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ETHICS FOR CHILDREN  
SUMMER REFLECTIONS



The sleepover community at NYSEC.

NYSEC's Ethics for Children hosted two wonderful Family Sleepover events in July. Families literally made themselves "at home" here, even those who were experiencing Ethical Culture for the first time. As an instantaneous Ethical village of a kind, we made art, picnicked, played, and participated in intergenerational workshops. We sang lullabies and shared

dreams, sleeping either on the rooftop or in the Adler Room with Felix Adler's sculpted and painted portraits looking upon us.

Upon arrival, people got to know one another casually, through creative projects – making herbal eye-pillows on the first evening and dream-pillowcases on the second. As a community, we played and picnicked on Ethical's

rooftop until dark. For our proverbial bonfire circle, we held workshops on ethical themes on the stage of NYSEC's Great Hall, where long ago Felix Adler first delivered the inspirations of the Ethical movement. It was inspiring to be together in "the place where people meet to seek the highest," -- doing just that, through intergenerational ethical

Continued on page 15

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# Leader's Desk



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

## Bringing the World Humanist Congress Back Home

Stark is the contrast between the idyllic university town of Oxford, England and the places where many of the speakers at the World Humanist Congress, held there in August, toil on behalf of basic human rights. I stayed at Keble College, an ivy-covered brick complex with the requisite porter's lodge, chapel, dining hall and secret gardens. Founded in 1870, it is modern compared to other colleges formed as early as the 13th century (although teaching in Oxford began two centuries earlier). Strolling down the cobble-stoned streets and socializing in the time-worn pubs provide the visitor with an almost other-worldly experience. Listening to activists from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia and several African countries disturbed this tranquility with an awareness of how dangerous the world can be for those who dare to think for themselves. Their lives, families and homes have been threatened. Some have sought refuge in safer places; others risk everything daily.

The theme of the 2014 Congress was "Freedom of Thought and Expression: Forging a 21st Century Enlightenment." There was celebration, to be sure, of the tenacity of free thought through the ages, for which Oxford was an appropriate setting. Several esteemed scholars elucidated Humanism's history and predicted its future. There was entertainment by Humanist choruses from Norway and the UK, as well as Sanderson Jones cracking wise at an early morning Sunday Assembly, which he co-founded with Pippa Evans. Workshops highlighted the progress of Humanist communities around the world. And, as hoped, participants strengthened existing networks and forged new friendships. I was especially pleased to see Nigerian Leo Igwe and Pakistani Gulalai Ismail again; both visited NYSEC earlier this year. The Oxford Declaration on Freedom of Thought and Expression (<http://whc2014.org.uk/oxford-declaration/>) was passed by delegates on the last day.

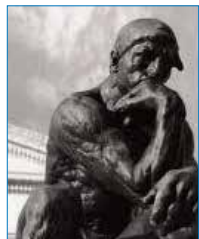
What will stay with me, and

*Continued on page 7*

# Ethical Enrichment and Events

## Wisdom and World Affairs

Come on the first and fourth **TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 2, and 23, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM,**



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

*There is no fee for this program.*

## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial

Hall to see *Defending Your Life* (1991), written and directed by Albert Brooks, who also starred in the movie. I'll be leading our discussion after the movie.

Yuppie Daniel Miller is killed in a car accident and goes to Judgment City, a waiting room for the afterlife. During the day, he must prove in a courtroom-style process that he successfully overcame his fears (a hard task, given the pitiful life we are shown); at night, he falls in love with Julia, the only other young

person in town. Nights are a time of hedonistic pleasure, since you can (for instance) eat all you want without getting fat.

*The suggested donation for the evening is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages.*

## Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience

Leader *Dr. Anne Klaeysen*

Join us for a new class on Morality, which will be offered on **MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 8, and 22, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM,** and repeated on **THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 11, and 25, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM.**

We all experience goodness in our lives. Most humans have an innate sense of morality – what behaviors are right and what ones are wrong. How did human beings evolve morality? Brain cognitive science, moral psychology and contemporary philosophy offer some interesting answers that we will examine in these sessions.

*There is no charge for members, and a \$5 donation for visitors.*

## Ethical Death Café

Join us on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM,** and on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM,** both in Ceremonial Hall. Our

## SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:00 am

Ceremonial Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### SEPTEMBER 7

*Home Is Where We Start From*

**Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader**

*Dr. Frank Corigliano Presides*

### SEPTEMBER 14

*Living Our Ethical Culture*

**Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader**

*Monica Weiss Presides*

### SEPTEMBER 21

*People's Climate March*

*Film: Do The Math*

*Andra Miller Presides*

### SEPTEMBER 28

*How Green Is Your War?*

**Curt Collier, Leader**

*Meg Chapman Presides*

## NOT A MEMBER?

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

moderator is Dr. Barbara Simpson. She holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

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

*The suggested donation is \$5.*

## Adler Reading Seminar



Join us on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**, in Room 502, with Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman as our moderator.

We'll be discussing the works of Felix Adler and of other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and to humanist philosophy.

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

## Ethics and the Theater



Patricia Bruder  
Debrovner

Come on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**, at **7:00 PM**. Ethics and the

Theater will present a play reading of Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*.

The people of New Bethesda, in 1970s South Africa, don't know what to do with Miss Helen. But 15 years ago, after her husband died, she started filling her garden with statues that she made: owls, mermaids, the Three Wise Men. The townspeople understand neither the works—monsters, in their eyes—nor their creator, who is now nearing 70 and appears to them too fragile, physically and mentally, to continue living on her own. Are they right? Or is the passion and freedom Miss Helen experiences alone in her art-filled home too valuable to trade for security?

Susan Horowitz directs our cast, which includes Pat Debrovner, Paula Jon DeRose, and John Lovelady. Come at **6:30 PM** for a reception, and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Betsy Ungar. Ceremonial Hall.

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

## Fall Writing Classes

Elaine Berman Gurney

We'll start another year of nonfiction writing classes in October. "The Joy of Personal Writing" workshops are open to all – people who want to get started writing and those with more experience. The ten-week fall semester of the **TUESDAY** class will begin on **OCTOBER 7, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM**. The **THURSDAY** class will begin on **OCTOBER 9, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**.

Registration in advance is a must. For information and to register call AJ Johnson at 212-874-5210, ext. 117. If you'd like to read work by current and past workshop writers, please look at [www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space](http://www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space).

*Course fees are \$160 for members and \$260 for nonmembers.*

## Great Books Discussion Group

Larry Schiff

September kicks off the new season of our Great





## more Ethical Enrichment and Events...

Books Reading and Discussion Group. If you love books, as well as talking about them, we invite you to join us.

We meet on the first **WEDNESDAY** of each month (except when it falls on a holiday) from **7:30 PM** to **9:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

See the schedule on page 5.

The readings for the coming year are listed below and they are fascinating! We'll be reading approximately 100 pages, or fewer, each month, and our discussions are always lively and stimulating. To participate you should buy the set from the Great Books Foundation (go to [greatbooks.org](http://greatbooks.org), then Book Groups and Colleges, then Reading and Discussion Series – First Series). The set, which costs about \$30 for the year, includes two paperbacks with the readings and a brief discussion guide that describes our discussion process. After you've read each month's selection, prepare your questions and conclusions and be ready for a most interesting and thought-provoking session.

Here's our schedule for 2014-2015

### 2014

<b>SEPTEMBER 3</b>	Sophocles	<i>Antigone*</i>
<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	Aristotle	<i>On Happiness</i>
	Plato	<i>The Apology*</i>
<b>NOVEMBER 5</b>	Joseph Conrad	<i>Heart of Darkness*</i>
<b>DECEMBER 3</b>	Immanuel Kant	<i>Conscience</i>
	Bible	<i>Genesis</i>

### 2015

<b>JANUARY 7</b>	Anton Chekhov	<i>Rothschild's Fiddle*</i>
<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	Sigmund Freud	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>
<b>MARCH 4</b>	Alexis de Tocqueville	<i>The Power of the Majority</i>
	Georg Simmel	<i>Individual Freedom</i>
<b>APRIL 1</b>	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	<i>The Social Contract</i>
	Karl Marx	<i>Alienated Labor</i>
<b>MAY 6</b>	William Shakespeare	<i>Othello*</i>
<b>JUNE 3</b>	David Hume	<i>Of Justice and Injustice</i>
	Charles Darwin	<i>The Moral Sense of Man and the Lower Animals</i>

\*We'll be reading the complete work.

New participants may join the group at any time during the year. The suggested donation is \$5 per session. If you have any questions, call me at 917-749-0695, or email me at: [larry@larryschiff.com](mailto:larry@larryschiff.com).

# Global Warming: A Call to Action

Monica Weiss

The New York Society for Ethical Culture recently hosted the People's Climate March Faith and Clergy Breakfast, a gathering of about 150 faith leaders of all denominations, from all parts of the city, to inspire the climate movements as a spiritual and moral imperative in their congregations. This was just one of many plenary events in the massive undertaking leading up to The People's Climate March, taking place on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21** ([climatemarch.org](http://climatemarch.org)). We will also be hosting the NYC Coalition of Block and Community Leaders and Planetary Advocates for the NYC premiere of the film, *The Future of Energy* on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**, in the Auditorium at NYSEC, which will feature a Q & A with the writer/producer Max DeArmon ([thefutureofenergy.org](http://thefutureofenergy.org)). *The Future of Energy* is a positive film about the renewable energy revolution and a love story about the countless individuals and communities that are re-imagining their relationships with the planet and with each other. The film focuses on solutions to climate change and advocates for the use of 100% renewable energy. The work of 350.org, Green for All, Alliance for Climate Education, Solutions Project, and Go 100, along with that of many other organizations, is

featured in the film. As Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, has said, the film “is really about the clean energy revolution happening right now. By the final credits, you’ll know both how and why renewable energy is the cleanest, quickest, cheapest, and safest way to supply all our energy needs.”

*There is a \$10 suggested donation for this event.*

On **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**, 350NYC and NYSEC will be hosting an educational forum titled “A Global Climate Treaty: Why the US Must Lead,” in our Auditorium **6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**. Speakers will include Donald Brown (Scholar-in-Residence and professor of law, ethics, and sustainability at Widener University School of Law); Mary Robinson (new UN special envoy on climate change, former first woman President of Ireland, and President of Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice); Lester Brown (founder of Earth Policy Institute and the Worldwatch Institute, and author of 50 books, including *Plan B: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*); Ambassador Marlene Moses of Nauru (representing Alliance of Small Island States, AOSIS, at the UN); Sean Sweeney (Trade Unions for Energy Democracy and Director of Cornell Global Labor Institute); Cecil Corbin Mark (WEACT

for Environmental Justice, Director of Policy Initiatives); Bill McKibben (author, educator, environmentalist, and co-founder of 350.org); and Annie Willis (Global Kids). The program will be introduced and moderated by Leader Curt Collier. This event will promote climate awareness and activism during Climate Week, during which leaders from around the world will meet for a UN Climate Summit.

*Tickets are \$10 at eventbrite (<https://climate-treaty-event.eventbrite.com>).*

On **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**, climate change will be the subject of our Platform meeting. We will show the documentary film, *Do the Math*, which chronicles the beginnings of a major climate movement of individual citizen activists deeply concerned about climate change and committed to limiting the use of fossil fuels and supporting renewable energy. The film follows climate crusader Bill McKibben as he works with a rising global movement to change the terrifying math of the climate crisis. Andra Miller will preside and moderate the discussion afterwards. Our members will also be marching with the PCM starting just north of Columbus Circle, through midtown and across to the West Side. ☺

## Leader's Desk

(continued from page 2)

what I bring home to you, are the words of those people whose commitment to the ideals and values of Humanism – critical thinking and education, mutual respect and compassion, human rights and social justice – put them in the crosshairs of powerful enemies.

Nobel prize-winning Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka accepted his International Humanist of the Year award with these words: "It's considered virtuous by some to abduct 200 girl pupils from a sanctuary of learning in the name of a religion...The lesson of Boko Haram is not for any one nation. It is not for the African continent alone. The whole world should wake up to the fact that the menace is borderless, aggressive and unconscionable." (See the full speech at <http://iheu.org/wole-soyinkas-international-humanist-award-acceptance-speech-full-text/>).



(L-R) *Aware Girls* founder Gulalai Ismail with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen.

My young friend Gulalai Ismail (photo below) founded *Aware Girls* when she was 16 to provide a leadership platform for young women and girls of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in northwest Pakistan. She now has ten years of experience in challenging patriarchy, gender discrimination, and religious extremism. Her work promotes peace and pluralism by providing civic education to young people. As she says, "I offer a space where young women can come together and they can speak for their rights. If we can't speak for ourselves, nothing will change."

Finally, Leo Igwe (whom I also heard give a presentation to the London Black Atheists at Conway Hall, home of the London Ethical Society, a few days later) has been physically attacked many times for his work on witchcraft issues in Africa. "It is taken to be a dangerous occupation. It is a minefield," said Leo. "When you are living in this situation, you need allies, you need supporters. You need people to say to you, 'I love what you're doing.'"

We must be their allies. We must support the work they do.

One way is to donate to the International Humanist and Ethical Union at (<http://iheu.org/support/make-a-donation/>). Remember: We are the "Ethical" in IHEU's name, having co-founded this organization in 1952 (<http://iheu.org/humanism/the-amsterdam-declaration/>). Learn more about its work around the world and consider attending the next World Humanist Congress in 2017 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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# Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:00 am

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SEPT. 7

## HOME IS WHERE WE START FROM

*Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader*

*Dr. Frank Corigliano Presides*



In his poem, “Four Quartets,” T.S. Eliot writes “Home is where one starts from. As we grow older/The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated/Of dead and living. . .”

The word “home” evokes images, feelings, sounds and scents; it is a powerful human concept. Life and love begin there. But what if one has no home from which to start? Where would one begin? I will explore home in a variety of ways and invite people to share their experiences. Marc L. Greenberg, Executive Director of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, will join us to talk about the organization’s programs.

*The shared charity is Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness.*

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SEPT. 14

## LIVING OUR ETHICAL CULTURE

*Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader*

*Monica Weiss Presides*



Whether we consider Ethical Culture as our religion, or as a philosophy of life, there can be little doubt that it has been intended from its beginning to be a set of ideals that we don’t merely admire or to which we give lip service, but which we strive to put into practice. At best, the values that Ethical Culture promotes should become part of our character and play a guiding role in the choices we make and how we live our lives.

In my initial address of the new season, I will speak on how Ethical Culture can become factored into our character and offer some basic guidelines to follow in our effort to live ethical lives.

*The shared charity is Women for Afghan Women.*

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SEPT. 21

## PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH — FILM, *DO THE MATH*

*Andra Miller Presides*



We will show the documentary film, *Do the Math*, which chronicles the beginnings of a major climate movement of individual citizen activists deeply concerned about climate change and committed to limiting the use of fossil fuels and supporting renewable energy. The film follows climate crusader Bill McKibben as he works with rising global movement to change the terrifying math of the climate crisis. I will moderate the discussion afterwards. Our members will also be marching with the PCM starting just north of Columbus Circle, through midtown and across to the West Side.

*The shared charity is 350.ORG.*

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SEPT. 28

## HOW GREEN IS YOUR WAR?

*Curt Collier, Leader*

*Meg Chapman Presides*



To what extent are wars and conflicts today less about geopolitics and more about dwindling resources? Is the rise of Islamic jihadism really about religious hegemony or, as predicted, are these really struggles over water, arable land, and energy? If the latter is the case, would armed conflict really work to deter extremism if we aren't addressing the underlying cause of unrest around our planet? This talk will focus on conflict from an environmental perspective and why the world might already possess many of the skills needed to bring more stability, and peace, to troubled lands.

*The shared charity is Earth Justice.*

### THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES

INTERFAITH ASSEMBLY ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING is committed to confronting the unconscionable and unacceptable reality of homelessness in New York City, recognizing society's shared responsibility, and working as partners with those who have experienced homelessness.

WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN, a New York - based grassroots organization, is concerned with human rights and women's rights in Afghanistan.

350.ORG was founded by a group of university friends in the U.S. along with author Bill McKibben, who wrote one of the first books on global warming for the general public.

EARTH JUSTICE is a nonprofit public interest law organization based in the US dedicated to environmental issues.

## Early Sunday Mornings 9:45 am (Rooms are subject to change)

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**SEPTEMBER 7**      **CHORUS PRACTICE**  
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

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**SEPTEMBER 21**      **CHORUS PRACTICE**  
Led by David Gracia and Pat Debrovner. Ceremonial Hall.

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**SEPTEMBER 21**      **POETRY READING**  
Come read with us. If you'd like, bring poems on the environment.  
Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

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## Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm (Except as noted) (Rooms are subject to change)

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**SEPTEMBER 7**      **SUNDAY ASSEMBLY**  
2:00 pm. Ceremonial Hall.

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**SEPTEMBER 7**      **NEWCOMERS' RECEPTION**  
Meet Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Ethical Culture Leader, and NYSEC members. Find out who we are and what we do. Ask us about Ethical Culture – our philosophy, social ethics, programs, and membership. 1:00 pm Adler Study, Room 514.  
Please email Moe-Swe Myint at [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org), or call 212-874-5210, ext. 113, in advance to attend.

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**SEPTEMBER 14**      **ETHICS IN THE NEWS**  
Abe Markman presides. A lively discussion of what's in the news today will help us gain perspective on current events. 12:45 pm, sixth floor school cafeteria.

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**SEPTEMBER 14**      **ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ**  
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Simpson. Social Hall, lower level.

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**SEPTEMBER 28**      **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.....

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

**Dinner Discussions Tuesdays, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Elliott Library, Rm 507 (except as noted)**

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members. This month's topic is: **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**. You can now access all of the Leader Lunch and Dinner readings on our website at <http://www.nysec.org/leader-lunch>. Come and join the discussion.

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**SEPTEMBER 2 and 4** “70,000 KIDS WILL SHOW UP ALONE AT OUR BORDER THIS YEAR. WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM?” by Ian Gordon, *Mother Jones*, 6/3/14, and “U.S. RELIGIOUS LEADERS EMBRACE CAUSE OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN” by Michael Paulson, *The NY Times*, 7/23/14.

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**SEPTEMBER 9** (Adler Study, Room 514) and **SEPTEMBER 11**  
“STONES AND BONES: VISITING THE 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM” by Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*, July 7 and 14, 2014.

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**SEPTEMBER 16 and 18**  
“DETROIT, THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES” by Ben Austen, *The NY Times Magazine*, 7/13/14 and “SMALL REBELLIONS: INTERVIEW WITH GRACE LEE BOBBS” by Michelle Chen, *Guernica*, 7/15/14.

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**SEPTEMBER 23 and 25** (Room 502)  
“STASH PAD: THE NYC REAL-ESTATE MARKET” by Andrew Rice, *New York*, June 30–July 13, 2014.

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**SEPTEMBER 30 and OCTOBER 2**  
“WHAT I SAW ON RIKERS ISLAND” by Cecily McMillan, 7/23/14; “RIKERS: WHERE MENTAL ILLNESS MEETS BRUTALITY IN JAIL” by Michael Winerip and Michael Schwartz, 7/14/14; and “U.S. INQUIRY FINDS A ‘CULTURE OF VIOLENCE’ AGAINST TEENAGE INMATES AT RIKERS ISLAND” by Benjamin Weiser and Michael Schwartz, 8/4/14, *The NY Times*.

# Our Ethical Family

## MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE



The following members are celebrating birthdays in September:

- LUCY GREENBERG.....9/2
- BRUCE FELD.....9/4
- BARBARA MICHAELS.....9/5
- HELENE BASIST.....9/6
- MO MALEKSHAHI.....9/9
- JOHN LANGSDORF.....9/12
- BARBARA SIMPSON.....9/12
- BARBARA BERNSTEIN.....9/13
- MARGARETHA JONES.....9/13
- CAROL ROST.....9/17
- GHAZAL KHAN.....9/19
- VIRGINIA ARNOLD.....9/20
- DOUGLAS PROOPS.....9/29

### 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.

We welcome **ELIZABETH (LIZ) SINGER** and **SHAUN CARSON SYLVESTER-WILLIAMS** into our Ethical family as members.

**LIZ** is a certified gerontologist with fashion and design experience. She learned about NYSEC through a friend and she joined the Society to be with like-minded people whose liberal outlook meshes with hers. She is interested in poetry and has attended our discussions and poetry readings.

**SHAUN** is the husband of our Trustee Law'nence Miller and the architect of Special Events at Carson Robert Event Designs, Inc. He loves the philosophy of EC and has attended Sunday platforms, Ethics and the Theater, and many other events during the last seven years. Shaun is also a member of Business Networking International.

\* \* \*

We had a lovely Annual Volunteers Dinner on June 18 to honor all those who have supported the women



(L-R) *Maria Feliz Fridman* with guest *Evelyn Peters*.



*Shelter Volunteers Eric Volat and Michelle Hess.*

of the *Maria Feliz Fridman Women's Shelter* at NYSEC and staffed the site. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the volunteers and staff in recognition of their dedication to the shelter. Although many of them could not make it to the dinner, we are grateful to them for their generosity with time and effort and want to thank these volunteers: Josh Berkowitz, Chris Bernhardt, Alicia Bianchi, Vincent Brancato, Mark Chen, Michelle Chu, Patricia Cohen, Elizabeth Ducat, Ed Fitzgerald, Diana Glanternik, JoAnn Ham, Michelle Hess, Rob Hofman, Jillian Jacobs, Dahae Kim, Elder Maxwell, Andra Miller, Marcella Monney, Ana Griselda Sandoval, Jane Tuttle, Nathalie Vogel, Eric Volat, and Justina Walford. We also want to thank our friends from the community,





*Volunteer Dinner guests.*

without whose efforts our shelter cannot be run as smoothly: Chaya Crowder and the student volunteers from Community Impact of Columbia University; Valencia Shelton, Project for the Homeless; Fay Paul of the Urban Pathways Olivieri Drop-In Center; and Mark Roshkind of the Emergency Shelter Network. Special mention and appreciation must also go to Monica Weiss for volunteering to make sure that the shelter is adequately stocked with snack items; Helen Mecs and Rob Hofman for all their great work coordinating the dinner; and NYSEC Social Service Board Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and NYSEC Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen for their support and leadership throughout the year.

\* \* \*

The Ethics for Children program made July a special month at NYSEC with inter-generational Ethical Sleepovers on two weekends. Kudos go to Audrey Kindred and Amy Reid for making these events really special – and super fun for our children, families, and friends. We wrapped up the sleepovers with a fond send-off party for Amy as she travels to California to attend graduate school in art. We wish her success in



*(L-R) Susan, visiting from the Austin Society; Lillian, Neo, Mita and Jesus at the sleepover.*



*(L-R) Music Director David Gracia, member Jon Liechty, and Music Director Emeritus Gerald Ranck.*

her next endeavor. (See article on pages 1, 15, and 16.)

\* \* \*

Summer is always a time to have guest speakers from other societies and we appreciate very much the efforts of the Sunday Program Committee in scheduling all the wonderful and inspirational speakers who were here. A highlight was when our Music Director Emeritus Gerald Ranck joined our current Music Director David Gracia and member Jon Liechty to play Rachmaninov's "Two Pieces" for Piano, six hands, on July 20 (photo above.) What a delightful treat!

## Gloria's Farewell Party

We also said goodbye to NYSEC staff member Gloria Chandler, who for the last 16 years was the Executive Assistant to our Executive Director, Bob Liebeskind, with a farewell party in July (she left at the end of July – see photos below). Gloria was an integral part of the Society and her calm, cool, and collected demeanor kept the administrative offices well-oiled and humming. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best in her future explorations and adventures in places far and near!

\* \* \*

Last, but not least, we want to thank our members who volunteered during the summer as New-comer Hosts: Bob Berger, Ken Gans, Elaine Berman Gurney, Henryka Komanska, Valerie and David Leiman, Beverly Newman, Stephanie Rosenblatt, and Carol Rost, as well as Amy Schwarz for organizing all the Greeters.



*Gloria at her farewell party with some of the NYSEC staff.*



*More NYSEC staff and friends at the party.*



*Bob speaking at Gloria's farewell party.*

# Ethics for Children



A U D R E Y K I N D R E D ,  
C H I L D R E N A N D Y O U T H P R O G R A M M I N G C O O R D I N A T O R

*(continued from page 1)*

collaboration. On the first sleepover, with stars as our theme, we did a workshop, “The Constellation of Humanity.” On the second, we focused



*Amy leads a project about personal constellations.*

on intergenerational teamwork, with ethical-



*Roof-top rise-n-shine Yoga led by Audrey Kindred.*

ly-inspired collaborative puzzle-making projects. In the morning, we walked in

Central Park, did yoga on the roof, and made art.

Each family that came was very special to us and contributed to the sweet success of these sleepover events. All are welcome to participate in future ethical explorations at NYSEC. We thank our dear helpers, including Nina



*Special summer sleep-over guests: (L-R) Simba Yangala, Leader Martha Gallabu, and Nina Ndjemba-Elemva.*

Ndjemba-Elemva and Simba Yangala, for their efforts. A heartfelt “Thank You” also goes to our Teen Leaders, Sydney and Clara, for their generous visits. Also, our gratitude goes to three special Ethical visitors: NYSEC

Teen Advisor Ish Islam, who shared a poem he had written; Social Service Board's Dr. Frank Corigliano, who spoke about the televisiting programs NYSEC hosts



*The proverbial Ethical Bonfire.*

that help families bridge the divides that incarceration causes; and esteemed EC Leader Martha Gallahue, who shared her vision of global dialogue from her work with National Ethical Service (EC's NGO affiliated with the United Nations). Martha pointed out how much she values the intercultural dialogue so evident in our own sleepover community, which included



friends old and new, from many backgrounds and from places as far apart as Ethical Societies of Austin, Texas, and Brooklyn, New York, and guests who came from as far away as Ethiopia! After our sleepover adventures, it was wonderful to invite our dreamers to attend our Sunday Platform meetings and hear the wonderful speakers Lisel Burns and Mary Herman.

## Good Luck and All The Best to Amy Reid

On July 27 we honored our awesome teacher, Amy Reid, on her last NYSEC morning!



Celebration of our teacher Amy Reid (front), with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen (background).

Amy has been with us for two years, and her skillful offerings inspired our Animating Ethics series. Using her wonderful gifts, we wove a children's curriculum that braided creativity, technology, and ethical themes together using stop-motion animation. The short films the children made here can all be viewed on NYSEC's website.

We wish Amy all the joy in the world as she journeys west to make a new home in San Diego, where she will attend graduate school in art. You may always send her a note of appreciation through *Ethics-ForChildren@NYSEC.org*.

## Fall 2014 Programs

For a complete description of our fall programs, please visit the links on NYSEC's website, and send RSVP's and inquiries to me as Audrey Kindred at *Ethics-ForChildren@NYSEC.org*. We hope everyone in the NYSEC community will invite families to participate in our programs.

This fall is a wonderful season to dive into ethical exploration at NYSEC. The

Ethics for Children Open House will take place at **10:00 AM** on **SEPTEMBER 7** and **14**. An information session for tweens and teens will be held on **SEPTEMBER 7**, at **2:00 PM**.

Ethics for Children will introduce the KINDNESS KEY and other Ethical tools offered by the Ethical Body curriculum this season. I'll lead the sessions and we will have a rotation of visiting guest artists. The sessions will include movement, mindfulness practices, lessons in compassionate communication, nature-based reflection, inclusive friendship-building, collaborative art, song, and social action. Seeds for our Coming of Age program are planted and families are invited to attend information and planning sessions for a November program launch.

Finally, our Teen Leaders program this year is focused on "Deed." The Deed of the month is the People's Climate March. Again, please visit the links on NYSEC's website for details and feel free to ask questions.





**A FALL SEASON OF ETHICS FOR YOUTH at The New York Society for Ethical Culture**



Ethics For Children hosts **OPEN HOUSES** for families with children ages 3-11:  
**9/7 & 9/14 at 10AM**  
10am Info and orientation followed by  
11am Ethical Explorers Session

Ethics for Children meets regularly 11am-12:30, September through June, on Sundays, coinciding with NYSEC's morning meetings for the larger Ethical Community.



Families with youth roughly ages 11-15 interested in the **Coming of Age** program are invited to gather:  
**9/7 2pm Intro & Info**  
**10/5 2pm Collaborative Planning**  
**11/22 proposed start date**

Families of all faiths are welcome into this diverse community grounded in Ethical Learning.



NYSEC's Teen Deed Club invites participation of **ALL AGES** for the:  
**Intergenerational Deed of the Month:**  
**CLIMATE MARCH**

**9/14:** Poster/costume making, learning session  
**9/20:** Evening forum with speakers  
**9/21:** People's Climate March  
**on International Day of Peace (details TBA)**

**EMAIL: [Ethicsforchildren@nysec.org](mailto:Ethicsforchildren@nysec.org) to RSVP**

Entry to our 100-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements. Please call ahead (212-874-5210 x 107) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.



# Our Annual Retreat Weekend

SEPTEMBER 12-14

*Are you coming?*



**Have you made your reservation yet to join us for this year's Retreat?**

**The theme is "Leading the Ethical Life."**

**Hurry, hurry. Time's a wastin' and we're almost fully booked.**

The Retreat is a great weekend getaway with walks, games, movies, cocktail parties and conversations with NYSEC friends — just ask anyone who's attended. The open, treed grounds at Stoney Point are lovely — very "country" — and less than an hour's drive from the city (we're arranging car pools for as many as we can), and accessible by bus, too.

FOR THE WEEKEND (2 nights, 3 days, dinner Fri. thru lunch Sun.)

Gilmor Sloane House — \$320 per person (double occupancy, private bath)

Beech Tree Lodge — \$260 per person (double occupancy, shared bath)

FOR OVERNIGHT (1 night, 2 days, with dinner, breakfast and lunch)

Gilmor Sloane House — \$190 per person (double occupancy, private bath)

Beech Tree Lodge — \$160 per person (double occupancy, shared bath)

FOR THE DAY (Saturday, with lunch and dinner) \$95

**Call Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate, at 212-874-5210 x113,  
email at [mmyint@nysec.org](mailto:mmyint@nysec.org), snail-mail to NYSEC, or come in person to room 501  
at your earliest convenience and pay in full to reserve.**

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

# SEPTEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Ethics in Film: <i>Defining Your Life (1991)</i>, directed by Albert Brooks — September 5</b>  <b>Ethics and the Theater: <i>The Road to Mecca</i> by Athol Fugard — September 19</b></p>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Society Offices Closed Labor Day</b>	<b>October 2014 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion	1:00 Strength Exercise Class 7:30 Great Books Discussion Group	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders	7:00 Ethics in Film	
9:45 Chorus Practice 10:00 Ethics for Children - Open House 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Newcomers' Reception 2:00 Sunday Assembly Ethics for Teens - Coming of Age	1:00 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience 6:30 Board of Trustees	6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience	<b>Membership Retreat Stony Point, NY begins →→</b>	<b>Membership Retreat</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Retreat Ends</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
10:00 Ethics for Children - Open House 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Newcomers' Reception 2:00 Sunday Assembly Ethics for Teens - Coming of Age		6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion 6:30 NYC Premierel <i>The Future of Energy</i> 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	1:00 Strength Exercise Class 2:30 Ethical Death Café	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders	7:00 Ethics and the Theater	6:30 Forum Global Climate Treaty
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
9:45 Poetry Reading 9:45 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:00 People's Climate March 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens	1:00 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience 7:15 Readings in Deep Ecology	6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion	1:00 Strength Exercise Class	12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Human Morality: Its Origins and Resilience		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
11:00 Ethics for Children 11:00 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle		6:30 Leader Dinner Discussion				

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

June 2013

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