

April 2020

2 WEST 64TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • WWW.ETHICAL.NYC

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT "SOCIAL DISTANCING"?



Here you have it, your monthly edition of *Ethical Outlook*, chock full of events and programs...uh, not quite. As you know, none of what was planned throughout the city will be happening live, in person. In this issue, you can enjoy our usual features: Leader's Desk, Ethics In Action, Snapshots, Our Ethical Family, and so on. And you'll see what was planned — much of which we'll try to bring to you in other forms, whether through livestreaming or

tele-viewing. Some programs are already being scheduled to take place via Zoom, the teleconferencing program, for our members, and shortly thereafter to the full Ethical community. We'll keep you posted.

Actually, you'll be hearing from us more often! *Ethical Outlook*, is going weekly, the first edition emailed and on our website. Check

www.Ethical.nyc to keep up-to-date.

It's no fun sitting around doing nothing — not seeing family at that birthday party, not meeting friends at your local favorite restaurant, not getting to see that play (or reading, opera, concert, or comedy act)...BUT there is a flip side to all this.

In the last few days you may have found yourself picking up

“ *Though physically distanced we're more socially connected than ever!* ”

the phone much more often than has been your habit in years. (If you didn't, now's the time. And while you're at it, call that friend you've been meaning to contact for ages.) Perhaps you've met by video via Zoom or Skype. If you're reading this, you have access to a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and you can visit or have a meet-

ing face-to-face. Or you can conference-call. These may sound dauntingly high-tech, but they're not.

A beautiful side effect of what we're going through is that we're more connected than ever! Difficult, challenging times really do bring people together.

Yes, for our own wellbeing and out of consideration for others, we are keeping our distance physically, but there is a countervailing power in effect as well: we're pulling together! Times like these remind us how very much we need one another. And we're rising to the challenge. Not just family and friends, but neighbors and communities.

It's grand to witness organization after organization tossing such concerns as ticket sales and admission fees aside to connect with us via Facebook, Youtube, livestreaming and podcasts. Here are just a few to take advantage of.

FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

INVISIBLE HANDS DELIVER

These young citizens want to shoulder some of the responsibility within our communities, to deliver groceries and supplies to the door of seniors and others at risk of the coronavirus. You can sign up for free delivery OR you can volunteer to be a deliverer.

www.invisiblehandsdeliver.com

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND EDIFICATION

MET OPERA BROADCASTS

Not only are they showing an opera every night, they're replaying that performance for the ensuing 20 hours.

metopera.queue-it.net/?c=metopera&re=testevent&t=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.metopera.org%2F&cid=en-US



MUSEUM VIRTUAL TOURS

www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours

NATIONAL YIDDISH THEATER FOLKSBIENE

Folksbiene LIVE! features plays, workshops, music, dance, and songs, along with a talkback with the cast of their production, “Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish.” It will all be livestreamed on their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/folksbiene

The schedule can be found at

www.nytf.org

92nd STREET Y

They're livestreaming concerts, readings, interviews, and more, nightly at 7:30. Go their website www.92y.org, see what's on for tonight, and click to watch.

ONLINE COURSES FROM ELITE UNIVERSITIES

www.theladders.com/career-advice/7-elite-universities-offering-free-online-online-classes and www.edx.org

Stay positive, and stay connected!

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LEADER'S DESK

DR. JOE CHUMAN

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

We are living through a tumultuous election season. It is the role of Ethical Culture to engage in the issues of the day and to critique them, but not as a politician or journalist would. Rather, it is to look at manifest events from the perspective of the values that lie beneath them and the dynamics that animate them. I take that perspective in examining a problem that drives our politics and calls for political solutions, namely the fracturing and fraying of the American social fabric.

The term “Tribalism” has been revived in our contemporary vocabulary. We usually associate it with the tendency of people to group together on the basis of ethnic identity or race, though “race” remains a contested construct. But today tribalism has come to describe people identifying with each other on the basis of shared political positions and orientations, whether related to abortion, guns, immigration, gender issues, or whether one situates oneself on the left or right of the political spectrum. This tribalistic, parochial move has become vituperative and often nasty so that those who stand on opposing sides of an issue contend that their adversaries are not only mistaken and perhaps open to persuasion but are lacking in legitimacy as members of a shared society.

How did we get to this point? Clearly, changing demographics plays a role. Waves of new immigrants — bringing new cultures, new values, and different skin pigmentation — feels increasingly alien to many in the white majority. People want to feel at home where they live. But many who have felt that America

is somehow theirs don't feel at home any longer. With that estrangement comes a loss of the sense of privilege, replaced by feeling threatened. And when people feel threatened, they are inclined to band together more tightly with others who are like themselves; shared political views and values become focal points for such bonding. There are few forces among us stronger than the human bond.

But I see bigger dynamics, and they are economic. The wealth gap in America is intolerably large and is an ominous threat to democracy. The vaunted American Dream wherein one could start poor

“*In this dark moment, ours is not to despair. While we keep our feet on the ground, we must keep our eyes on the stars.*”

and, through grit and hard work, work one's way into the middle class — that dream is stalled, if not dead. The chances are now that if you are born into poverty you will never work your way out of it. When people see no opportunity for advancement for themselves and/or their children, such a condition breeds hopelessness. It also foments cynicism directed toward a government that provides benefits to the allegedly undeserving, and toward the purported elites whom they construe control their lives. Those who are somewhat better off find themselves economically squeezed by the staggering costs of housing, health care, and child-care, which leads to the anxiety-conducing reality that 40 percent of Americans have fewer than \$400 in savings — one car breakdown or medical



Suffrage and labor activist Flora Dodge “Fola” La Follette (1882-1970), social reformer and missionary Rose Livingston, during a garment strike in New York City in 1913.

episode away from panic mode. These harsh realities foster parochial vectors which further fracture America society.

The situation is ominous but not ultimately hopeless. America has been there before. The Gilded Age of the robber barons in which millions lived in poverty toiling in factories and occupying stifling tenements gave rise to the Progressive Era in which, working from the top downward and the grass roots upward, radically transformed the American landscape. The Progressive Era ushered in the New Deal, and government working together with the market created the most robust middle class the world has ever seen. Ethical Culture in its Golden Age of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was proudly part of this larger movement.

In this dark moment, ours is not to despair. While we keep our feet on the ground, we must, once again, keep our eyes on the stars.

Did you know we have our own YouTube channel?

Go to
YouTube [YouTube.com/NYSEthicalCulture](https://www.youtube.com/NYSEthicalCulture)



**AUDREY
KINDRED**
Coordinator,
Youth & Family
Programs

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

Contact Audrey Kindred to RSVP as a guest, become a member, or enroll: youneethicalexplorers@gmail.com

Visit youneethicalexplorers.blogspot.com for regular updates.

ACTION APRIL — Earth! is our theme. Climate justice is our mission.



April 5 — Play and prep for **FIRST-SUNDAY FESTIVAL: TREES & ME** - 1:30pm
Join our climate justice forum for all ages to gather and share. It is inspired by Kenyan social, environmental, and political activist Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, honored for her contribution to “sustainable development, democracy, and peace.” RSVP to attend or to be a child presenter; youneethicalexplorers@gmail.com.

April 12 Writefully Ours — Ethical expressions inspired by Holi!, the traditional celebration of the arrival of spring as observed India.

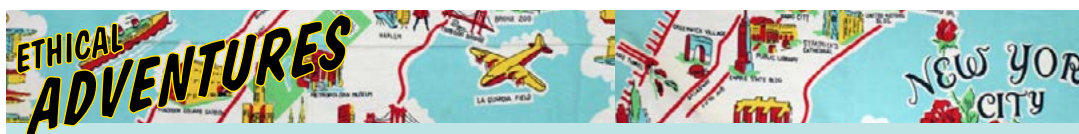
April 19 Exploring Earth Day's roots and shoots.

April 26 Celebrating Earth Day and standing up for climate justice!



LOOKING AHEAD

FIRST SUNDAYS, May 3 — J.R. BECKER, children's author of the Annabelle & Aiden series, returns with his newest book, *The Earth Was Made for Me!*



THE EASY-WALKING EXPLORERS First Walk of 2020 : **OVER THE TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE TO ASTORIA** **Postponed until Tuesday, May 19**

Those who attempted this with us last year will recall that we didn't complete this stroll due to police activity. Let's try again, with a few variations. We'll take a slightly different path to the Hell Gate suspension bridge, which we will surely be allowed to cross this time! After lunch at a famous diner (you've got to come to find out), we may choose to explore a few sights in Astoria.

Details: Meet at Ethical at 9:30, take the #1 train to 103rd Street, and walk to 106th to catch the famous M60 “bus to the plane” at its origin. Ride to 125th Street and Second Ave to start the hike. We'll return home by either the M60 bus or the N train. (Rain date: Thursday May 21)



SPRING HIKE TO BULL HILL IN COLD SPRING, NY **Saturday, April 18**

We begin with a scenic ride on the Metro North Hudson line, which takes 1 hour, 20 minutes and offers spectacular views of the river. The town of Cold Spring, set on the east bank of

Hudson, has many antique stores, coffee shops, several restaurants, and a lovely park. It is worth a day's visit even if you don't hike! (Our 5-hour hike will take us to a summit over the Hudson River. You will be rewarded with stunning views of the river and, on a clear day, Manhattan.

Details: Meet at the information booth at Grand Central at 8:25 am. If you arrive after that time, find us on the train that leaves at 8:45am (Hudson Line, train to Poughkeepsie). Please buy your own tickets; the roundtrip ticket is \$29. Bring a water bottle, light lunch and/or snack for the trail, and a few dollars for a coffee stop at a local cafe. Wear hiking or walking shoes (there are some steep parts on descent), and dress in layers for the hike. Rain cancels.



COCKTAILS WITH THE LEAGUE
CO-SPONSORED WITH THE
ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | 6PM



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

RONALD DAY,
Vice President of Programs
at the Fortune Society

BRITTANY SMITH,
Director of Education,
the Fortune Society

The Fortune Society is a New York City-based non-profit organization that provides support to the formerly incarcerated by finding them housing, jobs, and educational opportunities.

<https://my.lwv.org/new-york/city-new-york> or call 212-725-3541

\$20 with an advance RSVP,
\$25 at the door



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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THE JOY OF PERSONAL WRITING

Elaine Berman Gurney, Instructor

Try your hand at writing personal nonfiction. You can belong to a supportive group of writers and get started writing, or just have fun working on writing skills. All are welcome to join.

Advance registration is a must; the fee is required, with payment in full made before classes begin.

Eight sessions, select ONE weekly series:
Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:30pm starting April 28 OR Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30pm starting April 30

Members \$140, Guests \$240

STOA NOVA: SHOULD WE BELIEVE IN THE STOIC GOD?

Beth Everett and Prof. Massimo Pigliucci moderate

The ancient Stoics were pantheists; they believed that the cosmos is a living organism endowed with reason, which they called God.

Some modern Stoics insist that if we abandon that sort of belief the Stoic ethical system will irremediably suffer. In particular, the Stoic notion of Providence will become untenable, and, with it, the idea that we should not just endure, but embrace our fate. What do you think?

Suggested reading: <https://thesideview.co/articles/the-stoic-god-is-untenable-in-the-light-of-modern-science/>
<https://thesideview.co/articles/again-modern-science-does-not-support-the-stoic-god-and-thats-okay/>

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI, Professor of Philosophy at City College, is the author of several books on Stoicism, including his newest, *How to Live a Good Life: A Guide to Choosing Your Personal Philosophy*.

2nd Tuesday | April 14, 6pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

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

Are you on MeetUp? We'd love to know that you'll be coming to any of our programs. Visit [meetup.com/EthicalNYC](https://www.meetup.com/EthicalNYC) and RSVP!

WISDOM AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Ken Gans moderates

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

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays | April 7 & 21, 6:30pm
(Note new time!) | Free**

RACE, SYSTEMS, AND SOCIETY

Dr. Richard Koral, Leader, moderates

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 | April 14, 6:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, moderates

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 | April 21, 7pm | Free

ON EXHIBIT

You've probably noticed, if you've been in the Elliott Library in recent years, that we exhibit the work of talented members. Most often it's the wonderful pictures taken by two of our members who are superb photographers — Chuck Debrovner and Ken Gans.

We'd love to exhibit the work of more members. Please contact *Ethical Outlook* editor Elinore Kaplan if you've got something to share. Origami (we did once have an exhibit of some of Valerie Leiman's beautiful work)? Poetry? More photography? Do share.

WEDNESDAY

GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSIONS

***Bel Amie*, by Guy de Maupassant**

Gunther Tielemans moderates

Written in 1885, *Bel-Ami* is the story of a ruthlessly ambitious young Georges Duroy making it to the top in fin-de-siècle Paris. It is about money, sex, and power, set against the background of the politics of the French colonization of North Africa. The novel explores the dynamics of an urban society uncomfortably close to our own and is a devastating satire of the sleaziness of contemporary journalism. It has been recognized as de Maupassant's greatest achievement as a novelist.

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.

Next up *Parable of The Sower* by Octavia Butler.

1st Wednesday | April 1, 7pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

EXPLORING ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN...

Janet Rose, Coordinator

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

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

DEATH CAFÉ

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson moderates

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

4th Wednesday | April 22, 2:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM

Dr. Richard Koral, Leader, moderates

This series, discussions of Ethical Culture beliefs and practices, is for both newcomers and long-time members alike. Through presentation and discussion, we explore the history, ideals, and current interests of the Ethical Society community and our place in the philosophical/religious firmament.

4th Wednesday | April 22, 6:30pm | Free

THURSDAY

THE JOY OF PERSONAL WRITING

See Tuesdays, p.4

LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE: ISSUES WORTH TALKING ABOUT

Francesca Turchiano and Bob Bumcrot moderate

Please check our Events Calendar at www.Ethical.nyc

ETHICS, FAIR TRADE, AND YOU

Andrea Reyes moderates

Andrea, chair of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition, will connect how our everyday choices and purchases affect the many environmental and social issues facing the world today. Sessions include a short presentation on topics such as human trafficking and exploitation, overconsumption and waste management, cause-related marketing and propaganda, body positivity and clothing size standards, and conscious-consuming and certifications.

Sessions end with actional items/homework.

1st Thursday | April 2, 6:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

Jesús Torres Vázquez and Joe Fashing, Coordinators

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

4th Thursday | April 23, 6:30pm | Members Free, Guests \$5



Want to receive **ETHICAL OUTLOOK** and notices of what's coming up at Ethical NYC in your email box? Easy! Just visit Ethical.nyc and click "Join Our Email List" right on our home page.

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.

Morning Programs are 9:30 – 10:45 am | Platform Talks are 11am – 12:15 pm | Lunch 12:30pm, free for newcomers and children, \$10 for members and guests | Afternoon Programs are 1:30pm

APR.
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PLATFORM TALK — 11am

THE FUTURE OF DISINFORMATION

PROF. TODD GITLIN

Sarah Sprott presides

Of these things we can be sure: Disinformation flourishes. Its channels multiply. There is a large bloc of Americans who find comfort in it, because it preserves their sense of being an embattled but triumphant community. It is not by itself the cause of our political nightmare, but it worsens everything. Individuals cannot overcome it by themselves. The forces that sustain it are built into American politics. It can be defeated but it will not go away on its own.

TODD GITLIN is a writer, sociologist, communications scholar, novelist, poet, professor of journalism and sociology and chair of the Ph. D. program in Communications at Columbia University. He was a professor of culture, journalism and sociology at New York University and, before that, professor of sociology and director of the mass communications program at the University of California, Berkeley. Gitlin has appeared on many *National Public Radio* programs as well as *PBS*, *ABC*, *CBS* and *CNN*. Author of sixteen books, he was a columnist at the *New York Observer* and the *San Francisco Examiner*, and a regular op-ed contributor to the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Newsday*. His poems have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *Yale Review*, *The New Republic*, and *Raritan*.

*This week's shared charity, the **Movement Voter Project**, works to strengthen progressive power at all levels of government by helping donors – big and small – support the best and most promising local community-based organizations in key states with a focus on youth and communities of color. They support hundreds of organizations that turn out unlikely voters and organize communities to grow their power and create transformation – from policy to the streets, in the belief that supporting local “movement vote” groups is both the most effective and cost-effective strategy to transform our country.*

ETHICS IN THE NEWS — 1:30pm

Joe Fashing and Abe Markman moderate
Join in this lively give-and-take on compelling issues and events.

1st Sunday | Members Free,
Guests \$5

FIRST-SUNDAY FESTIVAL: TREES & ME —
1:30pm

Free (See p. 3)

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COLLOQUY —
9:30am

Bob Berger, Coordinator
CHANGE

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.

2nd Sunday | Free



PLATFORM TALK — 11am

STITCHING TOGETHER THE AMERICAN FABRIC

DR. JOSEPH CHUMAN, LEADER

Janet Rose presides

As we are all aware, American society is ominously divided by ethnicity, race, and more recently, political orientation and positions on specific issues. A new tribalism characterizes the American experience. But the American fabric is divided socially as well. Fewer people associate in groups and clubs. The institutional life of America is growing thinner. This includes families. A result is growing isolation and an epidemic of loneliness. Dr. Chuman will be looking at some of the causes for this fraying of American society and how we can begin to rebuild the American fabric.

*This week's shared charity, the **Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights (NMCIR)**, was founded in 1982 to educate, defend, and protect the rights of immigrants. Recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals, NMCIR is committed to expanding access to legal immigration services, participating in policy making, and community organizing.*

DEATH CAFÉ — 1:30pm

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson moderates

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

2nd Sunday | Members Free, Guests \$5

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POETRY-READING CIRCLE—
9:30am

Cheryl Gross moderates

Bring poems and tell us why you like them. It's Women's History Month, so some of us will read the works of women poets.

3rd Sunday | Free



PLATFORM TALK — 11am

LIVING THE PERENNIAL VERBS OF ART AND SPIRIT

**ERIC BOOTH, Author of
*Tending the Perennials***

Barbara Carlsen presides

"Finally, we have the 21st century Joseph Campbell we need," exclaimed the first reader of *Tending the Perennials*. If you remove the perennial actions and inquiries of art and spirit from their institutional identities, you start living a personal religion — creating a life guided and fueled by the verbs, not the nouns, of art and spirituality — which changes everything. You change the way you attend to what unfolds throughout the day.

Don't expect a cerebral lecture; like his book, Eric Booth experientially engages audiences and activates artistry in listening and discovering ideas they can take away and use.

ERIC BOOTH was the 2015 recipient of the American for the Arts' Arts Education Leadership Award, the nation's highest award in arts education. He's been named one of the 25 most influential people in the arts in the U.S. Booth began as a Broadway actor, and became a businessman and author of seven books, the most recent of which is *Tending the Perennials: The Art and Spirit of a Personal Religion*, a companion book to his bestseller *The Everyday Work of Art*. He has been on the faculty of Juilliard, Tanglewood, The Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center Education, and serves as a consultant for many arts organizations, cities, states, and businesses around the U.S. Booth founded the International Teaching Artist Conferences and keynoted UNESCO's first world arts education conference. He is also founder of The Tornillo Project.

This week's shared charity, *The Tornillo Project*, which operates under the auspices of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, is the first intensive music program for children on the U.S. southern border who have been brutalized by U.S. government immigration policies. As an El Sistema-inspired afterschool program, it provides free music instruction, instruments, and performance opportunities as a vehicle for underserved children to acquire valuable tools of musicianship, teamwork, self-confidence, leadership, and academic success.

THE MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HOSTS NEWCOMERS' RECEPTION — 1:30pm

Find out who we are and what we do — our philosophy, social ethics, programs, and membership. Refreshments served. RSVP is a must. Please contact Maggie Determann. See box at top of p.4

3rd Sundays | Free



DOCUMENTARY FILM & DISCUSSION — 1:30PM

PRESENTED BY THE ETHICAL
ACTION COMMITTEE

AMERICAN FACTORY

In post-industrial Ohio, a Chinese billionaire opens a new factory in the husk of an abandoned General Motors plant, hiring two thousand blue-collar Americans. Early days of hope and optimism give way to setbacks as high-tech China clashes with working-class America. This is the first documentary by Barack and Michelle Obama's new production company, Higher Ground.

3rd Sunday | Members \$5, Guest \$10

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PLATFORM TALK — 11am

LIVE AS IF THE UNIVERSE DEPENDED ON IT

CURT COLLIER, LEADER

Monica Weiss presides

If your personal ethics didn't challenge

you today, maybe you have the wrong ethics. Ethics have nothing to do with guilt or shame, or a desire to be good, or any other such nonsense forced on you to get you to stop hitting your sister when you were seven. Rather, ethics is a process for creating a space for life to flourish, a place that's transformative, sometimes chaotic, and it requires real maturity and a strong dose of humility. Entering this space is far more exciting than even your Sunday School teacher imagined. It beckons us all to join and may be the only way to save our planet from ourselves.

CURT COLLIER has served as an Ethical Culture Leader in the environmental community for over 12 years. He is also the National Youth Program Director for Groundwork USA, an organization which works to raise the capacity of communities to deal with their own environmental challenges. He directly assists conservation efforts in 18 states. Curt has developed many award-winning programs that engage youth in environmental causes and is a frequent guest speaker on the topic. He has also advanced programs improving science education in schools, and champions gay marriage rights, and the right for gay couples and single adults to adopt children.

This week's shared charity is *Groundwork Elizabeth New Jersey*, whose mission it is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses, and organizations to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTS

CLIMATE CHAT — 1:30pm

Monica Weiss, Co-Chair, moderates

Learn about the fine work our climate partners — 350NYC, Food & Water Watch, and NYC Grass-roots Alliance — are doing, and find out how you can be part of a global climate solution. Hear reports about projects and campaigns they are promoting, and get updates on ways to influence your neighbors, families, and communities to pursue more sustainable-living choices.

4th Sunday | Free

ETHICS IN ACTION



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

By Larry Hurst

One morning a week I sign into my beloved soup kitchen in Chelsea. I purposely vary the day. That way I meet a whole variety of other volunteers — resting actors, doctors, tourists, lawyers, the recently incarcerated, corporate staff, college kids on study days or vacation.

Today we welcomed a supervised group of students with special needs. The work is incredibly varied and we're on the go non-stop, serving around 1,000 meals between 10:30am and 12:30pm. Everything is freshly prepared on the premises. My specialty is garbage. Leftovers are religiously separated out for collection by the city. Trays, cups and utensils are continually being refreshed through our giant dishwasher.

Our guests are a real mixed bunch. Everyone is treated with respect. And, 99% of the time, all goes smoothly. Music helps: usually a pianist (there's a wonderful grand piano), occasionally a string or jazz quartet.

The mission of **HASK (Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen)** is "to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, seek justice for the homeless, and provide a sense of hope and opportunity to those in need." They have been doing this for more than a decade. Theirs is the largest food program in the city.

I happened upon this work by chance ten winters ago when I was asked to send some money. I thought "Why waste a postage stamp? I'll go down there, and I might learn something." It was more than I had bargained for. The line of



shivering, waiting hungry stretched up 9th Avenue into W 28th Street. Once I saw the hive of activity inside, I was humbled. And hooked.

Often I, along with the day's volunteers, stay on for lunch together — on the house.

I would love to bring along a group from NYSEC one morning. Just let me know. Take a look at the website holypostlessoupkitchen.org and you will see the whole range of community services offered in addition to the meal — all on a volunteer basis. And if Chelsea is a bit distant, then maybe this short article will prompt further interest in your finding a soup kitchen a little nearer home.

What volunteer work do you do? To share information about it here, in this column, please contact Elinore Kaplan, Ethical Outlook editor, at ethicaloutlook@gmail.com. Members of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, have been putting "Ethics in Action" since Ethical's founding in 1876



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ETHICAL

STREET FAIRS — NYSEC has signed up for two street fairs to make our presence known and give out info on our events and who we are. The fairs are on Broadway. For one, our booth will be around W. 64th Street, and for the other it will be at W. 67th. The two dates are Sunday, May 10, and Saturday, June 6. (Note that May 10 is Mother's Day.) The public hours are 10am-6pm. Howard Rose writes, "I need helpers during the public hours, help breaking down in May, and set-up and breakdown in June. Let me know if you are able to volunteer hrose@nysec.org"

HOMELESS WOMEN'S SHELTER — Our shelter provides a safe haven for up to eight women as many nights a week as volunteer hosts make possible. It's sad when we cannot open our doors because we don't have a sleep-over volunteer. We need you! To learn more, email us at nysec.shelter@gmail.com.

ELLIOT LIBRARY — This wonderful library, named for Leader John Lovejoy Elliott, desperately needs to be re-organized. It will take a few days and require a couple of members to take the lead and work with other members in the library to categorize the collection, weed out books that don't belong, and re-shelve those that do. The Elliott is a lending library that we've provided for many years. Won't you help? If you will, and especially take the helm, contact Elinore Kaplan at ethicaloutlook@gmail.com

AN ETHICAL HISTORY WALL — Wouldn't it be great to see photos and captions showing particular moments in our 144-year history? We do have an intern who works with our archives and could be most helpful. Please help make that happen! If you'd like to be part of this task force, contact Elinore Kaplan at ethicaloutlook@gmail.com

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.

Visit our events calendar at Ethical.nyc for meeting dates.

ENVIRONMENTAL

350NYC
CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT
DRAWDOWN NYC
FOOD & WATER WATCH
NYC GRASSROOTS ALLIANCE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE
ANNEXITY INTERNATIONAL

FEMINIST FREETHINKERS
FORMERLY FUNDAMENTALISTS
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

POLICE REFORM ORGANIZING PROJECT
RADICAL AGE MOVEMENT



SNAPSHOTS



BANNER DAYS... Every month ETHICAL NYC makes a statement regarding an ethical issue of our concern — big and bold — on a banner out on our building on Central Park West. Often there are programs that month related to the banner statement.



WHAT'S IN A NAME... Hooray! After a mere 110 years our building has its name out front. Kudos to the **Building Committee** for walking this project through the long and challenging process.



TRUTH TO POWER... Our February Ethical Adventure led us to the Rubin Museum's exhibit of Shahidul Alam, a photojournalist, teacher, and social activist who stood up to his government, and founded the Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, providing thousands of Bangladeshi children a path to professional and personal achievement. Pictured: **Doris Hart** and **Elinore Kaplan**.



IN PROTEST... Since the Paris Accords in 2015, JPMorgan Chase has lent \$196 billion to the fossil-fuel industry, close to 30% more than any other bank. In fact, Chase has lent 63% more than any other bank to the most expansionary parts of the industry (new pipelines, Arctic drilling, deep-sea exploration). Members **Sarah Tieleman**, **David Vassar**, **Monica Weiss**, and **Dan Hanson** (pictured) joined many from environmental organizations in a protest in front of Chase headquarters in NYC on February 25th.



IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?... Our 4th Friday Happy Hour for Humanity continues to be popular with young professionals. **Steve Serling**, who hosts the evening, says it's very informal, "a combo of roundtable discussion, social time, and snacking." (See Friday Nights at Ethical, p. 11.)

MOMENTS IN OUR ETHICS IN ACTION HISTORY



Within a year of its founding, in 1877, NYSEC established the District Nursing Service, a precursor of the Visiting Nurse Service, which is still active today.



Leading the Settlement House movement in New

York in the early 1900's, members of NYSEC staffed clubs, libraries, gymnasiums, job training programs, a kindergarten, a mothers' club, educational classes, and two employment bureaus — all of which evolved into independent organizations including The Hudson Guild, Henry Street Settlement and the Neighborhood Guild.



At the turn of the 20th century,

NYSEC provided several prominent Americans with a platform to speak out about civil rights, including Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, and NYSEC member James Weldon Johnson (writer, activist and one of the founders of the Harlem Renaissance).



NYSEC Leader John Lovejoy Elliott in 1917 helped to

found the National Civil Liberties Bureau, forerunner of the American Civil Liberties Union.



In 1959, NYSEC's Women's Conference was a major participant in developing the first Planned Parenthood Clinic on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING ABOUT...



ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETIES

GEORGIA Patch

ETHICAL HUMANISTS OF ATLANTA

"Ever wondered if altruism can be effective? And if so, how? Or, perhaps you've never even heard the term. All the more reason to join the upcoming discussion between Ethical Humanists of Atlanta and SPARK: A Philosophical Discussion Group. We will attempt to examine the basics of effective altruism, considering both the philosophical matters of whether effective altruism is correct, as well as the practical considerations of how to do the most good."

WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington FAMILY

WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY

"Join Amanda Poppei for the launch of her new podcast, 'Raising Human(ist)s!' Amanda will share a little bit about the process and the plans (and how you can be part of those plans), and she'll gather questions to answer in future podcasts. Folks will be on hand to help you subscribe to the podcast. Bring a potluck dish to share for lunch and stay for some family games!"



OUR ETHICAL FAMILY

MAGGIE DETERMANN
Membership Coordinator

Joining our Ethical community this month is **Ben Garron Caine**. Ben was born in 1983 in Evanston, Illinois, grew up in New York City, and is presently living in Brooklyn. He graduated from the University at Buffalo and received an M.A. in Geography from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2011. Since returning to New York in 2012, Ben has worked for God-



dard Riverside, the Parks Department, and Transportation Alternatives. Ben also works as a lifeguard and is involved in non-for-profit advocacy. In his free time, he enjoys birding, collecting rocks, running, swimming, and

thumbing through obscure classical music. Programs Ben enjoys attending here include Wisdom and World Affairs and Stoa Nova. Please be sure to give a warm welcome to Ben when you encounter him here at our Meeting House.

Special congratulations to member **Dick Van Deusen**. Dick, an 11th-generation Dutch American, was elected VP of the Holland Society of New York.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Will you be taking a fabulous vacation? Retiring? Celebrating the birth of a child or grandchild? Let me know! I'll be happy to include it in the monthly Our Ethical Family column.

**CONNECT WITH
ETHICAL CULTURE
AND SPREAD
THE WORD**



Find us on Facebook
[@NYEthicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NYEthicalSociety).

Tell your friends you're here -
[#EthicsInAction](https://twitter.com/EthicsInAction).

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Member of the American
Ethical Union
www.aeu.org

Friday Nights at ETHICAL

7pm
Doors open at 6:30



(1ST FRIDAY) APRIL 3 ETHICS IN FILM

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

Chris Everett, Program Coordinator & Discussion Leader

Nick Naylor, chief spokesman for Big Tobacco, makes his living defending the rights of smokers and cigarette-makers in today's neo-puritanical culture. Nick says he is just doing what it takes to pay the mortgage, but the increased scrutiny of his son and a very real death threat may force him to think differently.

Members & Guests \$5

(2ND FRIDAY) APRIL 10 ETHICS & THE THEATER

Patricia Bruder Debrovner, Producer

This program is on hiatus and will return in September

(3RD FRIDAY) APRIL 17 JAZZ CAFÉ

RON AFFIF with the John Wilmeth Jazz Trio

Scotty Embree and Liz Singer, Producers

Ron Affif has gained a reputation for his personal approach to jazz, playing with a muscular realism as he looks for new expression in tunes from the Great American Songbook. Affif is an excellent bop-based guitarist, well-known on New York jazz circuit. He has played at the Zinc Bar for years and performed at the NYC Guitar Festivals for more than a decade. You may have heard him at The Blue Note, The Kitano, Mezzrow, Carnegie Hall, The Carlyle, NY Jazz Café & Bar, Room 623, The 75 Club, and Carnegie Hall (in a Slovaks concert), among others.

Next, the Open Mic hour—sign up to perform, sit back and enjoy, and get up and dance if the spirit moves you!

The Jazz Café is curated by Music Director John Wilmeth and Emcee Steph Walker. John Wilmeth is a multi-instrumentalist with diverse experience. The John Wilmeth Jazz Trio includes drummer/percussionist Dave Meade and bassist Ratzo Harris.

Members and performers \$10, Guests \$15

(4TH FRIDAY) MARCH 27 HAPPY HOUR FOR HUMANITY

Steve Sterling, Program Coordinator

Here's a space and time carved out for young professionals to engage in our humanist community and to 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



MARY HOUTS, LAW'NENCE MILLER.....4/2
VALERIE LEIMAN, JAQUELINE POPE.....4/3
CHRIS BERNHARDT.....4/5
DIANE DEBROVNER, SHARON
POPE-MARSHALL.....4/6
BILL BAKER.....4/11
PAT DEBROVNER, PAT MALKIN.....4/14

NANCY MCGEORGE LOVELADY.....4/17
LOREN FOX.....4/19
SUSAN BREMER, PETER ROSENBLATT.....4/22
ABE MARKMAN.....4/24
MEG CHAPMAN.....4/25
SY AMKRAUT.....4/29



We are experiencing a time as a country that may feel scary or challenging—and that offers us an opportunity to truly put our ethical values into action. We have the chance, right now, to live what it means to elicit the best by how we respond to the spread of COVID 19. And we have the chance to experience what it is like to support public community health while also maintaining our deep connections to each other.

A number of Ethical Societies have already canceled meetings and activities and have chosen to use video conferencing for all group meetings. It is hoped that these measures, combined with handwashing and disinfection practices, as well as maintaining physical distance between people when an in-person meeting does occur, can slow the spread of the virus. Taking those precautions also enables our Ethical communities to demonstrate care for and commitment to the wellbeing of the larger community.

The American Ethical Union strongly urges government officials at all levels to take action to mitigate the harm suffered by people affected by the virus—or by the responses to the virus.

In highly impacted areas where people have been encouraged to avoid social contact, there are many who do not have adequate resources to safely weather the storm of the outbreak—which might entail staying out of work for weeks at a time or trying to access healthcare services that are out of reach financially and are overburdened by the number of infected individuals seeking help. It is cruel, unreasonable, and short-sighted to expect people to manage without additional assistance. Ensuring that people have access to food and medical care as well as assistance with expenses when unable to work is critical for those facing financial hardship.

For more on this subject, go to the website: <https://aeu.org/2020/03/coronavirus-2019-2020-ethical-and-health-concerns/>

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.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

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