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(L-R) Kevin, Amy, Dan, and Clara

Teen Ethical Leadership Program Invigorates Women's Shelter

Audrey Kindred

Ethically motivated teens gather at 1:00 PM on Sundays at NYSEC for the Teen Ethical Leadership Program. You may have met them at a recent NYSEC luncheon where they often mingle with the larger community before heading downstairs to

meet one another for their day's endeavor. They meet for friendly afternoons of community service: DEED, indeed! Recently they have been working vigorously in the basement of NYSEC. Wander on down and visit.

The project they've taken on is to invigorate an area

that regularly offers shelter to NYC's women in need. The NYSEC Women's Shelter, led by Maria Fridman and serviced by volunteers from the community, is sponsored by the Ethical Culture Social Service Board and the Project for the Homeless.

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NYSEC Welcomes New Music Director

David Gracia Beltran (*pictured at left*) comes to NYSEC with more than ten years of experience in music performance and music education. He obtained both a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and a Master's in musicology from Queens College (both *Summa Cum Laude*), and was one of only ten select musicians to be awarded an Abreu Fellowship in 2010/2011 to study at the New England Conservatory of Music.

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President's Notes



A N D R A M I L L E R

Thanks to the 78 members who came to the Annual Meeting May 5 and cast their votes for the Board elections. It was inspiring to those of us who plan and produce such events to share your enthusiasm and to accept your gracious comments on the success of the day. Please turn to page 14 to read Moe-Swe's report on the luncheon program.

From the Leaders, the Board, and me, thanks to all who volunteer for the Society's Sunday chores and the work of the committees — way more than those who received recognition certificates.

I went recently to the Ethics in the News session led by one of our certificate-holders, Mary Ellen Goodman. It was a rousing session as we dug into the issues of the day — bringing each other up to speed on current events we'd missed in our own news perusal, and discussing our differences of opinion on the proper way to go, war-wise.

I defend the belief that there is no truly just war — but, of course, there are those who feel strongly about defense. And then, of course, there's the global warming issue, which brings about more controversy on what to do and how to do it.

It is discussion groups like these — Anne Klaeyen's Thursday brown-bag lunch events, Ken Gans' twice-a-month Wisdom and World Affairs

meetings, Pat Debrovner & Co.'s Ethics and the Theater, Chris Everett's Ethics in Film, the various Leader-led evening programs on the philosophical foundations of Ethical Culture and the history of our movement, and more — that are the heart of many members' involvement with the Society. Where else can you go to take part in a vigorous, informative, and enjoyable discussion?

Some have suggested to me that it would be great to bring the excitement of discussion to our Sunday meetings too. Anne told me that the Sunday Program Committee is going to include interaction in at least one program a month — so look for some more lively conversation there...

Ah, it is summertime at last. That which we have greatly wished for is now upon us. Things will wind down at the Society as we take it easy and try to stay cool. Some programs keep chugging along — for those of you with computers, check the website calendar (just browse "NYSEC Calendar") and you'll see Empowering Ethical Elders continues its regular twice-a-month meetings, and I see that Ethics in Film has an August listing.

As next month's newsletter is for both July and August, I'll "see" you again in September.

Happy summer!

Ethical Enrichment and Events



Choose Your Food

Come and join us on **MONDAYS, JUNE 24** and **JULY 1, 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

Revitalize your health and wellness with Elizabeth Collier, Certified Holistic Health Coach. Her holistic approach and philosophy of self-care will give you the tools to make sustainable changes and achieve your goals. Topics will include: Processed Foods vs. Whole Foods; Medications and the Pharmaceutical Industry; Cravings and Sugar Addiction; Emotional Eating, Dieting, and Cultural Norms; Exercise; Stress Reduction; and more. Members: \$50; Guests: \$90.

To register, contact Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

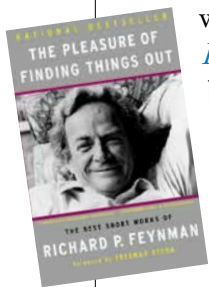
Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen

will host a discussion on *The Pleasure of Finding Things Out* by Richard Feynman.

This is a collection of the best short works of theoretical quantum physicist Richard P. Feynman — from interviews and speeches to lectures and printed articles. It presents an intimate and fascinating view of a life in science like no other.

The discussion is free for members, and \$5 for guests.



Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *Arranged* (2007), directed by Stefan Schaefer and Diane Crespo.

When Rochel (Zoe Lister Jones) and Nasira (Francis Benhamou) — an Orthodox Jew and a Muslim, respectively — meet as new teachers at a Brooklyn school, coworkers and students expect friction. But the women discover they have a shared expectation of entering into arranged marriages. As they experience tension between their traditional cultures and life in contemporary America, Rochel and Nasira form a special bond. I will lead the post-film discussion.

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



Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 7:00 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall, Ethics and the Theater will present a play reading of *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers. It is the summer of 1945. The wrenching changes sweeping the world in the aftermath of the

Continued on page 5

SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am Ceremonial Hall, Fourth Floor

JUNE 2

Healing a Culture of Torture: June is Torture Awareness Month

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader
Cheryl Gross Presides

JUNE 9

Teen Ethical Leadership
Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

JUNE 16

The Development of Moral Motivation

Michael Schulman, Ph.D.
Meg Chapman Presides

JUNE 23

Finally, An Economic System That Won't Destroy Our Planet

Curt Collier, Leader
Monica Weiss Presides

JUNE 30

The Good News Club: The Fundamentalist Assault on American Public Education

Katherine Stewart, Author
Andra Miller Presides

NOT A MEMBER?

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



Leader's Desk

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

Juneteenth: A Reflection on Race

Years ago an African-American friend who grew up in Texas told me about Juneteenth, a holiday also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas. President Abraham Lincoln issued the final version of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but it took more than two years — till June 19, 1865 — for Union soldiers to deliver the news to Texas.

The proclamation declared “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.” Thus, it was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union military victory.

Upon hearing the news, finally freed slaves celebrated, and Juneteenth was informally celebrated every year since 1865, until Texas made it an official Emancipation Day in 1979. Juneteenth, a day for African-Americans to celebrate their freedom, culture, and achievements, is now

observed in 42 states. It’s a time for barbecues and parties, as well as soul-searching and reflection.

In an age when, with the click of a button, news from around the world is accessible within seconds, it is hard to imagine such life-changing news taking so long to arrive. And perhaps some people had heard sooner, but it required the presence of Union soldiers to make it real — and enforceable.

A century and a half later we are still dealing with that news and how to enforce equality in a country still ailing from racism. Can we ever truly heal? I wonder, when I read about the “scandal” of “Umbrella-Gate”: racists furious that a US Marine held an umbrella over the head of a black US President. Some, like Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh, choose direct racial assault; others deny that a black President actually exists, claiming that Barack Obama was not born in this country and thus is not legitimate.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, senior editor of *The Atlantic*, writes, “The irony of Barack Obama is this: he has become the most successful black politician in American history by avoiding the radioactive racial issues of yesteryear, by being “clean” (as Joe Biden

once labeled him) — and yet his indelible blackness irradiates everything he touches.” After the 2008 election, Cornell Belcher, a pollster for Obama, said, “The thing is, a black man can’t be President in America, given the racial aversion and history that’s still out there. However, an extraordinary, gifted, and talented young man who happens to be black can be President.”

I was perhaps naïve to believe that Obama’s election meant that America had turned that proverbial corner and was ready to embrace a true son of a multicultural society. I felt proud to be an American, something that, having grown up in the turbulent ’60s, I had never before experienced. Then I read about the surge in gun sales, the death threats, the Republican strategy to oppose everything Obama proposed, and I despaired. Being “twice as good,” as African-Americans are still admonished to be, wasn’t nearly enough. Racism intensified, and the Tea Party was spawned with slogans like “Obama Plans White Slavery.”

I don’t agree with all of Obama’s policies; he is more conservative than I, and far from the left-wing liberal Republicans paint him. I deplore the

Continued on page 6



war seem to have left untouched the small Southern town where Frankie and

her family live. But an undercurrent of resistance can be felt. A younger generation of blacks chafes against Jim Crow. Similarly rebellious, if risking far less, twelve-year-old Frankie has traded frocks and curls for shorts and close-cropped hair. The motherless adolescent, slighted by girls her age, confides in Berenice, her family's black cook. Among other longings, she reveals her plan to leave behind the town and her distracted father by becoming a member of her older brother's upcoming wedding in a more than usually intimate sense. Frankie learns, however, along with all the characters, that life seldom follows anyone's play-book.

Elaine Berman directs our cast, which includes Casey Beidel, Barbara Fennell, Leonardo Gibson, John Gurney, Luke Hofmaier, Natalie Kropf, Madlyn Sher, and Gregory Taylor, with stage directions read by Beverly Newman. Come at 6:30 PM for a reception, and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of the play led by Betsy Ungar.

The suggested donation is \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

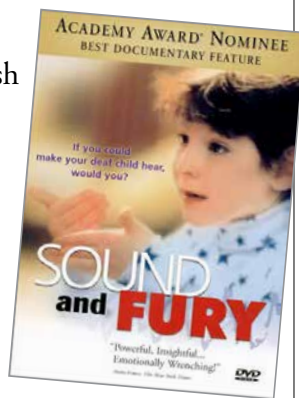
Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Adler Study, Room 514.

We'll be showing Josh Aronson's documentary *Sound and Fury* (2000).

The film takes an unexpected approach to the "medical miracle" film by examining the political and emotional turmoil that erupts between brothers over the cochlear implant that might allow their deaf children to hear.

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



Common Ground On Entitlement Reform

Come on **MONDAY, JUNE 3, at 8:00 PM** for a panel discussion, open to the public, on Entitlement Reform. The panel is cosponsored with *The Christian Science Monitor* and moderated by John Yemma, *Monitor* editor.

Entitlement reform is an issue of national importance that affects everyone. Our panelists will include Senator Judd Gregg, former Senator and Governor of New Hampshire, and Edward G. Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania, and will represent a wide range of viewpoints. *Monitor* staff will help prepare topics and frame the debate, and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Tickets are priced at \$20 and \$15 for seniors and students, and are free to *Monitor* subscribers. To purchase tickets go to www.commonground-forum.eventbrite.com. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information, call: 203-228-5049.

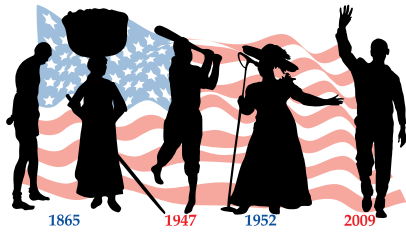
Humanist Culture Open Mic

Come on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a celebration of science, ethics, and human progress.

Bring a song, story, poem or other performance art. It can be something you wrote, or an existing piece that inspires you.

Beginners and experienced performers alike are encouraged to share. All are encouraged to listen. Send any questions to nyc@centerforinquiry.net.

Cosponsored by Center for Inquiry New York City.



Juneteenth: A Reflection on Race *(continued)*

drones, Guantanamo, and his frequent calls for god to bless us. He gives lip service to feminism but does not call for revival of the Equal Rights Amendment. The poor barely receive lip service.

But he is my President. I admire and respect him; I trust him. It is downright treasonous to try to delegitimize Obama's presidency. Let us take

the occasion of Juneteenth to wrap our minds around Coates's statement that "Barack Obama governs a nation enlightened enough to send an African-American to the White House, but not enlightened enough to accept a black man as its President." I hadn't understood that before, and it breaks my heart that it might be true.



Ethical Action

A U D R E Y K I N D R E D

Teen Ethical Leadership Program Invigorates Women's Shelter *(continued from page 1)*

The teens are painting a mural in the sleeping space of the shelter, and have plans for further renovation in the weeks ahead.

It's a joy to catch the vibe of the mural in development. The teens work mindfully and collaboratively, with calm focus. Their intentions to better the world are deeply felt and earnestly expressed. Each chose a woman to portray in the mural, one whom they deem ethically inspiring. The portraits they are creating span a diversity of values, professional fields, demographics, and time periods. The wide range expresses a value of inclusiveness with which they hope to imbue the space. The relatively dark and utilitarian basement room is blossoming now with an enlivening spirit, in honor of women.

The Teen Ethical Leadership Program always welcomes newcomers and friends. Here is an

introduction to some of the teens whom you might meet this season. Kevin and Daniel Ryans are twin brothers attending William C. Bryant High, headed to college in the fall at SUNY Geneseo and Dutchess Community College respectively. Sydney and Alessandra Riemer, also twins, are attending NYC Lab School and Beacon High, respectively. Anabel Sosa is part of the Beacon High connection. So is Delia Iliopoulou, a newer member of the group, who just moved to NYC from Greece. Olivia Antrobus, our newest member, has the unique distinction of coming from one of Ethical Culture's historical creations: the Fieldston School. Clara Malekshahi perhaps knows Ethical Culture itself most deeply, having grown up since early childhood as a NYSEC member. She will make her high school debut at LaGuardia High School

next year. Matias Santiago is a member who has been involved over the years as well. Others, it's worth repeating, are always welcome.

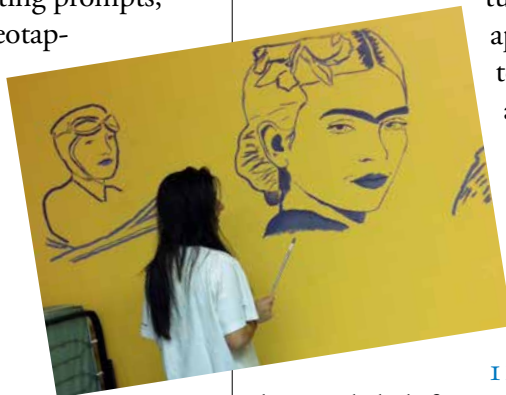
A dynamic duo of young artists guides the Teen Ethical Leadership Project. Meet Ish and Amy. Between the two of them, the palate of talents underlying this program is vast. Ishmael Islam is a performer and poet. Amy Reid is a visual artist, focused on video art and ceramics. Amy also teaches in the children's program here at NYSEC, inspiring the animation themes of its current programming. These two exude a reflective and kind openness that is both relaxing and inspiring.

Which woman did each participant choose to paint on the mural, and why? Whom might you chose? The array of portraits on the wall calls for that question. A questionnaire left overnight in the space invites the women who stay

overnight there to answer it. In developing the mural, the group made a research trip to explore another women-centered project at the Brooklyn Museum, the



exhibit of Judy Chicago's *Dinner Party*, created as an outgrowth of the Women's Movement in the 1970s. Inspired by that, the group is creating a small guidebook for sharing information and reflections about the women they chose. Ish is leading the group in poetic and reflective writing prompts, while Amy is videotaping the process as it unfolds. It is poignant to notice how the personal growth of each individual ties into the accomplishments of his or her heroine. Indeed, teenagers may find a kind of mentoring spirit for their inner aspirations through choosing inspiring people about whom to learn. This concept of addressing one's personal devel-



opment through exploration of ethical heroes is the premise of a workshop that the Ethical Teen Leadership Program contributed to the NYC Healthy Teen Relationships Conference (held at NYSEC May 17).

With generous financial support from NYSEC's Platform proceeds, the teens are expanding the mural project to include further renovation of the spaces used by the Women's Shelter, including the kitchenette. Funds supporting this endeavor are being collected in a three-month commitment of the Sunday shared charity donations. Monica Weiss, of the Society's Programming Committee, explains, "This project supports our value of helping people live with more dignity, and it empowers our teens to do a service project within the Ethical Culture framework. It will also honor the Women's Shelter and Maria's Fridman's work."

Take note of upcoming opportunities to appreciate these teen leaders and their offerings. NYSEC's morning meeting on **SUNDAY, JUNE 9, at 11:15 AM**, will be youth-led, focusing on cultivating intergenerational relations in the Society. The teens' hopes for a world where relationships between people can become more caring and more open are guiding their leadership. We will have a special

presentation about the history of the shelter and the teens' work in renovating it. We'll also have a Mural Unveiling Celebration on **FRIDAY, JUNE 21, at 6:00 PM**. Please come. This is an all-ages event, for family and friends to honor the splendid gift NYSEC's teen leaders have created. There



will be hors d'oeuvres and presentations, and the celebration is open to the public — to community members, teens, family members, educators, and friends. Reach out to invite people you know who would enjoy an experience that affirms confidence in the youth of our day. Please put the morning of **JUNE 9**, as well as the evening of **JUNE 21**, on your calendars.

Editor's note: Audrey Kindred is the program developer for young folks at NYSEC. She welcomes dialogue around the issue of NYSEC's intergenerational relations, and hopes you will reach out to teenagers in your sphere of influence and invite them to participate in the Teen Ethical Leadership Program. You may contact her at audrey@nysec.org, or EthicsForChildren@nysec.org.

Ethical Community



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

Encampment for Citizenship Resurrected

Encampment for Citizenship was a summer youth program founded in 1944 by Ethical Culture Leader Algernon Black. It was organized as a camp “at which young adults of many religious, racial, social, and national backgrounds learned the principles and techniques of citizenship in a liberal democracy through lived experience.” Eleanor Roosevelt was an early supporter of the Encampment, and in its first years she routinely invited the program to workshops at Hyde Park. Roosevelt felt naturally attached to the aspirations of the project, and she heartily defended it when the Encampment program came under attack from McCarthyite forces in the early 1950s.

By 1971, 54 Encampments had been held with more than 4,500 campers and sites including the New York City area; Puerto Rico; Berkeley, CA; Arizona; Louisville, KY; Mexico; Great Falls, MT; Denver, CO; Washington, DC; the Tohatchi

Navajo Indian Reservation, NM; and the Adirondacks. Its location often influenced the focus of a given Encampment. For example, the Adirondacks program emphasized conservation and environmental issues, while the Denver and White Plains Encampments focused more on urban social change. The program also evolved from enrolling college students to including high-school students. The Encampment continued to be held into the mid-1990s, but has not been held for several years, due to financial and other issues. At a reunion held at the New York Society for Ethical Culture in 2009, an alumni group was formed to preserve the archives and to revive and re-invigorate the program. Both goals have now been met.

This summer marks the revival of the Encampment for Citizenship. Youth from across the country and beyond will participate in an immersion experience in participatory democracy from

JULY 1 to JULY 15 in Richmond, VA. Delmance Ras Mo Moses, award-winning performance artist and community worker, will direct the program, using music, theater, and media in his work with youth across the United States and the Caribbean.

Alumni and supporters will join campers for a special event on July 13 with educator and singer-songwriter Jane Sapp. All are invited to a day of Dialogue, Exploration, and Celebration at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA. This is an opportunity to engage with new campers, tour the Encampment for Citizenship Archives, and enjoy an evening celebration of music, presentations by young people, and a panel discussion representing decades of Encampment alums.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen is representing NYSEC. For more information on how to participate on **JULY 13** and to donate to the scholarship fund, visit: <http://www.efcalumni.com/index.html>.

Advocacy Forum

Join us on **THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 7:00 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall for a panel discussion on the global and local atrocity of sex trafficking, moderated by Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader. (Come at **6:30 PM** for a wine and cheese reception).

Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry here in the US and around the world. Every day, women and very young girls are being abducted, sold, and forced into sex slavery and child prostitution.

Stuart Perrin, author; Mara Schneider, FBI Agent, Violent Crimes Against Children Squad; Gloria Browne-Marshall, Professor, John Jay College; Dipti Mehta, performer/writer; and Max Walker, ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), New York City, will help us explore the legal means for redressing issues of growing trafficking with our panel of experts.

Admission is \$5 for members, and \$10 for nonmembers.

Spring Bike Ride

Henryka Komanska

Join us on **SATURDAY, JUNE 15** for a bike ride to Wave Hill Gardens in the Bronx. Departure at **9:30 AM** from the meeting point at W 72nd street and Riverside Drive (by the stature of Eleanor Roosevelt). Ride along the Hudson River bike path to the Hudson Bridge to cross over to the Bronx. After a short ride from the bridge to the Wave Hill Gardens, enjoy the walk in beautiful gardens and an al fresco lunch (bring your own or buy lunch in the Garden). Return to the Manhattan starting point by 2:30 pm. There are a couple of short but steep hills, but otherwise a fairly flat ride. You can join or drop off at any point along the ride; just let us know if you'll be doing so. Bring water and a bicycle lock. You must have a helmet to ride with us. Rain cancels.

Each One Teach One

On April 24, the Photography Arts Club held an “Each One Teach One” workshop. The idea is to bring the community together and follow the Ethical principle to elicit the best in others, and in doing so, you will elicit the best in yourself. David Leiman taught Virginia Arnold who in turn taught Pamela McGee (with help from Valerie Lieman). Afterwards, Virginia and Pamela could go out and share their new skill to help elicit the best in family and friends.



Valerie and David Leiman



(L-R) Virginia Arnold and Valerie Lieman with Pamela McGee in the back.



Virginia Arnold



Pamela McGee

Sunday Morning Platform Meetings 11:15 am

JUNE 2

HEALING A CULTURE OF TORTURE: JUNE IS TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Cheryl Gross Presides



The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was named by the United Nations on June 26, 1997, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the date that the Convention Against Torture came into force. Torture Awareness Month honors that day and extends the campaign throughout the month so that we can learn more and take action. Everyone possesses a basic human dignity and inherent rights to the support of community and the protection of law, and therefore should in no instances be subjected to the threat or practice of torture. Any nation or society that uses and tolerates the use of torture is diminished; its collective moral authority and voice for justice are eroded. Torture, like any injustice present in our world, is a threat to all persons.

The shared charity is the National Religious Coalition Against Torture.

JUNE 9

TEEN ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides



Over the past few weeks, our teens have been transforming and beautifying our Women's Homeless Shelter by painting a mural to beautify the shelter and honor ethical heroines, and also refurbishing the kitchenette. They will share what they have learned from working on this project and their plans for further action in this multimedia presentation.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

JUNE 16

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL MOTIVATION

Michael Schulman, Ph.D.

Meg Chapman Presides



We'll explore the developmental sources of moral motivation, discuss the kinds of experiences that indicate the beginnings of moral emotions and cognitions, and review how moral motivation can be encouraged.

Dr. Schulman is a psychologist and the author of numerous books, including *Bringing Up a Moral Child: A New Approach for Teaching Your Child To Be Kind, Just, and Responsible* (1985); *The Passionate Mind: Bringing Up an Intelligent and Creative Child* (The Free Press, 1991); and *Schools as Moral Communities: A Framework and Guide for School Administrators, Principals, and Teachers* (1995), among others. He has written many articles and book chapters on moral motivation, aggression, childrearing, and acting, including articles for parents and working mother magazines. He has appeared on many television shows, has

often consulted for *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, and *Newsweek*. He also is a psychologist at Leaked and Watts Service, Inc., a foster care agency in New York. He is also Chairman of the Columbia University Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education, and Society, and has held assistant professor of psychology positions at Rutgers and Fordham Universities. He has also been an acting teacher, director, and playwright.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

JUNE 23

FINALLY, AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT WON'T DESTROY OUR PLANET

Curt Collier, Leader

Monica Weiss Presides



Tim Jackson's new book, *Prosperity Without Growth*, has been all the rage in environmental circles.

In it he lays down the foundation of a new economic system that doesn't lead to further environmental degradation. The plan calls for structural changes in our economy as well as changes in our views towards material possessions. How would your life be effected in such a system, and can we enact such changes before it's too late?

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

JUNE 30

THE GOOD NEWS CLUB: THE FUNDAMENTALIST ASSAULT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Katherine Stewart, Author

Andra Miller Presides



In 2009, a Good News Club came to the public elementary school to which Katherine Stewart sent her children. The club, which is sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, bills itself as an after-school "Bible study" program. But Stewart soon discovered that the real mission of the club is to convert children as young as five to a fundamentalist form of the Christian religion, and encourage them to proselytize to their "unchurched" peers, all the while promoting the false but unavoidable impression that its activities are endorsed by the school. Astonished to discover that the US Supreme Court has deemed this — and other forms of religious activity in public schools — legal, Stewart set off on an investigative journey across the nation to document the impact.

In her book *The Good News Club*, Stewart details how religious extremists are promoting a wide range of religious initiatives in schools. Such initiatives are intended to simultaneously infiltrate public schools and repurpose them with a fundamentalist Christian agenda, and also to destroy public education as we know it.

Katherine Stewart is the author of *The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children* (Public Affairs, 2012). Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *Religion Dispatches*, and on the Reuters wire service.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

Early Sunday Mornings 10:00 am *(Rooms are subject to change)*

JUNE 2

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 9

COLLOQUY: FAITH

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen presides. Room 408.

JUNE 16

POETRY READING

Bring some of your favorite poems and join us for the last readings until September. Maybe you'll hear a poet you've not heard before. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

JUNE 16

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 30

COFFEE 'N CHAT

Room 408.

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm *(Except as noted)*

(Rooms are subject to change)

JUNE 9

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

JUNE 23

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

We'll discuss lifestyle choices, our impact on the planet, and ways we can make a meaningful difference. Participate in serious, pragmatic, and practical discussions about culinary choices, commuting alternatives, and how our purchases aid or hamper the natural world, among other topics. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share openly with others in a supportive atmosphere. This course is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living. Admission is free. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

JUNE 30

LUNCHEON FOR GERALD RANCK

Immediately following the Platform. Ceremonial Hall.

more Ethical Enrichment...

Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — Elliott Library, Rm 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyssen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: "The World Is Too Much With Us." Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

The World is Too Much With Us

—William Wordsworth

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers,*

*For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. — Great God! I'd rather be
A pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.*

JUNE 6

"The Boston Bombers Were Muslim: So?" by Megan Garber; "After Boston: Don't Get Fooled Again by the 'War on Terror' Hawks" by Conor Friedersdorf, *The Atlantic*, 4/13; "The Lesson of Boston" by Frank Bruni, *The New York Times*, 4/27/13, and "The Culprits" by David Remnick, *The New Yorker*, 4/29/13.

JUNE 13

"The Sequester: Absolutely Everything You Could Possibly Need to Know, In One FAQ" by Dylan Matthews, *The Washington Post*, 2/20/13; "The Shameful Sequester Vote: Bad for Democrats, Worse for Democracy" by Derek Thompson, and "Who Is Defending Austerity Now?" by Matthew O'Brien, *The Atlantic*, 4/13.

JUNE 20

"7 Charts That Show Why Real Immigration Reform Might Finally Be Possible" by Garance Franke-Ruta, *The Atlantic*, 4/13, and "Immigration Bill Would Aid Security, Napolitano Says" by Ashley Parker, *The New York Times*, 4/23/13.

JUNE 27

"The McJobs Strike Back: Will Fast-Food Workers Ever Get a Living Wage?" by Sarah Joffe, *The Atlantic*, 4/13; "City Report Shows More Were Near Poverty in 2011" by Sam Robert, *The New York Times*, 4/21/13.



The following members are celebrating birthdays in June:

- JOSEPH MARVEL6/3
- BERNICE CORNYETZ.....6/6
- RUTH COHEN6/7
- CHRIS EVERETT6/7
- ELIZABETH HENDERSON...6/7
- LEE LOSHAK6/10
- TOD WHITAKER.....6/11
- LEWIS SMOLER6/15
- MARIA FRIDMAN6/17
- JEROME CHAMLIN6/19
- THERESA SCHULTZ.....6/20
- JAMES HYLAND.....6/25
- MAJID ALI.....6/27

SAVE THE DATE

**On SATURDAY, JUNE 8,
at 3:00 PM in Concert
Hall, a memorial
service will be held
for former Leader
Dr. Matthew Iles Spetter.**

Our Ethical Family



MOE-SWE MYINT, *MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE*

Our Spring potluck dinner was held the last Saturday of April, and we had a large crowd of over fifty members and friends showing up. This was a very special potluck because we were also celebrating the publication of *The Garden of Eating*, a very special book of recipes and stories by Ethical members and friends. Member Ruth Cohen played a critical role in coordinating the recipes, and Patrick Arenas was instrumental in the design and production process. Tod Whitaker also played the great host, as usual, at the dinner. Kudos to everyone involved for this incredible labor of love.

On May 5, NYSEC held our Annual Meeting in Ceremonial Hall. About 74 members showed up to cast their ballots to elect four Trustees out of six who ran for the positions. President Andra Miller started the proceedings by a call to order. Dr. Anne Klaeysen gave the Leaders' Report, Bob Liebeskind gave the Executive Director's Report, and Richard Van Deusen gave the Treasurer's Report; the President's Report was in the election packet. Carol Van Deusen, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, made the

Candidate Presentation; all the candidates were introduced and each given three minutes to present his or her platform. Tom Weishaar was unable to attend and Dan Hanson read a statement from him. Meg Chapman, Heather Grady, Tom Weishaar, and Tod Whitaker were elected. Special thanks go to John Kreuttner, Beverly Newman, and Valerie and David Leiman for serving as Inspectors of Election and to Amy Schwartz for distributing the election packets and the programs for the day. Meg Chapman announced at the close of proceedings that David Gracia Beltran has been chosen as our new Music Director.

The election was followed by a special luncheon to mark membership anniversaries, recognize new members, and honor those members whose work on behalf of NYSEC and the Ethical community has been exemplary.



(L-R) Clara Malekshahi and Maria Fridman

The 2013 Volunteer Awards were given to the following: Patrick Arenas — beautiful new design of our logo. Bonnie Bean — party decorations and Ethical Adventures leadership. Carole Chamlin — many years of commitment to the work of the Society. Ruth Cohen



(L-R front) Virginia Arnold, Abe Markman,
(L-R rear) Bob and Muriel Berger

— fundraising — most recently for the kitchen, the Butterfly Project, and care of our stained glass windows. Maria Fridman — many years of devotion to our Women’s Shelter, and work on many pledge drives. Selma Friedman — many years of editing our monthly newsletter, **ETHICAL OUTLOOK**. Mary Ellen Goodman — many years of conducting Ethics in the News sessions. The Environmental Sustainability Committee — helping us respond to the problems contributing to climate change. Elinore Kaplan — co-chairmanship of the Membership Development Committee. Tod Whitaker — Membership Development work and serving as impresario at events. Sheila Kleinwald — many years of organizing our Sunday lunches, as well as creating several Membership Retreat experiences. Phyllis Kreutner — work on planning our Sunday “Life with Health” series. Patricia Malkin — creating the delightful drawing of our building, which was used



(L-R) Virginia Scherer, Joan Klips,
Ken Gans, and Susan Horowitz

for fundraising and our building’s centennial. Abe Markman — chairing the Public Issues Committee and working on the Environment Committee. Helen Mecs — working on the Social Service Board’s book sale, and providing general all-around usefulness. Jacqueline Pope — UN work and serving as President of the movement’s National Ethical Service. Monica Weiss — dedicated work on several committees and beyond, and providing quiet contributions of sage advice.

Also, special thanks for their outstanding efforts were given to Maria Fridman, Patrick Arenas, Vincent Brancato, Patricia Cohen, John Hwang and Andra Miller for volunteering at the Women’s Shelter; to Amy Schwarz, Bonnie Bean, and Carole Chamlin for their work as Sunday Greeters; to Tod Whitaker, Carol Rost, Cheryl Gross, Bob Berger, Carole Chamlin, Chris Bernhardt, Henryka Komanska, and Pat Debrovner for their work as Newcomer Hosts. They all do such terrific and essential work that keeps our Society going!

We also celebrated our members who’ve reached the following milestones as members: Alice Ladas — 70th Anniversary; James and Ysabella Gara — 30th; Valerie

and David Leiman, Joseph Marvel, Margaretha Jones — 25th; Caroline Joy Debrovner, Sheila and Vincent Navarro, Bernice Cornyetz, Bruce Feld, Dwain DePaul — 20th; Helene Basist, Elizabeth Jacobs, Andra Miller,



(L-R) Joe Weber, John Gurney, Elaine Berman, Peter and Mary Houts, Eva Yachnes, and John Kreutner

Elaine Berman, Ken Gans — 10th; Aaron Balasny, Ed Gross, Hasoni and Michael Pratts, Susan Horowitz, Beth Zucker, David Day, Barbara Bernstein, Joseph Chuman, Curt Collier, Dan Hanson and Monica Weiss, Anne Klaeyesen, Margaret Murphy — 5th. Congratulations to all of you!

And to wrap things up, we gave a special welcome to the new members who have come into Ethical since January, 2012: Robert Eber, Susan Needles, Florence Falk-Dickler, Joseph Horn, Larry Hurst, Danny Choriki, Tina Maschi, Lewis Smoler, Barbara Gold, Joseph Weber, Kenneth Lashins, Frank Corigliano, Eric Matthew Volat, and Lucy Greenberg.

Welcome aboard, everyone!

Member Profile



CHARLES "CHUCK" DEBROVNER, MEMBER SINCE 1985

I retired from the clinical practice of Gynecology and Infertility about three years ago. I was among the first infertility specialists in New York, had one of the largest donor and husband insemination practices, and was the first to have a full-time infertility counselor in my practice. Helping couples achieve their parenting dreams was a great satisfaction to me.

I have always believed that one should retire to something, not just from something, and so I was pleased, after retiring, to become the Medical Coordinator for Obstetrics and Gynecology at the New York State Health Department's Office of Professional Medical Conduct, a role that combines medical knowledge and my devotion to ethics. I also co-founded and am President of the Global Bioethics Initiative, which is located in proximity to the United Nations. I remain a Clinical Professor at NYU's Langone Medical Center and attend their OB-GYN staff conference every Wednesday morning. So much for retirement!

I grew up in Brooklyn in a minimally practicing Jewish family, but my parents thought

that I should be Bar Mitzvah'd. The Orthodox synagogue in our neighborhood was a block closer to us than the Reform temple, so that was where I was sent to Hebrew School. Being an academic over-achiever, after my Bar Mitzvah I stayed on to wrestle with Talmudic questions with the rabbi and was putting on *tefilin* every morning when I went off to college.

In my first year at Yale, I took a class in comparative religion and soon came to the conclusion that, since all these belief systems couldn't be right, it was quite likely that none of them were valid. Further studies strengthened this realization, and the *tefilin* went permanently into my drawer. Pat and I had been a couple since she was fifteen and I was seventeen, and when I came home one weekend and informed her that I was no longer a believer, she was initially shocked, but eventually joined me in adopting a non-theist outlook. I don't recall us sharing this with our parents at that time, and we dutifully had our wedding ceremony performed by a Reform rabbi.

We remained non-theistic cultural Jews for the next twenty-

five years or so. We have two daughters, so we didn't have to confront the bris issue, and our girls attended Sunday School for a while out in Long Beach, where we spent most of our weekends. For many years, we enjoyed listening on WQXR radio to Ethical Culture Platform addresses, and one Sunday morning, Pat decided to visit the Meeting House, which was a short walk from our apartment on 67th Street and West End Avenue. She was so impressed with what she saw and heard that she convinced me to join her. We soon became members, and within a short time I was on the Board. Before long I was elected President of the Society, a position I held for six years, and have been an honorary Board member ever since. They can't seem to get rid of me. As President, I was an ex-officio member of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School board and have remained on it for over 25 years, despite the separation of the two institutions. We are also proud Ethical Culture School grandparents. Our older granddaughter, Abby, graduated from Fieldston in 2011 and is now at Duke University, majoring in medical bioengineering. Jane

is finishing second grade and has become an avid reader.

I was asked to join the Board of the Humanist Institute and have remained on it ever since, served as its President for 12 years, and am now on its Executive Committee. I was on the Board of the American Humanist Association for one term and then became a member of its Advisory Board. I also serve on the Board of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, which was founded by our Society. It is where Felix Adler is buried, and where Pat and I will be, as well. One of our deceased members established the Hirsch Trust, to donate scholarship funds to the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, and I serve on the Board that administers the trust. You may wonder if I do anything other than sit on Boards, for I am also on the Board of Governors of the NYU Medical School Alumni Association, and was its president for a year.

Pat and I are proud to say that Ethical Culture activities represent a very important part of our lives. I have addressed the Society on both ethical and medical issues. Currently, I video all Platform addresses and major events, edit and upload them so that they can be put on the Society's website and in our archives. As part of Pat's activities as "producer" of Ethics and the Theater, I have set up microphones and a sound system for the series, video each reading, and present all our actors with a DVD of their performances.

Our friends in the Society are very dear to us. Among our closest friends, several couples are also going to be buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. We joke that, though we cannot look forward to an eternal life in Heaven, at least we will be together there, forever.

Our New Music Director, David Gracia Beltran

(continued from page 1)

The El Sistema Fellows Program is a professional training program designed for ten post-graduate musicians and music educators who are passionate about creating careers for themselves that connect music, youth, and social change.

Founded in 1975, El Sistema is Venezuela's celebrated free youth orchestra and social action program that provides potentially life-changing experiences for several hundred thousand children annually in rural and urban communities across the country. El Sistema has also produced internationally successful musicians such as Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Orchestra.

David has founded and directs the Washington Heights/Inwood Music Project, an El Sistema-inspired children's music program,

and has also spent the past five years as a Congregational Music Director. He is fluent in both English and Spanish. His comprehensive experience in arts programs, strategic planning, program development, and community partnerships will serve us well, as part of his job includes working with our Ethics for Children and Teen Leadership programs.

We are delighted that Jon Liechty will continue to serve as our Assistant Music Director and are confident that he and David will enjoy a collaborative and rewarding partnership.

Please mark your calendars for our special luncheon for Gerald Ranck on [SUNDAY, JUNE 30](#), honoring the 29 years that he has served as our Music Director.

— *Reported by Monica Weiss.*

A Message from the Caring Committee To all NYSEC Members

Stephanie Rosenblatt

There are times when we fail to see you over a period of time, and when we try to reach you without success we wonder whether you are on a trip or not well.

Particularly for members who live alone — we worry when we cannot reach you.

A thought came to mind that if you so desire you share with us an emergency contact with whom we can check. We would provide you with a form for this purpose. Just let us know.

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

JUNE 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>The Pleasure of Finding Things Out</i> , by Richard Feynman — June 3 Ethics and the Theater: <i>The Member of the Wedding</i> by Carson McCullers — June 14 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>Sound and Fury (2000)</i> , by Josh Aronson — June 17						
2 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens	3 July/August 2013 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 8:00 Common Ground	4 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	5 7:15 Humanist Culture Open Mic	6 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class 7:00 Advocacy Forum	7 7:00 Ethics in Film	8 3:00 Memorial for Dr. Matthewless Spetter
9 10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Ethics in the News	10 6:30 Board of Trustees	11 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class	12 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	13 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	14 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	15 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class
16 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens	17 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 7:00 Prospective Members' Reception	18 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	19 6:00 Volunteer Dinner	20 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	21 6:00 Teen Leaders Mural Unveiling Celebration	22 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class
23 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	24 6:30 Choose Your Food	25 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class	26 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	27 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	28 5:00 Ethics for Children Sleep Over	29 5:00 Ethics for Children Sleep Over
30 10:00 Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Ethics for Teens						

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

2 W. 64th ST. • NEW YORK, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • WWW.NYSEC.ORG

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE GLOBAL & LOCAL ATROCITY OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry here in the U.S. and around the world. Every day, women and very young girls are being abducted, sold and forced into sex slavery and child prostitution. DR. JOE CHUMAN helps us explore the legal means for redressing issues of growing trafficking with our panel of experts.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6
 Wine & Cheese 6:30 PM; Start 7 PM
 New York Society For Ethical Culture
 2 W. 64th St, NYC
 Non-Members: \$10.00
 Members/Students: \$5.00

PANEL MEMBERS:
STUART PERRIN, Author
MARA SCHNEIDER, FBI Agent, Violent Crimes Against Children Squad
GLORIA BROWNE-MARSHALL, Professor John Jay College
DIPTI MEHTA, Performer/Writer
MAX WALKER, ECPAT, New York City

MODERATOR:
DR. JOE CHUMAN, Ethical Culture Society Leader

Little Sisters
 "When children (no matter what their nationality, ethnicity or religion) are forced to become sex slaves the entire world must take responsibility."
 — Stuart Perrin, Author

MORE INFO: bluekitepress.com

NYSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union.
 2 West 64th Street - New York, NY 10023 212.874.5210 - www.nysec.org
 Entry to our 100-year-old building and meeting rooms is available for most wheelchair users with prior arrangements.
 Please call ahead (212-874-5210 x-107) for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.

Common Ground on Entitlement Reform

A LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Entitlement reform is an issue of national importance that affects everyone. A wide range of viewpoints will be represented by our distinguished panel of experts, moderated by John Yemma, Editor, The Christian Science Monitor. The Monitor staff will help prepare topics and frame the debate. There will be opportunity for Q and A.

John Yemma
 Editor of The Christian Science Monitor. Mr. Yemma will moderate this event.

Senator Judd Gregg
 Former Senator and Governor from New Hampshire

Edward G. Rendell
 Former Governor of Pennsylvania

New York Society for Ethical Culture
 2 West 64th Street at Central Park West
 New York, NY
Monday, June 3rd at 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$20
Free to Monitor Subscribers
 (\$15 seniors and students)
 For tickets go to www.commonground-avenue.com
 Tickets also available at the door
 (202) 228-9049

Presented by:

Bringing light, not heat, to public discourse
www.commongroundcommittee.org

Ethics for Children welcomes families to an ETHICAL DREAMS SLEEP OVER!!

Come at 5pm on Saturday, June 29th and stay with us for a night under the stars in the HEART of NYC!
 New families welcome!

RSVP to Ethicsforchildren@nysec.org by June 15th to reserve a spot for you and your children.

Activities include:

- * Potluck dinner
- * Animation Screening
- * Adler Scavenger Hunt
- * Sleep over crafts
- * Homemade Breakfast

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE,
a community that believes all individuals have inherent worth and
dignity, and a responsibility to strive for ethical growth.

Ours is a nontheistic religion in which deeds and their results matter more than ideology.
We believe that leaving the world better than we found it is the highest good.

Learn more about us at our website — or, better still, visit with us.

You're always welcome.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

JUNE 2013

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