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Public Service Award Honors SSB Head

Heather Grady
 NYSEC's Board of Trustees has instituted a new award to recognize outstanding service by those who have established or enhanced programs for people in disadvantaged commu-

nities. It also honors the lifetime of achievements and contributions to public service of Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, a longtime member of the Society and current President of our Social Service Board.

Time and time again in her own career she has earned the equivalent of such an award, and for this reason it has been named the **DR. PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD.**

Continued on page 6

Our Ethical Family at Work with Groundwork Hudson Valley



Several NYSEC members and a guest were joined by 15 youths from Groundwork Hudson Valley, Yonkers, along with Leader Curt Collier, on a beautiful Saturday, April 6, for the beach clean-up at Fire Island National Seashore. We joined National Parks Service personnel and other conservationists to restore the coastline that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The crew spent the day cleaning up debris and removing lumber from the old boardwalk, which was destroyed by the hurricane.

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ETHICAL STAFF

Dr. Joseph Chuman,
Leader, ext. 145

Curt Collier,
Leader, ext. 145

Dr. Anne Klaeyen,
Leader, ext. 119

Dr. Khoren Arisian,
Leader Emeritus

Robert Liebeskind,
Executive Director, ext. 116

Gloria Chandler,
Assistant to Exec. Director, ext. 117

Deborah Foster,
Administrative Assistant, ext. 115

Yalitz Garcia-Krawczyk,
Assistant to the Leaders, ext. 118

Leonardo Gibson,
Facilities Manager, ext. 107

Yolanta Kosmaczewska,
Bookkeeper, ext. 104

Jon Liechty,
Associate Music Director

Moe-Swe Myint,
Membership Associate, ext. 113

Antonio Pagliarulo,
Director of Special Events, ext. 106

Gerald Ranck,
Music Director

Beth Zucker,
Manager of Communications, ext. 144

EDITORIAL STAFF

Selma Friedman,
Editor

Patrick Whitaker Arenas,
Art Direction and Design

Deborah Foster,
Production, ext. 115

New York Society for Ethical Culture

2 West 64th Street,
New York, NY 10023

Phone: 212-874-5210

Fax: 212-595-7258

Email: office@nysec.org

Website: <http://www.nysec.org>

Member of the American Ethical Union

President's Notes



A N D R A M I L L E R

Gee-whiz, May already! I hope to see you all at our [ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON ON MAY 5, 11:15 PM](#). You've received a letter on this with candidate statement/bios for Board elections. And if there's anything you'd like us to discuss or report on, please let me know at andramariemiller@gmail.com, or by calling me at 646 363-0025.

Another special event this month is the [15TH ANNUAL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS CONCERT ON MAY 19](#). We have our member Dr. Ruth Cohen to thank for this series of annual concerts, as she is our spearhead for protecting and preserving our beautiful, but fragile, stained glass windows. She is working with Jon Liechty in rounding up the talented musicians to entertain you for a delightful Sunday afternoon. See more information on page 19.

And while we're talking about the calendar, it's time to think about mid-year-and-beyond events. Here are two "Save the Dates" for you: [THE AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION ASSEMBLY IN FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA \(IN EFFECT, DC\), JUNE 13-16](#); AND [THE NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RETREAT IN STONY POINT, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 20-22](#). Be sure to get those dates into your date book, on your calendar, and/or into your personal digital assistant, so you don't miss out on all the

fun! You also might consider adding a few days to the trips, and even bringing friends along, as both Fairfax and Stony Point have interesting historical sites and are located in countrysides great for exploration.

I'm writing this on tax day, so I'm unable to comment on some fun April events that are coming up now, but will have happened before you read this – the Spring Hike with Henryka Komanska and Chris Bernhardt; the Sunday morning Platform Meeting featuring good news from the Environmental Stewardship Committee, with reports from Vince Brancato (MC), Renée Goldstein (Tropical Rainforests), Mary Houts (Ecosystem Services), Monica Weiss (Electric Cars and Public Policy: Denmark), Robert Eber (State Regulation of Wetland Activities), Phyllis Kreuttner (Rooftop Farming), Abe Markman (Progress Since Moving Planet Day), and Virginia Arnold (Forest Bathing) and the "Garden of Eating" potluck dinner sponsored by the Membership Development Committee. Although I'm not able to foretell the future, I'll say that we had a great time at these three events and thank all of you who made them possible.

As I said in my last column, the Board of Trustees has chosen to honor the outstanding contributions of our own Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, and has established a new volunteer award in her name. See the story on page 1.

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, MAY 3, 7:00 PM** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall to see *Rabbit-Proof Fence*



(2002) directed by Phillip Noyce.

At a time when it was Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin

in a daring escape from their internment camp. Molly and the girls must then elude the authorities on a dangerous 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. I'll be leading our post-film discussion.

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

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, MAY 6, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeynsen will

host a discussion on *Wait Till Next Year* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Set in the suburbs of New York in the 1950s, this is a memoir of growing up in love with one's family and baseball. Goodwin recreates the postwar



era, when the corner store was a place to share stories, and neighborhoods were equally divided among Dodgers, Giants, and Yankees fans. We meet the people who most influenced Goodwin's early life: her mother, who taught her the joy of books; her father, who taught her the joy of baseball; and the Dodgers for whom she rooted: Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, and Gil Hodges.

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

Choose Your Food

Come and join us on **MONDAYS, MAY 6 AND MAY 20, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, to continue this eight-session course, which began on March 11.

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 in your life and achieve your goals.

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



SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am Ceremonial Hall,
Fourth Floor

MAY 5

Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon
Andra Miller, President Presides

MAY 12

Life Is Not a Jigsaw Puzzle

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Dr. Anne Klaeynsen Presides

MAY 19

Taking Renewed Aim at the Second Amendment: Gun Violence in the Wake of Newtown

Gerald Ranck,
Music Director
Patricia Bruder Debrovner Presides

MAY 26

Dictators, Moonies, And Fundamentalists: Does Korea Have an Authoritarian Problem?

Curt Collier, Leader
Dan Hanson Presides



Leader's Desk

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

Mother's Day: A Call to Peace

*Arise then, women of this day!
 Arise, all women who have hearts!
 Whether your baptism be of water
 or of tears!
 Say firmly:
 "We will not have questions
 answered by irrelevant agencies,
 Our husbands will not come to us,
 reeking with carnage,
 For caresses and applause.
 Our sons shall not be taken from
 us to unlearn
 All that we have been able to teach
 them of charity, mercy, and
 patience.
 We, the women of one country,
 Will be too tender of those of
 another country
 To allow our sons to be trained
 to injure theirs."*

Thus begins Julia Ward Howe's declaration with which she hoped to gather women to take action and to receive formal recognition of a Mother's Day of Peace. She succeeded at the former, inspiring Ethical Culturists Jane Addams and Anna Garlin Spencer to form the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, but failed at the latter. Today Mother's Day in the United States is associated with flowers and brunch, not calls for peace.

*From the bosom of a devastated
 Earth a voice goes up with
 Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!
 The sword of murder is not the
 balance of justice."
 Blood does not wipe out dishonor,
 Nor violence indicate possession.*

Julia was a religious radical who believed that religion was a matter of "deed, not creed." She was an ardent abolitionist and, after visiting a Union army camp in 1861, wrote the poem for which she is most remembered, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1862. She hoped that the song would draw attention to what she believed was the goal of the Civil War: the ending of slavery.

*As men have often forsaken the
 plough and the anvil
 At the summons of war,
 Let women now leave all that may
 be left of home
 For a great and earnest day of
 counsel.
 Let them meet first, as women,
 to bewail and commemorate
 the dead.
 Let them solemnly take counsel
 with each other as to
 the means
 Whereby the great human family
 can live in peace. . .*

Her experience of the realities of war, its savagery and devastation, moved Julia to take on a new cause in 1870 as the Franco-Prussian War was unfolding: Peace. She called upon women to rise up and oppose war, to cross national lines and recognize that what we hold in common – reverence for life and love of family – can unite us in finding peaceful resolutions to conflict.

*In the name of womanhood and
 humanity, I earnestly ask
 That a general congress of women
 without limit of nationality,
 May be appointed and held at
 someplace deemed most
 convenient
 And the earliest period consistent
 with its objects,
 To promote the alliance of the
 different nationalities,
 The amicable settlement of
 international questions,
 The great and general interests
 of peace.*

War is still being waged around the world and violence still takes many forms. The ground has shifted and the players have changed. In addition to nations at war, we are witnessing groups of people within nations struggling for power and taking that

Continued on page 6

Introduction to Humanism

The last two sessions of this six-session course, which began in March, will continue on **MAY 9** – with **OVERVIEW OF HUMANIST ORGANIZATIONS**, and on **MAY 23** – with **THE “NEW” HUMANISTS**, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, in the Adler Study, Room 514. Join moderator: Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, for an in-depth look at Humanism.

Dr. Klaeysen, co-Dean of the Humanist Institute for Graduate Studies, explores the history of Humanism in the US, its influences, and the major players and organizations today. These sessions are free, but registration is required.

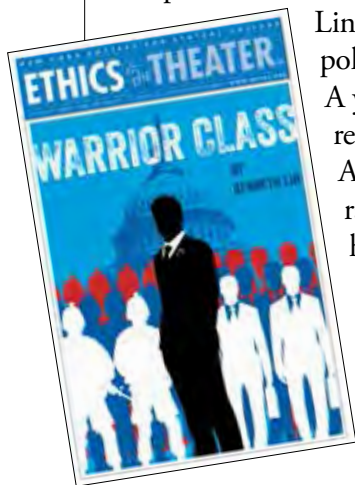
To register contact Yalitzia Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On **FRIDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 PM**, in Ceremonial Hall, Ethics and the Theater will present *Warrior Class* by Kenneth

Lin. Julius is a dream political candidate. A young, devoutly religious Asian-American and decorated ex-Marine, he has been acclaimed as the Republican Obama because of a tension-defusing speech



he made at the 9/11 mosque. That speech propelled him to a New York Assembly seat, and now Nathan, a veteran political fixer, is grooming him for the US Congress. But Julius' drive to the House hits a speed bump when a turbulent college romance comes to light. Julius, Nathan, and the ex-sweetheart, Holly, engage in a wary dance of maneuver and manipulation.

Richard Van Deusen directs our cast, which includes Jerry Chamlin, Marianne Ferrari, and Ted Oyama, with stage directions by Carole Chamlin.

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 Dr. Anne Klaeysen.

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

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, MAY 20, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* (2008), by director Gini Reticker and producer Abigail E. Disney.

This documentary tells the story of the thousands of Liberian women, both Christian and Muslim, who used nonviolent protests to help end the bloody civil war in 2003 that killed over 200,000 people.

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



NOT A MEMBER?

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



Mother's Day: A Call to Peace *(continued)*

struggle beyond national boundaries. Even as highly developed drones target sites in Pakistan, simple homemade bombs wreak havoc in Boston. We are a world of people unceasingly at war, inflicting violence upon one another on all fronts. And we are afraid; acts of terror work.

Still, I hear the call to peace — in our own unsettled lives, in our relationships, in our communities and around the world. I am inspired by those who ran in the Boston marathon in the direction of those who needed help and confounded by the motivations of the two brothers who attacked them. Making sense of violence may be fruitless. Let us, however, rededicate ourselves to peace and imagine all the forms that it can take. It starts with mourning the loss of life, finding purpose in our lives, and joining with others to make love our guiding ethical ideal.



H E A T H E R G R A D Y

Public Service Award Honors SSB Head *(continued)*

To administer the program and select those to be honored, we have established a committee of three Society members, three Social Service Board members, and five representatives from the metropolitan community. Those who have accepted our invitation to serve are: Ellie Tatum of the *Amsterdam News*; Mike Jacobson, Executive Director of the Vera Institute of Justice; Dr. Rick Dudley; Dr. William Jones, psychiatrists, and Damian Fernandez, head of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. NYSEC members on the committee are David Leiman, Heather Grady, and Dr. Phyllis

Harrison-Ross. Social Service Board members are Nicola DeMarco, JD; Ivan Quervalu; and Roberta Yancy.

The awardees will each receive a commemorative trophy, and we will make a contribution to a charity of his or her choice at special public events to be held here at the Society. These events, which will recognize their efforts, focus on the Society itself, and honor Dr. Harrison-Ross for her contributions to NYSEC, the community, and beyond, will be held as the honorees are chosen — most likely on a semi-annual basis. We will announce the first honoree and the date of the first

award event in a few months.

Should you have a suggestion for an awardee, contact me (Heather Grady) to submit your candidate. He or she should be someone who is — or has been — in public service, who embodies ethical action or who has successfully instituted, challenged, or improved programs for those in disadvantaged communities and brought them hope for a better future. We want to spread knowledge of Ethical Culture and our focus on ethical action to those in the wider community who are not yet familiar with the work and promise of our Society. Stay tuned!



HENRYKA KOMANSKA, CHAIR, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Birthday Celebration Raises Funds to Improve Access to Our Meeting House

Our President, Andra Miller, celebrated her 75th birthday with a party here at the Society on March 9. In lieu of gifts, she asked for contributions to our Disabled Access Fund, which is raising money to improve access to our landmark building for people with disabilities. Party-goers answered the call: donations in Andra's honor amounted to \$4,000. We are grateful to Andra for giving the party and asking for donations, and to everyone who contributed for their

generosity. What a wonderful way to mark a life's milestone!

Other members of the Society also have marked personally significant occasions, such as major birthdays or anniversaries, with events that brought friends, family, and members of our community together — and have used these events to raise funds to support important work of our Society and needs of our community. So, the next time you have an important occasion to celebrate, think of how much joy you and others will get from

having fun together, while at the same time, contributing to aid the work of the Society.

As a member of NYSEC you are entitled to request the use of our beautiful facilities to mark a major event in your life (e.g., a wedding, a naming ceremony, or a memorial service) free of charge, and to reduced prices for other personal events. For more information, contact our Executive Director, Robert Liebeskind. Celebrate your life event with a gift to your Ethical community.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

OFFICERS:

| | |
|---|--|
| ANDRA MILLER, PRESIDENT, | andramariemiller@gmail.com |
| HEATHER GRADY, VICE-PRESIDENT, | heathergradynyc@gmail.com |
| RICHARD VAN DUESEN, TREASURER, | richardandcarol@nyc.rr.com |
| DR. PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS, SECRETARY, | phrmd@yahoo.com |

TRUSTEES:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| BOB BERGER, | bobandmuriel@mindspring.com |
| VINCENT BRANCATO, | vpbrancato@aol.com |
| MARGARET CHAPMAN, | md.chapman@earthlink.com |
| NICOLA DEMARCO, | nickdmarco@hotmail.com |
| CHRIS EVERETT, | h.chris.everett@gmail.com |
| HENRYKA KOMANSKA, | henryka@verizon.net |
| LAW'NENCE MILLER, | lmiller.aeu@gmail.com |
| DR. TERRY PERLIN, | perlintm@muohio.edu |

Ethical Action



V I N C E N T B R A N C A T O

Environmental Activism — Now “Fracktivism”

As a long-time user of the outdoors, and a long-time environmentally concerned citizen, I have found myself drawn into the anti-fracking and climate-danger issues more and more in the last few years.

Upon returning to living in New York after a six-year hiatus in Connecticut, I saw the hydrofracking issue as a full-blown, time-sensitive, environmental time-bomb for New York State, threatening our water, health and environment. So, I went to Albany with the Sierra Club, and met up with United for Action, Food and Water Watch, and other locally-oriented groups aimed at halting the dangers to New York State from hydrofracking. It was to be the first of many trips to Albany, Trenton (the Delaware River Basin Commission), and Washington DC, and the start of my participating in many meetings and rallies.

NYSEC, which I joined shortly after returning to the city, served as the venue for a major anti-fracking issue shortly after I became aware of the problem. As a member of Ethical, I was able to help make links that led to two major anti-fracking events here in the past year or so. I've also managed to show some films

and increase awareness among our members and within our extended community.

I have found “an environmental home” in our Environmental Stewardship Committee, to accompany the philosophical home that Ethical has offered for so many of my values. This has become a semi-avocation for me. I still have a full-time job in a career that I've been active in for decades. But my environmental effort occupies eight-to-twenty hours a week. Incredible! I wonder whether real retirement will mean that I will have no free time!

I see this involvement as extremely important. It is not a selfless mission. I'm trying to protect my environment, my kids and grandkids' future and health opportunities, and the future of our planet. I'm trying to fulfill what I see as an obligation as a citizen. This effort has also introduced me to so many people in this and related struggles — almost all non-compensated. They are inspiring and mostly very selfless (except in that they are protecting their planet — their home).

So I benefit from these connections, and I hope that some will become real friends.

My involvement has made me more aware of political realities — or changed what I had seen as political realities. And it has changed my expectation of what can be accomplished by motivated people. Thus far, we have managed to stop high-volume horizontal hydrofracking from beginning in New York State (vertical fracking has been here for a while). With these efforts, we are participating in the struggle to protect our planet from global warming — a threat first really brought home to us by Al Gore, and now spearheaded nationally (and perhaps globally) by Bill McKibben of 350.org.

We who are making this effort have to learn a lot. One cannot argue if one doesn't know the realities and the differing points of view. One cannot see the self-interest if one does not understand the costs and benefits for the different participants in the struggle. And this includes the interests and motives of the principals — the energy companies, the landowners, the politicians, and more.

By being an activist and a “fracktivist,” I am part of the “we.” And, I invite you to join in this struggle, this journey.

SPRING 2013

Manhattan Girls Chorus

Empowering Young Women To Find Their Voice
Michelle Oesterle, Artistic Director



Spring Concert

"Under the inspired direction of Michelle Oesterle, the Manhattan Girls Chorus sang like angels with exquisite sound and precision. Their eyes reflected a deep understanding and respect for the profoundly spiritual choral symphony 'Mechaye Hametim.'"
- Zubin Mehta, Music Director for Life Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Save the Date!

New York Society for Ethical Culture
2 West 64th Street at Central Park West
Saturday, May 18th at 7 PM!
Tickets: \$40 Patron, \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors and Students

Visit brownpapertickets.com for tickets!
Tickets also available at the door.

Co-sponsored by:



A Member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist and Ethical Union
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• 212.874.5210 • www.nysec.org
Entry to our 100-member building and meeting rooms is available for (most) individuals' users with prior arrangements.

- Come support the Manhattan Girls Chorus and enjoy a beautiful evening of music in a great space!

- In addition to selections from Vivaldi's Gloria, the concert will premiere the powerful cantata "I AM". Composer David Sisco has masterfully woven together the words of the girls, their parents and notable women, bringing an ever-changing sense of who they are in the world to their singing.

- Featuring stage and screen actor Cynthia Sophia and extraordinary musicians Lloyd Arrola (piano), Wendy Baker (soprano), Hai-Ting Chinn (mezzo soprano) and Adrian Dauero (cello), among others.

- Patron seating is available which will include admission to a post-concert reception with additional live music!

- Check us out at manhattangirlschorus.org or Facebook for more information.



NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL EVENTS

2 WEST 64TH ST • NEW YORK, NY 10023 • 212.874.5210 • WWW.NYSEC.ORG

Humanist Culture Open Mic

**Wednesday, May 1st
Adler Study (Room 514)
7:15 pm - 8:45 pm**

Co-Sponsored by:



The first Wednesday of each month, come to 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



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If you need assistance entering our building with a wheelchair, please call or email (212) 874-5210 x 107 for help with our website system and please to arrive one hour before start time.

New York Society for Ethical Culture and Compassion & Choices of New York Present

Dementia and Health and End-of-Life Decision Making: Who Makes Decisions and How for Those with Dementia

**Thursday, May 16
7-9PM**
New York Society for Ethical Culture
2 West 64th Street (at Central Park West)
Ceremonial Hall

Bonnie Steinbock, PhD and Judith Schwarz, RN, PhD

Bonnie Steinbock is Professor of Philosophy at the University at Albany, and a founding faculty member of the Union Mount Sinai Bioethics Program.

Judith Schwarz is the Clinical Coordinator, Compassion & Choices of New York

Please join us for this special free program. The program will be followed by a reception.

Compassion & Choices of New York
www.compassionandchoicesnyc.org

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
ETHICAL CULTURE
www.NYSEC.org

garden of eating

a community cookbook

Copies are still available

Contact: Yolanta Kosmaczewska
212.874.5210, ext 104

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11:15 am

MAY 5

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Andra Miller, President, Presides

Please come, especially if you've been a member for longer than three months (90 days), as that qualifies you to vote. We need 20 percent of the membership to make the meeting official, so we ask that you make every effort to do your "civic duty" and be there. According to our bylaws, there can be no absentee ballots or proxy voting"

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

MAY 12

LIFE IS NOT A JIGSAW PUZZLE

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides



The human mind is organized in such a way that we want everything to fall neatly into place. We live in an imperfect world, and we can imagine a time when problems will be resolved, peace will be achieved, people will get along, and tranquility prevail.

Such utopian visions, we might assume, are the end point of our struggles and aspirations, the result of our quest for knowledge and social progress. It is where, we hope, the human career, writ large, will end. But is this the way reality is constructed, like some looming, seamless jigsaw puzzle, wherein everything would fall into place if we could resolve all outstanding mysteries? As I move on in life, I have come to admit that I don't think so. Rather, different people will always value different things, and those different values will forever elude a harmony about which we may dream, but which I believe is not in the cards for us. How we relate to those differences is the hard work of the humanist project.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITY

ETHICAL TEEN LEADERSHIP SHELTER PROJECT The teens have been painting a mural to beautify the women's shelter. Now they want to expand that project to include renovating the kitchenette, and providing new storage space and furniture for our guests. Contributions will help the teens with their efforts to make our shelter a brighter, more pleasing environment for the women who stay there.

MAY 19

TAKING RENEWED AIM AT THE SECOND AMENDMENT:
GUN VIOLENCE IN THE WAKE OF NEWTOWN

Gerald Ranck, Music Director Patricia Bruder Debrowner Presides



The national revulsion at the carnage at Sandy Hook last December has survived rather longer in the media than have previous mass killings in an America still confused and somewhat paralyzed over its attitudes toward gun control on one hand, and unlimited individual gun rights on the other. A fresh look at constitutional issues and some new and fresh suggestions on how to ameliorate the recurrent tragedies caused by gun violence may offset the frustration that little, if any, progress has been made in the ten years since I gave a talk on this topic at Ethical Culture. Can we wean a corrupt Congress and a diffident executive from the stranglehold of the NRA? Can we stimulate sufficient passion to effect a grass roots movement to change our divergent attitudes towards guns and the Second Amendment? I will offer some answers, and hopefully, some solutions to this challenging and recalcitrant problem.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

MAY 26

Dictators, Moonies, and Fundamentalists:
Does Korea Have an Authoritarian Problem?

Curt Collier, Leader

Dan Hanson Presides



By any measure, North Korea is the epitome of an authoritarian culture. But Korean historians also note the extensive history of authoritarianism even within South Korea. New religions, like Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church make obedience a centerpiece of the religion, and thousands of Koreans are converting to Fundamentalist Christianity, especially those legalistic forms that require subordination to others. These facts seem in contradiction to the modern South Korean state that promotes democracy, teems with creative individuals and a thriving arts industry, and has a lively modern culture.

Drawing upon Korean research and popular thought, we will explore the roots of authoritarianism within Korean culture and ask how their insights can be helpful in American dealings with North Korea.

The shared charity is Ethical Teen Leadership Shelter Project.

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

MAY 5

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.

MAY 12

COLLOQUY: REVENGE, RETRIBUTION, AND FORGIVENESS

Bob Berger presides. Room 408.

MAY 19

POETRY READING

Remember favorite lines and stanzas from poems you love and join us as we read this month. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

MAY 19

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. Ceremonial Hall.

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

(Rooms are subject to change)

MAY 5

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Luncheon to recognize our outstanding volunteers, celebrate membership anniversaries, and recognize the latest new members; 12:30 pm, 6th floor school cafeteria.

MAY 12

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

MAY 19

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS CONCERT

For tickets contact: mmjynt@nysec.org or call Moe-Swe Myint, ext. 113; 2:30 pm, Ceremonial Hall.

MAY 26

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.

more Ethical Enrichment...

Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — *Elliot Library, Rm 507*

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: **FOUNDERS MONTH**.

Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitzia Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

MAY 2

"THE VISION OF FELIX ADLER" by Horace L. Friess, May 1951.

MAY 9

"INTEGRATING CHARITY AND JUSTICE" by Don Johnson, 10/12/86.

MAY 16

"WHAT IS THE WORTH OF HUMAN BEINGS?" by Barbara Meyerson, 5/11/97.

MAY 23

"AMIDST LIFE'S BROKENNESS: CAN LOVE OF LIFE BE RESTORED?" by Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter, 5/27/01.

MAY 30

"IN YOUR FACE AND IN YOUR HEART: THE UNFORGETTABLE ALGERNON BLACK" by Dr. Marc Bernstein.

Our Ethical Family



MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

Cover story continued...

We also filled buckets with gravel and filled in the rutted roads leading to the Lighthouse and the museum, so that they are again accessible to people with disabilities. Then we had lunch and toured the museum which has the old Fresnel lens.

Participating in this project were **PAT COHEN**, **DAN HANSON**, **JOAN KLIPS**, **PAT MALKIN**, **MERLE MECEL-DOWNEY** (guest, and friend of **VINCE BRANCATO**), **MOE-SWE MYINT**, **ERIC VOLET**, **MONICA WEISS**, and **EVA YACHNES**. This was a wonderful way to spend a really lovely day while taking care of our environment. Kudos to Curt for organizing this terrific event.

As you know, the young people in our **TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** have started working on their Mural Project for the Women's Shelter here at the Society, and I'm happy to say that it is going forward at a steady pace. Working with Teen Advisers **ISHMAEL ISLAM** and **AMY REID**, the teens got the idea of making a mural about influential women throughout history, and researched women they felt should be included. They were also interested in hearing what our shelter guests have to say about the project, so they created a questionnaire asking the women to give suggestions. They want the women to feel a general sense of empowerment and connection to a

larger community of strong women who have persevered, and who are strong role models. The project has been expanded to include renovating the snack/kitchenette area and getting new storage lockers and furniture. We are all excited about this effort and proud of our teens, and can't wait to see the whole mural when it's finished. Our teens rock!

ALICE KAHN LADAS, a member since 1941, reported that she is heading up the Water Team as part of the Sustainability Committee at the multi-generational co-housing community in Santa Fe, NM, where she lives. The committee's goal is to reduce water consumption and store water for emergencies. The community will use Ollas and deep pipes to reduce the amount of water needed for growing vegetables and trees. Homeowners will be helped to find ways to reuse gray water. Every home is requested to store two gallons of water per person (preferably in glass) for a minimum of three days. The committee is looking into methods of purifying gray and black water, placing outdoor showers in orchards, and using composting toilets.

This is just another example of a NYSEC member living ethically and doing the best she can to take care of our environment.



The following members are celebrating birthdays in May:

- CAROLINE DEBROVNER**...5/1
- RICHARD VAN DEUSEN**...5/1
- EVA YACHNES**.....5/2
- JAMES FARER**.....5/9
- TOM KENNEDY**.....5/9
- TINA MASCHI**.....5/9
- CAROLE CHAMLIN**.....5/15
- PAMELA MCGHEE**.....5/22
- DINA GREGORY**.....5/25
- IRENE RUTENBERG**.....5/25
- GARY MIZEL**.....5/27
- ALICE LADAS**.....5/30

The PBS series “[THE ARTIST’S DEN](#)” was filmed in our Concert Hall on April 13 with the British artist Ed Sheeran. This series is currently in its sixth season, and its premise is both powerful and simple: a selected rock star performs in a historic venue somewhere around the world. The series is unique because, in addition to filming a concert and showcasing a particular venue, it quite literally tells the story of the selected organization in documentary format.

Society Leader [DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN](#) was interviewed for the NYSEC segment, which is slated to air in summer 2013 in all major US markets, and internationally in the fall of 2013. The Society’s century-plus history will finally be told in grand style, and to quite a large market. “The Artist’s Den” is currently viewed in 210 million homes in 45 countries. It will tell the Society’s story to the world — its history, its present, and its future. It is a great honor for us to be among the historic organizations featured on the show. Congratulations to [ANTONIO PAGLIARULO](#), Director of Special Events, for pulling off this incredible feat single-handedly! How fortunate we are to have him on our team!



The Groundwork Hudson Valley volunteers who joined our Ethical family for the day to help clean up Fire Island. (See page 1.)



Member Profile



T O D W H I T A K E R , M E M B E R S I N C E 2 0 1 0

I was born and raised in Burlington, NC. It was a small town that, like much of North Carolina, relied on the textile industry for a large proportion of its workforce. I was interested in art from an early age. My parents said I drew on everything. It was art that actually got me to New York City. I finished high school at the North Carolina School of the Arts, and that portfolio earned me a full scholarship to Pratt.

Patrick Arenas actually introduced me to Ethical. He is an avid reader, usually several books at once, and it was one by Greg Epstein that mentioned this building on the Upper West Side. So, one January Sunday, Patrick attended a Platform Meeting; I declined. But when the next week came around, and he said he was going again, I tagged along for curiosity's sake. Besides, we do almost everything together.

I remember that Anne presided in this very large auditorium for Curt. The Platform address was on socialism and President Obama. I remember thinking, "This is not like any 'church' that I have ever been to."

The first people I remember meeting were the Kreuttners, followed shortly by the Van Deusens, then the Bergers. Patrick and I kept returning on

those cold Sunday mornings, and by April we were card-carrying, name-tag wearing, pledging members. I remember being so excited when I received the letter stating that we were accepted as members. (Truth is, I still am.)

When I think about my gradually moving into a sense of full participating membership, it's not quite a personal, individual experience. As with so much of our lives, Patrick and I experienced Ethical together. And we also had Paula Claycomb. Paula, Patrick, and I became members at the same time... so we kind of gently became a part of the Society together.

When I truly felt a part of Ethical was one Sunday in June when Carol Van Deusen stood up to ask for help with the building's Centennial re-dedication cocktail party. Carol was asking for members to reach out to restaurants for donations... and that was when I said to myself, "Here is where I can help." With over 25 years in the New York hospitality industry, I knew I had accumulated many favors to be pulled in for a good cause, and this was that cause.

So, I got on the phone and started calling in those favors: wine, linen, waiters, flowers, silver... all that was needed to

make a truly special event. I wanted to create an evening that would pay tribute to the 100-year-old building on 64th Street that we were re-dedicating. I remember giving Dick my business card and a whirlwind of emails ensued between then and October 23, 2010, the day of the re-dedication ceremony. The talented Executive Chef, Helen Park, created a menu focused on the Union Square Farmers' Market. Seasonal vegetables, flowers, local meats, and New York State wines were featured, all in keeping with Ethical's sustainable and green initiatives. I think the cocktail party was a real success for the Society, and I made some wonderful connections with members and Leaders during that time. At the end of the evening, as the last of the champagne glasses were being put away, Patrick leaned over and said, "Good job." And that was it; I was "hooked."

Not long after that, Leaders Joe Chuman and Anne Klaysen said they wanted to restart the Membership Committee, and asked Patrick, Paula, and me, among others, to join. We met monthly for over a year before anyone stepped up to be chair. That was Paula. But we all knew that it would be for only a few months, because Paula was about

to retire and leave New York City for Taos, NM. With much prodding and the final offer to co-chair by Elinore Kaplan, who had relieved Paula of the minutes-taking chore of the meetings, I nervously agreed. We've co-chaired the MDC ("D" for Development) ever since, with what seems to be an ever-growing list of undertakings and vision of possibilities. I have no regrets. I think my drive stems from how much Ethical has given me. I never knew I was missing this community. It has given something to me, something significant that Patrick and I can share together.

After several meetings of the MDC, we realized that our Newcomer Hosts and even our members needed a little freshening up on their hospitality towards non-members. Being part of the industry that I'm in, and given my personal pleasure at seeing the art of hospitality really work, I volunteered. Anne and I worked closely on developing a short workshop that we presented to our Newcomer Hosts and lunch crew. We soon realized that the discussions on hospitality would be ongoing for both members and Newcomer Hosts.

Of the spring of 2011, all I can remember is Patrick feverishly on Facebook, emailing and twittering, regarding the passing of same-sex marriage in New York State. That Friday evening in June when the State Senate announced their approval, it meant that Patrick and I could actually get married in the state we call home. I cried. I had never dreamt of being legally married. And so, as Patrick tells it, "Bride-zilla" was

created that very evening. You see, if there is ever a party to plan, well, it has to be one's own wedding, and I wanted it to be an Ethical one. After all, it was our 20th anniversary together that year; it was time to get married. So, with the help of Anne Klaeyson, Pat and Chuck Debrovner, Helen Park, the musicians of Julliard, a talented pastry chef, and BBQ, we were married in front of friends and family. In fact, it was the first time that our two families had ever met. What a perfect, Ethical introduction.

I am a bit of a workaholic. My work has meant everything to me for more than 20 years. Ethical Culture is showing me that there is more. It allows me to spend quality time with Patrick, and develops me in areas where I never thought I would go. Somehow – and I bet others in the Society would echo this experience – it seems that the more I give to Ethical, the more I get from it.

So, that is part of what drives me on the MDC. I am convinced that if we get the word out there, others will come and join us. This is such a rich, vibrant, accomplished community of diverse, wise movers and shakers who truly want to make a difference in the world. Surely there are others out there who share our values; we just need to get the word out.

To paraphrase what Anne has often said, when I walk through these doors at 2 West 64th Street, I bring all of who Tod Whitaker is. I do not have to leave anything at the door. My beliefs or non-beliefs, opinions, choices, the person I love...it all comes in with me. That is something mighty special.

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

MAY 2013

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Notes: Ethics in Film: <i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i> (2002), by Phillip Noyce — May 3 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>Wait 'Till Next Year</i> , by Doris Kearns Goodwin — May 6 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Warrior Class</i> , by Kenneth Lin — May 10 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>Pray the Devil Back to Hell</i> (2008), by Gini Reticker — May 20 | | | 1 June 2013 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 Strength Exercise Class 7:00 Humanist Culture - Open Mic | 2 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class | 3 7:00 Ethics in Film | 4 |
| 5 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Annual Membership Meeting 12:30 Awards Luncheon 1:00 Teen Leadership | 6 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 Choose Your Food | 7 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs | 8 1:00 Strength Exercise Class | 9 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Introduction to Humanism 6:30 Thursday Writing Class | 10 7:00 Ethics and the Theater | 11 |
| 12 10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children - The Nurture Festival 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Ethics in the News | 13 6:30 Board of Trustees | 14 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar | 15 1:00 Strength Exercise Class | 16 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class 7:00 Compassion & Choices | 17 | 18 7:00 Manhattan Girls Chorus |
| 19 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 2:30 Annual Benefit Concert | 20 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 Choose Your Food 7:00 Prospective Members' Reception | 21 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs | 22 1:00 Strength Exercise Class | 23 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Introduction to Humanism 6:30 Thursday Writing Class | 24 | 25 |
| 26 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle | 27 Society Offices Closed Memorial Day | 28 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class | 29 1:00 Strength Exercise Class | 30 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class | 31 | |

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 EVENTS

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THE DATE!

*Join us for the 15th Annual Benefit Concert
for the Stained Glass Windows*



Sunday, May 19, 2013

**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Ceremonial Hall**

**\$15.00 General Admission
\$10.00 Seniors and Students**

Light refreshments will be provided.

To purchase tickets contact:

Moe-Swe Myint at mmyint@nysec.org or 212.874.5210 ext. 113.

A member of the American Ethical Union and the International Humanist & Ethical Union
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If you need assistance entering our building with a wheelchair, please call ahead (212-874-5210 x 107)
for setup of our portable system and plan to arrive one hour before start time.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE
ETHICAL OUTLOOK
May 2013

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