SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

PROFESSOR JOSHUA TUCKER
Dr. Richard Koral, Leader, presides

Learn about the findings of recent research on fake news, foreign influence campaigns, hate speech on Twitter, and the impact of Facebook on ethnic polarization, much of which will challenge what you thought you knew about social media’s complicated relationship with the political sphere.

JOSHUA TUCKER is Professor of Politics, affiliated Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies, and affiliated Professor of Data Science at New York University. He is the Director of NYU’s Jordan Center for Advanced Study of Russia, a co-Director of

...Continued on page 6

ETHICS IN ACTION

Just as Darnella Frazier was an “active” bystander taking video during George Floyd’s killing — which had such a significant impact on the trial’s outcome— you, too, can be an active bystander by downloading this app on your phone to document police misconduct or a hate crime that automatically gets sent to the ACLU: https://www.aclu.org/video/aclu-app-record-police-conduct.

You can also get and use a “yellow whistle.” As explained at the website, “In America, yellow has been weaponized against Asians as the color of xenophobia. It serves as a symbol of historical discrimination.” However, the actual whistle is a simple gadget to signal alarm and call for help—for all Americans. Learn more and find out where to get your yellow whistle at theyellowwhistle.org (hint, you can pick one up at the New York Historical Society, and at the Bank of America booth in Bryant Park). They’re free and slip easily onto your keychain.

Continued on p.8
Spring is a busy time up here. There’s the vegetable garden to set up and the shrubs and trees to inspect, trim, and fertilize. What is satisfying about the plants is that they know exactly what they’re supposed to do. A zucchini has no identity confusion. It will fulfill its destiny as a zucchini, or it will fail. There’s no middle ground. You can rely on its single-minded focus.

But the garden is not an Eden of placidity, either. It is a field of competition as fought over as a shelf in Walmart. Everybody is vying for space and attention. The competition is not fair nor is it limited to the usual contenders. There are the out-of-town bullies and the Philadelphia lawyers of the plant world that install themselves unbidden and unexpected.

A survey of my yard will reveal that much of it has been taken over by foreign competition, much like that shelf at Walmart. The forest floor is covered, as far as the eye can see, with barberry, a vagabond that shipped in from Japan. In the sunny places, intertwined among them, I had been admiring the wild roses—until I identified them as the sneakily similar Japanese multiflora rose, which the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation urges me to pull up and extirpate. In the shady places, the burning bush or winged euonymus, pops up here, there, and everywhere. It is a pretty little tree that turns red in the fall, and is a native of Korea and China, and is now widespread. The lawn, which is really more prairie than lawn and welcome to all genre of weeds, is dominated more and more by quackgrass, an Asian import. The sunny roadsides are being taken over by Japanese knotweed, which can’t be deterred. The tall sugar maples are aging out, and are being replaced by fast-growing Norway maples, another target of the DEC. A list of culprits would be endless, from weeds to wildflowers, ailanthus trees to zebra clams.

What hasn’t been shouldered aside, it seems, can be under frontal assault. The Dutch elm disease cleared many town commons of that majestic centerpiece. The chestnut tree, once a dominant member of the northeastern forest, was wiped out by the cryphonectria parasitica, a fungus that sailed in from Asia in the 1930’s. I am sheltering three little ones, cuttings from a (hopefully) resistant survivor. But the crisis of today is over the ash trees, which are being wiped off the face of North America by a borer beetle from Asia. I am desperately guarding my ash trees with heavy duty chemical injections and now they are the only survivors in the entire neighborhood.

Many of these plants were originally brought to “terraform” the continent, so it would look like the Europe the colonists left behind. The very earth worms in the soil were brought here and utterly transformed the soil chemistry from its pre-Columbian condition. More recently, foreign-born plants are escapees originally imported as nursery stock for ornamentation.

Wanting to create an evergreen corner with native trees, I discovered that my local nurseries have trouble finding any. If I want Norway spruce or Chinese hanging pine, there’s no lack of supply. But ask for eastern pine, the vin ordinaire of our forests, or local northern white spruce...not available.

People may charge the imperious West with replacing native cultures around the world with the implantation of their own. People lament the disappearance of ancient cultures which may have been more authentic of location and rich in unique ways. But these distant lands have had their revenge. Cultivars from all over the world have taken root in North America, making ours the most invaded ecosystem on earth. In the plant world, we are the ones that have been colonized.
**ART EXHIBIT ON THE HUDSON**

(Photo: Upstream Downstream, by Shuli Sadé)

Let’s enjoy “Re-Growth: A Celebration of Art, Riverside Park, and the New York Spirit” — 13 site-specific installations by more than 20 artists throughout Riverside Park, from W. 68th Street to 145th Street. The exhibit is on through September 10. We’ll start at W. 68th and walk up along the Hudson for a bit. Those who are game can walk back for an open-air lunch at Café i at the pier at West 70th Street. To learn more about the exhibit, click on this link: [https://ilovetheupperwestside.com/a-summer-long-art-exhibition-in-riverside-park/](https://ilovetheupperwestside.com/a-summer-long-art-exhibition-in-riverside-park/).

**DETAILS:** Meet Elinore Kaplan and Gunther Tielemans in front of Alice Tully Hall on Broadway at W. 65th Street at 10:30am. We’ll walk west three blocks to Riverside Boulevard and then up three more to W. 68th where we’ll go down the ramp into Riverside Park. Questions? Contact Elinore at ethicaloutlook@gmail.com.

**Thursday, June 10 | 10:30am**
(Rain date: Friday, June 11)

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**ETHICAL ADVENTURES**

**June 6 | 1:30 – 3pm:**

**1st SUNDAYS for ALL**

*All ages meet to share and learn. Join us!*

**GRATITUDE AND HEALING — STANDING UP FOR A HEALTHY WORLD!**

We are honoring the deeds that unify Science & Activism for Health! In honor of **Dr. Anthony Fauci’s birthday**, we will celebrate his role and collaborations in deed from AIDS to COVID-19.

Wrapping up our **AIDS WALK fundraiser**, YEE will offer gratitude to each contributor who supported the AIDS WALK NYC Ethical Team.

You—child or adult—may be a participatory presenter: To prepare, research and present someone whose deeds are helping make a Healthy World. Let a picture of them be your virtual background. Teach us all about them! Please RSVP.

Ethical NYC members are invited and encouraged to attend!

**June 13 | 11am:** **IMAGINE!**

**Visiting the Imagine Circle and Strawberry Fields, Central Park**

We’ll sing “Imagine,” humanist anthem, and illustrate it together—we’ll imagine and discuss peace in our own visions. Bring a picnic lunch.

**June 20 | 11am:** **HIKE & NATURE**

**Journaling at Van Cortland Park**

Field Trip hosted by Deepali Srivastava of Writefully Ours

Writing our observations as we explore NYC’s third-largest park, we will watch, track, unlock, and discover nature’s incredible patterns. RSVP for information about our meet-up spot. Mask up and bring a picnic lunch and a notebook/pen.

**June 27 | 11am (on Zoom): A BANNER DAY**

Oaths, pledges, anthems, flags—these all represent commitments to something bigger than ourselves. We’ll be workshopping to create expressive visions of ethical values we share as citizens of the world.

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**SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARS**

**Ethical Youth Zoom-Program**

*Pre-registration required*

Free. RSVP: youngethicalexplorers@gmail.com.

This is the last of our 4-month series developed in collaboration with the American Slavery Project to grow racial justice through responsive youth dialogue. Participants will receive certificates of completion. Today’s is an all-in-one program with a 15-minute break in between.

**GRAND FINALE!**

**Saturday | Juneteenth (19) | 4-7pm**
All these ongoing programs are open to the public. Newcomers are always welcome. For an updated listing of all programs, visit our Zoom programs at the 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.

**ETHICAL ENRICHMENT**

**WEEKDAY PROGRAMS**

**MANAGING IN THE TIME OF COVID**
COVID-19 has created challenges for all of us. Frank and Carol will address your concerns about managing day to day during this trying time.

*Dr. Carol Portlock, oncologist, moderates 1st & 3rd Mondays. Dr. Frank Corigliano, clinical psychologist, moderates 2nd & 4th Mondays*

**Mondays | 2 – 3pm**

**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 | 2 – 3pm**

**MEDITATION**
Midweek meditation for relaxing body and mind.

*Larry Hurst moderates*

**Tuesdays | 5 – 5:45pm**

**CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY**
We aim to illuminate the philosophical concepts and values that underlie the contemporary issues on which we focus in our discussions.

*Joe Chuman, Leader, moderates*

**3rd Tues. | June 15 | 7 – 8pm**

**DEBATING THE ISSUES OF THE DAY**
Discuss significant events of the week.

*Sy Amkraut moderates*

**Wednesdays | 11am – Noon**

**GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSION**
Read the selected works in advance and share your thoughts and observations.

*Gunther Tielemans moderates*

**1st & 3rd Wed. | June 2 & 16 | 7 – 9pm**

**June 2:** *Sputnik Sweetheart*, Haruki Murakami
Part romance, part detective story, this is the story of a tangled triangle of uniquely unrequited love. K is madly in love with his best friend, Sumire, but her devotion to a writerly life precludes her from any personal commitments—at least until she meets an older woman to whom she finds herself irresistibly drawn. When Sumire disappears from an island off the coast of Greece, K is solicited to join the search party—and finds himself drawn back into her world and beset by ominous visions. Subtle and haunting, *Sputnik Sweetheart* is a profound meditation on human longing.

**June 16:** *Maud Martha*, Gwendolyn Brooks
Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks’ only work of fiction for adults, the indispensable *Maud Martha*, is a riotous parade of human feelings made up of several vignettes. It is the story of a girl who becomes a woman in 1940s black Chicago, told with minimal drama and maximal beauty. Like Brooks’ best-loved poems, this novella is not only the chronicle of one small life, but a mirror reflecting for each reader what shines and shimmers at the edges of their everyday existence.

**Coming up:**
*Dona Flora and Her Two Husbands*, Jorge Amado

**EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM**

**Topic: Atheism and Humanism –What’s the Difference?**
These discussions of Ethical Culture beliefs and practices explore the history, ideals, and current interests of the Ethical Society community and our place in the philosophical/religious firmament.
**PATHWAYS TO ETHICAL CULTURE**

**Part 4: Ethical Culture – Its Place in the World of Modern Humanism**

Adler was a philosopher with a moral mission facing an urgent problem that we continue to confront in the modern world: How do we ensure that the human being has inherent worth? How do we philosophically guarantee that human beings are not merely expendable when doing away with them will serve a compelling purpose? Adler believed that traditional religion did not effectively do this, nor could science. Where did he turn to find the answer?

*Leader Richard Koral moderates*

**3rd Wed. | June 16 | 2 – 3pm**

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**ETHICAL OUTLOOK**

**June 2021**

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**POETRY CIRCLE**

Share poems of your choice. We’ll discuss a line, a word, an image. Send your poems in advance, so they can be shared on screen: ethicaloutlook@gmail.com.

Elinore Kaplan moderates

**1st Thurs. | June 3 | 2 – 3:30pm**

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**STORYTELLING CIRCLE**

One of the oldest traditions around the world is storytelling—folktales, fairytales, historic tales, family tales, etc. Bring a story and we’ll gather ‘round the virtual campfire. Your topic suggestions are welcomed.

*Doris Hart moderates*

**1st & 3rd Thurs. | June 3 & 17 | 5 – 6pm**

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**ETHICS AND THE THEATER**

**BUYER AND CELLAR**

*By Jonathan Tolins*

Imagine that Barbra Streisand built herself a compound that includes an underground Main Street whose “shops” are stocked with her own fabulous possessions. Actually, don’t imagine—it’s real. But now imagine that she hired an out-of-work actor to run the stores, and that he’s dying to dish on the diva.

You’ve just conceived Jonathan Tolins’s savagely funny satire, whose absurdist premise seems less absurd today, when so much of our work life is virtual.

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner, producer*

**2nd Thurs. | June 10 | 7 – 8:30pm**

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**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 is a certified trainer and workshop leader with the International Focusing Institute.

*Larry Hurst moderates*

**Fridays | 2 – 3pm**

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**COLLOQUY: Silence**

*Ellen McBride moderates*

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

*Bob Berger facilitates*

**3rd Thurs. | June 17 | 2 – 3pm**

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**THOUGHT SALON**

Are you searching for the opportunity to “think out loud” in a respectful and supportive space? Do you love asking questions instead of taking things at face value? Do you want to become a more reflective thinker? We revive the lost art of conversation and fine-tune our critical thinking skills, opening our minds to new perspectives and possibilities! Dilemmas, brief readings, life’s questions, and personal experience are used as a catalyst for dialogue.

Limited to 20 participants; NYSEC members only. (Except for non-members already in group who will be “grandfathered” in.) If you would like to try the group or become an ongoing member, please email Maggie Determann at mdetermann@nysec.org.

*Sandi Sacks moderates*

**4th Thurs. | June 24 | 11am – 12:30pm**

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**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

*Sandi Sacks and Eva Yachnes*

In this session, a pair of “dialogue partners” respond to questions about growing up, career, interests, adventures—including one about their experience at Ethical NYC, followed by a Q&A. For members, the programs are recorded each month, constituting an archive in the Members Section of the website. If you’d like to be a dialogue partner, email Elinore Kaplan at ethicaloutlook@gmail.com.

*Larry Hurst & Elinore Kaplan moderate*

**4th Thurs. | June 24 | 2pm**
the NYU Center for Social Media and Politics, and a co-author/editor of the award-winning politics and policy blog The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post. Professor Tucker is the co-Chair of the independent academic advisory team for the 2020 Facebook Election Research Study. He serves on the advisory board of the American National Election Study, the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, and numerous academic journals, and was the co-founder and co-editor of the Journal of Experimental Political Science. His most recent book is the co-edited Social Media and Democracy: The State of the Field.

...Continued from page 1

The title of this address may sound trite, but it is actually of the greatest consequence. As a professor of human rights, I read continually about the dark underside of human behavior. Human rights inevitably cause those concerned with their protection to acquaint themselves with the human capacity for cruelty. Genocide, torture, massive rape, and other forms of mass atrocity leave it difficult to retain a sunny view of human nature. My work as a human rights activist has placed me in face-to-face conversation with victims of the most brutal torture.

Often such cruelty is carried out against people who are different from the perpetrator by virtue of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or, more broadly, culture. Xenophobia is too often a component of the most vicious abuses.

Before a person can brutalize or annihilate another human being, he must first convince himself that his victim is not human, or at most, a human being of a lesser order. To kill, it is first necessary to dehumanize.

Indeed, given human history, such oppressions as slavery or the disenfranchisement of women as full citizens was justified by concluding that such persons were not complete human beings. Often the capacity for abstract reasoning was the criterion employed to legitimize one’s complete humanity. Those in power, namely white males, possessed it, minorities and women, not enough. Hence the institutions of slavery and patriarchy, as well as various forms of brutality were considered justified.

The question of what makes for a human being who is thereby in possession of fundamental rights ensuring her or his dignity, protection from violation, and equal participation in society, is an issue of great consequence.

DR. JOE CHUMAN has been 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 on 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. He recently retired as the Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, a community he served since 1974.

Shannon Bullock, Editor
Society for Ethical Culture
ETHNICITY, INTERSECTIONALITY, SECULARISM, AND LAÏCITÉ—OUR IDENTITIES UNDER CONTRAST

DR. RICHARD KORAL, LEADER

Kathleen O’Connell presides

Can we learn anything from the French struggle to channel ethnicity into a common nationality? The French ideal of laïcité is to expect everyone, whatever their origins, to adopt the standard French identity in the public square. Is that repressive? Or, what could possibly be wrong with a baguette?

DR. RICHARD KORAL has been a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture since 2017. Richard holds degrees from New York University and New York Law School, and a Doctor of Ministry in interfaith pastoral counseling from the Hebrew Union College. He is the Leader Consultant to the Social Service Board and numerous committees in the Society. Active with the American Ethical Union, Richard served on its Board as president from 2012 to 2015. He also serves as part-time Leader for the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.

WE’RE BACK!
Welcoming Our Ethical Family For Platform Talks

Beginning in April some of our members, first just the Board, then others, began coming back into the building, specifically on Sundays for the Platform talks. These photos were taken when a dozen of us, plus Ed and Maggie, were in for Leader Richard Koral’s talk and the Annual Meeting that followed. It was so good to finally see one another in person!

As of Sunday, June 6, for our “soft opening,” we will welcome 30 members in Ceremonial Hall for Platform talks each Sunday. Members should check their emails for a special invitation with instructions and guidelines for safely visiting our building.

ETHICAL ESSENTIALS QUIZ

Q: Which Leader of our Society helped to found the National Civil Liberties Bureau, forerunner of today’s American Civil Liberties Union?

Answer on p.9
By Larry Barnett, General Manager, Mount Pleasant Cemetery

Want to spend a day away from the hustle and bustle of the city in a natural, restful setting? That was the idea behind Mount Pleasant Cemetery and some other better-known cemeteries such as Greenwood in Brooklyn and Woodlawn in the Bronx. Beginning in the middle of the 19th century, there was a movement, for both aesthetic and sanitary reasons, to discontinue burials in the main part of cities, and in the usual places, such as church graveyards. In their place were created large, parklike cemeteries somewhat distant from where people lived and worked.

The New York Society for Ethical Culture purchased the land for its cemetery in 1898. A cemetery committee (later constituted as a Society) was created for the purpose of transforming 100 acres of Westchester County farmland into a final resting place for Society members. When the committee members were not sure how they wanted to proceed, Felix Adler, founder and Leader of Ethical Culture, encouraged them to have the landscape architect Samuel Parsons, Jr., Superintendent of Manhattan’s Central Park, create a general plan for the whole area as “essential for the harmony of the scheme and beauty of the cemetery.”

Over the years, many members of NYSEC have been buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, an independent, non-sectarian, not-for-profit institution. There is no specific Society section, but visits to Sections 1 and 2 will allow discovery of the burial places of many of those early Society members. Society Leaders have, in fact, hosted tours that featured visits to the graves of Felix Adler and other notables of Ethical Culture, including Leaders Algernon Black and Jerome Nathanson.

Although Mount Pleasant was founded by members of the Society initially for their own use, the cemetery has achieved recognition as one for the burial of people of all backgrounds and beliefs. For many years, religious symbolism was almost totally absent from the graves at the cemetery. Society members also believed in cremation, and so many interments at the cemetery have been that of cremations.

Cemeteries are not usually on our minds, but the pandemic has gotten many people to think about the future. It has been our observation that members visiting the cemetery and looking at grave locations are interested in a more naturalistic setting. This is exactly what the founders of the cemetery had in mind when they created the cemetery, although they called it a parklike setting. We have tried to maintain this approach over the last one hundred and twenty years.

Visits for Society members and the public may be made at any time of year, although visits during the spring, when the many trees and shrubs are in bloom, or in the fall to see the vivid red and yellow foliage, are probably best. If you are interested in visiting, or perhaps purchasing a plot, please call the cemetery at 914-769-0397 to set up an appointment for an escorted tour. Mount Pleasant, located at 80 Commerce Street, Hawthorne, is immediately off the Taconic Parkway, and accessible by train on the Metro-North Harlem Line to the Hawthorne station. On weekdays, a staff member can usually pick up visitors for the very short trip. Be sure to call first and make an appointment.
FOUNDER’S DAY… In May, the Ethical Culture Fieldston School celebrated Founder’s Day — most appropriately in our newly named auditorium, Adler Hall. Leader Richard Koral introduced the program. (Photos by Taggart)

OUR BANNER DOES GALLANTLY WAVE…
Our new NYSEC banner has been waving above our entry on West 64th Street since March. Have you seen it? The grand new design is by our in-house artist and Office Manager, Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk.

WHAT ON EARTH?
Our lucky Young Ethical Explorers celebrated Earth Day through April, first with a Tree & Me Festival at their First Sunday Intergenerational event, and then through the month, with real and virtual outings. (Pictured: Sibling members Oberon and Ada work on embroidery project, “Colors of Earth;” Social & Racial Justice Scholars with American Slavery Project - Simone of ASP, Audrey, Gabriel, Eli, Marifer, Ohm, Olina, Sharon, and Miles)

ETHICAL ESSENTIALS QUIZ - ANSWER
(See question on p.7)

A: John Lovejoy Elliott

Capturing the Moment
We love to share pictures of our activities and the people who enjoy them. So share yours! We publish photos of members and friends here in Ethical Outlook, in flyers, and on our website. If you do not want your picture used, please notify the editor.
OUR ETHICAL FAMILY
By Janet Rose

Take a caring young woman working on her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Columbia to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, add her seeing the impact this past year has had on her colleagues — and you have Ethical member Janine Inez, spearheading the creation of the “Art in the Time of Crisis” program. You can watch the hour-long program here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2LIU6Xj6jY.

“Art is such a healing medium that I knew very personally,” Janine said, explaining that she started writing at the age of seven when her father gave her a large blank book to fill.

Janine received a BFA in Writing for Film and Television at the University of Southern California, but, after a year working in the industry, recognized that she wanted more of a direct impact on the lives of others and chose to become a nurse practitioner. With the support of faculty advisors, Janine and fellow student Alden Bush explored the idea of “Art in the Time of Crisis” because she saw the traumatic impact the pandemic and recent racial violence was having on her colleagues and wanted to give them an outlet to cope with their experiences. The project resulted in a collection of narrative writings and artistic pieces from the students, faculty, administration, staff, and alumni.

Janine was particularly moved while preparing for this project when, while collecting the submissions, she saw some coming from alumni going all the way back to the 1950s. Remembering a friend, who was suffering early in the pandemic with her first experience of the death of a patient from Covid, and her own response of feeling desperate to “do something” to help her friend, Janine said she “feels honored” to have inspired this project and dreams that it will continue. Appropriately, her doctoral scholarly writing project is researching the impact of Covid 19 on nursing students and how mindfulness interventions can help.

A NOTE FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

NANCY O’REILLY................................6/2
RUTH COHEN, CHRIS EVERETT, ELIZABETH HENDERSON, and RICHARD MCBRIDE........6/7

DAN JULIN and ROSALINDA RUPEL.....6/8
LEE LOSHAK....................................6/10
ANDREA REYES................................6/11
SANDI SACKS..................................6/17

A NOTE FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

Getting Around the City
As much as the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 changed travel accessibility, it was not the be-all and end-all answer, just a wonderful beginning. Here in New York City, we’re so very fortunate to have, in addition to elevators at many subway stations and ramps on our buses, the much- appreciated Access-A-Ride (AAR). The service provides public transportation throughout the five boroughs and even a little way into Nassau and Westchester counties. AAR operates 24/7/365. Fares are the same as full fare on public transit.

To learn more about AAR — determining your eligibility, how to apply, etc. — you can visit these websites: https://access.nyc.gov/programs/access-a-ride/ and https://new.mta.info/accessibility/paratransit and call 877-337-2017 or 718-393-4999. Keep in mind that there’s a time gap between calling to schedule an appointment and receiving the application form, and then another gap between submitting the form and becoming enrolled in the program. So, if you’re anticipating using the service, it’s probably a good idea to become informed and start the process.

ETHICAL OUTLOOK
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Larry Hurst, Features Editor
Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk, Production Manager

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www.aeu.org
In around 1918, my Mom left Judaism and joined the young New York Society for Ethical Culture. It was a radical move. I never asked what led to her decision and wish I had. In 1926, she enrolled me in the Ethical Culture School. John Lovejoy Elliott was my ethics teacher. He told really good stories. So did Al Black, who became my ethics teacher later. As a teen, I was active in the Sunday evening club.

Felix Adler’s view that the purpose of education is to make the world a better place became firmly implanted in me, and my early experiences at the Society and the school determined the trajectory of my professional life. One might argue that this would have happened with exposure to any spiritual group, but I doubt it. What I absorbed in those years led me to challenge what I perceived as defective aspects of our culture. For example, at Smith College, I was part of the first CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) group in the city, and today I live in a multigenerational co-housing community instead of a retirement community.

Humans are not chiefly motivated by intellectual concepts. We are feeling, sensing, tribal creatures. We prefer like-minded communities and companions.

“Humans are not chiefly motivated by intellectual concepts. We are feeling, sensing, tribal creatures. We prefer like-minded communities and companions.”

Humans are not chiefly motivated by intellectual concepts. We are feeling, sensing, tribal creatures. We prefer like-minded communities and companions. The Humanist movement was, at its inception, a highly intellectual movement. I am really happy to notice that the Society is today incorporating some activities that appeal to the senses as well as the mind.

Throughout the Societies there are now a significant number of 15- to 30-year-olds who, like my own mother a century ago, are leaving the traditional religious groups to which their parents belonged. They are practicing warmer ways of relating to each other and are aware of how gratitude and other positive feelings contribute to happiness and health. We totally need them if we have any chance of rescuing this planet before we destroy our nest. It is my hope that we, through brainstorming and action, attract those young families, teens, and singles to the kind of spiritual group that sent me on my life’s journey.

*This is a reprint, with Alice’s permission, of an article published in Ethical Outlook in May, 2018. Dr. Ladas, a member of the Society for more than 50 years, to-day lives in New Mexico. She recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Thank You To All Members Who Have Made Your 2021 Pledge

These have been challenging times for all of us, so we greatly appreciate your support at this time in particular. We’ve lost rentals and in-house paid programs, and our coffers are low. Our Ethical community’s financial support is so important right now.

Our 2021 goal is: $150,000. Please do all you can to help.
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.