

# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

October 2021

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

## SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY

Oct.  
3

### ★ THE ETHICS OF CHOICE

DR. NORI ROST, Acting Leader

*Sarah Sprott presides*

In recent months we have seen attacks on women's right to reproductive freedom, most notably in the egregious legislation passed in Texas last month which essentially makes it illegal to obtain an abortion in the state with draconian punishments for those seeking an abortion and the doctors who would help them.

What does our ethical orientation teach us about choice and how can we make our voices heard? Join us in the wake of marches for reproductive freedom across the country (including here in NYC) as we explore this

*Continued on p.6*Oct.  
10

### FROM FARMS TO INCUBATORS:

**Woman Innovators Revolutionizing How Our Food Is Grown**

AMY WU, Journalist, Filmmaker

*Leader Richard Koral presides*

*From Farms to Incubators* is a multi-media platform that uses documentary, video, photography, and the written word to tell the stories of more than two dozen women entrepreneurs in the fast-growing sector of agtech who are presenting inspiration solutions to many of the everyday issues affecting our food production. Amy will

*Continued on p.6*

**PROTECT OUR  
DEMOCRACY**  
Every ☒OTE counts.



NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

WWW.ETHICAL.NYC

### THEME OF THE MONTH:

Anticipating Election Day, November 2, our theme for this month is "Protect Our Democracy—Every Vote Counts."



Look for programs addressing this vital issue.

## INSIDE

Leader's Desk.....2  
YEE.....3  
Ethical Adventures.....3

Ethical Enrichment Programs.....4-5  
Sundays at Ethical.....6-7  
AEU News.....7

Snapshots.....8-9  
Our Ethical Family.....10  
The Voice of Ethical Culture.....11



# FROM THE LEADER'S DESK

DR. NORI ROST

## WIDENING THE CIRCLE

**It goes on one at a time,  
it starts when you care  
to act, it starts when you do  
it again after they said no,  
it starts when you say We  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.**

—lines from “Low Roads”  
by Marge Piercy

I love these lines from the poem “Low Roads” by Marge Piercy. I often think of them when I feel as if I am not making a difference in the world, when I am feeling alone or lonely. These lines from Piercy’s poem remind me of two things.

First, they remind me that every little step forward is progress; it goes on one at a time, every time we act. It continues when we no longer see ourselves as separate from one another, but as all bundled together in the cosmos.

These lines, and indeed, our Ethical tradition, call us to deeper and deeper connections. They call us to daily widen the circle of love in which we stand so that all feel welcomed in our midst.

Coming out as a lesbian when I was 16 years old was the beginning of widening the circle for me. I suddenly realized that I was part of “the other,” the nameless, faceless assortment of those who did not fit and were not invited into the circle of love for the majority, the “normal,” the comforting sameness of life.

I distinctly remember what it felt like to be on the outside of that invisibly etched circle of inclusion. It was a revelatory moment for me. Or really, more aptly, it was the moment of the “big bang” explosion of my conscious existence. An entire universe filled with galaxies of possibilities burst forth when I came out; when I realized the “other” was just another facet of me

I had not yet met.

So from that moment, my universe has been expanding to include ever more diverse peoples and cultures as part of my “We.” First, I reached out to the feminists, the pro-choice, and included them in my “We.” Then I reached out in solidarity—or rather reached back—to the poor, those living at or below the poverty line, whose lives echoed my beginnings in this world. I reached out to people of color, educated myself about my own inherent racism: how merely by dint of my skin color, I belonged to an oppressive, systemic racist culture.

I then included people of color into

“...everyone on this planet is a part of the greatest “We” of all, Mother Earth; it is imperative that we also include her in our circle of love, of possibility, of life.”

my “We,” and those of the dominant culture who were trying to heal racism into my “We.” I went on to include other ways of being in relationship into my “We” as well, those whose hearts and loves didn’t fall into the tidy categories of monogamous, life-time partnerships of two people (regardless of gender). And of course, gender-variant people as well are now a part of my “We.” In recent years, because of unprecedented challenges to the inherent worth and dignity of every human, refugees and immigrants joined my circle of “We.”

Ultimately, I reached my arms around the entire planet and realized everyone on this planet is a part of the greatest “We” of all, Mother Earth; it is imperative that we also include her in our circle of love, of possibility, of life.

I’ve got to be honest here: every time my universe expanded to include more people, I felt uncomfortable. I felt resistance to the idea of stepping



outside of my comfort zones of who could be “in” and then, of course, those who were still left out. I’m certainly not to at a point where my “We” leaves no room for an “other.” I keep expanding still, not always easily or gently, but it does go on one at a time when I care to act, when I care to learn about those who are different from me rather than judging them, when I intentionally take part in diversity in

community rather than insisting on division and commonality. But as I push through my discomfort, I reach a place of expansiveness, of community, of joy.

We are living in unprecedented times. In just a few short years, we have seen the collapse of safety nets for the most vulnerable among us; we have witnessed a rise in hate crimes caused in large part by the reckless, inflammatory rhetoric of elected leaders; we have watched while a virus has brought the world to its knees, saving a special gut punch for the elderly, the poor, the marginalized.

It is time to start again, even in the midst of so many “nos” being thrown our way. It is time to care to act once more. Here at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, we continue on with fierce determination to say “We” over and over again, daily meaning more. As we do this, we can change our world; indeed, we already are.



## AUDREY KINDRED

Youth & Family Programs Coordinator



## RSVP is REQUIRED!

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

For more information about all of our youth programming, please visit [ethical.nyc/youth](http://ethical.nyc/youth).

Join us in-person at the Society! Weather-permitting, children will meet on the rooftop playground. You must RSVP to be notified by email of schedule changes.

## 1st SUNDAYS for ALL

Join us at this a monthly "show and tell" forum of intergenerational Ethical connection. Adults and children of all ages from all Ethical societies and partnering communities are welcome to attend.



### Oct. 3 | 1:30 – 3pm:

#### "PEACE THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES"

Youth and families are invited to share individual presentations based on either of these prompts: "I Treasure Peace" or "Peace Day—Every Day."

## YEE Sundays 11am – 12:30pm

### Oct. 3: OPEN ROOFTOP PLAY DATE

Advance RSVP required.

### Oct. 10: HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

YEE will learn about current ecological leaders rooted in Indigenous cultures. (ZOOM only: RSVP for link.)

### Oct. 17: ALLY DAY

Centering in Anti-bully Awareness Work, children will learn to "mix it up," playing with a tool/game (suggested by [www.LearningForJustice.org](http://www.LearningForJustice.org)) that helps prevent seeds of bullying from taking root. As ambassadors of peace, children will be offered the materials to share this with their home and school communities.

### 12:45 – 1:45pm — PARENT & EDUCATOR TABLE

### Oct. 24: "OH MY!!!" THE MYSTERY OF FRIGHT

This is a gentle, deep, earnest exploration of what spooks and scares... with values of imagination, health, and support to guide the way.

### Oct. 31: HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Diwali! This celebration of Light, with its ancient roots in the traditions of India, will be led by Deepali Srivastava of Writefully Ours.



Easy Walkers visit  
**THE AFRICAN  
BURIAL GROUND +  
"BRIGHTER DAYS"**

Rediscovered in 1991 after more than 200 years, this lower Manhattan cemetery, which holds more than 8,000 Africans and African Americans, was made a National Monument in 2007. After our tour, we'll walk to City Hall Park to visit "Brighter Days," the recently installed show of sculpture by African American artist Melvin Edwards. Afterward, there are many choices for lunch.

We recommend that you preview the [YouTube video](#) of "Brighter Days," featuring Mr. Edwards.

**Details:** We'll meet at Ethical at 10:30, ride the A train to Chambers Street, and walk past City Hall to the Monument. Please let us know if you plan to meet us at Ethical or if you would prefer to meet the group at the Monument site, 290 Broadway. Email Bob, [rbumcrot65@gmail.com](mailto:rbumcrot65@gmail.com), and Howard, [howard@rosesquared.com](mailto:howard@rosesquared.com).

**Wednesday, Oct. 5 | 10:30am**  
(Rain date: Friday, Oct. 7)

## ETHICAL AFFILIATES

NYSEC partners with and supports organizations that identify with our commitment to education, advocacy, and action in the pursuit of social justice and environmental stewardship.

## AFFINITIES

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

American Indian Community House  
Amnesty International  
Feminist Freethinkers  
League of Women Voters  
Police Reform Organizing Project

### ENVIRONMENTAL

350NYC  
Beyond Plastics  
Climate Reality Project  
Drawdown NYC  
Food & Water Watch

## OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

American Slavery Project  
The Emergency Shelter Network of  
Faith-Based and Community Organizations  
Interfaith Center of New York  
Partnership for the Homeless

### MORE

The Society also maintains a number of alliances, partnerships, and collaborations.





# ETHICAL ENRICHMENT

## WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

All these ongoing programs are open to the public. Newcomers are always welcome. Presently, in-person programs in our building are open only to vaccinated Ethical members.

For an updated listing of all programs, visit [ethical.nyc/events](https://ethical.nyc/events). We also email a Weekly /Daily Program Schedule, where, for applicable programs, you will find the topic and suggested reading of the week and other information.

While we transition from remote attendance to in-person participation at the Society, we will use the code letters **I** for in-person only, **H** for hybrid (in-person & Zoom), and **Z** for Zoom only.

**The building will be closed on Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day) Monday, Oct. 11.**

MONDAY

### MANAGING IN THE TIME OF COVID (Z)

COVID-19 has created challenges for all of us. Retired oncologist Carol Portlock will review recent articles including new science of interest. Clinical psychologist Frank Corigliano will address your concerns about managing day-to-day during this trying time.

*Dr. Frank Corigliano moderates 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays*

*Dr. Carol Portlock moderates 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays*

**Mondays | 2 – 3pm (No meeting Oct. 11)**

### MIDWEEK MEDITATION (Z)

Midweek meditation for relaxing body and mind.

*Larry Hurst moderates*

**Tuesdays | 5 – 5:45pm**

### POETRY CIRCLE (H)

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](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com).

*Elinore Kaplan moderates*

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues. | Oct. 5 | 10:30am – 12pm | Adler Study, 514**



### ETHICS IN THE NEWS (Z)

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

*Joe Fashing moderates*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. | Oct. 5 & 19 | 2 – 3pm**

### THOUGHT SALON (Z)

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 in a respectful and supportive space, 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. Email Maggie to join the group: [mdetermann@nysec.org](mailto:mdetermann@nysec.org).

*Sandi Sacks moderates*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. | Oct. 12 | 10:30am – 12pm**

### CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY (Z)

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*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. | Oct. 19 | 7 – 8pm**

WEDNESDAY

### GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSION

Read the selected works in advance and share your thoughts and observations.

*Gunther Tielemans moderates*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. | Oct. 6 & 20 | 7 – 9pm**

**10/6: *Ferdynurk*, Witold Gombrowicz (Z)**

In this bitterly funny novel, a writer finds himself tossed into a chaotic world of schoolboys by a diabolical professor who wishes to reduce him to childishness. Published in Poland in 1937, *Ferdynurk* catapulted the young author to fame. Deemed scandalous and subversive by Nazis, Stalinists, and the Polish Communist regime in turn, the novel was banned in Poland for decades. It has nonetheless remained one of the most influential works of 20th-century European literature.

**10/20: *Nectar In A Sieve*, Kamala Markandaya (H)**

This beautiful and eloquent semi-autobiographical 1954 novel tells of a simple peasant woman in a village in India who meets changing times with remarkable fortitude. This was Markandaya's first novel, and it became an acclaimed million-copy bestseller.

## EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM (H)

### "What Humanism Can Learn From Religion At Its Best"

Why is there evil in the world? As Ethical Humanists we place our faith in people. Why is that faith betrayed?

These discussions of Ethical Culture beliefs and practices explore the history, ideals, and current interests of the Ethical Culture community and our place in the philosophical/religious firmament.

*Leaders Joe Chuman facilitates*

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed. | Oct. 6 | 7 – 8pm**

## SPEAKING OF SCIENCE (Z)

TBA — Updates in our Weekly/Daily Program Schedule emails and/or <https://ethical.nyc/live>.

*Carol Portlock moderates*

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed. | Oct. 27 | 7 – 8pm**

T  
H  
U  
R  
S  
D  
A  
Y



## LEADER'S ROUNDTABLE (H)

Having read the articles in advance, join in the lively weekly discussions of contemporary issues. Find the articles at <https://ethical.nyc/live>.

*Dr. Nori Rost, Acting Leader, moderates*

**Thursdays | 12 – 1:30pm | Adler Study, 514**

## STORYTELLING CIRCLE (Z)

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*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. | Oct. 7 & 21 | 5 – 6pm**



## COLLOQUY (Z)

**Elinore Kaplan:** "Who Do You Trust, and Why?"

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

*Bob Berger facilitates*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. | Oct. 14 | 5 – 6pm**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU (Z)

TBA — Updates in our Weekly/Daily Program Schedule emails and/or [ethical.nyc/events](https://ethical.nyc/events).

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](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com).

*Larry Hurst & Elinore Kaplan moderate*

**4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. | Oct. 28 | 5 – 6pm**

F  
R  
I  
D  
A  
Y



## PROACTIVE MEDITATION & DEEP LISTENING (Z)

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*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri. | Oct. 1 & 15 | 11:30am – 12:30pm**



## ETHICS AND THE THEATER (I)

### The Niceties, Eleanor Burgess

The cozy confines of a professor's office become a perilous battleground when a white teacher's critique of her Black student's dissertation reveals an unbridgeable chasm between their views of history, democracy, and the legacy of racism.

Join us for our monthly play-reading by theater professionals and Ethical members. Betsy Ungar leads the post-reading discussion of the ethical issues raised by the play.

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner, Producer*

**Fri. | Oct. 15 | 7 – 8:30pm**

*(Encore performance: Sunday, Oct. 17, at 1:30pm)*



## GAME NIGHT—JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT! (I)

Board games. Parlor games. You remember...Scrabble and Clue, Twenty Questions and Charades, and dozens more, old and new. Some involving strategy, some knowledge, others pure luck. It's Friday night—play time! Just for the fun of it.

*Deborah Goldstein moderates*

**4<sup>th</sup> Fri. | Oct. 22 | 7 – 8:30pm**



Receive notices of events and programs coming up at Ethical NYC. Visit our homepage to sign up: [www.Ethical.nyc](http://www.Ethical.nyc).

# SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY

## BAGELS & COFFEE | 10 – 11am

Join us early for our social hour. Chat with each other and enjoy complimentary bagels and coffee.

## PLATFORM TALKS | 11 – 12:15pm

Join us to hear informed and inspiring speakers, including our own Leaders, while enjoying music provided by David Gracia, our Music Director.

Sunday Platform talks, until further notice, will be on Zoom. All members of the Society who have proof of vaccination are welcome to attend in person.

Oct.  
3

### THE ETHICS OF CHOICE

*Continued from p.1*

important, controversial topic.



Until coming to join us as Leader at NYSEC, DR. NORI ROST served the All-Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Colorado Springs, CO as their settled minister for 13 years. Prior to that she was a minister with Metropolitan Community Church for almost 20 years. Dr. Rost is passionate about social justice and has been involved in social rights activism since she was 17. She is an outspoken advocate for justice and equity and has received many awards and recognition for her work.

### 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAYS for ALL

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING

"PEACE THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES"

1:30 – 3pm (See pg. 3)

Oct.  
10

### FROM FARMS TO INCUBATORS...

*Continued from p.1*

talk about the evolution of the initiative and why it is so important to the future of farming and climate change. She will discuss how women are driving the present day agtech boom, and about how she

overcame skepticism, outdated traditions, and adversity to achieve her calling as journalist and entrepreneur.

Come for the talk and stay for the film, discussion, and book-signing with Amy Wu at 1pm.



AMY WU, Journalist, filmmaker, is the author of the recently published *From Farms to Incubators* and an award-winning writer for the

women's ag and ag-tech movement. She is the creator and chief content director of *From Farms to Incubators*, where the mission is to highlight women in food, farming, and farmtech, especially women of color.

Amy was named in *Worth* magazine's "Groundbreakers 2020 list of 50 Women Changing the World." She was a recipient of the Women in Agribusiness Demeter Award of Excellence. In 2021 she was named by *Food Tank* as one of "27 Inspiring Women Reshaping the Food System." Prior to starting *From Farms to Incubators*, Amy spent over two decades as an investigative reporter at media outlets including the *USA Today Network*, where she reported on agriculture and agtech for *The Salinas Californian*. She has a bachelor's degree in history from New York University and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

### Film Screening & Book Signing

**FROM FARMS TO INCUBATORS:**  
*Woman Innovators Revolutionizing How Our Food Is Grown*

View the trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/274583785>

1-2:30pm (I)  
Adler Study

Oct.  
17



### HOW FIGHTING HAS CHANGED AMERICA

DR. JOE CHUMAN, LEADER

*Maggie Determann presides*

We have just passed the 20th anniversary of the terrorist assaults on the United States. That episode was a transformative event in American history. In many ways we are not the same nation we were after the attack that we were before. Since 9/11 we have engaged in two wars—and lost. Many thousands of lives have been lost and more than \$7 billion spent. The "war on terror" has changed our national priorities and policies. It also has raised questions about America's purpose and what it means to be an American. It has evoked a mindset that encourages the use of force and looks more favorably on authoritarianism at home and abroad. It has also greatly altered our nation's standing in the world and how we are assessed by others. My address will explore these issues as they pertain to our understanding of what it means to be an American and our role among nations.



DR. JOE CHUMAN has been a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture since 2008. He recently retired as the Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of



Bergen County, a community he served since 1974. 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, founded by the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County. This coalition of religious and human rights organizations provides services for asylum seekers released from federal detention.

Oct.  
24



## UNITED NATIONS DAY— THE PROMISE AND THE PERIL OF AN ALL- INCLUSIVE CONGRESS

DR. RICHARD KORAL, LEADER  
*Steve Serling presides*

Visit [Ethical.nyc/Sundays](https://ethical.nyc/Sundays) for full description.

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 Leader for the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.

Oct.  
31



## AEU MULTI-SOCIETY PLATFORM

FES (THE FUTURE OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES)

The college and young professionals of Ethical Culture will present this platform. Visit [Ethical.nyc/Sundays](https://ethical.nyc/Sundays) for full description.

## ETHICS & THE THEATER

Oct. 17 PLAY-READING  
1:30 – 3pm (I)

### *The Niceties*

By Eleanor Burgess

See p.6 for details.

## Shared Charity of the month:



As the social service arm of the Ethical Society, the Social Service Board (SSB) has a long tradition of addressing the problems faced by the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. Its existence confirms our credo of “ethics in action.” Concerns related to children, the elderly, poverty and hunger, as well as criminal justice, have all inspired efforts to develop solutions and impactful projects.

## AEU NEWS



Have you visited the AEU website recently ([aeu.org](https://aeu.org))? Among the news items you’ll find is the AEU Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan, expanded in the September AEU newsletter: On August 19th 2021, the American Ethical Union joined American Atheists, the American Humanist Association, and Humanists International in a letter urging the Biden Administration to take all necessary steps to protect the human rights of

all Afghans, particularly vulnerable religious minorities and nonreligious people, in the wake of the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. This letter is in accordance with the National Leaders Council’s 2009 Statement, “**A Call for Just and Enduring Peace in Afghanistan.**”

The resurgence of the Taliban poses a dire threat to the fundamental values of the international humanist community, including freedom of thought, speech, and choice, and the human rights and dignity of women, LGBTQ people, and children.

Also on the home page you’ll find an item entitled “AEU Commits to a Culture of Peace,” particularly apt since September 21 was the International

Day of Peace.



## CALL TO ETHICAL ACTION:

### Promote the Culture of Peace on the International Day of Peace

AEU members and Societies are called to ethical action in recognition of the **International Day of Peace** and pursuant to the resolution—**Renewal of Commitment to a Culture of Peace**—passed by an overwhelming majority of Delegates to the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly. [Read the call to Ethical Action here.](#)









## WELCOME NORI!

Sunday, September 12 was a day to remember here at Ethical. It was the day Dr. Nori Rost delivered her first Sunday Platform as the official full-time Acting Leader (in association with Drs. Joe Chuman and Richard Koral).

We took a time-out after the Platform talk to snap some photos of members at our new building sign, at Adler Hall, and at the Algernon Black Ceremonial Hall, and then the festivities began.

At the luncheon (during which all those sitting and eating were unmasked) we were entertained with a welcome song from the Young Ethical Explorers, and another from the chorus—with original music and lyrics by David Gracia, Music Director, and Elaine Burman Gurney, respectively. Spirits were high and so was attendance (between those physically present and those attending via Zoom, we were well over 100). Society President Liz Singer included in her morning welcome a quote from the lyrics of her favorite song, “Feeling Good,” by Nina Simone: “It’s a new dawn. It’s a new day.” In her talk, Nori spoke of the model Japan set for the world in creating the Declaration of Peace, which is read annually by the mayor of Hiroshima on August 6, the day that city was destroyed by a retaliatory bomb from the U.S. She dwelt on the virtue of being both brave and sensitive in standing up to take responsibility for one’s actions and for nonviolent response, a quality of courage taught to her years ago by her then 10-year-old son.

*(Photos by Howard Rose, Steve Serling, and Einore Kaplan.)*



# OUR ETHICAL FAMILY



## ETHICAL NYC STAFF

212-874-5210

Dr. Joseph Chuman,  
Leader, [jchuman@verizon.net](mailto:jchuman@verizon.net)

Dr. Richard Koral,  
Leader, ext. 1115

Dr. Nori Rost,  
Acting Leader, ext. 1119  
[nrost@nysec.org](mailto:nrost@nysec.org)

Robert Liebeskind,  
Executive Director, ext. 1116

Edward Beck,  
Communications Manager,  
ext. 1144

Margaret Determann,  
Membership Coordinator,  
ext. 1113

Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk,  
Office Manager, ext. 1117

Leonardo Gibson,  
Facilities Manager, ext. 1107

David Gracia,  
Music Director

Audrey Kindred,  
Youth & Family Programs  
Coordinator  
[youngethicalexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:youngethicalexplorers@gmail.com)

Yolanta Kosmaczewska,  
Bookkeeper, ext. 1104

**MAINTENANCE CREW:**  
Anwar Bramble  
Mark Henry  
Curtis Redding

## ETHICAL OUTLOOK

Elinore Kaplan,  
Managing Editor  
[ethicaloutlook@gmail.com](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com)

Larry Hurst,  
Features Editor

Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk,  
Production Manager

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Liz Singer, President  
Steve Serling, Vice President  
Joe Fashing, Treasurer  
Bill Baker, Secretary  
Bob Berger  
Barbara Carlsen  
Scotty Embree  
Elinore Kaplan  
Howard Rose



## WANDERLUST

Among those of us who managed getaways this summer was yours truly, **Elinore Kaplan**. I told my friend that I'd go anywhere, just to sleep and wake up in other surroundings after these months of not doing so. But I'm glad we chose this trip.

I don't know why we saw such a teeny bit of wildlife — just two moose—not a caribou, grizzly bear, or even a beaver (though we did see their dams). But we did get a generous share of marine life—sea lions, porpoises, puffins, murres (they look like small penguins, but unlike



penguins they can fly), sea otters (they're cute!) and more, including whales—humpback, beluga, and orca. The highlight of the trip for

me was actually walking on a glacier.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Pat and Chuck Debrovner celebrated, on September 26, the wedding of their granddaughter, Abigail Carignan, to Steve McMullen. Pat tells us, "They met when they were both students at Duke University, and they're such a wonderful couple!"

This column is about our Ethical family. Please send your news to us! Email: [ethicaloutlook@gmail.com](mailto:ethicaloutlook@gmail.com).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SUSAN HOROWITZ .....10/3	CAROL PORTLOCK.....10/10	CHERYL GROSS.....10/24
MARGE BURMAN.....10/4	ELAINE GURNEY.....10/12	LISBETH ENG.....10/27
BEN GARRON CAINE.....10/7	MURIEL BERGER.....10/21	RENEE GOODSTEIN.....10/31

## Update: 2021 Member Pledges

Members, we're 10 months into the year and not even three-quarters to our goal! Please, please make your 2021 pledge now. (Next month we'll bring our pledges for 2022.)



## CONNECT WITH ETHICAL CULTURE

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @ethicalnyc and on Youtube at @NYSEthicalCulture.





## ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN OUR WOMEN'S MARCH GROUP ON OCT. 2

"We're marching in every single state ahead of the Supreme Court reconvening on Oct. 4. Women's March and more than 90 other organizations, including National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, Planned Parenthood, SHERO Mississippi, Mississippi in Action, Access Reproductive Care-Southeast, The Frontline, Working Families Party, and SisterSong, are organizing a national call to mobilize and defend our reproductive rights."

More details TBA! Be sure to look for upcoming emails about NYSEC joining in vigils and events sponsored by Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E. as well as efforts to help Afghani refugees in the Queens area.

## VIGILS, EVENTS, AND ASSISTANCE



Photo by Howard Rose

Sept. 26 on Broadway and 61st Street. **Janet and Howard Rose** had this to report about the 5th:

"Today's street event was a success. The booth looked great and drew a lot of attention. There were more than 30 encounters with those who expressed interest in Ethical. Many said they've passed the building and always wondered what went on there."

Special kudos to **Daniel Julin** who helped set up, staffed the booth for hours,



Photo by Nori Rost

### ETHICAL GOES TO THE FAIR

On Sunday, Sept. 5, of Labor Day weekend, we had a table at the street fair that took place on Columbus Avenue between 66th and 72nd Streets. There was a repeat performance on Sunday,

and returned to help break down. And huge thanks to **Deborah Goldstein, Larry Hurst, Barbara Carlsen, Pat and Chuck Debrovner, Carol and Dick Van Deusen, Carol Portlock** for their time today. And appreciation to those who stopped by: **Jim Farrer, Ellen Mendelsohn, Nori Rost, Marion Burns, and Marge Burman.**"

## ON BEHALF OF THE ANIMALS

In late August an article, "I Couldn't Stop Wondering What's Going On Inside My Cat's Head," appeared in the *New York Times*, penned by opinion columnist Farhad Manjoo, whose main point was, "Consciousness matters because it confers ethical and moral status. If we agree that our dogs and cats are conscious, then it becomes very difficult to argue that pigs and cows and whales and even catfish and chickens are not. Yet if all these creatures experience consciousness analogous to ours then one has to conclude that our species is engaged in a great moral catastrophe — because in food production facilities all over the world, we routinely treat nonhuman animals as Descartes saw them, as machines without feeling or experience. This view lets us inflict any torture necessary for productive efficiency."

Leader Joe Chuman wrote a letter in response, and it was published in the *Times* on Sept. 6. Here it is:

*To the Editor:*

*I enjoy my cat's companionship even more sensing that she reciprocally enjoys my presence. As Farhad Manjoo notes, this emotive capacity raises the most critical ethical issue.*

*This fact of consciousness in fellow mammals and birds imposes on us compelling moral obligations. As the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham stated, the critical question in our relation to animals is not whether they can think but whether they can feel.*

*That they do leads to the conclusion that the raising of animals to satisfy human taste, as done in factory farming and thus causing the agony of billions of fellow creatures, is a very disturbing ethical violation. It has also caused me for the last 44 years to choose vegetarianism.*



## If Music Be the Food of (Ethical) Love...Sing On

Guided by our Music Director, **David Gracia** and Music Committee Chair, **Barbara Carlsen**, the Society continues to make and offer music in different creative ways as we move through the various stages of the pandemic.

Do you like to sing? Come join our Members Choir. We safely participate in joyful Music-Making, singing Songs of Inspiration. If you would like to take part, we want to hear from you! Email: [BarbaraCarlsen1@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraCarlsen1@gmail.com).

# 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

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