

SEP 21, 2020 7-9PM EST

# DRAWDOWN 2020

THE TIME IS NOW

Learn the latest from Project Drawdown, the leading resource for already existing, up and running, economically viable, and scalable solutions that can reverse global warming by mid-century. This event is for anyone who is dedicated to solving the climate crisis in order to leave a safe, habitable planet for future generations. Drawdown New York City and its supporting co-sponsors are committed to implementing and sharing climate solutions. For more information and to register to attend, visit the Drawdown website: [www.climateweeknyc.org/event/drawdown-2020-time-now](http://www.climateweeknyc.org/event/drawdown-2020-time-now)



**SUNDAY PLATFORM | SEPT. 27 | 11AM**

# ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

PEGGY SHEPARD, CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*Richard Koral, Leader, presides*



Environmental justice is a civil rights analysis of environmental decision-making. Environmental racism is the discrimination in the enforcement of laws, deliberate targeting of COC (contaminants of concern) for toxic waste disposal and industrial facilities, and the permitting of polluted facilities in overburdened communities. Black communities are impacted by disproportionate and cumulative exposure to multiple contaminants in air, water, and soil, which puts African Ameri-

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# FROM THE LEADER'S DESK

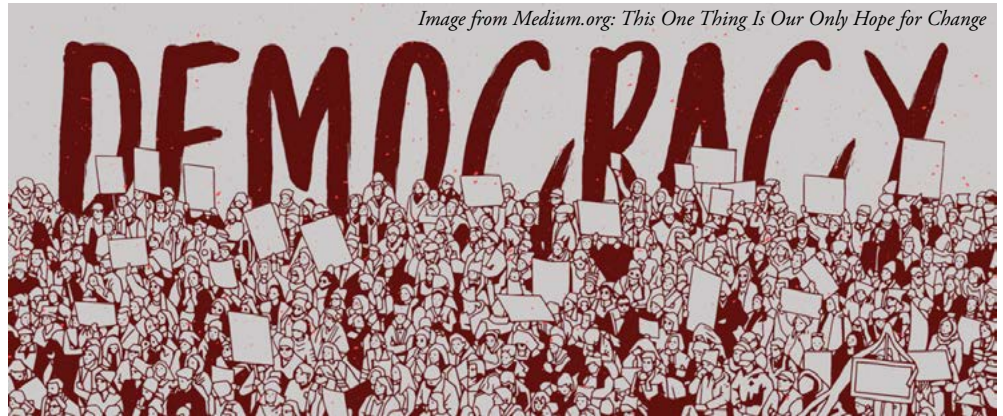
DR. RICHARD KORAL

## WHAT IT TAKES FOR DEMOCRACY

The fall election season is under way in earnest, although I can't say that I remember the last season ever having ended. It is a continuous, loud argument that doesn't take a break. It especially doesn't end when the feeling is so strong that the debate was never resolved. 2016 does not feel resolved.

Democracy requires that certain fundamental values be shared. The range of debate cannot be so broad that the other side seems like a distant stranger instead of disgruntled in-law. In much of the post-WWII era, the differences between the parties seemed narrower than they do today. The sides seemed to remain within at least shouting distance of each other. But now we seem too distant to even understand each other's words.

Winston Churchill once said that the political parties must have enough of a common understanding of governance



entered an executive order reversing the policy of its predecessor on the "gag rule." That is the regulation that bars foreign women's health organizations that are the recipients of American foreign aid from advising their clients about abortion. Clinton and Obama each ended the gag rule on Day 1, while Reagan, Bush, and Trump reinstated it when it was their turn. This back-and-forth, tit-for-tat has become a partisan kabuki theater in its

inconsistency, and unpredictability in government.

And that's just the practical problem. It also undermines the establishment of a national ethic — the common understanding of how we organize society and view ourselves as a polity. For democracy to function, there must be an acceptance of the legitimacy of a decision rendered with due process, even if the policy is objectionable.

On the other hand, policy can't be made so beyond the range of a generally accepted national ideal and moral vision that the national ethic is violated. The current administration has so stretched the bounds of behavior that many fear the guard rails and boundaries, the conventions and traditions, have been irreparably damaged and transformed.

John Adams wrote that the American Constitution was made only for a moral people and that it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. He was saying that our society's compact for orderly self-governance just isn't for everyone. Some people need the monarch.

It is hoped that this election can show that we are indeed a moral people and that we can restore orderly, experience driven, evidence-based and people-loving values to the federal government.

“

*The current administration has so stretched the bounds of behavior that many fear the guard rails and boundaries, the conventions and traditions, have been irreparably damaged and transformed.*

”

that they will recognize the government when it's their turn to take over. Neither party should be so extreme as to transform the government beyond the other party's capacity to repair it.

We have had alternating parties in control of the White House for the last 75 years, and each incoming president re-made the administration in his own image, to be sure. For example, on each first day of a new administration during the last 40 years, the new president

predictable repetition.

But nothing in the past has approached the concerted effort by the Trump administration to eradicate all traces of President Obama's administration by cancelling every rule, regulation, and statute implemented during his eight years in office. Call it personal revenge over a personal slight or an intended reversal of governing philosophy, the policy of eradicating the previous administration's work brings instability,





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

## Our Ethical Peace Team

YEE, our Ethics for Children humanist Sunday School program, serves to empower youngsters in their ethical development, create life-long friendships, and stand up with care and courage for a better world. Through kindness and deed, they “bring out the best in one another, and thereby in themselves” – NYSEC founder, Felix Adler. Topics are explored through discussion, storytelling, dramatization, music, art, games, and field trips. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome!

*Except for the first Sunday, our mixed-aged group meets for project sessions 11am-11:45. Older participants are invited to stay on until 12:30 to deepen their explorations and dialogue. Consistent attendance is valued.*



## Sept. 6 | 1:30pm – FIRST SUNDAYS Intergenerational Celebration: “Being Earth”

This is an opportunity for youth to create and share presentations with a broader audience. Children from all ethical devotions, including other Ethical Societies and other faith cultures, are welcome to participate, with RSVP. Our inspiration for today’s celebration comes from Autumn Peltier, Teen Water Warrior of the Wiikwemkoong First Nation, who advocated for “personhood” for water as a way to protect it.

If you would like to create a presentation for this gathering (a speech, poem, drawing, song, etc) begin with this

Compassionate Pen prompt — “**Earth-heart/ Earth-voice**”: Speak from an Earth voice that your heart feels connected to. Choose a part of Earth (an element, a place you love, or a part of the Earth that suffers) and give it your “I” voice. Stand up for it. Let it talk to humanity.

Sept 13: “Good Trouble,” honoring the message of Congressman John Lewis.

Sept 20: International Peace Day

Sept 27: Making a Personal Peace Plan and Peace Journal

RSVP to  
[YoungEthicalExplorers@  
gmail.com](mailto:YoungEthicalExplorers@gmail.com) for Zoom  
entry codes.

To learn more about  
YEE and see what’s  
coming up, visit  
[youngethicalexplorers.  
blogspot.com](http://youngethicalexplorers.blogspot.com)



## ETHICAL ESSENTIALS QUIZ: DO YOU KNOW?

*Compiled by Richard Koral and Larry Hurst*

The story of the New York Society for Ethical Culture is remarkable and fascinating. But how much do you know about it? Here below, and in each forthcoming issue of *Ethical Outlook*, you will see a question about the Society, focusing variously on its history, members, events, and milestones.

### Question:

Ethical Culture was an active participant in the formation of the NAACP. In fact, two members of the NAACP’s first Board of Directors were Ethical NYC members. Who were they?

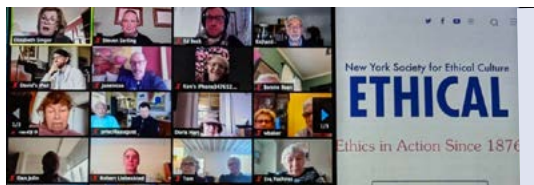
Submit your answer to today’s question to [Ethicaloutlook@gmail.com](mailto:Ethicaloutlook@gmail.com), and in a future issue we’ll print the names of those giving the most relevant and informative answers along with a summary of that information.



# ETHICAL ENRICHMENT

## ONGOING PROGRAMS AT THE SOCIETY

For a full and updated listing of all programs, visit our Zoom programs Ethical Online Live! website, <https://ethical.nyc/live>. We also email a Weekly Program Schedule, where, for applicable programs, you will find the topic and suggested reading of the week, and other additional information.



### THE CARING COMMITTEE LIVING ROOM

Drop in for a chat and a friendly face.

Mon. – Fri | 10am-1pm

MONDAY

### MANAGING IN THE TIME OF COVID

COVID-19 has created challenges for all of us. We'll address your concerns about managing day to day during this trying time.

*Dr. Carol Portlock, oncologist, and Dr. Frank Corigliano, clinical psychologist, alternate as moderators*

**Mondays | 2pm**

TUESDAY

### ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Join in the lively give-and-take on compelling issues and current events. Weekly topics and suggested readings.

*Joe Fashing moderates*

**Tuesdays | 2pm**

### MEDITATION

Midweek meditation for relaxing body and mind.

*Larry Hurst moderates*

**Tuesdays | 5-5:30pm**

### CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY

We aim to illuminate the philosophical concepts and values that underlie contemporary issues.

*Joe Chuman, Leader, moderates*

**3rd Tues. | Sept. 15 | 7pm**

WEDNESDAY

### DEBATING THE ISSUES OF THE DAY

Discuss significant events of the week.

*Sy Amkraut moderates*

**Wednesdays | 11am**

### EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM

We explore the history, ideals, and current interests of the Ethical Culture community and our place in the philosophical firmament.

*Leaders Dr. Joseph Chuman and Dr. Richard Koral alternate as moderators*

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2pm**

### GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSION

[Read the selected works](#) — great novels and novellas — in advance, and be prepared to share your thoughts and observations. <http://www.ethical.nyc/events>

*Gunther Tielemans moderates*

**1st & 3rd Wed. | Sept. 2 & 16 | 7pm**

**Sept. 2: *The Piano Lesson*, August Wilson**

In his second Pulitzer Prize winner, August Wilson fashions a haunting and dramatic work. At the heart of the play stands a piano in the parlor of Berniece Charles' home. Her exuberant brother dreams of buying land that their family worked as slaves. When he tells her that he plans to sell their antique piano to stake his future, Berniece refuses, clinging to the reminder of their family legacy. *The Guardian* says that **August Wilson** (1945-2005) "leaves behind an oeuvre that is epic in scope and achievement, emotionally complex and full of lyricism and humour. He made good his early ambition to reclaim some of the many untold black narratives that have universal resonance."

## Sept. 16: *Agnes Grey*, Anne Brontë

After her family becomes impoverished following a disastrous financial speculation, Agnes Grey finds work as a governess in order to contribute income and assert her independence. But Agnes' enthusiasm is swiftly extinguished as she struggles with the disdain of the haughty Murray family; the only kindness she receives comes from Mr. Weston, the young curate. Anne Brontë's first novel offers a compelling personal perspective on the desperate position of unmarried, educated women in Victorian society. **Anne Brontë** (1820-1849) also wrote *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

## THURSDAY DEATH CAFÉ

Established in London, England in 2011, with the objective to "increase the awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives," Death Cafés meet today in 73 countries.

*Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson moderates*

**2nd Thursday | Sept. 10 | 11 am**

## POETRY CIRCLE

Share and read poems. We'll listen and discuss — a line, a word, an image. Send your poems in advance, so they can be shared on-screen with participants:

[ethicaloutlook@gmail.com](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com)

*Elinore Kaplan moderates*

**1st Thurs. | Sept. 3 | 2pm**

## ETHICISTS UNITE!

Let's discuss the ethical dilemmas you and others face. Sandi will also have some dilemmas from "The Ethicist" columns *NY Times* and other sources.

*Sandi Sacks moderates*

**2nd Thurs. | Sept. 10 | 2-3pm**

## COLLOQUY: "SILENCE"

Share your reflections on the topic based on quotes, parables, poems, etc. There are no right or wrong answers, just your individual response shared in a contemplative atmosphere.

*Elinore Kaplan moderates this session*

**3rd Thurs. | Sept. 17 | 2pm**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**Sondra Stein and Charles Debrovner**

In this session, a pair of "dialogue partners" converse, each responding to questions they themselves have

phrased (about growing up, career, interests, adventures... whatever) including one about their experience at Ethical NYC. Attendees add to the conversation. It's all part of getting to know our Ethical Culture family in a comfortable, casual way. *If you'd like to be a dialogue partner, email Elinore Kaplan at [ethicaloutlook@gmail.com](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com) for further details.*

*Larry Hurst & Elinore Kaplan moderate*

**4th Thurs. | Sept. 24 | 2pm**

## STORYTELLING CIRCLE

One of the oldest traditions around the world is storytelling — folk tales, fairy tales, historic tales, family tales... Bring whatever story you choose, and we'll gather 'round the virtual campfire and listen.

*Doris Hart moderates*

**1st & 3rd Thurs. | Sept. 3 & 17 | 5pm**

## MUSIC FOR THE SPIRIT

In this hour of delightful music, David plays and indulges in stimulating explorations of music and the creative process with his special musician guest performers. What a lovely way to end the day!

*David Gracia, Music Director, moderates*

**Tell David what you'd like to hear! Take this survey:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6CXTJG](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6CXTJG).

David will try to accommodate your taste and requests.

## FRIDAY PROACTIVE MEDITATION & DEEP LISTENING

In this guided experiential session, we first take time to relax body and mind in order to sense how we really are in each moment. We allow ourselves to focus on listening deeply and empathically for what may be calling for our attention. We stay present with that. This proactive approach to meditating can open up fresh ideas and connections.

*Larry Hurst moderates*

**Fridays | 2pm**

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).



# SUNDAYS AT ETHICAL

Join us to hear informed and inspiring speakers, including our own Leaders, while enjoying music provided by David Gracia, our Music Director | 11am – 12:15pm

**PLATFORM PLUS | 12:15 – 12:45pm**

After our Platform talk, enjoy this purely social half-hour to chat with one another.

SEPT.  
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## WHY WE NEED REAL FOOD AND REAL JOBS IN AMERICAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JENNIFER GADDIS, AUTHOR  
OF *THE LABOR OF LUNCH*

*Steve Serling presides*

Across the country, school cafeteria workers are scrambling to get safe, nutritious meals to the 30 million children who participate in the National School Lunch Program. Amid school closures, re-openings, and hybrid instruction, these low-wage workers — over 90% of whom are women — are facing even greater struggles than normal. Schools are increasingly cutting workers' hours and purchasing higher percentages of pre-packaged foods, which further deskill and disempower workers.

What if, instead, we invested in labor and local food, empowering school kitchen and cafeteria workers to cook healthy meals for all of the nation's children? This talk explains the need for a nationwide movement in support of real food and real jobs in American public schools.



JENNIFER GADDIS is the author of *The Labor of Lunch: Why We Need Real Food and Real Jobs in American Public Schools*. Her research on school lunch programs has appeared

in numerous journals, including *Agriculture and Human Values*, *Feminist Economics*, and the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, and in popular media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Teen Vogue*. Jennifer is an assistant professor of Civil Society and Community Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she teaches classes on community and social change, strategic planning and evaluation for nonprofits, and sustainable food systems. She holds a PhD in environmental studies from Yale University.

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## ENCOURAGE!

DR. JAMES WHITE, LEADER  
EMERITUS, ESSEX SOCIETY FOR  
ETHICAL CULTURE

*Richard Koral, Leader, presides*

Since being introduced to Ethical Culture in the fall of my college freshman year, the values and commitments of our movement have sustained and encouraged me — as a 60's activist, husband and father, teacher, lawyer, and Ethical Leader. Now we are suffering through an incredibly grim time. Let us explore the rich experiences that encourage us to deepen our relationships and to move forward together toward a newer world of justice and peace.



JAMES WHITE is a retired Leader of the Riverdale Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture. He was a mental-health lawyer for 35 years.

James is married to Eileen Karlson, nurse and singer; father of Jacob and Paul; grandfather of Gabe, Nate, Hannah, and Auden. He has been Co-Chair at the Congregations for Justice and Peace, and co-founder of the North Bronx Coalition Against Racism. Joyfully, James is now a full-time activist and granddad!

## PHILOSOPHY BOOK CLUB

Sunday, Sept. 13 | 1pm

*AUGUSTUS*, by John Williams

In this, his third great work, John Williams wrote a historical narrative, an epistolary novel set in classical Rome, exploring the life of the founder of the Roman Empire. *Augustus* is the final triumph of a writer who has come to be recognized around the world as an American master.

We will focus on the philosophical aspects of the novel, particularly about the tension between the emperor's public and private lives and his attempt to have his family model virtue for the entire empire, as well as the intersection between virtue and politics.

Learn more about the Philosophy Book Club and r.s.v.p. [here](#).

JOIN OUR  
EMAIL LIST



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.



## REBUILDING THE AMERICAN FUTURE

**JOE CHUMAN, LEADER**  
Richard Koral, Leader, presides

These are times like no other, which have put the American moral fiber to the test in ways that are unprecedented. A pandemic, economic devastation, and protests in the streets have challenged us as never before and can lead us to either defeat or renewal.

We have no choice but to move ahead. In my opening address of the season I will probe the resources in American values that can fuel a rebirth of American society. Our own Ethical Culture is a place that we can look.



**DR. CHUMAN** has been the Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, NJ since 1974, and a part-time Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture since 2008. As an activist, Dr. Chuman has worked on behalf of human rights and civil liberties and in opposition to the death penalty, as well as many other progressive causes. He founded the Northern New Jersey group of Amnesty International in 1974, and currently serves as president of the Bergen County Sanctuary for Asylum Seekers, founded by the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County. This coalition of religious and human rights organizations provides services for asylum seekers who are released from federal detention.



## ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE: A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

**PEGGY SHEPARD, CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

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cans at higher risk of chronic disease. Environmental racism and injustice sap the strength of communities and all society.



**PEGGY SHEPARD** began movement-building in 1988, organizing and engaging Northern Manhattan residents and environmental justice groups across the country in community-based planning and in campaigns to address environmental protection and environmental health policy locally and nationally. She has become a national leader in advancing environmental policy and the perspective of environmental justice in urban communities. Peggy's work has received broad recognition: the Jane Jacobs Medal from the Rockefeller Foundation for Lifetime Achievement, the 10th Annual Heinz Award for the Environment, and the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Her organization, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, has a base-building office in Northern Manhattan and a federal policy office in Washington DC. Peggy is a graduate of Howard University.

## Did you know we have our own YouTube channel?



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

## ETHICS AND THE THEATER

Play-reading and Discussion

**FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE**, Terrence McNally

*Patricia Bruder-Debrovner, Producer*

Middle-aged and scarred by disappointment, Frankie and Johnny are not the typical rom-com couple. But their searching, revealing, and often hilarious interplay following their first sexual encounter suggests they just might turn a one-night stand into a lasting, loving relationship. Following the playreading, Betsy Ungar will lead an audience discussion of the ethical issues of the play.

4th Sundays | 2pm

## STOA NOVA

Sunday, Sept. 27 | 1pm

### MARCUS AURELIUS

Massimo Pigliucci and his guest, **William Stephens**, Professor of Philosophy at Creighton University, explore the life and philosophy of Marcus Aurelius. William's interests include ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, Stoicism as a way of life, Stoicism and popular culture, ethics, animals, and the environment. He has published the excellent *Marcus Aurelius: A Guide for the Perplexed*.

This discussion group focuses on aspects of life that the Stoics dealt with so many years ago and are just as relevant and important today. It meets monthly on [Sunday afternoons](#).

**PROF. MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI** moderates both the Philosophy Book Club and Stoa Nova. Massimo is the K D Irani Professor of Philosophy at City College, author of several books on Stoicism, including his newest, *How to Live a Good Life: A Guide to Choosing Your Personal Philosophy*.

**YEE**, our Ethics for Children humanist Sunday School program, meets 11am-12:30pm, concurrent with our Sunday Platforms, with the exception of their First Sundays Intergenerational Celebrations at 1:30-pm. (See p.3)



## Speaking Up for Affordable Housing and Homelessness



By Dick Van Deusen

Ever since our founding, the Society for Ethical Culture has been an active presence in the political and socio-economic life of our city. “Deed Above Creed,” and “Doing the Best for Others” are slogans that have long held meaning beyond the walls of our Meeting House.

In 2020, we are still involved in our community on many levels.

The most tragic human conditions

in our city today are homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. The Society has been a longtime member of the Interfaith Assembly for Homelessness and Housing. Leader Richard Koral and I currently represent the Society on the Interfaith Assembly, where we lobbied for community approval of the 58th Street transitional housing project (still pending).

He and I are members of the Leadership Committee of Bricks and

Mortals, an interfaith organization based at Judson Memorial Church. This city-wide group of religious organizations works with city and state leaders and industry professionals to find ways to preserve our houses of worship, and, more importantly, keep our doors open for our members while, at the same time, using our physical resources to develop housing.

Involvement with city government is critical to our mission; the Social Service Board — which as you know, manages our Maria Fridman Homeless Women’s Shelter among other projects — secures funding and support from city agencies. But our commitment as members of the Ethical Culture Society goes way beyond providing nightly shelter for up to eight homeless women. We will continue to seek ways to gather information, develop connections and affiliations, and amplify our voice and influence regarding meaningful action in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

*For further information, contact Dick Van Deusen at [richard@vand1629.nyc](mailto:richard@vand1629.nyc)*

### ETHICAL AFFINITY GROUPS

Visit our events calendar at [Ethical.nyc](http://Ethical.nyc) for meeting dates.

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.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE

American Indian Community House  
Amnesty International  
Feminist Freethinkers  
Formerly Fundamentalists  
League of Women Voters  
Police Reform Organizing Project  
Radical Age Movement

#### ETHICAL AFFINITY GROUPS

##### ENVIRONMENTAL

##### 350NYC

Climate Reality Project

Drawdown NYC

Food & Water Watch

NYC Grassroots Alliance





# ETHICAL CULTURE IN THE NEWS

## ALL ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETIES



“As a leader in the Ethical Culture movement and as a professor of human rights at Columbia University, I am most concerned with the ethical consequences of Trump’s and his Republican colleagues’ initiative to destroy the ACA. Both

Ethical Culture and the study of human rights make the preservation of dignity their central priority. A society committed to human flourishing — which entails recognition of economic rights — is among our highest concerns.” — Joe Chuman, Leader, Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County and New York Society for Ethical Culture

## NEW YORK



“Fifty years after it was founded, Ramapo College provided Carol Ryan and Clifford Peterson with another life-changing experience: marriage. The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 added a unique opportunity: to “host” 400 wedding guests from around the world. The remote officiants were Professor Anthony Padovano, theologian and author who taught Ryan’s first class at Ramapo College (‘not a day goes by when I don’t think about something he said’) and Robert Berson, head of the Ethical Culture Society of Northern Westchester, where Ryan is a longtime member (‘the values of that group mirror her values and mine.’)” — Ethical Society of Northern Westchester



“Carol and Ryan and Peterson said the coronavirus came into the picture just as they decided to get married. Thanks to technology, the couple in their late-70s tied the knot on the Ossining waterfront in May in front of hundreds of their loved ones. The couple got the idea to have the online wedding after they attended several Zoom events with the Ethical Culture Society of Northern Westchester.” — Ethical Society of Northern Westchester

## TEXAS



“Ethical Society Leader: Religious congregations should lead by example and close their doors,” penned by Ethical member, Carolyn Parker. Carolyn (who is also chair of the AEU Action Committee), writes, “My congregation, the Ethical Society of Austin, made the decision to meet virtually through the end of the year. It was difficult, but we had to face the facts of our current situation and recognize that to gather in person would be to risk the health of all of our members and the lives of those among us who are elderly or in poor health... Religious institutions can and should play a role in influencing public opinion in the direction needed to help fight the spread of this virus. — Ethical Society of Austin



## AEU NEWS

American Ethical Union  
Inspiring Ethical Communities

ETHICAL NYC is a proud founding member of the American Ethical Union, a federation of Ethical Societies that creates, nurtures, and inspires ethical humanist communities in education and action to foster a world that is democratic, compassionate, just, and sustainable. All members of Ethical Culture Societies across the country are also members of the national federation of Ethical Culture and Ethical Humanist Societies.

## The 105th Annual Assembly, ‘Breaking Barriers,’ was a hit!

The theme of this year’s Assembly was so right on – breaking barriers such as those of distance (through Zooming) and race. We even crossed time zones from the west coast to the east. There was wonderful, attentive Zoom audience. It was great to see faces — 200, in fact! — from so many of the Societies across the country. A lot was enjoyed, and a lot accomplished.

Rather than the usual three-day weekend affair, this year’s Assembly ran three weeks, from July 11 through August 3. Business meetings, from July 11-27, encompassed Budget and Finance, election of Board officers and executives, and the passing of bylaws amendments and policies, and of resolutions.

Two Resolutions were passed, one to Support ‘Death with Dignity,’ and the other confirming our commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement by moving forward within an anti-racist framework. In coming months, Ethical NYC, along with other Ethical Culture Societies, will have events, programs, and actions related to both resolutions. (Read the full Resolutions at the AEU website: <https://aeu.org>).

Educational programs, from July 28 – 31, started with “The Zoom Boom,” featuring our own Ed Beck, Communications Coordinator, and Louise Jett of the St. Louis Society, who is a Media Specialist. Together, they gave plenty of helpful information and tips to attendees about handling Zoom meetings. Two programs addressed racism. And one showcased a successful program from each of four Societies. Representing Ethical NYC was Janet Rose, creator and moderator of Ethical Dilemmas.

## SHARING & CARING

### GOOD CONNECTIONS DURING A PANDEMIC

By Amy Schwartz

Phone calls, emails, texts, photos, and whatever social media favored clearly help keep people connected and informed. Yet, as one of the members on the Caring Committee, it is impressed upon me that this period has created some new friendships and pleased members better known to one another.

No one has it easy, even in good health, financially secure, and able to get about. Isolation is a challenge, particularly well recognized by many of the elderly who are unable to have visitors, often without internet access.

My family, extended family, work colleagues, and friends here and abroad have been brought closer by more frequent contact. I used to exchange emails about twice a year with some of those overseas in Europe, Canada, and Australia. Now, we check up on each other often.

On the Caring Committee, I think of how you might feel receiving these communications and it becomes a greater pleasure delivering them.

## NEWS

Congratulations to our President, **Liz Singer!** Liz, who's been on the AEU Board of Directors, has been elected as Vice President of the AEU Board.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING



## CROSS-STITCHING

Working through the summer, **Carol Portlock** has finished her "Covid Spring 2020." Thank you, Carol, for sharing from start to finish.

## WATCHING TV

"**The Fight**" (On Demand) — Do you recall that when last the Society's Social Service Board bestowed its Public Service, "Champions of Change" Award award in 2019, our "Champion," was Congressman Jerry Nadler (NY 10th Congressional District), and our "Rising Star" was



Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director of the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project? Well, Lee Gelernt's not rising; he's risen and is quite the shining star! Lee is one of the

four attorneys featured in the ACLU documentary, "The Fight." Along with him are Brigitte Amin, for Reproductive Rights; Dale Ho, for Voting Rights; and Josh Block and Chase Strangio for LGBT Rights. Watch the stories behind their legal battles, the losses as well as the victories.

The ACLU was established in January of 1920. In fact, Roger Baldwin, initially with the Ethical Culture Society of St. Louis and subsequently at the New York Society, was the founder of the ACLU, and Ethical NYC Leader John Elliott was a key participant among the founders. Elliott nurtured a solid relationship between the ACLU and Ethical Culture. This year is the ACLU's 100th anniversary. At their website, you will find this statement:

*The ACLU dares to create a more perfect union — beyond one person, party, or side. Our mission is to realize this promise of the United States Constitution for all and expand the reach of its guarantees. Watch and enjoy the documentary. And let's continue our support of the ACLU.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

BRUCE FELD .....	9/4
BARBARA MICHAELS .....	9/5
MO MALEKSHAHI.....	9/9
BARBARA SIMPSON.....	9/12
BARBARA BERNSTEIN & MARGARETHA JONES.....	9/13
INEZ HEATH.....	9/14
CAROL ROST.....	9/17
SARAH SPROTT.....	9/30



## OUR ETHICAL FAMILY...Continued



### COMMUNITY CIRCLES ARE OPENING UP!

Community Circles are closed discussion groups of Ethical members that meet every month. Participants share their thoughts on ethics, values, and issues of a personal and general nature in our collective search for growth, understanding, and friendship. (Pre-Covid, we also shared rugalach, chocolate babka, and wagashi.) Two Circles have been meeting for more than three years. A third Circle can be formed if there is enough interest. New members commit to actively participate and stay with the group on the journey it undertakes.

*For more information, email or call Leader Richard Koral: [rkoral@nysec.org](mailto:rkoral@nysec.org) or (914) 260-2214.*



### POLISHING UP THE PLACE!

Our Ethical NYC building has been undergoing an impressive face-lift. Building Manager **Leonardo Gibson** and our fantastic maintenance staff have been sanding, staining, and polishing up all the woodwork, from the front doors and lobby on up. Now all that's missing is us!



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# 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](http://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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