

Summer Sunday Morning Platform Meetings  
10:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall

**July 1**

**Even the Black Sheep Has A Shrine**

*Dr. Michael S. Franch, Dean,  
National Leaders Council*

Andra Miller Presides

**July 8**

**Embracing Contradictions**

*Fritz Williams, Leader Emeritus  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides*

**July 15**

**A Year of Living Ethically**

*Susan Rose, AEU Dean of Leadership Training  
Heather Grady Presides*

**July 22**

**Alain Locke: Muse of the Harlem Renaissance, Philosopher of Cultural Pluralism, and Friend of Ethical Culture**

*Bob Berson, Leader  
Joseph Marvel Presides*

**July 29**

**Development: Sustainable And Ethical**

*James White, Leader  
Monica Weiss Presides*

**August 5**

**Though You Have Broken Your Vows a Thousand Times**

*Jone Johnson-Lewis, Leader  
Dan Hanson Presides*

**August 12**

**Is Anything Sacred?**

*Mary Herman, Leader  
Terry Perlin Presides*

**August 19**

**The Ache for Home**

*Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader  
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides*

**August 26**

**Ethics and the Theater**

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides*

July/August 2012

# ETHICAL OUTLOOK

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

## Summer Happenings

Have you ever thought about how your day went and wondered how it compared with the rest of the world's day? Come on **Monday, July 16, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm**, and get a sampling, as we join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen to watch *Life In a Day* (2011), a documentary film by Kevin Macdonald. Adler Study, Room 514. (*See page 9.*)

On **Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 pm** (doors open at **6:30 pm**), **Ethics and the Theater** will present *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. In her diary of the more than two years young Anne Frank and her family spent hiding, silent during the days, in an attic in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, we witness their heroism and human frailty, and her development into a vital young woman and talented writer whose life was cut short by her death in a concentration camp. Afterward, join our discussion. Ceremonial Hall. (*See page 9.*)

## President's Notes

*Andra Miller*



Greetings from Albany, where the American Ethical Union's Assembly is about to begin, though it will have long been over by the time you read this. I'm in my room putting the finishing touches on the workshop I will be giving tomorrow, and I am looking forward to the many other meetings and workshops that I will be attending. Thanks to Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and all the Leaders for this weekend of spotlighting what is being done and what we can do to further the cause of justice for all.

I want to thank all the 40 people who signed and addressed letters to the President of Ecuador "last" Sunday. It was my action project for the Environmental Stew-

(Continued on page 2)

## From the Leader's Desk

*Curt Collier*



This is going to be a great summer. For the past year my partners and I at Groundwork, the organization through which I pursue my environmental ethics, have been working hard to secure unique opportunities and funding sources to provide more youth an opportunity to work in environmental restoration. This past fall I was invited by Yellowstone National Park to help them figure out new ways to engage more youth of color in their jobs program. During my visit I continued to offer my insights on engaging urban youth, and I'm happy to report that this summer I will be leading a team of 20 young people from across the country to complete various service corps projects in the park.

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**President's Notes**

(Continued from page 1)

ardship Committee. We'll be presenting such Ethical Actions from now on, with a separate member of the committee assigned each month to find and prepare one for you. I was encouraged by your eager willingness to do so, and to contribute to the cost of stamps for sending them off. Now we just have to pray that El Presidente heeds our and many others' requests to preserve the Rainforest of Ecuador.

I am delighted with the enthusiasm and energy of this committee and of the Membership Committee, as well. They are both our newest committees (well, in the case of Membership, the newest reconstituted committee), and both these committees have Paula Claycomb at the Chair position; she is also co-Chair along with Monica Weiss on the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

We will be losing Paula for a while, but in the meantime, we all should thank her for her tireless efforts on our behalf—not only chairing, but “secretarying” the committees, with prompt minutes delivered to committee members and staff, and email correspondence even while traveling in Dakar.

But, you know, that's the kind of action we can thank many of our members for—their service on committees (some for many years), their willingness to take on tasks like handing out programs and taking collections, staffing tables in the lobby during events, running workshops and programs, or just helping out in general. If we could count all the volunteer hours given to NYSEC by these members and our Board members, I'm willing to bet it would be a HUGE number!

Oh, and how about that great pot-luck party put on by the Membership Committee? What a wonderful evening we all had eating that amazing assortment of delicious dishes. Marilyn Baker, who gathered the names and contributions, was worried that we wouldn't have enough food. She and I were laughing about the abundance it ended up being.

A special thanks to Tod Whitaker, who supplied the flatware, the chaffing dishes, the plates and I don't know what-all. They were the finishing touches to a terrific event.

By the way, if you haven't told us yet what your pledge is for this year, please call Moe-Swe with that information. The Pledge Drive Committee is cranking up to make phone calls and we'd appreciate it if you removed yourself

from the list of people we'll be calling. And, of course, the Society thanks you for your vow to support it.

Happy Summer, everybody!

## Leader's Desk

*(Continued from page 1)*

This is the first time that Yellowstone has ever pursued such an initiative with an outside agency.

Through President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative, 14 youth programs were selected nationwide to provide employment opportunities for this summer. I'm also happy to report that we were one of those selected, and this past June I drove a van full of young people down to North Carolina to participate in a six-week trail-building and forestry program. Upon completion they will be given certificates for their training. I will be taking others down to the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests for this project over the next two years.

Thanks to support we received from the Westchester County Youth Foundation and federal agencies, I will be hiring 26 young people to work for seven weeks with me on projects around the region. These will include invasive species removal, working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Reserve; working with the National Park Service along the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park and at Fire Island National Seashore; completing a new riparian habitat exhibit for Audubon International at Lenoir Nature Preserve; and starting a new farmers' market and building more community gardens for the US Department of Agriculture.

As I said, this is going to be a very successful, and busy, summer. I believe

that our success in winning these contracts comes from our unique focus in working with youth.

Recently, my colleagues and I completed a "best practices" paper for the EPA spelling out how best to engage youth, an approach that fosters within them an increased sense of stewardship for their environment and commitment to their hometowns. I believe that fostering a sense of stewardship is dependent upon considering all aspects of the individual's local experiences and surroundings.

These include:

- Creating opportunities throughout their youth for working in the community;
- Pushing them to do service activities for others;
- Exposing them to other places, especially to our National Parks, Refuges, and Forests so they can see greater possibilities;
- Having these young people work with professionals and volunteers around the region so they see their own work as part of a larger effort;
- Completing restoration projects in their home communities so their families and friends will value the work that has been done and support their efforts;
- Completing challenging and substantive projects so that they feel they have accomplished something of which they can truly feel proud;
- Providing the youth with ongoing education and opportunities for reflective activities (such as journaling) in order to bring forth their own insights as to the nature of the problems facing their communities,

and collectively exploring solutions to these challenges;

- Introducing them to the "movers and shakers" and stakeholders of their community so they can develop relationships with people who get things done; and
- Developing the communication and community-building skills necessary for resolving conflicts with coworkers and creating an atmosphere of consideration and mutual support.

If you look closely at this list you will notice that it resonates highly with many of the practices of Ethical Culture. That is not by accident. It was my training in Ethical Culture that helped me understand how to create an "environment" that fosters growth. Rather than focusing solely on making the individual "better," a path pursued by many traditional religions, our focus has been on creating the conditions in the broader community that allow all of us to flourish. Our name, the "Society for Ethical Culture," highlights this emphasis: to create the conditions which bring out the best in others, as well as within ourselves.

This emphasis has turned out to be a valuable guide. It has allowed us to determine what in our community to emphasize, and what needs change. It reminds us that cultivating caring and engaging personalities is not a process directed solely at the individual, but at his or her community, as well. It is often the dissenting voice against the toxic hyper-individualism and "me-first" focus of American culture and our tottering economic system.

As we enter into a new political season, let our desire for an ethical culture be our guide. This goes beyond political parties and personalities. Our vote

is always for the conditions that allow life to flourish, that celebrate the diversity of our world, that invite in rather than exclude, that consider the impact of all our choices—not simply the rights of one individual—and that nurture within others a desire for the same. Have a great summer.

## Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 10:15 AM

### July 1—Even the Black Sheep Has A Shrine

*Dr. Michael S. Franch, Dean of the AEU National Leaders Council*

"My black sheep brother, reconnected after years in which his whereabouts were unknown to the family, lay dying," says Dr. Franch. "I discovered that his circle of friends, coworkers, and neighbors held him in high regard and deep affection. There was more to David than I had realized. There's always more to other people than we realize. Our religion addresses part of that when it talks about worth and dignity. It also provides a ladder so we can, in the words of Felix Adler, "surmount those walls which surround the shrine" in the other. If we don't try, we ourselves are spiritually dead."

Dr. Franch, a past Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society for nine years and currently Dean of the AEU National Leaders Council, is affiliate minister at First Unitarian Church, Baltimore. Trained as a historian, he has spent most of his career in health care policy with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. A man of many facets, he likes English country dancing, which he also calls; is an urban bicyclist, and plays the concertina.

The shared charity today is LEAF (Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future).

### July 8—Embracing Contradictions

*Fritz Williams, Leader Emeritus,  
Baltimore Ethical Society*

In his first visit to the NY Society in several years, Fritz Williams shares a core component of his personal philosophy. Instead of choosing Aristotle's middle way, Fritz calls for embracing contradictions and polarities and doing so with genuine gusto. At the heart of this approach is a belief in becoming deeply involved in the struggles and issues of modern life, while at the same time cultivating an attitude of transcendence. He believes in caring deeply and being beyond caring—living in a way that combines both East and West.

At the Baltimore Society, Fritz is remembered fondly for the pastoral quality of his work and the power of his religious and ethical messages framed in personal narrative. Before becoming a Leader, he had served as a parish priest in the Episcopal Church, and worked as a writer and producer at public TV stations in Harrisburg, PA, and Detroit. His productions include "Peace-work," the centerpiece of a Pennsylvania educational campaign against family violence; "Parenting Puzzle" and "Gunsense," Emmy-winning productions for Detroit Public TV; and "The Pennsylvania Germans," a cultural history that aired on public TV stations across the country and on German TV. Since retiring, he has produced a video including nine of his stories for children, and is editing two books based on talks he has given in Baltimore and writing poetry and short stories.

The shared charity is Compassion and Choices.

### July 15—A Year of Living Ethically

*Susan Rose, AEU Dean of Leadership Training*

We all want to live our lives as ethically as possible, but how do we do that on a day-to-day basis, how do we sustain living ethically? *No Impact Man* is a 2009 American documentary directed by Laura Gabbert and Justin Schein. The film, which premiered September 4, 2009, follows Colin Beavan and his family during their year-long experiment to have sustainable zero impact on the environment, and others who have undertaken specific projects, changing their behaviors for a year or more. What can we in Ethical Culture learn from their work?

Susan Rose also serves as Leader of the Ethical Society Without Walls, and has been on the AEU Board and a number of its national committees. She was raised in Ethical Culture, and with her family attended the Brooklyn Society. She lives in Cambridge, MA, and is the mother of two young adults, one of whom will be performing at the NY Society on July 28 with the band Kina Zoré.

The shared charity is the Rose Walker Foundation.

### July 22—Alain Locke: Muse of the Harlem Renaissance, Philosopher of Cultural Pluralism, and Friend of Ethical Culture

*Bob Berson, Leader*

The African-American philosopher Alain Locke wrote extensively on cultural pluralism, as well as on literature and the arts. Best known for conceiving and editing the pioneering and influential collection *The New Negro* (1925), he has been called the father of the Harlem Renaissance. Born in Philadelphia, he studied at Harvard (with, among others, William James)

and became the first black Rhodes Scholar before earning his doctorate and beginning his long cosmopolitan career teaching at Howard University, stimulating writers and artists in New York City, and traveling widely.

This address will sketch his biography and describe some of his work and then will emphasize a much less well-known part of his life, his relationship to Ethical Culture.

The shared charity—100 Suits for Men.

### **July 29—Development: Sustainable And Ethical**

*James White, Leader*

We must expand both our consciousness and our activism for sustainable development. But it is essential, as well, to focus on the material needs of all of our sisters and brothers worldwide who are now barely surviving. What kind of changes—economic, political, and spiritual—are necessary both to mitigate the horrors of climate change and to guarantee that each person on earth flourishes to the fullest? Answering this question and responding with consistent action is a daunting challenge we now face!

James White is the Leader of the Riverdale Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture and previously led the Essex Society. He is encouraged by RYSEC's leadership in the struggle to ban fracking in New York and by the formation of a new Social Action Team, which has already begun vigils for peace in the Bronx. He is also co-Chair of Congregations for Justice and Peace in Harlem, and joins with both RYSEC and CJ&P in ongoing support for the family and friends of Ramarley Graham.

By day Jim is a NY State attorney representing psychiatric inpatients at four hospitals.

The shared charity is RYSEC Tree and Roof Fund.

**July 29, 1:30 pm–5:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall. **Development: Sustainable and Ethical!** A family-friendly celebration. James White will be the presenter; the featured band is Kina Zore. Members \$10, the public \$15.

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### **August 5—Though You Have Broken Your Vows a Thousand Times**

*Jone Johnson-Lewis, Leader, Northern Virginia Ethical Society*

From a quote by the poet Rumi: “Though you have broken your vows a thousand times, come, yet again, come”—this is a reflection on how we deal with a world of imperfection, including our own imperfections, failures, and limitations. We have goals—personal goals, relationship goals, ethical goals—which are promises to ourselves and others. Yet we often don't achieve them. How do we support each other in keeping to our vision, our goals, and our vows?

The shared charity this week is Dress for Success.

### **August 12—Is Anything Sacred?**

*Mary Herman, Leader*

Science has plumbed many of nature's deepest mysteries, and free enterprise capitalism has turned the planet into one vast marketplace. One wonders, then, “Is nothing sacred any more?” Do

we really need a sense of the sacred and, if so, where might we look for it? Mary Herman will explore what is meant by “the sacred” in Ethical Culture and through the words of the American poet, Walt Whitman.

Mary is one of the two Leaders of the Washington Society and has been a member since 1980. Her areas of leadership include membership, celebrations, adult education, compassionate care, Deepening Circles, affinity groups, women's programs, leadership development, annual pledge campaign, life passage ceremonies, and pastoral counseling. In 2006 she served as staff advisor to the capital campaigns to expand the WES Meetinghouse and make it accessible. She is a graduate of the Humanist Institute in New York. Mary holds a master's degree in human development from the University of Maryland and two bachelor's degrees, one in fine arts and the other in psychology. She lives in Silver Spring with her husband, Gene, a small business owner.

The shared charity today is Clearwater Foundation.

### **August 19—The Ache for Home**

*Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader*

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”

*—Maya Angelou*

Every person deserves that sacred place we call “home.” Respect for human worth demands it. From its inception, Ethical Culture has worked to assure decent housing for all.

Founder Felix Adler did so when serving on the New York State Tenement House Commission, and Leader John Lovejoy Elliott demanded homes for the poor of New York's Chelsea neighborhood. This talk weaves Ethical

Culture history with reflections about the “specialness” of “home.”

Hugh Taft-Morales is Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia and the Baltimore Ethical Society. He serves as Secretary of the American Ethical Union’s National Leaders Council and writes the *AEU Ethical Action Report*. Hugh graduated from Yale University in 1979 and earned a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Kent at Canterbury. He taught philosophy and history for 25 years in Washington, DC. He joined Ethical Culture around 1994, and served on the Board of the Washington Ethical Society from 2002 to 2006, the last year as President. In 2010 he was certified as an Ethical Culture Leader.

The shared charity is NYSEC’s Women’s Shelter.

#### **August 26—Ethics and the Theater**

*Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides*

Today’s Platform—**Ethics and the Theater** reading of two short plays from *How Long is Never? Darfur: A Response*.

The plays were written by members of the Tricycle British writers’ group in response to a comment made by Mia Farrow after her visit to Darfur as a UNICEF representative. She said: “We all have a duty to ensure that this crisis did not slip off the international agenda.”

The plays are a call to action for the international community to end this war against women and children. Dick Van Deusen directs the cast.

The shared charity is Haiti Charity.

**The Early Sunday Morning 10:00 AM** programs and the **Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM** programs will resume on Sunday, September 9.

## **Summer Sunday Volunteers Needed**

*Amy Schwarz*

NYSEC’s Summer Sunday program meets for 10 weeks, from **July 1 at 10:30 am** through **Labor Day**, and volunteers are needed to replace me as coordinator/greeter during that period. If there are five volunteers, each could take two Sundays convenient to your schedules, and I’ll take the dates that are not filled. I will put together a schedule one month at a time to allow for volunteers’ summer plans.

Your responsibilities will include: show up at least 15 minutes prior to the program; hand out programs while welcoming attendees (this is actually fun), ask an attendee to assist with gathering and adding up the collection, count the number of people present (Moe-Swe will also help), and give Moe-Swe the money collected.

To respond: please see me; phone me (home: 212-666-5219, work: 212-547-0659; or email me at [schwarz@frick.org](mailto:schwarz@frick.org)).

## **Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon**

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from **12:00 noon to 1:30 pm**. This summer we’ll discuss **miscellaneous topics**.

**July 5—“Why the Mandate Is Constitutional: The Real Argument”** by Ronald Dworkin, *The NY Review of Books*, 5/10/12.

**July 12—“Why Afghan Women Risk Death to Write Poetry”** by Eliza Griswold, *The New York Times*, 4/27/12.

**July 19—“Has Physics Made Philosophy and Religion Obsolete?”** by Ross Anderson, *The Atlantic*, April 2012.

**July 26—“Can You Call a Nine-year-old a Psychopath?”** by Jennifer Kahn, *The NY Times*, 5/11/12.

**August 2—“Big Changes in Black America?”** by Darryl Pinckney, *The NY Review of Books*, 5/24/12.

**August 9—“Background America: One Nation, Under the Gun”** by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 4/23/12.

**August 16—“The Unabomber’s Pen Pal”** by Jeffrey R. Young, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 5/20/12.

**August 23—“When He Dined, the Stars Came Out”** by Pete Wells, *The NY Times*, 5/8/12; **“Contentment’s Elusive Recipe”** by Frank Bruni, *The NY Times*, 4/9/12; and **“Our Readers See Stars, and Ask Why”** in *The Diner’s Journal* by Pete Wells, *The NY Times*, 3/13/12.

**August 30—“Death by Treacle”** by Pamela Haag, *The American Scholar*, Spring 2012.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders’ office. Join the discussion.

## **Our Ethical Family**

*Moe-Swe Myint*

Please welcome new member **Barbara Gold**, a college assistant at Queens Col-

lege's Urban Studies Department and a student at the Art Students League.

**Barbara** has been attending our Sunday Platforms and Poetry Readings frequently. She is interested in art, poetry, and literature, and collects Depression Era glass.

\* \* \*

The **Advocacy Forum** presented a panel on "The Resurgence of Misogyny" on May 29. We'd like to thank our wonderful members who volunteered at this event: **Vincent Bran-cato, Paula Claycomb, Dan Hanson, Monica Weiss, and Tod Whitaker**. We very much appreciate their enthusiasm and willingness to always help out at Society functions.

\* \* \*

On June 5, Maria Fridman, Chair of the **Women's Shelter** and the **Shelter Committee**, arranged a dinner for our shelter guests and the volunteers who have helped with the shelter. It was a great occasion to honor those who give so generously of their time and effort to help others help themselves. (See photo story starting on page 12.)

\* \* \*

On Friday, June 8, the **Membership Committee** organized a **Potluck Dinner**. About 50 people attended, including friends and nonmembers as well as members. Ceremonial Hall looked beautiful (compliments of Tod Whitaker) and the selection of food and wine was wide ranging and delicious. The food represented many cuisines and cultures (African, Asian, Jewish, Italian, Mexican, French, to name a few) and there was a wonderful selection of both vegetarian and meat-based dishes. Tod, Danny Choriki and Leader Anne Klaeysen spoke

briefly to welcome everyone but the evening was purely social, and proved to be a wonderful way to get to know each other and prospective members in a very relaxed setting. Feedback has been very positive, and we hope to schedule more of these fun events. The evening had a wonderful sense of inclusiveness and community. (See page 8 for a look.)

\* \* \*

We'd like to thank all the members who volunteered for cashiering duty at brunch since we started having it in the school's cafeteria on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor: **Virginia Arnold, Pat Berens, Carole Chamlin, Pat Cohen, Ken Gans, Dan Hanson, David and Valerie Leiman, Stephanie Rosenblatt**, and the late **Barbara Levenson**. And, please give a big round of applause to **Pat Debrovner** for the great job she has been doing taking care of the catering and ordering for the brunches.

\* \* \*

Society members **Stephanie Rosenblatt** and **Dr. Ruth Cohen** received the Anna Garlin Spencer award at the American Ethical Union Assembly in Albany, NY, for their dedicated volunteer service. Congratulations!!!



(L-R) **Stephanie Rosenblatt, Andra Miller, and American Ethical Union President Jennifer Scates** at the AEU Assembly.



(L-R) **Jennifer Scates, Dr. Ruth Cohen, and Andra Miller**.

\* \* \*

#### Member News:

The following members are celebrating birthdays in July: **Marvin Liebman**, 7/22; **William Kulok**, 7/24; **Janice Buzby**, 7/25; **Joan Blumberg**, 7/26; **Robert Hofman**, 7/26; **Kathleen O'Connell**, 7/26; **Monica Weiss**, 7/26 **Florence Falk-Dickler**, 7/27; **Leonard Farbman**; 7/28.

The following members are celebrating birthdays in August: **Susan Needles**, 8/3; **David Lee**, 8/6; **Nicola DeMarco**, 8/7; **John Lovelady**, 8/11; **John Kreuttner**, 8/12; **Sara Seiden**, 8/12; **Phyllis Harrison-Ross**, 8/14; **Janet Jeppson Asimov**, 8/16; **Barry Gurland**, 8/17; **Carolyn Sapir**, 8/18; **Carol Van Deusen**, 8/19; **Lily Friedman**, 8/20; **Leah Lieberman**, 8/22; **Alan Gardner**, 8/26; **David Leiman**, 8/27; **Sabine Rosenberg**, 8/27; **Sondra Stein**, 8/29; **Jane Ungar**, 8/29.

\* \* \*

#### In Memoriam

Robert Collier, father of Leader Curt Collier, hard worker, life of the party, grand adventurer, died peacefully at 8:30 pm, on Friday, May 25. Many of you knew him and appreciated his humor and kindness. As Neruda said "I have loved, and have been loved, the sun has caressed my face. Life you owe me nothing, life we are a peace."

## Getting To Know Each Other at NYSEC's Potluck Dinner

*Photos by Patrick Arenas, except as noted*



(L-R) Dr. Judith Wallach,  
Cheryl Gross, and  
Valerie Leiman.



(L-R) Tod Whitaker, Andra Miller, and Marilyn Baker  
serve David Leiman (shown). (Photo by William Baker.)



(L-R) Phyllis Rosenfeld, a guest,  
and Peter Stewart.



(L-R) Rosie and Vincent Brancato and Peter and Mary Houts.



(L-R) Susan Needles, Alex  
Mogieleff, and Beverly New-  
man, with Pat Debrovner  
(background).



Dr. Maria Felix Fridman.

# Ethical Enrichment

## Ethics in Film

Chris Everett



Join us on **Friday, July 6, 7:00 pm** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall, to see *Crash* (2004), directed by Paul Haggis.

Tensions erupt when the tangled lives of a Brentwood housewife, her district attorney husband, a Persian shopkeeper, two cops, a pair of car-jackers, and a Korean couple converge over a 36-hour period in the diverse metropolis of post-9/11 Los Angeles. Sandra Bullock, Brendan Fraser, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Thandie Newton, and Terrence Howard costar in this Oscar-winning Best Picture from writer-director Paul Haggis.

The suggested donation is \$5, and includes snacks and beverages. Afterward, join me in our usual lively post-film discussion.

\* \* \*

Join us again on **Friday, August 3, 7:00 pm** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall as we screen *The Road to Wellville* (1994), directed by Alan Parker.

The film is based on T. Coraghessan Boyle's best-selling novel satirizing late-19<sup>th</sup> century health fads. Will and Eleanor Lightbody (Matthew Broderick and Bridget Fonda), guests at the health spa of cereal mogul Dr. John Harvey Kellogg (Anthony Hopkins), are forced to undergo an array of hilariously absurd medical treatments. Meanwhile, a con artist (John Cusack) and Kellogg's adopted son (Dana Carvey) plot to steal the doctor's coveted corn flake recipe.

The suggested donation is \$5, which includes snacks and beverages. Afterward, join me and the audience in our post-film discussion.

## Ethics in Literature Reading Group

Come on **Monday, July 9, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**, to the Elliott Library, Room 507, where Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen will host a discussion on *The Challenge for Africa* by Wangari Maathai—and speak up.

The troubles of Africa today are severe and wide-ranging. Yet, too often, they are portrayed by the media in extreme terms connoting poverty, dependence, and desperation. In this book, Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement, offers a unique perspective on these challenges, even as she calls for a moral revolution among Africans themselves. Illuminating the complex and dynamic nature of the continent, Maathai offers “hardheaded hope” and “realistic options” for change and improvement. She deftly describes what Africans can and need to do for themselves, stressing all the while responsibility and accountability.

There is no charge for members; the public's suggested donation is \$5.

## Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **Monday, July 16, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen

in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Life In a Day* (2011).

What do you get when you ask the people of the world to chronicle a single day in their lives? You get 80,000 submissions, 4,500 hours of footage, from 192 countries. Kevin Macdonald has taken this raw material, all shot on July 24, 2010, and created a 90-minute paean to what it means to be human in the world today.

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

## Ethics and the Theater

*Patricia Bruder Debrowner*

On **Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, Ethics and the Theater will present *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.



*Natalie Kropf*

As the Gestapo roamed Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, eight Jews hid in an attic for over two years, keeping silent during the days, coming to life in the evenings, trying to maintain some normalcy despite the constant fear of discovery. We know their story because it is recorded in the diary kept by one of them, the adolescent Anne Frank. Her journal, however, reveals more than the details of survival in unconscionable circumstances. It also, most affectingly and, ultimately tragically, shows Anne blossoming into a vital young woman and talented writer—a blossoming cut short before

its full flowering by her death in a concentration camp.

Goodrich and Hackett's dramatization of the diary captivated both audiences and critics with its portrayal of human heroism as well as frailty, and its evocation of the resilience of the human spirit.

Elaine Berman directs the cast, which features Natalie Kropf in the role of Anne. Natalie is a granddaughter of member Sabine Rosenberg who, with the help of her family, managed to escape from the Hague and survive the Holocaust. The other cast members are Bonnie Bean, Carole and Jerry Chamlin, Pat Debrovner, John Gurney, Dan Hanson, Greg Redlawsk, and Jill Usdan. Come at **6:30 pm** for a wine and cheese reception and, after the reading, participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play, led by Dr. Anne Klaeysen. The suggested donation is \$5. Ceremonial Hall.

## Writing Classes Summer Workshop

*Elaine Berman*

Each summer NYSEC's nonfiction writing workshop, **The Joy of Personal Writing**, offers a five-week semester. In these sessions participants keep on writing, and newcomers have a chance to get "a toe in the water." We welcome new workshop members, including both people who want to get started writing and those with more experience.

This summer we'll meet on **Thursday evenings, August 2 to August 30, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, in Room 508. The course fees are \$100 for members and \$140 for nonmembers. For more information, call Yalitza Garcia at 212 874-5210, ext. 118.

If you'd like to read pieces by current and past workshop writers, please visit our Web site, [www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space](http://www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space).

## Developing a Language of Compassion

"What I want in my life is compassion, a flow between myself and others based on a mutual giving from the heart."

*—Marshall B. Rosenberg*

Join us on **Tuesdays, July 10 to 31, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a new series of workshops, **Developing a Language of Compassion**, led by Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen.

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is founded on language and communication skills that strengthen our ability to remain lovingly connected to other people, even under trying con-

ditions. It contains nothing new; all that has been integrated into NVC has been known for centuries. The intent is to remind us about what we already know—how we humans were meant to relate to one another—and to assist us in living in such a way that manifests this knowledge.

Dr. Klaeysen will guide participants in reframing how we express ourselves and hear others. Instead of being habitual, automatic reactions, our words become conscious responses based firmly on an awareness of what we observe, feel, and need. Developing a language of compassion means learning to express ourselves with honesty and clarity, while respecting, and empathizing with, others.

Participants must register with Yalitza Garcia at [ygarcia@nysec.org](mailto:ygarcia@nysec.org) or 212-874-5210, ext. 118. The sessions are free to NYSEC and AEU members; a \$5 donation is requested for nonmembers.

## Poetry Corner Who Will Stop the Future?

*Abe Markman,  
Member, Environment Stewardship Committee*

I went to the movies and there were no shows.  
I went to the clothiers and there were no clothes.  
I went to the market and there was no food.  
I visited the farm and there was no harvest.  
I opened the spigot and there was no water.  
I went to the *TI*MES and there was no news.  
I went to Wall Street and there was no one to Occupy.  
I looked in the mirror and there was no one to see.  
Who will stop the future?

## Green Kitchen Initiative

*Dr. Ruth Cohen*

Thank you all for your interest and support. The **Green Kitchen Initiative** will be accepting your Dollar Day Drive donations throughout the summer. As we pay for our lunches (brunches and bagels in the cafeteria on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, or in Ceremonial Hall), we hope you will continue to place your dollar contributions into the little baskets at the front desk as you enter.

We look forward to continuing this endowment fund for the Green Kitchen, so that we can have an assessment of need and the funds to purchase the appropriate equipment when the time comes.

## Close-up on Committees

*Elinore Kaplan*

## Caring—The Essence of Community

I looked up the word “community” in several online dictionaries, but only Merriam Webster includes a definition that begins to approach what I was looking for: “an interacting population of various kinds of individuals...,” but doesn’t quite get there. None of the definitions even hints at those interacting people caring about one another; nothing about caring!

Caring is probably integral, nevertheless, to many communities. In light of its not being mentioned in dictionary definitions, one might infer that caring is a tacit element. At NYSEC, however, it’s far from tacit;

it’s explicit. Here, it would be virtually unthinkable to have community without caring. We actually have, and have had for many years, a committee specifically devoted to caring.

No, you don’t have to be on the committee to care. All of us care. We congratulate each other on various celebrations and milestones—birthdays, anniversaries, marriages, births, awards; we extend our condolences over losses; inquire about trips and vacations; and we note to one another that so-and-so is sick, or we haven’t seen him or her for a while. That’s where the **Caring Committee** comes in, reaching out to members who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons: they are home-, hospital-, or nursing home-bound, or “under the weather,” or perhaps depressed. Maybe there was no answer when another member called repeatedly, or that person used to be a regular attendee but hasn’t been coming for a while. Whatever the reason may be, it’s time to notify the Caring Committee. From making phone calls to paying in-person visits, the committee reaches out to members.

Think of it. There you are, part of this “interacting population,” this “social group,” for months, years, maybe a lot of years. And then, one day, you’re not. You don’t show up. Does anybody notice, or care? Yes, not only do fellow members notice, but the Caring Committee will reach out to see what’s up and how you’re doing. For years the committee was ably chaired by **Virginia Scherer**, still an active, enthusiastic member and working with current Chair **Stephanie Rosenblatt**. Other members include **Marilyn Baker, Bonnie Bean, Bob Berger, Ken Gans, Heather Grady, John Lovelady, Joseph Marvel, Law'nence Miller, and Patricia O'Malley**. They are all eager to talk with, visit, and lend a hand or a compassionate ear to members.

They do need our help. When you are aware of someone who could use a call from the committee, call or email Stephanie Rosenblatt at: 212-586-0017 or [stephaniero@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniero@gmail.com). Carson McCullers wrote, in *The Square Root of Wonderful*, “The closest thing to being cared for is to care for someone else.” Fitting, don’t you think?

## Photography Arts Club

*Valerie Leiman*

Members and guests expressed delight and amazement at the dramatic contrasts in photography demonstrated by Dr. Charles Debrovner at the **Photography Arts Club** program on Sunday, June 3.

A discussion of technical terms was followed by a “before and after” display of sets of photographs in color, utilizing the technique of high dynamic range imaging (HDRI) and demonstrating the dramatic range of contrasting options for beginner and experienced “Shutterbugs.”



*Dr. Charles Debrovner leads a discussion on technical terms.*

## Shelter Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

*Barbara Litke*

The evening of June 5 was weather-perfect. Our **Shelter Volunteer Appreciation** festivities were co-hosted by NYSEC's Social Service Board and our untiringly dedicated Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman, Coordinator of the Women's Shelter, whose resolute commitment to the nightly operations of the shelter has kept it ongoing as a much-needed service to the women who come each night.

Volunteers and friends reunited in camaraderie over wine and up-to-the-minute talk, talk, talk. An atmosphere of pleasure permeated the event. Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, and Andra Miller, President, each spoke about the gratification that service to the shelter has given them. Ceremonial Hall echoed with the high spirits of the evening that included the presence of our shelter guests.

Before the evening was ended, Maria Fridman presented a certificate of appreciation to each volunteer, which was accepted with "pride of service." Then a special certificate of thanks was presented by Anne Klaeysen to Maria, to much rousing applause.

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chair, was not able to attend, and sent her regards and thanks to all the participants.

Society volunteers attending were: Andra Miller; Maria Fridman, her daughter Stephanie and son-in-law Robert Podmore; Pat Cohen; Law'nence Miller; Christopher Bernhardt; Patrick Arenas; Bonne Bean; and I. Society volunteers who didn't attend the dinner were: Paula Marie Claycomb, Vincent Brancato, John Hwang, Chester Land, Sabine Rosenberg, and Lisa Woodul.

Society friends volunteers who attended included: Elder Maxwell, Diana Glantecnik, June Tuttle, Michelle Hu, Craven Bryan, Paul Ribeiro, and Elizabeth Ducat. Society friends volunteers not attending were: Ed Fitzgerald, Judi Caron, and Janice Berzeh.

Society friends of the shelter attending were: Helen Mecs, Tod Whitaker, Carol and Richard Van Deusen, Lucile Kleinman, and Eva Yachnes.

Attendees from the Olivieri Center included: Valencia Shelton and six guests.

*Photos by Maria Fridman.*



(L-R) Patrick Arenas and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen.



(L-R) President Andra Miller and Pat Cohen.

## **Shelter Volunteer Dinner (continued)**



(Front row L-R) Richard and Carol Van Deusen and Tod Whitaker. (Back row) Patrick Arenas.



(L-R) Elder Maxwell and Maria Felix Fridman.



(Front row L-R) Volunteers: Craven Bryan and Paul Ribeiro.

(Back row L-R) Volunteers: Michelle Hu, Diana Glantecnik, and Elizabeth Ducat.



(Front row L-R) Bonnie Bean; Chris Bernhardt; and guest, June Tuttle.

(Back row) Friend of the Society Barbara Litke.

# Summer Calendar

## **July Calendar**

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

### **Morning Platforms**

Sundays, 10:15 am–Ceremonial Hall

### **Board of Trustees**

Monday, July 2, 6:30 pm  
Adler Study, Room 514

### **Wisdom and World Affairs**

Tuesdays, July 3 and 17, 6:00 pm  
Room 508

### **Strength Exercise Class**

Wednesdays, (except July 4), 1:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507  
Members \$5, nonmembers \$8  
per class

### **Society Offices Closed**

Wednesday, July 4—Observance of  
Independence Day

### **Lunch Discussions**

Thursdays, 12:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507

### **Empowering Ethical Elders**

Thursdays, July 5 and 19, 6:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507

### **Ethics in Film**

Friday, July 6, 7:00 pm, (doors open  
6:30 pm)—Ceremonial Hall  
*Crash* (2004), directed by Paul Haggis

### **Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group**

Monday, July 9, 1:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507  
*The Challenge for Africa*  
by Wangari Maathai

### **Developing a Language of Compassion**

Tuesdays, July 10–31, 6:30 pm  
Adler Study, Room 514

### **Ethics in Film:**

#### **Contemporary Documentaries**

Monday, July 16, 1:00 pm  
Adler Study, Room 514  
*Life In a Day* (2011)

### **Ethics and the Theater**

Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 pm  
(cheese and wine reception 6:30 pm)  
Ceremonial Hall

*The Diary of Anne Frank*, directed by  
Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

### **Ethical Adventures trip to Wave Hill**

Saturday, July 21, 10:30am  
Meet at Grand Central Station

### **Development: Sustainable and Ethical!**

Sunday, July 29, 1:30 pm–5:00 pm  
Ceremonial Hall  
A family-friendly celebration,  
featuring the band Kina Koré

### **Social Service Board**

Tuesday, July 31, 6:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507

## **August Calendar**

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

### **Morning Platforms**

Sundays, 10:15 am, Ceremonial Hall

### **September Newsletter Deadline**

Wednesday, August 1

### **Lunch Discussions**

Thursdays, 12:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507

### **Empowering Ethical Elders**

Thursdays, August 2 and 16, 6:00 pm  
Elliott Library, Room 507

### **Thursday Writing Workshop**

Thursdays, 6:30 pm  
Room 508

### **Ethics in Film**

Friday, August 3, 7:00 pm, (doors  
open 6:30 pm), Ceremonial Hall  
*The Road to Wellville* (1994),  
directed by Alan Parker

### **Wisdom and World Affairs**

Tuesdays, August 7 and 21, 6:00 pm  
Room 508

### **Ethics on the Air (WBAL-99.5 FM)**

Wednesday, August 15, 10:00 pm

# Membership Retreat

## 2012

Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

### LATEST INFORMATION

- Rooms with semi-private or shared baths still available  
*Preference given in order of deposit*
- Total weekend costs (all prices are per person)  
*Includes 2 nights, 6 meals, all activities, Friday night party and Saturday night special guest event*
  - Single Occupancy \$300 - \$330
  - Double Occupancy \$200 - \$250
- \$100 deposit per person should be paid by Sunday July 15
  - Payment in full due by Sunday August 26
  - Confidential financial assistance available based on need
  - Convenient transportation by bus or car

For more information contact

Moe-Swe: Sun -Wed, 9am - 4:30pm 212.874.5210 x113

Sheila: (best times) Mon - Sat, 9am -10am or 8pm - 9pm 212.751.7255

**The New York Society for Ethical Culture is a welcoming home for humanists. We've provided nontheistic services in a congregational setting since 1876. We embrace the diversity of our city and invite all to join us in celebrating life's joys, supporting one another through life's crises, and working together to make the world a better place.**

*Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. Members are committed to personal ethical development in their relationships with others and in activities involving social justice and environmental stewardship.*



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