

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

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**Sunday Morning
Platform Meetings
11:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall**

April 1

The Ethics of Clemency

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

April 8

**Prudes and Libertines: Politics,
Religion, and Polarization**

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Richard Van Deusen Presides

April 15

**How Black Bodies
Challenge Humanist Ethics**

Anthony Pinn
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

April 22—Earth Day

**The Earth Meter by Meter:
Poetry's Homage to Our
Home Planet**

Curt Collier, Leader
Paula Claycomb Presides

April 29

Hudson Guild Today

Ken Jockers
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

*Bring a friend
on Sunday*

April Happenings

On **Wednesday, April 4, 7:00–9:00 pm**, Barbara Coombs Lee, President of Compassion and Choices of New York, will speak on various **end-of-life issues and choices**. We'll have an opportunity to discuss these often controversial subjects at a reception following her talk. Ceremonial Hall. *(See page 7.)*

Ever wonder how one of the world's leading newspaper copes with today's enormous changes in how news is gathered, analyzed, and disseminated? Join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen on **Monday, April 16, 1:00 pm** for **Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries'** screening of the Andrew Rossi film *Page One: Inside The New York Times*, (2011). Adler Study, Room 514. *(See page 7.)*

Join us on **Saturday, April 21, 7:00 pm**, for an inspiring **Earth Day Benefit Concert** by the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus and Red Molly. We'll hear great music and share the proceeds with the Clearwater Chorus. Auditorium. *(See page 8.)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



Thanks to the 30 who attended the Saturday morning Community Meeting last month. I was told by several people that it was a good meeting, and I certainly thought so myself. Thanks to Anne Klaeysen and the Trustees and committee chairs who were there, we were able to give those in attendance a good feel for each committee's involvements. Special thanks to Jim Farer, who beautifully explained the workings of the Finance Committee, the Rental Committee, the Bylaws Committee,

and several others.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



"I Am Trayvon Martin"



"On February 26, our son Trayvon Martin was shot and killed as he walked to a family member's home from a convenience store where he had just bought some candy. He was only 17-years old."

Thus begins the online plea from parents in Sanford, FL, to sign a petition to have Norman Wolfinger, Florida's 18th District State's Attorney, investigate

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Staff

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 Jon Liechty, Reporter
 Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor
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 Andra Miller, President
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 Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
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**United Social Services, Inc.
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 Photojournalism Project: Eric Norlander and Howard Parker
 Social Justice: Robert Gangi
 EEE Program: Rob Hofman, Rosemary Irving, Wally Patawaran, and Mark Zilberman

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

We also went around the room to have each person tell us of their volunteer activities and nonprofit work. Most did volunteer work outside the Society; it is amazing what our members have been involved in, and the non-profit and UN non-governmental organizations they alone have started. I wish I could remember them all, but maybe we'll just have to do it again! Many also told of their volunteer work on Society committees or task forces—so we have them to thank for their efforts on the Society's behalf.

A very nice upshot is that four people volunteered for committee duty, turning in their "Member Volunteer Interest" forms. One of those four has already, at the time of this writing, been accepted to a committee. We also had a volunteer who will write items for *Ethical Outlook* on what various committees are doing.

For those of you who weren't able to get there for the Saturday meeting,

I have extra copies of the handouts; which were the volunteer form, the proposed budget for passage at the May 5 Annual Meeting, a listing of the current committees, and a report of the member survey of October 2011. Let me know if you want a copy.

If you missed the 14th annual Stained Glass Windows Concert, you missed a wonderful afternoon at the Society. We had amazing lieder songs sung by two sopranos and a mezzo-soprano, beautiful piano playing including by our own Gerald Ranck and Jon Liechty, and passionate violin music with a Persian flair. The music included works by Samuel Barber, Franz Schubert, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, as well as original compositions by Jon Liechty and Eshagh Shaoul. This was all wonderful music, and we have Dr. Ruth Cohen to thank for putting it together—along with the musicians' reception afterwards. It was a delightful event and I'm already looking forward to the one Ruth initiates and coordinates for next year.

I report with great pride that Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, a Trustee and Chair

of the Social Service Board, will be one of the two initial recipients of the Legacy Award from the Black Psychiatrists of America on April 21 in Washington, DC. (See story on page 9.) She is being recognized for her contributions to the field of psychiatry and mental health and for her contributions to African-Americans in general. As pointed out by our Trustee Nicola DeMarco, she became a medical doctor in 1959, which was before the institution of reforms brought by the civil rights movement—and she was one of the first African-American women psychiatrists in the country. Also, among all her many other invaluable contributions to push progress, she’s been the spearhead in a campaign to use information technology to be of help.

In fact, television equipment has already arrived, which will be installed in the office of the Social Service Board so that “televsitation” can be implemented right here at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. I have to say that BPA has “beat us to the punch” in giving Phyllis this special award. She is truly a Living Legacy!

And, everybody, have a great April as we head into the warmer weather. Enjoy!

Leader’s Desk

(Continued from page 1)

this incident and arrest the perpetrator, George Zimmerman, a crime watch volunteer who called 911 and then, contrary to the dispatcher’s directions, pursued—and shot—Trayvon.

I listened to the 911 tapes posted online. They culminate with a faint voice crying and pleading for help. A gunshot is heard, and then silence. Trayvon’s parents are sure that the voice belonged to their son. Several witnesses who heard the encounter agree with them. It is a heartbreaking sound. Minutes earlier

Trayvon had called a friend on his cell phone to tell her that a man was following him as he walked home. She heard him ask, “Why are you following me?” and a distant voice ask, “What are you doing around here?”

For weeks the Police Department in Sanford said that under the so-called “Stand Your Ground” law, one of 21 such laws around the country pushed heavily by the National Rifle Association, it had no call to bring charges. This controversial law, opposed vigorously by law enforcement, gives the benefit of the doubt to a person who claims self-defense, regardless of where the killing takes place: in one’s home, on a street, in a car, or in a bar. In Florida, people who feel they are in imminent danger need not retreat, even if it would seem reasonable to do so; they have the right to “stand their ground” and protect themselves.

“Trayvon was our hero. At age nine, Trayvon pulled his father from a burning kitchen, saving his life. He loved sports and horseback riding. At only 17 he had a bright future ahead of him with dreams of attending college and becoming an aviation mechanic. Now that’s all gone.”

This is a story that changed quickly after Trayvon’s parents posted their petition on Change.org. As many as 50,000 people signed every hour. By March 18, the United States Justice Department announced that its civil rights division and the FBI would investigate the killing. These investigations will run parallel with one announced on March 19 by the State Attorney in Florida’s Seminole County. On March 21, the Sanford City Commission voted that they had no confidence in the city’s police chief. In Miami and New York City on March 22, demonstrators chanted “I Am Trayvon Martin” in

Million Hoodie rallies. Why “hoodie”? Because that’s what Trayvon, an African-American youth, wore that made him look so suspicious.

Here in New York City, the legal vehicle for racial profiling is the Police Department’s “stop, question, and frisk” policy. Black and Hispanic people generally represent more than 85 percent of those stopped by the police, though their combined populations make up around half of citywide residency. About 10 percent of the stops led to arrests or summonses and one percent to the recovery of a weapon, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has examined police data and challenged the policy in court.

Early in February, an 18-year old was killed by a police officer in the Bronx. Ramarley Graham, like Trayvon, was returning home from a convenience store. When he failed to stop, the officer pursued him into his home and shot him in the bathroom.

We must not allow our children of color to be chased and killed. They have every right to walk the streets and enter their homes freely and safely. It is our responsibility to protect them and speak up for them. Raise your voices in protest against the racism that continues to plague law enforcement and ignorant people.

From “A Litany For Children Slain By Violence” (Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, 2012): *“A sound is heard in every city. Communities are weeping for their children. Children like Emmett Till and Trayvon Martin, who go out to get candy, never again to return to the sweetness of home life.*

“Let us rise up and interrupt these rushing waters of violence that leave children wounded and paralyzed. Let us rise up and demand abolishment of laws that are rooted in militarism, fueled by capitalism, and justified by racism.”

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 AM

April 1—The Ethics of Clemency

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

Every faith tradition teaches compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. We strive for reconciliation and redemption to heal torn relationships. Is this limited to individuals, or can we also apply it to society?

Can't someone who has been convicted of a crime and imprisoned later repent and reform? How does society recognize transformation and support reconciliation? Judith Clark, a 1960s and 1970s political activist, has spent over 30 years in prison for her role as a getaway driver in a 1981 robbery that left three people dead. Now 62 years old, she has undergone a profound transformation, from an unrepentant radical to a respected educator and caring role model. The only way she'll ever be released from prison is if Governor Cuomo grants her clemency.

This platform delves into the issue of clemency and its impact upon individuals and society.

The shared charity is Judith Clark Legal Fund.

April 8—Prudes and Libertines: Politics, Religion, and Polarization

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Religion has been a powerful force in American politics, especially for the past 30 years. A preoccupation with politicized religion has been sexual mores, especially oppressing the status of women. It has also made partisanship more strident. But as religion has become more powerful, other counter dynamics have been silently emerging

on the American landscape. Politicized religion has created a backlash, especially among the millennial generation, many of whom are abandoning religion in large numbers. Growing religious pluralism has increased a commitment to tolerance and what some observers call "soft secularism." And, though it is almost invisible, the cacophony of the religious politics is causing many congregations to retreat from political action altogether. My April address will look at contemporary trends and what they suggest for the future of politics and religion.

The shared charity is Project FIND.

April 15—How Black Bodies Challenge Humanist Ethics

Anthony Pinn

The murder of Trayvon Martin has raised a variety of issues related to the ways in which African-Americans are understood within the United States. While this tragic event has a particular meaning within our current historical moment, it also points to troubling ideologies and framings of collective life in the United States tied to the very formation of the nation. Humanists might have unique contributions to make to this ongoing conversation concerning black bodies, but this first requires humanists to interrogate their own assumptions concerning human nature.

Anthony Pinn, Ph.D. (Harvard University) is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University. He is also Director of Research for the Institute for Humanist Studies, and author/editor of 26 books, including *The End of God-Talk: An African-American Humanist Theology* (Oxford, 2012).

The shared charity is the African Hospice Initiative.

April 22—The Earth Meter by Meter: Poetry's Homage to Our Home Planet

Curt Collier, Leader

This platform explores the history of environmentalism as told through poetry, and how the ways we view the earth have shaped poetic themes. Selections from various poetic movements will be shared to provide a pastoral homage to Earth.

The shared charity is Repower, the Climate Reality Project.

April 29—Hudson Guild Today

Ken Jockers

Ethical Culture Leader John Lovejoy Elliott founded Hudson Guild Settlement House in 1895, and it is still active today as a multiservice community center serving those who live, work, or go to school in Chelsea, with a focus on those in need. As it did during Elliott's day, its work helps knit together a dynamic and multifaceted community, provides a safety net for people in economic distress, and supports individuals as they pursue their goals. Hudson Guild currently provides services to more than 14,000 people each year, and the participants in Hudson Guild's programs come from a variety of cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Ken Jockers, Executive Director since 2008, will bring us up to date on Hudson Guild's activities. He came to the Guild after serving as Deputy General Counsel in the NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services since 2005. He also served as Executive Director of the Fund for Modern Courts, the leading citizens group ded-

icated to improving the court system in New York State, as well as Executive Director for the Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project, the only borough-wide program providing free legal services to the indigent in Brooklyn.

The shared charity is Hudson Guild.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Apr. 1—Chorus Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings and get tips to improve our singing technique. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 8—Colloquy—Appreciating. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeynsen. Room 408.

Apr. 15—Poetry Reading—Come read with us! Share the works of a favorite poet. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

Apr. 15—Chorus Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 22—Psalms of the Land. Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 29—Coffee and Chat. Room 508.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

(Rooms subject to change)

Apr. 1—Clergy for Clark. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeynsen has organized an inter-faith effort to seek clemency for Judith Clark. Join her and Clark's attorney Sara Bennett for a presentation on this case, including excerpts from Eve Ensler's documentary, *What I Want My Words to Do to You*, featuring Judith. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 8—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Apr. 15—Life with Health—Diagnostic Screening: Medical, Economic, and Ethical Issues. Screening asymptomatic patients in order to detect medical problems early enough to achieve more effective treatment has become the cornerstone of preventive medicine. Recently, there have been major changes in the recommendations that are being given to doctors and patients concerning the types, onset, and frequency of screening. Dr. Charles Debrovner will discuss the reasons for these changes, how they affect you, and their medical, economic and, sometimes, ethical implications. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 22—Video and Talk with Paul Reale, a speaker with the Climate Reality Project. This event is free. Ceremonial Hall.

Apr. 29—Learn how to get the most out of our NYSEC website! Please join Beth Zucker as she walks you through our Members Only area including our private Forums. Learn how to share valuable content on our site with your Facebook friends or by email to your friends and family. There will be a substantial portion of the session for your individual questions and concerns. Bring a laptop if you wish or simply bring pen and paper to take some notes. Make this valuable resource a part of your journey! Room 508.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

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

Apr. 5—"Africa's Dirty Wars" by Jeffrey Gettleman, *The NY Review of Books*, 3/8/12, and **"Africa Unleashed: Explaining the Secret of a Belated Boom"** by Edward Miguel, *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2011.

Apr. 12—"The Fallout" by Evan Osnos, *The New Yorker*, 10/17/11.

Apr. 19—"Can Germany Help Central Europe Confront Its Dark Past?" by Paul Hockenos, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 3/4/12.

Apr. 26—Various articles on "Syria at War with Its People."

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 new member **Larry Hurst.**

Larry is a healthcare coach with training in group relationships and meditation. He is a member of the NYS Geriatric Health Alliance, Election Coordinator for the International Coach Federation, a member and former Chair of the International Pharmaceutical Management Institute, Founder and Coordinator of NY Metro Focusing (Group Relations), and Manager for the Peace of Heart Choir (outreach concerts). He also is a volunteer at a soup kitchen and at the Light House for the Visually Impaired. Larry is interested in health and wellness, music, and "bridge-building."

* * *

We held a lovely memorial for our dear friend and member **Maira Whittington** on Sunday, March 4. Maira's friends and family (including those

from Ireland), neighbors, and NYSEC members who knew and loved her came in force to honor her life, her work, and her spirit. She was remembered by all for her beauty of mind and body, generosity of spirit and kindness of heart, and for being straightforward but gentle in her dealings with others, as well as her feistiness, her sense of humor, and—above all else—her positive outlook on life, even to the end. She was truly an Ethical person, and we will miss her greatly.

* * *

On March 6, our own Music Director, **Gerald Ranck**, gave a wonderful recital of Ludwig van Beethoven's music. This was the second in a series of four concerts celebrating Jerry's 70th birthday, offered as a gift to NYSEC. The program, with Jerry at the piano and Mark Shuman on violoncello, consisted of Twelve Variations on a Theme from Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus* (1796), WoO45; Sonata in F major, opus 5, no. 1; Sonata in C major, opus 102, no. 1; and Sonata in D major, opus 102, no. 2. This concert and the one coming up on April 3 offer complete works for piano and cello by Beethoven. The fourth and last concert will be presented on May 1, and that will be an all-Bach program. So if you didn't make it to these concerts yet, mark your calendars, bring your friends, and be prepared to spend an evening listening to some of the world's most beautiful music, played by great talents.

* * *

In recognition of International Women's Day at the United Nations (March 8) and Women's History Month, NYSEC and the Social Service Board presented a program, directed by SSB Board member **J. Soffiyah**

Elijah. The March 7 event explored the accomplishments of women from a Third World perspective, with brief presentations by Maritzel Gonzalez, President of the Federation of Cuban Women, and other guests. Kudos to Society Trustee **Nicola DeMarco** and the SSB Board members for bringing this program to fruition, and special thanks to volunteers **Elaine Berman**, **John Gurney**, **Beverly Newman**, **Sharon Pope**, and **Jamie Scott** for their good works.

* * *

Members **Carolyn** and **Joe Marvel** are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, **Sienna Elizabeth**, born on March 19! Please welcome her to our family.



Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Literature Reading Group

Come on **Monday, April 2, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on *The Appointment: A Novel*, by Herta Mueller.



"I've been summoned. Thursday, ten sharp." Thus begins one day in the life of a young clothing factory worker during Ceausescu's totalitarian regime of 1965–1989. She has been questioned before; this time, she believes, will be worse. Her crime?

* * *
And last, but not least, our fall **Members' Retreat** is scheduled for September 14-16. Space is limited and reservations are being accepted now with a \$100 deposit. Remember, it's first come, first served!

* * *

Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in April: **Valerie Leiman**, 4/1; **Roni Gurland**, 4/2; **Mary Houts**, 4/2; **Law'nence Miller**, 4/2; **Barbara Levenson**, 4/3; **Al Denenberg**, 4/4; **Pearl Katz**, 4/4; **Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh**, 4/5; **Chris Bernhardt**, 4/6; **Diane Debrovner**, 4/6; **Marilyn Baker**, 4/11; **Dwain DePaul**, 4/13; **Pat Debrovner**, 4/14; **Pat Malkin**, 4/14; **Pam Rice**, 4/15; **Nancy McGeorge Lovelady**, 4/17; **Abe Markman**, 4/24; **Rich Sander**, 4/24; **Meg Chapman**, 4/25; **Phyllis Rosenfield**, 4/27; **Sy Amkraut**, 4/29.

Sewing notes into the linings of men's suits bound for Italy. "Marry me," the notes say, with her name and address. Anything to get out of the country.

Mueller, winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, renders the humiliating terrors of a crushing regime in this novel about a young Romanian woman's discovery of betrayal in the most intimate reaches of her life.

There is no charge for members; the public's suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, April 6, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30**)



pm), in Ceremonial Hall, to see *The Invention of Lying*, (2009).

In a world where no one fibs, fiction doesn't exist and people always take each other at their literal word. Unsuccessful screenwriter Mark gains fame and fortune—and maybe the girl of his dreams—by saying things that aren't true.

The suggested donation: \$5.

Building Ethical Relationships

Relationships don't just happen; they're made—and nurtured with loving care. To bring our best selves to others and elicit their best, we need empathy and social skills. In four workshop sessions, on **Thursdays, April 12 and 26, and May 10 and 24, 6:30–8:00 pm**, Elliott Library, Room 507, moderators Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens and Pat Debrovner will explore the nature of relationships and the ways in which we can better connect to one another.

Admission is free, but registration is required. To register, please contact Yalitzia Garcia at 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or email her at ygarcia@nysec.org.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, April 16, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Page One: Inside The New York Times*, (2011).



Film director Andrew Rossi goes inside New York's leading newspaper

to examine how the venerable paper and its reporters are responding to the massive changes in how news is gathered, analyzed, and dispersed.

The film showing is free to members, and \$5 for guests.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **Friday, April 20, from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm**, **Ethics and the Theater** will present



Collected Stories by David Margulies. Authors are dangerous people to know, even more to love. They will unapologetically conscript your foibles, failures, dreams, and desires in the service of their tales. But what if the tables are turned? This question is at the center of Margulies's two-person play. Ruth, an established and well-regarded author and teacher of creative writing, takes a gifted but awkward student, Lisa, as her assistant, gradually letting the younger woman wear down her defenses to become friend and confidant. Under Ruth's mentorship, Lisa blossoms as an ascendant talent. Friction is inevitable, and when Lisa incorporates in her fiction a particularly intimate event that Ruth confided to her, a fiery confrontation is sparked. Must age yield to youth, and loyalty to art?

Richard Van Deusen directs the cast, which includes Pat Debrovner and Jill Usdan, with stage directions read by Beverly Newman. 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 Dr. Kathleen O'Connell.

The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

Spring Writing Classes

Elaine Berman

The ten-week spring semester of **The Joy of Personal Writing** will begin this month.



Our **Monday** class starts on **April 23** and our **Thursday** class starts on **April 26**. Both meet from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, in Room 508.

In the spring, some of our writers will have already been working through the year. We are delighted to welcome everyone—experienced or new to writing—who wants to join us and be “a person who writes.” The course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers. For more information and to register, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext.117.

To see examples of our workshop members' writing, and to read pieces by both current and past course members, go to: www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space.

End-of-Life-Issues

Join us on **Wednesday, April 4, 7:00–9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall, for a program cosponsored by the New York Society and Compassion and Choices of New York, **End of Lib-**



Barbara Coombs Lee

erty: Latest Advances in Freedom, with Barbara Coombs Lee, PA, FNP, JD, President, Compassion and Choices.

A world leader on end-of-life issues and decision making, and a renowned speaker, Barbara Coombs Lee practiced as a nurse and physician's assistant for 25 years before beginning a career in law and health policy. Long a champion for enabling individuals to have the freedom to consider a complete range of choices at life's end, Barbara was Chief Petitioner for the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. She has spoken at numerous professional meetings and conferences, and testified before state legislatures and Congress.

She has appeared on "NBC News," "CNN Crossfire," "60 Minutes," "McNeil Lehrer News House," National Public Radio, "The Today Show," and Bill Moyers' "On Death and Dying." Barbara is a regular blogger on the *Huffington Post*.

The program will be followed by a reception. Admission is free. Register at www.cnysec.eventbrite.com, or by calling 800-247-7421.

Kinyarwanda – A Story About Genocide in Rwanda

Join us on **Tuesday, April 17**, at **7:00 pm**, in the Auditorium, for a screening of the award-winning film, *Kinyarwanda*,



followed by a discussion with writer/director Alrick Brown and producer Darren Dean, the first feature about the Rwandan genocide of 1994

produced, conceived, and financed by Rwandan artists. While many previous films focused on the atrocities and politics of the genocide, *Kinyarwanda* reveals more about life, faith, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

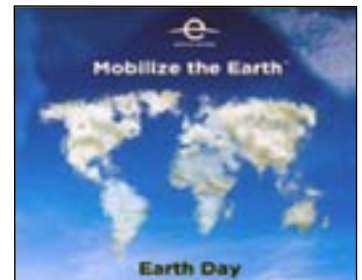
During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the Mufti of Rwanda, the most respected Muslim leader in the country, issued a fatwa forbidding Muslims from participating in the killing of the Tutsi. As the country became a slaughterhouse, mosques became places of refuge where Muslims and Christians, Hutus, and Tutsis came together to protect each other. *Kinyarwanda*, named after the language shared amongst Hutus and Tutsis, is based on accounts from survivors who took refuge at the Grand Mosque of Kigali and the Imams who opened their doors to give refuge to the Tutsi and to those Hutu who refused to participate in the killing.

The story interweaves six different tales that together form one powerful narrative, providing the most complex and real depiction yet presented of life and human resilience during the genocide. "These stories were so bizarre, intense, beautiful, touching, inspiring, and painful that I had to write," said executive producer Ishmael Ntiha-bose. Audiences will walk away with a feeling of hope, knowing that in the midst of such tragic events something beautiful can still be found.

This presentation commemorates the 18th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door, and all proceeds will go towards programming on increasing peace internationally. Learn more about the film at the *Kinyarwanda* website: www.kinyarwandamovie.com.

Earth Day Benefit Concert

Please join us on **Saturday, April 21**, from **7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, in the Auditorium for a wonderful evening of music with the **Walkabout Clearwater Chorus** and **Red Molly**.



The Clearwater Chorus was founded by Pete Seeger and a portion of the evening's proceeds will go to them for their continued work on environmental issues. Red Molly is a three-woman group, with acoustic guitars and a rock/folk mix of music.

General admission is \$25. You can buy tickets at <http://earthdayconcert.eventbrite.com/>. This will be a wonderful evening of music by two popular groups, so don't miss it.



The Walkabout Clearwater Chorus



Red Molly

To Frack or Not to Frack?

Join us on **Tuesday, April 24, 6:45 pm** (doors open **6:00 pm**) in the Auditorium for a discussion of the economics, politics, and environmental issues of “fracking.” Hydraulic fracturing is the propagation of fractures in a rock layer caused by the presence of a pressurized fluid. Hydraulic fractures can form naturally, i.e., veins or dikes, and are a means by which gas and petroleum from source rocks may migrate to reservoir rocks. Energy companies use this controversial process to release petroleum, natural gas, coal seam gas, or other substances for extraction, via a technique called “induced hydraulic fracturing,” often called “fracking” or “hydrofracking.”

The event, “**Frackonomics: Debunking the Financial Myths of Shale Gas and Embracing a Green Energy Future,**” is cosponsored by United for Action, NYSEC, and a number of organizations promoting the development of “green” energy.

Speakers will include **Deborah Rogers**, former financial consultant, Smith Barney and Merrill Lynch, who served on the Advisory Committee for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and was featured in *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*—“The Big Fracking Bubble”; **Jannette Barth**, Ph.D., economist, principal of J.M. Barth & Associates and an expert on the impact of shale gas on local economies; **Al Appleton**, former Commissioner, NYC Department of Environmental Protection and an international consultant on sustainability, water, and infrastructure; and **David Braun**, President, United for

Action and event host. You won’t want to miss this timely and enlightening evening. Donation: \$10.

Social Service Board

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross To Receive Legacy Award

Nicola DeMarco

Black Psychiatrists of America will present its highest honor, the Legacy Award, to **Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross**, along with **Dr. Price Cobbs**, coauthor of the groundbreaking book, *Black Rage*. According to the organization, “These two honorees will be recognized for their contributions not only to the field of psychiatry and mental health but to African-Americans in general” at a reception on April 21, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. Congratulations, Dr. Harrison-Ross, on your achievement.

Dr. Harrison-Ross is a Trustee of NYSEC and Chair of the Social Service Board. With more than 35 years in the community mental health profession, she has had a remarkably diverse career as a hospital clinical administrator, researcher, academician, public health consultant, forensic and child psychiatrist, pediatrician, and public educator, and she continues to lend her talents to serving diverse, hard-to-reach, and underserved populations.



Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

Born in Detroit to a historian/educator and social worker/university professor, she endured the anguish of bigotry as a child but grew into adulthood as a healer, her spirit and will to bring justice to the world enduring and flourishing. By 1959, she had earned her medical degree, one of the first women of African descent to do so in the United States; until the civil rights movement of the 1960s, there were only a small number of black psychiatrists in the US.

A tireless advocate for justice and peace, Dr. Harrison-Ross is Commissioner for the NYS Commission of Corrections and Chair of its Medical Review Board, the first clinician to hold that position. In 2004, she was awarded the American Psychiatric Association’s Solomon Carter Fuller Award for her innovative use of “telepsychiatry,” which enables patients to be treated using modern technology and allows access to care over long distances at a fraction of the cost and with minimal environmental impact. The Legacy Award will join others she has received, including the Eleanor Bumpers Humanitarian Award in 2010, the Silver Apple Award from the Commission on Status of Women in New York City in 1991, and the Public Service Award from the NYS Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse in 1990.

From its start-up in 1973 to 1999, Dr. Harrison-Ross was Director and Chief of Psychiatry at the Metropolitan Hospital Community Mental Health Center, and was also Associate Medical Director of Metropolitan Hospital and President of its Medical Board. The municipal psychiatric center provides adult and child mental health services in inpatient, ambulatory, clinic, and community settings, as well as programs in drugs, alcoholism, and

AIDS treatment; psychiatric community support services; education and consultation services for police, court, and prison personnel; and multiculturally focused medical education, training, and research. Since 9/11, she has immersed herself in interfaith disaster mental health services, and is President of a national organization of clinicians and interfaith-based leaders, All Healers Mental Health Alliance. She is the founder of Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York and its former President, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Services at the New York Medical College, and the author of several publications and books, including *The Black Child: A Parents' Guide*.

In 2010, Dr. Harrison-Ross began a new program at NYSEC, Empowering Ethical Elders, which provides information and support for elders who seek a better quality of life, and empowerment. It offers social work services and referrals to numerous agencies and resources for participants (more information can be found at www.nysec.org/ssb).

Meet the New SSB Directors

*Phyllis Harrison-Ross, MD
Chair, USS, Inc/SSB*

The **Social Service Board** of NYSEC's United Social Services welcomes our two new directors, **Marlene Williamson** and **Roberta Yancy**. These very distinguished women are bringing very special talents, experience, and vision to help us accomplish the mission of USS, Inc. Please welcome them to the family of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

Save the Dates!

AEU Assembly Comes to Albany

The American Ethical Union's 97th Assembly will be held in Albany, NY, **June 14 to June 17**, with the theme, "**Creating Communities of Hope and Justice.**" Friday's program will focus on "Our Ethical Culture Societies"; Saturday's events will focus on "Humanizing Criminal Justice."

To help you plan ahead for this momentous event and to register online, you can visit the AEU's website, www.aeu.org, for a link. If you have questions regarding the Assembly, please call the AEU at 212-873-6500, or email L. Miller at lmiller.aeu@gmail.com, or Donna Pang at donna.aeu@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCING
NYSEC Annual
Members' Retreat
SAVE THE DATE:
September 14th - 16th
 Last year's retreat was booked to capacity.
 Make your reservation right away.
 For more information contact
 Moe-Swe Myint (Sun - Wed): 212.874.5210 x113
 (\$100.00 deposit holds your place.)

April 2012

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
1 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm – Clergy for Clark 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	2 May 2012 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm – Ethics in Literature 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees	3 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 8:00 pm – Gerald Ranck and Friends	4 7:00 pm – End-of-Life-Issues	5 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders	6 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>The Invention of Lying</i> , (2009)	7
8 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm – Ethics in the News 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	9	10 7:00 pm – Felix Adler Seminar	11	12 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Building Ethical Relationships	13	14
15 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Chorus Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm – Life with Health 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	16 1:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>Contemporary Documentaries</i> 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	17 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – <i>Kinyarwanda</i> – A Story About Genocide in Rwanda	18 10:00 pm – Ethics on the Air	19 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 pm – Empowering Ethical Elders	20 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	21 7:00 pm – Earth Day Concert
22 10:00 am – Psalms of the Land 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm – Climate Reality 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	23 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	24 6:45 pm – United for Action 7:00 pm – Felix Adler Seminar	25	26 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Building Ethical Relationships 6:30 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	27 7:00 pm – OJT@NVSEC	28
29 10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 pm – NVSEC Website 2:00 pm – Teen Leadership	30 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	<p style="text-align: center;"> Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group Apr. 2 – <i>The Appointment: A Novel</i>, by Herta Mueller Apr. 16 – <i>Page One: Inside The New York Times</i>, (2011) Apr. 20 – <i>Collected Stories</i>, by Donald Margulies </p>				

The New York Society for Ethical Culture is a welcoming home for humanists. We've provided nontheistic services in a congregational setting since 1876. We embrace the diversity of our city and invite all to join us in celebrating life's joys, supporting one another through life's crises, and working together to make the world a better place.

Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. Members are committed to personal ethical development in their relationships with others and in activities involving social justice and environmental stewardship.



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