

INSIDE...

Leader's Desk page 2



Ethical Enrichment page 4

Tai Chi Comes to NYSEC page 8

Sunday Platforms page 9

Sundays at Ethical page 11

Leader Lunch Discussions page 12

Our Ethical Family page 13

Police and Fairness page 14

You Are Invited to a Meeting page 15

More Reasons to be a NYSEC Member page 16

News from the American Ethical Union page 17

Calendar of Events page 19

SAVE THE DATE
 OUR 2015 WEEKEND
 RETREAT
 FRIDAY, SEPT. 25 -
 SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

NEWS & VIEWS:



**Response to *Newsday* Editorial
 Monica Weiss, NYSEC member**

What was your editorial board thinking when you wrote “Keystone is a symbol in bigger energy debate” (2/1/15)?

You have managed to advocate for both President Barack Obama's veto on the pipeline bill and the

need for him to approve the project.

You have ignored the science behind climate change and the necessary measures to mitigate it in a relatively short period. You refer to the Senate's support for an amendment

stating that climate change “was real and not a hoax,” but you fail to mention that many of the Republicans who support that are unwilling to recognize that climate change is caused by human activity. Their

Continued on page 3

***Newsday* Editorial Supporting Keystone Pipeline**

President Barack Obama is sure to veto the bill approving the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry up to 830,000 barrels a day of crude oil from tar sands in Canada to refineries at the Gulf of Mexico. He's right to do

so. The authority to decide the future of the pipeline belongs in the executive branch, not Congress.

But after six years of analyzing the pipeline for its impact on the economy, environment and national security, it's time for

Obama to make the call. He should green-light the privately funded project.

There was a promising sign: One Senate amendment to the bill that had bipartisan support would have made it cheaper

Continued on page 3

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Member of the American Ethical Union

Leader's Desk



DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN

Is There a War on Women?

You bet there is! According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), this terminology “describes the legislative and rhetorical attacks on women and women’s rights taking place across the nation,” including “a wide range of policy efforts designed to place restrictions on women’s health care and erode protections for women and their families.” Although an overwhelming majority of Americans favor choice in reproductive decisions, the goal of Republicans, at state and federal levels, is to deprive women of their rights and to make access to facilities where women receive health and reproductive services prohibitive. Here are just a few examples: restricting contraception, cutting off funding for Planned Parenthood, state-mandated ultrasounds, abortion waiting periods, forcing women to tell their employers why they want birth control, and prohibiting insurance companies from covering abortions.

But this war on women

is not limited to reproductive justice; we experience misogyny on college campuses and in the workplace, on the streets and in our homes, even in the world of video gaming. Although an argument can be made that conditions have improved for women since gaining suffrage in 1920, the 14th amendment is more often used to help corporations than women, and the fate of the Equal Rights Amendment remains uncertain at best. As Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia famously said, “Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.” Legislation and legal cases have rectified some inequities, but created others; also, legislation can be repealed and court cases overturned.

What we need is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that states simply and succinctly:

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Continued on page 3

Response to *Newsday* Editorial (continued from page 1)

feigned support is political theater that allows them to continue supporting expansion of fossil fuel use and infrastructure. The irony of your position is that on Feb. 8, columnist Michael Dobie, a member of your editorial board, called out state lawmakers for ignoring science in their support for personal vaccine exemptions [“Measles outbreak infects NY politics,” Opinion]. He reminds us that measles is a public health issue.

I would contend that the life-threatening consequences of global climate change are also a public health issue. The era of fossil fuels is over. It is irresponsible for any elected official or for *Newsday's* editorial board to advocate anything other than renewable energy infrastructure and incentives.☞

Editorial Supporting Keystone Pipeline (continued from page 1)

for consumers to buy energy-efficient products such as water heaters, and easier for manufacturers to build more efficient heating and cooling systems. It also would have created incentives for owners of commercial buildings to reduce their carbon footprints. Congress should pass these programs in a stand-alone bill.

So the pipeline debate, which lasted three weeks and saw votes on more than 50 amendments, wasn't a waste of time. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the new Senate majority leader, came through on his promise to allow more floor debate, and Democrats made sure he got it. There was overwhelming support for an amendment stating that climate change “was real and not a hoax.”

Now Congress has to do something about it.☞

From the Leader's Desk (continued from page 2)

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

This amendment, first presented by Alice Paul in 1923 at the 75th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, and introduced in every Congressional session between 1923 and 1972, when it was finally passed by Congress, was ratified by 35 states, three short of the 38 needed by



Leader's Desk

the 1982 deadline. Since then, the ERA, which polls indicate is supported by more than 90% of Americans, has been reintroduced in every Congressional session, but never once come to a vote.

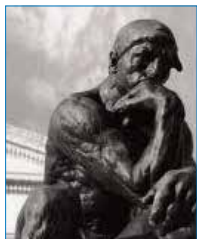
If those people insisting that there is no war on women, that it is merely a political stratagem, are serious, I invite them to join the ERA Coalition (<http://www.eracoalition.org/>), where they can sign a petition and donate to the cause. They can also purchase and read Jessica Neuwirth's book *Equal Means Equal* that tells the story of legal cases that highlight the need for an ERA and contemporary cases where women's rights are threatened.

Another Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, recently said, “I would like my granddaughters, when they pick up the Constitution, to see that notion – that women and men are persons of equal stature – I'd like them to see that is a basic principle of our society.” I want my daughter to see herself in the Constitution. I want every woman to be treated equally under the laws of our country, and every man to recognize her equality. How about you?☞

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Wisdom and World Affairs

Join us on the first and fourth **TUESDAYS, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**, in Room 508, for a philosophical discussion



moderated by Ken Gans. We'll cover a wide variety of subjects: the fate of humanity, world affairs, and Humanism, among many others. Come, and share your opinions.

There is no fee for this program.

Introduction to Stand-Up Comedy

Do you love comedy? Then come on **TUESDAYS, MARCH 3, 10, 17, and 24, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**, to the Adler



Leighann Lord

Study, Room 514. Our moderator will be Leighann Lord.

Are you the funny one in your family? Have people said "You should be a stand-up comedian" and you agree with them? Well, if you're ready to give it a try in a no-pressure, supportive environment, this workshop is for you.

Bring the ideas that you've jotted down on cocktail napkins, in notebooks, and laptops, and let's get started. You'll learn the basics of stand-up comedy from professional comedian Leighann Lord. She's been seen on Lifetime's *Girls' Night Out*, ABC's *The View*, Comedy Central's *Premium Blend*, *Comics Unleashed* with Byron Allen, and *The Original HBO Def Comedy All-Star Jam*. Leighann wrote for the pilot of *The Chris Rock Show*, and she is a cohost on *StarTalk Radio* with Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson.

Registration is required; space is limited. To register email Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

The cost for members is \$150, and for guests it is \$250.

Body, Brain, and Balance

Do join us for these six sessions on **WEDNESDAYS**, starting **MARCH 4, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Our moderator will be Rob Hofman.

Three big B's – Body, Brain, and Balance – are interconnected; they keep us functioning, and they need to

SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:00 am
Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

MARCH 1

Feminist Islam Is Not An Oxymoron
An Interview by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen with Dr. Jerusha Tanner Lamptey
Clara Malekshahi Presides

MARCH 8

In Search of a Wider, Deeper, Richer Humanism
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Richard Van Deusen Presides

MARCH 15

A scene from the play Melissa's Choice
Steven Somkin, playwright
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

MARCH 22

Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc (Or, "It's Sunday, We Must Be Serious Right?")
Curt Collier, Leader
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

MARCH 29

And Justice for All
Dr. Terry Perlin interviews Eduardo Porter, economic Columnist, The New York Times

NOT A MEMBER?

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

be maintained. There is a lot we can do to keep our body, our brain, and our balance system up to par, and that is what this workshop is about. This will be an enjoyable and practical learning experience. Wear easy, loose-fitting clothes and flat shoes.

Registration is required. To register email Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

The cost for the six sessions is \$30 for members and \$60 for guests.

Great Books Discussion Group

Larry Schiff

Once again, a stimulating conversation is in store for the March



Great Books Discussion Group. Our topic is: “The Power of the Majority vs. Individual Freedom,” and the two selections we’ll read for the **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 7:00 PM** session are by de Toqueville, who cautions us against the rule by majority

vote, and Georg Simmel, who discusses the responsibilities that accompany freedom for the individual.

The French philosopher and historian Alexis de Toqueville, grandson of a statesman and son of a high-ranking nobleman, originally had ambitions of becoming a statesman, but the July Revolution of 1830 swayed him otherwise. He toured the United States to witness the political, social, and cultural intricacies of the young constitutional republic. The result, his book, *Democracy in America*, established him as a social and political scientist, and helped propel him into a career in politics. Georg Simmel earned his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Berlin in 1881. He wrote and lectured on philosophy and is considered a pioneer in sociology and its methodology.

The Great Books Discussion Group meets on the first **WEDNESDAY** of the month (unless that's a holiday) from **7:00 PM** till **9:00 PM** in the Elliott Library, fifth floor. For the most part, we read excerpts from the Great Books

series, usually 40-70 pages. Participants read the monthly selection (ideally twice), jotting down questions for the group to discuss.

To learn about the Great Books Foundation and the discussion process, visit our website: <http://www.meetup.com/Manhattan-Great-Books-Discussion-Group/>. In the first paragraph of the page entitled “What is our Great Books Reading Discussion Group and how do we work?” (reached from the “About Us” box on the left), click on “Great Books,” which is in red type. That's the link to the website page where you can order the Great Books Reading and Discussion First Series and Reader Aid (it's \$28.95). In the information bar on the left side of our meet-up page, you can click on “Our Calendar” to see the monthly readings scheduled for the year.

When you come, you are in essence joining the thousands of readers who participate in the Great Books discussions across the nation, following a format that was developed by Professor Mortimer Adler and

more Ethical Enrichment and Events...

Chancellor Robert Maynard Hutchins at the University of Chicago in 1947, and which spread across the country in the decades to come, with an ever-enthusiastic following.

Some new members shared with us what the discussions meant to them. Here are two of their comments:

“An enthusiastic, intelligent and supportive group of people – actually, people who are becoming friends – men and women able to thoughtfully talk about the chosen texts. It’s gotten my grey matter stimulated in constructive ways, and has brought me to literature that I had either read a long time ago, or had missed along the way. Thanks, everyone!”

“Wow! What a delight to be among bright people who respectfully and articulately share in a careful examination of what was written, what was the meaning or intent of the author, and to what extent we agree or hold these words as true. The discussion is downright energizing.”

Do come on **MARCH 7**, and join us in another Great Discussion! If you have any questions phone me at 917-749-0695, or email me at: Larry@larryschiff.com.

There is no charge for members, and for guests it is \$5 per session.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **Friday, March 6, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**) in Ceremonial Hall to see *Juno* (2007),



directed by Jason Reitman. I’ll be leading our discussion after the movie.

When a teenage girl is faced with an unexpected pregnancy, she enlists the aid of her best friend in finding the unborn child a suitable home in this coming-of-age comedy/drama from *Thank You for Smoking* director Jason Reitman. Juno (Ellen Page) may seem wise beyond her years, but after sleeping with classmate Bleeker (Michael Cera), the pregnant teen quickly realizes how little she really knows about life.

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

Ethical Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, MARCH 8**, from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, and

on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**, both in Ceremonial Hall. Our moderator is Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, who holds a Doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

We’ll gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake. 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 And the Theater



Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **FRIDAY, MARCH 13**, at **7:00 PM**, Ethics and the Theater will present a play reading of *Burn This* by Lanford Wilson, directed by Richard Van Deusen.

Anna’s world has been

shaken by the death of her gay loft-mate Bobby, who was both her well-loved friend and artistic inspiration. Now it is shattered by the arrival of Pale, Bobby's hyperactive, obscenity-spouting, straight, and very magnetic brother. Pale explodes into her life, creating chaos – and opening new doors.

Richard E. Van Deusen directs our cast. The cast includes Heidi Armbruster, Dan Hanson, Philip Mutz, Alfredo Narciso, and Matthew Walton.

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 Dr. Anne Klaeyen. Ceremonial Hall.

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

Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, MARCH 17**, from **7:00 PM** to **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.

To register email Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

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

Readings in Deep Ecology

Join us on **MONDAY, MARCH 23, 7:15 PM – 8:45 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Curt Collier, Leader, will moderate.

We'll explore selections from famous environmental authors. Chapters and selections from the works of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Wangari Maathai, Michael Pollan, Rachel Carson, Richard Louv, Edward Abbey, and Jane Goodall, among others, will be offered. We will read the selections together and then 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.

Moral Philosophy

Join us for a six-session discussion group, Moral Philosophy, on **WEDNESDAYS, 12:30 PM–2:00 PM**, starting on **APRIL 1**. Led by our moderator, Dr. John Gurney, we'll discuss, study, and apply basic moral theories about the right thing to do, including Ethical Relativism, Ethical Egoism, Consequentialism, the Categorical Imperative, and others. We'll cover the arguments and reasons offered by John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant, as well as Peter Singer, Gilbert Harman, Brad Hooker, and other contemporary philosophers.

Registration is required, space is limited, and participants must commit to attend all six of the sessions. To register email Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or phone her at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

The cost for members and for guests is \$30.

Tao Tai Chi Comes to NYSEC

Andra Miller

Last year I was asked by a guy in my Tao Tai Chi class, “You’re a bigwig there, why don’t you have us come do a Tai Chi demonstration at the Ethical Culture Society?”

After I disabused him of the notion that I had any special pull, I checked with Phyllis Kreuttner to see if the Life with Health program might be interested in such an event. She said yes, and so I asked David Goldberg, president of the Tao Tai Chi

Society Tri-State Chapter if it could be done.

David said yes and we agreed that the health aspects of doing Tai Chi would be explained, and several of those who attended told of how it has helped them. I said that it had eliminated the backaches I used to have when I got up every morning, and that it sharpened up my brain a bit and improved my strength and balance. After a demonstration, Goldberg taught those in attendance the first three “moves” of Tai Chi, and

then showed a video of people from all over telling how the exercise had helped them.

The session was fun, both for the 12 who came from the Tao Tai Chi Society and for the NYSEC members who stayed for the session after lunch. So far I know of two who so enjoyed the exercise, they signed up for classes in their area: Bernette Rudolph in Brooklyn, and Ed Gross in Astoria, Queens. ☺



Among the demonstrators from the Tao Tai Chi Society, you’ll see our members picking up the moves: Ken Gans, Bernette Rudolph, Sy Amkraut, Ed Gross, Maggie Determann, and Carol Rost. The tall man in front in the white t-shirt is David Goldberg, president of the Tri-State Chapter of Tao Tai Chi.

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:00 am

MAR. 1

FEMINIST ISLAM IS NOT AN OXYMORON



Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen interviews Dr. Jerusha Tanner Lamptey

Clara Malekshahi Presides

So much about Islam is misunderstood, especially when it comes to women. Dr. Lamptey, Assistant Professor of Islam and Ministry at Union Theological Seminary, is an expert on Muslima (Islamic feminist) theology. She earned a Ph.D. in Theological and Religious Studies with a focus on religious pluralism from Georgetown University and is the author of *Never Wholly Other: A Muslima Theology of Religious Pluralism*, which offers a reinterpretation of the Qur'anic discourse on religious "otherness." She is currently working on a new project focused on comparative feminist theology.

The shared charity is City Harvest.

MAR. 8

IN SEARCH OF A WIDER, DEEPER, RICHER HUMANISM



Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Richard Van Deusen Presides

Contemporary Humanism as expressed by a small but growing number of organizations bearing the name is historically a relatively recent phenomenon. It evolved in the nineteenth century out of strands of philosophical idealism centered on the European continent and emergent agnosticism which was taking hold in Britain. Humanism was "codified" with the publication of the Humanist Manifesto in 1933, which proclaimed a roster of values and principles that form the nucleus of the modern movement.

But Humanism, defined more broadly, has had a much deeper historical reach extending to ancient times with representatives in both the West and East. In this sense, Humanism is not reducible to a set of principles, but to an orientation to life that appreciates the breadth of human expression, whether in art, literature, religion, and other cultural and creative endeavors. It resonates with the human element behind thoughts and deeds expressive of a humanity that is not reducible to deterministic or formulaic understandings of the human condition.

Humanism thus understood implicitly rebels against the imperiousness of a mechanistic and overly technological culture. It is this wider humanism I seek to explore in my next address.

The shared charity is Bergen Sanctuary.

MAR. 15

A SCENE FROM THE PLAY MELISSA'S CHOICE



Steven Somkin, playwright

Patricia Bruder Debrouner Presides

Melissa's Choice is a drama about a lawyer who is passionate about women's rights, the environment, population control, and two men. An unintended pregnancy produces increasingly bizarre fantasies that compel her to choose between them. The play is set at a campsite in the Oregon woods where a raunchy cowboy and a forest ranger

(a single mother of two) become Melissa's unlikely guides in discovering who she is and with whom she belongs.

After leaving the practice of medicine, Steven Somkin has written nine full-length and four one-act plays. His plays have been produced Off Broadway and regionally. Four of his last five plays, including *Melissa's Choice*, address some aspect of environmentalism. He is a founder and artistic director of the Golden Squirrel Theater which, with coproducer The Worcester Shakespeare Company, will produce *Melissa's Choice* at The Lion on 42nd Street in May.

MAR. 22



POST HOC ERGO PROPTER HOC (OR, "IT'S SUNDAY, WE MUST BE SERIOUS RIGHT?")

Curt Collier, Leader

Dr. Anne Klaeyen Presides

Just because some event follows another event, many people make the logical mistake of automatically assuming the first event caused the second. The fallacy sounds easy enough to spot, right? But, more often than not, this fallacy appears again and again in people's perceptions of the world...even in subtle ways. For a little levity, we will be testing your ability to spot the fallacy through a variety of sources from current news to pervasive beliefs in pop culture, and even within some of your own cherished ideals. Come ready to challenge, laugh, and argue as we warm up a cold winter's day.

The shared charity is 350nyc.org.

MAR. 29



AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Dr. Terry Perlin interviews Eduardo Porter, economic columnist, *The New York Times*

Eduardo Porter, who writes the Economic Scene column for *The New York Times*, will be interviewed by NYSEC member Dr. Terry Perlin. Mr. Porter's columns focus on economic inequality, corporate ethical issues, and novel ideas for social reform. A former member of *The Times'* editorial board, he writes about business and labor with a critical edge.

Mr. Porter began his career in journalism more than two decades ago as a financial reporter for Notimex, a Mexican news agency, in Mexico City. In 2000, he joined *The Wall Street Journal* in Los Angeles to cover the growing Hispanic population, and in 2004 he joined *The New York Times* to cover economics.

The shared charity is Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF).

(The Shared Charities descriptions for this month are on page 14.)

Early Sunday Mornings 9:45 am (Except as noted)

(Rooms are subject to change)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| MARCH 1 | MINDFULNESS
Led by Dr. Anne Klaeyesen.
Join us on first Sunday mornings for exploration and practice of mindfulness through meditation. Room 408. |
| MARCH 1 & 15 | CHORUS PRACTICE
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. 10:00 AM . Ceremonial Hall. |
| MARCH 8, 22, & 29 | CHORUS PRACTICE
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. 10:30 AM . Ceremonial Hall. |
| MARCH 8 | COLLOQUY: "PAIN"
Virginia Arnold presides. Room 508. |
| MARCH 15 | POETRY READING
Sunday Poetry Group will be reading the works of women poets. Readings will begin at 9:30 AM . Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508. |
| MARCH 29 | COFFEE 'N CHAT
Room 508. |
-

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Except as noted)

(Rooms are subject to change)

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| MARCH 1 | LIFE WITH HEALTH – KIDS! "ETHICAL ISSUES IN ADOLESCENT HEALTHCARE"
Dr. Terry Perlin presides. Adler Study, Room 514.
Parents, grandparents, family, and friends often must deal with teenagers with behavioral issues as well as medical problems, often serious troubles. This interactive talk will deal with the special concerns found in adolescent medicine – including patient privacy, choices about sexuality, and mental health issues. Several cases will be offered for discussion. |
| MARCH 1 | SUNDAY ASSEMBLY
2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall. |
| MARCH 8 | ETHICS IN THE NEWS
Abe Markman presides. 12:45 pm, sixth floor school cafeteria.
At lunch join us at the Ethics-in-the-News table for your take on today's burning issues. |
-

more Ethical Enrichment and Events.....

MARCH 8

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson. Ceremonial Hall.

A gathering in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake.

MARCH 25

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 be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share openly with others in a supportive atmosphere. This course is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Elliott Library, Room 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members. This month's topic is: **WOMEN ET AL.** Folders with relevant articles will be available from Margaret Determann in the Membership Office. You can now access all of the Leader Lunch readings on our website at <http://www.nysec.org/leader-lunch>. Come and join the discussion.

MARCH 5

“RAPE ON THE CAMPUS” by Zoe Heller, *The NY Review of Books*, 2/5/15.

MARCH 12

“THE ORIGIN STORY OF WONDER WOMAN” by Jill Lepore, *Smithsonian*, October 2014.

MARCH 19

“WHY FEMINISM MATTERS” by Gina Barreca, www.ginabarreca.com, 12/14/14 and **“GOOD FEMINIST”** by Vivian Gornick, *Boston Review of Books*, 12/8/14.

MARCH 26

“IS IT TIME TO TOPPLE TIPPING” by Adam Platt and **“WE ARE THE 20%: WHAT TIPS MEAN TO SERVERS, BARTENDERS, DORRMAN, AND BARISTAS”** by Alexa Tsoulis-Reay and Mary Jane Weedman, *Grub Street*, 11/4/14.

Our Ethical Family



The following members are celebrating birthdays in March:

- ELIZABETH JACOBS.....3/3
- TOM WEISHAAR.....3/3
- FRANK CORIGLIANO.....3/4
- SCOTTY EMBREE.....3/6
- BEN GERSTEN3/8
- ANDRA MILLER.....3/10
- LEWIS WIDOFF.....3/15
- PETER HOUTS.....3/17
- PATRICIA O'MALLEY.....3/17
- MARY ELLEN GOODMAN...3/20
- YSABELLA GARA.....3/25
- BETH ZUCKER.....3/29

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.



MARGARET DETERMANN,
Assistant to the Leaders for
Membership Development

Welcome to two new members of our ethical family, **NINA MILLER** and **BOB GANGI**.

Nina holds a PhD in clinical psychology and is a psychologist in private practice on the Upper East Side. She was drawn to the Society by the combination of Sunday meeting topics and the Sunday Ethics for Children program, which her son David attends. Her hobbies and interests include meditation, yoga, piano, and parenting; Nina is interested in exploring the possibility of conducting some parenting workshops here at the Society.

Bob learned of the NY Society after being married here by a Leader in 1969 and admired the Society's humanist values. Before deciding to become a member, he served on the Social Services Board and was a speaker at

several Sunday meetings. Bob is currently the director of PROP (Police Reform Organizing Project). His other interests include music and sports.

* * * * *

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we note the death of long-time member Caroline Sapir, wife of Louis Sapir (who served on the Boards of NYSEC and the Schools). Caroline and Louis have been living in Hanover, New Hampshire, in recent years and were active in their community there. She will be missed by all.

* * * * *

Former Music Director Gerald Ranck is at DeWitt Rehabilitation & Nursing Center and would appreciate visits. Dewitt is located at: 211 East 79th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues). The visiting hours are **11:00 AM to 9:00 PM**, telephone: 212-879-1600.

Police and Fairness

Bob Gangi, NYSEC member

“Broken Windows” — Immoral, Ineffective, and Out of Time, Feb. 5, 2015.

Robert Gangi, Director of The Police Reform Organizing Project (PROP).

Even with the publicized results of the recent work slowdown by officers – cops stopped arresting and ticketing people for minor infractions and crime went into a steep decline – Mayor de Blasio continues to defend “broken windows” policing, a serious moral and political lapse by the city’s most progressive mayor in at least 20 years.

The NYPD’s quota-driven, “broken windows” practices

target low-level, often innocuous activities like carrying an open alcohol container, walking between subway cars, begging, and jaywalking. A mockery of justice, now exposed in an “emperor has no clothes” moment as ineffective, “broken windows” policing every day inflicts harm and hardship on hundreds, if not thousands, of mostly low-income people of color. This stark racial bias, which includes the aggressive bullying of marginalized groups like the homeless, sex workers, the mentally ill, street vendors, and LGBT youth, prevails without, for the most part, organized opposition or outcry from any quarter, including the good people working within the

system. Relevant are the telling words from Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we just celebrated: “In the end we will remember most not the voices of our enemies but the silence of our friends.”

The daily racial bias and injustice of the system is undeniable. Here are sample statistics culled from the NYPD and other government agencies that indicate how “broken windows” is enforced and why it must end:

-From 2008 to 2011 the police issued an average of eight bike-on-the-sidewalk summonses in Park Slope, Brooklyn. During the same period, for these kinds of tickets the annual

Continued on page 18

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

CITY HARVEST – operates in New York City through food rescue and distribution, and education. Since 1982, City Harvest has rescued more than 465 million pounds of food. On average, the organization rescues some 136,000 pounds of food each day, with 55% being fresh produce. City Harvest provides food to some 400 community food programs throughout New York City.

BERGEN SANCTUARY – The Sanctuary became a coalition of seven congregations and other organizations that provide a comprehensive range of humanitarian services for political asylum seekers.

350NYC.ORG is the local NYC affiliate of 350.org, which was founded by Bill McKibben in 2007.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, founded in 1915, works to achieve world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, and an end to all forms of violence.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

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COMMITTEES

You Are Invited — to a Meeting of the Membership Development Committee

ELINORE KAPLAN, NYSEC Member

According to our mission statement, “The Membership Development Committee is dedicated to increasing the full NYSEC membership. The job is twofold, requiring attention to both Recruitment — bringing in new members of all ages, ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, etc., and Retention — strengthening the NYSEC ‘community fiber’ so that new and long-term members are motivated to stay on and to participate in NYSEC activities.”

Our committee is tremendously active, and we’re proud of our accomplishments — but we’d love to grow in size and thereby the ability to do more. Some of the things that we’re planning or discussing at the moment include: newcomer and new member receptions, a one-day and a weekend retreat, two open house tours, the new photo display on the lobby monitor, hospitality training, “Continuing the Platform Conversation” at Sunday lunch, and lots more.

We are a mix of newer members, who bring their vision of Ethical to the table and have recent experience in being “newbies,” and longer-term members, who are familiar with what’s been done and have experience getting things started and accomplished within Ethical. What we benefit from is the critical eye that’s so important in our mission to improve in attracting new attendees and members, as well as in retaining the rest of us. If you think you can help, please know that we want to hear from everyone, whether you have been a member for 50 years or five months! (Incidentally, there’s also a suggestion box in the lobby, on the wall next to the reception window.)

You’re invited. Do join us at our next meeting, MONDAY, MARCH 23, at 7:00 PM in the Adler Study. Listen to what we’re talking about. Join the discussion. Get an idea of what we do, and decide whether you’d like to join with us. (If you can’t make it to the March meeting, keep in mind that we usually meet on the fourth **MONDAY** of the month at **7:00 PM**, with the exception of May and December, when it’s the third **MONDAY**.)



More Reasons To Be A NYSEC Member"

S A N D I S A C K S , NYSEC Member

ETHICAL NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

DO YOU WANT TO?

- CREATE a more COMPASSIONATE society
- ADVOCATE for SOCIAL JUSTICE
- SAVE the ENVIRONMENT
- Deepen UNDERSTANDING
- EXCHANGE Ideas
- CONTRIBUTE to community
- LEARN and GROW
- CELEBRATE joys
- HONOR Ethical Achievement
- Feel CONNECTED
- Find MEANING
- ASK the important questions
- BE part of the answer

DISCOVER ETHICAL CULTURE

Hi All,

Have you had an opportunity to see the new, updated slideshow on our lobby monitor? We hope you enjoy it and can help us spread the good word with ongoing photos of NYSEC activities that exemplify the actions on the slide above.

Please send your ideas, and photos in jpeg format, to sandisacks@gmail.com and bzucker@nysec.org. We hope to use them in either future slide shows or elsewhere!

I am also looking forward to receiving reasons you enjoy being a member of NYSEC, to be included in future columns.☺

News from the American Ethical Union



Jan Broughton

AEU Board Secretary

Member, Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle, North Carolina

Since 1996 I've been a member of EHST, where I'm certified as an Ethical Officiant. I've served on the board since 2010 as Secretary and am also on the staff of Lay Leadership Summer School. The Ethical Movement is where I have found a philosophical home and supportive community. Being involved on the national level has brought home how important it is to strengthen our movement to bring our message to those who are looking and longing for the kind of place we can provide.

To this end, this is the time of year that the Assembly committee, the AEU staff, and

the National Leader's Council are finalizing plans to bring another Assembly program to the members of the Ethical Union. The Metro Area Leaders have been developing workshops around Ethical Culture/ Humanism, the themes of sustainability, and effective ethical action. Outside experts, Leaders, and others experienced with best practices will share their expertise and offer inspiration and encouragement as we go back to our individual Societies.

This year's 100th Assembly should have particularly good attendance. The location in Stamford, Connecticut, is near several of our member societies and is easily accessible by train from Grand Central Station in NYC. The Westchester Soci-

ety is close enough to act as "host" for one evening activity. The board held its retreat at the same facility last year and the accommodations are excellent (and our conference planner negotiated a great room rate!)

Regardless of the presentations and experts, I find the greatest value is in the connections made with those from other Societies, from coast to coast and border to border. Sharing problems and successes, finding common ground and inspiration from the work of others, and just having fun socializing and in informal conversation make the Assembly worthwhile. I hope all Societies will encourage and support their members to attend the 100th Assembly of the American Ethical Union, to be held on June 25-28.☺

Police and Fairness by Bob Gangi *(continued from page 14)*

average in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, was 2,050.

-For the first nine months of 2014 the NYPD made 174,823 misdemeanor arrests (648 per day), 86.2 percent involving people of color. Despite the fact that a new administration began in 2014, these figures represent a remarkably similar pattern to the arrest practices of the same span in 2013 when the numbers were 173,625 arrests, 87% involving people of color.

-95 percent of the people incarcerated on Rikers Island are black or Hispanic, confined because of two main factors: the NYPD arrested and locked them up and they were too poor to make bail.

-In 2011, the height of the NYPD's use of stop-and-frisk, black and Hispanic males between the ages of 14 and 24 accounted for 41.6 percent of stops, even though they are only 4.7 percent of the city's population. The number of stops of young black men in 2011 exceeded the entire city population of young black men: 168,126 stops compared to 158,406 people.

Compounding the harm done by "broken windows" policing are the collateral consequences of these petty arrests and summonses: loss

of one's job or time at work, denial of access to scholarships or public housing, loss of child custody, even deportation in some cases. More than any current government policy or practice, "broken windows" causes and reflects the everyday social, economic, and racial inequities that afflict our city. "Broken windows" policing and its consequences represent "a tale of two cities" writ large.

New York City cannot have two different criminal justice systems. The significance of now, of this moment is that it is the first time in the city's history that the issue of abusive and biased policing is front and center in the political landscape and the policy debate. Previous outcries focused on egregious incidents of police brutality and excessive force, such as the shooting deaths of Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell. Never before has there been a sustained and highly visible movement aimed at exposing and correcting the daily systemic practices that compromise the lives and well-being of people, practices that serve to devalue the worth and lives of black and Hispanic people and create the circumstances wherein it is inevitable that fatalities occur at the hands of police officers.

In sum, here's the bad

news: these terrible and unjustifiable practices have persisted for decades, are indisputably racist and deeply immoral, represent a dark stain on our city's legacy, and question its reputation as a diverse and welcoming metropolis.

But here's the good news for Mayor de Blasio and the rest of us: because of the growing attention on this issue; because more and more people outside the community most often victimized are aware of abusive policing and its widespread ill effect; because the affected constituency is actively mobilized in the movement for sweeping reforms; and because the NYPD work slowdown has exposed the myth of "broken windows" as a successful crime reduction strategy – all unprecedented developments – New York City has an historic opportunity to fully redress longstanding injustices and to create public safety measures that bring together community groups, public and nonprofit service providers, and law enforcement, and that make significant progress toward establishing a truly inclusive and equitable city. The first step is an end to "broken windows."

(You can find PROP online at its website and on Facebook and Twitter.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Great Books: <i>The Power of the Majority</i>, by Alexis de Tocqueville and <i>Individual Freedom</i> by Georg Simmel — March 4</p> <p>Ethics in Film: <i>Juno</i> (2007), by Jason Reitman — March 6</p> <p>Ethics and the Theater: <i>Burn This</i>, by Lanford Wilson — March 13</p>						
<p>1</p> <p>9:45 Mindfulness 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Life with Health 2:00 Sunday Assembly</p>	<p>2</p> <p>April 2015 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>6:30 Board of Trustees</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 7:00 Intro. to Stand-Up Comedy</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00 Body, Brain and Balance 7:00 Great Books Discussion Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 Ethics in Film</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:45 Colloquy 10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 12:45 Ethics in the News 1:30 Ethical Death Café</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Ethics and War 7:00 Intro. to Stand-Up Comedy</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 Body, Brain and Balance</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Ethics and the Theater</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 Poetry Reading 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 Newcomers' Reception</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar 7:00 Intro. to Stand-Up Comedy</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:00 Body, Brain and Balance</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class 7:00 Countdown to Paris: Update on Global Climate Treaty Negotiations</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:15 Readings in Deep Ecology</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 7:00 Intro. to Stand-Up Comedy</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:30 Ethical Death Café 5:00 Body, Brain and Balance</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45 Coffee 'n Chat 10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

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2015 FORUM**

*The New York Society for Ethical Culture
Dr. Phyllis Harrison - Ross Award Series*

SAVE the DATE
*Thursday, April 30, 2015
7:00-8:30pm*

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NEW YORK CITY

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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