



THE Voice of ETHICAL ETHICS IN ACTION

SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY



DEC 6

TURNING GRIEF TO PURPOSE: WORKING TO REFORM OUR BROKEN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

NORMAN ORNSTEIN

Sarah Sprott presides
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EMPOWERING THE HOMELESS

CAROL VAN DEUSEN

Many of our members are aware that a few hotels on the Upper West Side are temporarily housing people who had been living in overcrowded homeless shelters. The reason for moving them was to prevent the spread of COVID. There was an immediate response in the community to the move, some strongly against it, some welcoming and supportive. A number of those against, primarily concerned with their safety, protested and took measures to have these people removed. And many who were empathetic to needs and welfare of the otherwise homeless came together

and started an organization called the Upper West Side Open Hearts Initiative (OHI).

Among the actions of the OHI was a gathering in Riverside Park where parents and their children made stars for a welcome canopy installed in front of the Lucerne Hotel, one of the otherwise vacant hotels being used for temporary housing. Learning of this, my husband Dick and I went to watch these young artists. We met Candice Braun a lovely, high-spirited woman who greeted us. With the Presidential election always on my mind, I asked
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INTERGENERATIONAL WINTER FESTIVAL

AUDREY KINDRED, Youth & Family Programs Coordinator, with the Young Ethical Explorers (YEE)

Dr. Richard Koral, Leader, presides
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FROM THE LEADER'S DESK

DR. RICHARD KORAL

A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOLIDAY SEASON

As I write this, we are just entering the traditional holiday season. Nearing Thanksgiving, we'll soon slide right into Black Friday, Online Monday and Giving Tuesday. Then, Channukah comes quickly this year, followed by Christmas, Kwanzaa and the New Year. It is a fulsome month of family gatherings, office parties, holiday escapes, school vacations, presents, cards, bonuses, insurance re-enrollment, New Year resolutions and perhaps some New Year's resolve.

But mostly it's about those family gatherings. Year after year, we find that some are eagerly anticipated, and some are sorely missed. Some are barely endured, while some are avoided altogether. But whatever one's relationship with family may be, the holiday season involves a reckoning with one's connections and relations, be they close or attenuated.

“ In everything we do and plan we must consider the impact of the coronavirus. ”

How strange this 2020 holiday season will be. Given the constraints brought on by the Covid pandemic, in everything we do and plan we must consider the impact of the coronavirus. It is the uninvited, though possible, guest at all our holiday dinner tables. Whatever plans we hope to make for our families, the virus will have its unwelcome say as well.

I just attended a NYSEC staff meeting. Our small and dauntless staff holds a meeting every week to connect from our different work locations and to maintain our liaisons and work patterns. This time, people spoke about their Thanksgiving plans – how they considered what to do, and how they have to pare back their plans in opting for the safer course.



One is not going to a niece's house for a cold dinner out on the porch. Another is not going to their parents' home so as to avoid bringing that little bit of New York with them — or to avoid picking up what lurks out there and bringing it back here. Each decision is a calculation of probabilities, a weighing of risks, a measurement of how much risk one has the appetite to bear. We check the county

infection rates out there and compare them to what we have here. Is it safer to go or to stay... safer to remain apart, or safe enough to meet?

It is topsy-turvy. We express our love and concern by not going, by not sharing a festive meal, by not lifting a glass of wine, by not embracing each other. We are protecting our loved ones by shunning them.

Of course, there is the consolation that this sacrifice is only for a limited time and once the cure is found we'll resume our customary ways. A faith in science and in the ingenuity of cadres of researchers worldwide sustains our hopes. For the most part, we are finding our community in the shared purpose

of avoiding the virus and taking on the practices that are safest.

We will forever be known as the Covid Generation: the ones who hunkered down while the virus raged, those who endured the inconvenience and the solitude, the ones who sheltered in place and ate alone, who saw grandma through the window and voted through the mail, who learned how to smile above their masks, through their eyes only.

When it is finally over and once again safe to come out, we will have to devise a new holiday dinner – one that celebrates the very act of coming together. Maybe we'll call it “Vaccination Day” and nothing will be served that was canned.

Did you know we have our own YouTube channel?

YouTube

Go to

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

ETHICS IN THE CURRICULUM



By Judy Wallach

If all our children had the rich, ethics-centered education that I was privileged to receive at Ethical Culture Fieldston School, both they and our democracy would thrive. Ethics in Education Network (EIEN), originally The Ethical Community Charter School (TECCS), the nonprofit I founded with some likeminded friends in 2001, supports ethics initiatives at schools and youth programs.

We post a weekly podcast, Ethical

Schools, on our site, ethicalschoools.org, and on all the podcast platforms. Our co-executive directors and co-hosts, Jon Moscow and my daughter, Amy Halpern-Laff, engage academics and practitioners in in-depth conversations about ethical classrooms, schools, and school systems that have featured outstanding teacher educators from Harvard, Lehman, UCLA, and other top graduate schools of education, plus principals, teachers, students, non-profit leaders, and authors whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*,

relevant segments easily and those who prefer to read can do so. Jon and Amy solicit articles from courageous thought-leaders, which we also post on our website and in our monthly emails.

Through experienced consultants, EIEN also offers on-site (or, for now, virtual) professional development for teachers and youth workers in the NYC area on social-emotional learning (SEL), with a focus on ethics.

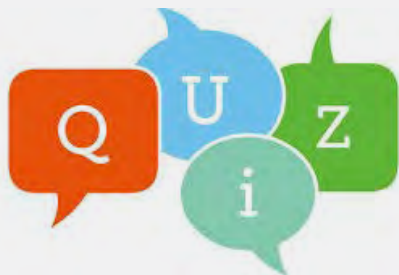
For many years, we held a well-attended study group focused on Dewey and other progressive ethicists.

“*Our founders envisioned a tuition-free school based and focused on ethics as a way of being in community and as a guiding principle in education.*”

EdWeek, *Teaching Tolerance*, and numerous academic journals.

A number of teacher educators and practitioners use the podcasts in their classes and workshops. We post transcripts along with the audio on our website so educators can find the

Our founders envisioned a tuition-free school based and focused on ethics as a way of being in community and as a guiding principle in education. In 2009, we — The Ethical Community Charter School (TECCS) opened two
...continued on page 9



ETHICAL ESSENTIALS QUIZ OF THE MONTH

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: John Lovejoy Elliott founded Hudson Guild in the 1890's, and a big part of that endeavor was a school. What was the special mission of that school?

Submit your answer to today's question to 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

WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

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 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. **Note: No programs Dec. 24 - 27. Happy Holidays!**



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. 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

Mon. | 2pm

values that underlie contemporary issues.

Joe Chuman, Leader, moderates

3rd Tues. | Dec. 21 | 7pm

ETHICS, FAIR TRADE, AND YOU

Fairtrade Goods - online popup of shopping vendors

We discuss how our everyday purchases affect the environmental and social issues facing the world. Topics include overconsumption and waste management, cause-related marketing and propaganda, body positivity, and conscious consuming. The NYC Fair Trade Coalition promotes fair trade businesses in NYC.

Andrea Reyes, Carla Farina, and Leigh Wallace of the NYC Fair Trade Coalition moderate

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ethics-fair-trade-you-tickets-121049978745>

3rd Tuesdays | Dec. 15 | 6:30pm

ETHICISTS UNITE!

Sandi Sacks moderates

4th Mon. | Dec. 22 | 11am (See Thurs., Dec. 10)

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

Tues. | 2pm

MEDITATION

Midweek meditation for relaxing body and mind.

Larry Hurst moderates

Tues. | 5-5:30pm

CAMARADERIE & GOOD CONVERSATION ON ISSUES PHILOSOPHICAL & NEWSWORTHY

We aim to illuminate the philosophical concepts and

WEDNESDAY

DEBATING THE ISSUES OF THE DAY

Discuss significant events of the week.

Sy Amkraut moderates

Wed. | 11am

EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM

These discussions of Ethical Culture beliefs and practices are for newcomers and long-time members alike. We explore the history, ideals, and current interests of the Ethical Culture community and our place in the philosophical/religious firmament.

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

1st & 3rd Wed. | Dec. 2 & 16 | 2pm

GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSION

Read the selected works — great novels and novellas — in advance, and be prepared to share your thoughts and observations, discussing the aspects of interest to you by referring to and reading specific related text to the group. Based on what we find in the text, we enrich each other's understanding and interpretation.

Gunther Tielemans moderates

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

Dec. 2: *Midnight's Children*, by Salman Rushdie

At once a fascinating family saga and an astonishing evocation of a vast land (India) – this novel is a brilliant incarnation of the universal human comedy. It stands apart as both an epochal work of fiction and a brilliant performance by one of the great literary voices of our time.

Dec. 16: *White Teeth*, by Zadie Smith

Set against London's racial and cultural tapestry, and venturing across the former empire and into the past as it barrels towards the future, *White Teeth* revels in the ecstatic hodgepodge of modern life, flirting with disaster, confounding expectations, and embracing the comedy of daily existence.

Next up are *If On a Winter's Night a Traveler*, by Italo Calvino and *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley.

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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.

Elinore Kaplan moderates

1st Thurs. | Dec. 3 | 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. | Dec. 3 & 17 | 5 - 6pm

DEATH CAFÉ

The objective of the Death Café, founded in London, England in 2011 and now in 73 countries across the world, is “to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson moderates

2nd Thurs. | Dec. 10 | 11 am

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

3rd Thurs. | Dec. 10 | 2-3pm

COLLOQUY: GIFTS

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.

Ellen McBride moderates this session

4th Thurs. | Dec. 24 | 2-3pm

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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

Fri. | 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://www.facebook.com/EthicsInAction).

SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY

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.

PLATFORM PLUS | 12:15 – 12:45pm

After Platform Talks, enjoy this purely social half-hour to chat with each other.

DEC
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TURNING GRIEF TO PURPOSE: WORKING TO REFORM OUR BROKEN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

NORMAN ORNSTEIN

Sarah Sprott presides

Following the death of my 34-year old son Matthew in 2015, after his ten year struggle with serious mental illness, my family and I created a foundation in his memory, and began to work on issues of serious mental illness to find ways to keep other families from suffering as we had and to keep other people with SMI from suffering as Matthew had. A core project of ours has been a documentary, *The Definition of Insanity*, the story of a remarkable judge in Miami-Dade County Florida who has transformed the way the criminal justice system there has dealt with those with SMI, finding ways both to save lives and money—with lessons that are especially relevant in these times after George Floyd's murder and when the need for police and criminal justice reform is so apparent. I will talk about our journey, the impetus to turn grief to purpose, and what we can learn from Miami-Dade.



NORMAN ORNSTEIN is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He is a contributing editor and writer for *The Atlantic* and has been an election-eve analyst for CBS News and BBC News. He is also Chairman of the Board of the Campaign Legal Center. His family foundation, the Matthew Harris Ornstein Memorial Foundation, www.mornstein.org, sponsors a summer debate institute for public school kids in the Washington area through the Washington Urban Debate League. It also created *The Definition of Insanity*, broadcast on PBS in April 2020.

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13



MY VOCATION DR. JOSEPH CHUMAN

Steve Serling presides

I eagerly look forward to my part-time leadership with the New York Society. The end of this month will mark a major milestone in my life and career. After 47 years, I plan to retire as the leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, New Jersey. With the exception of Felix Adler and Algernon Black here at the New York Society, and Henry Neuman, who served for many years as the leader of the Brooklyn Society, it is possible that my professional tenure in the

Ethical Movement is the longest in its history. I began my professional career as a Leader-in-training here at the New York Society in 1969, traversing 51 years and six decades. It's been a long time. My retirement from leadership at Bergen, which has been the mainstay of my career, provides a very appropriate opportunity to reflect on the vocation of Ethical Leadership from the inside. I look forward to sharing with you in personal terms the fulfillment, glories, and challenges, too, of life in Ethical Culture, a life of innumerable experiences and human encounters.

JOE CHUMAN has been a 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, which provides services for asylum seekers who are released from federal detention.

Did you know we have our own YouTube channel?



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

CHARITY OF THE MONTH: NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

Like so many businesses and institutions, we have experienced financial challenges from our building closure. Despite that, for the past 5 months we have donated 100% of all Sunday donations to food pantries and food programs. It is now time to support our Society with your most generous donations so that we may continue to provide high-quality programming and meet other expenses.



ETHICS & THE THEATER

SEAL SONGS,

BY JENNIFER FELL HAYES

DIRECTED BY KATHY MCGOWAN,
PRODUCED BY PATRICIA BRUDER
DEBROVNER

Our monthly staged reading and discussion series continues. *Seal Song* brings us a woman grieving her mother's passing, a divorced man, a wild seal, the lure of the sea, the lure of music — Jennifer Fell Hayes weaves these elements together into a tale of connection, loss, and survival. Following the reading, Betsy Ungar will lead an audience discussion of the ethical issues raised by the play.

Dec. 13 | 2pm

Note: As of Jan., Ethics & The Theater moves to 2nd Thurs. at 7

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20



INTERGENERATIONAL WINTER FESTIVAL

AUDREY KINDRED, Youth & Family Programs Coordinator, with the Young Ethical Explorers (YEE)
Dr. Richard Koral, Leader, presides

For the first time since March, we will gather with our children and families as an intergenerational community to celebrate the season of change and challenge that we find ourselves in. The holidays and the arrival of the winter season evokes some nostalgia for a more normal time and yet reminds us that we are a loving, resourceful, and resilient community that comes together in times of joy and sadness and uncertainty. Please plan to join us for a morning of gathering, reflection, music, video, poetry, and community.



Audrey Kindred has worked with Ethical Culture for two decades, initially at the Brooklyn Society, and, since 2013, here at Ethical NYC. Ethics is the core mission in

all of Audrey's teaching in and beyond Ethical — in fields of literacy, global studies, art, dance and yoga. For the past six years she has been a teacher at the Trilok School in Brooklyn, a private pre-K through middle school. Prior to that, she taught a decade of yoga to children all over NYC through Bent on Learning. Currently, she is writing poetry, loving nature, and creating educational materials to expand and share her curricular vision. Audrey is an artist, writer, educator, and community organizer.

DEC
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY DR. RICHARD KORAL, LEADER

On this last Sunday of the year, we set aside time to honor the loved ones of the past. We immortalize them by bearing witness and by carrying on their spirit in our own lives. We face tomorrow with hope made stronger by the lessons we have learned and the love we have shared.



DR. RICHARD KORAL is a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. He is also a part-time Leader for the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Richard

studied at the Humanist Institute and holds a Doctor of Ministry in interfaith pastoral counseling from the Hebrew Union College. He also holds degrees from New York University and The New York Law School. Dr. Koral is a longtime member of the Ethical Culture community, having been a member of the Society in White Plains for many years. He served as its president in the late '90s and early 2000s. Active in the American Ethical Union, our national federation, Dr. Koral served on its Board and was its president from 2012 to 2015.

STOA NOVA THE SOCRATES EXPRESS

Join Massimo Pigliucci and Rob Colter as they talk to Eric Weiner, author of *The Socrates Express — In Search of Life Lessons from Dead Philosophers*.

ERIC WEINER is author of bestsellers *The Geography of Bliss* and *The Geography of Genius*.

ROB COLTER is Associate Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Wyoming.

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI is the K.D. Irani Professor of Philosophy at City College.

Monthly, Sunday afternoons | 1pm
<https://www.meetup.com/Stoa-Nova/events/272704125>

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" on our home page.



With the exception of our YEE First Sunday Festivals at 1:30pm, YEE meets 11am - 12:45pm, concurrent with our Sunday Platform talk.



AUDREY KINDRED
Youth & Family Programs Coordinator

During these tumultuous times, Audrey is creating new online educational and enrichment opportunities for parents and children using Zoom!

To RSVP, please contact Audrey at youngethicalexplorers@gmail.com. For more information about all of our youth programming, please visit ethical.nyc/youth.

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!



GIVING FROM THE HEART

This month YEE Coordinator Audrey Kindred will be collaboratively (and virtually) working with YEE teacher Amy Reid to create a zoom performance-gift for the Ethical NYC community! Some programs will be live at Ethical while others will be Zoom.

FIRST SUNDAYS Intergenerational Celebration

Creating the Gift (live)

Dec. 6 | 1:30 - 3

Becoming the Gift (live)

Dec. 13 | 11 - 12:30

Sharing the Gift: Winter Solstice Festival (Zoom) See 12/20 Sunday Platform, p. 7

Dec. 20 | 11 - 12:30

Kwanzaa Gathering (Zoom)

Dec. 27 | 11 - 12:30

ETHICAL AFFINITY GROUPS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL

- 350NYC
- Climate Reality Project
- Drawdown NYC
- Food & Water Watch
- NYC Grassroots Alliance

SNAPSHOTS YEE HALLOWEEN



ETHICS IN THE CURRICULUM...continued from page 3

public charter schools (in itself a story for a different day). One was in Bedford-Stuyvesant; the other was in Jersey City, across the river. They were beloved by families, students, teachers, staff, and communities.

Each school started with K-1 and grew yearly, incorporating not only ethics as its basic principle, but also teaching it as a unique subject at every grade level. The arts, despite their being eviscerated in so

many public schools, were foundational subjects. Although both schools provided nurturing and stimulating environments, the Brooklyn school was not able to raise low-income students' test scores quickly enough for the chartering authority and was closed. The Ethical Community Charter School – Jersey City has thrived and won accolades. Its principal was mentored for years by Howard Radest, its founding board chair and a beloved Ethical Culture Leader.

It became a K-8 school with students who have been accepted into outstanding private and public high schools. As the school developed, it became independent under its own board and now operates on its own.

In the last two decades, we have learned and accomplished much to support ethical humanism in educational institutions. EIEN has become an important resource for educators who work toward creating ethical schools for all students.

ETHICS IN ACTION: EMPOWERING THE HOMELESS ...cont'd from page 1

Candice if OHI had considered holding a voter registration at the Lucerne. She thought it was a great idea, and, with that response, I suddenly had a mission. I immediately turned to the League of Women Voters NYC, one of Ethical NYC's affinity groups.

OHI was holding "free stores" at the Lucerne and Belleclaire hotels on Sun-

voters that day. The following Sunday we expanded to registering voters among the homeless people at the Harmonia Hotel in Kips Bay, many of whom are disabled.

Finally, to ensure that all who filled out the forms would be enrolled to vote, we personally delivered the registration forms to the NYC Board of Elections on Varick Street.

“ *In August 2020, there were 57,660 homeless people, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system.* **”**

days, looking like the urban version of a rural yard sale. Members of the community brought clothes, blankets, books, and more for the homeless to choose from. Dick and I set up our table there, registering not only the homeless, but other passersby. One Sunday we were joined by three enthusiastic members from the NYC chapter of Help USA, a new non-profit that provides information and resources for youth and families facing homelessness and vulnerability to the coronavirus. We registered about 20

“How can a homeless person register to vote when, by definition, he does not have a home address?” one might ask. The men from the Lucerne, who are staying at the hotel only temporarily used their downtown shelter residences as their address, but the voting sites for those addresses were downtown. Project Renewal, their service provider, took on the task of bringing them to the sites. For those at the Belleclaire, the Election Day voting site was just a block away, and an OHI member escorted them there.

Homelessness and joblessness are not always paired. Many of the homeless residents do have jobs. And some are gaining homes. It's nice to report that, since living at the Lucerne, a dozen of those residents have been moved to permanent housing — which is the real goal.

As we know, homelessness is the most critical problem facing our city. It grew dramatically in the late 1970s (when the New York Society for Ethical Culture opened its Maria Fridman Shelter for Homeless Women, which has operated since then) and has only gotten worse. In August 2020, there were 57,660 homeless people, including 12,866 homeless families with 19,006 homeless children, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system. Desperately needed are group homes, affordable homes, mental health care, and other social services.

Just and humane treatment of our homeless population is only right. Voter registration is one way of empowering these individuals to recognize that they, too, are valuable members of our community. Let us do this and more to help remedy the crisis.

 **PURPOSES OF THE ETHICAL CULTURE MOVEMENT**

In case you've been wondering precisely what the founder, Felix Adler, had in mind when he started this thing called Ethical Culture some 144 years ago, he made a very clear statement reiterating its purposes on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of what by then had become a movement. According to that statement, they are:

- To inspire its members with a certain ideal, namely, that of the ethical perfection of human society as the supreme aim of people on earth — an aim to which all others should be subordinate and subservient.
- To inculcate in its members the most earnest desire to realize this ideal in their own lives.
- To live ethically so as to perfect life by promoting the best life in others, never seeking to thrive at the expense of other life.
- To affirm that it is possible to live without a formulated creed or philosophical doctrine, to have an implicit religion without an explicit religion, though neither disowning nor disparaging the far outreachings of religion, or the philosophical reflections of profound thinkers; on the contrary, considering them to be invincible manifestations of higher nature, but holding that their value, in the last analysis, is tested by the degree to which they illuminate the ethical ideal and actually affect the conduct of people.
- To seek to take over whatever is vitally true in the moral experience of the preceding generations, but at the same time to restate the moral truths transmitted from the past in terms more comfortable to present needs, and above all add to the fund of moral truth, as far as utmost searchings may avail.

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www.aeu.org



The **Caring Committee** is here to help with any problems you or anyone you know may be experiencing during these difficult days...illness, grief, loneliness, or hardships or challenges of any kind. The committee members are ready, willing, and happy to lend a hand to help in any way we can, from shopping to just listening. Feel free to call any one of these committee members:

- Marilyn Baker
- Bob Berger
- Marion Burns
- Scotty Embree
- Beth Everett
- Ken Gans
- Deborah Goldstein
- Doris Hart
- Kathy Herrera
- Richard Koral
- Ellen McBride
- Amy Schwarz
- Elizabeth Waltuch

- To preserve the ethical ideal from petrifying, no matter how sublimely conceived at any time, in the belief that it must ever be a growing ideal, and that it will become more convincing and radiant as the developing intellect and character of people shall achieve new insights. Finally, to affirm that to contribute to the perfection of humankind is the sovereign good, for nations and for social groups, no less than for individuals. They who make this creative ethical task their object will never be distracted with the doubt whether life is or is not worth living. The outlook on that sublime goal will give them courage to meet life greatly, whatever its exigencies, to persist in their endeavors, despite endless failures and in contempt of every specious success, to discover a finer happiness in life's joys, and to see the star of hope and faith beyond life's sorrows.

With these objects in mind, the Society seeks to attach to itself those who believe that these aims can best be advanced through Fellowship with others who cherish the same aims; through group study and action intended to add to the knowledge, the love, and the practice of better ways of living; and through educational, civic, and social action, carried on in this spirit. The Society faces the specific problems of the day, but endeavors to deal with them under the guidance of the spiritual ideal — that of the ethical perfection of humankind as the supreme aim of human existence. So conceived, it is in fact a religious body.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

JUDY WALLACH.....	12/1
SAL BUCAK & DEB SCHLEIN	12/4
SANDRA GRASSBY & HELEN MECS.....	12/9
DAN HANSON.....	12/20
BARBARA GOLD	12/24
JOAN KLIPS.....	12/27
TERRY PERLIN.....	12/29

ETHICAL

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

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and work to make the world a better place.

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