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Mayor David Dinkins Receives Inaugural NYSEC Public Service Award



(L-R): Harry Belafonte, Mayor David Dinkins, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Congressman Charles Rangel, First Lady of The City of New York Chirlane McCray, John McEnroe, Randy Levine.

Nicola Antonio DeMarco, JD
 "From an idea...to a conversation...to talking in a small meeting room... to creative planning... and to determined actions by dedicated people, this evening was a moving and historical event."
 — Dr. Lenny Davidman

On April 3, our Auditorium was packed with enthusiastic supporters of this special event introducing a brand new

public service award and honoring the two initial awardees: David Dinkins, New York City's 106th Mayor and the city's first African-American Mayor, and Mecca Santana, Chief Diversity Officer for the State of New York, who received the Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Public Service Award and the "Rising Star Award," respectively. The crowd was also here to enthusiastically honor the highly accomplished woman for whom the new

award was named. She is a longtime member, Chair of the SSB and Executive Board member Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross.

Mayor Dinkins was accompanied by his family and friends, among whom were the First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray; actor and singer Harry Belafonte; Congressman Charles Rangel and his wife Alma, tennis champion John McEnroe; President of

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President's Notes

A N D R A M I L L E R

My gosh—will the winter never really end? Of course, it may be balmy when you read this, but at the time I write this, I am becoming one of those who has little faith that this freezing winter will ever turn to a REAL spring!

But, forgetting the weather, didn't we have a fun last month? It was a partying month to be sure. There was the awesome event to celebrate the initial awards for special people in public service, The Phyllis Harrison-Ross Public Service Awards, after which we had a few weeks to recover from all the excitement, and then there was the postponed-from-February Valentine's Day Party, which was turned into a Spring Celebration. And before both of these two was the Thanks-For-Your-Pledge and Consider-Pledging Party. We had a great group of members enjoying that special dinner and fun evening, and got some additional pledge commitments – though we're far from having them from every member. If you haven't told us what you expect to contribute to NYSEC for this year, please do so. Be nice to your Pledge Drive Com-

mittee! Call or tell Moe-Swe what you would like to contribute this year so that we have a pledge from every member. Her extension is 113 (212-874-5210).

See page 1 for a report on the new Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Award inauguration – a wonderful event, for which the fundraising goal was not only met, but surpassed. We're so happy that this was such a successful and exciting event/party. Congratulations to all who were involved in making this happen and in making it splendidous – and to the energetic and indefatigable Chair, Heather Grady.

One more event from last month that I seriously enjoyed was the Ethics and the Theater production of G.B. Shaw's *The Millionairess*, starring *moi* in the title role. What a lot of fun, with a great cast and terrific director – and thanks to Patricia Bruder Debrovner for her work as Chair of the Ethics and the Theater Committee, Dick VanDeusen as the director, and Pat again for replacing an actress who, it turned out, couldn't make the date – PBD was a terrific "Patricia Smith."

I'm looking forward to our Annual Meeting on May 18. Hope you are, too. You've gotten the letter with the candidates for

Continued on page 7

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, MAY 2**, at **7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *Five Easy Pieces* (1970), directed by Bob Rafelson. I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.

Robert Dupea has given up his promising career as a concert pianist and is now working in oil fields. He lives with Rayette, who's a waitress in a diner. When Robert hears from his sister that his father isn't well, he drives up to Washington to see him, taking Rayette with him. There he is confronted with his rich, cultured family that he had left behind.

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

Ethical Death Café

Come on **SUNDAY, MAY 4**, from **1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, to the Adler Study, Room 514, and/or **WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**, to Ceremonial Hall. Our moderator is Dr. Barbara Simpson. She holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordi-

nator 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.

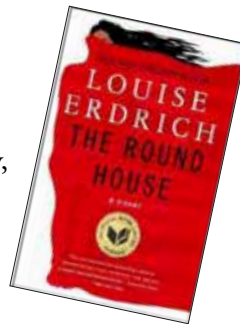
The suggested donation for the meeting is \$5.

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, MAY 5, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.

The Round House won the National Book Award for fiction. Erdrich, a brilliant chronicler of Native-American life, takes readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota, where a boy on the cusp of manhood seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever trans-



SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am
Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

MAY 4

Addressing the needs Of Children with Incarcerated Parents Through Supportive Televisiting Services

Dr. Frank J. Corigliano
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

MAY 11

Is Our Respect for Culture Good for Women?

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Dr. Kathleen O'Connell Presides

MAY 18

Annual Membership Meeting

NYSEC President Andra Miller Presides

MAY 25

The GMO Fight: Why The Hysteria?

Curt Collier, Leader
Richard Van Deusen Presides

NOT A MEMBER?

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

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Leader's Desk

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

Why Founder's Day Is Important

There is a story I often tell about Felix Adler at our monthly receptions for newcomers. Because the architecture of our meeting house can seem austere and our vision a little unclear (religion or not religion?), I introduce Ethical Culture through its founder, a young man who wondered what life would be like if we put ethics first – and then did it.

Felix was expected to inherit his father Samuel's position as head rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, a Reform Jewish synagogue in Manhattan. His family came from Germany in the mid-19th century to join this congregation and help it grow. By all accounts, Felix learned his lessons well from his scholarly father who guided his reading in the family's enviable library and his compassionate mother whom he accompanied on visits to poor families with baskets of food and clothing. If his schoolteachers thought that he should study as hard as his brother, who was destined to become a doctor, they also appreciated his

help with the younger children. Everyone recognized him as a serious and deep thinker who also enjoyed word play, especially puns.

When it came time to study for the rabbinate, Felix left for Heidelberg and Berlin. Imagine him far from the love and security of his home. Yes, he was fluent in German and well prepared academically, but he had grown up in a privileged American setting. Student life in Germany was wild: no dorms with empathetic RAs and "helicopter" (hovering) parents Skyping every day; students lived on their own and attended lectures, wholly responsible for their education. Felix was exposed to both intellectual heights and social depravity. He was shocked that his esteemed teachers didn't incorporate literary criticism into biblical study and that his fellow students frequented prostitutes. When it became clear to him that the Torah was ancient mythology, he turned to philosophy for a moral foundation. He attended political rallies and observed labor upheavals, which drew him to sociological studies. Young Adler was engaged in an independent study far from what

his parents and congregation had envisioned for him. Legend has it that when his mother received a letter expressing Felix's enthusiasm for philosopher Emmanuel Kant, she replied that "no good can ever come of studying philosophy" and insisted he return home.

Return he did and, at the age of 23 years, delivered a sermon at Temple Emanu-El called "The Judaism of the Future." Now it was his turn to shock: Adler didn't mention God and introduced his concept of Judaism as a universal religion of morality for all humanity. It was his first and last sermon at his father's synagogue. Soon it became clear that he would not become a rabbi, and members of the congregation helped him gain a teaching position at Cornell University, where he became popular with students for his radical religious ideas that included an understanding of labor struggles and power politics. Others, however, attacked him as an atheist, and Cornell declined to accept the grant that paid Adler's salary, so he returned to New York City. And that is where, in Standard Hall on May 15, 1876, Ethical Culture was founded.

Continued on page 7

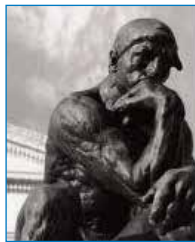
forms his family. This powerful coming-of-age story is both a mystery and a moving novel of family, history, and culture.

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

Wisdom and World Affairs

Come on the first and fourth

TUESDAYS,
MAY 6 and
27, 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.

Building a Culture of Peace

Join us on the second and fourth **THURSDAYS** of each month: **MAY 8, MAY 22**, from **6:30 PM** to **8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514. Dr. Anne Klaeyssen, Leader, will moderate.

As noted in our April issue, an annual international Day

of Peace was established by a U.N. resolution in 1981, to be celebrated on September 21 the following year. "Peace Day is Every Day" is the motto of myriad organizations throughout the world dedicated to "peacebuilding," which is different from "peacemaking" and "peacekeeping." It focuses on creating a long-term culture of peace, rather than solving existing conflicts or preventing old ones from reoccurring. We'll use materials from the National Peace Academy to explore four interdependent 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 **FRI-DAY, MAY 9**, at **7:00 PM**. Ethics and the Theater will present a



play reading of *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan-Lori Parks. Parks won a Pulitzer Prize for her searing, comic, and ultimately shattering portrayal of two African-American brothers who share a shabby apartment and a history of abandonment and defeat. Lincoln, the elder, quit his successful three-card monte game when one of his partners was shot and now portrays his namesake, in whiteface, in a sideshow. The younger brother, Booth – the names are one of the less cruel tricks the men's parents played on them – is an accomplished shoplifter who wants to take over Lincoln's scam. In the end, they both know, only one can be Topdog.

Gregory Taylor directs the cast, which includes Ishmael Islam in the role of Booth; Gregory is the other cast member. 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. The reading will take place in Ceremonial Hall.

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

Readings in Deep Ecology

Come on **MONDAY, MAY 19, 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507. Curt Collier, Leader, will moderate. Each month we will 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 free for this program.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, MAY 19, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We will be showing *Under Fire: Journalists in Combat* (2011), directed by Martyn Burke.

Winner of the 2013 Peabody Award, this film is about

the psychological cost of covering wars and includes interviews with journalists from around the world who risk their lives to report from war zones. Only two journalists were killed in World War I and 63 in World War II. In the last twenty years, almost a journalist a week has been killed, numbering in the thousands. Reporters are now viewed as targets by terrorists and are subject to kidnapping, torture and even beheadings. *Under Fire* weaves together combat footage and first-hand accounts by journalists who reveal what they see, think, and feel under these conditions.

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



Adler Reading Seminar

Join us on **TUESDAY, MAY 20, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**, in Room 502, with Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman as our moderator.



We'll discuss 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.

Speaking of Ethics: Living a Humanist Life

Join us on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** in Ceremonial Hall, for a book party celebrating the release of Ethical Culture Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman's book, a collection of his Sunday Platform addresses highlighting his main ethical concerns. For the past forty-five years, Dr. Chuman has inspired his congregants through some of their toughest personal challenges. These experiences, paired with his academic acumen, give him a fresh and astute perspective on ethics today. He takes a broad-view approach that addresses the conditions that create dilemmas, rather than focusing on oversimplified right/wrong situations.

There is no charge to attend. Refreshments are available and copies of the book will be available for \$15.00.

President's Notes

(continued from page 2)

the Board and the changes for the Bylaws. And if you've lost it, forgotten where you put it, or think you didn't even get it, call Gloria Chandler, extension 117, and she'll send it again. The meeting will be followed with a celebratory lunch (us NYSEC folks just can't stop celebratin') at which we'll recognize the amazing volunteers who keep this place afloat, welcome our newest members, and commemorate members' anniversaries. (Shoot, I'm at Anniversary 12 or 13 – a non-commemorative year, celebration-wise . . .)

It is probably too late for you to make arrangements to attend the American Ethical Union's 99th Annual Assembly in Skokie, Illinois. (How great to get to a place I've heard of but never been to, which will be a sterling event.) Our own Monica Weiss is being honored there with an Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award. And you probably know the administrator guy in charge is our own Board member, L Miller (no relative).

But shucks, if you miss that, why not get yourself to the AEU Lay Leadership Summer School, July 12-19, in the

beautiful mountains of North Carolina? That's one way to obtain some powerful personal growth, meet great people from other Societies, learn a lot, and have terrific fun. Part of the expense is reimbursed by NYSEC, and I swear it will beat any vacation you might have been thinking of taking! Ask me or L about it – my number is 646-363-0025, and L is at lmiller.aeu@gmail.com.

Also be thinking about our own retreat, September 19-21 at Stony Point. First come, first choice for rooms! See Moe-Swe Myint to make your \$100 deposit.

Leader's Desk

(continued from page 4)

Today Ethical Societies and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School celebrate Founder's Day in early May. We hark back to young Adler's founding address and continue to find inspiration there, not least because the conditions about which he spoke still persist and demand our action. "There is a great and crying evil in modern society. It is want of purpose. It is that narrowness of vision which shuts out the wider vistas of the soul. It is the absence of those sublime emotions which, wherever they arise, do not fail to exalt and consecrate existence."

We still need a religion without the trappings of ritual

or creed that unites us all – theists, agnostics, and atheists – in ethical social action.

"Believe or disbelieve as ye list — we shall at all times respect every honest conviction. But be one with us where there is nothing to divide — in action. Diversity in the creed, unanimity in the deed! This is that practical religion from which none dissents. This is that platform broad enough and solid enough to receive the worshipper and the 'infidel.' This is that common ground where we may all grasp hands as brothers, united in mankind's common cause."

Today we include women and the LGBTQ community

on his platform. As Adler well knew, ethics would continue to progress, embracing new groups of people and empowering them to claim their rights. The Ethical Movement he founded is now part of a larger Humanism that extends globally and touches everyone who puts "deed above creed." We hear his voice echoing from Standard Hall in 1876:

"The time calls for action. Up, then, and let us do our part faithfully and well. And oh, friends, our children's children will hold our memories dearer for the work which we begin this hour."

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 am

MAY 4



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS THROUGH SUPPORTIVE TELEVISITING SERVICES

Dr. Frank J. Corigliano *Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides*

Over two million children have a parent who is currently incarcerated in the United States and, in most cases, these children would benefit from ongoing positive contact with their parent.

To address the needs of these children, the Social Service Board provides innovative televisits, which enable children to read, share jokes, and sing songs during a video-visit with their mom or dad.

Televisits take place in a child-friendly space located at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, and our televisits are enriched by special resources made possible by our collaborative friends and colleagues, Brooklyn Public Library, Carnegie Hall, and Sesame Workshop.

Dr. Corigliano is a psychologist here in New York City. He leverages technology in innovative ways to address critical social, ethical, and clinical issues. He completed his postdoctoral psychology residence while developing the Social Service Board's televisiting program at NYSEC.

The shared charity is AFCECO.

MAY 11



IS OUR RESPECT FOR CULTURE GOOD FOR WOMEN?

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader *Dr. Kathleen O'Connell Presides*

Ever since the late 1960s, in this country and around the world, there has been a growing respect for the integrity of local cultures. The ideology of multiculturalism is an outgrowth of this trend. On the world scene and in the human rights community there is increasing respect for indigenous peoples, perhaps in recognition of the extraordinary destruction of cultures in the developing world wrought by Western imperialism, and a desire to correct those wrongs. The rights of ethnic, religious, and cultural groups are now a recognized and growing dimension of the human rights regime and international consciousness.

But what happens to the equality and rights of women when we recognize that many, if not all, such cultures that now receive greater respect and protection are characteristically patriarchal and lead to the inequality and subordination of women? We see such trends in such far-flung places as the Islamic world and parts of America where conservative evangelical Christian culture is a powerful force. Clearly we are witnessing a clash of rights that does not yield to easy solutions. My address of May 11 will examine that conflict.

The shared charity is AFCECO.

MAY 18

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NYSEC President Andra Miller Presides

MAY 25

THE GMO FIGHT: WHY THE HYSTERIA?

Curt Collier, Leader

Richard Van Deusen Presides



An onslaught of recent articles have suggested that the push to label genetically modified foods is only false hysteria promoted by individuals and organizations with a poor understanding of science. Proponents of GMO foods also state that if we don't allow for GMO foods, our current agriculture system is at risk of collapse leading to starvation. To a certain extent, the pro-test tube proponents are right. However, they too are guilty of promoting hysteria since they're missing the biggest point. A pro-science environmentalist responds.

The shared charity is Camp Linden.

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

AFCECO (the Afghan Child Education and Care Organization) is an Afghan nonprofit organization based in Kabul and fully registered since 2008 with AISA, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's official registration agency. Founding Director Andeisha Farid opened her first parwarishga, or "foster haven" in 2004, in Pakistan. An Afghan native who had grown up in war and displacement, her dream was to come up with an innovative way to help vulnerable Afghan children, in this case orphaned refugees.

CAMP LINDEN is a camp experience for underserved inner-city children and youth that promotes appreciation of the natural world, acknowledges the intrinsic worth of all human beings, and encourages campers to develop self-reliance and integrity. Camp Linden is a program of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.

WANTED

Sociable members who enjoy meeting new people to call newcomers interested in joining NYSEC. Must smile and have sunny dispositions. A wonderful opportunity to spread the good news about Ethical Culture and make new friends.

Compensation: immeasurable goodwill

Call or email Membership Associate Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113, or email her at mmyint@nysec.org if you are interested.

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

MAY 4

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 11

COLLOQUY: GRATITUDE

Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

MAY 18

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 18

POETRY READING

Bring some of your favorite poems to share.

Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

MAY 18

AIDS WALK

Participating walkers meet at NYSEC on the 5th floor at 10:00 am.

Head over to the entrance of the AIDS Walk at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue to begin around 11:00 am. The walk takes two to three hours, and covers about six-and-a-quarter miles.

Ish Islam, Teen Advisors presides.

MAY 25

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Curt Collier, Leader, and Monica Weiss preside.

Room 508.

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

MAY 4

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ

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

MAY 4

SUNDAY ASSEMBLY

Social Hall.

MAY 11

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

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

MAY 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 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: **READINGS IN HUMANISM AND FREETHOUGHT**. 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.

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- MAY 1** "IS ATHEISM IRRATIONAL? INTERVIEW WITH ALVIN PLANTINGA" by Gary Gutting, 2/9/14, and "ARGUMENTS AGAINST GOD: INTERVIEW WITH LOUISE ANTONY" by Gary Gutting, 2/25/14, *The NY Times*.
-
- MAY 8** "THE WAR ON REASON" by Paul Bloom; "THE INTELLECTUAL SNOBBERY OF CONSPICUOUS ATHEISM" and "WHY WOULD A MILLENNIAL BECOME A PRIEST OR NUN?" by Emma Green, *The Atlantic*, March 2014.
-
- MAY 15** "CREATIVITY – THEN AND FOREVER" and "CREATIVITY – FOR THE LIVING" by Janet Asimov, *TheHumanist.com*.
-
- MAY 22** "SCIENCE, GOD, AND ROCK 'N ROLL" (Parts 1 and 2), *The Humanist.Com*, 3/28/14 and 3/31/14.
-
- MAY 29** Discussion cancelled for bias training (see flyer on page 18).
-

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Our Ethical Family

MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE



The following members are celebrating birthdays in May:

CAROLINE JOY

- DEBROVNER.....5/1
- RICHARD VAN DEUSEN..5/1
- EVA YACHNES.....5/2
- JAMES FARER.....5/9
- TOM KENNEDY.....5/9
- TINA MASCHI.....5/9
- CAROLE CHAMLIN.....5/15
- PAMELA MCGHEE.....5/22
- DINA GREGORY.....5/25
- ALICE LADAS.....5/30

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.

Please welcome new members **SCOTTY EMBREE, RAYMOND SCHILLER, LARRY SCHIFF,** and **BARBARA SIMPSON.**

A denizen of the Upper West Side, **SCOTTY** has attended many of our public programs over the years, but seeing and listening to the WHIN Youth Orchestra at the March 2 Sunday Platform Meeting “Rhythms of the Heart” was the deciding factor in her becoming a member. She also attends the Death Café programs here. Scotty is a recent retiree with training and experience in program development and coalition building. She likes collages and hiking.

RAYMOND discovered NYSEC through a friend's recommendations. He has been attending Leader Lunch discussions for about six months, and he likes our ethical ideals. Raymond has a Ph.D. in history and his interests include reading fiction and nonfiction, writing, art, and current events.

LARRY is a retired teacher with training and experience in project re-engineering/process improvement for customer satisfaction. He's been coming to the Great Books sessions here at NYSEC, and decided

to join because our mission aligns with his, and he likes the people he has met here. Larry enjoys classical music, literature, and poetry.

BARBARA, a programmer/analyst, was introduced to NYSEC by member Phyllis Kreuttner. She participates in many of our programs and is the facilitator for the Death Café meetings. She is happy to be at a place where she can be with like-minded people. Barbara is a painter, an actor, and a yoga teacher; she also sings in the Ethical Chorus.

* * * *

Members of the NYSEC Pledge Committee sponsored a “Let's Get Happy” Party on Saturday March 22 to celebrate the beginning of spring and the completion of pledges. There were plenty of hors d'oeuvre, wine, great music, great company, and great cheer! We also honored those who have reached certain milestones in 2014 as members of Ethical Culture. Celebrating their fifth anniversary are: Debra Curtis-Green, Nicola DeMarco, Michele Doney, Renee Goodstein, Dina Gregory, Tom Kennedy, David Lee, Terry Perlin, Stephanie Rosenblatt, and Richard N. Van Deusen.



Dan Hanson introducing musician Glen Raphael at the Pledge Party.



NYSEC members enjoy delicious food at the Pledge Party.

Celebrating their 10th anniversary are: Talat Ali, Susanna Frazer, Donna Damhorst-Pang, Jon Liechty, Lee Loshak, and Patricia Malkin. Celebrating their 15th anniversary are: Michelle Ainsworth, Bonnie Bean, Elizabeth Ungar, Jane Ungar, and Eva Yachnes. Barbara and Roger Michaels reached their 35th anniversary, Maria Fridman her 40th, and William Kulok his 45th. Life Members

Julia Hayes and Ruth Oppenheimer reached their 60th and 65th anniversaries, respectively. Members who were also honored for their commitment to the Ethical community were Life Members: Ruth Cohen, Lucile Kleiman, Alice Ladas, Leah Lieberman, Patricia O'Malley, Carolyn and Louis Sapir, and Virginia Scherer.

Bravo to everyone on the Pledge Committee and a great

shout-out to members Bonnie Bean, Pat Berens, Cheryl Gross, Beverly Newman, and Carol Rost for set-up and excellent decorations; Bob Berger and Carol and Richard Van Deusen for their planning and catering; Dan Hanson and Monica Weiss for taking care of the drinks table and entertainment (singer/songwriter Glen Raphael was the featured artist); Andra Miller for checking in and greeting the guests and later leading a sing-along with members. Last, but certainly not least, is Leaders' Assistant Yalitzia Garcia-Krawczyk for her creative graphic arts production of the invitations and wall projections. Well done, everyone!

* * * *

Congratulations to member Debra Curtis-Green's son Joey for his second film appearance in *Engram* by Maggie Betts, which had a special screening at the Museum of Modern Art on March 31.



Joey and a friend.

Ethics for Teen Leaders Launches “Speed Deed”



A U D R E Y K I N D R E D ,
ETHICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPER/DIRECTOR

NYSEC’s Ethics for Teen Leaders has inaugurated a new program, Speed Deed, an activism fair where people learn about and perform various deeds while having fun and building friendships. People are invited to discover their activist leanings through participating in interactive, grassroots, creative, humanitarian, and environmental projects.

People of all ages, newcomers and old-timers alike, came with a curious and open spirit, making it a great success. “I am leaving this evening feeling I have *done* something, not just talked,” said NYSEC

Board member Meg Chapman, who attended with Clara, her teenage daughter. “The Speed Deed” program was above my wildest imagination. It was carefully packaged to have enormously important ethical and social content, which was enacted in a very clever way so folks had fun while learning

an AEU Leader-in-Training who attended the event.

NYSEC’s next Speed Deed fair is scheduled to take place on **FRIDAY, MAY 30, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM** in Social Hall. Many “speed-deed-seeds” have already been planted for this event and it promises to be as fabulous as the first. As



Audrey literally introducing her “dream,” the Speed Deed concept.

the Speed Deed project continues, we invite activists of every age to create and lead do-able deeds – and have some serious fun together. I have created a blog to document the path of the project as it develops: <http://speeddeed.blogspot.com/>.

and seriously enacting their speed deeds” said Susan Needles, a NYSEC member. “The program is a model for the movement,” said Paulo Ribeira,

You can read more details about the intents and the events there. See you on May 30. RSVP to EthicsForTeens@NYSEC.org.

A Speed Deed Experience



S Y D N E Y R I E M E R , T E E N L E A D E R

Reported by Teen Leader Sydney Riemer, a senior at the NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies. Sydney has participated in NYSEC's Ethics for Teen Leaders since her freshman year.

NYSEC's Speed Deed

started out with a potluck dinner where we were invited to sit and eat with people we did not know... We talked about the usual things at first, like how old

we are, what schools we go to, etc... I soon found out that a teen I was sitting with knew how to program a computer and we became immersed in conversation. I am learning to program as well... and was surprised to find out that the teen I talked to actually writes programs for people, and sometimes even gets paid



(L-R): Teen Advisors Ish Islam and Amy Reid (Emily Newman in back) speaking at Speed Deed.

to do so. After that, as a member of NYSEC's Teen Leaders program, I talked to another person, this time a 13-year-old girl who was also interested in programming. I was surprised at how quickly I had found a common interest with these people. I had expected it to be a little awkward, but was surprised at how fun and interesting it was to talk to new people here.

After the dinner I started going around to the different Speed Deed tables, learning about different causes. One cause that was

being promoted was the Dream Act. A few weeks ago I had read an article on the Dream Act, and initially I didn't think it was right. I wondered why we should give money for immigrants to go to college when there were natural-born



EC Leader Martha Gallabue interviewed by Lena and Aria about Sexism and Feminism.

citizens who couldn't afford to go to college either. After giving it some more thought at the Speed Deed, and hearing from Abe, a life-long activist; Clara, a teen; and Andra, President of NYSEC, I realized that the



Speed Deed: NYSEC teen, Clara describes The Dream Act.

Dream Act is in fact a very good idea. These immigrants cannot apply for financial aid like citizens can, and it is not their fault that their parents brought them here. I willingly wrote a letter to Andrew Cuomo concerning the Dream Act. Sending a letter to a government official, or even the act of signing a petition, like I did at various other booths, was pretty empowering. The idea

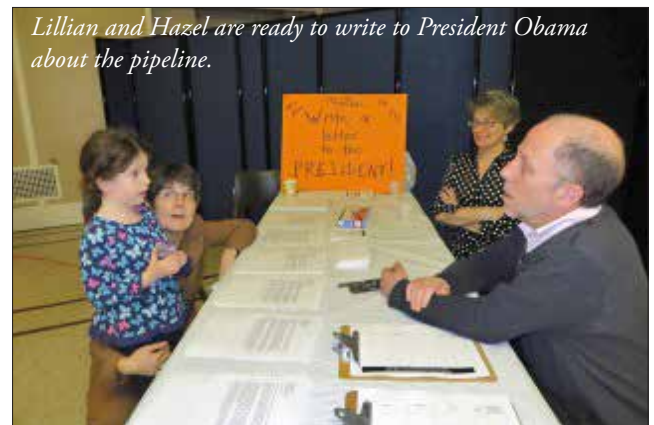
that a small group of people of all ages and walks of life could get together and learn so much about important causes in such a short amount of time was remarkable. I found myself changed in my opinions, like in the situation with the Dream Act.

Later we did an activity where the whole group made one circle, and we went around and said our names and something nobody knew about us. One young woman

I had talked to earlier in the evening shared that she was HIV-positive. I then signed up to do the AIDS walk. It felt good to sign up knowing that it would be for someone who was there in the room with me, taking their time to learn about different causes. This experience was new to me, but overall I found it eye-opening. I look forward going to the next Speed Deed and possibly having my own cause to share.



Creating Speed Deed Passports: Chris, Susan, Laura, Audrey, Juan Carlos, and Frank.



Lillian and Hazel are ready to write to President Obama about the pipeline.



Deed-Hosts spoke about the massive pipeline project.

Listening are (L-R): Juan Carlos, Monica, Ish, Martha, and Emily.

Mayor David Dinkins (continued from page 1)

the New York Yankees, Randy Levine; President of the NY NAACP, Hazel Dukes; Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer; educator and activist Dr. Marcella Maxwell; and many more. Also in attendance was the Consul General of South Africa to the United Nations, George Monyemangene.

During his tenure as mayor, David Dinkins was active in achieving historic drops in crime, revitalizing Times Square, building the National Tennis Center, keeping the New York Yankees from leaving the Bronx, and bringing Nelson Mandela to a hero's welcome in New York City on his release from political imprisonment.

The "Rising Star" honoree, Mecca Santana, is an accomplished attorney who brings her public service insight and dedication to her office in the administration of Governor Cuomo. She was recognized for her contributions to improving workforce diversity and inclusion in New York State and for leading new initiatives to increase opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.

The awards are a tribute to Dr. Harrison-Ross because she exemplifies NYSEC's vision and mission through her con-

tributions to the furtherance of humanist values. Like the many NYSEC members who helped start organizations such as the NAACP, the Legal Aid Society, and the Visiting Nurse Service, Dr. Harrison-Ross's own visionary and bold projects help to bring her wisdom to our criminal justice system, our health care system, and many other public service projects.

The evening began with Heather Grady, Chair of the Award Collaborative Committee, offering introductory remarks. The Masters of Ceremony were WABC-TV news anchors Sarah Wallace and Nina Pineda. The award to Mayor Dinkins was presented by Heather Grady and Dr. Harrison-Ross. Elinor Tatum, owner and publisher of *The New York Amsterdam News*, presented the award to Ms. Santana. An interview with Mayor Dinkins and Dr. Harrison-Ross was conducted by Harry Smith, NBC TV reporter, producer, and co-anchor of "The Early Show." And the festivities were enhanced by two songs sung by Alton Fitzgerald White, who played King Mufasa in *The Lion King* on Broadway. As the evening of speeches and entertainment drew to a close, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen gave final words, thanking all who came to this historic event.

The crowd was diverse and appreciative, and the event was interspersed with lots of applause. The crowd was even roused to a standing ovation three times: when Harry Belafonte was introduced, when Mayor Dinkins was given his award, and finally after the performance of "Humoresque" by nine-year-old violinist Pilar Hill.

The attendees came from many organizations and all walks of life. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and New York State-New York County Democratic Leader Assemblyman Keith Wright were in the audience. An abundance of family, friends, and colleagues from Dr. Harrison-Ross's world joined members of NYSEC, attendees from the community, and friends from myriad organizations, including the New York State Commission of Correction, the Greater New York Chapter of The Links, the Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York and of America, Metropolitan Hospital Center, the American Psychiatric Association and its New York County District Branch, the New York State Psychological Association, the All Healers Mental Health Alliance, and the Brooklyn Public Library.

Governor Andrew

Cuomo sent a special proclamation of greetings, congratulations, and recognition to NYSEC, Dr. Harrison-Ross, and the evening's honorees. Sponsors and supporters included the Colgate Palmolive Company, the New York Yankees, Cisco Systems, ING, Healthfirst, Wines of South Africa, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority, among others.

The Award Collaborative had worked with staff and consultants over the last several months to extend invitations and publicize the occasion, and as committee member Dr. Lenny Davidman, President of the NY State Psychological Association, said, "What a power group and event! Warm, and yet impeccable and professional. A tribute not only to Phyllis and Mayor Dinkins,

but to all of you who did the real work and heavy lifting on this event. In terms of the experience and putting NYSEC and its mission and programs on everyone's radar — it was a home run." The event planner was Linda Zango-Haley of the Haley Group, and Leslie Doyle assisted with communications and publicity. According to committee chair Heather Grady, over 30 media outlets listed our event. Press coverage included a segment of the evening's program on the 11:00 pm WABC-TV news, and the event was a lead story in the next day's *Daily News* morning edition (<http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/chirlane-mccray-hails-david-dinkins-lifetime-public-service-blog-entry-1.1745113>). The fundraising function of the event netted more than \$45,000 so far for the programs of NYSEC and

the Social Service Board — and donations are still coming in.

After the program, there was a buffet celebration catered by Madiba Catering, with wines donated by South African Winery, beer by Harlem Ale, and table decorations by L Miller of Carson Robert Event Designs. Guests socialized and danced to lively music by the Danny Mixon Jazz Quartet.

Next steps for the Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross Award Collaborative Committee include planning for the 2015 recipient. Who will it be? Hillary Clinton? President or Michelle Obama? Eric Holder? If you have a suggestion, we would love to hear it. Please speak with any committee member, or email me at nickdmarco@hotmail.com. Photos and video of this event will be posted to our website and around our building.



INTER-ACTIVE TRAINING DEMO
exploring how unconscious bias impacts diversity
and inclusion in your organization

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

LOCATION: NYSEC CEREMONIAL HALL – 4TH FLOOR

TIMES: CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR AFTERNOON; **9 – 11 AM OR 2:30 - 4:30 PM**

(COFFEE AND GREETINGS AT 8:30 AM AND 2 PM)

TRAINERS: MINJON THOLEN AND SHANDRA RICHARDSON,
OF ACCLAIMED DC-AREA BASED CONSULTANT FIRM, COOK ROSS.

YOU MUST RSVP BY: THURSDAY, MAY 15TH (YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT AN RSVP.)

CONTACT MOE-SWE MYINT AT mmyint@nysec.org OR CALL 212.874.5210 ext. 118.

FREE, CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Office hours for the month are Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm

MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Ethics in Film: <i>Five Easy Pieces</i> (1970), directed by Bob Rafelson — May 2 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>The Round House</i> by Louise Erdrich — May 5 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Topdog, Underdog</i> by Suzan-Lori Parks — May 9 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>Under Fire: Journalists in Combat</i> (2011), directed by Martyn Burke — May 19</p>						
				1 June 2014 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class	2 11:30 Ethical Adventures: Hayden Planetarium 7:00 Ethics in Film	3
4 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	5 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group	6 12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	7 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	8 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 Building a Culture Of Peace	9 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	10
11 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	12	13 12:30 Writing Class	14 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	15 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Writing Class	16	17
18 10:00 Poetry Reading 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Ethics for Teens - AIDS Walk 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Annual Membership Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour	19 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 7:00 Newcomers Reception 7:15 Readings in Deep Ecology	20 12:30 Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	21 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 2:30 Ethical Death Café 7:00 Speaking of Ethics: Living a Humanist Life	22 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Writing Class 6:30 Building a Culture Of Peace 6:30 Honoring Pete Seeger's Vision	23	24
25 10:00 Environmental Stewardship 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	26 Society Offices Closed Memorial Day	27 12:30 Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	28 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	29 9:00 Training Demo 2:30 Training Demo 6:30 Writing Class	30 6:00 Ethics for Teen Leaders - Speed Deed #2	31



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ETHICAL OUTLOOK

May 2013

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