

E T H I C A L O U T L O O K

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Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 10:15 AM–Ceremonial Hall

July 4
Is Immigration a Human Right?
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Jamie Scott Presides

July 11
**The Changing Face of America:
Crossing the BLVD: Strangers,
Neighbors, Aliens in a New America**
Judith Sloan, Author
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

July 18
**How to Make Pesto From Scratch
(And Other Life Lessons)**
Curt Collier, Leader

July 25
Philosophy of Mind Sampler
Dr. John O. Gurney, Jr., NYSEC member

August 1
Summer School: Ethical Culture 101
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

August 8
**Got Peace? Can there be peace
without justice, human rights,
and mutual respect? What can
the Italian-Ethiopian efforts at
peace teach us, if anything? Why
should we care?**
Nicola DeMarco, NYSEC member

August 15
Deed, Creed, and Greed
Andra Miller, President
Joseph Marvel Presides

August 22
**Growing Humanism in Our
Faith-Based Society**
Roy Speckhardt, Exec. Dir., AHA
Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

August 29
Ethics and the Theater–
First a Home
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

September 5
Topic: TBA
*Matt Ryan, Coordinator, Jobs
With Justice*

July and August

President's Notes

Andra Miller



It's time again for the annual American Ethical Union Assembly. I always look forward to this chance to meet old friends I've made from the Lay Leadership Summer School, at past Assemblies, and from serving on the AEU Board. And I find it refreshing to gather with people from Societies far different from ours, as they bring a special enthusiasm that I enjoy. Now, mind you, I've always thought that the New York Society is extra-special (well, New York itself is extra-special), and I get the feeling at Assemblies that we're sort of looked up to, but our country cousins do things we city-folk never dream of. So Assemblies are places to trade stories and catch ideas.

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From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



"In Diversity there is Beauty and there is Strength"—Maya Angelou

The title of this message was the theme of the 95th American Ethical Union Assembly held in Scranton, PA, last month. Here is the entire quotation: *"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength. We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of that tapestry are equal in value no matter their color."*

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Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 10:15 AM–Ceremonial Hall

July 4–Is Immigration a Human Right?
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

A poem by Emma Lazarus is engraved on a tablet within the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty stands. The most well-known lines are:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

I've volunteered to preside at the Presidents' Council breakfast meeting on Saturday morning. I've asked for discussion subjects, and here are the questions Society presidents are asking: How do you raise funds for building expenses? Tell us about the Felix Adler interview Northern Westchester did for Founders' Day. What should be included in retirement packages for Leaders? Any special conflict-resolution techniques for handling difficult members? How do you work with the United Coalition of Reason? Does using "Humanist" in some Societies' names really attract new members? There are budget-related questions: How to cut it, and should you borrow to balance it? What are some ideas about religious education structure and curriculum? What should be done about Board members who don't pledge? So, I expect that will be an interesting morning.

And I'll be attending regular Assembly sessions on "Personal Ethical Evolution," "Alliances and Coalitions," "Our Societies, Our Platforms," and "The Role of Ethical Culture at the Parliament of the World's Religions." One of the problems in attending the

Assembly is that you can't take *all* the workshops, so I'll be missing the ones on welcoming visitors, officiant training for same-sex marriages, nonviolent communications, the Bergen political asylum project, networking to gain LGBTQ members, explaining Ethical Culture, ethical considerations in the Afghanistan conflict, exploring Ethical Culture as a vocation, and pledge campaigning. Decisions, decisions!

Going with me on the bus will be Ruth Cohen, Abe Markman (who'll be presenting a resolution about global warming), and Maria Fridman (who'll be receiving the Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award for all her "behind-the-scenes" service to our Society). We'll be meeting with Lucille Kleiman there—she's traveling with friends from the Riverdale-Yonkers Society. We'll also meet with Sharon and Jacqueline Pope—Jacqueline will be presiding at the National Service Conference Luncheon at the Assembly.

It always surprises me that more of our members don't choose to attend the Assembly and meet all those wonderful Ethical Culture people from across our nation. If you'd like to think about the 2011 Assembly in Columbus, OH, be sure to ask me or one of the six people named above about how much we enjoyed this year's Assembly.

*HAVE A MOST
 WONDERFUL
 SUMMER!*

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

Participating in these Assemblies is one of the high points of my year. It brings together Ethical Culture members from across the country to share their stories, best practices, and aspirations. Many hands go into the planning and operation of these gatherings. Our own Abe Markman presented a resolution supporting the Environmental Protection Agency which received unanimous support and provided people with an immediate ethical action: signing a letter to President Obama. The National Leaders Council, in keeping with its year-long study of LGBTQ rights, also received unanimous support for its resolution reaffirming civil rights and marriage equality for Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Questioning people and provided a letter-writing table. Both of these resolutions are posted in the American Ethical Union's website library at www.aeu.org.

Amidst all the meetings, workshops, speeches, and receptions is the platform service, which this year celebrated the confirmation of three new Leaders—Mary Herman, Amanda Poppei, and Hugh Taft-Morales, all from the Washington Ethical Society. You will soon be able to read their inspirational speeches on the Assembly's theme, and Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman's charge to them, on the Ethical Leaders Network at <http://www.aeuleaders.net/web/>.

After all the farewell embraces and promises to keep in touch, participants return home to their societies with new ideas and lasting impressions. We also return with a challenge: Reaching out to our communities to engage people in purposeful ethical action and to make our societies more diverse.



Leader Mary Herman



Leader Amanda Poppei



Leader Hugh Taft-Morales

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we should reflect upon the ethical dimensions of immigration.

July 11—The Changing Face of America: *Crossing the BLVD: Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America*

Judith Sloan, Author; Director, EarSay

As immigration policy is hotly debated around the country in terms of national and cultural security, *Crossing the BLVD: Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America*, a book and CD Judith Sloan created with Warren Lehrer, of EarSay, Inc., presents the very human stories of

why immigrants and refugees have migrated to the US and what their experiences have been since they came here pre- and post-9/11. Sloan will speak on Immigration and the Changing Face of America through stories included in *Crossing the BLVD* (<http://www.crossingtheblvd.org>).

An adjunct professor at the Gallatin School at NYU, she is a cofounder and director of EarSay (www.earsay.org), an artist-driven nonprofit bridging art and human rights in documentary and expressive form and Director of its Arts and Activism for Youth educational arts projects for displaced teenagers.

Crossing the BLVD is a chronicle of the immigrant experience in New York that describes life in the city in both its despair and boundless promise. "The first-person narratives are drawn from taped interviews, while the book's ever-changing graphics and typefaces mirror the rich pastiche of religion, language, and tradition that coexists in the borough," says the Municipal Art Society of NY. *Crossing* has received the 2004 Brendan Gill Prize, which is awarded annually for a work of art that best captures the energy and spirit of New York, and has received numerous rave reviews in the media.

Sloan has over 20 years' experience in theatre, radio, and literary and multimedia arts, and has received numerous grants and awards from various arts institutions and major organizations, including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

July 18—How to Make Pesto From Scratch (and Other Life Lessons)

Curt Collier, Leader

The mysteries of food, culture, and history will be cooked up by our "Chef-Leader," Curt Collier. His talk will explore the history of culinary delights,

most notably the “kingly” basil which was cultivated in India and taken by adoring enthusiasts around the world. Come learn, laugh, and celebrate life as Leader Collier serves up varieties of pesto on crusty bread with a side order of deep reflection and numerous other ethical morsels.

July 25—Philosophy of Mind Sampler
Dr. John O. Gurney, Jr., NYSEC member

Philosophy of mind, like other branches of analytic philosophy, runs on a steady flow of theories, arguments, counter arguments, and new theories. Modern philosophy of mind has become sophisticated and specialized. Dr. John O. Gurney, Jr., will take us through a brief look at a few episodes in this drama, a few of the arguments, some good ones and some that appear now as not so good. Some of this story may be particularly interesting to Ethical Culture leaders and members who are committed to naturalism and its rejection of some forms of spiritualism.

Dr. Gurney has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin; an MS in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan; and a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland. He has worked at the Harry Diamond Labs as a computer scientist, and as a research engineer, and at the National Science Foundation.

Aug. 1—Summer School: Ethical Culture 101

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

Whether you are a newcomer or a longtime member, there is always something you can learn about this movement founded in 1876 by a young man determined to put ethics at the center of our lives.

Felix Adler recognized the limitations of traditional religions that emphasize belief over behavior, and he sought to create a new religion that would open hearts and minds to the potential of humanity’s goodness. The concepts of worth and diversity are still key to an understanding of Ethical Culture, but over the years their philosophical underpinning has evolved.

Join me for an update on contemporary thinking about ethical religion.

Aug. 8—Got Peace? Can there be peace without justice, human rights and mutual respect? What can the Italian-Ethiopian efforts at peace teach us, if anything? Why should we care?

Nicola DeMarco, NYSEC member

Would you recognize world peace if it finally came? What about all the nations and peoples of the world who have reconciled from previous conflicts or have found ways to live in harmony without war or bloodshed, and yet their efforts and accomplishments go unnoticed? What can we learn from them? What does peace look like, feel like, sound like? Is there peace without justice? Is there peace without mutual respect? What role does reconciliation play in building true peace?

Desmond Tutu of South Africa led his nation through the Truth and Reconciliation process following the fall of apartheid. Should this be done for other previously combatting nations and people? Italy and Ethiopia have been on the road of peace since WWII. Marlon Rice and Nicola DeMarco will explore how far those nations have come and whether their efforts at building mutual respect have helped build true peace.

Nicola DeMarco has been a member of NYSEC since September of 2009. He began listening to our platforms via

radio as an elementary school student in suburban New Jersey. He taught social studies in public schools for 24 years and served twice in the Peace Corps in Namibia (1998-2000) and Kenya (2001). He trained fellow educators in Ethiopia following the fall of Communism in the 1990s and traveled to Ethiopia on three occasions. He was invited to serve on the Axum Obelisk Return Committee successfully restoring looted artwork to Ethiopia in 2005. He earned a law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1991, and served briefly as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney.

In 1981 Nicola became a public nonregistrant for the draft protesting United States foreign policy in South Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Nicola organized the Rutgers Coalition for Divestment from South Africa while a student there, helped make Rutgers and New Jersey divest their millions of dollars from apartheid.

Aug. 15—Deed, Creed, and Greed
Andra Miller, President

While we at Ethical Culture attempt to live our lives according to Dr. Felix Adler’s “Supreme Moral Rule,” there are lots of people with other agendas.

As Adler expressed it, the rule is: “*Act—or live—so as to bring out the best in others, and thereby in thyself. Live so as to permit the mental and moral growth of others, and by so doing, permit thine own mental and moral growth. Grow through making others grow.*” That’s in complete opposition to the creed of those whose goal is to enhance the corporate bottom line and thereby the cash in their pockets. We all know of the harm that is done to the world and the people in it by bottom-line ethics. What can we do as the rich get richer and the ranks of the

poor grow, as the meanies in the corporate world (not all corporations are bad) ignore the lives and environments of those they plunder, and as political systems are bought and wars fought to widen the rich/poor divide?

Hopelessness is the easy answer, but there are better ways to act. We'll check out Adler's writings for clues.

Aug. 22—Growing Humanism in Our Faith-Based Society

Roy Speckhardt, *Exec. Dir., AHA*

Is it worth risking offense to spread the humanist message? Can we be clear about our identity without ruffling faithful feathers? Humanists, whether they are religious or secular in their approach to philosophy, can unite to bring humanism to the forefront of our faith-based society.

Roy Speckhardt is Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, based in Washington, DC, where he actively promotes the humanist perspective on progressive political issues. He has appeared on CNN Headline News, Fox News, and numerous national radio programs, and has spoken before dozens of local humanist groups across the country. He also serves as a Board member of the Humanist Institute, the Institute for Humanist Studies, and the United Coalition of Reason.

Aug. 29—Ethics and the Theater
Patricia Bruder Debrovner

A reading of *First a Home*, a short play by Joni Fritz.

"People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes."

—Dame Sheila McKechnie

They are on the streets we walk along every day. Some don't notice. Others quickly look away. On any given night

in the US, approximately 672,000 people are experiencing homelessness; 37% are people with families. *First A Home* tells some of the stories behind the faces of the people living on the streets—men, women, and children with former lives and stories much the same as our own. *First A Home* is about the difference between "homeless" people and ourselves and what it is to be one of "them." It could so easily be the other way.

Ethics and the Theater has been a very popular program at NYSEC for the past five years. An increasingly loyal group of members and friends attend the monthly play readings and enthusiastically take part afterwards in our discussions about the ethical issues of the plays. Join us for an enjoyable and enlightening experience.

Sept. 5—Jobs With Justice

Matt Ryan, Coordinator of Jobs With Justice, will speak. For more information, contact the Society.

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

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

July 1—Illegal Immigration, various articles.

July 8—"What Makes a Great Teacher?" by Amanda Ripley, *The Atlantic*, Jan./Feb. 2010.

July 15—"Mission: Impossible," by Tatjana Jovanovic, on capital punishment.

July 22—"The Moral Life of Babies," by Paul Bloom, *NY Times Magazine*, May 3, 2010.

July 29—It's All Greek to Me, various articles on Greece's economy.

Aug. 5—"Does moral action depend on reasoning?"—another "Big Ques-

tion" from the John Templeton Foundation.

Aug. 12—Excerpts from *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl Wudunn.

Aug. 19—"How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America" by Don Peck, *The Atlantic*, March 2010.

Aug. 26—The Hotbed of the Middle East—various articles about Israel and Palestine.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders' Office. Please come and join the discussion.

Create Your Own Philosophy

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

When Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler wrote *An Ethical Philosophy of Life* in 1918, he shared his thinking with his readers and encouraged them to think for themselves and to develop their own philosophies of life and share them with others.

Join us for this course, which provides an opportunity for participants to do just that. We will use Leader Dr. Sheldon Ackley's unpublished text, "Beyond Truth: Finding Fulfillment in the Modern World," and other readings to explore contemporary philosophy, then devote time to articulating personal philosophies that inform the way we live our lives. The course will be given in July and August on Tuesdays, starting July 6, at 2:00 pm, in Room 507. It is open to the public, and admission is free.

RSVP to the Leaders' Office, if you plan to attend, 212-874-5210, ext. 118, or sgrube@nysec.org.

History of Ideas Through Western Art

Curt Collier, Leader

The Ethical Enrichment Committee will present a course, History of Ideas Through Western Art, on Wednesday evenings, July 7, 14, and 21, and August 4, 11, and 18, 7:30–8:30 pm, in Ceremonial Hall (except July 21 in Social Hall).

The course will attempt to answer the question, “What were those artists thinking?” We’ll explore how the evolution of Western beliefs and ideas shaped European art, and how art impacted the world of ideas. Participants will examine how the various revolutions in thought shaped what artists put on canvas and how to recognize their influences in the various artistic movements from pre-Renaissance through modern art. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to recognize the period in which most paintings were created and understand some of the influences that helped shape them. This course is perfect for those who want a deeper appreciation of art; it will forever change how you view fine art!

The course is free to members; for nonmembers the first session (July 7) is free and they pay \$50 for the rest of the sessions.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

The month of May was a busy one for NYSEC. On May 16 we noted **Founder’s Day**, with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens’s Platform Address, “Founder’s Day: Past, Present, and Future;” Matias Santiago’s Coming of Age Ceremony with his family and friends; and the Social Hour Brunch

with Member Recognition and Membership Anniversaries. Certificates of Recognition were given out to members celebrating the milestones they’ve reached as members, and new members since 2009 were welcomed into our community.

Congratulations to: Hilda Clason, Pat Cohen, Sara Dillon, Heather Grady, John Gurney, John Lovelady, Nancy McGeorge Lovelady, Jacqueline Pope, Theresa Schultz, Eric Volpe, and Dominic Zollo for reaching their **5th Anniversary**; Henry James Bunch, John Langsdorf, Ellen McBride, Kathleen O’Connell, and Tom Weishaar for their **10th**; Maria Quon and Muriel and Bob Berger for their **15th**; Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh and Florence Ottenberg for their **20th**; Charles Debrovner, Patricia Bruder Debrovner, and Selma Friedman for their **25th**; Lily Friedman and Judith and Sylvan Wallach for their **30th**; Moira Whittington for her **40th**; Edward Finfer for his **45th**; Virginia Scherer for her **50th**; Patricia O’Malley and Carolyn Sapir for their **60th**; and Richard Lawnhurst and Leah Lieberman for their **70th**. Thanks so much for being such loyal and esteemed members of the Society all these years.

We welcomed the following new members who’ve joined us since January of last year: Timothy Alexander, Gail Appelbaum, Patrick Arenas, Jo Bernard, Vincent Brancato, Stacy Cheriff, Paula Claycomb, Debra Curtis-Green, Nick DeMarco, Arlene Donar, Michele Doney, Ben Gersten, Reba Goodman, Renée Goodstein, Judith Graeff, Dina Gregory, Tunç Iyriboz, Sheila Kaplan, Tom Kennedy, David Lee, Linda Lynton, Vered Mallon, Lenny Manoff, Terry Perlin, Susan Pollet, Douglas Proops, Matthew Reiss, Stephanie Rosenblatt,

Irena Ruttenberg, Jamie Scott, Richard Van Deusen, Richard Van Horn, Tod Whitaker, Judith Zisseron, and Charles Zorn.

Special thanks should go to staffer Sheleigah Grube for extra help with the program details and to member Sheila Kleinwald and her volunteers for excellent libations and cake.

On May 18, NYSEC held a **Job Fair**, which was a rousing success, with more than two thousand people standing in a line that reached Broadway and around to 63rd Street for hours in the rain for a chance to meet with prospective employers. Thanks to all our members who volunteered: Janice Buzby, Carole Chamlin, Jerry Chamlin, Meg Chapman, Heather Grady, Sheila Kleinwald, Henryka Komanska, John Kreuttner, Abe Markman, Andra Miller, Sharon Pope, Rich Sanders, Carol Nadell Van Deusen, Richard Van Deusen, Tom Weishaar, and others. Also, thanks to volunteers: Julian Gonzalez, Mary Hannum, Chloe Hill, Emily Newman, Huston Ochoa, and Carly Scott. And, above all else, a special thanks to Leslie Doyle, who put it all together, and to the Ethical Culture staffers: Bob Liebeskind, Julie Blutstein, Sheleigah Grube, and Marlon Rice and his crew, for their hard work.

Members Dr. Maria Fridman and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, and the Social Service Board gave a dinner party for all the volunteers, staff, and guests of the Society’s **Women’s Shelter** on June 8. Certificates of appreciation were given to many volunteers for their very generous donation of time by staying overnight once a month to help the shelter guests get their lives on track. It’s a great way to help your fellow human beings and give back to the community. Maria is always looking for more volunteers so that we can keep the Women’s Shelter open five days a week. Please tell your

families, friends, and neighbors about the opportunity to volunteer. Contact Maria Fridman or Moe-Swe Myint, 212-873-5210, ext. 113, in the Membership Office. (See page 8 for more)

Leader Curt Collier's **LaCite Knitting Project** is still going strong. Please join him on Sunday, September 12 during the Social Hour. Don't know how to knit? No problem! He'll teach you; just look for the knitting table!

* * *

In Memoriam

Dr. Ruth Cohen

We are saddened to inform you that our earliest supporter of the stained glass windows benefit concerts for our Society, Dr. Shirley Schnitzer, died on May 27. Shirley, a pianist who founded the Tre Amici Trio, which performed here at the Society from 1999 through 2004, was my friend and mentor, who graciously, willingly, and unstintingly shared her expertise in performance, concert programming, and other aspects of creating our benefit concerts with me and our committee.

Shirley leaves behind her son, Michael, and other relatives. We will miss her. The Committee and our Society express our deepest condolences to Michael and the family.

**Justice for Juveniles:
A Call to Action**

Dr. Anne Klaeysen

Today, right here in New York City and State, one of the greatest challenges we face is reforming a juvenile justice system that incarcerates more than 1,600 children—the overwhelming majority of them children of color and from underprivileged families—in facilities, often far away from their homes, at a

cost of \$240,000 per child per year. At the same time, funds that could keep these children in alternative education programs are being drastically slashed.

This is a social injustice that members of the New York Society for Ethical Culture are addressing. On April 24 we hosted a conference of concerned organizations and individuals demanding immediate changes in the policies of the government agencies charged with caring for children in trouble. We are hosting a follow-up conference at the Society on Wednesday, July 21, 1:00-5:00 pm, to promote an activist agenda that incorporates recommendations made by Governor David Paterson's Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice, issued in December, 2009.

The program will begin with a panel discussion that will include Sigfrido Benetiz, Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Michelle James, Director of the Beacon Program at the Brown-Wyndham Children's Home; Dr. Divine Pryor, Executive Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, Medgar Evers College of Criminal Justice Reform; and others to be announced. Among the workshops that will follow the discussion are: "Do's and Don'ts When Stopped by the Police," presented by Abe Markman of the Lower East Side Call for Justice, "Creative Arts as Alternatives to Detention," and "Youth Employment Issues."

Ethics on the Air

Friday, July 23—Dr. Terry Perlin and Andra Miller, cohosts.

The Considerations and Controversy of Preventive Surgery

We will talk with Sharon Stanley, a courageous school teacher who, fac-

ing 60-80 percent odds of getting breast cancer, had to make a terrible decision. She'll talk about how she faced that decision, what it was like to have radical preventive surgery, and the trials and tribulations she faced before, during, and after the operation and subsequent procedures.

The Joy of Personal Writing

Elaine Berman

The Joy of Personal Writing will have a short summer semester for five weeks on Thursdays, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, beginning August 5. Led by Elaine Berman, our workshop is a safe place to start writing, stay focused, learn, and polish your skills. You can go to www.nysec.org to read some essays by our talented workshop participants.

Fees for the class are: members—\$100, nonmembers—\$140. For information and to register, call Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

Copy Machine

Robert Liebeskind

The Society has acquired a new copy machine which will be placed where our current copy machine sits and will be available for staff only.

We will move our current copy machine into Moe-Swe's Membership Office and request that all members use this machine to do their copying. Please understand that this copier is to be used for running Society materials only.

If you don't know the password, please ask any staff member and they will assist you.

Celebrating the Arts

Valerie Leiman

NYSEC's Lively Arts group was treated to an impromptu, delightful tour at the Hispanic Society of America, led by our own John Hwang. Among the museum and library's most popular collections is the Sorolla Room, which displays the work of Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida.

We learned that Sorolla was called Spain's "pintor de la luz" ("painter of light"). The Sorolla Room's magnificent, panoramic exhibit, *The Provinces of Spain*, a series of 14 huge canvases depicting 14 regions, costumes, and cultures that surround the visitor, also celebrates the vision of a gifted, world-famous artist.

The May 8 reopening of the Sorolla Room after its three-year world tour was celebrated with an "Uptown Arts Stroll Kick-Off Celebration," held on Thursday, June 3, with a "Paseo De Las Artes" sponsored by NoMAA (Northern Manhattan Artists and Arts).



Sevilla, *The Dance*, oil on canvas, 1914



Valencia, oil on canvas, 1916

Shelter Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Barbara Litke

The evening of June 8 was weather-perfect for the festivities cohosted by our Social Service Board and Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman, Coordinator of the Women's Shelter and Homeless Artist's Program. Maria's steadfast commitment to the shelter and the semi-annual artists' program keeps them ongoing.

As at each yearly dinner, the contributions of our dedicated shelter volunteers were honored. Volunteers and friends reunited in camaraderie over wine, music, and up-to-the-minute talk, talk in an atmosphere of pleasure in serving. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens; Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chair; and Andra Miller, President, addressed those present, and Law'nence "L" Miller, Volunteer-Member, made a special announcement about two of our shelter guests, Robin J. and Mikki P., who have moved into permanent hous-

ing, which added to the evening's high spirits. Best wishes to Robin and Mikki from all of us.

Ms. Ed Snowden, Volunteer Coordinator for the Partnership for the Homeless, was introduced along with Nadia Sadloski and Valencia Shelton, Respite Coordinators, representing the Olivieri Center for Homeless Men and Women. "L" read a letter from Win Jackson, long-time volunteer and representative of the Walt Disney Company, awarding a grant to Urban Pathways and the Olivieri Center, and Dr. Maria Fridman presented Certificates of Appreciation to the shelter volunteers.

Among those present and recognized were Members: Paul Berman, Lucile Kleiman, Barbara Levenson, and Richard Van Deusen; Members-Volunteers Emeritus: Frank Prescod, Virginia Scherer, Jane Ungar, and Moira Whittington; and staffers: Bob Liebeskind,

Executive Director; Julie Blutstein, Director of Development and Communication; Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate; and Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Leaders, also a volunteer. Also present were: Members-Volunteers: Ben Bean, Paula Claycomb, Pat Cohen, Chester Lane, David and Valerie Leiman, Barbara Litke, Andra Miller, Law'nence "L" Miller, and Sabine Rosenberg; Society Friends-Volunteers: Craven Bryan, Grace Campagna, Olivia Carroll, Diana Glantecnik, Kathy Gordon, Elder Maxwell, and Jane Tuttle; and Friends-Visitors: Kimberly Barker and Barbara Fennell. Not present were Members-Volunteers: Bonnie Bean, Chris Bernhardt, John Hwang, and Margaretha Jones; and Friends-Volunteers: Michael Crane, Ed Fitzgerald, Leah Freedman, Jim Heaney, Win Jackson, Mark Klecan, Pauline Kravath, and Jonna McElrath.

At the Shelter Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Photos by Dr. Maria Fridman



Andra Miller, Society President



(L-R) Barbara Levenson, Member; Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader; and Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Associate



Frank Prescod, Member Volunteer Emeritus, and friend Barbara Fennell



Law'nence "L" Miller, AEU Administrator, and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, SSB Chair



(L-R) Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman, Shelter Coordinator, and Elder Maxwell, a volunteer



(L-R) Members Helen Mecs, Barbara Levenson, and Sabine Rosenberg

NYSEC Members Call for Justice

Abe Markman

Nancy Ambruster, Virginia Arnold, and Jamie Scott joined me and members and friends of Lower East Side Call for Justice on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Our table at the wonderfully festive annual LOIS-ADA Festival and Fair was on Avenue C and 6th Street.

We petitioned to “KEEP KIDS OUT OF JAIL” and for alternatives to

detention (ATD) programs. Despite the very hot day, we gathered 277 signatures and mailed them to Governor Paterson, with copies going to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader John Sampson.

This event was a follow-up to the Juvenile Justice Conference held on April 24, at which we learned that detention for one youth for one year costs more than \$226,000. In comparison, ATD programs cost \$15,000 a year per child and do a much better job of keeping participants from getting into trouble again.

A “Titanic” Benefit

Sail On, Sail On!

On June 21, the beautiful melodies of the Broadway musical *Titanic* filled the



The *Titanic* cast sings the opening number (photo by Jamie Meditz)



(L-R) Writer/composer Maury Yeston and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen

Auditorium (along with a full house).

The Society’s second “musical in concert” benefit featured original Broadway

cast members and other prominent Broadway performers. The pre-concert discussion with Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen and writer/composer Maury Yeston was filled to capacity, and the wine and dessert reception, which followed the concert, was a festive occasion. All proceeds from the event benefit NYSEC.

For more pictures, visit www.nysec.org/titanic-the-musical-6-21-2010.

Leaders’ Advisory Council

The Leaders’ Advisory Council facilitates communication with Society Leaders. Members can contact any of us—Chris Bernhardt, Pat Cohen, Sheila Kleinwald, “L” Miller, and Tom Weishaar. See the membership directory, or call Moe-Swe Myint, 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Humanist Institute

The Humanist Institute’s Class 15 is holding its Graduation Ceremony and Alumni Homecoming event on Saturday, August 21, at the Society (Ceremonial Hall), and you’re invited!

Before the ceremony, there will be an opportunity for alumni to meet other graduates and share your memories and what you’ve been doing since graduation, and how the Institute experience changed your life. You’ll reconnect with old friends and make new friends. The “Meet and Greet” will take place from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Graduation Ceremony

Class 15 would like all friends of the Institute to join them in celebrating their graduation!

5:00 pm—Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm—Dinner Reception
7:00 pm—Graduation Ceremony

Donations would be appreciated, and will benefit future classes.



(L-R) Ann Fuller, Anthony Pinn, Bob Baerman, Maggie Ardiente, and Dr. Anne Klaeysen; Ann, Bob, and Maggie make up Class 15

Summer Calendar

July

Office hours for the month: Monday–Friday
9:00 am–6:00 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

Ethics in Film “Sci-Fi”

Friday, July 2, 7:00 pm–Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor
12 Monkeys, directed by Terry Gilliam

Supervised Visitation

Saturdays (except July 3), 9:30 am–Room 408

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:15 am–Ceremonial Hall

Society Offices Closed

Monday, July 5, observance of Independence Day

Create Your Own Philosophy

Tuesdays, 2:00 pm–Elliott Library

History of Ideas Through Western Art

Wednesdays, July 7, and 14, 7:30 pm–Ceremonial Hall
July 21, 7:30 pm–Social Hall

Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm–Elliott Library

Board of Trustees

Monday, July 12, 6:30 pm–Adler Study, Room 514

Justice for Juveniles

Wednesday, July 21, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm–Auditorium

Center for Inquiry

Thursday, July 22, 5:00 pm–Ceremonial Hall

Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)

Friday, July 23, 11:00 am
Preventive surgery, Sharon Stanley of the Long Island Society

Social Service Board

Tuesday, July 27, 6:00 pm–Elliott Library

August

Office hours for the month: Monday–Friday
9:00 am–6:00 pm

Shelter: Monday–Thursday, 7:30 pm

Morning Meetings

Sundays, 10:15 am–Ceremonial Hall

September Newsletter Deadline

Monday, August 2

Create Your Own Philosophy

Tuesdays, August 3, 10, and 17, 2:00 pm–Elliott Library

History of Ideas Through Western Art

Wednesdays, August 4, 11, and 18, 7:30 pm–
Ceremonial Hall

Lunch Discussions

Thursdays, 12:00 pm–Elliott Library

Thursday Writing Workshop

Thursdays, 6:30 pm–Room 508

Ethics in Film “Sci-Fi”

Friday, August 6, 7:00 pm–Ceremonial Hall
*Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying
And Love the Bomb*, directed by Stanley Kubrick

Ethics on the Air (WBAI-99.5 FM)

Friday, August 27, 11:00 am–tentative

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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