

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

September 2015

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Up Close and Environmental

ELINORE KAPLAN

Spend quality time with some of New York City's most dedicated environmental activists and the groups they work with in an evening of celebration and community building, an intergenerational gathering at which we'll all have one concern in common—wanting to support and work with the environmental activists who are making a difference. It's one vital aspect of Ethical Culture's longstanding commitment to helping to make the world a better place.

Especially for the young people who will be leading the way very soon, this is an ideal opportunity to connect with those who are leading the environmental/climate movement in New York City and State.

There will be brief presentations and plenty of

time to enjoy good food and beverages—and great company as you meet the representatives from the participating groups.

Meet and share the evening with the people who are working tirelessly with the People's Climate Movement, those who helped get the fracking ban in NYS, those who are advocating every day for climate justice and social justice—and learn how you can support their efforts.

Among those attending will be folks from SANE Energy Project, 350NYC, Green Education and Legal Fund, Citizen Action, NYC Friends of Clearwater, United for Action, NYC Safe Energy Campaign/Eco Logic, Green Faith, Bronx Climate Justice North, Trade Justice NY Metro, and others.

The NYSEC Environmental

Stewardship Committee is hosting this wonderful free program in partnership with the NYC Grassroots Alliance, a coalition of more than two dozen environmental groups who meet monthly at NYSEC to discuss projects of mutual interest, and to collaborate on actions and events. Committee chair Monica Weiss will welcome everyone, and Leader Curt Collier, Deputy Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, will host the evening.



Friday, Sept. 18, 6:30 - 9pm
Free
Social Hall, downstairs
Reserve by Sept. 4,
email Maggie at
mdetermann@nysec.org



Russell G. Jones

"The Blind Spot"

What will it take to make NYSEC a more multi-racial community?

Here's a way we can start. The Blind Spot is committed to making the language and critical thinking skills around privilege, race, and oppression more commonplace.

Participants engage in workshops using multiple media with the purpose of helping them

act accountable for these issues. It isn't about shining a harsh light on guilt, privilege, or inequities; it uses positive content and ideas to illustrate the debates and discussions that are constantly happening around us. The goal is to grow in our understanding of these issues both intellectually and emotionally.

Russell G. Jones, founder of this project, is a New York City based multi-disciplined theater artist. He has created memorable

characters in theater and on film and television and has been a proud member of Labyrinth Theatre Company since 1995 (www.russellgjoness.com).

Accompanying platform will be "The Blind Spot" four-session workshop series. (See Sunday afternoons, page 9.)

Sunday, Sept. 13, 11 am
Free
Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

Save the Date
AEU Membership
Growth Conference
Oct. 23-24 at
Ethical Culture Society
of Bergen County, NJ



Leader's Desk

DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN

Encampment for Citizenship: Finding Our Voices Today

"Oh, freedom, freedom. Freedom come and it won't be long." Mr. Hollis Watkins, founder of the Mississippi Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, taught participants at The Encampment Intergenerational Weekend this song. He also shared his activist history with us. Hollis (as he asked us to call him) was born in 1941 in Lincoln County, MS. He became a member and organizer of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961 and a county organizer for "Freedom Summer" in 1964. Hollis also saw the inside of jail cells.

1946 by Leader Algernon D. Black and Alice ("Nanny") Pollitzer, a prominent civic leader, as an opportunity for "young adults of many religious, racial, social, and national backgrounds" to learn "the principles and techniques of citizenship... through lived experience."

While Black was inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), he thought those programs lacked diversity and an emphasis on the meaning of democracy. He believed that young people could be a positive force in their communities if

they developed critical thinking skills, youth activism, leadership qualities, and the courage to break free from stereotypes.

Eleanor Roosevelt, longtime chair of The Encampment board of sponsors,

often hosted students for discussions, workshops, and barbeques at her Hyde Park estate. When the program was attacked by McCarthyite forces in the early 1950s, she defended it vigorously. "The reason I think these Encampments are so important," she wrote, "is that they are attended by citizens of different races and groups. They prepare people for thinking in terms of all people and not in terms of a selected few. Not only we in the U.S., but people all over the world, need young people trained to be good citizens with an ability to think with an open mind."

How right she was! And what an ideal setting Tougaloo College was for this summer's Encampment. The college was founded in 1869, and a plaque designates it as a site on the Mississippi Freedom Trail. "The courage of Tougaloo College students, faculty, and staff fueled the Jackson Civil Rights Movement," it reads. "In demonstrations and sit-ins, they suffered insults, beatings, and jailings. A private institution, Tugaloo was not governed by racist state policies, but did risk the revocation of its charter as it became a safe haven for activists fighting for dignity, equality, and justice."



Encampment group; Anne is front row, far left

We learned from him and other social justice activists, as well as from the twenty 16- and 17-year-olds from across the country who were concluding three weeks of progressive leadership training at Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS. Encampment alumni and friends gathered from Friday to Sunday (July 17-19) to celebrate the third summer session since the Encampment was "resurrected" in 2009 at a reunion hosted by the New York Society for Ethical Culture. What a joy it was for me to participate!

The Encampment was founded in



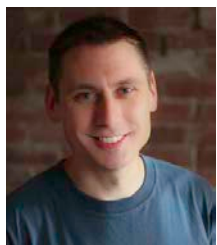
Savannah with Anne

Every adult was assigned a student buddy, and mine was Savannah Holloway (with me below), an African-American teen from San Francisco. She told me that she had "found her voice" and planned on using it when she returned home. On Sunday, Savannah and all of her fellow "Encampers" shared with us the projects they planned to start; we adults offered them our support and resources. Networking is important in social justice work, and now we are all connected to one another, passing wisdom down to the next generation and learning from the young new ways to communicate.

For more information, and to make a donation, visit encampmentforcitizenship.org.

"A Better Life: An Exploration of Joy and Meaning in a World Without God"

NYC premiere of film by Chris Johnson, Hosted by Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader



There is no God. Now what? If this is the only life we have, how does that affect how we live our lives, how we treat each other, and how we cope with death? As a follow-up to one of Kickstarter's most successful publishing projects, photographer and filmmaker Chris Johnson introduces us to some of the many voices from his book.

Join Chris as he explores issues of joy and meaning and travels around the globe meeting people from all walks of life and backgrounds who challenge the false stereotypes of atheists as immoral and evil. Learn the stories behind the book in interviews with some of our greatest thinkers. From Daniel Dennett and A.C. Grayling, to Julia Sweeney and Robert Llewellyn—learn the various ways many atheists have left religion for what they consider to be a better life filled with love, compassion, hope, and wonder. Refreshments and Q&A to follow.

Tuesday, Sept. 15
7-9 pm
Ceremonial Hall
\$5 Members;
\$10 Nonmembers



Membership News

LIZ SINGER, CHAIR

Last chance to reserve space for the 2015 Annual Retreat at Stony Point Center, September 25-27

Don't miss the nature walk or boating at the lake, the new "Just Us" NYSEC family dinner at Gilmore Sloane House, the music, the porch cocktail hours, the card and board games, and the fun and friendship that are always part of this special weekend.

If you can't make the full weekend, join us for one night or for the day Saturday. Ask about pricing when you call. Contact Maggie Determann at 212-874-5210 x113, mdetermann@nysec.org, or in person in the Membership Office, room 501, to reserve and pay in full on or before Sept. 5.

Save the Date November 6-8 to Have Your Photo Taken

Exciting News: Our 2016 Membership Directory will include our photos! On the recommendation of Leader Joe Chuman (who uses this company for the Bergen Ethical Member Directory), the Membership Committee has engaged Life Touch to photograph us. Life Touch photographers will be at the Society the weekend of November 6-8 to take photos of members. Details will follow in the October issue of *Ethical Outlook*.

A Gentle \$ Reminder to Members: We've passed the halfway mark through 2015. Have you given your fair-share pledge yet? Please call Yolanta Kosmaczewska, in Accounting, at 212-874-5210 ext. 104, or mail your pledge to her attention at NYSEC.



Pick up and wear the Ethical Culture pin of your choice.

Welcome to our Leader Intern, Dr. Richard Koral!



Dr. Richard Koral is a long-time member of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester. He has been active on its Board and served as its president in the late '90's, early 00's. He has also been active in the American Ethical Union, serving on its Board and as its president from 2012 to 2015.

Last year, Richard interned part-time with the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County in Teaneck, NJ, under Leader Joe Chuman's supervision.

This month Richard begins his second year of part-time internship with our community, working with Leader, Dr. Anne Klaeyesen. Richard has been engaged in Leadership Training for several years, in the course of which he studied at The Humanist Institute and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Hebrew Union College Interfaith Pastoral Counseling Program here in NYC.

Preparing for Ethical Culture Leadership is Richard's second career. Previously, he spent many years in private practice as a lawyer in Manhattan and Westchester. Today, he continues to work part-time as a lawyer and also serves as a counselor-therapist for older adults at the Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service.

Richard lives in northern Westchester with his wife of 35 years, proving that an Ethical Culture marriage will endure. He has several hobbies and interests beyond work: he enjoys music and plays the guitar, he's sung in choruses, he was a founding member of the Westchester Ethical Society book club, and enjoys woodworking and gardening. Richard looks forward to meeting the members of NYSEC and helping out in the numerous programs and projects under way.

Ethical Enrichment

PROGRAMS FOR MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

ADLER READING SEMINAR

Dr. Richard Koral, Leader Intern

Discussion of the words of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and Humanist philosophy.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7-8:30 pm
(monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday,
unless otherwise noted)

Free
Leaders Office, Room 502
Advance Registration required*

BODY, BRAIN & BALANCE

Rob Hofman

The three B's—Body, Brain, and Balance—are interconnected. They keep us functioning and they need to be maintained. There is a lot we can do to keep our bodies, our brains and our balance systems up to par—and that is what this workshop is about. It will be enjoyable and practical, and a great learning experience. Wear easy, loose-fitting clothes and flat shoes.

Wednesdays, Sept. 16 - Oct. 21,
5pm

Members \$30, Nonmembers \$60
Adler Study, Room 514
Advance Registration required*
For information online: nysec.org,
click on Programs.

EMPOWERING ETHICAL ELDERS

ROOMMATING: NOT JUST FOR YOUR KIDS (OR GRANDKIDS) ANYMORE

Kevin Queen, LMSW, ACSW, VP Programs, NY Foundation for Senior Citizens

Thursday, Sept. 3, 6pm
Elliott Library, Room 507
Free

MEDICARE: IT'S CHOICE TIME AGAIN

Howard Recht, CLU, ChFC
Thursday, Sept. 17, 6pm
Elliott Library, Room 507
Free

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson
Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services

Gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea and eat delicious cake as we strive to increase our awareness of death and help one another make the most of our (finite) lives. Topics include health care proxies, ethical wills and green burial.

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2:30pm
(monthly: 3rd Wednesdays;
also monthly: 2nd Sundays at
1:30pm – see p.8)

Members Free,
Nonmembers \$5 suggested donation
Ceremonial Hall

ETHICAL PARENTING, STEP-PARENTING AND GRANDPARENTING

Dr. Anne Klaeyens, Leader

Family life today faces challenges that can overwhelm adults responsible for the care of children. The goal of spending "quality time" with loved ones gets lost in the daily struggle to make a living and provide a home. Families need support. This workshop offers parenting skills and an opportunity to connect with other parents, step-parents and grandparents.

Thursdays, Sept. 10 & 24,
Oct. 8 & 22, 6-7:30pm
Members Free,

Nonmembers \$5 per session
Childcare provided upon request,
with advance notice
Advance Registration Required*

ETHICS AND THE THEATER

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

"COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA" by William Inge

Directed by Susan Horowitz
For years, Lola and Doc Delaney have balanced on the brink of

breakdown by denying their deep disappointments, with each other and with themselves. Now, however, she has outgrown the only role she learned to play, that of a cute, ingratiating coquette, and he is assessing all he gave up by marrying a pregnant Lola years before. Their precarious equilibrium is upset further when their boarder, an attractive young woman, unwittingly makes them confront their unfulfilled dreams and unattainable desires.

Friday, Sept. 11
(2nd Friday of the month,
unless otherwise noted)

6:30pm Reception with snacks and beverages, 7pm performance,
followed by discussion of ethical issues
Ceremonial Hall

GREAT BOOKS

Larry Schiff, Tamara Bedic, and Carol Kennedy, co-organizers and event hosts

"POLITICS," by Aristotle and "THE VIRTUES," by John Dewey
Read the selections in advance, and be prepared to discuss the questions that interest you by referring and reading to us the specific related text. Because this is the format for the discussion, it is important that we all have the same text. To purchase the Great Books Reading

continued on page 5

NOT A MEMBER?

All the more reason to attend one of our Enrichment Activities. Contributions for nonmembers are usually only \$5.



Ethical Enrichment

PROGRAMS FOR MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

continued from page 4

and Discussion Second Series and Reader Aid we'll be using through

June, 2016, visit this

website: <http://store.greatbooks.org/book-groups-colleges/great-books.html>

You can also visit www.meetup.com/Manhattan-Great-Books-Discussion-Group to learn

more about us.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7-9pm
(monthly, 1st Wednesday, unless otherwise noted)

Members Free, Nonmembers \$5
suggested donation

Elliott Library, Room 507

"THE JOY OF PERSONAL WRITING" NONFICTION WRITING WORKSHOP

Elaine Berman-Gurney

Workshop members are a mix of returning writers and new participants who want to give personal writing a try.

Tuesdays, Oct. 6 - Dec. 15
12:30-2:30pm

Thursdays, Oct. 8 - Dec. 17
6:30-8:30pm

(No classes Thanksgiving week)
Members \$160, Nonmembers \$260

Advance Registration required*
For information online: nysec.org,
click on Programs.

LEADER LUNCH DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

If you can, read the articles in advance—access them on line, pick them up when you attend the next weekly discussion, or stop in at our Membership Office, room 501, and ask Maggie Determann for them. Come join the discussion.

SEPTEMBER FOCUS – DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

9/3 “To Have and to Hold: Reproduction, Marriage and the Constitution” by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 5/25/15

9/10 “Our Universities: The Outrageous Reality” by Andrew Delbanco, *The New York Review of Books*, 7/9/15

9/17 “The Hard Truths of Ta-Nehisi Coates” by Benjamin Wallace-Wells, *New York Magazine*, 7/12/15

9/24 “*Laudato Si* – Introduction: 10 key excerpts from Pope Francis’s Encyclical on the Environment” by Sarah Pulliam Bailey, *The Washington Post*, 6/18/15
(The entire Papal Encyclical on the Environment is at this link: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html); “Holy Ignorance” by Garry Wills, and “Pope Francis: The Cry of the Earth” by Bill McKibben, *The New York Review of Books*, 6/21/15

Thursdays, 12-1:30 pm
Free

Elliott Library, Room 507

LOW-IMPACT DANCE AEROBICS

Maggie Determann

Low-impact Dance Aerobics is an easy to follow, fun, low-impact aerobic workout that is a great way to get in shape and stay fit. Enjoy a lively class that is stress-free for beginners, and will help boost your energy level and burn calories. No dance experience necessary! Loose-fitting, comfortable clothes and sneakers recommended.

Thursdays, Sept. 10–Oct. 15

10:30-11:30am

Members Free, Nonmembers \$5
suggested donation

READINGS IN DEEP ECOLOGY

Curt Collier, Leader

Explore chapters and selections from the works of famous environmental authors—Edward Abbey, Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall, Aldo Leopold, Richard Louv, Wangari Maathai, John Muir, and Michael Pollan, among others. Read the selections together, and then discuss the important points the writers were striving to uphold. This is a great way to delve into classic environmental literature.

Sunday, Sept. 27, 4pm
Free

Elliott Library, Room 507

WISDOM & WORLD AFFAIRS

Ken Gans

These philosophical discussions cover a wide variety of subjects—the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, and many others.

Tuesday, Sept. 1 & 22, 6-8pm
(monthly, 1st and 4th Tuesdays,
unless otherwise noted)

Free
Room 508

*For Advance Registration
call Yalitz Garcia-Krawczyk at
212-874-5210x117
or email ygarcia@nysec.org.

ETHICAL CARES

The Caring Committee will help you should you fall ill or be incapacitated, whether you're home, in the hospital, in rehab, or in a nursing home. All you need to do is call the committee chairperson, Virginia Scherer at 212-222-2086, and she'll make the arrangements.

Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11am

Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AFTER PLATFORM, CAFETERIA, 6TH FLOOR
\$5 MEMBERS, \$10 NONMEMBERS, FREE TO FIRST-TIME NEWCOMERS

SEPTEMBER 6

WORKER COOPERATIVES: SUSTAINABLE AND GROWING



Joe Rinehart

Monica Weiss Presides

One way to turn the 1% economic wave in the US is through worker cooperatives—values-driven businesses that put worker and community benefit at the core of their purpose. Their number has grown steadily over the past 20 years. It's currently estimated that they employ around 7,000 people, generating over \$400 million in annual revenues. That's 300-400 democratic workplaces—both well-established businesses and new, growing ones, increasingly including some that have been sold by their owners to the employees.

Longtime social justice and environmental activist Joe Rinehart and his guests will share their experiences with us. Joe is a cooperative developer and advocate for undermining economic inequality through shared ownership. He is a former worker-owner at Firestorm Café and Books in Asheville, NC, and an instructor at Appalachian State University. He recently left his position as Director of Cooperative Development at the Democracy at Work Institute, where he helped guide and support the coalition that garnered NYC's groundbreaking \$1.2 million-dollar investment in worker cooperatives. Joe holds a Master's degree in Industrial Technology, with a focus on small-scale technologies that empower communities and protect the environment.

The shared charity is Center for Family Life in Sunset Park - Cooperative Development Division (SCO). SCO Family of Services helps vulnerable New Yorkers build a strong foundation for the future. They get young children off to a good start, launch youth into adulthood, stabilize and strengthen families and unlock potential for children and adults with special needs. SCO has provided vital human services throughout New York City and Long Island for more than 100 years.

SEPTEMBER 13

THE BLIND SPOT: PROMOTING DIALOGUE AROUND RACE, PRIVILEGE, AND IDENTITY



Russell G. Jones, Founder

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader, Presides

See page 1 for more details.

The shared charity is North Star Fund. This organization helps activists to organize, gain visibility and influence, and pursue solutions to the greatest problems facing our city by putting resources into the hands of those directly impacted by injustice, providing long-term support and turning causes into social movements.

Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11am

Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

SEPTEMBER 20

STOICISM FOR A SECULAR AGE



Massimo Pigliucci

Meg Chapman, President, Presides

Stoicism is an ancient Greco-Roman philosophy of ethics and resilience. It was practiced by emperors like Marcus Aurelius, as well as former slaves like the teacher Epictetus. It taught that the most important thing in life is to develop one's moral character, and that we should live according to our nature, i.e., as social beings capable of reason. Stoicism is experiencing a surprising comeback these days, positioning itself as the Western answer to Buddhism, with which it shares a number of similarities. In this talk, Massimo Pigliucci will explain the basics of Stoicism and argue that it is a philosophy highly suitable to the complexities of life in the 21st century.

Massimo Pigliucci is a biologist and philosopher at the City University of New York. His main interests are in the philosophy of science and pseudoscience. He is the editor-in-chief of the online magazine *Scientia Salon*, and his latest book (co-edited with Maarten Boudry) is *Philosophy of Pseudoscience: Reconsidering the Demarcation Problem* (Chicago Press).

The shared charity is International Rescue Committee (IRC-NYC). The International Rescue Committee helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and gain control of their future. IRC teams provide health care, infrastructure, learning and economic support to people in 40 countries, with special programs designed for women and children. Every year, the IRC resettles thousands of refugees in 22 U.S. cities.

SEPTEMBER 27

REFLECTIONS ON POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Curt Collier, Leader

Pat Debrovner Presides

Pope Francis's Encyclical on Climate Change, *Laudato Si*, highlights the emerging crises facing our planet, which he attributes mostly to an economic system out of ecological balance and to the moral shortcomings and lifestyles of those who perpetuate such a system. This talk will explore the ramifications of the Pope's encyclical from a variety of perspectives, the impact it will have on the climate change debate, and whether he got it right. Hear from a panel of ethicists, economists, clergy, and environmentalists as they reflect on this bold statement.

The shared charity is Green Light NYC (350.org). Efficient lighting is readily available, but there is a serious knowledge gap that prevents its widespread adoption. This new independent nonprofit organization is creating a resource center to overcome this obstacle and speed market transformation toward more efficient lighting. To realize lighting's potential, bring efficiency to scale, and fill the knowledge gap, GLNY will provide a hub of energy-efficient information and resources for New York City, such as classes and training, design consultations, displays of concepts and equipment, a mock-up space, and information on rebates and incentives.

Early Sunday Mornings

9:45am (Except as otherwise noted)
Rooms are subject to change

SEPTEMBER 6 MINDFULNESS

Rob Hofman

Exploration and practice of mindfulness through meditation.

Adler Study, Room 514

SEPTEMBER 13 COLLOQUY: HUMAN WORTH

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

Room 508

SEPTEMBER 20 POETRY READING

Cheryl Gross

Share reading and discussing your chosen poems. Today, in honor of Labor Day, we will focus on poems about work and labor.

9:30am
Room 508

Chorus Practice

Sept. 6 & 20 10am

Sept. 13 & 27 10:30am

Ceremonial Hall

Led by Music Director David Gracia and Chorus Director Pat Debrovner. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings.

Sunday Afternoons

1:30pm (Except as otherwise noted)
Rooms are subject to change

SEPTEMBER 13 ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Abe Markman

Over lunch share your take on today's burning issues.

12:45pm
6th Floor Cafeteria

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ

Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson

In a relaxed and safe setting, discuss death, drink tea and eat delicious cake. (See page 4)

Ceremonial Hall

SEPTEMBER 20 "THE BLIND SPOT"

Workshop Series with Russell Jones

(See Sunday Platform Sept. 13)

In a positive context, we'll consider the debates and discussions happening around us in an effort to act accountably regarding privilege, race and oppression, with a focus on changing the language and critical thinking skills around these areas of behavior.

Join us for "The Blind Spot" workshops on Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20.

Members only
Ceremonial Hall

SEPTEMBER 27 ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING (open to all)

Andra Miller and Daniel Julin

12:30pm
Room 508

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

Curt Collier, Leader

We'll discuss lifestyle choices, our impact on the planet and ways we can make a meaningful difference. Participants keep a log of their choices, and share them with others in a supportive atmosphere. Open to those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living.

Ceremonial Hall

Snaps



Yoga on NYSEC roof after sleepover



Ethics for Children animation



NYSEC President Meg Chapman (left) and dancer (right) at Interfaith Peace Night



Members at American Ethical Union Assembly



Dan Hanson & Monica Weiss tabling at Clearwater Festival

Ethical Explorers: Looking Back and Forward, with Open Doors and Open Minds AUDREY KINDRED

This summer, Ethics For Children (EFC) hosted a fabulous five-session "Animating Humanism and Humanity" series with teacher Audrey Kindred and visiting artist Amy Reid. We thought a lot about human ancestors of the past and descendants of the future, and how we fit into the picture. Four-year-old Marifer Torres coined a delightful question for us to contemplate: "Are amoeba our ancestors?" Collaborating children of all ages made several short animations including "Just a Spoonful of Humanity Makes the World Go 'Round. . .In the Most Delightful Way." Enjoy the animations at www.AnimatingEthics.blogspot.com. In your enthusiasm, you may choose to share these animations freely on public media.

One lovely evening, we enjoyed NYSEC's third-ever "Night Light" rooftop slumber party. What a wonderful experience for the many who came! Here is 8-year old Sylvan Crane's paragraph description:

At the Ethical Culture sleepover, I slept on the slide. So did Dad. Mama brought chickpea salad and pasta salad, and David's Mom brought hummus, carrots, and celery. I liked the animation that we did before bed. Amy was up in the balcony, and we were on the stage. We started around in a circle. We moved a little bit, and then Amy took a picture. We kept doing that, and after the sleepover Audrey sent us the animation so that we could see how it put the pictures together. That was my favorite thing about the sleepover.

For September, we invite new friends of all ages to come join in the joy of Ethical Learning! During the fall season, we'll be building our own personal "Ethical Treasure Chests with Valuable Values," as well as developing our "Peace Tool Kits" that engage us actively in the communicative practices and deeds that activate those values.

You're Invited:

Sept. 13 - Open Houses: 10:30am Ethics For Children 1:30pm Ethics For Teens

Sept. 20 - International Peace Day Celebration: 11am Ethics For Children 1:30pm: Ethics For Teens

Please RSVP at EthicsForChildren@NYSEC.org to attend.

For updated info about our programming for young folks, please always check www.YoungEthicalExplorers.blogspot.com.

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Member of the
American
Ethical Union
www.aeu.org



Our Ethical Family

MARGARET DETERMANN,
Assistant to the Leaders for Membership
Development

We welcome two new members to our Ethical Family: husband and wife Bob Bumcrot and Francesca Turchiano. While both have attended various events and lectures at the New York Society over the years, it was the Thursday Leader Lunch discussions, led by Anne Klaeysen that primarily drew them in. The intellectual stimulation and camaraderie they found there definitely played a part in their decision to become members. Bob is a retired Mathematics professor who taught at Hofstra University. His interests include music, art and reading. He speaks some German, Italian, and Spanish. Francesca has a background in business development and strategic event planning. Her interest include reading, writing, and studying public policy. Bob and Francesca are a welcome addition to our membership. They are looking forward to becoming more involved with all that the New York Society for Ethical Culture has to offer.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in September:



- BRUCE FELD** 9/4
- BARBARA MICHAELS** 9/5
- MO MALEKSHAHI**..... 9/9
- BARBARA SIMPSON**9/12
- MARGARETHA JONES** ..9/13
- BARBARA BERNSTEIN** ...9/13
- CAROL ROST**9/17
- GHAZAL KHAN**9/19
- VIRGINIA ARNOLD**9/20
- RINA CRANE**9/21
- DOUGLAS PROOPS**9/29

Board of Trustees Nominating Committee

Every May the Society membership elects three members to serve on the Board of Trustees. The role of recruiting and nominating candidates is the responsibility of a Nominating Committee. Trustees Elinore Kaplan and Dick Van Deusen were appointed to co-chair that committee for this year. However, the by-laws require three additional members to select candidates to stand for election next May.

The by-laws require that members wanting to serve on the Nominating Committee submit petitions to apply. But because that excludes qualified people who might want to serve, it has not been the practice for some time and will likely be changed.

This year anyone who would like to serve on this committee to please speak to, call or send Elinore or Dick an e-mail. Members of the Nominating Committee should have been a member of the Society for at least three years and have had an opportunity to interact with a cross-section of members of our community through committee participation and/or during program or social events.

The committee will meet once for an initial briefing in the Fall and then again to interview potential Trustees in January. The committee's responsibility ends as soon as a candidate slate has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Office hours for the month are Monday-Friday, 9am - 6pm

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
x		1 6pm Wisdom & World Affairs	2 7pm Great Books Discussion Group	3 12pm Leader Lunch Discussion 6pm Empowering Ethical Elders	4	5
6 9:30am Mindfulness 10am Chorus Practice 10am Bagels and Coffee 11am Sunday Platform Meeting	7 Labor Day, honoring the labor movement in the USA 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg.	8	9	10 10:30am Low-Impact Dance Aerobics 12pm Leader Lunch Discussion 6pm Ethical Parenting	11 7pm Ethics and the Theater "Come Back Little Sheba"	12
13 9:45am Colloquy 10:30am Chorus Practice 10:30am Ethics for Children - Open House 11am Sunday Platform Meeting 12:45pm Ethics in the News 1:30pm Ethics for Teens - Open House 1:30pm Ethics Death Cafe	14	15 7pm Adler Reading Seminar "A Better Life" film premiere	16 5pm Body, Brain, and Balance	17 10:30am Low-Impact Dance Aerobics 12pm Leader Lunch Discussion 6pm Empowering Ethical Elders	18 6:30pm An Evening of Celebration and Community Building	19
20 9:30am Poetry Reading 10am Chorus Practice 11am Ethics for Children 11am Sunday Platform Meeting 1:30pm Ethics for Teens Workshop	21 International Peace Day	22 6pm Wisdom & World Affairs	23 2:30pm Ethical Death Cafe 5pm Body, Brain, and Balance	24 10:30am Low-Impact Dance Aerobics 12pm Leader Lunch Discussion 6pm Ethical Parenting	25 Fri. Sept. 25 - Sun. Sept. 27 Annual Ethical Retreat Weekend	26
27 10:30am Chorus Practice 11am Sunday Platform Meeting 1:30pm Sustainable Living Support Circle 4pm Readings in Deep Ecology	28	29	30 5pm Body, Brain, and Balance	<p>Coming up at NYSEC</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 3 - ANNUAL FALL HIKE</p> <p>Fri., Oct. 9, 7pm - Ethics and the Theater, "BY THE WATER" by Sharon Rothstein</p> <p>Mon., Oct. 19, 7pm - Prof. JEFFREY SACHS interviews MATTHIEU RICARD, French Buddhist monk and author</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 25, 1:15pm - WE HATE TO WASTE WORKSHOP, Jacquie Ottman</p>		

ETHICAL

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