

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

March 2021



THE Voice of ETHICAL CULTURE

OUR COMMITMENT TO COMBATTING SYSTEMIC RACISM

February was Black History Month, and in keeping with that, we featured several related programs; the banner on our building façade on Central Park West was “Black Lives Matter.” However, long before there was a Black Lives Matter Movement, NYSEC and the American Ethical Union (AEU), were outspoken activists in fighting racism and supporting Black society.

Going back to the early 1900’s, Leaders John Elliott, Henry Moskowitz, Anna Garlin Spencer, and Algernon Black all played major roles in the founding and establishment of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). NYSEC provided the platform for several prominent Black Americans to speak out about civil rights, including Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois (whose office was in our building), and NYSEC member James Weldon Johnson. In 1949, addressing the NYSEC membership, Eleanor Roosevelt said, “I think that you have probably contributed more than any other group in the city to better conditions in homes and better conditions between various race groups within the city, and I think that is a very great achievement.”

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SUNDAYS AT THE SOCIETY

MAR 28



AEU ALL-SOCIETY PLATFORM

CONGRESSMAN JAMIE RASKIN

On January 12, 2021, Jamie Raskin was named the lead impeachment manager for the second impeachment of President Trump. He was the primary author of the impeachment article, which charged Trump with inciting an insurrection by sparking the storming of the Capitol.

As his first action in Congress

...Continued on page 7

WOMEN’S Rights are HUMAN Rights



NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE WWW.ETHICAL.NYC

THEME OF THE MONTH



LOOK FOR THE THEME-RELATED PROGRAMS IN THESE PAGES.

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FROM THE LEADER'S DESK

JOE CHUMAN

PRIVILEGE

I have received both Covid vaccinations. This has brought relief in my belief that I will soon have immunity from this dreaded disease. Beyond that, I am relieved that this worldwide crisis, with the death and suffering it has brought to millions, may soon be at an end. I am also freed from the frustration that I and so many others have experienced in attempting to access the vaccine only to find time and again that our efforts resulted in dead ends.

A few people I know have been successful in accessing the vaccine, but it seems only by chance, like winning the lottery or finding a parking space in Manhattan after driving around for 40 minutes. I struck gold; my son, Michael, is a physician on the faculty of University Hospital in Newark where there is a program to provide the vaccine to staff family members who meet the criteria, which, being beyond age 65, I assuredly do. Michael got me registered and – *Voilà!*—my frustration has ended.

I am very pleased that I'm able to put this vexing problem behind me. But it does raise a question that evokes a bit of disquiet. I was able to access the vaccine when so many others, perhaps even many who are at higher risk than I am, are not, simply because of the fortuitous circumstance of my knowing someone who has an "in." A nagging question I ask myself is "Is it fair?" Perhaps I could salve my conscience by concluding that no one would benefit if I had foregone availing myself of this opportunity, and no one was hurt by my having done so. Yet, a mild discomfort lingers. Is my moving ahead in the queue while others, equally deserving, did not, provide me with an unwarranted privilege?

That's one personal situation, but there are other much larger ethical circumstances. There is today a renewed awareness of broad-based, longstanding, and deep-rooted racism

that informs the American experience. As a result, certain privileges are enjoyed by Caucasians that people of color lack.

Assuming we are among the privileged and are committed to a society based on equality, how should we respond, and what should motivate our response? Two related notions come to mind; one is guilt; the other responsibility—and sometimes they are confused. Ought the privileged feel a sense of guilt about their status? They may, but in this case I would argue that their guilt is misplaced. Individuals, I argue, can be guilty only for conditions that they themselves have created. The circumstances into which one is born, whether into privilege or oppression, are a matter of total contingency over which the individual had no say or control.

But responsibility is a different matter.

Assuming systemic racism in great measure results from the legacy of slavery, I think it is inappropriate to conclude that I need feel guilty for the reality of slavery and the consequences

“*Though not guilty for injustices we have not created, we are responsible for attempting to rectify them.*”

it has wrought since I neither lived in the age of slavery, nor did I play any role in its institutionalization. But it is not wrong, I maintain, as a member of society, to conclude that I am responsible for attempting to rectify the injustices that issued from it.

I use Germany as an example. Germany has, in general, worked hard in attempting to collectively atone for the atrocities of the Holocaust. Most Germans today were born after the Holocaust and therefore cannot rightly be blamed for it nor be guilty of atrocities perpetrated by their

ancestors. Yet it is not wrong to say that Germans today are responsible for rectifying the deeds of those who came before them, and they certainly bear special responsibility to ensure that anti-Semitism and xenophobia are suppressed in contemporary German society.

Why does responsibility apply? It applies because the individual self is not detachable from the community from which that person derives his identity. The Germans of today share a common culture, a common historical lineage, and therefore, in a significant way, a solidarity with their German ancestors who perpetrated those atrocities. The Germans of today are embedded in a continuous German narrative, so to speak. They certainly cannot be blamed for the acts themselves, but that does not mean that, as part of the German people and as inheritors of the past, they have no responsibility for the way in which they relate to Jews in Germany today. To disavow any moral responsibility at all seems to me to be morally too thin.

Returning to the American context, the injustices which are the legacy of slavery continue. And the white population

of this society continues to reap the benefits which 400 years of oppressing and plundering the Black population of America have brought. It is not for the people of Thailand or Italy or Turkey to apologize for the slavery of African Americans or to commit themselves to the project of repair. It is not their history. It is not their narrative. But it is ours, and it is irresponsible, I maintain, for Americans of today to detach themselves from that history and its tragic legacy. It is our responsibility to rectify the deeds of those who came before us.



AUDREY KINDRED
Youth & Family Programs Coordinator

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

FIRST-SUNDAYS

2ND ANNUAL CLAUDETTE COLVIN FESTIVAL

First-Sundays is our monthly intergenerational event and all members are encouraged to attend. You're invited to write, illustrate, and share Homemade Stories of Interracial Friendship.

RSVP by March 4th to be listed on the schedule to present your own short story. All ages welcome.

1st Sunday – Mar. 7 | 1:30 - 3pm

NEW! GAME DAY!

From Boomers to Zoomers: How to do Somethin' with Nothin' YEE families are invited to recreate, Zoom-share, and talk about your BLACK LIVES MATTER DOLL/TOY HOME MARCHES as guests in this special event brought to us by CityLore & Street Cry.

Mar. 7 | 4pm

Mar 14 | 11am - 12:30pm

ETHICAL DEED TEAM ~ Children Helping Children: Why Helping Girls Can Mean Helping Whole Communities. Bring a picture of a girl or woman you admire and share your reasons.

Mar 21 | 11am - 12:30pm

Inventing New Ways to Play in Pandemic Times (a follow-up to the 3/7 event: *How to do Somethin' with Nothin'*). With guest workshop leaders from CityLore and Street Cry Inc.

Mar 28 | 11am - 12:30pm

Letters to Write! – a letter-writing workshop to support our Ethical Mystery Buddies project.



SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARS

Ethical Youth Zoom-Program

Free to ALL Tweens and Teens with commitment!

RSVPs and inquiries: YoungETHICALexplorers@gmail.com

Monthly Zoom Sessions March through June 2021 | 3rd Wednesday Watch-'n'-Chat Parties & Sunday Dialogue-n-Deed Workshops

MARCH: Wed., March 17 @ 7-8:30pm & Sun., March 21 @ 4-6pm

APRIL: Wed., April 21 @ 7-8:30pm & Sun., April 25 @ 4-6pm

MAY: Wed., May 19 @ 7-8:30pm & Sun., May 23 @ 4-6pm

JUNE: Saturday, June 19 @ 4-7pm ~ Honoring "Juneteenth"

Ethical NYC is partnering with American Slavery Project to grow racial justice through responsive youth dialogue. Youth are invited to a four-month series of programs, featuring virtual productions of American Slavery Project's REVERBERATION plays, with follow up workshops based on ASP's responsive youth curriculum. (Is that right? "responsive youth curriculum"?)

Once a month, from March through May, youth will engage in a Wednesday "Watch-n-Chat" session followed with a Sunday "Dialogue-n-Deed" workshop with expert guidance to support deep inquiry. The series culminates with a JUNETEENTH gathering that combines the watch-'n'-chat and workshop sessions into a singular grand finale (note that the June finale

is an all-in-one Saturday event). Youth participants will be treated as Racial Justice Scholars of Ethical Youth Programming and will be given a certificate of completion for full participation in the four-month program. Participants are asked to sign up with the intent to engage in the entire 4-month program as consistently as possible.

THE AMERICAN SLAVERY PROJECT AND NYSEC PRESENT

YOU CAN TAKE OUT A PARENT-PLUS LOAN

by Camille Thomas

Friday, March 5 at 7pm

RSVP required. Tickets: www.americanslaveryproject.org

This is another of The Reberberation Plays 2021, short radio dramas that examine how Black beginnings in America have led to the very equity issues we experience today. The performances will be followed by live talkbacks with artists and scholars. Emmy Award-winning writer Judy Tate is Producing Artistic Director at the American Slavery Project.

Families may choose to watch these together, or parents may also use this opportunity to be in touch with the content their children will be engaging in through the RACIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARS Ethical Youth Zoom Program.



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.



THE CARING COMMITTEE LIVING ROOM

Drop in for a chat and a friendly face.

Mon. – Fri | 10am-1pm

MONDAY
TUESDAY

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. | 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

Tues. | 2-3pm

MEDITATION

Midweek meditation for relaxing body and mind.

Larry Hurst moderates

Tues. | 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. | March 16 | 7 - 8pm

CONNECT WITH
ETHICAL CULTURE
AND SPREAD
THE WORD



Find us on Facebook
[@NYEthicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NYEthicalSociety).
Tell your friends you're here -
[#EthicsInAction](https://twitter.com/EthicsInAction).

WEDNESDAY

DEBATING THE ISSUES OF THE DAY

Discuss significant events of the week.

Sy Amkraut moderates

Wed. | 11am-12pm

EXPLORING ETHICAL HUMANISM

What is the "good?"

Aristotle explained that the purpose of the study of ethics is to become good. But how do we decide what is "good?"

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 Joe Chuman and Richard Koral, alternating moderators

1st Wed. | March 3 | 2 - 3pm

NEW

PATHWAYS TO ETHICAL CULTURE

Part 1 of 5: The Social & Ethical Roots of the Ethical Culture Movement

Ethical Culture is a humanist community that esteems ethics as its core precept, equity as its central value, and human flourishing and freedom as its principal goals. Where did Ethical Culture come from? What does it say to us today regarding the human condition? What is its unique contribution for our lives and our future? Join us for this five-part program that explores the origins, history, and values of Ethical Culture – from its founding a century-and-a-half ago to today.

Leaders Joe Chuman and Richard Koral, alternating moderators

5-part Series Mar. – July | 3rd Wed. | March 17 | 2 - 3pm

GREAT LITERATURE DISCUSSION

Read the selected novels and novellas and share your thoughts and observations. We'll enrich each other's understanding and interpretation.

Gunther Tielemans moderates

1st & 3rd Wed. | March 3 & 17 | 7 - 9pm

March 3: *Stoner*, by John Williams

Through the story of a quiet academic life this novel tells of the conflicts, defeats, and victories of the human race that pass unrecorded by history and reclaims the significance of an individual life. Ian McEwan called it "A beautiful novel ... a marvelous discovery for everyone who loves literature."

March 17: *The Hour of the Star*, by Clarice Lispector

The devastating final work by Brazil's greatest modern writer tells the haunting tale of Macabea, a typist who lives in the slums of Rio—underfed, sickly, and unloved, yet inwardly free. Edmund White called Lispector "an emblematic twentieth-century artist who belongs in the same pantheon as Kafka and Joyce."

Next up: *The Savage Detectives*, Roberto Bolano, and *Disappearing Moon Café*, Sky Lee

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POETRY CIRCLE

Share poems of your choice. We'll discuss a line, a word, an image. During Women's History month, some of us will be reading poems about women.

Send your poems in advance, so they can be shared on screen: ethicaloutlook@gmail.com.

Elinore Kaplan moderates

1st Thurs. | March 4 | 2 - 3pm

STORYTELLING CIRCLE

One of the oldest traditions around the world is storytelling — folk tales, fairy tales, 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. | March 4 & 18 | 5 - 6pm

DEATH CAFÉ

Founded in London, England and now in 73 countries across the world, Death Café seeks "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. | March 11 | 11am - Noon

POTPOURRI

This mixed bag will feature games (like Trivial Pursuit!), hobbies (paintings, photos, etc.), favorite anecdotes (such as your favorite trips, viewings, discussions, and more.)

Elinore Kaplan moderates

2nd Thurs. | March 11 | 2 - 3pm

ETHICS AND THE THEATER

My Name is Lucy Barton, Elizabeth Strout

Adapted by Rona Munro

In Rona Munro's stage adaptation of Elizabeth Strout's acclaimed novel, the title character recalls her long stay in a hospital, which proved to be a turning point in her family relationships. Following the play-reading Betsy Ungar will lead an audience discussion of the ethical issues of the play.

Patricia Bruder Debrovner, producer, moderates

2nd Thurs. | March 11 | 7 - 8:30pm

COLLOQUY: Carol Portlock: FORGIVENESS

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

3rd Thurs. | March 18 | 2 - 3pm

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Kathleen O'Connell & Monica Weiss

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. | Mar. 25 | 2 - 3pm

PROACTIVE MEDITATION & DEEP LISTENING

In this guided session, we take time to relax body and mind. 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. | 2 - 3pm

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.

MAR 7



MUSIC FOR FOOD

KIM KASHKASHIAN
Founder and Artistic Director of "Music for Food"

Barbara Carlsen presides

Music for Food is a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief. Our concerts raise resources and awareness in the fight against hunger, empowering any musicians who wish to use their artistry to further social justice. We believe both music and food are essential to human life and growth. Music has the power to call forth the best in us, inspiring awareness and action when artists and audiences work together to transform the ineffable into tangible and needed food resources.

Our founding and our growth are based upon two core principles:

- Musicians volunteer their talent and energy

- 100% of audience donations go to a local hunger relief organization.

Now in its 11th season, Music for Food has created 1.5 million meals through donations made at concerts on behalf of nearly 100 hunger relief organizations worldwide. More than 160 international artists have performed on Music for Food concerts to date.



KIM KASHKASHIAN has been hailed as "an artist who combines a probing, restless intellect with enormous beauty of tone." Her

work as Grammy-award-winning recording artist and pedagogue has been recognized worldwide.

OUR SHARED CHARITY FOR MARCH

MUSIC FOR FOOD



Did you know we have our own YouTube channel?



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

MAR 14



ADVANCING THE SECULAR AGENDA

MARK DANN,
Director of Governmental Affairs, Freedom from Religion Foundation

Maggie Determann presides

In a conversation with Ethical Leader, Dr. Joe Chuman, Mark Dann will discuss the changing political landscape in Washington and how we can advance a secular legislative agenda.

The premise of the Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) is the belief that "most social and moral progress has been brought about by persons free from religion... the first to speak out for prison reform, for humane treatment of the mentally ill, for abolition of capital punishment, for women's right to vote, for death with dignity for the terminally ill, and for the right to choose contraception, sterilization, and abortion have been freethinkers, just as they were the first to call for an end to slavery." FFRG serves those who are "free from religion and are committed to the cherished principle of separation of state and church."

Ethical Leader Joe Chuman will interview Mark about these and other issues.

MARK DANN is the first full-time director of governmental affairs for the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), having stepped into that position less than two years ago. The foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Mark was the director of governmental affairs for the Secular Coalition for America (SCA). He has also served as the federal affairs director at Compassion & Choices, an end-of-life advocacy group, and as a democracy development consultant with the National Democratic Institute in Moldova and Iraq. Mark was a Peace Corps volunteer in Crimea before it was invaded by Russia.

educates, engages, and empowers New Yorkers to be effective environmental advocates.



JULIE TIGHE has been President of NYLCV and NYLCVEF since 2018. She oversees the organizations' policy, political, development, programmatic, and communications teams. Due in part to the League's and her advocacy, New York state enacted the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act – the nation's most progressive climate law, congestion pricing, the \$3 Billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act, the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act, and several other pieces of legislation to reduce emissions from the transportation and buildings sectors. She also helped secure increased State funding for water infrastructure and New York City funding for parks and open spaces. Previously, she served for more than eleven years at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in various roles, having been elevated to Chief of Staff after serving as Assistant Commissioner of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs.

Russian interference in the election and voter suppression efforts. The objection could not be acted upon because it had to be sponsored by at least one member of each chamber, and it had no Senate sponsor.

Congressman Raskin will talk about the current and coming political and social circumstances in the country.

JAMIE RASKIN is the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 8th congressional district. He was a member of the Maryland State Senate from 2007 to 2016. Raskin served as general counsel for Jesse Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition (1989 – 1990). While a constitutional law professor at American University Washington College of Law, he co-founded and directed the LL.M. program on Law and Government and co-founded the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project. Raskin received a B.A. from Harvard College (magna cum laude) and a J.D. from Harvard Law School (magna cum laude), where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Congressman Raskin's father, Marcus Raskin, was a staff aide to President John F. Kennedy on the National Security Council, and he was a co-founder of the Institute for Policy Studies.



MAR 21 VOTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

JULIE TIGHE,
President of the New York
League of Conservation Voters
and NYLCV Education Fund

Sarah Sprott presides

Ms. Tighe will discuss the importance of voting for and engaging with elected officials on the environment. The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) is the only non-partisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that takes a pragmatic approach to fight for clean water, healthy air, renewable energy, and open space. The NYLCV's Education Fund

MAR 28



**AEU ALL-SOCIETY
PLATFORM**
CONGRESSMAN JAMIE RASKIN

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in 2016, Representative Raskin and several other members of the House of Representatives objected to certifying the election of Donald Trump as president because of



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.



AEU NEWS

American Ethical Union
Inspiring Ethical Communities

YOUTH OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES (YES) CONFERENCE 2021: AMERICA'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

WHO: For Teens grades 9-12, ages 14 - 18

WHEN: Friday, March 5 (evening), Saturday, March 6 (afternoon, evening), Sunday, March 7 (afternoon)

WHERE: The online link will be sent to registrants

HOW MUCH: \$10

HOW: Contact Trish Cowan at 314-680-3348 or tcowan@aeu.org with any questions. Register a.s.a.p so you can be mailed a conference package in advance.

SIGN ON (to have your name added) <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1L-cW5Tb15soDatqx3tRA56L9yvqJc6ZAbj-Xz2y0InbiAQ/viewform>

This will be a fun weekend full of Ethical connections!

Discussions will include:

- Comparing our similarities and differences between our districts
- Standardized testing
- Exploring teachers' points of view vs. students'
- The American education system vs. foreign systems
- Common core
- The future of education
- Attending virtual classes
- Inequities and how different forms of oppression are perpetuated by our current system
- The school to prison pipeline
- School districting that leads to segregation
- Mental health resources
- Correctional officers/police in schools
- And more!



ETHICAL ESSENTIALS QUIZ



Can a nontheist be a conscientious objector? Of course. But for a long time the American military only recognized a religious basis for a genuine conscientious objection to serving, defining religion as a belief in God. The Ethical Culture Society got that changed to acknowledge non-theistic grounds as well. When was that and who lobbied for the change?

Last Month's Question: The Ethical Society helped to start numerous endeavors that became independent institutions. One that was the Society's own creation was a hospital that remains prominent in its unique field of service. What is that hospital?

Answer: Blythedale Children's Hospital in Hawthorne, NY. In 1904, The New York Society for Ethical Culture founded this hospital to serve children with complex medical illnesses and seriously disabling conditions. It is still a leader in its field and is the only independent children's hospital in New York State.

Note: Often answers can be found in the "Our History" section of About Us on our website.



Our YEE participants were engaged in the challenging and stimulating Bias-Awareness Workshop, led by Dr. Bentley Gibson, "The Bias Adjuster."

OUR COMMITMENT TO COMBATTING SYSTEMIC RACISM

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Year after year, the AEU has published Resolutions in this vein. The title of a 1960 Resolution was “Opposition to All Forms of Racism.” Another declared “1971 As International Year to Combat Racism.” In 2016, a Resolution addressed “Systemic Racism in the United States,” and in 2017, the Resolution was “Toward Repairing the Harm of Racism.”

This year, Ethical Culture and Humanist Societies across the country continue the commitment to present programs and take action to combat racism. A task force at NYSEC created this declaration:

The New York Society for Ethical Culture Stands in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

The New York Society for Ethical Culture stands in solidarity with today’s movement for racial justice and equity through Black Lives Matter and for the frank recognition of the historical fact that our country grew and prospered on a foundation incorporating the brutal oppression of a substantial share of its citizens, those who were brought here in chains from Africa and their descendants. Moreover, we acknowledge that this legacy continues to define our civilization today.

The Ethical Society has a long tradition of strong moral and activist support for racial equality – for a century and a half the Society has striven to advance the cause of racial justice by means of forums, conventions, speeches, statements, marches, demonstrations, and informative programs.

Now, we make the declaration again because of the special convergence of events and forces that make an explicit statement of support and solidarity with Black Lives Matter Movement necessary and appropriate.

The New York Society for

Ethical Culture community believes that this is a moment in American history that calls for a spiritual awakening for which we must struggle to rediscover our highest mutual values, our aspirations for unity, and our shared future. We must strive to remove the persistent legacy of racial animus that divides us, both within our own deepest attitudes as well as in the legal, economic, and social systems that we perpetuate.

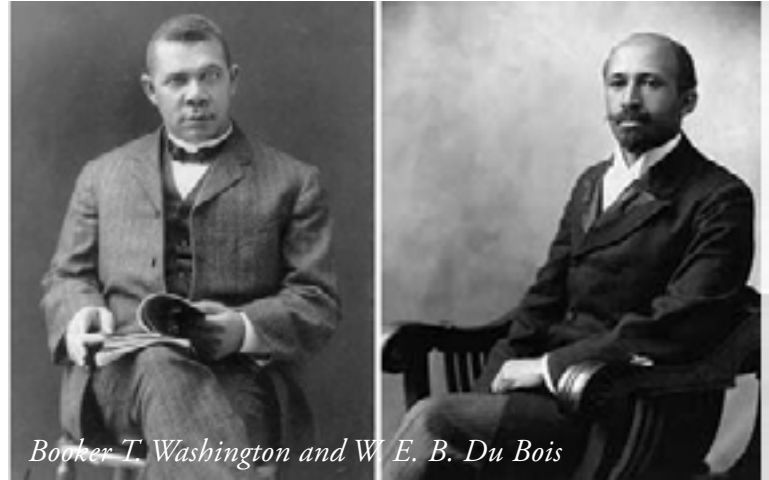
In our Ethical Society, we recognize that, by virtue of Whiteness, many of us have benefitted from the advantages of race at the expense of disadvantaged minorities. We also recognize the realities of slavery and Jim Crow as crimes against humanity for which America must come to account, and we support reparations to disadvantaged communities in compensation for past transgressions and to help remedy the legacy of those crimes.

NYSEC calls upon its own community to

a) engage in self-examination to understand the ways in which we can contribute to a new enlightenment on race by:

- learning to understand systemic racism and to recognize implicitly racist practices, and
- promoting inclusion through deliberate outreach to others outside one’s own customary circle; and to

b) pursue educational, political and practical activism to dismantle the systemic racism that pervades our nation’s



Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois

culture, politics, and economy in order to help end racist practices in the criminal justice system, as well as in police reform, housing, employment, healthcare, and education.

In furtherance of this pledge, the Society will undertake a new effort as a community to not only make statements but to take concrete actions. We ask you, our members, for suggestions regarding actions to be taken. Here are four such recommendations:

1. Support the passage by Congress of the John L. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR4).
2. Support Congress passage of the Resolution to form a Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act (HR40).
3. Support the passage by Congress of the For the People Act (HR1, S1).
4. Support national and local organizations taking constructive action in the areas (see [b], above), seeking to act with them and inviting them to act with us.

Send your suggestions to Janet Rose of the Ethical Action Committee: jrose@nysec.org.



IN THE NEWS

The Tielemans in the Times

On February 1, when the big snow of this winter came to the whole northeast of the US, with more than a foot here in the city, Michael Gold of the *New York Times* reported on those who were out in it, from East New York and Prospect Park, Brooklyn to Fort Tryon's Billings Lawn in Upper Manhattan. And there, sledding in Fort Tryon Park, were **Gunther Tielemans** with his son and daughter, **Oberon** and **Ada**, both of whom are in our YEE children's program. According to the article, they "had the place to themselves as snow frosted the hay-bale bumpers at the bottom of the hill." Of course, what followed was a romping snowball fight.

How Does Your Garden Grow?



It's been about a year since most of us have been inside our building. And we're all looking forward to returning in coming months — the sooner the better. But we should keep in mind that our wonderful staff has been coming in. Life at Ethical goes on! And not just in terms of the people. Our resident nature-lover and bookkeeper, **Yolanta Kosmaczewska**, hasn't missed a beat in caring for her plants and adopting others that were neglected during the shutdown last spring. And look at the results — it's a flourishing garden in the administrative office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

DAVID VASSAR & TOM WEISHAAR.....	3/3
FRANK CORIGLIANO AND MARIFER TORRES-SANDOVAL.....	3/5
SCOTTY EMBREE.....	3/6
DORIS HART.....	3/9
ANDRA MILLER.....	3/10
YSABELLA GARA.....	3/25
MJ MATERA.....	3/26
BETH EVERETT.....	3/29

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GETTING TO KNOW YEE



BY AUDREY KINDRED, YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

It could be said that ethics is the implicit goal of every human community. Ethical integrity is often wished for children but not often scaffolded with explicit support for its development. Yet, in a time when unethical action so heavily costs humanity and the environment, cultivating mindful ethics in new generations is ever more crucial to the world's wellbeing. Ethical Culture's programming for children and youth offers the support of explicitly nurturing ethical fitness to the new generation. Young Ethical Explorers (YEE) offers children a friendly, fun, and engaging way to do ethical push-ups while cultivating their sense of belonging and their deed-oriented stewardship of the world they live in.

Anita Rao says "We are so grateful for kinship and the weekly reset! The opportunity to reflect and process about current happening, especially now during what feels to be a revolution! My son feels validated in the safe space thanks to YEE to express and process his views."

Children are each other's best teachers. There's nothing like having a community of peers where "kindness is cool" and ethical thinking is cherished and admired, a community in which project-based learning that enables children with diverse strengths and struggles participate and thrive, and where children can find warmth and safety. One teen shared that in her earlier childhood Ethical was the only safe space; she always knew in her difficult times at school that she'd be okay because she had Ethical to come back to each week. She could be her authentic self here, explore difficult things, and rely on a community of goodness.

Ethical Culture provides a home for the heart, without reliance upon

belief, an invaluable resource for parents yearning to raise heart-centered children. No matter what ignites the heart, be it inspiration or intellectualism, children at Ethical learn how actions centered in ethics (in founder Felix Adler's words, "Deed above creed.") can contribute to a more just world. Families of all kinds and cultures safely gather here to raise children in this community of ethics.

Mother of two **Nildania Perez** says, "We love that at YEE our children learn about and celebrate a diversity of cultures. It is also a creative and nurturing space where they learn how they can bring about social justice and peace through their actions and treatment of others."

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Ethical education is foundational and developmental. On the one hand, it anchors children to a positive sense of themselves as world citizens with peaceful intent. On the other hand, it gives children ways to bring out the best in one another, and thereby to bring out the best in themselves. With deep ethical grounding from childhood, they are empowered to become positive culture creators, contributing to a more humane world — which, by the way, also means participating in more humane conversations at the dinner table with their parents!

Sojourner Walker-Williams says, "We have found the Young Ethical Explorers program at the New York Society for Ethical Culture to be invaluable,

especially when it comes to helping our two children navigate the present instability and uncertainty in the world. The projects, friendships, perspectives, and awakenings that have resulted from our participation in the program and under Audrey's guidance have given our children the confidence and awareness to speak up, speak out, and work to be the most ethical little humans they can be."

In a world where not all people have brothers and sisters in their own household, YEE provides that. In a world where school separates children by age and creates an inherently competitive comparative framework, Ethical brings children of diverse ages together in an atmosphere of cooperation.

They learn equally from each other in all directions. Often the youngest offer essential wisdom. The inter-age group is always affirmed in their common humanity, realizing the basic truth that we all have something to give each other all the time, that we are a family.

Sarah Tielemans, mom of two YEE children, says: "The mutual support of like-hearted families we have in YEE has been so important to us. I always find myself learning from the clarity and wisdom of the kids."

Reach out to us with comments, questions, hopes, or connections at YoungETHICALexplorers@gmail.com. Check YEE's blog regularly for new articles: www.ethical.nyc/youth.

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.

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or, better still, visit with us. You're always welcome.

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