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UPCOMING EVENTS:

ETHICAL EXTENDED FAMILY DAY

Join us on **SATURDAY, MAY 2**, from **11:00 AM to 4:00 PM** for a Field Trip to the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester. It's less than an hour away by car or train; car-pooling will be arranged where possible.



There will be lunch, socializing, games, and the unmasking of "Wonder Friends" (NYSEC kids and adult secret pen pals)! Confidential financial assistance is available, so contact Anne at: aklaeyesen@nysec.org.

This will be a really fun day, so reserve today – \$14 per person for lunch, for a ride call Margaret Determann at: 212-874-5210, ext.113, or email her at mdetermann@nysec.org. We hope to see you there.

**WITH LOVE TO HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI:
A CONCERT FOR DISARMAMENT**



On **SATURDAY, MAY 2**, at **8:00 PM**, in the Auditorium, the New York Society and Youth Arts New York's Hibakusha Stories Initiative and Peace Boat U.S. will cohost "With Love to Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Concert for Disarmament." The program will feature atomic-bomb survivors and New York City high school students who will together present an evening of music and spoken word to promote world peace and disarmament. The event is the culmination of eight years of testimony by atomic bomb survivors and disarmament education, brought to approximately 30,000 students in over 100 New York City high schools by Youth Arts New York's Hibakusha Stories Initiative. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1117429>.

NY CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION LOBBY DAY



Take action! Join NYSEC and NYCLU for a free bus ride to Albany to lobby for criminal justice reform in our courts, on **TUESDAY, MAY 5, 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM**. Bus departure time and locations will be determined. The bus ride to Albany is free, the lunch is free, the training is free, and the joy of accomplishment from this good deed is priceless! We are going to Albany to talk to legislators and their staffs to ask for criminal justice reforms. We will focus on the special problems of low-income people, people of color, and immigrants who have become involved in the criminal justice system.

To register please contact Margaret Determann at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

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Leader's Desk



DR . ANNE KLAEYSEN

Founder's Day

On May 15, 1876, a 25 year old teacher stood before a packed auditorium in Manhattan and founded a new religion. What was it about the religion into which he had been born and the synagogue he was trained to serve that moved him toward this decision? I've often wondered, and I think it was because his overwhelming need to experience life as being "all of a piece," connected to all that he knew and loved, wasn't realized in a religion that excluded others unless they converted to a specific creed. His radical notion was to place deed above creed.

"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 common ground where we may all grasp hands as brothers, united in mankind's common cause."

Felix Adler witnessed great human misery in Germany, where he studied to become a

rabbi and return home to take his father Samuel's place on the pulpit of Temple Emmanuel. He walked the streets of Berlin and learned how the labor movement was addressing workers' issues. He came to believe that religion must play a role beyond charity and reach out to people in need who weren't adherents and weren't required to convert to a belief to receive help. Surely we all belong to one human family, not separated, but enhanced by our differences.

Acting so as to elicit those unique and essential differences, and thereby contributing to the "ethical manifold" of humanity, became Adler's "supreme rule." Ethical engagement with others elicits the best in ourselves. We are fully realized as human beings in ethical relationships.

No need for a deity. No need for religion – unless you feel, as Adler did, that religion is worth saving, worth experiencing as a nontheistic and ethical transformation. He used words like "holy," "sacred," and "divine" to express "reverence" about this life that we all share, not

Continued on page 18

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *The Truman Show* (1988), directed by Peter Weir. I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.

A funny, tender, and thought-provoking film, *The Truman Show* is all the more noteworthy for its remarkably prescient vision of runaway celebrity culture and a nation with an insatiable thirst for the private details of ordinary lives.

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

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.

Great Books Discussion Group

Larry Schiff

"O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock.

The meat it feeds on."

"Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; oft got without merit, and lost without deserving."



Do you recognize either or both of these quotes? They're from one of Shakespeare's masterpieces, *Othello*. These and other bits of dialogue from the play will make for a lively exchange at the Great Books Discussion Group on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**, when next we meet at **7:00 PM** in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

Those of you who have been attending our popular and growing monthly meetings will likely be champing at the bit for this text-based discussion exploring the messages and meanings in the great tragedy. And those who will be attending for the first time will be most welcome.

The Great Discussion Group meets the first Wednesday of the month (unless that's a holiday) from 7:00 pm till 9:00 pm in the Elliott Library. We read excerpts that are in the

SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:00 am
Ceremonial Hall, 4th Floor

MAY 3

We Are Ethical Culture!
Program Coordinating Council
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

MAY 10

Reclaiming Mother's Day
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader
Henryka Komanska Presides

MAY 17

Other People's Rights
Susan N. Herman,
President of the ACLU
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

MAY 24

What's Reason Got to Do With It?: Why Americans Deny Climate Change, Embrace Creationism, Believe in Ghosts and Other Preposterous Ideas
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Ed Gross Presides

MAY 31

Seeking New Light: Neuroscience and The Path Toward Our Ethical Ideals
Katherine LaClair
Emily Newman Presides

Great Books texts — usually 40-60 pages — ideally twice, jotting down some questions for the group to handle. This month is an exception, because we'll be reading the full play, just over 100 pages.

To learn about the Great Books Foundation and the discussion process, visit our website, <http://www.meetup.com/Mannhattan-Great-Books-Discussion-Group/>. In the first paragraph of the box entitled, "What is our Great Books Reading Discussion Group and how do we work?" click on "Great Books" (it's in red). That links 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 the home page, click on Our Calendar to see the monthly readings scheduled for the year.

You will in essence be 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 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.

New and longer-term members often share with us what the discussions have meant to them. Here are two of their comments:

"Once I got used to the 'stick to the topic and the text,' I began to value those guidelines. No one was talking about a movie or television show that reminded them of a point one of the writers had made. No personal anecdotes. Just a really good, solid discussion of the readings that was remarkably stimulating. No wonder people keep coming back."

"Wow! My brain cells were firing left and right. I haven't been to such a stimulating talk since college days. Loved every minute."

Do come on **MAY 6** and join in another Great Discussion!

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

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **FRIDAY, MAY 8**, at **7:00 PM**, Ethics and the Theater



will present *Broken Fences* by Steven Simoncic. In a neighborhood on Chicago's deep West Side, the momentum of gentrification has taken hold and things have begun to change forever. As property taxes rise and demographics shift, Hoody and D. struggle to keep the only home they have ever known. But when April and Czar — a white couple intent on starting a family — buy their first home and move in next door, the very definition of home is called into question. With unflinching honesty and unapologetic humor, *Broken Fences* attempts to examine identity and invisibility, community and security, hope and hostility in a modern American urban village that is at once foreign, and the place that these people call home.

Richard Van Deusen 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 in Ceremonial Hall.

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

Ethical Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**, and on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2:30 PM –**

more Ethical Enrichment and Events...

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 to help people make the most of their

(finite) lives. Topics include health care proxies, ethical wills, and green burial.

The suggested donation is \$5.

Adler Reading Seminar

Join us on **TUESDAY, MAY 19, 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.

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. ☞



More Reasons To Be A NYSEC Member

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

As told to Sandi Sacks by Elinore Kaplan, who has been a NYSEC Member since 2012.

“For me, being a member of NYSEC means being part of a community in which the members are all connected to an even greater community — all trying to make this world a better place. It makes me feel good — about myself and about my fellow members, and even optimistic about the world at large. Through Ethical, I gain greater insight into myself, get a helping hand in trying to become a better person, and feel the warmth and comfort of being with others who are endeavoring to do the same. It’s the best kind of nurturing home a child or grown-up could possibly have!” ☞

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:00 am

MAY 3

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE! – ACTIVITIES FAIR

Program Coordinating Council

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

An interactive morning brought to you by the Program Coordinating Council, during which we will learn about the many programs we offer and how members can become more involved. Our Annual Membership meeting follows at 12:15 pm.

MAY 10

RECLAIMING MOTHER'S DAY



Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

Henryka Komanska Presides

In 1870, having witnessed the carnage of the Civil War, Julia Ward Howe issued a manifesto for peace at international peace conferences in London and Paris. Two years later, she promoted a Mother's Day of Peace, and by the next year eighteen cities in the U.S. had held peace gatherings. Alas, most of the celebrations ended when Howe could no longer pay for them. Over the years, this holiday, celebrated on the second Sunday of May, has lost its original meaning and succumbed to commercialization. But not at the NY Society! Together we will reclaim Mother's Day and proclaim, as Howe did, "We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

The shared charity is Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

MAY 17

OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS



Susan N. Herman, President of the ACLU *Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides*

The American Civil Liberties Union was founded in 1920 by an unlikely coalition of conscientious objectors to World War I, women's suffragists, dissenters, progressives, liberals, libertarians, and even Communists. The people behind the ACLU included Roger Baldwin, NYSEC founder Dr. Felix Adler, Leader John Lovejoy Elliott, and some extraordinary women: Jeannette Rankin (the first woman in Congress), Crystal Eastman, Jane Addams, and Helen Keller. This talk will look back at the personalities and issues of that era, look around at how the ACLU functions as a multi-issue organization today, and look ahead to the organization's second century.

Susan N. Herman was elected President of the ACLU in October 2008, after having served as a member of its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and as General Counsel. She holds a Chair as Centennial Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches courses in Criminal Procedure and Constitutional Law and seminars on Law and Literature and Terrorism and Civil Liberties. She writes extensively on constitutional, criminal procedure, and national security topics for scholarly and other

publications, ranging from law reviews and books to periodicals and on-line publications. Her most recent book, *Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2011), winner of the 2012 IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law/Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize, was published in an updated paperback edition in March 2014.

The shared charity is American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

MAY 24



WHAT'S REASON GOT TO DO WITH IT?: WHY AMERICANS DENY CLIMATE CHANGE, EMBRACE CREATIONISM, BELIEVE IN GHOSTS AND OTHER PREPOSTEROUS IDEAS

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Ed Gross Presides

It is one of the most daunting questions we can ask about our fellow Americans. Why is it that despite the preponderance of evidence, not to mention elementary reason, and common sense, so many Americans adopt ideas for which there is no basis in fact. It is a social reality that is not only vexing and disturbing, but in its implications, dangerous as well. If people cannot or will not base their beliefs on evidence, how can they participate in a political system which relies on the public to make informed judgments that affect the quality of democracy and the lives and freedoms of all of us? Is it a function of poor education or is something else going on? I will offer some speculations in my address of May 24.

The shared charity is Future Ethical Societies (FES) scholarships.

MAY 31



SEEKING NEW LIGHT: NEUROSCIENCE AND THE PATH TOWARD OUR ETHICAL IDEALS

Katherine LaClair

Emily Newman Presides

Felix Adler said, “*We add to our moral worth in two ways; by living rightly, according to the light we already have, and by constantly seeking new light.*” Today, Katherine LaClair will offer some of the “new light” provided by neuroscience that can help us create a more humane society, and invite each of us to explore how these insights might contribute to our expressions of ethics.

LaClair grew up in New Jersey, attending the Sunday school at the Essex Ethical Culture Society with her beloved brother Matthew. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and her research aims to understand the causes of Alzheimer’s disease. Katherine served for three years as the Chair of Ethical Action at the Baltimore Ethical Society, and is a licensed Ethical Culture officiant there. Katherine is now working to revitalize the AEU Ethical Action Committee as its current Chair. She enjoys crocheting, music, and tending to her garden and other living things.

The shared charity is Hell’s Kitchen Farm Project (HKFP).

(Descriptions of the shared charities are on page 13.)

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

(Rooms are subject to change)

MAY 3 **MINDFULNESS**
Led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen.
Join us for exploration and practice of mindfulness through meditation.
Elliott Library, Room 507.

MAY 3 & 17 **CHORUS PRACTICE**
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. 10:00 am. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 10, 24 & 31 **CHORUS PRACTICE**
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. 10:30 am. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 10 **COLLOQUY: TIME**
Phyllis Kreuttner presides. Room 508. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 17 **POETRY READING**
The Sunday Poetry Group will be reading the poems on the theme of
“Flight and Icarus.”
Cheryl Gross presides. 9:30 am. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 31 **COFFEE 'N CHAT**
Room 508.

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Except as noted)

(Rooms are subject to change)

MAY 3 **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
12:15 pm, right after the Sunday Platform in Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 3 **SUNDAY ASSEMBLY**
2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 10 **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 and share your take on
today's burning issues.

MAY 10 **ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ**
Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson presides. Ceremonial Hall.
A gathering in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat
delicious cake.

MAY 31

LIFE WITH HEALTH: STAYING ALIVE! MANAGING MEDICAL ERROR IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. A presentation by Terry M. Perlin, Ph.D., Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research Fellow, Scripps Gerontology Center Emeritus, Miami University [Ohio].

In the United States each year, there are more than 100,000 avoidable deaths in hospitals caused by medical errors. How does this happen? How are such errors reported? What is being done to prevent future deadly mistakes? What can individual patients and families do to try to minimize the chance of suffering from such errors? This participatory presentation will discuss these matters, with case examples. Adler Study. Room 514.

Terry Perlin is a clinical ethics consultant at hospitals in New York City, Cincinnati, and San Francisco. He has taught at several medical schools and currently is an Intensive Care Unit consultant. He is the author of *Clinical Medical Ethics: Cases in Practice*. He serves as President of Compassion and Choices of New York.

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: **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**. 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.

MAY 7

“THE GREAT REPUBLICAN LAND HEIST” by Christopher Ketcham, *Harper's Magazine*, February 2015.

MAY 14

“AMERICAN DESERTER” by Wil S. Hylton, *New York Magazine*, 2/23-3/8/15.

MAY 21

“THE KITCHEN NETWORK: AMERICA'S UNDERGROUND CHINESE RESTAURANT WORKERS” by Lauren Hilgers, *The New Yorker*, 10/13/14.

MAY 28

“RACIAL INEQUALITY AFTER RACISM: HOW INSTITUTIONS HOLD BACK AFRICAN-AMERICANS” by Frederick C. Harris and Robert C. Lieberman, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2015.

Our Ethical Family



The following members are celebrating birthdays in May:

- CAROLINE DEBROVNER.... 5/1
- BARBARA CARLSEN.....5/1
- RICHARD VAN DEUSEN.....5/1
- EVE YACHNES.....5/2
- HAZEL MAY.....5/4
- TINA MASCHI.....5/8
- TOM KENNEDY.....5/9
- JAMES FARER.....5/9
- CAROLE CHAMLIN.....5/15
- ANNE KLAEYSEN.....5/21
- PAMELA MCGHEE.....5/22
- DINA GREGORY.....5/25
- ALICE KAHN 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.



MARGARET DETERMANN,
Assistant to the Leaders for
Membership Development

We have some exciting events coming up during May! Here are some highlights:

The Society's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY, MAY 3**, at **12:15 PM**, right after the Sunday Platform in Ceremonial Hall. The agenda includes the election for the Board of Trustees, a vote on recommended by-law changes, and various reports on Society activities.

On **THURSDAY, MAY 28, 7:00 PM**, in the Auditorium we are presenting "Kindness and Compassion: Integration Made Visible," an event cosponsored with the Garrison Institute, featuring *New York Times* best-selling author and Executive Director of the Mindsight Institute, Dr. Dan Siegel. Using a framework called "interpersonal neurobiology," Dr. Siegel will explore how kindness and compassion create linkages in our brains, leading to healthier bodies, minds, and relationships.

Admission is \$20 and you can register online, using the link on the NYSEC website (nysec.org), or by calling 212-874-5210, ext. 144, for more information.

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we note the death of long-time member Maria Feliz Levin Fridman (June 17, 1925 – March 19, 2015).

Tribute by Maria's daughter, Stephanie

Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. In 1948, Maria immigrated to New York as a young woman after completing her doctorate studies in international law at the University of Havana. She became a United States citizen in 1954 and always expressed gratitude to America for giving her many opportunities. Many people who were lucky enough to meet Maria considered her to be a true Renaissance woman: public housing administrator, gallery owner, fine art photographer,

Our Ethical Family *(continued from page 10)*



(L-R) Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Dr. Maria Feliz Levin Fridman, and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen at the shelter dinner in 2014.



Dr. Maria Feliz Levin Fridman (in red jacket), along with other NYSEC members at a rally.

homeless shelter coordinator, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Maria was active in many social justice and educational advocacy groups and she was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Maria was a dedicated member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture and served on its Board of Trustees. In conjunction with the Partnership for the Homeless, she started the Society's Women's Homeless Shelter and served as the Director for 30 years. In her honor, NYSEC named the shelter the "Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman Women's Homeless Shelter," a shelter that continues to be active today. She was also a Board member of the Mauch Chunk Historical Society of Carbon County, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, where she owned and oper-

ated the Maria Feliz Gallery from 1987 to 2005. She had many shows dealing with social issues, aesthetic issues, and feminist issues, and a number of one-person and group shows, always encouraging and promoting the work of local artists and art students in the neighboring schools.

Maria lived her life with dignity and grace, and a passionate devotion to humanist values and ideals. She taught those around her the art of caring, sharing, and giving.

She is survived in New York by her daughter, Stephanie Goch Podmore; her granddaughters, Carrie Winkler and Katy Grey; her great-granddaughter, Blye Olivia Winkler; and her nephew, Joseph M. Dunn, and in California by the Warren family. She will be sorely missed by so many who loved her, but the memories of

her beauty, her sense of style, and her humor will live on.

Tribute by Eva Yachnes

I first met Maria Fridman when I joined The New York Society for Ethical Culture in the fall of 1999. I thought of her as "The shelter lady," because she always seemed busy doing something concerning the small shelter for homeless women run by NYSEC. There were volunteers to be recruited, linens to be sent to the laundry, and snacks to be bought. Of these tasks, getting volunteers to stay with the ladies was probably the hardest. The volunteer sleeps on a cot in the main hall of the basement next to the small room where the shelter is set up, and Maria was happiest when she could get

Our Ethical Family *(continued from page 10)*

two people to stay together. She thought they could be company for each other and also better able to cope in case of trouble.

“Although we’ve been lucky,” she said. “In all these years, there never has been any real trouble. That’s because the ladies come through an agency, not off the street.”

I soon learned that Maria spent a lot more time at that task than most of us realized because she did all the recruiting for volunteers by telephone; she also called in every evening to make sure that the volunteers had arrived and that everything was going well. Nor was the shelter her only activity at the Society. She helped with the Sunday lunch, either as cashier or serving the food; she went to the yearly autumn retreat; and when she thought it necessary, she sued the Society.

That happened before I joined, when the Society and the Ethical Culture School became separate legal entities. That was done at the request of the school, for reasons concerning fundraising; the school administration felt that they could have more leeway in raising funds if they were not tied to NYSEC. She thought that the deal worked out wasn’t fair to the Society, so she went to court and sued.

She lost the case, but she was proud that she was able to remain a member even though she had sued. “You see, they didn’t hold it against me that I did what I thought was right,” she often told me when we talked about Ethical Culture.

I didn’t really get to know Maria until I moved into The Williams Residence for Seniors, where Maria had also moved about six years before I did. I knew that she was stubborn; that was evident when she was cashier at lunch. Every cashier was given an envelope of small bills to use as change, but Maria wouldn’t touch it; she’d send people away until she had taken in enough small bills to make change for them. At The Williams I got to know just how stubborn she was.

Take the matter of clothes: Maria was always cold, but she always wore the flimsiest of light-weight garments. Her clothes were timeless in style and usually had deep v-necklines and ruffles, and were red or, if they had prints, there was some red in the print. Her greatest concession as regards temperature was to drape a buttoned sweater across her shoulders in such a way that the sleeves were loosely tied in the front and the sweater only covered her back. If she actually wore a sweater, you knew that the ambient temperature was so low that everybody else would be wearing their warmest clothes.

She never forgot to put on her earrings – always long and dangling ones – but she often forgot her hearing-aids, and her hearing was pretty poor. That was one of the reasons that Maria gave up running the women’s shelter: she had too much trouble hearing over the telephone. The main reason that she gave up the shelter was that she resolutely refused to learn how to use email, and she realized that the volunteers no longer wanted to be called, they wanted to be emailed.

Maria was a real Luddite; she refused even to use a typewriter. I don’t know how she got through college and law school in her native Cuba without typing her papers, but evidently she did. She told me that she went to the same law school as Fidel Castro, but she was a year ahead of him and didn’t really know him. She had wanted to enter the diplomatic service after law school, but she didn’t have the necessary political connections to do so.

When she came to New York, Maria found work running a large city-owned housing complex. “I retired just in time, just before they started to put everything on computers,” she told me. After retirement, she opened an art gallery in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, commuting between there and her apartment in Queens. She was an excellent photographer; when she came

Our Ethical Family *(continued from page 10)*

to live at The Williams her annual Christmas present to the dining room staff was to take pictures of them and give them each a print. That went on for as long as she could get film or disposable cameras that used film; naturally she wouldn't use anything digital.

Maria was stubborn in her own quiet, modest way. "I'm sure you're right," she would say, then do exactly what she wanted. One of our table-mates at breakfast tried to convince Maria that she should eat lunch. It was no use, Maria always ate a large breakfast at which she drank at least four glasses of liquids including tea made Maria-style by stomping down the teabag with a spoon and leaving it in the bottom of the mug. She added nothing to this bitter brew. She then went without eating or drinking anything until dinner, at which time she ate somewhat less than at breakfast and again drank four glasses of liquids. She rarely came to dinner on those occasions when

a family member had taken her out to lunch – two meals were as many as she wanted on any given day. "I never liked eating or drinking," she told me. "I just want to get it over with for the day."

She was equally stubborn in matters concerning her health. When she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure she was given diuretics to remove the excess fluids from her body. For a long time she refused to take the pills because staying near a toilet interfered with her activities.

After she stopped running the shelter, she often said that she felt useless. I tried to convince her that she had earned her rest, but she said that the only thing that made her feel better was seeing the award she had been given in recognition of her many years of service running the shelter, and the photograph of the shelter after it had been named for her. The small foyer in her apartment was full of awards for the many things that she had done to

fight for justice.

Maria contracted pneumonia in the hospital after injuring herself in a fall in her bathroom. At some point she must have decided that it was her time to die, because she refused all medications other than for pain. After Maria's death on March 19, 2015, when her adopted daughter Stephanie was cleaning out Maria's apartment, she told me that she had found evidence of many battles Maria had fought for causes she believed in – more than any of us had known about during her lifetime.

One last thing Stephanie told me: Maria had had one great love in her life. When that man died, she never had another love and never married.

Maria specified in her will that there should be no memorial for her. So old friend, consider this a tribute, not a memorial. ☺

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD) works to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization whose stated mission is "to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

FUTURE OF ETHICAL SOCIETIES SCHOLARSHIPS – FES is a community of young Ethical Culturists/Ethical Humanists across the country that connects online, through local gatherings, on various service projects, and during national conferences.

HELL'S KITCHEN FARM PROJECT (HKFP) is an urban rooftop farm in Hell's Kitchen, managed and run by volunteers. HKFP is the outgrowth of community discussions concerning nutritional security, especially the scarcity of affordable fresh produce, in Hell's Kitchen.

SOCIAL SERVICE BOARD

Televisiting — A Continuing Story



Andra Miller

Our Social Service Board Televised Visiting Project was featured on the front page in our July/August 2014 issue, but so much more has happened since then . . .

The service has grown and has become a model for others to follow; and its director, Dr. Frank Corigliano, is in demand to teach leaders from other organizations how our program of supervised televisiting is organized and managed – and how it keeps families together when a parent, child, or other close family member has been imprisoned or hospitalized far away.

Our own Televised Visiting Project has grown enough to require additional staff. On staff as an intern is Shakiya Snipes, a Fordham University graduate student who is completing a Master's Degree in Social Work. Ms. Snipes provides clinical expertise in supporting the TVP families during what can be a challenging time. She also coordinates the arrangements with the prison and with the family

members to bring about a televised visit, and explains to the prison staff how to operate the camera and sound during the visit. She also supervises two additional interns, John Jay College undergraduates, who are working on their Forensic Psychology degrees. The undergraduate interns learn about the complicated dynamics that contribute to incarceration itself – and how a parent's incarceration affects a child's development and family attachment.

One of our members, Susan Needles, who is a seasoned social worker and psychotherapist and has long been active in the field, found herself fascinated by the TVP and spent time visiting the studio and asking Frank to tell her about it. "The fact that a child or adult and his or her family can be connected by TV appealed to me," she says.

Her interest and expertise also appealed to Dr. Corigliano; and so, she continues, "Early this year Frank called me and asked, 'How would you like to be involved?'" He explained to Ms. Needles that Ms. Snipes needed to have the supervision of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in order to have her TVP service count for her

degree work. As Ms. Needles fit the school's supervisory requirements, he asked if she would volunteer to take on this challenge – and she said yes.

So now, there are Dr. Corigliano, three interns, and Ms. Needles working to increase the clientele and the effect of the TVP here at NYSEC. So far, the service is connected to nine jails on Ryker's Island – including the women's jail, the Rose M. Singer Center. They continue contact with other jails on the Island so that more family members can benefit from the TVP program. The staff is also working to institute TVP at other prisons.

The Library Connection

The New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library had already discovered on their own the disconnections that kids have with their incarcerated parents, and had started a program of five-day workshops for parents in prison – "Mommy and Me" and "Daddy and Me." They knew the importance of reading to little kids to help speed up their literacy development. The program included recording the reading of a book by the incarcerated parent, and supplying the child or children with the book and the recording. On hearing of our Social Service Board's Televised



NYSEC's Social Hall was packed on March 14 as the Clinical Division of the New York State Psychological Association assembled to learn mindfulness and other dialectical behavior therapy skills from the TVP staff.

Visiting Project, the Brooklyn Library asked for training so they could do visiting via television too. So, with Dr. Corigliano's help and guidance, there is now a TVP program set to begin at the Brooklyn Central Library at Grand Army Plaza – the library personnel are applying for grants to fund the service. New York



All Together Now - A family televisits in the Social Service Board office.

City Library is also interested, and is in the process of deciding whether or not they will be able to get involved.

The Reputation Spreads

Dr. Corigliano has made speeches and conducted workshops to encourage others to set up and offer TVP. It helps that he serves as President of the Independent

Practice Division of the New York State Psychological Association. He explains to others that “visiting” is not limited to a television camera set-up, but can be done in other ways, like via Skype or Facetime. For instance, a recent TVP-and-more technological visit included him in our studio, a grandmother in the Thompsons County Public Library in Ithaca, and a teenager on Riker's Island.

Here's a list of how Dr. Corigliano and the Social Service Board are getting the word out about the value of televised visiting and how to do it:

- Our TVP team is working on a business model to provide to community organizations.
- Dr. Corigliano serves as President of the Independent Practice Division of the New York State Psychological Association and is promoting the service there.
- He addressed the New York Chapter of the American Psychiatric Association about the service via a conference call.

- There is a YouTube video of his presentation here at NYSEC to over 75 psychologists and it was also livestreamed throughout the world.
- He made a presentation on the Televisiting Program at a meeting of the Clinical Psychology Division of the New York State Psychological Association.
- He has presented Sunday talks at NYSEC on the ethical imperative of connecting children and their parents via televisiting.

As Society members we can join the SSB in being proud of this deeply needed service long overdue for those family members who have a relative incarcerated and who need to keep their connections secure. Thanks from all of us to the SSB and others involved in administering and leading the Televised Visiting Project. 🌟



Ms. Shakiya Snipes, Fordham University social work student with child at televisiting library.

PLEDGE REPORT

The New York Society for Ethical Culture depends on and appreciates the financial support of members for its survival. Here at NYSEC, it is our practice for members to make a Fair-Share Financial Commitment at the start of the year, noting what they expect to pay throughout the year. Of course, by the end of the year, we count on these commitments to be honored.

We are pleased to report the following members have informed us of their commitment for 2015:

Majid Ali	Cheryl Gross	Helen Mecs
Talat Ali	Edward Gross	Barbara Michaels
Virginia Arnold	John Gurney	Roger Michaels
Janet Asimov	Dan Hanson	Andra Miller
Marilyn Baker	Elizabeth Henderson	Law'nence Miller
William Baker	Robert Hofman	Nina Miller
Bonnie Bean	Susan Horowitz	Alexander Mogieeff
Patricia Berens	Mary Houts	Sheila Navarro
Muriel Berger	Peter Houts	Vincent Navarro
Robert Berger	Rosemary Irving	Emily Newman
Elaine Berman	Elizabeth Jacobs	Kathleen O'Connell
Chris Bernhardt	Margaretha Jones	Louetta Riley
Barbara Bernstein	Daniel Julin	Stephanie Rosenblatt
Harriet Bigus	Elinore Kaplan	Carol Rost
Rosemarie Brancato	Tom Kennedy	Virginia Scherer
Vincent Brancato	Ellen Kirschner	Larry Schiff
Marilyn Braveman	Anne Klaeyesen	Raymond Schiller
Meg Chapman	Joan Klips	Amy Schwarz
Ruth Cohen	Henryka Komanska	Barbara Simpson
Frank Corigliano	John Kreuttner	Elizabeth Singer
Debra Curtis-Green	Phyllis Kreuttner	Marcelle Stapor
Donna Damhorst-Pang	David Leiman	Sondra Stein
Charles Debrovner	Valerie Leiman	Shawn Sylvester-Williams
Patricia Bruder Debrovner	Lee Loshak	Elizabeth Ungar
Beverly DeMaggio-Newman	Nancy Lovelady	Jane Ungar
Scotty Embree	Mo Maleskshahi	Carol Van Deusen
Lisbeth Eng	Patricia Malkin	Richard Van Deusen
Chris Everett	Abe Markman	Joseph Weber
Edward Finfer	Joseph Marvel	Tom Weishaar
Selma Friedman	David Massey	Monica Weiss
Kenneth Gans	Ellen McBride	Eva Yachnes
Renee Goodstein	Helen Mecs	Beth Zucker

Thank you for your generous support of NYSEC.

There are still many members who have yet to make their Fair-Share Commitment for this year. We look forward to hearing from those who have yet to do so and to including them in an updated list in a future issue of the *Ethical Outlook*.

You can make your financial commitment by contacting our Membership Associate, Margaret Determann (mdetermann@nysec.org or 212-874-5210, ext. 113) **or you can tear off the form at the bottom of page 19** and return it to the Society: 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023, attention Margaret Determann.

GENEROUS BEQUESTS FROM ETHICAL MEMBERS

Like so many institutions, the New York Society for Ethical Culture truly depends on and appreciates the financial generosity of members for its sustenance.

It's been a while since we have provided an update to members regarding this vital area of contributions to the Society.

We are very pleased to report the following bequests which have been received from both our loving members and other community members who have a respect and love for the Society:

NAME	DATE OF RECEIPT
MONA ROSET	OCTOBER, 2009
DANIEL LIEBERMAN	APRIL, 2013
CLAIRE LANDAU	JULY, 2013
HARRY McCLELLAND	JULY, 2013
MOIRA WHITTINGTON	SEPTEMBER, 2013
FLORENCE OTTENBERG	SEPTEMBER, 2014
RALPH EICHHORN	OCTOBER, 2014
CLAIRE LANDAU	NOVEMBER, 2014
JOHN LANGSDORF	MARCH, 2015
MARIA FELIZ FRIDMAN	APRIL, 2015

NYSEC is honored and grateful for these contributions.

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Leader's Desk *(continued from page 2)*

in terms of worship and thanksgiving to a supernatural entity, but in recognition of the accident of life that brings us into communion with one another.

As we celebrate Founder's Day, along with every Ethical Society and the Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools, let us remember what was revolutionary about Adler's vision. He

saw diversity as cause for celebration, not an insurmountable barrier. He chose to see that which others used to separate humanity as a means to connect human beings. Humanity's purpose is only fulfilled when it embraces the wholeness of human experience.

A young man left his family to study abroad. He missed them and wrote

home often. He knew they were counting on him to study hard and follow in his father's footsteps. He learned his rabbinical lessons well and also learned that he was a member of a larger family, an infinite constellation of beings that shared the living world. He felt an ethical obligation to all of them. On Founder's Day, we thank him for opening that vision up to us. 



Save the date!

Ethical's Annual Weekend Retreat

Friday – Sunday, Sept. 25 – 27

Back Again at Wonderful Stony Point

Call Maggie Determann, Membership Office, for more information at 212-874-5210 ext. 113.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ethics in Film: <i>The Truman Show</i> (1988), by Peter Weir — May 1 Great Books: <i>Othello</i> (complete work) by William Shakespeare — May 6 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Broken Fences</i> by Steven Simoncic — May 8					1 7:00 Ethics in Film	2 11:00 Ethical Extended Family Day 8:00 A Concert for Disarmament
3 9:45 Mindfulness 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:15 Annual Membership Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 2:00 Sunday Assembly	4 June 2015 Newsletter Deadline	5 9:00 Lobby Day – Trip to Albany 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	6 7:00 Great Books Discussion Group	7 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders	8 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	9
10 9:45 Colloquy 10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 12:45 Ethics in the News 1:30 Ethical Death Café	11	12 7:00 Ethics and War	13	14 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion	15	16
17 9:30 Poetry Reading 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour	18 7:00 Newcomers' Reception	19 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	20	21 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders	22	23
24 10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour	25 Society Offices Closed Memorial Day	26 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	27 2:30 Ethical Death Café	28 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 Dr. Dan Siegel	29	30
31 9:45 Coffee 'n Chat 10:30 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:30 Life with Health						

Cut along line — fill out and mail to the New York Society, 2 West 64th Street, NY, NY 10023. Attn. Margaret Determann.

2015 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

I will contribute \$___ to the New York Society for Ethical Culture for this year, 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I will pay by check ___ or please bill my credit card on a monthly basis___, or quarterly___ all-in-one basis___

Any further payment instructions _____

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.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

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