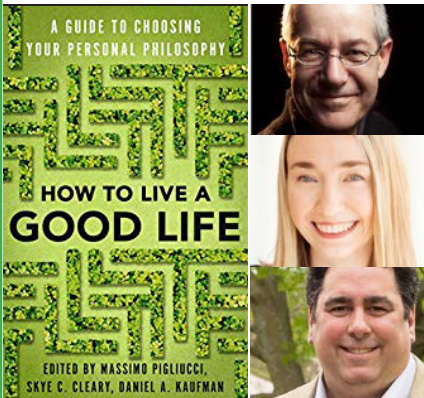


**TUESDAY JAN. 7 | 6pm
 BOOK LAUNCH**

**HOW TO
 LIVE A
 GOOD LIFE:
 A GUIDE TO
 CHOOSING
 YOUR PERSONAL
 PHILOSOPHY**



Socrates famously said, “the unexamined life is not worth living,” but what does it mean to truly live philosophically?

Attendees of Stoa Nova and the Philosophy Café already know Professors **Massimo Pigliucci** and **Skye Cleary**, who will be joined this evening by fellow editor **Daniel Kaufman**, to discuss with Ethical NYC Leader Emerita **Anne Klaeyesen** their recent book. It is a thought-provoking, wide-ranging collection of essays by 15

Continued on p.8



SUNDAY JAN. 19 | PLATFORM TALK at 11am

**REFLECTIONS ON A
 NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT**

ANGELINE BUTLER

Adjunct Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Angeline Butler was an original coordinator and participant in the Nashville Sit-Ins, a founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and a coordinator of the 1961 Freedom Rides, among other credits. Hear this first-person account of and reflections on the strategies and accomplishments of the Student Nonviolent Movement of the 1960’s, and of the support of the adult community for the students. Ms. Butler is the author of *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Accounts by Women of SNCC*.

ANGELINE BUTLER, currently an Adjunct Professor in Africana Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, has recently been honored by the Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence Award (April 2019) and, in 2018, was the honoree of the Annual Scholarship Breakfast at

John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She has been the recipient of many awards and wide acclaim for her work in Civil Rights, including having been given the Selma Jubilee “Freedom Flame Award” (2010). Ms. Butler is a professional entertainer and has many credits in variety TV with Johnny Carson, Dick Cavett, and Hugh Hefner; performances with the Duke Ellington and Count Basie Orchestras; and recordings on Columbia Records and Coburt-MGM Records.

*This week’s shared charity, the **A.J. Muste Memorial Institute**, provides grants, sponsorships, and educational resources to hundreds of grassroots projects around the world. They fund innovative organizing, often with seed funds that give a necessary boost to bold ideas, and they provide affordable and collaborative space to a dozen or so groups in New York City.*

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LEADER'S DESK

DR. RICHARD KORAL

DEMOCRACY AT RISK ABROAD AND AT HOME

It was 1848. Democracy movements sprang up all across Europe. They emerged out of economic desperation and a deepening indignation over the corrupt and sclerotic regimes smothering each country. Street demonstrations and rebellions, beginning in France, spread across Europe and then to South America. They were the revolutions of 1848, sometimes called the Peoples' Spring. The middle class and the educated allied with workers in the new industries to proclaim their outrage and to demand reforms. They sought responsive and democratic governance.

The results were mixed.

The revolutions mostly petered out. Those reforms that were hastily instituted to placate the masses were soon withdrawn or ignored. Royalty held its grip and the democratically elected president of France declared himself Emperor Napoleon III to reign for twenty years.

The results of the Revolutions of 1848 may have been frustrating, but there were lessons to be learned – namely, that “the street” holds power that can rise up without much warning and that the people have a vote in matters, too.

Is it happening again today? Suddenly there are uprisings in country after country around the world. In 2019, mass demonstrations erupted in Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Algeria and Afghanistan, as well as Hong Kong, Catalonia, Bolivia, and Chile. Who will be next?

The thread running through all these movements is a stagnating middle class, grinding economic inequality,

stifled democracy, and the hope and belief that things can be better.

There were some successes. In Sudan, the long-time dictator Omar Al-Bashir stepped down in response to street demonstrations that would not cease. Then, after the military balked at allowing a civilian government to take charge, the demonstrations resumed, and a new government is taking shape. In Bolivia, president Morales, originally a reformer, engineered an avoidance of constitutional term limits. The street demonstrations forced him to resign.

In Hong Kong, as I write this, the electoral sweep by the pro-democracy

“ *We have a duty to uphold our own democracy in order to show how a country can peacefully restore its balance when its democracy is threatened.* ”

candidates in local elections proved that the six-month-long street demonstrations did accurately reflect the popular will. Now, the government can only continue to resist democratic reforms with the intercession of China.

The protests have generally been peaceful, although the governmental reaction has not always been so. In Iraq, about 400 demonstrators were killed when military forces used live ammunition to scatter them. But the prime minister did resign, and it was hoped that everyone else in the government would follow. Iran also showed little restraint in an effort to suppress dissent, killing hundreds of demonstrators.

In some of the most undemocratic countries in the world, the people are demanding responsiveness to



their needs as well as basic honesty in government. The old system by which a governing class cared only for those in its own stratum and left crumbs for the people...that system is under attack nearly everywhere.

Will these many social upheavals and street revolutions lead to real reforms? Or will they lead to mere dissimulation and a return to business as usual as soon as the tempers cool, as happened in 1848? Back then, the reactionary crackdown that followed caused many thousands to flee from Germany to the United States to seek political refuge in our country. Today, there are fewer avenues of escape, so conflicts will have to be resolved at home.

The United States serves as a model of a functioning free and open political system. Our example has inspired struggling democratic movements the world over. We have a duty, therefore, to uphold our own democracy in order to show how a country can peacefully restore its balance when its democracy is threatened, rally around its core values, and support the rule of law.

The world needs us to invest in our own democratic institutions and to show by our example how to channel public disagreements into fair and judicious procedures for their resolution and then to move on. If our democracy, the world's longest standing, cannot function under stress and renew itself after a shock, then what hope is there for all those struggling in their streets?

We can do it.



YOUNG ETHICAL explorers (YEE)

SUNDAYS 11am

JUSTICE JANUARY

This month we focus on the balance between “self” and “other.” We are inspired by America’s great Civil Rights Movement, its legacy, and the work yet to be done to create equity and equality in society.

Jan. 1 — The Content of My Character

Jan. 12 — Brothers & Sisters in the Human Family

Jan. 19 — Ethical Expressions
Led by Writefully Ours’ Deepali Srivastava

BONUS MLK EVENT! Jan. 20 —
CARRYING THE DREAM Toward A Shared Reality
3pm at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.
Purchase tickets in advance at www.bsec.org.

Jan. 26 — HiStory! The wheels on *that* Montgomery bus...digging for more stories under history.



AUDREY KINDRED
Coordinator,
Youth & Family
Programs

Inviting all NYC open-minded and humanist families. Participation is free for Ethical NYC members. Newcomers are welcome.

Participate on a trial basis for a few visits as you consider becoming an Ethical Member-Family.

RSVP as a guest, become a member, or enroll:
youngethicalexplorers@gmail.com

Visit youngethicalexplorers.blogspot.com for regular updates.



LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

CO-SPONSORED WITH THE ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY JAN. 14 at 12pm

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THIS GARBAGE!



KATHRYN GARCIA
NYC Commissioner of Sanitation

Lunch is included with admission (must RSVP):

LWV & Ethical Members \$20, Guests \$25

RSVP: 212-725-3541 or office@lwvnyc.org

\$25 at the door

THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE AND 350NYC PRESENT

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY JAN. 15 | 6:30pm



Enjoy this intimate look into the hearts of activists and innovators in the food movement. You may even be inspired to participate in the restoration of the Earth and help regenerate our plant’s dying soils.

ONIKA ABRAHAM, Director of Farm School NYC, joins us for a post-screening talk.
FREE and Open to the Public



ETHICAL ENRICHMENT

ONGOING PROGRAMS AT THE SOCIETY

All programs are open to the public. Newcomers are *always* welcome.
Admission fees are suggested donations (except where noted).

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WISDOM & WORLD AFFAIRS

Ken Gans, Moderator

These philosophical discussions cover a wide variety of subjects — the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, and many others.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | Jan. 7 & 21, 6pm | Free

RACE, SYSTEMS, AND SOCIETY

Dr. Richard Koral, Moderator

Even among those who are mindful of the subtle racial, ethnic, and class distinctions that persist in society, we are all participants in a larger societal structure that perpetuates injustices. We continue to explore the features of systemic racism and classism in America to better understand the ways in which society can recreate itself to permit all people to flourish and thrive.

2nd Tuesday | Jan. 14, 6:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

* STOA NOVA

Professor Massimo Pigliucci, Moderator

THE OPEN-DOOR POLICY: THE STOICS ON SUICIDE

Suicide is an obviously delicate topic, and one about which Stoics and Epicureans disagreed vehemently. Let's take a look at what the Stoics think about taking one's life, under what circumstances it is permissible, and what your friends should do to dissuade or assist you.

Suggested reading: <https://howtobeastoc.wordpress.com/2016/04/05/epictetus-on-suicide-the-open-door-policy/>

Jan. 14, 6:30pm | 1st Tuesday starting FEB. | Members Free, Guests \$5

CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

We aim to illuminate the philosophical concepts and values that underlie the contemporary issues on which we focus in our discussions.

Please register to receive reading assignments. See box at top of this page.

3rd Tuesday | Jan. 21, 7pm | Free

Maggie Determann, Membership Coordinator:
mdetermann@nysec.org / 212-874-5210 x1113

BUILDING CLOSURE ALERT:

The building will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday 1/1: New Year's Day

Monday 1/20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

* **ALSO NOTE:** Several programs have schedule changes this season. They will be marked with an asterisk.

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GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

Gunther Tielemans, Moderator

CEREMONY, by Leslie Marmon Silko

Thirty years since its original publication, *Ceremony* remains one of the most profound and moving works of Native American literature, a novel that is itself a ceremony of healing, masterfully written. Tayo, a World War II veteran of mixed ancestry, returns to the Laguna Pueblo Reservation. He is deeply scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in his Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from him.

Read the novel in advance and be prepared to discuss the aspects of interest to you by referring to and reading specific related text to the group.

Up next (Feb. 5): *The Tin Drum*, by Günter Grass

1st Wednesday | * Jan. 8, 7pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

* EXPLORING ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN...

AGING: IF I'D ONLY KNOWN

Janet Rose, Coordinator

LIZ SINGER, Geriatric Care Manager

Why choose the title "If I'd Only Known" for this talk? Easy question. In the 10 years that I have been practicing as a geriatric care manager and coordinator, it is the phrase I most often hear. Planning for what is needed as one ages and as one faces the end of life — whether for oneself or for a loved one — can be overwhelming. There are so many decisions to make! Decisions in the areas of financial, legal, medical, personal, social, emotional...the list goes on and on. And these ethical decisions are fraught with ethical dilemmas.

What do you do when there's no clear ethical road to take? Join us monthly for speakers from a variety of backgrounds — medicine, law, business, science, education, the arts, social work, and more — who will

share their experience navigating those ethical labyrinths.

3rd Wednesday | Jan. 15, 6:30pm |
Members Free, Guests \$5

DEATH CAFÉ

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, Moderator

Gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake.

4th Wednesday (Refreshments served) |
Jan. 22, 2:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

THURSDAYS.

LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE: ISSUES WORTH TALKING ABOUT

Francesca Turchiano and Bob Bumcrot, Moderators
Read the articles in advance if you can. Access them online, pick them up when you attend the next weekly discussion, or ask Maggie Determann for them. Come join the discussion.

Theme: THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

1/9 Cultural Change (3 readings)

"Does Journalism Have A Future?" Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 1/21/19; "Donald Trump, Barack Obama, and the war over change," Ezra Klein, *Vox*, 7/30/18; "Income Inequality: Facts, Causes, Solution," Kimberly Akadeo, *The Balance*, 6/25/19

1/16 Science/Technology Change (3 readings)

"The Metamorphosis," Henry A. Kissinger, Eric Schmidt, and Daniel Huttenlocher, *The Atlantic*, Aug. 2019; "The age of disorder: why technology is

the greatest threat to humankind," Yuval Noah Harari, *New Statesman*, 7/25/17; "Burning Down the House," Alan Weisman, *The New York Review of Books*, 8/15/19

1/23 Globalization (2 readings)

"The State of Globalization in 2019, and What It Means for Strategists," Pankaj Ghemawat and Steven A. Altman, *Harvard Business Review*, 2/6/19; "Isis is as much of an offshoot of our global civilization as Google," Yuval Noah Harari, *The Guardian*, 9/9/16

1/30 Economics (3 readings)

"How Life Became an Endless, Terrible Competition," Daniel Markovits, *The Atlantic*, Sept. 2010; "Trump and the Failure of the American Tax System," Ray D. Madoff, *New York Times*, 10/12/18; "This Man is Disrupting the Cult of The Billionaire," Ainsley Harris, *Fast Company*, 10/21/19

12pm | Free

* SPEAKING OF SCIENCE...

Jesús Torres Vázquez and Joe Fashing, Coordinators

Speaker and topic to be announced. Please check our Events Calendar at *Ethical.nyc*.

4th Thursday (Refreshments served) | Jan. 23, 6:30pm |
Members Free, Guests \$5

The JOY OF WRITING workshop returns!

Elaine Berman-Gurney facilitates

Register for this eight-session series. Choose either :

Tuesdays @ 12:30pm starting Jan. 21 OR

Thursdays @ 6:30pm starting Jan. 23

Registration is a MUST. See contact info in box at top of p.4.

Members \$140, Guests \$240

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By Larry Hurst



Meet the Board —
**RICHARD (DICK)
VAN DEUSEN**
Board Treasurer and
Building Committee
Co-Chair

What prompted you to join the Society, and what happened next?

When my wife, Carol, and I celebrated our marriage in 2007 in the Society's Auditorium, Carol was already a 10-year active member. Through her I had gained a pretty good appreciation of the Society's heritage and felt I could make a contribution as well as find a philosophical home. Having been a Unitarian and concerned with ethics and social justice, I appreciated the values and programs the Society had to offer the community. One of my first projects was researching and writing the script for the building's Centennial video Carol and I produced.

Can you say a little about your own heritage?

I'm a 10th-generation American on my father and mother's sides. My Van Deusen ancestor arrived in New Amsterdam from Holland in 1630 to manage the windmills on the Battery; he operated an inn and became a Burgher of the city. That history qualified me to become a member of the Holland Society, of which I am now a Trustee. Coincidentally,

my mother is of Dutch ancestry and her father installed windmills on farms in central New Jersey into the 1940s. Now, four centuries on, we as a nation are again starting to see the economic benefit of tapping into that abundant, environmentally friendly, natural energy source: wind.

What led to your present role on the Board?

Though my own career at Prudential Financial was in communications, I learned the importance of effective management, which included managing capital investments and budgets. I've been called an Excel spreadsheet freak. The fact is I just enjoy playing with numbers — ethically, of course. I had been treasurer of two professional associations and written books on financial management, so my roles here seem a natural progression. When Tom Weishaar, who was Treasurer and Building Committee chair, left to join his wife, Kathleen, in 2012 on sabbatical, the Trustee Nominating Committee asked me to run for the Board and take on Tom's positions. I accepted and have

Continued on p.10

SUNDAYS AT ETHICAL

Spend all or part of your Sundays with us! Join us any and every Sunday for thought-provoking, engaging, informative programs and platform meetings. Stay for lunch and get to know one another. Lunch — at 12:30 in the 6th floor cafeteria— is free for newcomers and children, \$10 for members and guests.

JAN.
5



PLATFORM TALK at 11am

MY JOURNEY IN SUSTAINABLE FASHION

ANDREA REYES

Barbara Carlsen presides

Andrea Reyes will share her journey of starting a fair-trade fashion brand, becoming a fashion disruptor, and leading the NYC Fair Trade Coalition. Her personal journey began here in NYC at the Fashion Institute of Technology, took her all the way to Jinja, Uganda, and then back again. Learn how she's been able to push the sustainable fashion movement forward with integrity while accepting the reality no one is perfect and we can only constantly question our ethics to do better.

ANDREA REYES is an adjunct instructor at LIM College, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and Baruch College. She developed the course, "Start Your Own Fair Trade Fashion Brand," mentors students and start-up fashion companies, and leads the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, a group of fair trade advocates composed of students, small business owners, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

This week's shared charity is the NYC Fair Trade Coalition.

ETHICS IN THE NEWS at 1:30pm

Joe Fashing and Abe Markman, Facilitators

Join in this lively give-and-take on compelling issues and events.

Free | Monthly, 1st Sunday

JAN.
12

COLLOQUY at 9:30am

Topic: "TRUTH"

Bob Berger, Coordinator

Ellen McBride

facilitates this month

Share your reflections based on the readings presented (quotes, parables, stories, and/or poetry). There are no right or wrong answers, just your individual response shared with others in a contemplative, thoughtful atmosphere.

Free | Monthly, 2nd Sunday



PLATFORM TALK at 11am

THE THINKER WHO INSPIRED ME MOST — AND HIS RELEVANCE TODAY

DR. JOSEPH CHUMAN

Kathleen O'Connell presides

September marked the 50th year since I started my career as a professional Ethical Culture leader, in fact, right here at the New York Society. Many personal streams brought me to humanism and Ethical Culture, but today I will focus on one thinker without whose influence I would not have made my way to our movement. That figure is the humanist and social psychologist Erich Fromm, whose thought I discovered at 16 and at a critical time in my life.

Fromm spoke to both my personal needs and to the state of the world, including the emergence of fascism and the dehumanizing aspects of

corporate capitalism, in ways that remain relevant.

More personal than most addresses, I look forward to sharing aspects of Fromm's social philosophy and how he helped shape my life and thought. *This week's shared charity is the Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition, (founded by the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County) which helps asylum seekers establish themselves and achieve durable self-sufficiency. The Coalition sponsors those who have applied for political asylum and been released from federal detention, and for selected other asylum seekers — providing housing, access to medical care, financial support, educational opportunities including language instruction, transportation, social events, liaison with attorneys, and help with job searches and dealing with bureaucratic offices.*

DEATH CAFÉ at 1:30pm

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, Moderator

Gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake. Begun in London in 2011, Death Cafés spread quickly across Europe, North America, and Australia, and Asia and are ongoing in 66 countries today. At the Café, with no formal agenda, objectives, or themes, there is group-directed discussion of death, the sole aim of which is to help participants make the most of our lives.

Members Free, Guests \$5 | Monthly, 1st Sunday

ETHICS AND THE THEATER
ENCORE MATINEE at 1:30pm

LOBBY HERO by Kenneth Lonergan
See Friday Nights at Ethical, p.12

Members \$5, Guests \$10 | Monthly 2nd Sunday

JAN.
19

POETRY READING
CIRCLE at 9:30am

Cheryl Gross, Facilitator
Happy 2020! Bring the best of your poetry collections and share some at our gathering this month.

Free | Monthly, 3rd Sunday

JAN.
26

PLATFORM TALK at 11am

FUTURECITY: A LOOK AT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF CITIES AROUND THE WORLD



JASON HABER

Larry Hurst presides

For the first time in history, more people live in cities than in rural areas. By 2050, another two billion people will occupy our planet, two-thirds of them living in cities. While we have reached unprecedented population growth, our planet is under siege, and many of our cities, including our own, are ill-prepared for the coming storm.

In regard to climate change, infrastructure, housing, health care, and transportation, cities will face historic challenges as they attempt to meet the demands of the 21st century. How can cities meet these challenges and thrive in the face of them? In FutureCity, Jason takes the audience through the history of cities and explores contemporary issues that are key to their survival and success. For New York, this requires a further embrace of Jane Jacobs, while moving on from the concentric policies of Robert Moses.

JASON HABER is a serial and social entrepreneur. His extensive career has intersected the worlds of real estate, politics, academia and publishing. He is currently an elected official in the Democratic party, where he serves as a District Leader and as a member of the State Committee. In 2019 he launched a podcast on urbanism called FutureCity. His first book, *The Business of Good*, was a best-seller on Amazon.

This week's shared charity is the NYCH20, whose mission is to inspire and educate New Yorkers to learn

about, enjoy, and protect their city's local water ecology. Their activities promote science-based knowledge of New York's local ecosystems and of what is needed for urban water resilience in a time of escalating climate change impacts. By providing public and school programs at historic reservoirs, parklands, watersheds, bays, rivers, and wetlands, they encourage citizens to advocate for responsible public policy.

PLATFORM TALK at 11am

REFLECTIONS ON A NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT



ANGELINE BUTLER

Sarah Tielemans presides

NEWCOMER RECEPTION at 1pm

HOSTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Find out who we are and what we do — our philosophy, social ethics, programs, and membership.

Free (Refreshments Served) | Monthly, 3rd Sunday

DOCUMENTARY FILM & DISCUSSION at 1:30pm

PRESENTED BY THE ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Last year's Academy-Award winning film, *Green Book*, has been criticized for its lack of attention to the subject of its title. Today's film is the actual documentary about *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, created in 1936 by Victor Hugo Green, an African American postal worker. It became the most popular guide for travelers for three decades, providing a road map for African Americans driving across the country, showing where they could eat, find lodgings, and enjoy themselves without concerns of experiencing racism or humiliation.

Free | Monthly, 3rd Sunday



August 6 – 9, Miami, Florida

The American Ethical Union will hold our 2020 Assembly in conjunction with the 2020 World Humanist Congress. The Future of Ethical Societies (our 18-35-year-old affiliate) will also hold their gathering as part of the World Humanist Congress. The AEU Assembly Meeting itself will take place on Thursday, August 6.

The World Humanist Congress is convened by Humanists International (formerly International Humanists and Ethical Union or IHEU) every three years. This year the American Humanist Association will host. The American Ethical Union is a proud sponsor of the event.

Enjoy international speakers, workshops, leadership and campaign seminars, arts and performances, and networking opportunities with humanists, atheists, and nontheists from around the globe. This year's theme is Beyond Borders: Our Global Humanist Culture. Come examine humanist perspectives on human rights, the importance of supporting apostates and ending blasphemy laws, the humanist role in issues of migration and the climate crisis, approaches to death and loss, the role of young humanists, humanist education, our role in mass media and much more. Celebrate our global humanist culture by attending off-site art events and visiting the humanist art gallery. Watch for further details in coming months.

Register by January 15!

Registration for the event is now open.

Discounts apply for Early Registrants : <https://aeu.org/event/aeu2020/>

ETHICS IN ACTION

WANT TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY WHILE LEARNING ABOUT MEDICARE?

By Henryka Komanska, Chair, Social Service Board

Do you like sharing new knowledge with others? Are you intellectually curious? Do you enjoy public speaking? Do you want to give back to a larger community?

If your answer is “Yes,” the Social Service Board (SSB) has just the opportunity for you. We’re seeking volunteers to help run an exciting new community program, “Medicare Minute,” in collaboration with the Medicare Rights Center (<https://www.medicarerights.org/>), a nationwide non-profit organization.

Medicare Minute volunteers will receive training from the Medicare Rights Center via an orientation webinar at which they will learn about the various aspects of Medicare. (Those who choose to can also participate in the Center’s in-person Medicare training, but it is not required.)

The public education series at which the volunteers will share their knowledge with others will begin in March, with each volunteer committing to seven one-hour sessions. Teaching materials will focus

on three key topics and speaking points. Volunteers will be given prepared scripts, handouts, and presentations — including responses for Q&A period questions.

Anyone who is either a Medicare beneficiary or cares for one knows that its rules can be complex, and that people can miss out on available benefits. By volunteering for this new program you’ll learn valuable information while giving back to the larger community.

If you’d like to learn more about this opportunity and possibly volunteer, contact me at Henryka@verizon.net at your earliest convenience.



BOOK LAUNCH: HOW TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE...

Continued from p.1

leading philosophers reflecting on what it means to live according to a philosophy of life.

From Eastern philosophies (Daoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism) and classical Western philosophies (such as Aristotelianism and Stoicism), to the four major religions, as well as contemporary philosophies (such as existentialism and effective altruism), each contributor offers a lively, personal account of how they find meaning in the practice of their chosen philosophical tradition.

Together, the pieces in *How to Live a Good Life* provide not only a beginner’s guide to choosing a life philosophy, but also a timely portrait of what it means to live an examined life in the 21st century. The book is already receiving high praise from noted reviewers.



WE ARE A HOME FOR THE GANDHI-KING SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE

The Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence is a global annual celebration of the philosophies and lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., designed to promote peace and honor their vision for an empowered nonviolent world. The 64-day period spans from the memorial anniversary of the assassination of Gandhi on January 30 (1948) to that of King on April 4 (1968).

Gandhi and King shared many ideals and are historically unified through their commitment against injustice and inequality of their people. Both realized that injustice to a group of people anywhere threatens the growth and safety of all people and, acting on that belief, both chose the path of nonviolent direct action.

The Season launched in 1998 at the U.N. Since its inception, local organizing groups in over 900 cities in 67 countries have engaged with the observance. Under the direction of The Institute for International Leadership, Nonviolence, & Service, and sponsored by our Ethical Action Committee, the event has a new home at The New York Society for Ethical Culture. Fittingly, our Sunday Platform speaker on January 19th is Angeline Butler, recipient of the 2019 *Ghandi-King Season for Nonviolence* Award (see p.1). At the culminating event in April, youth participants will present music, dance, and original poetry; conduct dramatic moments; lead an interactive World Peace Flag Ceremony; and much more.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 23rd Annual *Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence*
Wednesday, April 1 at 9 am



SNAPSHOTS



POETRY IN NOTION... Our Sunday morning Poetry Circle has been around for about 20 years, open and free to all, and facilitated by **Cheryl Gross** (far right). Some bring in their original creations, others bring favorites – and we share the readings and reactions. (See *Sundays at Ethical*, p.7)



THANKSGIVING ...YEE participants and parents took the opportunity to thank their Ethical Culture family!



TO HAITI AND BACK Ethical is delighted to welcome Favio Apollon back to New York City after his visit to his homeland of Haiti.



THE ETHICAL BANNER OF THE MONTH
AMERICA — A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Every argument against the admission of immigrants has been heard before — many times. But America has been, and continues to be, built by people of many nationalities, all seeking the peace and security they lacked in the old country and contributing to the richness of this country.



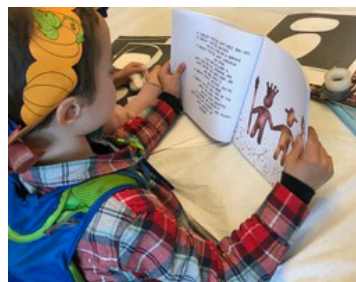
SAVE OUR STORES... Local residents and business owners greeted our elected officials at this packed Town Hall. Topic of the day: Dealing with the challenge of all those closed storefronts! On board were Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**, NYS Senator **Robert Jackson**, City Council Member **Helen Rosenthal**, Comptroller **Scott Stringer**, and NYS Assembly Member **Linda Rosenthal**.



QUILTING QUEST... YEE added their words and talent to restore a patch-quilt created by Ethical Children some years back. It will soon be on view at the Society. (P.S. If someone can fill us in about when it was created, please email Outlook editor, Elinore Kaplan. We'd love to know its history!)



BURT NEUBORNE, NYU School of Law Professor of Civil Liberties and founding director of the Brennan Center for Justice, shared suggestions as to how to change the political path – such as requiring citizens to vote and increasing the number of senators so as to be more representative of the populace.



HONORING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY... YEE member Oberon read the children's version of the Declaration of Human Rights. Read the full version in our lobby, next to a photo of Eleanor Roosevelt, who brought it into existence.

AFFINITY GROUPS
At ETHICAL

We partner with organizations that share our commitment to social justice and the environment.

Come learn about their work and how you can participate in ethical action.

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 350NYC CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT DRAWDOWN NYC FOOD & WATER WATCH NYC GRASSROOTS ALLIANCE 	<p>SOCIAL JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST FREETHINKERS 	<p>FORMERLY FUNDAMENTALISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POLICE REFORM ORGANIZING PROJECT RADICAL AGE MOVEMENT
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Visit our events calendar at Ethical.nyc for meeting dates.

ALSO HAPPENING AT ETHICAL



Music Concert
MATT KEARNEY
Saturday, 1/25 @ 7:30p
ConcertsTonight.com

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS COLLOQUY



There is an intriguing program at Ethical on the second Sunday of every month. It's called "Colloquy" — a fancy word for a formal conversation of sorts. It's not a conversation or dialogue during which people exchange ideas with crosstalk. Rather, they listen to a read-

ing — perhaps a parable, poem, anecdote, or quote (or all of those in the course of the session), all related to a chosen theme. And then they respond, one at a time, to that reading. Those responses are individual: "I think...", "In my experience...", as opposed to "we," "they," or "you." The procedure calls for close listening as each round of short readings and responses goes on.

The facilitator may choose to have a round of concluding responses. Or not. There are other variations. Sometimes the facilitator will play a brief music selection — at the beginning, to settle everyone

Continued on p.11

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: RICHARD VAN DEUSEN...

Continued from p.5

served on the Building Committee since, with Bill Baker stepping up as co-chair in 2017. Lawrence Miller later took on the role of Treasurer, and when Tom returned to the board in 2013, he resumed it. However, history repeats itself, so when Tom decided not to run again this past year, the Treasurer's job came back to me. I'll likely keep that job until I reach the end of my tenure on the Board in 2021.

I am a representative to the Supporting Organization, which was created in the 1995 agreement with the Ethical Culture School to deal with the complex relationship between the School and the Society. I'm also on the NYSEC Ethical Action committee, which Carol chairs.

Over the years, I have directed quite a few of the plays in the monthly Ethics and the Theater play-reading series, which Pat Debrovner heads. It is wonderful to witness the fresh spirit that our casts of performers bring to the performances.

As Treasurer, what would you regard as our most pressing financial needs?

That's a big question! With such heavy operating expenses, our challenge is finding revenue to balance the budget. Fortunately we have desirable spaces, so the rental income covers a major portion, but by no means all. Continuing to maintain and improve the building takes a lot of money. The access ramp was the last major investment, and we are now faced with major air-conditioning and heating repairs and replacements that may require dipping into our reserve funds, which are limited. We also need to upgrade the restrooms and do some other fix-ups.

Less than 9% of our annual expenses are covered by member donations and, since we are legally designated as a

religious organization, we have few options for raising money. Operating ethically, we make a lot of space available at low or no cost to community groups, but we need to invest more into creating the mission-related humanitarian and social justice programs — the core of the Society.

I'd really like to see all members of the Society become more aware of the part they can play. The trustees have a fiduciary responsibility, but the membership as a whole, working together, has the power to own our future. As Anne Klaeyen always reminded us: time, talent, training, and treasure.

Can you expand on how you are addressing these points?

Right now, we are rebuilding our accounting system and the Finance Committee has been working on improving financial information for the board and the members. Fulfilling the Society's mission relies primarily on the success of its programs. You can't have the wonderful programs we have without the funding to promote them, or without the members to create and attend them. Getting the word out to attract the public, including potential new members, takes money. It's an investment we absolutely must make; new members assure our future, just as retention of members assures our present.

With all that you do, do you actually have time for recreation?

That's a challenge! I'm also on our condo board of managers. And, when I can I support Carol in her political activities. Carol and I are both passionate about theatre and film; we do make space for that. And for travel. Next June we plan to visit her ancestral homeland in Latvia and mine in Holland.

And, finally, a wish: it would be nice just to sit back and read a book sometime and maybe listen to some Bartok.

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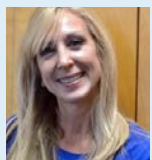
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Member of the American Ethical Union
www.aeu.org



OUR ETHICAL FAMILY

MAGGIE DETERMANN

Assistant to the Leaders /
Membership Development

CONGRATULATIONS



Kudos to member **Xusca Sole!** She participated in the Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, an art exhibition curated by the MAMAG Modern Art Museum in Austria, where she won an award for her artwork. Xusca's work was also showcased recently at a small gallery in Los Angeles.

CONDOLENCES

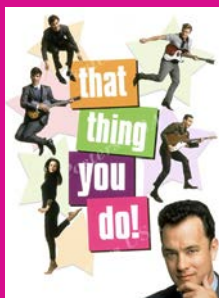
Sadly, our member **Pearl Katz** has died. Pearl, member since 1997, had not been able to come to the meeting house in recent years because of ill health. She will be greatly missed by our community.

Send me your news! If you have events or happenings going on in your life that you would like to share with the community, let me know and I'll be happy to include it in this column.

Friday Nights at ETHICAL

7pm

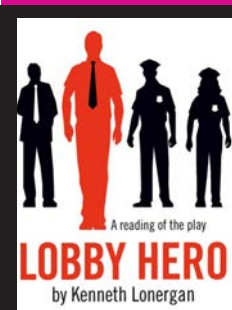
Doors open at 6:30



(1st Fridays) **Jan. 3:** ETHICS IN FILM presents **THAT THING YOU DO!**

Chris Everett, Program Coordinator and Discussion Moderator
Jazz aficionado Guy Patterson injects a four/four rock beat into lead singer Jimmy's ballad, and the song's undeniable pop power flings the Wonders into a brief whirlwind of success, telling the tale of many American bands that attempted to grab the brass ring of rock and roll in the wake of the British Invasion.

Members and Guests \$5



(2nd Fridays) **Jan. 10:** ETHICS & THE THEATER presents **LOBBY HERO** by Kenneth Lonergan

Patricia Bruder Debrowner, Producer

Kicked out of the navy for smoking pot and now working the graveyard shift as security guard for an apartment building, Jeff is a screw-up. He's also achingly eager to please. It's a combination that can lead to comedy or catastrophe — or, as Lonergan shows in this play, a poignant mixture of both.

Discussion led by Betsy Ungar

Encore performance Sunday, **Jan. 12 at 1:30pm.**

Members \$5, Guests \$10



(3rd Fridays) **Jan. 17:** JAZZ CAFÉ presents

BEAT KAESTLI with the **John Wilmeth Jazz Trio**

Scotty Embree and Liz Singer, Program Coordinators

Beat Kaestli is an internationally acclaimed vocalist, songwriter, arranger and producer. Here in Manhattan he appears in clubs such as The Blue Note, Birdland, Dizzy's at Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Jazz Standard, and The Stone.

Sign up if you'd like to perform at the Open Mic hour that follows.

The Jazz Café is curated by Music Director JOHN WILMETH and Emcee STEPH WALKER. The John Wilmeth Jazz Trio includes drummer DAVE MEADE and bassist RATZO HARRIS.

Members and Open Mic Performers \$10, Guests \$15



(4th Fridays) **Jan. 24:** **HAPPY HOUR FOR HUMANITY**

Steven Serling, Program Coordinator

Here's a space and time carved out for young professionals to engage in our humanist community and support, motivate, and challenge each other to be our best ethical selves. Break out of your daily routines and join us in making a toast to humanity together!

Members Free, Guests \$5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS....

SEAN IAN ROBIN and KANDICE TRENT.....	1/4
ELIZABETH UNGAR	1/6
MATTHEW BENSON.....	1/7
WILLIAM CHARLTON and ARTHUR RUPEL.....	1/13
BONNIE BEAN and PHYLLIS KREUTTNER.....	1/14
BOB BERGER	1/17
MAGGIE KEOGH.....	1/18
MUKESH CHOPRA.....	1/20
JAMES GARA.....	1/24
HOWARD ROSE.....	1/25
ROSEMARIE BRANCATO.....	1/27
ED GROSS.....	1/31

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS: COLLOQUY

Continued from p.10

down and into a contemplative mood; during the session, to indicate a change from one path of thought to another; and/or at the end to wind things up. Other facilitators may start and/or end with a moment of meditative silence, or with everyone just taking a slow, deep breath.

Facilitators choose the theme for the session — love, family, peace, identity, trust, perception, relationships.... the possibilities are endless. And the colloquy itself is always engaging and thought-provoking.

You're invited to come and share your thoughts at any second Sunday morning Colloquy. It's been a tradition at Ethical for more than 25 years, and one that we treasure.

ETHICAL

We are Ethical Culture NYC,
a humanist community dedicated to ethics, social justice,
and education since 1876.

We celebrate life's joys, support each other through life's crises,
and work to make the world a better place.

Join us for hundreds of community and cultural programs
where people meet to explore and embrace ethical living.

Learn more about us at our website, www.ETHICAL.nyc —
or, better still, visit with us. You're always welcome.

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