Outlook*). We should be more concerned with social action, including forging partnerships with other groups, and when necessary, we should ask for help on projects and fundraising. We should have a membership meeting to report our progress. Also, the Board should be more visibly involved on Sundays.

Regarding finances, it was suggested that for the health of our endowment funds we make sure that Ethical Culture is named in our wills. Also, a real estate professional should consult with the Board regarding our real estate.

In all, the day was a productive and enlightening coming together—and a very successful retreat, with *al fresco* dining for a hot dog/hamburger lunch on the terrace outside Ceremonial Hall, all of which was arranged by Suzy Frazer.

Tony ended the day by asking us to pick someone whose ideas challenged us or someone we would like to get to know better and approach them. The

room was at high decibel level as we enthusiastically greeted and gave our parting wishes to new friends.

Thanks to all who came and contributed your energy and thoughts to this fun and rewarding day! And, anyone who has ideas and time to volunteer for activities or tasks should contact a Board member or committee chair to express your interests.

Sicko, ... the Electric Car, and Black Gold

Abe Markman

What do these documentaries have in common? They are films that Public Issues Committee members either saw or joined with others in showing this summer and highly recommended.

On July 4, ten members went to see *Sicko*, a powerful call for a single-payer health plan. We then went to the YMCA cafeteria and discussed the film's impact. As a result, we are reevaluating our stance on health care.

On July 11, joining with the Younger Members Group and the Corporate Ethical Task Force, we showed *Who Killed the Electric Car?* One hundred people crowded Ceremonial Hall to learn how General Motors, complicit with other corporate interests, squashed brand new, functional electric cars rather than sell them to the public.

On August 28 we screened *Black Gold—Wake Up and Smell the Coffee*, a film about fair trade in coffee. We were pleased to have Heather Grady lead the discussion. Heather is the Director of Policy and Partnerships for Realizing Rights, an ethical globalization initiative. Our cabaret-style showing of the latter two films was a rousing success. These two benefit showings raised \$450 for NYSEC.

Unforgotten Voices

Andra Miller

On July 20, the Society was host to the best-kept secret on 64th Street, the Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop. This exciting, yet casual, evening presented a number of poets and singers, members of a collective of talented people who are or have been homeless, or who are otherwise living on the edge. A display of drawings, paintings, and collages by the fine artists who are also members of the workshop was another special feature of the evening.

The workshop is cosponsored by United Social Services (Social Service Board) and NYSEC. Dr. Maria Fridman has coordinated the program with Judith Ginsburg, who has been instrumental in encouraging the artists and producing the show since its beginning over 20 years ago. The event is presented by the Society twice a year and is a part of our Shelter program.

As Judith noted that night, “The performances of tonight serve to honor and recognize the creative spirit in us all.”



(L-R) President Andra Miller; member Barbara Levenson; and Dr. Bernice Cornyetz, head of the Ethical Culture Women’s Group, at the July 20 event



Some of the artists who performed at the recent Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop, along with Judith Ginsburg (third from the left)

Social Service Board

Valerie Leiman

A number of Social Service Board members and friends gathered on June 25 to recognize a major accomplishment of Christine Pagonos, director of our Supervised Visitation Program—Christine earned her Ph.D. in Social Work this spring. The celebration was held at the home of member Lucile Kleiman, which overlooks the Hudson River.



(L-R) Michelle Rickborn, Vincent Montaruli, Christine Pagonos, and Andra Miller

Save the Date

Ruth Cohen

Please join us at the first Twilight Benefit Concert for our Stained Glass Windows on Sunday, October 21, at a new time—4:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall. More information to come.

Appreciating Spanish Art

Valerie Leiman

The cool, dim interiors of the Hispanic Society Museum provided a welcome retreat from the hot summer sun on July 28 for eight intrepid NYSEC members and friends.

Society member and professional Spanish scholar John Hwang gave an impromptu presentation on the spectacular mural series by the Spanish artist Joaquin Sorolla. Entitled “The Regions of Spain,” the paintings cover the walls of the Sorolla room at the museum from floor to ceiling.

Located on Audubon Terrace at Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets, the museum offers free 45-minute tours of its main collections and the beautiful building itself on Saturdays.

EC Arts Group At Hudson Guild

Valerie Leiman

Six enthusiasts from the Ethical Culture Arts Group (ECAG), led by Dr. Maria Fridman, were invited guests at the Hudson Guild Art Gallery’s 10th Anniversary Community Art Jam on August 3.

Located at the Dr. John Elliott Houses in Chelsea, the Guild’s mission statement describes a purpose similar to that of the newly formed ECAG: “Helping to build a stronger community...by bringing contemporary visual art to viewers in underserved populations.”



AEU Growth and Development Workshops

Katharine Archibald

In a workshop for member Societies of the AEU, Michael Durall, author of the Alban Institute's best selling book, *Creating Congregations of Generous People*, will share his expertise in helping congregations develop tailor-made plans for the future. The workshop will be held at NYSEC, September 29, 9:30 am–4:00 pm.

Asking members for money is very different from creating congregations of generous people. Annual pledge drives, Durall asserts, inadvertently perpetuate low- and same-level giving. He frames the stewardship task not as "asking for money," but as bringing the congregation into authentic community from which generosity is a natural outcome.

This is not a talk about money, but rather a program on how to create Societies that will stand the test of time. This seminar will offer a new look at what membership means, ways to increase membership, reasons why Societies should develop generous people and pass this legacy on to their children and grandchildren, elements of long-range planning, and ways to increase service and outreach to the wider community.

The AEU encourages Societies to send a team of at least five people. It has budgeted workshops like this to recover most costs from those participating, rather than from Society apportionments. We request that each individual or Society contribute \$50 per participant, with lunch and a copy of Durall's book included. To register, call the AEU office at 212-873-6500 or mail this registration form.

Note that there will also be an AEU workshop, on Community-Building Communication in Ethical Societies, on Saturday, September 8, 9:00 am–6:00 pm, at the Baltimore Ethical Society. That event will cover a variety of communication issues within Societies and in relation to the larger community, including nonviolent communication. For more information about the Baltimore event and the range of subjects to be covered, and for a registration form, contact the AEU in New York City at 212-873-6500 or www.aeu.org.

AEU GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail this form and your check to: American Ethical Union, 2 West 64th Street, Suite 406, New York, NY 10023-7104 (212-873-6500). (All information must be provided if you are using a credit card.) Please print.

Topic: Creating Congregations of Generous People

Saturday, September 29, 2007, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street

New York, NY 10023

Registrant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: () ____ - ____ (day) () ____ - ____ (eve)

E-mail address: _____

Registrant is from which Society: _____

I can be contacted by email re any further communications about this workshop.

WORKSHOP FEE: \$50 per person

Check enclosed (payable to the AEU) or Please charge \$____ to credit card: (circle one): VISA MasterCard Discover Diners Club American Express.

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date mm/yy: _____

Card Security Code: _____ (cannot process charge without this. On most cards, the CSC is three digits long and printed on the back of the card, usually in the signature field.)

Name on Card: _____

Billing address, including zip code: _____

Phone number: () ____ - _____

September 2007

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>ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) September 12 – Shirley Hazzard, <i>The Transit of Venus</i></p> <p>Great Books: Great Conversations I September 19 – Joseph Conrad, <i>The Secret Sharer</i></p>						1
2 10:15 am – Morning Meeting in Ceremonial Hall - 4th floor	3 Labor Day Society offices closed	4 October 2007 Newsletter Deadline	5 6:00 pm – Men's Group	6	7	8
9 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children Laura Simms 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	10 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees	11 6:00 pm – Women's Group	12 3:00 pm – ECRDG	13	14	15 2:00 pm – Memorial for Charlotte Brawer
16 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	17 6:30 pm – Social Service Board	18 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	19 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:30 pm – Great Books: Great Conversations I	20	21	22 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
23 10:00 am – PIC Meeting 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	24	25 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	26 6:00 pm – Ethical Culture Today?	27	28	29 9:30 am – AEU Growth and Development Workshop 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation
30 10:00 am – Coffee Hour with Trustees 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour						

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
ETHICAL CULTURE 

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