

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

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

Sunday Morning Meetings 11:15 AM—*Music & Reflection,* *Concert Hall*

May 6

Annual Membership Meeting

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader
Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh,
President

May 13

Why Adler Never Signed the Humanist Manifesto

Curt Collier, Leader
Riverdale-Yonkers Society
for Ethical Culture
Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

May 20

Founder's Day

Ethical Humanism, Cult or Culture?

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

May 27

What Is a Culture of Peace?

Martha Gallahue, President,
AEU, National Service Conference
Andra Miller Presides

*Come to the
Founder's Day
Family Reunion
Celebration
Sunday
May 20, 2007*

May Happenings

NYSEC's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6. (See below)

On Saturday, May 19, there will be a special benefit performance by the **Ethics and the Theater** group, who will present *Other People's Money*. (See page 5)

From the Leader's Desk

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

The Winds of Change



The winds of change are gathering on several fronts—political, economic, environmental, religious—and the winds of war are raging. A perfect cultural storm is brewing, one that could easily upset the small craft of Ethical Humanism, swamping it or dashing it against the rocks of ossified thinking.

But winds that roil the cultural waters can also propel intrepid journeyers faster and farther into a brighter and better future. We can't control the wind. But—as variously attributed and expressed adages remind us—we can set our own sail. Regardless of the tempest around us, we can with proper stewardship, control our own direction.

The winds of change are also blowing through our own community and movement. This month's elections will see the selection of four or five new Trustees of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, as well as an entirely new complement of officers. Next month the American Ethical Union will experience much that same democratic change. Serious challenges and obstacles will face those we entrust to chart our course, to care-

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Morning Meetings

May 6—Annual Membership Meeting

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader, and Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, President

On this day there will be no regular Sunday address. At the meeting for members only, we will hear reports from our President, Senior Leader, committee heads, and others; elect members of the Board of Trustees and Society officials; and vote on proposed by-laws changes and ratifications of new policies on issues facing our nation, including war and peace, child health insurance, stem cell research, regulation of carbon dioxide auto emissions, care for families, and others.

May 13—Why Adler Never Signed the Humanist Manifesto

Curt Collier, Leader, Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture

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Leader's Desk

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fully choose a heading that will avoid the shoals and guide us to opportunity and accomplishment.

In broad strokes, two previous periods of considerable social turmoil have faced us. In each instance Ethical Culture, in league and cooperation with others, has demonstrated the internal strength, creativity, and courage to rise to the occasion.

The decades following the founding of the Ethical Culture Movement in 1876 were ones in which we joined hands with others in social service. Those efforts eventually motivated our secular government to demonstrate care and responsibility for those it had previously ignored—those most challenged and least able to cope with life's hardships.

The middle of the 20th Century saw us link arms with a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations—some of which we played a significant role in founding—in social action. This coordinated effort gave rise to legislative changes to protect the rights and promote the interests of oppressed segments of our society.

These are efforts that demand our constant vigilance as we turn our attention to the well being of our global culture. **Our mission today is nothing less that helping humanity move well and rationally into this new millennium.**

We have always been dedicated to a reexamination of the ideas that have, over time, developed the religions and nations that dominate, define, and often divide our global culture. Felix Adler's aim in founding our movement was "to separate the grain from the chaff, but also to preserve the grain, and not only to preserve but to plant it anew in the expectation of reaping a richer harvest." Our experience in repeatedly doing just that has equipped us to make a much larger contribution to the future of the world than we recognize.

We take up the struggle to better our global culture with reverence and dedication, with confidence and courage, and in the passionate conviction that the wisdom and encouragement to succeed lie within the developed principles of Ethical Humanism.

The winds of change can be fair or ill and are often fickle, lifting and refreshing some while flattening and destroying others. If we—and here I speak of "we" in the largest sense to include all of humanity—are to survive and benefit from the winds of today, we have to do so in a concerted, cooperative effort. That means embracing the like and unlike among us in an effort to make of our sameness and our difference a compassionate strength that unites and moves us toward a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

I believe this Society and this movement can and should play a leading role in that transformation. With trust and respect for each other, with invigorated and insightful leadership, with energetic and dedicated effort, we can.

Meet the Leader-Tell the Leader

Our Senior Leader, Tony Hileman, wants to know you and to hear from you. Say hello to him after a Sunday

Platform meeting, either in the lobby or downstairs during Social Hour. Or stop by his office, room 504, when you're at the Society. His schedule is busy, so an appointment helps. Check with his assistant, Sheleigah Grube, at ext. 118. She'll set up a time or, if he is not tied up when you drop in, he'll be glad to chat with you then. If you have something particular to tell him, don't hesitate. Compliments are nice, too, but Tony is open and receptive to all your comments and concerns.

There are several other direct ways to get your thoughts to him. Write him, leave a note at the reception desk or with his assistant, email him at thileman@nysec.org, or leave him a voice mail at ext. 119. There is also an indirect way to get your message across. Speak to a member of the Leader's Advisory Board (LAB). Your message will get to Tony with your privacy preserved if you wish. The LAB is a group of members who meet with Tony regularly to discuss Society matters of mutual interest. They serve as a sounding board for his thoughts, pass along their own observations and opinions, and make him aware of your views and comments. The members of the LAB are Muriel Berger, Carole Chamlin, Jim Farer, Barbara Levenson, Abe Markman, and Sylvan Wallach. They are all easily accessible, as they are present and active in the Society.

Whichever avenue of communication you choose, your voice is welcome so let it be heard. That will help make an even better Society for all.

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

The Humanist Manifesto is one of the most comprehensive statements of the

aspirations and values of the Humanist community in the 1930's. It was signed by a list of notable thinkers and clergy. However, one name was noticeably absent: Felix Adler's. Why didn't Adler sign the document, and what does this act teach us about what he considered the future direction of our movement?

May 20—Founder's Day Ethical Humanism—Cult or Culture? *Tony Hileman, Senior Leader*

Encouraging personal independence and development as we do, Ethical Culture has never been thought of as cultish in nature. However, certain characteristics, notably size, do apply. We have remained small in numbers throughout our 131-year history. Even so, many of our founding principles have been absorbed into the dominant culture. We have demonstrated time and time again that when the ideas of the few gain traction with the many, cult becomes culture. Our ideas are challenged today as they have seldom been. Is the future of Ethical Humanism to be more cult than culture, or will philosophic naturalism again influence our Society toward the rational and the humane?

May 27—What Is a Culture of Peace? *Martha Gallahue, AEU*

Martha Gallahue is President of the AEU's National Service Conference, which is associated with the Department of Public Information at the UN. Ms. Gallahue's talk will acknowledge Memorial Day as a day for both honoring those who gave their lives in military conflict and reconciling the living to the horrors of war. We'll discuss the implications of the poor care our service personnel who have been wounded are receiving, including what that means to us as a nation. We'll examine the origins of the term "culture of peace," how it is used today, and how increasingly the culture of peace may

be viewed not only as a vision but as an ethical practice.

Early Sunday 10 AM

May 6—Everyday Ethics—Ethical and Unethical Behavior at Ethical Culture—We'll discuss ways in which Society members and leaders live up to, or fail to live up to, our ideals regarding ethical behavior. How do we bring out the best in others? How do we fail to bring out their best? And, are others bringing out our best? Eva Franz presides. Room 408.

May 6—Singing Practice—All voices, big and small, are welcome. Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck, we'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings—and get some tips to improve our singing technique. It's a lot of fun, so come and join us. Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

May 13—Colloquy—Nature. Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

May 20—Singing Practice—Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

May 20—Poetry Reading—We'll spend a peaceful hour with Cheryl Gross, reading the poems we especially love. Join us to read and to listen, or just come and listen. Room 408.

May 27—No program today.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

May 6—Annual Meeting continues.

May 13—Public Issues: Al Gore's testimony before Congress. Abe Markman presides.

May 20—Founder's Day continues.

May 27—No program today.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

Don't miss a very important day here at Ethical Culture—our celebration of **Founder's Day** on May 20! We've been contacting all the former members, friends, leaders, and staff we can think of to invite them and hope to see everyone at this "Family Reunion." If you think we may have forgotten someone, please give me a call ASAP!

Another big day not to be missed is our second one-day **Annual NYC Retreat**, here at the Society, on Saturday, June 23. Last year's summer Retreat was very well attended, and this year's should be even better. We are considering many important issues and workshop subjects, so do plan to attend. More news will be coming soon!

Note: Our **Spring Fling Pot Luck**, originally scheduled for Friday, April 27 here at the Society, has been postponed. For the new date and time call me at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

A warm welcome to new member **Robert R. Worth**, a retired educational publisher. Bob and his wife, Blaikie, are deeply concerned with Humanist issues and initiatives, and are actively involved in working to protect civil liberties, preserve the environment, and reverse the arms race. Bob and Blaikie have three children.



Donna Damhorst-Pang has been a member, since July 2004, and works at the AEU.

John Hwang became a member in December 2006.



Paula Miller joined NYSEC in November 2006.

We're happy to recognize the following "Friends of Ethical Culture": **Bea Binger, Willard Brown, Alice Commins, Henry Fagin, Edward and Lucille Flanagan, Gino Fortunato, Ruth Freilich, Oscar Greene, Joyce Haroutanian, John and Diana Harrington, Polly Hoben, JoAnn Mason, Carmen Rio, Harvey and Donna Rubin, Anita Starr, Sondra Stein, Marlene Stowe, Barbara Stubenrauch, Richard and Susan Titone, Michael Vernier, Rose Walker and Warren Wolf, Jr.**

Darfur Coalition

Maria Fridman

The Board of Trustees of the Society has approved our joining the Save Darfur Coalition, an alliance of over 175 faith-based advocacy and humanitarian organizations whose mission is "to raise public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and to mobilize a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of more than two million people in the Darfur Region."

At our Annual Meeting on May 6 we will ask members to endorse the Trustees' action, and we hope that all members will do so.

Ethics in Film

Cheryl Gross

The next film in our 2006-2007 series, "Reel Justice: Courtroom Dramas," to be shown on Friday, May 4, will be *The Accused* (1988), directed by

Jonathan Kaplan, which was based on the true story of Sarah Tobias, the fast-food waitress who was the victim of a gang-rape in a bar and was accused of provoking the attack by her sexy dress and behavior. Jodie Foster, in an Oscar-winning role, portrays Sarah Tobias, who makes strong demands for justice for the assault. Kelly McGillis stars as the prosecutor, Kathryn Murphy, who decides to prosecute the spectators in the bar for cheering on the attackers.

This riveting film is rife with legal and moral issues. Join us as we consider how the courtroom drama offers us a window into the way these questions can be resolved.

Richard Bruno will again lead the discussion. The doors open at 6:30 pm. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers.

Spring Bike Ride

Henryka Komanska

Join us on Saturday, May 12, on a four-hour biking adventure going from the Upper West Side in Manhattan to Wave Hill Garden in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. This will be a great ride, with many points of interest along the way. The cycling distance is approximately 22 miles on a mostly flat terrain with a couple of low hills. Most of the ride will be on the Hudson River bike path, with some of the ride on quiet city streets.

We'll meet at 9:30 am, at the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt at 72nd Street and Riverside Drive. Bring a water bottle, bicycle lock, and money for the Wave Hill entrance fee (\$5). You can either bring your own lunch or purchase one at the garden café. Remember, you absolutely must have a bicycle helmet to participate. You will not be permitted to ride with us otherwise. You don't need to sign up, just show up at the appointed hour. Rain cancels.

Ethics and the Theater Benefit

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Saturday evening, May 19, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, we'll present Jerry Sterner's *Other People's Money*. This play is an amusing yet serious look at our capitalist world of business, as the chairman of the board of a New England company that his family founded—a man of integrity who feels a sense of responsibility to his workers—fights to prevent “Larry the Liquidator,” a ruthless corporate raider, from winning over the company's stockholders and closing down the factory.

Our cast includes John Hilberry, Diane Debrovner, Pat Debrovner, and Charles Doraine, a long-time friend of the Debrovners—who is himself a successful money manager and who will be coming in from Corpus Christi, Texas, to play “Larry.” Chuck Debrovner will lead our post-performance discussion of the ethics of the business dealings depicted and their impact on the characters from our humanist perspective.

This evening's performance will be a special benefit to raise much-needed money for our building fund. Admission is \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Don't miss what is sure to be a fun and thought-provoking time!

Meet Lucile Kleiman and the SVP

Valerie Leiman

Bright blue eyes, white hair, and a low, melodious voice distinguish Lucile Kleiman, retired Fieldston School teacher and long-time member of the NY Society. Lucile has been actively involved over the years as a Trustee, a member of the AEU's National Service Conference, a member of the Social Service Board's Supervised Visitation

Project since its inception in March, 1989, and an SVP child supervisor.

Lucile credits as her model the commitment of past women SSB Chairs, some of the founders of the SVP—Charlotte Immerman, Victoria Olds, Judith Wallach, and Franzi Weiss. She says about the program, “The families are referred to the SVP through the NYC court system. The program's purpose is to provide supervisory services for the noncustodial parent, since that parent is no longer allowed to be alone with his or her child. Children are provided with a safe place where they can continue to see, to talk, and play games with that parent to help them with their conflicted feelings. They are also offered a relationship with a reliable volunteer who will be present for them, even when the parent doesn't come.”

The parents are themselves in need of support and guidance with coping, and these are provided in separate parent groups within the program. Social work students are trained to work as observers of the interaction between the children and their noncustodial parents and also participate in parent group meetings, providing information for reports to the courts. Volunteers are supervised in weekly conferences with the SVP Director, who is a state-certified social worker.

Lucile describes with deep emotion her sense of gratification in having a part in a program that she calls “a graduation, something that gives families a second chance that permits the children to interact with their parents and grandparents in a positive way by providing a dependable, high quality setting of recognized value.”

The SSB administers the program and provides its only funding—approximately \$50,000 each year—for this exceptional program, the only existing one in the country, which has provided

continuous professional services for parents, their children, and the NYC court system. *[This article was sent to the New York Times before April 2.]*

Ethical Culture Marches for Peace

Carol Rost

Joining the Stop the War March on Sunday, March 18 were 19 members and friends of Ethical Culture of all ages. We formed a group after the Sunday address and headed downtown. Wearing our Ethical hats and proudly holding high our banner, we were ready to march.

The sun was shining, although it was a little chilly waiting for the march to start. Once we started walking and sometimes chanting, though, most of us warmed up. We marched up Sixth Ave., turned at 42nd St., and again on Third Ave., continuing up to 57th St., and turning back downtown on Second Ave., to finally arrive at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza. There we regrouped while perusing the tables at the Anti-War Literature Fair. Though a contingent of pro-war women was also there, flamboyantly and provocatively adorned with the American flag, there were no incidents.

Our marchers were Nancy Ambruster, Ben Bean, Bonnie Bean, Elaine Berman, Chris Bernhardt, Barbara Levenson, Lee Loshak, JoAnn Mason and her daughter, Lynn, Abe Markman, Christina Nargolwala, Donna Pang, Jirina Ribbens, Michelle Rickborn, Richard Sanders, Michael Sands, Steve Schultz, Eric Volpe, and myself. The mood was congenial, relationships were strengthened, potential new members shared their positive opinion of Ethical Culture, and we all felt good about our citizen action. Then we headed for coffee!



(L-R) JoAnn Mason, Donna Pang, Michael Sands, Bonnie Bean, Nancy Ambruster, Steve Schultz, Carol Rost, Lee Loshak, Elaine Berman, Richie Sanders, Barbara Levenson, Eric Volpe, and Abe Markman. Hidden from view were: Christina Nargolwala, Michelle Rickborn, Jirina Ribbens, Chris Bernhardt, and Ben Bean. Busy taking our pictures were JoAnn's daughter, Lynn, and Chester Lane.

swimming, rafting, and a chance to experience ethical community.

For more information and to register, contact the AEU office at 212-873-6500, or office@aeu.org.

Tenth Annual Benefit Concert

Ruth Cohen

Join us on Sunday, October 21, at 4:00 pm, in a Twilight Toast to benefit the Stained Glass Windows Fund, as we applaud our past and look forward to a bright new future. We'll hear great music from Memory Lane, share good conversation with other members, both long-term and new, and have a wonderful time for a good cause. See you there. Ceremonial Hall.

PIC Positions Are Up for Ratification

Abe Markman

On the first Sunday in April, a very strong child health insurance law was passed, and a stem cell research project was funded in New York State.

In addition, on the federal level, the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision favorable to the regulation of carbon dioxide automobile emissions.

On the first Sunday in May you will have a chance to help ratify the three NYSEC/PIC positions that are in conformity with the actions noted above, and two additional issues.

At the two Pre-Annual Meeting sessions, Preparing for a Historic Vote, a few clarifications were made in the wording of the issues. You can wait for an explanation of the changes at the meeting, ask at the reception desk for a revised copy, or go to the "5 Ideas-in-Brief" page by logging on to: <http://www.nysec.org/pic/ideas>. Your vote will help us to bring out more of what is the best in America.

AEU Summer School Scheduled

Andrea Miller

The AEU's Summer School for Ethics 2007 (Summer School II) will be held at The Mountain, in Highlands, North Carolina, August 11 – August 18. Members of Ethical Societies and their families are invited to attend.

This week-long program of workshops and other activities provides an opportunity for both members who attended the AEU's Lay Leadership Summer School I (an intensive, integrated experience of ethical community, leadership development, and deepening knowledge of the basic ideas of the Ethical Movement) and members who aren't interested in leadership to participate in a more flexible, less intensive educational experience where they can learn, share ideas, and get to know each other.

Summer School II will offer numerous workshops on the history of humanism, building ethical community, developing effective leadership, personal growth, ethical issues raised the media, and other topics. There will be hikes,

Elliott-Black 2007 Award To CPJ

The AEU will present the prestigious 2007 Elliott-Black Award to the Committee to Protect Journalists on June 16 during its 92nd Annual Assembly. The award was established in 1971 to honor two esteemed NYSEC leaders, the late John Lovejoy Elliott and Algernon D. Black.

The CPJ is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working worldwide for over 20 years to defend press freedom against the fear of reprisals, by publicly revealing abuses against the press, organizing public protests, and working through diplomatic channels to act on behalf of imprisoned and threatened journalists. CPJ monitors the press throughout the world and tracks developments through independent research, fact-finding missions, and contacts in the field. It publicizes information on cases through a global email network. Updates are posted on its website: www.cpj.org.

May 2007

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Shelter: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Great Books: May 2 – Anton Chekhov, <i>Uncle Vanya</i> <i>Aeschylus, Agamemnon</i> *	1 June 2007 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	2 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:30 pm – Great Books	3 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	4 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: <i>The Accused</i> (1988)	5 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
* Complete work 10:00 am – Everyday Ethics 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Annual Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Annual Meeting continues	7 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	8 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 6:00 pm – Women's Group	9 3:00 pm – ECRDG	10 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	11	12 9:30 am – Bike Ride 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
13 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Public Issues: Al Gore's testimony before Congress	14 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	15	16 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:30 pm – Great Books: Great Conversations I	17 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	18	19 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
20 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Founder's Day 12:45 pm – Founder's Day Luncheon 1:45 pm – Founder's Day continues	21 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 6:30 pm – Social Service Board	22	23	24 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	25	26 No Supervised Visitation today
27 10:00 am – No program 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – No program	28 Memorial Day Society offices closed	29 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	30	31 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	May 16 – Henri Poincaré, <i>The Value of Science</i> (selection) Great Books: Great Conversations I Discussion Group) May 9 – Saul Bellow, <i>Humboldt's Gift</i> ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading	

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

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

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
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