

OUTLOOK

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL.212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

Sunday Morning Meetings 11:15 AM-Auditorium

January 6

The Old, the New, and the Now

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader Dr. James W. Farer Presides

January 13 Forgiveness

Randy Best, Leader Ethical Society Without Walls Tony Hileman Presides

January 20 Moral Striving: The Core of

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island Bonnie Bean Presides

January 27

Ethical Culture

Conscious Choice From the Inside Out: Acting from Our Inner Wisdom

Faith Halter

Chris Bernhardt Presides

New EC Society?

A group of people in New Mexico want to establish an Ethical Society, and will meet on February 3, at 11:00 am, in Albuquerque to explore the possibility. So, if any members or friends of NYSEC know someone living in New Mexico who is familiar with Ethical Culture and who might want to join such a society, ask them to contact Kathi Foy, AEU leader-at-large, at kathifoyesnm@gmail.com, or 505-615-3793 for details and directions to the meeting.

January Happening

Conversation With the Leader—On Wednesday, January 9, at 6:00 pm, Senior Leader Tony Hileman will meet with Society members to continue our discussion on the future of Ethical Culture. (See page 5)

President's Notes

Andra Miller, President



Happy New Year to everyone from the Board, the committees, the Social Service Board, the staff, and me.

As those of you who attended the Community Meeting in November know, we're all busy keeping our programs and services running smoothly. My notes today will fill you in on some of our progress.

Committee Formation

We have a new committee focusing on developing membership, and to mark the fact that it will look for new directions and new ways to appeal to prospective members, we're calling it the **Membership Cultivation Club**. More information on this committee's plans will be forthcoming soon. We've also named the new chair of the **Ethical Action Committee**, Eric Norlander. He will be coordinating ethical action with PIC and the Social Service Board. The **Budget Committee** is now chaired by our Vice Presi
(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

An Ethical Future Awaits



Many of the concepts of Ethical Culture have become so instilled in cultural thought and assimilated in social action that it sometimes seems others are more aware of them than we are. We all too often find ourselves so focused on matters of social and community concern that we lose track of the values that inform those concerns. Our aim is to continually create a cultural shift toward the better. And, in league with others, we have over the course of our history done just that—but not lately.

I believe a brighter future for our movement lies in a reinvigoration of our founding ideals, one that is consonant with our advancing philosophic and scientific understandings of ourselves and the world of which we are a part. Organizing around a clear understanding of ourselves, and uniting in our efforts to put ethics back on the map and back in our hearts, I believe we again can be the vigorous, effective movement we have shown we can be.

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Jon Liechty, Reporter
Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor
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Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader Emeritus
Robert Liebeskind, Executive Director
Rita Chawla, Director of Family Programs
Susanna Frazer, Acting Membership Associate
Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Senior Leader
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Susanna Frazer	113
Sheleigah Grube	118
Tony Hileman	119
Yolanta Kosmaczewska	104
Robert Liebeskind	116
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Marlon Rice	107

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United Social Services, Inc. Social Service Board Directors

Phyllis Harrison-Ross, M.D., Chair Margaretha Jones, Vice Chair David Leiman, Immediate Past Chair and Financial Officer

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Working Groups' Coordinators:

DNA Project: David Leiman Scholarships: Valerie Leiman Soccer Program: Henry Bunch

Supervised Visitation: Margaretha Jones Women's Shelter: Dr. Maria Fridman Homeless Artists Workshop: Dr. Maria Fridman Brochure Update: Lucile Kleiman and

Margaretha Jones

President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

dent, Margaretha Jones. Our **Pledge Drive Committee** will be chaired by
Heather Grady, with Board members
Margaretha Jones and Maria Fridman
joining in as committee members.

We're still seeking new members for the Young Members Group, the Personnel Committee, and the Flyers, Publicity, and Sunday Social Committees. If you're interested in helping out, please let me know. You can call me at 212-627-3944.

Our Vice President, Margaretha Jones, in charge of committee liaison, is working to make sure we know just which members are on which committees.

WBAI

Speaking of committees, the **Radio**Committee will be active in the

WBAI radio station's fundraising
drive, and is working on selecting
"premiums"—CDs or books to be
mailed to station subscribers. We'll
let you know when our segment is
scheduled so that you can call in and
contribute to WBAI, which will help
keep our program on the air. And, if
you would like to give more "handson" help, let Marc Bernstein, Phyllis
Harrison-Ross, or me know and we'll
get you signed up to take calls accept-

ing subscriber pledges during the time we're on the air.

American Ethical Union

I will be stepping down next year as a member of the Board of Directors of the AEU. The AEU's Executive Director has told me she would be very pleased if we could find a member of our Society to run for the board (the election is next April) to take my place. I'd be pretty pleased myself if someone would be interested. This is a wonderful chance to work with terrific representatives of other Societies. Meetings are held mostly in New York on a Saturday every other month. These meetings, by the way, are open to members, and you are welcome to attend and see what's up with the AEU. Let me know if you are interested in either running or just attending an AEU meeting and I'll give you the necessary information.

Annual Giving Campaign

We're still working on clearing up pledges for 2007 and beginning the campaign for 2008. I'd like to urge those of you who have not met last year's commitment to be as generous as you possibly can be. It is standard for members of many religions to pledge three-to five-percent of their annual income, and we ask that here at "Ethical." (My sister, a Presbyterian, tithes; she gives 10 percent.) I hope

you don't feel that our asking for your pledges is an annoyance. Generous giving should be a joyful and rewarding experience—an honor to be able to do. And, as it is your pledges that support our programs and our operational budget, we need your contributions and are counting on you.

As you know, like many faith-based institutions we are forced to find extra income through space-sharing programs. We would like to keep this activity to a minimum, as some of the organizations that use our facilities can be careless and all certainly add to the cost of wear and tear. If we are to grow and have more programs of our own, we need to have space available without being in conflict with "renters." Also, the extra use makes it necessary for us to hire extra help, adding to our overhead and agitation, although it does supplement our income.

In any case, it is your generosity that expresses your values and your faith in our Society. We will continue to work hard to earn and increase that faith.

Planned Giving

The Board has voted to establish an additional category for the **Memorial Wall** at the east end of the lobby. We will mount remembrance plaques honoring those who have left the Society \$10,000 or more in their wills. Next year, our Fundraising Committee will be looking into helping members set up such bequests.

New Staff Members

We are interviewing candidates for the positions of **Membership Associate** and **Director of Communications and Development**. We are very pleased that the individuals we've talked with so far are of high caliber, and we expect to make hiring decisions for these two positions very soon.

Our Progress

Sometimes I get very wrapped up in everything that we, the Board, the committees, and the staff have yet to do. But then, when I take a moment to look back at what has been accomplished in the past five months, I'm pretty pleased with all that we've done. It's not readily apparent to those who are not involved, but it is clear to me that tasks we have set ourselves have been accomplished and that we are setting a firm foundation for future growth both in programs and in membership. We who are on the Board thank you for giving us this chance to serve.

Here's to a bright new year of many new accomplishments for you, the Society and the Ethical Culture Movement itself. Happy New Year!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Consider this a clarion call, an invitation to direct our energies to a renovation of the organizing idea of Ethical Culture—the centrality and reciprocity of ethics—that has been the foundation of our movement and the cornerstone of each and every Ethical Society since our founding by Felix Adler in 1876. It is too important an idea to let fade.

However, the Societies and individuals that comprise Ethical Culture have slowly migrated in different directions since Adler's time. Different interpretations of the basic nature of our movement have arisen. Different concepts have developed as to how the principles of Ethical Culture should be applied to shifting social challenges and needs. Different organizational stances have been adopted or stressed—those of a religious congregation that informs our inner and outer lives, a social agency that is dedicated to serving others, or a community that meets members' wants and needs.

It is incumbent on us to once again enliven the center and brighten the margins of Ethical Humanism so that others might more easily understand, be attracted to, and benefit from its progressive principles, and so that we ourselves are again in greater agreement as to our identity, our purpose, and our mission.

It is time to act, for if we don't we risk leaving a void where the accomplishments of our heritage once dwelt. A void others are all too anxious to fill either with timeworn myths and superstitions that capitalize on a fear they themselves create, or with an equally timeworn cynicism of negative identification—stuck on what's no longer valid while directing little or no effort toward what is and what can be.

We hold and represent a precious gift, one that proudly recognizes our founding context, the progress of thought and action through the course of our heritage, and our challenging present, while embracing the vast potentialities of the future. And we work to bring the promise of the future about through the compassionate application of ethical values. That should remain unclouded and undiluted in our minds, in our hearts, and in our actions.

It's time to move on. To leave behind what's drifted and lagged. To move into today and toward tomorrow. The future—an ethical future—awaits.

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM-Auditorium

January 6-The Old, the New, And the Now

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

We-ourselves and our culture-are now on the crest of a breaking wave created by our momentum toward the new and the opposing undertow of the old. The tension between these conflicting forces is sharply apparent as we move forward into a new year at the beginning of a fresh millennium.

This is a time when many of us take a sober look back at the past and what it has wrought, and turn an optimistic eye toward the future and what the New Year may bring. So it is a "now" fraught with both nostalgia and enthusiasm. It's never easy to recognize and preserve the good and rational aspects of the past while at the same time discarding those elements that no longer make sense or that have simply lost their usefulness.

Without a periodic clearing of the refuse, our lives can become burdened and we can find ourselves sliding back into the old rather that moving on into the new. It's surprising to discover how many old treasures have become the excess baggage that slows and eventually stalls personal and cultural progress. So the considerations of the cozy, dark days of winter become more than indulgent navel gazing. What are we still carrying that might better be tossed overboard as the flotsam of hectic lives and jetsam of an encumbered culture? How do we let go of the old so that we might travel more nimbly toward the new?

January 13-Forgiveness

Randy Best, Leader, Ethical Society Without Walls

What is it? Do I need if? Should I give it? Do I need to wait for an apology?

Forgiveness is both an act and the attitude toward another that results from the act. It is letting go of anger and hurt caused by the actions of another. It is not always offering absolution. Sometimes it is acceptance or even resignation about something in another that you cannot change. Sometimes it is just a new level of understanding about someone else.

Forgiveness acknowledges my hurt. It does not wipe the slate clean. It does not necessarily renew trust. It is necessary to move beyond my pain. Forgiveness is letting go. Forgiveness lifts a burden of anger and resentment. Ultimately, forgiveness is something that I do for myself.

Randy is a lifelong member of Ethical Culture. He was born in St. Louis and grew up attending the Ethical Society of St. Louis, where his parents are still active members. He received a B.A. in cultural anthropology from Grinnell College, Iowa, and a master's degree in city planning/public policy from Harvard University. In 2002, he received a graduate certificate in Humanist leadership studies from the Humanist Institute. Randy is also a certified mediator and pastoral counselor. He was certified as an Ethical Culture Leader in November 2004.

January 20-Moral Striving: The Core of Ethical Culture

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Founder Felix Adler described Ethical Culture societies as religious communities "dedicated to moral striving." Their purpose was to help people move toward goodness, without any common formula or creed, but with a common need and desire to find better ways of living. How is this possible? By living among others; trying and making mistakes; listening and learning; then trying again. In this way we discover new truths about ourselves and our world. Leader Anne Klaeysen examines the process of moral striving as the core of ethical religion.

Dr. Anne Klaeysen is leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and Humanist Chaplain at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. She graduated from the Humanist Institute and now serves as co-mentor of class 15. Anne holds master's degrees in German from SUNY at Albany and business administration from NYU. In 2005 she earned a doctorate in ministry from Hebrew Union College.

January 27-Conscious Choice From The Inside Out: Acting From Our Inner Wisdom

Faith Halter

Probably all of us in Ethical Culture aspire to make "conscious choices," but what does that mean in practice? How regularly and how effectively do we align our decision making with our ethical principles? How can we strengthen the links between our choices and our core values? What can we learn from the choices that don't seem to live up to our ethical standards?

Faith Halter, a member of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society, is a leadership coach and organizational consultant specializing in stress reduction and helping people find creative solutions to issues affecting their lives and work. She previously spent more than 20 years in the environmental field, first as an attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and later as a freelance consultant, working in more than 20 countries.

Early Sunday 10 AM

Jan. 6-Singing Practice-All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings-and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall.

Jan. 13–Colloquy: Trust–Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

Jan. 20-Poetry Readings—We'll read a variety of poems that deal with the

ideas of heaven and hell. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Jan. 20–Singing Practice–Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Jan. 27-Coffee 'n Chat. Room 408.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

Ceremonial Hall

Jan. 6-PIC: Fair Trade vs. Trade Justice. Speaker, Jacqueline Walker Beaumont of the American Service Committee. Abe Markman presides.

Jan. 13–Open PIC Meeting. Abe Markman presides.

Jan. 20–Life With Health. Jacqueline Pope presides.

Jan. 27 – How the Brain Works, and How to Keep It Working. Speaker: Dr. Kamran Fallahpour, noted psy-

chologist and neuroscientist, will offer a stimulating and insightful presentation on how our minds function. He will also discuss the signs of possible memory and/or processing issues in older adults and the latest scientific breakthroughs. Current assessment and treatment techniques are becoming increasingly vital and can now prolong brain health for many years. Suzy Frazer presides.

December Board Meeting Highlights

Sheila Abrams Kleinwald

At the December 3 meeting the Board of Trustees passed the following resolution, which was presented by the Society's **Public Issues Committee**.

"Whereas, the United States Constitution and international law prohibit acts of war without specific Congressional and United Nations approval,

"Therefore, absent these authorizations, the New York Society for Ethical Culture opposes military action by the United States against Iran, and instead, urges bilateral and multilateral negotiations without preconditions in order to resolve all matters of dispute between Iran and the United States, thereby forestalling unnecessary death and suffering."

President Andra Miller reported that interviews of selected candidates for the **open staff positions** of Membership Associate and Director of Development would take place during the week of December 10.

Mr. Chris Everett was recommended and approved for membership in the Society.

The Board approved a request by Henryka Komanska, chair of the Co-Sponsored Program Committee, for the Society to co-sponsor a program with the New York Civil Liberties Union in early January. The program will feature a panel discussion on the Real ID Act and its implications for Americans' privacy rights.

Senior Leader Tony Hileman suggested that anyone who dies and leaves the Society a bequest of \$10,000 or more be recognized with a plaque in his or her honor placed on the **Memorial Wall**. The motion was approved. (The Memorial Wall is located at the east end of the lobby.)

Dr. Charles Debrovner stepped down as chair of the **Pledge Committee**, and Heather Grady was appointed as its new chair. Maria Fridman and Margaretha Jones will serve on the committee.

Please note that this article contains only selected highlights of the meeting. Many other items were discussed. To get a better sense of what transpires at a given meeting, it is necessary to attend that meeting. Society members are welcome to observe and are permitted to speak. Board meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month, and begin at 6:30 pm. There are exceptions, however, so it is best to check the monthly calendar, or call the Administration Office, 212-874-5210, ext. 117, to confirm times and dates.

Conversation With the Leader

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

For the past two months I have been meeting, formally and informally, with Society members to hear your concerns and to share with you mine. That process has brought to light a surprising depth of care and concern, and an equally surprising degree of agreement on the challenges we face. In the seasonal spirit of hope and renewal, it is time to turn your collective talent and creativity to the larger question of "Where from here?"

That's what we'll be addressing on Wednesday January 9 at 6:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall. I invite all members to come and share their thoughts openly, and I encourage your elected Trustees to join in dialog with you. I have appreciated and benefited from your input during our earlier conversations and look forward to seeing you on January 9.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

Please welcome new member **Chris Everett**, a risk analyst who has worked for NASA. His background includes physics and computer science. Chris' many interests include biking and philosophy. He lives with his wife, Elise, on the Upper West Side.

Longtime member **Roy Neuberger** was the recipient of the prestigious National Medal of Arts and National Humanities, which was presented at the White House by President Bush, on November 15. Congratulations to Roy for all his wonderful museum and arts work!

In Memoriam

We have some sad news to report: Longtime member **Gordon McCor-mick** died on November 10. Gordon joined the Society in 1967 and was extremely active as a member of the Board and several committees including: the Finance Committee, the Younger Members Group, and the Prison Task Force, as well as the AEU's Board and its Leadership Committee. His wife, Kimberly, said there will be a Memorial for friends and family at NYSEC in the spring.

Also, **Ken Wernz**, a member of the Social Service Board, died suddenly on November 22. Ken joined the Society in 1981, and was a former Board member who worked for many years as the SSB's secretary. A memorial will be held here on Saturday, January 19, at 7:00 pm, in Ceremonial Hall.

The PIC of the News

Ahe Markman

Does Ethical Culture work in mysterious ways? On the same day—December 3—on which the CIA revealed that Iran had stopped development of a nuclear bomb, NYSEC's Board voted unanimously to oppose military action against Iran! What was no mystery was Eric Volpe's and Maria Fridman's hard, effective work in promoting this resolution, which appears in the latest National Service Conference newsletter. To read the full resolution, go to: http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/action-alert/.

The New York Times has reported that paid family leave and paid sick leave have achieved the "distinction" of being first among the targets of corporate lobbyists. What's more, the Paid Family Leave Coalition, of which NYSEC is a member, has added paid sick leave to its agenda; cities and states are adopting, improving upon, or seriously considering these two policies; and leading presidential candidates have indicated their strong support of them.

Board members have expressed interest in meeting with one of PIC's recent guest speakers, Hamilton McLean. He is a consultant to the N.Y.S. Energy and Development Authority, which provides



(L-R) Abe Markman, Marilyn Clement of HealthCare Now! and Pat Cohen

free technical advice on how we could become more energy efficient and receive grant money to accomplish this. NYSEC's position on global warming is among those being considered for presentation at the 2008 AEU Assembly.

On the afternoon of December 3, Marilyn Clement of HealthCare Now! spoke on the importance of a single-payer health plan for the U.S. Although health care is high in the polls, the public needs much more information before the country can reach a consensus on an universal plan. For example, what should be the roles of prevention, the private and governmental sectors, schools, neighborhood clinics, and hospitals? PIC and the Social Service Board are considering a collaborative effort to bring some of these issues to the fore.

On January 6, Jessica Walker Beaumont, of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak on "Fair Trade versus Trade Justice."

Are you ready for another PIC open meeting? If so, join us on the afternoon of January 13, topic and room to be announced.

* * *

Marc Chagall's Art

Valerie Leiman

You're invited to learn about the life and

art of Marc Chagall at a lecture featuring over 40 of his paintings, presented by Marcella Montaruli on Sunday, February 24, at 1:45 pm, in the Adler Study (Room 514). This is a benefit to sup-



port the Innocence Project, which works to secure DNA testing in order to reverse wrongful convictions.

Wine and dessert will be included in the cost: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the

door. Mail your checks by Friday, January 25, to United Social Service, Inc., Administration Office, New York Society for Ethical Culture; 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023. Indicate "Chagall program" on the check.

* * *

Editor's Note: Apologies to Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, chair of the United Social Service Board. She is the author of the report in the December 2007 issue of *Ethical Outlook* on the All Healers Mental Health Alliance celebration in New Orleans in October.

Dr. Harrison-Ross wrote the report which was erroneously attributed to Valerie Leiman. Again, our apologies. If you would like more information about AHMHA, please contact her at 212-874-5210, ext. 143.

January 2008 Office hours for the month are: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm Shelter: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

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Great Books: January 2-	Great Books: January 2-Shaw, Caesar, and Cleopatra*		2	ω	4	50 am and 1:30 am
ECRDG: (Ethical Culture January 9 – Jol	ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) January 9-John Banville, <i>The Sea</i>	New Year's Day	February 2008 Newsletter Deadline			Supervised Visitation
Great Books: G January 16-Alice	Great Books: Great Conversations I January 16 – Alice Munro, Boys and Girls	occiety cilices closed				
* Complete work		2:00 pm-New Year's Day Party	7:30 pm – Great Books			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting						9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
12:45 pm-Social Hour 1:45 pm-PIC: Fair Trade vs. Trade Justice	6:30 pm-Board of Trustees	6:00 pm-Women's Group	3:00 pm – ECRDG 6:00 pm – Conversation With The Leader	6:00 pm-Orientation		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 No Supervised Visitation
10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour			6:00 pm – Socrates Café			today 7:00 pm-Memorial for Kenneth Wemz
1:45 pm – Open PIC Meeting	6:30 pm-Monday Writing Workshop		7:30 pm – Great Books: Great Conversations I	7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 0.30 am and 1.30 nm
10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting	Martin Luther King Day Society offices closed					Supervised Visitation
12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Life with Health		6:30 pm-Monday Writing Workshop	6:00 pm – Ethical Culture Today?	7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop		
27 10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – How the Brain	28	29	30	31		
Works, and How to Keep it Working	6:30 pm-Monday Writing Workshop			7:00 pm-Thursday Writing Workshop		

Ethical Culture is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.



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