

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

February 7–Ceremonial Hall
**Contemporary Slavery: A
Persistent Moral Outrage**
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Bonnie Bean Presides

February 14–Ceremonial Hall
Religion and Temperament
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Andra Miller Presides

February 21–Auditorium
**One Nation Under the
Constitution: Moral Values
Through Humanistic Government**
*Sean Faircloth, Executive Director,
Secular Coalition for America*
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

February 28–Ceremonial Hall
**Future Farmers of New York City:
The Next Green Revolution**
Curt Collier, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

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February Happenings

Ever want to “get inside someone’s head,” or maybe even your own? On **Thursday, Feb. 4, at 12:00 noon**, in the **Elliot Library, Room 507**, part of our ongoing **Leader’s Lunch Discussion** series with Dr. Anne Klaeysen, which this month focuses on **Science**, you’ll get a chance to do just that. We’ll discuss two fascinating recent articles that appeared in *The New York Times* in December. (*See page 5*)

Celebrate **Valentine’s Day** at a concert here on **Saturday, Feb. 13, at 7:00 pm**, in **Ceremonial Hall**. We’ll enjoy wonderful classical music performed by a live ensemble plus soprano, readings of love poems by Shakespeare and others, and dancing to music provided by a DJ. Light refreshments will also be served at this unique event. There is an admission charge. (*See page 6*)

Come to our **LaCite Knitting Circle** on **Sunday, Feb. 21**, after the Platform in **Social Hall**. This is a special event to aid Haiti relief efforts by creating items for suffering and displaced earthquake victims in Haiti. (*See page 6*)

President’s Notes

Andra Miller



Putting together this newsletter is a big job, and in order to have the time to assemble all the pieces and get an issue out before the start of the month for which it is named, the editor, Selma Friedman, and the production person, Deborah Foster, need submission material on the first day of the month before. Thus, this February column was due January 4, but was sent several days after that.

Unfortunately, your President is incapable of writing a February column at the end of December, and so Deborah allows me a presidential prerogative; she
(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader’s Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Hell on Earth! What can one write about Haiti that has not already been written in the days since an earthquake with the magnitude of 7.0 devastated that land and its people? Nothing, really. So let’s take some time to reflect upon the ways that people still suffer from the nondiscriminatory power of nature and the discriminatory nature of people in power.

There were as many fatalities in the small country of Haiti (approximately a quarter of a million) as there were across southeast Asia in the tsunami of 2004. After the tsunami, aid groups and governments established a system by which the deceased were photographed before being buried so loved ones could search for
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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

accepts my submission a fair amount of time beyond the official due date. But even with that stretch, it means I'm guessing what will have come to pass by the time you receive this issue.

This long preamble is for setting the stage to admit that the first paragraph of my last column was not exactly true—that I was sure I would have had a good time at the New Year's Eve party. The fact was: we didn't have a New Year's Eve party! We were banking on the fundraising event to be as successful as the one for 2008, but I think the \$50 tab—after another year of financial uncertainty and unemployment—was more than most folks wanted to pay/contribute. Combine that with the fact that we got started later than we should have in promoting it, and there you have it: a nonparty. So those of us planning to go made last-minute alternative arrangements or just stayed home, in my case, watching a couple of delightful rented movies.

Another thing I mentioned in my last column was in response to a suggestion made at the November Community Meeting about the pledge campaign. I said that we would print a list of all who had paid their pledges for the year 2009 in the February

issue. However, after thinking it over, I see little point in that because it will be virtually a list of the entire membership, minus a few people who—because they didn't contribute or respond to our calls and letters, are no longer members.

I also said I'd list those who have made their commitment for 2010. But now I'm thinking that maybe I should wait another month, so that those who couldn't make the pledge party and simply forgot about this year's pledge, will have a chance to make sure their name is on the list. See the pledge coupon on page 9. By the way, if you have your pledge automatically billed to your credit card, we ask that you still let us know that this is continuing this year.

There were so many good ideas presented by you at the Community Meeting. I look forward to hearing more of your thoughts at the February 7 meeting (at 1:45 pm in Ceremonial Hall). Of course, if you have a brilliant idea we Trustees should know about; you don't have to wait for a meeting to tell one of us—we're all listed on page 2 of *Ethical Outlook* every other month.

Our February meeting will include brief reports from each committee chair or representative, and they will include their plans to implement your suggestions from November. Come and see how NYSEC is stepping into

the future in this year of celebrating the past—the 1910 construction and dedication of this beautiful, grand old building.

Let me close by saying thanks to those who do the tireless, endless, and often thankless work of producing our monthly newsletter. Thank you, Deborah Foster and Selma Friedman. What would we do without you?

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

them. In Haiti, almost all the dead are uncounted and anonymous, dumped unceremoniously into mass graves. According to anthropologist Ira Lowenthal, who has lived in Haiti for 38 years, this does not reflect callousness, but rather an unprecedented catastrophe that has overwhelmed every humanitarian effort.

What can account for this deadly comparison? Some say Haiti is “godforsaken.” One of these, Christian televangelist Pat Robertson, true to his terrible theology, said that Haitians are suffering the consequences of a pact they made with the devil in the 18th century. On the “700 Club” he said, *“Something happened a long time ago in Haiti, and people might not want to talk about it. They were under the heel of the French. You know, Napoleon III, and whatever. And they got together and swore a pact to the devil. . . The Haitians revolted and got themselves free. But ever since, they have been cursed by one thing after the other.”*

My limited understanding of “pacts with the devil” implies that clients actually benefit in some way—for example, wealth, success, love—before they die. Surely the people of Haiti enjoyed no such benefits. Yes, some individuals lorded ill-gotten gains over their coun-

trymen, lining their pockets and furnishing their mansions, torturing and killing their opposition. But for centuries most Haitians have known only crushing poverty and sickness or heartbreaking diaspora.

The average life expectancy for a slave under the control of the French West India Company was 21 years. Today it is 44 years. Haiti declared its independence in 1804, but it was not free; in exchange for diplomatic recognition from France, Haiti paid reparations from 1825 to 1947 to its former colonizer. By 1900 80 percent of Haiti's national budget was spent on loan repayments, completely destroying its economy. Due to the process of soil erosion, started by the French and continued today by people cutting down trees to burn for heating and cooking, Haiti is 98 percent deforested, and with each new storm more soil disappears. There are even people desperate enough to mix vegetable oil with mud to make something that looks like an edible biscuit.

How must it feel to love such a cruel home? After the earthquake, Rev. Joseph Lejeune called out to his congregation, “Think of our new village here as the home of Jesus Christ, not the scene of a disaster. Life is not a disaster. Life is joy! You don't have food? Nourish yourself with the Lord. You don't have water? Drink in the spirit.” An unemployed parishioner told a *NY Times* reporter, “It may seem like a strange moment to have faith, but you can't blame God. I blame man. God gave us nature, and we Haitians, and our governments, abused the land. You cannot get away without consequences.”

Not the devil, not god, not nature. Human beings forsook their brothers and sisters in Haiti. We must all take responsibility and release them from the hell of their existence. The National Service Conference, part of the American Ethical Union and a nongovernmental organization of the United Nations, established the Rose L. Walker Fund in order to quickly respond, as an ethical movement, to global crises such as this one in Haiti. Donations will go to Haiti in two waves—one to address the immediate health crisis through Doctors without Borders (<http://doctorswithoutborders.org>), the other to support development through Fonkoze (<http://www.fonkoze.org>). Visit their websites to learn more about their work.

Sunday Morning Meetings 11:15 AM

Feb. 7—Contemporary Slavery: A Persistent Moral Outrage

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

To many, the word “slavery” recalls the transatlantic slave trade of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, relegated to a barbaric past. Too few realize that the enslavement of human beings exists today and remains a grave problem. From traditional chattel slavery in Sudan to the trafficking in people worldwide, international organizations such as Anti-Slavery International and Free the Slaves estimate that at least 27 million people are held in slavery-like situations today, most of which remain clandestine in nature or, in some cases, accepted as part of

society, making them difficult to eliminate. Public ignorance has contributed to governmental and international inaction to abolish slavery. Learn more about this moral outrage and what you can do to stop it. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 14—Religion and Temperament

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Felix Adler had once written, “*Ethical Culture is religious to those who are religiously minded, and merely ethical to those who are not so minded.*”

Two things are true about his statement. The first is that Adler wanted to attract both those who appreciated Ethical Culture in religious terms and those who were totally secular in their appreciation of ethics. The second is that he clearly placed himself in the first camp; he understood his Ethical Culture in religious terms. Adler’s observation goes far beyond Ethical Culture and remains applicable today. Some people are thoroughly secular in their approach to reality and life, while others, including many humanists, sense that there is something “more” to reality than usual experience validates, be it a “presence,” a “power,” or a “force,” even as they deny that this “something” is personal.

As a student of religion, I have concluded that whether or not one is religious has to do with more than matters of belief. It is, rather, a function of what we can call “temperament.” I’ll explore this notion more thoroughly in my address. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 21—One Nation Under the Constitution: Moral Values through Humanistic Government

Sean Faircloth, Executive Director, Secular Coalition for America

The Secular Coalition for America is a leader of what *The Nation* magazine recently called the newly “vis-

ible, assertive, and respected” secular movement. Sean Faircloth will discuss how the values of our nation’s founders directly connect to the values of the secular movement.

Faircloth served for 10 years in the Maine legislature, and was elected to the post of Majority Whip of the Maine House of Representatives by his colleagues. An attorney whose duties have include lobbying in Washington on behalf of the Secular Coalition’s 10 member organizations, Faircloth will show how injustices in American law based on religion are not a historical artifact but a stark current reality. He argues that all Americans have a moral obligation to address these injustices through rejuvenation of our government’s secular heritage and legal system. Faircloth is a strong advocate of the separation of church and state and he has received many awards for his work, including the 2006 Legislator of the Year Award from the Maine People’s Alliance. Auditorium.

Feb. 28—Future Farmers of New York City: The Next Green Revolution

Curt Collier, Leader

Urban agriculture is no longer a pipe dream, but a viable way to address the major causes of global warming, habitat degradation, and species loss. The new green economy needs to focus as much on urban food production as it does on renewable energy. Urban farming is also the best way to stop the corporate ruination of our food and increase food security. Thousands of new jobs could be created and the quality of our food would dramatically increase. Yet little is being done to move New York City towards urban agriculture, and the U.S. is already lagging behind other developed nations in

urban food production. Is it time for a farmer’s revolution in Times Square, beans on Broadway, and watermelons on Wall Street? Ceremonial Hall.

**Early Sunday
10 AM**

(Rooms subject to change)

Feb. 7—Parenting Issues. Room 514.

Feb. 7—Singing 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 some tips to improve our singing technique. It’s always a lot of fun, so join us! Room 507.

Feb. 14—Colloquy: Love. Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader, presides. Room 408.

Feb. 21—Singing Practice. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

Feb. 21—Poetry Readings. Bring your favorite poems and read aloud with us. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

**Sunday Afternoon
1:45 PM**

Feb. 7—Community Meeting.

Committees have been asked to bring or supply progress reports for a meeting two weeks away. Come and hear what’s going on behind the scenes—and bring your questions and suggestions. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 21—Life with Health. Member of the Brooklyn Ethical Society Carolyn Meiselbach, EFT Cert-1, EFT-Adv, CH, will present a workshop introducing participants to Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), which she calls a

valuable tool they can use to relieve physical pain, neutralize cravings, and free themselves from uncomfortable emotions. Carolyn has been an active member since the spring of 2009 and is the new member coordinator on that Society's Membership Committee.

By the workshop's end, she says, participants will know how to apply EFT on themselves, deal with difficult situations on the spot, and help friends and relatives. In her words, "For about six years now, my many interests have switched to survival and health, because of a serious illness. My new concerns led me to concentrate on preventive methodologies. I found EFT, and that did the trick! EFT is a holistic healing art, which teaches people how to live happy and healthy lives. It has become my life's work. I was always interested in healing people, myself included, and EFT was the eye-opening ticket. In six years of mastering this healing art, I have conducted many EFT workshops and taught these methods to countless others. I will be happy to teach you, too. And you will come away with a revitalized spirit and a new lease on life. Once you have learned how to use this wonderful tool, it is yours for life!"

We welcome Carolyn to Life with Health and we know she has something very valuable to share. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 28—Ethics in the News. Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

Feb. 28—I.O.U.S.A. Documentary film presentation which boldly examines the rapidly growing national debt and its consequences for the United States. Burdened with an ever-expanding government, increased international competition, overextended

entitlement programs, and debts to foreign countries that are becoming impossible to honor, America must mend its spendthrift ways or face an economic disaster of epic proportions. A discussion after the film will be led by John Kreuttner. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Elliott Library, Room 507 for a series of talks on **Science**.

Feb. 4—Human Brains: How Do We Get Inside?—“Building a Search Engine of the Brain, Slice by Slice,” by Benedict Carey, and **“Taking Mental Snapshots to Plumb Our Inner Selves,”** by Jascha Hoffman, *The New York Times* (12/22/09).

Feb. 11—“The Genesis 2.0 Project,” by Kurt Anderson, *Vanity Fair*, 1/10.

Feb. 18—“Looking for Life in the Multiverse,” by Alejandro Jenkins and Gilad Perez, *Scientific American*, 1/10.

Feb. 25—“Moral in Tooth and Claw,” by Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/18/09.

Folders with relevant articles are available from Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office. Pick one up and join the discussion.

Mrs. Goundo's Daughter

In cosponsorship with NYSEC, the International Black Film Festival is presenting a series of films dealing with subjects both personal and political this season. Please join us on Wednesday,

February 3, at 7:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall for the second film in the series, *Mrs. Goundo's Daughter*, a moving documentary by Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater.

The film follows the efforts of a West African woman living in Philadelphia to secure asylum in the U.S. in order to save her two-year-old daughter from a return to Mali and the senseless barbarism of genital mutilation. It is the story of a young mother's struggle to keep her baby daughter healthy and whole in defiance of the African tradition of female genital cutting, which dates back thousands of years—and of how that ancient tradition affects people's lives today.

Admission is free and donations are welcome. The doors open at 6:00 pm; and the movie will be followed by a lively discussion.

Ethics in Film

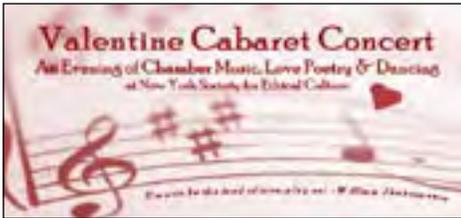
Chris Everett

On Friday, February 5, at 7:00 pm, we'll screen this exception in our Sci-Fi series "Workforce Drama," *Blue Collar*, starring Richard Pryor and Harvey Keitel. Three workers at an auto plant, Zeke, Jerry, and Smokey, are also drinking buddies. One night when they steal away from their wives to have some fun, they decide to rob the local union's bureau safe. At first they think their action is a failure because they got only \$600, but Zeke realizes that they also have gotten some "hot" material. They decide to blackmail their union. The best reason for that is the union itself, which claims to have lost \$10,000 in the robbery. There is profanity and

brief nudity. Moderated by Sharon Pope. Ceremonial Hall.

Suggested donation: \$5 (which includes drinks and snacks). For more information, contact Moe-Swe Myint at mmyint@nysec.org or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

The Sci-Fi film scheduled for Friday, March 5 will be: *The Matrix*.



Valentine's Day Cabaret

We're having a **Valentine's Day Cabaret Concert** here on Saturday, February 13, at 7:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall, and everyone is invited!

Celebrate the season of love with an evening of romantic chamber music and poetry, followed by dancing to music provided by a DJ. Featuring Ensemble Tom-scha (piano, violin, cello, and soprano voice) performing classical selections by Mozart, Beethoven, and Dvorak, the music will be interspersed with readings of sonnets by Shakespeare and other love poems. Light refreshments (wine, cheese, coffee, and tea) will be served.

Space is limited and we strongly suggest that you purchase tickets in advance: \$15 for members (contact the Membership Office for the online ordering "discount" code) and \$25 for nonmembers. Depending on availability, tickets will also be for sale at the door (\$30). To order tickets go to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/94647> or contact Moe-Swe Myint at mmyint@nysec.org or call her at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.
—Proverbs

On Wednesday evening, February 17, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Ethics and the Theater will present *Inherit the Wind*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. A courtroom drama based on the historical Scopes "monkey" trial, *Inherit the Wind* pits two oratorical giants—Henry Drummond, the character representing Clarence Darrow, and Matthew Harrison Brady, as William Jennings Bryan—against one another in a debate over evolution and Darwinism. Ironically, the authors intended their play to be a parable about McCarthyism, never dreaming that their ostensible subject, religious fundamentalism, would displace their implied one, anti-Communism, as a prime issue dividing the country and threatening free thought. Still, their portrayal of unquestioning faith versus creative doubt and individuals challenging ignorance and injustice is timely in any era.

Join us at 6:30 pm in Ceremonial Hall for a wine and cheese reception before the play, and afterwards participate in the discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Muriel Berger. Susan Horowitz directs our large cast, which includes Bonnie Bean, Pat Berens, Curt Collier, Chris Everett, Ken Gans, John Gurney, Tom Kennedy, John Kreuttner, David Lee, John Lovelady, Law'nence Miller, Clare Patterson, Terry Perlin, Carol Rost, Rich Sander, Matias Santiago, and Tom Weishaar. Suggested donation: \$5.

LaCite Knitting Circle Project

Curt Collier, Leader

Turning the City Around One Thread at a Time—LaCite is more than just a friendly knitting circle. It's also an opportunity to engage in alternative economics and to work for social and environmental justice through direct hands-on action.

Join us for our special Haiti Knitting Project, which will be held on Sunday, February 21, after Platform (about 12:30 pm) in Social Hall. You can bring your own lunch, or you can purchase a lunch here (vegetarian options are available). This is a free event and is open to all. If you don't know how to knit, we'll teach you. Children are also welcome to participate (just don't forget to bring your parent along).

For more information, please contact me at 914-648-0009. Bring knitting needles if you have them (we'll supply the yarn).

Edible Culture

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

We're requesting recipes for a Society Cookbook, and we hope you'll share some of your favorites. Member Ruth Cohen is kicking off this project, which will help us to both build community and raise funds.

You've seen the baskets on the tables in Social Hall on Sundays for collecting funds for a "green kitchen." Now you can also add your recipes to the contributions—or email them to Sheleigah Grube at sgrube@nysec.org. We all love to eat, and some of us also love to cook. Share

your love by sending in your recipes and including stories about the occasions when you served these foods.

Computer Needed!

Robert Liebeskind, Exec. Director

Does anyone have a computer to spare? If you can donate a personal computer to the Society for use in the Membership Office, which would also be available for members to use, we would be very appreciative. We need a PC, so that it can be set up within our network. If you'd like to donate a used computer, that's fine, as long as it is in working order. If you can help, please contact me, at 212-874-5210, ext. 116.

Building Centennial

Heather Grady, Chair,

Building Centennial Committee

Now that we've reached our historic building's centennial year of 2010, we're gearing up for a series of events to raise NYSEC's profile in New York, bring new people (and hopefully new members) through our doors, help us raise additional funds for our building and activities, and increase the pride of New Yorkers in our Society and our accomplishments over the years.

Our committee is coordinating a variety of activities throughout the year. These include a building rededication ceremony on the weekend of October 23; seminars and concerts celebrating our beautiful building and the musical talents within our walls; events that tie into aspects of ethical action in our history (such as support for racial justice, legal aid, and

addressing the needs of children at risk); and activities that position us to move into the future in a more sustainable ("greener") manner.

In addition to the update I presented at NYSEC's Community Meeting in November, you'll find regular updates in our bulletin and on our website. If you would like to help us to make this an important year in the Society's history, here are some ways you can contribute:

- * Make a special gift to mark the Building Centennial; our first \$2,000 gift came in during the last days of 2009 and we hope many others can match it.

- * Suggest high-profile individuals to join our Advisory Council or participate in our events during the year with whom you can put us in contact.

- * Volunteer for a subcommittee working on a specific event and theme such as those listed above.

- * Volunteer to do the legwork for a project like renaming 64th Street "Felix Adler Way," getting a government proclamation on NYSEC, or creating a "journal" for our building rededication.

If you are interested in helping please call me at 646-220-5919 or email me at heathergradynyc@gmail.com. And here's to a great building centennial year!

Encampment For Citizenship

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

The second annual Encampment for Citizenship Reunion will be held at the NY Society on Saturday, May 29, 6:00 pm–9:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall. Encampment for Citizenship

was a summer youth program started in 1944 by Ethical Culture Leader Algernon Black, with the support of Eleanor Roosevelt, who invited participants to attend workshops held at Hyde Park. The program was organized as a summer camp "at which young adults of many religious, racial, social, and national backgrounds learned the principles and techniques of citizenship in a liberal democracy through lived experience." It encouraged political activism and volunteerism and sought to educate its participants about civic responsibility, participation in government, and tolerance of diversity.

As a result of last year's reunion, an alumni group was formed, and members have kept in touch in person, online, and through teleconferences. If you or anyone you know was a camper, please spread the word about this reunion. There will be drinks, light refreshments, and a table on which to display your photos, scrapbooks, souvenirs, etc. Please RSVP to Sheleigah Grube at sgrube@nysec.org or by phone at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Unforgotten Voices

Dr. Maria Fridman/Judith Ginzberg

On December 4, the Social Service Board once again hosted the Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop, a collective of visual and performing artists who have been homeless or who are living "on the edge." This biannual event, directed by Judith Ginzberg, a dance/movement/creative arts therapist who has

worked in shelters and drop-in centers for 27 years, has continued uninterrupted through this evening, thanks to the long-time dedication of member Dr. Maria Fridman.

Over the years our roster of performers has varied. At this event, two long-time participants shared their talents. Chris Campbell, a singer, musician, poet, playwright, and filmmaker who never fails to uplift his audience, performed and Ray Gant sang and accompanied himself on the piano, even though he was recovering from a thyroid operation. Ray has sung backup for some of the greats, such

as Ben E. King. Both men thanked Judith for inspiring them to be their best and express their highest selves, and for being there so consistently for them and others when they were in need. Judith's 15-year-old son, Elan, who has been to every workshop in his lifetime, came with two friends and played the piano; the boys then sang Christmas carols. Member Tom Kennedy recited some of his poems, and a couple of others also performed.

As always, artwork was on display and that evening two new artists introduced their work. Russ Underlab showed his intense "exploits in form,

color, and shape," and told of coming to New York to pursue art and being unable to afford both an apartment and a studio. He chose the latter and is living in the Bowery Mission. Eric Champagne showed his work, which he refers to as "punk impressionism," and also read some of his poetry.

Unforgotten Voices is always delighted to welcome new artists into the fold. At some events we have many performers, while at others just a few participants. But whoever does appear never fails to entertain and inspire. Be sure to attend the next workshop.

(The photos below were taken by Dr. Maria Fridman)



Judith Ginzberg with singer/musician Chris Campbell



Society member Tom Kennedy reads his poems



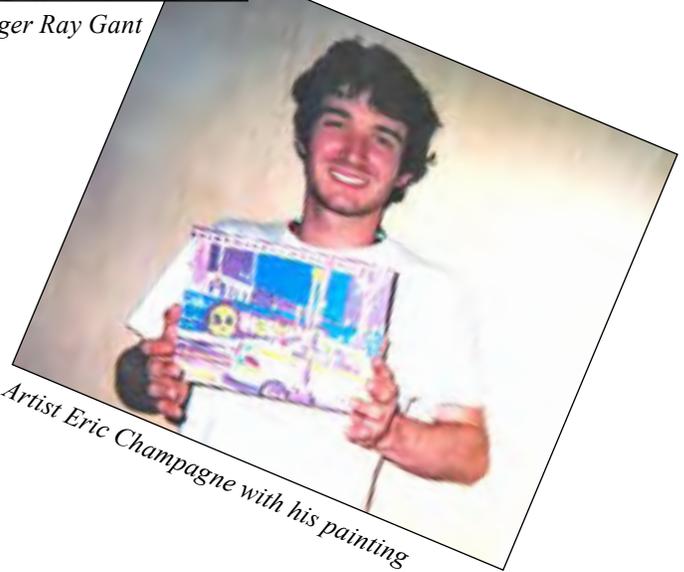
(L-R) Two friends with Elan Ginzberg (Judith's son)



Returning pianist/singer Ray Gant



Artist Russ Underlab with his painting



Artist Eric Champagne with his painting

Here is my 2010 Pledge:

Name: _____

Pledge Amount: \$ _____

Paid: Monthly Quarterly Semiannually Annually
 Other _____

Paid: By check

By credit card (Number) _____ (Exp. Date) _____

Signature: _____

Please mail to New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th Street,
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Society for Ethical Culture

Ethics-in-Action



"Act So As To Elicit the Best from Others and Thereby in Oneself"

— Felix Adler, the founder of Ethical Culture

What is Ethical Action?

For Ethical Culturists, ethical action is not simply a secondary pursuit to our main spiritual striving, but rather a principal means through which ethics emerges and an important practice for growing as human beings. While the difference is oftentimes slight, "ethical action" differs from "social action" in that the emphasis is not simply on giving charity, but collaborating with others to build community where the lines between giver and receiver are blurred and all benefit from the activity. All Ethical Culture members should find life-affirming ethical activities which they are passionate about and donate energy and time on a regular basis to seeing them to fruition.

What Are You Doing?

To assist members in this endeavor, on most Sunday mornings a variety of opportunities for engaging in ethical action are available. These vary weekly, and may include in-house activities offered during lunch, outside activities started after lunch, coordination of future events and activities, tables for members or staff to share information about particular projects or champion events promoted by other organizations, and on and on. Both short-term projects and long-term programs are available.

What Time Do You Meet?

Nearly all our activities will fall during the lunch period (usually 12:30 p.m.) that follows Sunday Platform, or immediately after lunch.

How Do I Find Out About These Activities?

Simply show up. You will find an activity taking place, or an opportunity to learn about or sign up for future activities.

I'm Involved In a Great Project Right Now. How Can I Entice Others to Join Me?

Each Sunday tables will be set up exclusively for members of the Society to promote their own projects. Bring your own materials, signup sheets, and handouts.

Who Can Attend?

The events are open to all members, friends, and guests. Families with children are also encouraged to attend, as active youth lead to active adults.

Whom Do I Contact For More Information?

Contact Leader Curt Collier at ccollier@nysec.org, or you can reach him at (914) 375-2151.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
**ETHICAL
CULTURE** 

February 2010

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 March 2010 Newsletter Deadline	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Crafts Circle (off-site)	7:00 pm – The Nation 7:00 pm – Black Film Festival 7:30 pm – Great Books	6:30 pm – Humanist Inter- pretation of the Bible 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	7:00 pm – Ethics in Film	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 am – Parenting Issues 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Youth 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Community Meeting	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop		3:00 pm – ECRDG	12:00 pm – Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Humanist Inter- pretation of the Bible 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		No Supervised Visitation program today 7:00 pm – Valentine Cabaret Concert
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 am – Colloquy 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	Society Offices Closed Presidents' Day	6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	12:00 pm – Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Humanist Inter- pretation of the Bible 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	7:00 pm – Game Night	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Youth 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:30 pm – LaCite Knitting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Life with Health	6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Social Service Board Meeting		12:00 pm – Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	11:00 am – Ethics on the Air	9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
28	Great Books					
Feb. 3 – William Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> (complete work) ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) Feb. 10 – A. B. Yehoshua, <i>Friendly Fire: A Duet</i> Great Books: Great Conversation II Feb. 17 – Raymond Carver, <i>What We Talk About When We Talk About Love</i>						

Ethical Culture is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.

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