

E T H I C A L O U T L O O K

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL. 212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

April 3–Ceremonial Hall Overcoming a Heritage Of Prejudice

Abe Markman

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

April 10–Auditorium Yearning to Breathe Free: The Promise and Perils of Freedom In the Middle East

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

April 17–Ceremonial Hall Fostering Ethical Engagement In Children

Curt Collier, Leader

Bonnie Bean Presides

April 24–Ceremonial Hall Ethics and Poetry

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Carol Nadell Van Deusen Presides

Ethics on the Air

Wednesday, April 20, at
10:00 pm, hear “Ethical
Economics II” with Leader
Curt Collier.

April Happenings

Come to NYSEC on **Saturday, April 9, 8:00 pm** (doors open **7:30 pm**) for a very special benefit, “**Transforming Trauma Into Art, Supporting Women and Children**,” a multi-media program featuring music, dance, hip-hop; poetry, and monologues cosponsored by the Society and EarSay, a nonprofit arts organization offering arts and activism youth education workshops for immigrant/refugee teens and NYC teens with little or no access to arts training. Auditorium. (*See page 8*)

On **Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm**, NYSEC will cosponsor a program on “**Facing Death and Dying With Dignity**” with the organization **Compassion & Choices of New York**. Join us for this event, which will provide much-needed information about palliative care and end-of-life choices, and how people can ensure that their wishes are respected. Officials of Compassion & Choices will discuss the legal and ethical aspects of these in depth. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 8*)

Join us at the Society on **Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 pm** to see **Ethics and the Theater** present *A Memory of Two Mondays*, by Arthur Miller. The play, taking place in a factory during the Great Depression, explores the desperate lives of those who labor without pleasure at deadening jobs with no future, and shows one young man’s attempts to escape the sad fate of his fellow workers. Afterward, participate in our lively discussion of the issues raised. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 6*)

From the Leader’s Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Reverence for Public Welfare

When I visit my parents in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, I like to stop at a local vineyard to sample its wines. Thanks to Dr. Konstantin Frank, a professor of plant sciences who held a Ph.D. in viticulture, emigrated from the Ukraine, and took a position with Cornell University, there are many wineries for me to visit. He discovered that the rootstock, and not the cold climate, was responsible for the failure of *vitis vinifera* vines to grow there, and in the mid-20th century, together with a fellow vintner, he set out to remedy the situation. They found a hardy native rootstock on which to graft the vines, and within a decade produced acres of European grape varieties, bringing new prosperity to the region.

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

April Happenings 1
 From the Leader's Desk 1
 Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 3
 Early Sunday 4
 Sunday Afternoon 4
 Lunch Discussions 4
 Our Ethical Family 5
 We Care About You! 5
 Ethical Enrichment
 Ethics in Film 5
 Ethics in Literature 6
 Foundations of Ethical Culture 6
 Ethics in Film: Documentaries 6
 Ethics and the Theater 6
 Joy of Personal Writing Returns 6
 Advocacy Forum 6
 Spring Hike 7
 Stained Glass Windows Concert 7
 Bringing Out the Best 7
 Green Kitchen Update 7
 AHA Celebrates 70 Years of Service 8
 Transforming Trauma 8
 Facing Death... with Dignity 8
 May Movie 9
 SSB: Empowering Ethical Elders 9
 Peter Yarrow Concert 10
 AEU 96th Annual Assembly 11
 Calendar 12

Staff

Selma Friedman, Editor
 Jon Liechty, Reporter
 Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor
 Deborah Foster, Production
 Andra Miller, President
 Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
 Curt Collier, Leader
 Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
 Dr. Khoren Arisian, Leader Emeritus
 Robert Liebeskind, Executive Director
 Rita Chawla, Director of Family Programs
 Yalitz Garcia, Assistant to the Leaders
 Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate
 Antonio Pagliarulo, Director of Special Events
 Gerald Ranck, Music Director
 Marlon Rice, Facilities Manager
 Beth Zucker, Manager of Communications
 New York Society for Ethical Culture
 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023
 Phone: 212-874-5210; Fax: 212-595-7258
 Email: office@nysec.org
 Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Staff Directory

Gloria Chandler ext. 117
 Rita Chawla 106
 Joseph Chuman 145
 Curt Collier 145
 Deborah Foster 115
 Yalitz Garcia 118
 Anne Klaeysen 119
 Yolanta Kosmaczewska 104
 Robert Liebeskind 116
 Maintenance 109
 Moe-Swe Myint 113
 Antonio Pagliarulo 106
 Marlon Rice 107
 Beth Zucker 144

**NY Society for Ethical Culture
 Officers:**

Andra Miller, President,
andramariemiller@gmail.com
 Heather Grady, Vice President,
heathergradynyc@gmail.com
 Tom Weishaar, Treasurer,
tom.weishaar@gmail.com
 Janice Buzby, Secretary,
janice345@verizon.net

Trustees:

Bob Berger, *bobandmuriel@mindspring.com*
 Margaret Chapman, *md.chapman@earthlink.net*
 Chris Everett, *chrisanddelise@hotmail.com*
 Dr. James W. Farer, *jfarer@earthlink.net*
 Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, *phrmd@yahoo.com*
 Sheila Kleinwald, *sheila_kleinwald@yahoo.com*
 Henryka Komanska, *henryka@verizon.net*
 Vincent Navarro, *svn141@verizon.net*

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

At the winery I visited last month, I decided to buy two bottles and have them shipped home because I didn't want to check any baggage on the flight to New York City. As the sales clerk was preparing the order, she said, somewhat conspiratorially, "You know, if you order this online, you don't have to pay any tax." First of all, that is not true; but more important was her willingness to cheat the government. My response surprised her. "I like paying taxes," I said cheerfully. "I drove here safely on a well-paved road that had traffic signals and no trace of snow. Taxes pay for services from which everyone benefits."

Perhaps it is due to the rootstock from which I grew that I appreciate the way in which communities work. No one person can do everything, so we cooperate, sharing the responsibilities of life, supporting one another through good times and bad. I knew the mayor of my hometown because she was a member of my church. The police chief drove my school bus. We held our teachers, who were also our neighbors, in high esteem. We experienced what philosopher Paul Woodruff calls

"reverence," a virtue that transcends differences and "lies behind civility and all of the graces that make life in society bearable and pleasant" (*Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue*, by Paul Woodruff, Oxford University Press, 2001).

As the Republican Party strives to "starve the beast" of government by violating workers' rights, denigrating teachers, endangering women's health, and humiliating the poor—doing its utmost, in other words, to promote the interests of wealthy individuals and private corporations—I have taken to the streets for what I revere as "public welfare." In recent weeks, I have rallied in NYC for Wisconsin Solidarity (*see photo below*) and Planned Parenthood, and lobbied in Albany for juvenile



Anne rallying in NYC for Wisconsin Solidarity justice reform and marriage equality, and I'll soon travel to Washington, DC,

for another peace march. The work of democracy is never finished: it neither begins in petitions nor ends in elections; every day offers a fresh opportunity to listen and be heard.

“Reverence,” writes Woodruff, “has more to do with politics than with religion. . . Politics without reverence is blind to the general good and deaf to advice from people who are powerless.” It belongs to community, this virtue that keeps *hubris*—the crime of tyrants—in check and gives meaning to the ceremony of democracy. Missing in today’s discourse is a deep understanding of the human condition, with all its limitations, and an ideal of unity that transcends politics. Self interest and personal greed triumph over community and public welfare.

We must rededicate ourselves to cultivating virtue ethics, whereby a good person *feels* like doing what is right. Many people are aware of moral rules, but do not feel the need to act upon them because power and/or wealth are more captivating. They lack the strength that comes from practicing virtue every day. Reverence is an experience nurtured in communities that live and work together. It challenges human arrogance, especially when people presume to speak on behalf of the gods—whatever their names—and promotes public welfare. At this critical time in our nation’s history, we must stand up for what is right.

...We must rededicate ourselves to cultivating virtue ethics, whereby a good person feels like doing what is right....

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

April 3—Overcoming a Heritage Of Prejudice

Abe Markman

The focus of my talk is an unintended consequence of the civil rights movement. The movement so transformed the way we thought about the relationship between blacks and whites that many people became ashamed to admit to having a bias toward blacks. It had become politically incorrect to admit such feelings. I will quote from several research sources and use anecdotes from my own experience to indicate that bias toward blacks is prevalent among whites, even for those who are advocates for social justice; there are methods of casting one’s bias aside and learning to act without it; overcoming a hidden bias does not have to be difficult and could be deeply satisfying.

I have a BA in sociology and psychology from CUNY and a Master’s Degree in social group work from NYU. I have served in settlement house-type settings for 50 years, and in 1980 I cofounded and ran a successful social service agency in the South Bronx, the Neighborhood Self-Help Older Persons Project, or Neighborhood SHOPP. Among activities in my own neighborhood are 18 years with the Lower East Side Call for Justice, which in collaboration with other organizations including NYSEC, has participated in reform of New York State’s Rockefeller drug laws, removal of the state’s death penalty, and significant improvements in some types of police behavior.

Here at the Society, I chaired the Public Issues Committee for three-and-a-half years. Enlisting the wonderful skills of our members, PIC developed seven position papers on global warming, paid sick leave, and other subjects. Last year, with great help from Andra Miller and Curt Collier, I wrote and introduced the American Ethical Union’s 2010 position on climate change. I received NYSEC’s Community Service Award, and had an article published for the first time. It was about Barack Obama’s presidential style, and was published in seven online magazines. I’ve given six previous platform addresses. Ceremonial Hall.

April 10—Yearning to Breathe Free: The Promise and Perils of Freedom In the Middle East

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

The uprisings in the Middle East are as extraordinary as they were unpredictable. What promises do they hold for stability and democracy in the region? What light do they throw on American foreign policy? What do these surprising events say about the “clash of civilizations.” What is religion’s role and, specifically, that of political Islam in shaping the future? Clearly, each country’s situation is different. This address will look at these seismic political events and their significance for freedom and democracy, as well as American foreign policy. Auditorium.

April 17—Fostering Ethical Engagement in Children

Curt Collier, Leader

Some children grow up to be active adults in their communities. Others are less involved. This may have far less to do with personal preference and more to do with the kinds of experiences

they may have as children. If we want our youth to be engaged members of our democracy, understanding which types of experiences influence behavior is helpful in fostering activism. Drawing upon research and years spent promoting youth activism, including serving as Youth Program Director for Groundwork USA, I'll share some of my insights and experiences. Ceremonial Hall.

April 24—Ethics and Poetry
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Once upon a time, everyone loved and recited poetry. It was the language of life. The meter and rhythm of poems helped people to remember them and thus pass along their images, stories, and values from generation to generation. Poetry's meaning isn't obscure, but it isn't simple either; sometimes it takes a lifetime to understand and appreciate a poem, other times an instant. Poems express our humanity in words and give it meaning. Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in an exploration of the ethical aspect of poetry and celebrate National Poetry Month, established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets to promote the presence and accessibility of poetry in our culture. Ceremonial Hall.

Early Sunday
10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Apr. 3—Chorus Practice—Everyone is welcome, whether your voice is big or small. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings, and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 10—Colloquy—Faith. Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

Apr. 17—Poetry Reading—Come! Celebrate spring and read poems aloud with other poetry enthusiasts. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Apr. 17—Chorus Practice. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon
1:45 PM

(Except as noted)

Apr. 3—Ethical Economics Exploration Group. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 3—Teen Leadership program. 2:00 pm, Rita Chawla presides. Room 508.

Apr. 10—Empowering Ethical Elders Join us for a showing of the film, *Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn*, part of the Social Service Board's Empowering Ethical Elders' series of monthly presentations. The film is a transcendent story of the human spirit, told through the ordinary, daily life of Jessie, an elderly woman—strong, independent, and unsentimental—the kind of life that goes on quietly, hidden from view, full of undiscovered riches. Moving effortlessly from present time to reverie, director Ragnar Freidank captures Jessie's remarkable inner life, with a spare beauty and lyrical grace that resonate far beyond the limits of her world.

The film is an adaptation of Ellen Cassedy's award-winning one-woman play, based on the diary written by her great-aunt, Jessie Singer Sylvester, a member of the Brooklyn Society from 1976 to 1978, which Cassedy found tucked away in a dresser drawer after her aunt's death. "When I discovered her amazing journal, I was mesmer-

ized by its strong, poetic voice," says Cassedy, a playwright and award-winning short story writer. The film stars Broadway, film, and television actress Joanna Merlin, who created the role of Jessie in the original stage production and cowrote and produced the film. "I found the very ordinariness of Jessie compelling," she says, "I was inspired by her courage, her ability to take care of herself under difficult circumstances, and her efforts to enrich her life."

After the film, Ellen Cassedy and Joanna Merlin will join us for a discussion of the ethical issues raised, together with EEE staff social workers Rosemary Irving and Mark Zilberman.



Joanna Merlin

The donation: \$5 for NYSEC members, \$10 for nonmembers, and free for all senior citizens. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 10—Teen Leadership program. 2:00 pm, Rita Chawla presides. Room 508.

Apr. 17—Ethical Economics Exploration Group. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 17—Teen Leadership program. 2:00 pm, Rita Chawla presides. Room 508.

Apr. 24—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Apr. 24—Stained Glass Windows Benefit Concert. 2:00 pm (for more details see page 7). Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions
Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This month's topic will be "Domestic Affairs."

Apr. 7—“Wisconsin Solidarity”—various articles.

Apr. 14—“How Skyscrapers Can Save the City” by Edward Glaeser, *The Atlantic*, March 2011.

Apr. 21—“The GOP Assault on Women”—various articles.

Apr. 28—“The Tyranny of Defense Inc.” by Andrew J. Bacevich and, “Do Americans Love War?” by Dominic Tierney, *The Atlantic*, January/February 2011.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders’ Office. Please come and join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome our newest members **Wally Patawaran, Pamela Rice,** and **Sondra Stein.**

Wally is a public health consultant and has worked especially with geriatric health issues. He is already on the Board of SSB and is the coordinator for the Empowering Ethical Elders program. **Pamela** is a founder and coordinator of the VivaVeggie Society, and has special training in graphic arts and database. Her interests are in politics, veganism, baking, reading, and biking. She is drawn to our programs and our commitment to good causes. **Sondra**, a past member of the Society, is in real estate and has special training in finance. She is interested in world affairs, mindful meditation, art, and music.

* * *

The Society’s annual **Membership Community Meeting** was held on Sunday, March 6. Leaders **Dr. Anne Klaeyen** and **Curt Collier** and Presi-

dent **Andra Miller** talked about the new structure of the Board, and Treasurer **Tom Weishaar** reported on the status of our venerable landmark building. Anne also spoke about our new programs. **Abe Markman** reported on his Ethical Action letter-writing campaigns, and our Executive Director, **Bob Liebeskind**, reported that NYSEC has recently hired **Beth Zucker**, already a member, as our new Manager of Communications. Beth took up her new responsibilities on March 14. Bob also spoke about our plans regarding our archives.

* * *

Please join us in welcoming Beth to the staff of the Society as our Manager of Communications. In this role, Beth will be responsible for supporting the Society’s mission and goals by planning and executing an overall communications and public affairs strategy to serve our membership and our community. Beth has been a member of the Society for the past few years and now very much looks forward to working with staff and Board to bring more attention to the Society and its programs. With a strong background in communications and social media, she will bring a fresh perspective to our communications efforts. We wish Beth all the best in this position and look forward to working closely with her.



Beth Zucker

* * *

Member News

The following members are celebrating birthdays this month: **Valerie Leiman**, 4/1; **Roni Gurland**, 4/2; **Mary Houts**, 4/2; **Barbara Levenson**, 4/3; **Al Denenberg**, 4/4; **Pearl Katz**, 4/4;

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, 4/5; **Christopher Bernhardt**, 4/6; **Diane Debrovner**, 4/6; **Richard Lawnhurst**, 4/10; **Marilyn Baker**, 4/11; **Dwain DePaul**, 4/13; **Patricia Bruder Debrovner**, 4/14; **Patricia Malkin**, 4/14; **Pamela Rice**, 4/15; **Abe Markman**, 4/24; **Richard Sander**, 4/24; **Meg Chapman**, 4/25; **Phyllis Rosenfield**, 4/27; **Sy Amkraut**, 4/29.

We Care About You!

The Caring Committee wants to know how you, members and friends, are faring and in what ways we might help you. Every Sunday the presider at Platform asks members to look around and see who is missing. During the week, we try to reach out to absent members. If you or someone you know would like a call or visit, please let Membership Coordinator Moe-Swe Myint know. She can be reached at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or mmyint@nysec.org.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, April 1, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), in Ceremonial Hall, to see the 2006 film *Away from Her*, by Sarah Polley. Grant (Gordon Pinsent) plunges into an emotional abyss after moving his Alzheimer’s stricken wife (Julie Christie) to a nursing facility and keeping his distance for her benefit. When she turns her affections toward another man, waves of guilt for past behavior pass over Grant.

Christie earned an Oscar nomination for portraying the fading yet graceful Fiona in this astute and solemn tale. Andra Miller will lead our post-film discussion. Suggested donation: \$5.

Ethics in Literature Reading Group

On **Monday, April 4, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will host a discussion of *A Sand County Almanac*, a combination of natural history, scene painting with words, and philosophy, written by American ecologist and philosopher Aldo Leopold. Together with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, this is one of the most venerated environmental books of the 20th century. Leopold is cited as one of the founders of "deep ecology," and his book rivals Thoreau's *Walden* as a classic piece of outdoor literature.

Participate in a lively conversation about the ethical issues raised in this book. Members free; nonmembers \$10.

Foundations of Ethical Culture

Thursdays, 7:00 pm

This exploration of Ethical Culture concepts, history, and contemporary applications is required for all new members, and highly recommended as an introduction for newcomers and a refresher for longtime members. We'll use resources from our archives to highlight the past, as well as interactive materials to bring Ethical Culture into the 21st century. Felix Adler founded a practical religion that put ethics at its core. Together we will learn how to keep ethics at the center of our lives. Adler Study, Room 514.

Apr. 14–Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader.

Apr. 21–Bart Worden, Leader, Westchester Society.

Apr. 28–Curt Collier, Leader.

Please register with Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate, at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, April 18, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Adler Study, Room 514, to see the showing of *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.

Rationalist intellectuals Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens discuss their high-profile books opposing religion and the reaction they have received in this compelling program. Members are free, and the general public suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall **Ethics and the Theater** will present *A Memory of Two Mondays*, by Arthur Miller. Set in the shipping room of a car-parts factory in the 1930s, during the depths of the Great Depression, Miller's play portrays the desperation of those who toil at a trade that, if it keeps the body from starving, slowly suffocates the soul. Elaine Berman directs our cast, which includes Alex Bone, Jerry Chamlin, Tiffany Esteb, Susanna Frazer, John Gurney, Dan Hanson, Craig Jorzczak, John Lovelady, Antonio Pagliarulo, and Tom Weishaar, with stage directions read by Carole Chamlin.

Come at **6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen. The suggested donation is \$5.

Joy of Personal Writing Returns

Elaine Berman

Our 10-week writing workshops will continue this spring, to complete our seventh year of classes. These are safe places to start writing, stay focused, and learn and use your writing skills. Both new and experienced writers are welcome in our nurturing atmosphere.

The **Monday** classes will meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, starting on **April 25** and the **Thursday** classes will meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, beginning on **April 28**. Course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. For more information, call Yalitzia Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

If you'd like to read material by current and past workshop writers, visit our website at www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space.

Advocacy Forum

Join us on **Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 pm** in Ceremonial Hall for NYSEC's **Advocacy Forum**, Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader, interviews James T. Kloppenberg about his book, *Reading Obama: Dreams, Hopes and the American Political Tradition*. General admission: \$10; \$5 members and students.

James Kloppenberg is the Charles Warren Professor of American History and Chair of the History Department at Harvard University. His books include *Uncertain Victory*, *Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought*; *The Virtues of Liberalism*; and *A Companion to American Thought*.

Spring Hike

Henryka Komanska

Join us **Saturday, April 16**, for a hike to Mt. Taurus in historic Cold Spring, NY. This five-hour hike will take us to a summit over the Hudson River where we'll be rewarded with stunning views of the river. We'll take a scenic train ride to the town of Cold Spring, on the eastern bank of the Hudson, which boasts many antique stores, inviting coffee shops and restaurants, and a lovely small park. This town is worth a day's visit even if you don't hike!

The ride on Metro North's Hudson line takes an hour and twenty minutes. We'll meet at the information booth at Grand Central at **8:35 am**. If you arrive after that time, you'll find us on the train that leaves at **8:47 am**. Please buy your own tickets; a round-trip ticket is \$22.50. Bring a water bottle, a light lunch and/or snack for the trail, and a few dollars for a coffee stop at a local cafe. Wear hiking or sturdy walking shoes, as there are some steep parts of our descent and dress in layers for the hike. Rain cancels.

Stained Glass Windows Concert

Dr. Ruth Cohen

As you know, our spring **Benefit Concert for the Stained Glass Windows** will take place **Sunday, April 24, 2:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students. We look forward to seeing you there—you'll hear exciting music, have a great time seeing old friends and making new ones, and get to meet the performers.

Watch for inserts in forthcoming Sunday programs, and call the Society, at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, to make reservations and get more information.

Save the Dates! Bringing Out The Best

*Sheila Kleinwald, Bob Berger
Retreat Co-Chairs*

Our **Membership Retreat** will be at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, New York, from **Friday, September 30 to Sunday, October 2**. The theme for this special get-out-of-the-city event is "Bringing Out the Best." We'll be having fun and informative talks, discussions, walks, and special events outside in the country air. All three Leaders will be joining us as we spend this informal time getting to know each other.

We have made reservations for 30 people. There is additional space available should we need more rooms. However, there will be other groups there at the same time, and if they request those rooms before we do, we'll be out of luck. So please make your reservation (with a \$100 deposit) as soon as possible to be assured a spot. Checks should be made out to the Society with a notation such as: "Deposit—Membership Retreat 2011." You can reserve with either of us (Bob or Sheila) or with Moe-Swe. If you have chosen your roommate (and vice versa) or if you have special dietary or mobility needs, please tell us when you make your reservation.

Total weekend cost for a room with private bath, including six meals, is \$270 per person, double occupancy,

or \$350 for single occupancy. For a room with a sink in one of the lodges (shared toilets and showers), the cost is \$220 per person, double, or \$300, single. There is also one two-bedroom house with shared bath at \$250 per person, double; \$330, single.

If you want to come, but cannot stay for both nights, please speak with either one of us. While full-weekenders will have priority, we do not want to exclude anyone who wants to participate to the extent that they are able.

There is transportation from Manhattan to Stony Point by train, car, or bus—and we're checking on ferries. (No kidding!) Regular bus fare from Port Authority is \$11.80 each way; \$5.90 for seniors. More travel details to come.

If you have questions or suggestions, please see us or Sharon Pope, who has joined the Retreat Committee.

Green Kitchen Update

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Dear Members: Many of you have been asking about how our Green Kitchen Initiative is doing.

We're pleased to inform you that we have now received the framed watercolor triptych that includes the painting to be used on the cover of our cookbook. It will be on display in the Little Galley in the building lobby as soon as appropriate arrangements can be made with NYSEC's security staff.

You will be pleased to know that now you can "Make a Match" and direct your donations to the specific equipment you think is the most important for us to purchase first.

We'll provide envelopes, and you can "Make the Match." We are in the process of pricing equipment, so please note that at this time, all the following prices are estimates. Some examples:

microwave oven: about \$250; freezer: about \$400; dishwasher: about \$3,000. These are at the top of my list.

Thanks again for your interest and enthusiasm. Keep it up!

AHA Celebrates 70 Years Of Service



Don't miss one of the largest gatherings of humanists, atheists, and freethinkers from across the country, the **American Humanist Association's 70th Anniversary** celebration, **April 7–10**, at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel (on the Charles River, overlooking Boston). This exciting four-day event, hosted by the Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard University and held jointly with the Secular Student Alliance, will feature informative breakout sessions, activist training for humanist leaders, banquets honoring distinguished awardees, book signings by celebrity authors, and much more! Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will speak on Humanist University Chaplaincies.

You can register on line at www.americanhumanist.org, or by phone at 1-800-837-3792. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn, train, and meet some of your favorite authors, as well as other like-minded secular folks. We look forward to seeing you there.

Transforming Trauma

Join us **Saturday, April 9, 8:00 pm** (doors open **7:30 pm**), in the Auditorium for one of the most exciting and eclectic events in New York City—**"Transforming Trauma Into Art, Supporting Women and Children,"** a benefit cosponsored by NYSEC and EarSay, a nonprofit arts organization founded by Warren Lehrer and Judith Sloan dedicated to portraying stories of ordinary people and fostering understanding across cultures, generations, gender, and class.

Brian Lehrer, of WNYC's "Brian Lehrer Show," will host this event, which will honor playwright/performance artist Deb Margolin and author/activist Ninotchka Rosca for their longstanding work as artists and social justice activists. The evening will feature monologues, dance, hip-hop, poetry, and music performed by Elise Knudson, MiWi La Lupa (Michael R. Williams), Warren Lehrer, Carl Hancock Rux, Universes, Jie-Song Zhang, and Krussia, of the Stone Forest Ensemble. Actor/writer Judith Sloan will perform an excerpt from her *Yo Miss! Teaching Inside the Cultural Divide*, in which she remixes stories from 20 years of reporting on and teaching



Brian Lehrer

immigrant and refugee teenagers and incarcerated youth.

We'll also hear actors Bridgit Antoinette Evans, Catherine Hanna, Justin Hudson, Chris Kamau, Bridget Kelso, Percy Lujan, Vaimoana Niumeitolu, *Judith Sloan* and Jonathan Stuart



(of Viper Records) reading excerpts from *Crossing the BLVD—Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America*, by Lehrer and Sloan, a multi-media installation of photography, text, and sounds focusing on the cultural experiences of first-generation immigrants in Queens. And, we'll be treated to a special performance by high school students from EarSay's Transforming Trauma Into Art theater project.

For more information, contact: info@earsay.org. It is recommended that you purchase advance tickets, which are available through Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/159657>.



High school students from EarSay

Facing Death... With Dignity

On **Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm** in Ceremonial Hall, the New York Society for Ethical Culture is proud to cosponsor a program with **Compassion & Choices of New York**. This program will provide significant

information on what legal rights people in New York now have at the end of life, including those under two new laws, the Family Health Care Decisions Act, which became effective in 2010, and the Palliative Care Information Act, effective in 2011. We will discuss what specific palliative care and end-of-life choices people have a right to make and what they can do

to ensure that their goals of care and treatment preferences are respected, as well as the ethical issues that may arise in these decisions.

Our speakers will include **David C. Leven**, JD, Executive Director of Compassion & Choices of NY; **Judith Schwarz**, RN, Ph.D., the group's Clinical Coordinator; and Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D. its President. Admission is free.

May Movie!

Save **Friday, May 6, (7:00 pm)** for **Ethics in Film's** presentation of John Carpenter's *Star Man*, about an alien (Jeff Bridges) who crashes to Earth and takes the form of a recently deceased man to evade authorities as he tries to return home. The man's widow (Karen Allen) agrees to help.

SSB: Empowering Ethical Elders Names Co-Directors

Helen Mecs

When the **Social Service Board** could not decide between two excellent candidates to lead its **Empowering Ethical Elders** program, it decided that the experience of the two would bring more than each one could individually, and so hired both as co-directors. With their combined experience and many contacts in professional organizations and the mental health and health care fields, they will be able to offer members a full spectrum of information and resources of special concern to elders and their families. These would include mental and physical health care, such as assisted living, health care proxies, end-of-life issues, nutrition, physical activities, finance, care for the caregivers, and family relationships, among others.

Empowering Ethical Elders, which is funded by a grant from the Adele S. Mossler Fund, will begin its twice-monthly programs this month. We'll announce the dates, location, and a list of activities when they're available.



Co-Director **Rosemary Irving, LCSW** (left) has her own psychotherapy practice for the elderly, adults, and adolescents and was the Manager of African-American outreach at the Alzheimer's Association's NYC Chapter last year. In that capacity she has successfully designed, implemented, and disseminated information to educate individuals regarding medical and psychosocial approaches and preventive measures to ensure that elders live life to the fullest. During her long career and volunteer work, and as a member of professional associations, she has managed, trained, and provided direct services to clients in mental and health care settings in NYC and California.

Rob Hofman (center), a NYSEC and SSB member, will work with the new co-directors. Rob is a geriatric care manager, certified by the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers; an exercise specialist for the elderly, certified by the American College of Sports Medicine; and a certified Chi Qong/Tai Chi instructor with a background in psychology and psychotherapy. Rob will present physical activities during the workshops.

Co-Director **Mark Zilberman, LCSW, ACADC** (right) is the founder and owner of North Care and Guidance LLC, dedicated to geriatric and psychiatric care management, providing case management, coordination of resources, family assessment, and psychotherapy. In addition to his work at North Star, he has worked as a counselor, therapist, and manager in geriatrics; he also is a licensed clinical counselor in alcoholism and other addictions.

Peter, Bethany, Rufus, and Friends Sing Out!

Andra Miller

On Friday, February 25, folk singer and peace activist **Peter Yarrow** (of Peter, Paul, and Mary) gave a benefit concert for the Society in our Auditorium. Peter, with daughter Bethany Yarrow, and friends Rufus and other musicians, was also joined by the audience as we sang old favorites like “This Little Light of Mine” and “If I Had a Hammer.” Afterwards, there was a special reception with Peter and the musicians in Ceremonial Hall. This was a great family night out and a successful benefit event for a great cause—the New York Society for Ethical Culture! Peter had offered this concert partly to accommodate those who were unable to attend the PBS special filmed at the Society and partly as a fundraiser for NYSEC, where he attended Sunday School. He mentioned NYSEC several times during the performance, and invited the audience to join the party by making a contribution of \$125 to the Society. In all, the event raised \$5,902; a very successful day for us indeed!

Thanks to all our members who attended the concert to support the Society, and especially to volunteers **Marilyn Baker, Renee Goodstein, Helen Mees, Alex Mogieleff, Amy Schwarz, and Moira Whittington** for their time, effort, and dedication in helping with the logistics. We truly cannot do without your help. Also, special kudos go to **Antonio Pagliarulo**, Director of Special Events, for his tremendous work in making this concert happen. *(Photos by L. Miller)*

Scenes from the concert....



REGISTER NOW!!!

JUNE 16-19, 2011

**AMERICAN ETHICAL
UNION**

96th Annual Assembly

at

*The Columbus Airport Marriott
Columbus, Ohio*



“Choices That Matter”

***Gather with members of other Ethical Societies for
workshops dedicated to helping you make more ethical
choices for yourself, your Society,
and the world.***

Please visit us at www.aeu.org, or at our Assembly website
and registration at

<http://www.regonline.com/americanethicalunionbr96thannualassembly>

April 2011

Office hours for the month are: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Shelter: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group</u> April 4 – <i>A Sand County Almanac</i>, Aldo Leopold</p> <p><u>Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries</u> April 18 – <i>The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse</i></p> <p><u>Ethics and the Theater</u> April 20 – <i>A Memory of Two Monkeys</i></p>					1 May 2011 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Away from Her</i> (2006)	2
3 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethical Economics 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	4 1:00 pm – Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees	5 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	6 7:00 pm – Black Film Forum	7 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion	8	9 8:00 pm – EarSay Benefit Performance
10 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	11	12 7:00 pm – Advocacy Forum	13 7:00 pm – Compassion & Choices of NY	14 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Foundations of Ethical Culture	15	16 8:35 am – Spring Hike
17 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethical Economics 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	18 1:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse</i>	19 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	20 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 10:00 pm – Ethics on the Air (WBAI 99.5 FM)	21 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Foundations of Ethical Culture	22	23
24 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Sunday Brunch 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News 2:00 pm – Benefit Concert	25 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	26	27	28 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Foundations of Ethical Culture	29	30

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
**ETHICAL
CULTURE** 

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023-7179