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SPRING CABARET PARTY – A ROUSING SUCCESS



(L-R) Ethical Culture volunteers: Beverly Newman, Patricia Berens, Bonnie Bean, Andra Miller, Cheryl Gross, and Ed Gross).

Ed Gross
 On Friday, April 25, a sold-out audience was treated to a memorable evening at NYSEC's Spring Cabaret party. Members of the audience had high praise for the event. Among the comments: "An exquisitely performed concert, you showed Ethical at its finest." "It was perfect." "The Valentine's/Spring party was our best Ethical Culture party ever! I still feel happy about it this morning."

"Congratulations on a wonderful evening; the food, the entertainment, and the company all made for the perfect party." "Many thanks for the great spring party. A terrific event!" "What an exquisite evening. Thank you for including us in such a mindful and culturally rich event." "A success, the best thing about it was that it was really classy."
 Our success was assured by a group of most talented musicians. Katherine Howell, assisted

by Mathieu Cognet at the piano (*see photo on pg. 16*), filled Ceremonial Hall with her radiant performance of two Mozart arias. Five members of the Ensemble du Monde (*see photo on pg. 16*) captivated the audience with their youthful and spirited playing of Schubert's *Trout Quintet*. Audience members were clearly astonished at the quality of the musicians. Having been through this before, I can say this was the best group of musicians we ever assembled.

Continued on page 16

ETHICAL STAFF

Dr. Joseph Chuman,
Leader, ext. 145

Curt Collier,
Leader, ext. 145

Dr. Anne Klaeyen,
Leader, ext. 119

Dr. Khoren Arisian,
Leader Emeritus

Robert Liebeskind,
Executive Director, ext. 116

Gloria Chandler,
Assistant to Exec. Director, ext. 117

Deborah Foster,
Administrative Assistant, ext. 115

Yalitz Garcia-Krawczyk,
Assistant to the Leaders, ext. 118

Leonardo Gibson,
Facilities Manager, ext. 107

David Gracia,
Music Director

Yolanta Kosmaczewska,
Bookkeeper, ext. 104

Jon Liechty,
Associate Music Director

Moe-Swe Myint,
Membership Associate, ext. 113

Marie Orraca,
Rental Manager, ext. 106

Beth Zucker,
Manager of Communications, ext. 144

EDITORIAL STAFF

Selma Friedman,
Editor

Deborah Foster,
Production

New York Society for Ethical Culture

2 West 64th Street,
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212-874-5210

Fax: 212-595-7258

Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Member of the American Ethical Union



President's Notes

A N D R A M I L L E R

Now I've presided at my seventh and last Annual Membership Meeting, as I've chosen to end my "reign" as your President. It has been a wonderful experience for me in working with the great Board members we've had/have, and with the Executive Director, Leaders, staff, and you, the members.

I put "reign" in quotation marks because to my astonishment, right after I became president, I learned that presidents have no power whatsoever! The job is simply to preside at Board meetings in as neutral a fashion as possible, and then attend whatever meetings you can of committees you're concerned about – and show up occasionally at events where your presence would be beneficial.

My "non-power" lesson came about this way: Back then (2007) I attended meetings of the New York Chapter of the American Humanist Association – we met upstairs in a diner. But then the diner closed and the president asked if the group could meet at NYSEC. "Sure," I said, all full of my new importance, "I'll present it at the next Board meeting." And so I did, expecting a shoo-in. But the opposition was immediate, the offer of free space was voted

against, and my big expectation of presidential supremacy was permanently extinguished.

So a reign of power is something that isn't handed to you and something you can't take as president. But still, over the years I feel I lent something to the strengthening of the Society, along with others who have volunteered for Society tasks and served on the Board — and that makes me feel like I've had some influence, if not power. Power's probably over-rated anyway.

For those of you who missed the luncheon on May 18, we presented certificates of appreciation to the following volunteers: Pat Berens, Bob Berger, Vince Brancato, Henry Bunch, Janice Buzby, Jerry Chamlin, Pat Cohen, Nicola DeMarco, Ken Gans, Heather Grady, Dan Hanson, Helen Mecs, Ivan Quervalu and Amy Schwarz — with a special award for the work of our Sunday organizer, Moe-Swe Myint. Thanks to them and all the rest for the work you do for NYSEC.

I'll continue in my office until the election of new officers at the next Board meeting on June 9. Then I'll return to my prior status as member, but as a member who has had the wonderful experience of your trust in me and your support throughout those seven years.

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Ethical Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, JUNE 1**, from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, and on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18**, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall. Our moderator is Dr. Barbara Simpson. She holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

The objective is to increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Topics include health care proxies, ethical wills, and green burial.

The suggested donation is \$5.

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, JUNE 2**, **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on *Why Be Happy When You Can Be Normal?* by Jeanette Winterson.

This memoir is about a life's work to find happiness. It is full of stories about a girl growing up in a north England industrial town with a religious zealot for a mother who some-

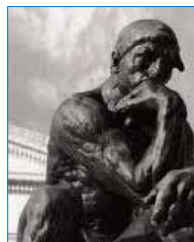


times locks her out of her home and keeps a revolver in the dresser, waiting for Armageddon. Winterson writes about her painful past, the universe as a cosmic dustbin, and her journey to find her biological mother. Literature – fiction and poetry – becomes a life raft that supports her.

The discussion is free for members, and \$5 for guests.

Wisdom and World Affairs

Come on the first and fourth **TUESDAYS, JUNE 3**, and **24, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**, for a philosophical discussion group,



moderated by Ken Gans. We'll cover a variety of subjects: the fate of humanity, world affairs, and humanism, among many others. Room 508.

There is no fee for this program.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *Thelma and Louise* (1991), directed by Ridley Scott. I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.

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SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am
Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

JUNE 1

Inequality, The Persistent Moral Scourge

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader
Andra Miller Presides

JUNE 8

On Making People Into Things

Donna Minkowitz, Author
Dan Hanson Presides

JUNE 15

Ethics and Ethical Culture: Taking Life's Meaning Seriously

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Meg Chapman Presides

JUNE 22

Crossing the Bridge

Curt Collier, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

JUNE 29

Daddy's Girl – Putting Pop on a Pedestal

Leighann Lord
Dr. Anne Klaeyen Presides

NOT A MEMBER?

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



Leader's Desk

D R . A N N E K L A E Y S E N

Occupy Wall Street – Vindicated!

It has been a long time since the heady days of Occupy Wall Street in the fall of 2011, when winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize for Economics Joseph Stiglitz traveled downtown from Columbia University to teach activists in a corner of Zuccotti Park. The following year, he published *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*, in which he wrote: "It's no use pretending that what has obviously happened has not in fact happened. The upper 1 percent of Americans are now taking in nearly a quarter of the nation's income every year. In terms of wealth rather than income, the top 1 percent control 40 percent." And while these privileged few enjoy the best health care, education, and other benefits of wealth, they fail to realize that "their fate is bound up with how the

other 99 percent live."

The New York Society participated in Occupy Wall Street (OWS) in several ways: the Board of Trustees endorsed its mission; I was a chaplain on site, and our teens accompanied me to an interfaith service; members rallied both in the park and on the street; and we hosted speakers, working groups, and programs. How well I recall telling a member of Ethical Culture Fieldston School's Board that our 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Platform would feature an OWS panel and hearing her response – "What could they possibly have to say?" I imagined founder Felix Adler, who proposed a *maximum* wage, spinning in his modest grave in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

As it turns out, they had a great deal to say, and many more people have been talking and writing since

then. The "1 percent versus the 99 percent" meme caught on and spread around the world. In 2012, there were 25 percent more academic articles about inequality than in 2011 – and 237 percent more than in 2004. It has become today's defining human rights issue. Even the school Adler originally named The Workingman's School, "especially intended to serve the needs of the children of the poor" (*The New York Times*, November 23, 1890), was featured on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* dedicated to inequality (5/4/14). "The Tale of Two Schools" with its photographs of, and quotations by, students from Fieldston and neighboring University Heights High School in the South Bronx refers to exercises in "radical empathy," not to ways of remedying the gross disparity described by Lisa Greenbaum, English teacher at University Heights: "They walked into Fieldston, and

Continued on page 15



Louise is working in a fast food restaurant as a waitress and has some problems with her friend Jimmy, who, as a musician, is always on the road. Thelma is married to Darryl, who likes his wife to stay quiet in the kitchen so that he can watch football on TV. One day the women decide to break out of their normal life and jump into the car and hit the road. Their journey, however, turns into a flight when Louise kills a man who threatens to rape Thelma.

The suggested donation is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages.

Building a Culture of Peace

Join us on the second and fourth **THURSDAYS** of the month, **JUNE 12**, and **JUNE 26**, the last sessions of this series, from **6:30 PM** to **8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514. Dr. Anne Klaeyssen, Leader, will moderate.

An annual international Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 and designated for celebration on September 21 the following year. But “Peace Day is Every Day” is the motto of myriad organizations throughout the world dedicated to

“peace-building.” This workshop will use materials from the National Peace Academy to explore four interdependent, synthesizing, and catalytic cornerstones of peace learning and action: Peace Education, Peace Research, Peace Practice, and Peace Policy.

Registration is required. There is no fee for members; for guests the fee is a \$5 donation per session.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

Come on **FRIDAY, JUNE 13**, at **7:00 PM**. Ethics and the Theater will present a play reading of *Side Man* by



Warren Leight. In the world of jazz, a sideman is a journeyman, a musician who can stand in with any band, either as a self-effacing backup or taking a star turn as a soloist.

Warren Leight’s father was a sideman and served as the model for Gene Glimmer, Leight’s title character. The play is a collage of memories, presented to the audience by Gene’s son, Clifford. As narrator, Clifford jumps back and forth in time, from the 1950s, when his parents have

just met, to the ’80s, when their marriage is in shambles, and the profession of sideman is in decline.

Clifford and Leight are unsparing in their often bitterly funny portrait of an unstable, alcoholic mother and a father who seems to be fully present only when playing his horn. But there is also indisputable affection for these flawed human beings, as well as for jazz and the jazz musicians for whom it was both a living – and life itself.

Susanna Frazer directs our cast. Come at **6:30 PM** for a reception and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Betsy Ungar. Ceremonial Hall.

The suggested donation is \$5 for members, and \$10 for guests.

Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, JUNE 17**, **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**, in Room 502, with Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman as our moderator.

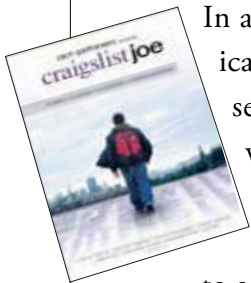
We’ll discuss the works of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture

and humanist philosophy.

There is no fee for this, but registration is required.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We will be showing *Craigslist Joe* (2012), directed by Joseph Garner.



In a time when America's economy and sense of community were crumbling, one guy left everything behind

– to see if he could survive solely on the support of the 21st century's new town square: Craigslist. Joseph Garner, a 29-year-old armed with only a laptop, cell phone, toothbrush and the clothes on his back, embarked on a bold adventure: 31 December days and nights travelling across the U.S. depending upon the generosity of people he met on Craigslist. His experiences raise profound questions about who we are as a society and where we are headed.

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

Readings in Deep Ecology

Come on **MONDAY, JUNE 23, 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507. Curt Collier, Leader, will moderate.

For this last session we will explore selections from famous environmental authors. We will read the selections together and then we will discuss the important points the writers were striving to uphold. This is a great way to cover classic environmental literature.

There is no fee for this program.

Great Books Discussion Group

Larry Schiff

Join us on **WEDNESDAY, June 4, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**, Room 508. This month we will be reading selections from Plato's *Republic*.

If you are a new member, to avoid your having to buy the whole book set for this year, I have copied the 26-page selection and will email it to any of you who plan to read it and attend the June 4 discussion but don't have the book set. Just email me (larry@larryschiff.com) and I will send you a copy. (See page 14 for the complete write-up on Great Books.)

There's a \$5 suggested contribution per session.

Venezuela SOS Concerts – Notes For Justice And Freedom

David Gracia, Music Director

Join us on **THURSDAY, JUNE 5, at 7:00 PM**, in the Auditorium, for a concert by Venezuela SOS,

a group of renowned Venezuelan musicians living abroad

who condemn the serious violations of human rights their country is suffering today. They have organized a tour of international concerts and are speaking out through music to raise international awareness of the violence in their country, calling on individuals, organizations, and institutions to join the search for peace and respect for human rights in Venezuela.

Venezuela SOS wants to highlight the presence of so many musicians, artists, and personalities of Venezuela and the world in this initiative, including such notable soloists, conductors, and composers as Paquito D' Rivera, Vanessa Perez, Carlos Izcaray, Gabriela Montero, Efrain Amaya, Luigi Mazzocchi, Ricardo Lorenz, Luis Biava, Manena Contreras,



Icli Zitella, Simon Gollo, and Jan Wagner, among others.

The concert is free and open to the public.

AFCECO Fundraiser

Meg Chapman

Join us on **THURSDAY, JUNE 19**, from **6:00 PM** to **8:00 PM** in Ceremonial Hall for a fundraiser to benefit AFCECO, the Afghan Child Education and Care Organization.

The event, “Afghan Writers for Afghan Children,” will feature prominent Afghan-American writers and artists, including Zohra Saed and Sahar Muradi, co-editors of *One Story, Thirty Stories: An Anthology of Contemporary Afghan-American Literature*; Wazhmah Osman, director and producer of the acclaimed documentary *Postcards From Tora Bora*; and Leila Christine Nadir, who is a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Environmental Humanities at Wellesley College.

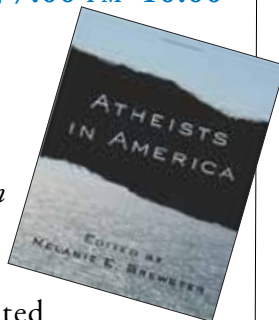
We hope to raise \$10,000 for AFCECO through this event. Tickets cost: \$100, which includes wine, beer, and hors d’oeuvres. Please contact regina@nyc.rr.com for sponsorship opportunities. You can reach AFCECO’s website and social networks at: www.afceco.org.

Book Release Party

Please join us on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall,

for the book release party for *Atheists In America*, a collection of

narratives edited by Melanie Brewster, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University, that features more than two dozen narratives by atheists from different backgrounds across the United States. Ranging widely in age, race, sexual orientation, and religious upbringing, these individuals address reconversion, community building, parenting, and romantic relationships,



providing a nuanced look at living without a god in what is a predominantly Christian nation.

The party, which will include readings from the collection as well as food, wine, dancing, and a “Coming Out Ball,” will be a night to celebrate for nonbelievers and their friends, families, colleagues, and allies. We ask that you wear RED in solidarity and if you want to come out in support of this project.

Melanie Brewster earned her Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Her research focuses on marginalized groups and examines how experiences of discrimination and stigma may shape the mental health of minority group members (e.g., LGBTQ individuals, atheists and nonbelievers, and people of color).

There is no fee for this program.



(L-R) Monica Weiss, Andra Miller, Vince and Rosie Brancato outside the Hilton Hotel in Melville, where the NY State Democratic Convention was being held May 22.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 am

JUNE 1

INEQUALITY, THE PERSISTENT MORAL SCOURGE

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Andra Miller Presides



June is the month of roses, love, and marriage. It's also the month of LGBTQ Pride, Caribbean-American Heritage, and Torture Awareness. World Environment Day and Father's Day also fall in June. Here's what most concerns me as we approach the half-year of 2014: inequality in all its shapes and forms. We must celebrate human diversity in its myriad expressions, honoring each person's right to be her- or himself and no other, living in communities that hold everyone responsible for the public good and no one beyond moral law.

How striking this aspiration is in our current environment! Wealth and power are grasped and controlled by a very few, and multitudes around the world suffer. Those who are "comfortable enough" ignore or deny the reality, much less the immorality, of inequality. What is to be done? I'll start by illustrating the situation and then exploring ways that we can arouse the sleeping and attack the scourge that is inequality.

The shared charity is Ali Forney Center.

JUNE 8

ON MAKING PEOPLE INTO THINGS

Donna Minkowitz, Author

Dan Hanson Presides



In Donna Minkowitz's new memoir, *Growing Up Golem*, a girl isn't sure if she's a person or a thing created to serve her mother. (In Jewish legend, golems are magical servants made of clay.) In her talk, Minkowitz explores the humanist implications of these pervasive cultural stories of creating a sentient being intended to obey.

Donna Minkowitz is the author of the memoir *Growing Up Golem: How I Survived My Mother, Brooklyn, and Some Really Bad Dates*, which was recently named a finalist for both a Lambda Literary Award and for the Judy Grahn Nonfiction Award. A columnist on LGBT politics and culture for the *Village Voice* for eight years, Minkowitz has also written for the *The New York Times Book Review*, *Salon*, *The Nation*, *Ms.*, and *New York Magazine*. She is the winner of a GLAAD Media Award, and a member of the Brooklyn Society.

The shared charity is Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

JUNE 15

ETHICS AND ETHICAL CULTURE: TAKING LIFE'S MEANING SERIOUSLY

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Meg Chapman Presides



Felix Adler's adage in describing Ethical Culture was "deed before creed," and not "deed without creed." By so stating, Adler intended that behavior was ultimately more

important than belief and that there was no unifying creed required to participate in Ethical Culture. But by so saying, he was also implying that our deeds, our behaviors, should at best be justified and guided by our beliefs, recognizing that different people will believe differently.

It is our beliefs which give life meaning, and for Ethical Culturists those beliefs should center on ethics. In my June address, I plan to sketch some ethical frameworks which can inspire our actions and thereby deepen our sense of meaning and purpose in life.

The shared charity is Make the Road NY.

JUNE 22

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Curt Collier, Leader

Monica Weiss Presides



The poetry of ancient Persian mythology and the steps you take today.

The shared charity is Groundwork Hudson Valley.

JUNE 29

DADDY'S GIRL – PUTTING POP ON A PEDESTAL

Leighann Lord

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides



In the United States Father's Day was first celebrated in 1908, but didn't become a national holiday until 1972. It still lags behind Mother's Day in importance and prominence, but no more. Stand-up comedian, writer, and proud Daddy's Girl Leighann Lord puts Pop on a Pedestal. She shares her personal story of what it means for a daughter to have a great Dad. And why it's important to acknowledge Fab Dads not just on Father's Day, but every day.

Leighann Lord has been seen on numerous TV comedy shows, including Lifetime's "Girls Night Out," ABC's "The View," Comedy Central's "Premium Blend," and most recently on Aspire TV's "We Got Next." She has performed in clubs and colleges around the country and for the troops in the Middle East. Leighann was the NYC billboard face of the African-Americans for Humanism outreach campaign and CFI's "Millions Living Happily Without Religion" campaign. Chris Johnson featured her in *The Atheist Book: A Better Life*. Leighann is the co-host of the weekly podcast "Skeptiles" and can be heard on "StarTalk Radio" with Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson. She is a social media enthusiast sharing a crafty combination of daily comedy and social commentary. She hangs out on the net at: *VeryFunnyLady.com*.

The shared charity is Harlem Humanists.

(The Shared Charities descriptions for this month are on page 11.)

REMINDER

During the summer months from **JULY 6** through **AUGUST 31**, the Early Sunday Morning (**10:00 AM**) and Sunday Afternoon (**1:30 PM**) programs will **NOT** be held. They will resume on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**.

Also, there will be bagels and coffee before the Sunday Platforms at **10:15 AM** instead of the Brunch/Social Hour (**12:45 PM**), which will resume on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7** as well.

Early Sunday Mornings 10:00 am (Rooms are subject to change)

JUNE 1

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 8

COLLOQUY: NEVER TOO OLD TO PLAY

Barbara Simpson presides. Room 408.

JUNE 15

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 15

POETRY READING

Join us! Come to read and listen to poetry.

Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

JUNE 22

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Curt Collier, Leader, and Monica Weiss preside.

Room 508.

JUNE 29

COFFEE 'N CHAT. Room 508.

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Rooms are subject to change)

JUNE 1

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ

Moderator: Dr. Barbara Simpson. Adler Study, Room 514.

JUNE 1

SUNDAY ASSEMBLY

Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 8

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Abe Markman presides. 12:45 pm. Sixth floor school cafeteria.

JUNE 22

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

Leader Curt Collier presides. Ceremonial Hall.

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

more Ethical Enrichment and Events.....

Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon Elliott Library, Rm 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic is: **INEQUALITY**. Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. You can now access all of the Leader Lunch readings on our website at <http://www.nysec.org/leader-lunch>. Join the discussion.

JUNE 5 "THE TALE OF TWO SCHOOLS" by Joel Lovell, *The NY Times*, 5/4/14.

JUNE 12 NET NEUTRALITY: various articles.

JUNE 19 "THOMAS PIKETTY AND MILLENNIAL MARXISTS ON THE SCOURGE OF INEQUALITY" by Timothy Shenk, *The Nation*, 4/14/14.

JUNE 26 "HOLDER V. ROBERTS: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAKES VOTING RIGHTS THE TEST CASE OF HIS TENURE" by Jeffrey Toobin, *The New Yorker*, 2/17 and 24/14.

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

ALI FORNEY CENTER (AFC) Provides housing for young people in New York City. It offers various services, upcoming events, and nationwide resources.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS, the CIW, is a "worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of corporate social responsibility, community organizing, and sustainable food."

MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK (MRNY) by walking is a not-for-profit, membership-led organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn. MRNY builds the power of Latino and working-class communities to achieve dignity and justice through organizing, policy innovation, transformative education, and survival services.

GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY is an environmental justice nonprofit that works with communities to improve their physical and social environments. The organization is dedicated to environmental stewardship and community empowerment. Visit them at <http://www.groundworkhr.org>.

HARLEM HUMANISTS

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

OFFICERS:

ANDRA MILLER, PRESIDENT, andramariemiller@gmail.com

MARGARET CHAPMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT, md.chapman@earthlink.com

RICHARD VAN DEUSEN, TREASURER, richardandcarol@nyc.rr.com

DR. PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS, SECRETARY, phrmd@yahoo.com

TRUSTEES:

VINCENT BRANCATO, vpbrancato@aol.com

CHRIS EVERETT, h.chris.everett@gmail.com

HEATHER GRADY, heathergradynyc@gmail.com

JOHN GURNEY, jojgurney@gmail.com

ELINORE KAPLAN, elinore100@gmail.com

HENRYKA KOMANSKA, henryka@verizon.net

LAW'NENCE MILLER, lmiller.aeu@gmail.com

DR. TERRY PERLIN, perlintm@muohio.edu

TOM WEISHAAR, tom.weishaar@gmail.com

Our Ethical Family

MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE



The following members are celebrating birthdays in June:

JOSEPH MARVEL.....	6/3
BERNICE CORNYETZ.....	6/6
RUTH COHEN.....	6/7
CHRIS EVERETT.....	6/7
ELIZABETH HENDERSON.....	6/7
DANIEL JULIN.....	6/8
LEE LOSHAK.....	6/10
LEWIS SMOLER.....	6/15
MARIA FRIDMAN.....	6/17
SANDI SACKS.....	6/17
JEROME CHAMLIN.....	6/19
THERESA SCHULTZ.....	6/20
JAMES HYLAND.....	6/25
ALI MAJID.....	6/27

ETHICAL CARES

The Caring Committee will help you should you fall ill or be incapacitated, whether you're home, in the hospital, in rehab, or in a nursing home. All you need do is call the committee chairperson, **STEPHANIE ROSENBLATT**, at 212-586-0017, and she'll make the arrangements.

On Sunday, May 18, we held our Annual Meeting, at which members chose five candidates for our Board. All five who ran – Dr. John Gurney and Elinore Kaplan as nonincumbents, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Lawrence Miller, and Dr. Terry Perlin, incumbents, were elected. Members also voted on six amendments to the Society's By-Laws. There were very lively debates on each amendment, but in the end, all six passed. Andra Miller was presented with a plaque recognizing her years of service to the Society in her capacity as President. Special thanks go to members Patricia Berens, John Kreuttner, Beverly Newman, and Amy Schwarz for serving as Inspectors of Election and making the election process go so smoothly.

Afterwards we went up to the ECFS cafeteria for a special lunch, at which Andra Miller and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen welcomed the newest members of the Society, celebrated members' anniversaries (in five-year increments), and presented certificates of recognition to member-volunteers who "went above and beyond the normal call of duty" to support the Society's various programs.

Even though some of our members were not able to join us at lunch, we welcomed the

new members who had joined NYSEC since April 2013: Kristen Parker and Lisa Smith (June 2013); Ellen Kirshner (July 2013); Rosemary Irving, Stephen James, and Deborah Schlein (September 2013); Randa Hamadeh and Patrice Hassoun (October 2013); Daniel Julin, David Massey, and Emily Newman (January 2014); Julian Raymond and Sandi Sacks (February 2014); Marilyn Braveman and Marcell Ann Stapor (March 2014); Scotty Embree, Larry Schiff, Raymond Schiller, and Barbara Simpson (April 2014).

We also celebrated the following members' Anniversaries: Ruth Oppenheimer and Julia Hayes (65th); William Kulok (45th); Maria Fridman (40th); Roger and Barbara Michaels (35th); Michelle Ainsworth, Bonnie Bean, Elizabeth Ungar, Jane Ungar, and Eva Yachnes (15th); Talat Ali, Donna Damhorst-Pang, Susanna Frazer, Jon Liechty, Lee Loshak, and Patricia Malkin (10th); Debra Curtis-Green, Nicola DeMarco, Michele Doney, Renée Goodstein, Dina Gregory, David Lee, Tom Kennedy, Terry Perlin, and Richard Van Deusen (5th).

Certificates of recognition were presented to the following: Patricia Berens, Bob Berger, Chris Bernhardt, Vincent Bran-

cato, Henry Bunch, Janice Buzby, Jerry Chamlin, Meg Chapman, Patricia Cohen, Dr. Bernice Cornyetz, Nicola DeMarco, Ken Gans, Heather Grady, Dan Hanson, Samantha Horn, Helen Mecs, Ivan Quervalu, and Amy Schwarz. Monica Weiss was finally given the plaque for her Anna Garlin Spencer Award, which she received from AEU. There were many other volunteers whose services to the Society were recognized with a certificate of appreciation but who were not present to receive it. Bravo, everyone!

To cap off all of these fun activities, SSB Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross showed off the great trophy won this year by the Queens Soccer team that Henry Bunch coached. Congratulations to Henry and his team!

And, of course, we want to thank the Society's indefatigable Facilities/Buildings staff for all the great work you do every week to make the Sunday Meetings such a wonderful experience for members and nonmembers alike.

In Memoriam

Beloved member David Day died on Monday afternoon, May 19, at his home in London. He was a theater director who learned about the Society through friends and, after attending a Sunday Platform,

decided to join. David quickly made friends and, when he stayed in NYC, shared with them his love of theater, opera, and film. He was a generous, elegant, and truly gentle man. John Drummond, his companion for 52 years, wrote from London: "Everyone who has known David would know how remarkable and generous he was to everyone who crossed his path. His interest was in theatre and opera, particularly Wagner. He had a great love for

New York and America. When he arrived in America he would say, 'I am home again.' He fell in love in New York when he came to work in the office of Francis, Day & Hunter and MGM. He would have loved to live in NYC but his family wanted him back in the London office. He loved the Ethical Culture Society and appreciated enormously the warmth and affection he found among members of the Society. He will be greatly missed by all who had honor of knowing him."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

From **JULY 6** through **AUGUST 31** (nine Sundays), Ethical Culture Platform Meetings will be held at **11:00 AM**. This also is the "vacation time" when many people will be taking long weekends, etc., including me. Thus, I am looking for people willing to replace me several Sundays during that period. We'll set up a schedule around each volunteer's preference, and I will fill in the gaps. I will happily go over the routine with anyone interested who has never done this before. It is really easy and fun, but requires the commitment to be there.

The Coordinator/Greeter should arrive by **10:45 AM** to hand out programs and welcome each person. We call for a volunteer from among the attendees to assist with gathering the collection, counting the number of attendees, and giving the collection money to Moe-Swe Myint, the Membership Coordinator.

To volunteer, phone me, Amy Schwarz, at home 212-666-5219, or email me at schwarz@frick.org.

Committee Close-Up

Great Books Discussion Group



L A R R Y S C H I F F ,
N Y S E C M E M B E R



The first **Wednesday** of each month from **7:30 PM** to **9:00 PM** we hold a Great Books Discussion. It has been going on for perhaps a decade at NYSEC and we welcome all NYSEC members to join us.

What is our Great Books Reading Discussion Group And how do we work?

First we use the methods and texts from the Great Books Foundation. Our method is called Shared Inquiry and all texts for this year are from the fifth series of the Great Books Reading and Discussion Program. (You can buy the set of three paperbacks and discussion guide from GreatBooks.org.) Purchasing the texts is a prerequisite for joining the group and reading the text is a prerequisite for discussion.

For a list of the read-

ings and comments from attendees you can go to Meetup (www.meetup.com) and check us out (Great Books Discussion Group), or you can call me – (a brand-new NYSEC member) at 917-749-0695.

What is Shared Inquiry and how was it developed?

Shared Inquiry was developed by Robert Maynard Hutchins and Mortimer Adler at the University of Chicago in 1947 to help discussion participants explore, interpret, and evaluate the sometimes complex and challenging ideas in the great works we discuss. It is an intellectually rigorous activity that focuses on the interpretation of meaning within the written texts. It is Socratic in style and firmly text based.

In this process participants enjoy the benefits of diverse points of view, focused exploration, and common discovery.

Each participant is engaged in an active search for the

meaning of the selection at hand. With the energy and encouragement of the group, participants articulate ideas, support assertions with evidence from the text, and grapple together with different possibilities of meaning.

How does it work?

There is a “leader” for each selection. The leader has read the text at least twice carefully and has developed interpretive questions – things that puzzled the reader (not questions with specific answers).

It is NOT a free-wheeling exchange of opinions and testimonials which go outside the text. Questions and discussions are always firmly grounded in the text itself.

Here are the basic guidelines:

1. Read the selection carefully before participating in the discussion. Take notes as you read.
2. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.
3. Discuss the ideas in the

selection and try to understand them fully.

4. Listen carefully to other participants and respond to them directly.

What do you have to do to join?

1. You can join Meetup or you can email me (larry@larry-schiff.com).

2. For our July 9 discussion session please buy and read “Gilgamesh” (Norton Critical edition). For the August discussion we will post the reading soon. For September through June meetings, you can purchase the texts directly from the Great Books Foundation (\$28.95 plus shipping and tax) at <http://store.greatbooks.org/>. Go to the section “Book Groups and Colleges,” then “Great Books Reading and Discussion Series” and select the first series.

3. Read the selection carefully as described above.

4. Come on the first Wednesday of each month to NYSEC; we meet on the 5th floor, Room 508. We charge a \$5 fee for each meeting to pay for the cost of the room. Many of our current members have been in our group for years.

Check the calendar for the exact readings and dates.

We look forward to meeting you and having you join our discussion group.

Leader’s Desk

(continued from page 4)

they were just overwhelmed. They couldn’t imagine that this was just minutes from where they lived, and they never even knew about it. One kid ran crying off campus. It made them so disheartened about their own circumstances.”

In addition to Stiglitz’s work, economist Robert Reich released a documentary called *Inequality for All* in 2013; *Rolling Stone* journalist Matt Taibbi just published *The Divide: American Justice in the Age of the Wealth Gap*; and Fast Food Forward, started last year in NYC, took its worker strikes on the road and across the country. The latest notable to speak out is French economist Thomas Piketty, whose 700-page tome, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, has become an international bestseller. His thesis is that inequality is the inevitable collateral effect of capitalism and that, if governments don’t act to contain it, it will grow until it seriously threatens democracy and economic stability. The “Piketty effect” is well known to academic economists and is finally

becoming familiar to the rest of us. Here is the solid evidence and scholarly underpinning for the phenomenon we have been experiencing since the depression of 2008: radical social injustice.

Yes, there is a great deal to say, but now is the time to act. Long gone are the days when Dr. Adler called captains of industry and labor leaders who were members of his congregation and parents in his school into his office and convinced them to join him in building institutions and transforming society to meet the needs of public welfare. Although today we lack his powerful connections, we are nonetheless called upon to act in solidarity with the 99 percent. In addition to maintaining a homeless shelter and fighting for a living wage, we can also support quality public education by again housing free pre-kindergarten and after-school programs. Let’s do it! We can and we must take a stand for equality.



Spring Cabaret Party *(continued from page 1)*

Our members also lent a helping hand. The Decorations Committee, led by Bonnie Bean and ably assisted by Beverly Newman and Patricia Berens, transformed Ceremonial Hall into a most inviting and warm ambiance, with flowers and flickering candlelight. Pat Debrovner started the entertainment off with her elegant reading of Shakespeare's *Sonnet No. 116*. Carol and Richard Van Deusen's reading of a scene from Noel Coward's *Private Lives* also lit the room and added humor and more elegance to the evening.

David McCants and other maintenance staff, under the direction of Leonardo Gibson, worked tirelessly, preparing tables, climbing on ladders to hang decorations, etc. They continued throughout the evening, making sure our microphones, the food, the ice for drinks and white wine, coffee and tea, etc., and music for dancing, were attended to. Jon Liechty oversaw the setup for the musicians.

There were two people who were indispensable for our success, Cheryl Gross and Andra Miller, our President. Andra lent her support

to every part of the planning and tirelessly volunteered her time, assuming responsibilities such as preparing the program notes, setting up the sandwich board outside our building, serving as one of our readers, and much,

much more. All in all, this was a most enjoyable evening for everyone. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who attended. We were pleased to have them as our guests.



Some of the wonderful performers at NYSEC's Spring Cabaret: (L-R) Ensemble du Monde musicians: Peter Fancovic, Filip Pogady, Alexandra Jones, Lorenzo Sandi, and Tia Allen.



Mathieu Cognet accompanies soprano singer Katherine Howell.



The Photography Arts Club presented its first Art Show in the alcove outside of the Leaders' office in April. It consisted of a diorama of Origami Animal models folded by Valerie Leiman; a collage of her greeting cards; and a short excerpt from Wikipedia, titled "The New Art."

(L-R) Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen and Valerie Leiman show off their origami animals.

Following the May 4 Platform Meeting on the Televisiting program of the Social Service Board, Valerie Leiman offered an "Each One Teach One" session to Dr. Frank Corigliano on folding an origami 3D heart model that he could teach to a child of his choice in the program. That child could then show it to his/her parent during the televisitation session. Frank accepted the offer, and will incorporate it into his program.



Dr. Frank Corigliano and Valerie Leiman in the Social Service Board office making a 3D heart model.



Frank shows his finished 3D heart.

Feminist Freethinkers of NY, Secular Humanist Society of New York and
the New York Society for Ethical Culture present a screening of a very
important film

Friday June 20 7:00PM 2 West 64th Street



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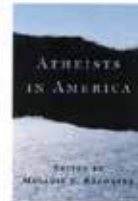


NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union.
Entry to our 100-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements.
Please call ahead (212-474-5223 x 107) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

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Atheists in America is an edited collection that features more than two dozen narratives by atheists from different backgrounds across the United States. Ranging in age, race, sexual orientation, and religious upbringing, these individuals address deconversion, community building, parenting, and romantic relationships, providing a nuanced look at living without a god in a predominantly Christian nation.

Book Release Party

Coupled with readings from authors, food, wine, dancing, and a "coming out ball" – this is a night to celebrate for nonbelievers and their friends, families, colleagues, and allies. We ask that you wear RED in solidarity and if you want to come out in support of this project.

Wednesday June 25

7:00-9:00PM



Melanie Brewster, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education at Columbia University, earned her Ph.D from the University of Florida. Her research focuses on marginalized groups and examines how experiences of discrimination and stigma may shape the mental health of minority group members (e.g., LGBTQ individuals, atheists and nonbelievers, people of color).

Atheists in America is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union.
Entry to our 100-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements.
Please call ahead (212-874-5223 x 107) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.



don't miss this sensational
MODERN DANCE
event

featuring **Figures in Flight 4 & Figures in Flight Released**

Saturday, June 28th at 7:00 pm

Society for Ethical Culture Concert Hall, 2 West 64th Street, NYC

Experience groundbreaking choreography and the celebration of the human spirit by two extraordinary companies: **Figures in Flight 4** is a professional youth dance company made up of high school students from the Hudson Valley. **Figures in Flight Released** is a group of men whose dance training began through a rehabilitation program in prison. The two groups share a mission—unity and mutual respect between all people, and helping youth at risk of incarceration.

Admission: FREE • Donations Welcome | Doors open at 6:15

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Application Materials

**Ethical Culture Lay Leadership
Summer School
July 12 - 19, 2014**

Sponsored by the [American Ethical Union](#)



Mission: The AEU Lay Leadership Summer School was created in 1996 to promote the evolution of Ethical Culture so that Ethical members and institutions can flourish and grow. The Summer School provides a special opportunity for committed leaders and members to strengthen skills, share ideas and ideals, and broaden inter-Society connections.

Where is Summer School held?

[The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center](#) in Highlands, North Carolina (828-526-5838)

Cost

The fee of approximately \$1200 per participant covers full program, room and board. Travel is extra. Some partial scholarships available. [See the registration form for details.](#)

A \$150 deposit per applicant must be received by May 31. Full payment must be received by June 15. Deposits are non-refundable unless the applicant is not accepted.

Travel

Participants must arrange and pay for their own transportation. We may offer a group shuttle from the Atlanta airport for a fee. If you are flying into Atlanta and require ground transportation, please contact L Miller in the AEU office before making your flight arrangements so that he can advise and coordinate ground transportation options with you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: *Why Be Happy When You Can Be Normal?* by Jeanette Winterson — June 2
Ethics in Film: *Thelma and Louise (1991)*, directed by Ridley Scott — June 6
Ethics and the Theater: *Side Man* by Warren Leight — June 13
Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: *Craiglist Joe (2012)*, directed by Joseph Garner — June 16

1 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Ethical Death Café 1:30 Sunday Assembly	2 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group	3 12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	4 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 7:30 Great Books Discussion Group	5 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class 7:00 Venezuela SOS Concert	6 July/August 2014 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Ethics in Film	7
8 10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 12:45 Ethics in the News 1:00 Ethics for Teens	9 6:30 Board of Trustees	10 12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Ethical Dilemmas	11 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 Building a Culture Of Peace	13 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	14
15 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens	16 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 7:00 Newcomers' Reception	17 12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	18 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 2:30 Ethical Death Café 6:00 Shelter Volunteers Dinner	19 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class 7:00 AFCECO Fundraiser	20 7:00 Honor Diaries	21
22 10:00 Environmental Stewardship 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	23 7:15 Readings in Deep Ecology	24 12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	25 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 7:00 <i>Atheists in America</i> - Book Release Party!	26 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 Building a Culture Of Peace	27	28 7:00 Modern Dance
29 10:00 Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens	30					



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"LEADING THE ETHICAL LIFE"
September 19 – 21

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 snail-mail, or in person — to reserve and give your \$100 deposit.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE,

a community that believes all individuals have inherent worth and
dignity, and a responsibility to strive for ethical growth.

Ours is a nontheistic religion in which deeds and their results matter more than ideology.

We believe that leaving the world better than we found it is the highest good.

Learn more about us at our website — or, better still, visit with us.

You're always welcome.

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ETHICAL OUTLOOK

June 2013

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