

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

Platform Meetings

11:15 AM—NEW LOCATION—
Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor

November 1

Social Reform Through Photography

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Jamie Scott Presides

November 8

Liberty and the Inquiring Mind

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Carol Nadell Van Deusen Presides

November 15

The Genesis Cure: Healing the Creativity Needed to Shape Our Lives

Dr. Carol Ochs

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

November 22

Religion Can Be a Funny Business

Scott Blakeman

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

November 29

Is Eating Sustainably Possible in New York City?

Curt Collier, Leader

Andra Miller Presides

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ESTATE PLANS.

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212-874-5210.

November Happenings

Join us on **Sunday, November 1, at 1:45 pm** in **Ceremonial Hall** for a discussion of hunger in New York City and a chance to learn what we can all do to help. *(See page 4)*

On **Wednesday, November 18, at 7:00 pm** in the **Elliott Library, Room 507**, Ethics and the Theater will present *Dearborn Heights*, by Cassandra Medley, a play about the many faces of racism; at 6:30 pm there will be a wine and cheese reception. *(See page 6)*

President's Notes

Andra Miller



Just back from this year's retreat, I find myself refreshed and reinvigorated from three days in the lovely countryside with old and new friends. Back, now, to the challenges of our Society and Ethical Culture itself.

But first, let me express my appreciation to those who worked on the retreat: Barbara Levenson, Valerie Leiman, and Janice Buzby for advising me on the planning, based on their experience planning or attending past retreats; Anne Klaeysen, John Hwang, Ed Gross, Jamie Scott,

Chris Bernhardt, Henryka Komanska, Joe Chuman, Chris Everett, and Abe Markman for planning and leading workshops, discussions, a Platform, and a hike; and the Chamblins and the Grosses for bringing comestibles for the parties. Also, thanks to those who drove and gave rides to the rest of us. Thanks, all! It was a weekend with the theme "Together," and in thinking about and discussing working together—teamwork—I was struck by how much we accomplish when we gather together and focus on something, be it an action

(Continued on page 2)

From the Leader's Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



Growing Edges

Over a quarter of a century ago, I was packing up to leave Brooklyn Hospital with my firstborn when I felt a pang: "Are they really going to let me leave with this baby?" I wasn't ready to be a mother, to take responsibility for a new life. It was a serious growing edge. The anxiety passed but I still worried until I recognized that my son had grown into a fine person with the qualities I wished for him: compassion, wit, and wisdom. He has his own growing edges and challenges.

This fall I felt a similar pang when I started teaching a freshman seminar at Adelphi University where I have been Humanist Chaplain for three years: "Are they really going

(Continued on page 3)

Contents

Sunday Morning Platforms 1
 November Happenings 1
 President's Notes 1
 From the Leader's Desk 1
 Sunday Morning Meetings 3
 Ethics for Children 4
 Early Sunday 4
 Sunday Afternoon 4
 Lunch Discussions 5
 Our Ethical Family 5
 Nonviolent Communication 5
 Advocacy Forum 6
 SSB's "Indelible" Fundraiser 6
 Ethics and the Theater 6
 Ethics in Film: Sci-Fi 6
 Butterfly Project 7
 Paid Sick Leave 7
 Caring Committee 7
 Health Care Reform 7
 Charter School Inaugurated 7
 Activities Fair 8
 Fall Retreat 9
 Project FIND Calling 10
 Green Kitchen 10
 WBAI Fund Drive 10
 Pledge Party 10
 Calendar 11

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

or the exploration of an idea, and also, how much fun we have!

Among the challenges ahead are the continued repair of our building and the gathering of funds to make it physically accessible for everybody. Also, led by Heather Grady, we're planning a series of events and actions to celebrate the building's 100th anniversary. Heather envisions a series of monthly events throughout next year—culminating with a big celebration. We'll need help from every member, and from our neighbors and others throughout the community for this special year. It's time for teamwork on a huge scale!

Another challenge we are facing is to draw in new members. Though all our old members (figuratively and literally) are treasured for their contributions in the past and present to the strength of our Society, we also need the energy, ideas, and wisdom of the new, as they are fresh from "the outside" and can help us to realize our plans for growth in the future.

For this reason, I ask that if you are a new member (have joined in the past couple of years) please make it a point to come to at least one of our Membership Cultivation "Club" meetings (it's actually a committee). You'll

have a lot of fun batting ideas around with us. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 pm, Wednesday, November 4 (that's at press time and it may change). Check with the chair of the committee, Rich Sander, rich_sander@yahoo.com, when you see him on Sunday, or call Moe-Swe Myint, our Membership Associate, at 212-874-5210, ext. 113. By the way, these meetings are open. If you'd like to participate, you are welcome, whether "old" or "new."

One idea that occurred to me was about charisma. Somebody told me the best way to develop a large membership is to have a Leader who is exciting and magnetic, and who draws in the crowds. Well, I have to say we have charisma in our Leaders, Anne Klaeyesen, Joseph Chuman, and Curt Collier—but I imagine it's not the same as the fiery energy of a Felix Adler or an Algernon Black.

Times have changed too, and listening to speakers is not one of the preferred ways members of today's generation like to spend their time. So my idea is that we must provide the charisma. If every one of us expresses the generosity, enthusiasm, and openness inspired by our ideals, this place will become so magnetized that when people come, they'll find it absolutely amazing, and then they won't be able to stay away!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

to leave me alone in a room with these impressionable kids for two and a half hours every week?" The anxiety passed when I looked at them seated at the desks I had placed in a circle and listened to their stories of growing up in Indonesia, Australia, Haiti, Colombia, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, India, and Pakistan and on Long Island—all students in my "Ethics in a World of Strangers" class. I knew I was going to learn and grow a lot.

Taking risks and risking change are not just for the young. When we recognize that we have more to learn and experience, we never stop growing. A powerful image for growth is a tree with roots that dig into the earth, providing nutrients and stability, and with leaf-filled branches that stretch toward the sky, turning sunlight into energy. Communities that want to grow must pay attention to both their foundations and their new membership.

As we approach the centennial of our Meeting House in October 2010, the New York Society is focusing on growth. Sometimes we need to regroup before we can grow, to reflect so we can refocus, to reevaluate in order to thrive. For these reasons our Sunday Platform meetings have moved from the Auditorium to Ceremonial Hall, a smaller space with different growing edges. We are by no means abandoning the Auditorium, and will return there for large community events, but it no longer meets our need to grow.

Transitions can be stressful, and this move has had its challenges, but there is a vitality to Sunday mornings that was not evident before. The kind of space we inhabit makes a difference in the way we feel—a truth whether expressed by *feng shui* or congregational development. Visi-

tors who have attended meetings in both spaces tell me the difference is palpable: The Auditorium feels empty, cold, and uninviting; Ceremonial Hall is full, warm, and welcoming.

We know that we are the same people no matter what space we are in. Yet, in order to grow in both numbers of members and depth of experience, we will need to feel the edges a little closer to us, to embrace our mission and purpose in a more direct way, and to actually rub shoulders with one another, including our children, who will be joining us with their families more often.

Take this risk of moving to a smaller space to experience ourselves anew as a caring community dedicated to living ethical lives and sharing our love of goodness with new people until we burst at the seams and return to a larger space.

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM—Ceremonial Hall

Nov. 1—Social Reform Through Photography

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader

At the end of the 19th century, news reporter Jacob Riis and Ethical Culture School teacher Lewis Hine photographed dynamic images of New York City slums and children at work that changed the way Americans looked at social conditions. They captured on film, at considerable risk to themselves, grueling hardships and brutal exploitation that became the focus of a new generation of social reformers.

Nov. 8—Liberty and the Inquiring Mind

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

This year, 2009, as we all know, is "the year of Charles Darwin," the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 150th year since the publication of his "Origin of Species." But that year, 1859, was significant in other ways, as well. For it was then that the famed English philosopher, John Stuart Mill, published what then was the most widely read piece of political thought in the English-speaking world. Mill's "On Liberty" tries to work out the boundaries of individual freedom. Where does state power end and individual freedom begin? Mill's question remains relevant today and is worth pondering as we concern ourselves with our freedom, how much we own, and how much we are willing to give away.

Nov. 15—The Genesis Cure: Healing The Creativity Needed to Shape Our Lives

Dr. Carol Ochs

We are, each of us, trying to make sense of our lives. Some do it in terms of achieving a goal in this world: riches, fame, or pleasures of the senses; some try to effect change in this world; and some are drawn to a sense that this world is real, but not complete. If we use the text of Genesis to help us with this task, we can ask what the expulsion from the Garden is really about. It signals that now *we* are in the business of world making and meaning making. But we are not without a blueprint. We can keep playing over and over in our minds and hearts the seven days of Creation. We are never done, for example, with origins, or with the right relationship with the other components of Creation. We will always be working on time—how to measure it, how to value it, how to be in relationship with it and consciousness-light. It is all there in the six days of Creation plus the Sabbath.

In June, Dr. Carol Ochs retired from her position at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, to devote herself full time to study, writing, and lecturing. While at HUC-JIR, she instituted the formal practice and teaching of spiritual guidance, several years before it was offered at other Jewish seminaries. During her 15 years on the faculty, she met with more than 200 rabbinic and cantorial students in weekly one-on-one sessions, assisting them in facing their spiritual questions and helping them resolve their religious doubts.

Prior to joining HUC-JIR, she taught philosophy for 25 years at Simmons College in Boston, where she is professor *emerita*. She earned her Ph.D. at Brandeis University. She is the author of eight books, among them: *Women and Spirituality*, *Jewish Spiritual Guidance*. She has lectured widely, given numerous sermons, and served as scholar-in-residence at various meetings and congregations.

Nov. 22—Religion Can Be A Funny Business

Scott Blakeman

Scott Blakeman is a standup comedian who brings a blend of progressive political and contemporary Jewish humor to his work. Together with Palestinian-American comedian Dean Obeidallah, he cofounded Stand Up for Peace, a project that reaches across borders of misunderstanding to bring people together in laughter. Scott has performed at the Society before. This time he will also strike a serious note as he discusses the ways in which humor can help us become more ethical people.

Nov. 29—Is Eating Sustainably Possible in New York City?

Curt Collier, Leader

What our grandparents probably ate during what season is no doubt radi-

cally different from what we eat now. Today, our supermarkets have the largest cornucopia of food imaginable. At one time, this was the pride of America. But at what cost did this blessing come? This talk will explore the history of food in America, why our food production radically changed, and what effect this had on our environment and social fabric.

Ethics for Children: Compassion/Action

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

We are off to a great start this fall with two new families, a new teacher, and a student in our Coming-of-Age program!

Several families and staff are attending the American Ethical Union Religious Education Conference in Stony Point, NY, from Friday, November 6, to Sunday, November 8, featuring a presentation by Dale McGowan, author of *Parenting Beyond Belief*. Several field trips have been planned, including one with Leader Curt Collier to the Science Barge in Yonkers.

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen meets with parents on the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 am to discuss parenting issues, and will be bringing back James Reams and the Barnstormers for a fundraising Square Dance in January.

With the move upstairs to Ceremonial Hall, we will be seeing more of the children at Sunday Platform. Be prepared for some joyful sounds from the younger generation of Ethical Culturists.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Nov. 1—Parenting Issues. Led by Dr. Anne Klaeysen. Room 514.

Nov. 1—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 always a lot of fun, so join us! Room 507.

Nov. 8—Colloquy: Anger. Virginia Arnold presides. Room 408.

Nov. 15—Singing Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Room 507.

Nov. 15—Poetry Readings—Come, and bring your poems, long or short, to share with other readers. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Nov. 22—Ethics in the News—Led by Mary Ellen Goodman. Room 408.

Nov. 29—Coffee 'n Chat. Room 408.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

Nov. 1—Ethics in Action: Raising Awareness About Hunger in NYC—Did you know that 1.3 million New Yorkers live in homes without enough food to eat? The New York City Coalition Against Hunger (NYCCAH) represents the more than 1,200 nonprofit soup kitchens and food pantries in New York City that work to meet the immediate food needs of low-income New Yorkers and bring about innovative solutions to help them move “beyond the soup kitchen” to self-sufficiency. Join us in Ceremonial Hall, after Platform, to learn more about how you can help.

Nov. 15—Life with Health—Holistic Dentistry. Dr. Salamanca, a holistic dentist with extensive training in Colombia and the USA, will talk about how the patient and the holistic dentist can work together to prevent dental problems.

After working in the usual dental practice of “repairing teeth,” Dr.

Salamanca decided to focus on how to preserve teeth in the most natural, inexpensive, nontoxic, and nontraumatic ways possible. Prevention is her driving force. Phyllis Kreuttner and Dr. Jackie Pope preside. Ceremonial Hall.

Nov. 22—Community Meeting. Members meet to discuss important issues facing the Society. Ceremonial Hall.

Lunch Discussions Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

The world is very much with us, and we need to learn as much about it as we can to better understand our role in it. Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Elliott Library, Room 507, for a series of talks on **Foreign Affairs, Part I.**

Nov. 5—“Buddha’s Savage Peace,” by Robert D. Kaplan in *The Atlantic*, September 2009.

Nov. 12—“Will money solve Africa’s development problems?”—A “Big Question” from the John Templeton Foundation.

Nov. 19—“Europe’s Shifting Immigration Dynamic,” by Esther Ben-David in *The Middle East Quarterly*, Spring 2009.

Nov. 26—Thanksgiving Day—Have a lovely holiday!

Folders with relevant articles are available from Sheleigah Grube in the Leaders’ Office. Please join the discussion.

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

Please welcome new members: **Debra Curtis-Green, Nicola Antonio DeMarco, Tom Kennedy, and Leonard (Lenny) Manoff.**

Debra is taking a writing class at the Society. She has known about NYSEC for a long time; in fact, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen officiated at her wedding.

Nicola is a teacher and human rights advocate. He has a law degree and is Chair of the Law Department at the Coalition for Public Education. Nicola has been a member of the American Federation of Teachers for 23 years and of Axum Obelisk Return Committee for 13 years. He also was a Peace Corps volunteer. He finds fulfillment at our Sunday Platforms, likes the community he finds here, and enjoys our Sunday Social Hour.

Tom, a retiree and an activist for justice, hates war and loves peace. He has been active with Veterans for Peace for five years. Tom lives in NYSEC’s neighborhood and has attended many of our programs and taken writing courses here.

Lenny, who is retired, is an entertainer and singer who learned of the Society through friends. He has been attending our Sunday Platforms and enjoys the Social Hour afterwards. His interests are singing, entertaining, and hosting; he is drawn to the Society because it gives him a chance to get involved with a community. Lenny is on the Advisory Board of the First Presbyterian Church and is Chairman of its Entertainment and Trips Committee.

* * *

NYSEC’s Board of Trustees elected **Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter**, long-time member and Leader of the Society (1994-2000), as a Life Member at its October meeting. Dr. Spetter has served as a member of the New York Society’s Board of Leaders since 1978, while also serving as a Leader of the Riverdale Society.

* * *

I want to thank all the volunteers for your hard work on our recent co-sponsored programs: **Dan Hanson, JoAnn**

Mason, Hugh McGuire, Sujata Patel, Amy Schwarz, Barry Snider, and Beth Zucker on *Jobs, Justice, Climate*, on September 21; and **Ruth Cohen, Helen Mecs, Hugh McGuire, Aaron Balasny, Alan Gardner, and Meg Chapman** on *The Battle for Real Financial Reform*, on October 1.

We are very lucky to have such enthusiastic and dedicated members and we very much appreciate your help in making our programs succeed.

* * *

It is with sadness that we report that **Sarah Elizabeth Wright-Kaye**, a long-time Society member (35 years), died on September 13. Born in Wetipquin, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Sarah was a novelist and poet, a champion of black women’s rights, and an advocate for peace and social justice, particularly for black freedom. Her acclaimed novel, *This Child’s Gonna Live*, depicted in searing detail the hard-scrabble lives of oystermen’s families in a fictional fishing village on those same shores.

She was intimately connected with the Harlem Writers Guild and Pen and Brush, both of which organizations she served in various capacities.

Sarah is survived by her husband Joe Kaye, her loving children Michael and Shelley, and devoted siblings and grandchildren, as well as by her many friends and professional colleagues.

Everyone is invited to a memorial service at which we will celebrate Sarah’s life and honor her legacy, here at the NY Society in the Auditorium on **Saturday, November 14, at 2:00 pm.**

Nonviolent Communication

Dr. Anne Klaeyen

To behave ethically, we need the right language and social skills. Nonviolent Communication, a new course offered by the Brooklyn Nonviolent Communication Program, and led by Dr. Anne Klaeyen, shows us a practical way to relate to others from our hearts. This six-session course trains participants in a method of observing situations, assessing our feelings, getting in touch with our needs, and articulating requests honestly and empathically, developed by American psychologist Marshall Rosenberg.

Join us on Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, and 19, and Dec. 3, 10, and 17, at 6:30 pm here at the Society in the Adler Study, Room 514, and learn to improve your relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. The cost for NYSEC members is \$50; for nonmembers, it is \$100.

Advocacy Forum

On Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 pm, The Advocacy Forum will host “Health Care Reform: How Real and at What Price?” with U.S. Congressman Anthony Weiner; Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, of the Service Employees International Union’s (SEIU) Healthcare Equality Project; Dr. Laura S. Boylan, of Physicians for a National Health Program; and Cheryl Matheis from AARP. The program will focus on the many questions that surround this complex issue and is co-sponsored by 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Admission is free; doors open at 6:30 pm.

SSB’s “Indelible” Fundraiser

On November 12 the Social Service Board will cosponsor a fundraiser for the film, *Indelible*, the story of an

African-American geneticist racing to find a cure for the disease that killed her husband and threatens the life of her son.

This groundbreaking film marks the first time an African-American woman plays the lead role of a scientist. The filmmakers plan to release the film theatrically, as well as use it to inspire young women of color and expand their career choices. Proceeds from the event will be shared with the Innocence Project to fund DNA testing. The event, which will be held in the Auditorium at 7:00 pm (doors open 6:30 pm), will feature music and screenings of the *Indelible* trailer director Randall Dottin’s award-winning short film *The Lifted*. NYSEC and SSB members may attend at a reduced price of \$35. For more information, contact Moe-Swe Myint at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Wednesday evening, November 18, 7:00–9:00 pm, Ethics and the Theater will present *Dearborn Heights* by Cassandra Medley. Racism comes in many shades—literally. Two women from a black neighborhood in 1950s Detroit meet for lunch at a diner in the white Dearborn Heights suburbs, and must confront both the prejudice of outsiders and the perhaps even more troubling biases they find within themselves.

Join us in the Elliott Library, Room 507, for a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm, and after the play, participate in a lively discussion of the ethical issues raised, led by Dr. Anne Klaeyen. Gregory Taylor directs

our cast, which includes Cheryl Gross, Barbara Fennell, and Jackie Pope. Suggested donation: \$5.

Ethics in Film: Sci-Fi

Andra Miller

The next two films in our first Friday night series are: *The Time Machine* and *The Brother from Another Planet*.

The Time Machine (1960), directed by George Pál, to be shown Nov. 6, is about George, a man who travels through time in a machine “manufactured by H. George Wells” and who, after witnessing the horrors of several wars, travels far into the future to search for peace. He winds up 800,000 years ahead in a place of idyllic beauty where he meets the gentle Eloi and, eventually, the fierce Morlocks. The film, starring Rod Taylor and Yvette Mimieux, won an Oscar for its trippy special effects. Chris Everett will lead our discussion.

The Brother from Another Planet (1984), directed by John Sayles, to be shown Dec. 4, is a comedy about a black man (Joe Morton) who escapes from slavery on another planet, crash lands on Ellis Island, and ends up in Harlem. Trained by extraterrestrial bounty hunters, unable to speak, and assumed to be a homeless derelict, he nevertheless wins over the locals up and down the social stratum by his ability to fix people and machines with a touch. His story reveals the small triumphs of the city’s poorer residents and the corruption and oppressiveness of those with power. Andra Miller will lead our discussion.

Both films will be shown at 7:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$5 (refreshments are included). For more information, contact Moe-Swe Myint at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Butterfly Project

Dr. Ruth Cohen

We are happy to note that on October 23, as part of our many ongoing social action events, we had the pleasure of presenting representatives of the Veterans Medical Center in New York City with a print of an artwork to aid the veterans there in their healing process. This gift was the first for the SSB Butterfly Project, launched at the August 9 Platform, which aims to purchase art for the medical center.

At that Platform, in my talk, the “Art of Healing,” I based my remarks on my research, reported on in my book, *Art With Heart: Assisting the Work of Wellness*. Members who attended were invited to select—and fund—the purchase of a print of the “winning” artwork with the portion of their contribution for that day devoted to a separate charity.

Paid Sick Leave

Abe Markman

I have recently been appointed NYSEC’s representative to the New York State Paid Family Leave Coalition—and here is some news from that front.

As you may know, low-paid food handlers do not have a paid sick leave benefit. They cannot afford to take a day off when sick, which increases the possibility of a severe swine flu H1N1 epidemic. In order to remedy this situation, on August 20 City Council Member Gale Brewer introduced the Paid Sick Time Act #1059-2009, which would provide paid sick days for the estimated one million New York City workers without such a benefit.

Paid sick leave is an issue for all of us, especially working parents, who often must work and care for a sick child or elderly relative at the same

time. Support for paid sick leave for all workers in the nation was adopted by NYSEC’s Board of Trustees in 2008.

Andra Miller, Nancy Ambruster, Lee Loshak, and Barry Snider joined me in attending one or more press conferences and a rally on the subject. As of the first of October, 38 Council Members out of 51 have indicated their support. In case the bill has not passed by the time you read this, please contact your City Council Member via this link: <http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml>. Please send me a copy at: abemark@rcn.com.

Caring Committee

We are a group of nine long-time members who try to keep up with the needs of our older members, several of whom are homebound or in nursing homes and find it difficult to come to our Meeting House. Receiving NYSEC’s monthly newsletter, *Ethical Outlook*, is just not enough for them, so by calling, sending cards, and visiting these members, we are able to keep them up to date on the Society’s many activities. If you know of any member who would like some extra TLC (tender loving care) or if you would like to join our committee, please call chairperson Virginia Scherer at 212-222-2086 or Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen at 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Health Care Reform

Dr. Maria Fridman

At its September meeting NYSEC’s Board of Trustees approved the AEU’s Health Care Reform resolution.

The resolution, which was submitted for consideration by me and Alan Gardner, states that:

“The New York Society for Ethical Culture supports current efforts to reform the United States health

care system in order to provide affordable, effective, and dependable health care for all. We reaffirm our historic position that health care is a right to which every man, woman, and child is entitled. Although the current proposed bills in Congress do not address all the issues of concern to us, we support President Obama’s effort at creating a just and fair health care system. We believe that any national health insurance reform legislation should include: availability of health care to all persons, regardless of age, ability to pay, or preexisting conditions; universal insurance coverage that would include preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services and mental care, for as long as necessary; assurance of freedom of choice for patients and doctors; and equal access to care for all.

“Nothing in such health care legislation should preclude the private practice of medicine or the private funding of medical care or research.”

Charter School Inaugurated

On September 10, approximately 200 excited children, teachers, parents, and esteemed guests celebrated the official opening of The Ethical Community Charter School, located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, at 700 Park Avenue, (<http://www.teccs-ny.org/>).

TECCS, a dream come true for NYSEC member Dr. Judith D. Wallach, herself a graduate of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, is a safe and caring community where ethics, service, and social justice are the principles that inform every aspect of school life.

All of us extend our hearty congratulations to Judy and the new school team of administrators, teachers, students, and parents.

At the celebration, New York City's Deputy Mayor, Dennis Walcott, read a congratulatory letter from Mayor Bloomberg and cut the red ribbon with the aid of six of the children. The kindergartners and first graders present charmed the audience with a song of welcome and appreciation.

“Where teachers lead and collaborate with students in a culture of rigorous academics and mutual respect; where analytical thinking and creativity are prized over rote learning; where children become individuals of integrity, insight, autonomy—and socially productive citizens, workers, leaders.” –TECCS vision statement



Students take part in the opening ceremony of The Ethical Community Charter School (Photos by Jeffrey Meyer)



Cutting the ribbon at the school's opening festivities

Activities Fair

On Sunday, September 20, during Social Hour, members enjoyed an Activities Fair at which we learned about the many NYSEC programs to which we could look forward during the coming season. *(Photos by Dr. Maria Fridman)*



(L-R) NYSEC Leaders Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Dr. Joseph Chuman, and Curt Collier speak about the Leader's Lunch Discussions, Advocacy Forums, and exciting new Earth Rise activities



(Front row) Eric Volpe and Patricia Debrovner speak about Ethics in Film and Ethics and the Theater; (Back row) Moe-Swe Myint looks on as Ken Gans describes the Socrates Cafe

Scenes from NYSEC's 2009 Fall Retreat

A weekend of good company, getting to know each other, discussions, contemplation, and growth—that about sums up our 2009 Fall Membership Retreat, held October 2-4, at the beautiful Warwick Center, in Warwick, New York. *(Photos by Chris Bernhardt)*



Enjoying the great outdoors among friends



Sharing stories during Anne Klaeyesen's storytelling workshop



More fun in the sun



Fall Hike which took place on Saturday, Oct. 10. (Photo by Chris Bernhardt)

Project FIND Calling...

Volunteers are needed to help Project FIND serve Thanksgiving Day dinner to the seniors in our community on Thursday, November 26, at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle (60th St. and 9th Ave.). Project FIND needs wait staff, deliverers to homebound seniors, escorts, drivers, room monitors, and sandwich preparers. Volunteers must be able to stand or be on their feet for long periods of time. Dinner volunteers will report for duty by 10:30 am on the day of the event, and stay until 2:00 pm or so.

Volunteers are also needed to help out before the event, on November 25, for room set-up and table decorations, packing bags, and kitchen set-up for the next day. Please email Moe-Swe Myint at mmyint@nysec.org to register as a volunteer.

Green Kitchen

Dr. Ruth Cohen

Thanks to your continuing support, we can now report that the Dollar Day Drive of the Green Kitchen Project has

raised several hundred dollars. This is good and will allow us to purchase one machine, although there are many more that we need. My suggestion for the next one is a dishwasher, so that we can discontinue using plastic plates, knives and forks, etc. We'll look into the purchase of biodegradable materials, until we can afford the dishwasher, a matter of several thousand dollars.

Keep up the good work, and collect your recipes. We are planning a Green Kitchen Cook Book. See us at our lunch conversations, following the Sunday Platforms.

WBAI Fund Drive

WBAI needs volunteers to answer phones during their Fall Fund Drive. The drive, which raises vital funds for all of WBAI's programming, has already begun and continues through Saturday, November 7. Please consider offering your time, energy, and spirit to support the station that keeps NYSEC's "Ethics on the Air" on the air!

To volunteer and to register in advance for entry into their offices at 120 Wall Street, call 212-209-2826.

SAVE THE DATE

Pledge Party!

Saturday, December 5
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Ceremonial Hall

Help make the
100th Anniversary of our
Landmark Building
the best year yet!



RSVP by November 20

Moe-Swe Myint
(212) 874-5210 x113
mmyint@nysec.org

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
ETHICAL CULTURE 

November 2009

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends 10:00 am – Parenting Issues 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Ethics in Action	2 December 2009 Newsletter Deadline! 6:30 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	3 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	4 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:00 pm – Shrinks on Film 7:00 pm – Membership Cultivation Club 7:30 pm – Great Books	5 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Nonviolent Communication Workshop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	6 7:00 pm – Earth Rise 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film: Sci-Fi – <i>The Time Machine</i>	7 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
8 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	9 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	10 7:00 pm – Advocacy Forum	11 3:00 pm – ECRDG	12 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Nonviolent Communication Workshop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – <i>Indelible/SSB</i> Event	13	14 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 2:00 pm – Memorial for Sarah Wright-Kaye
15 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Life with Health	16 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception	17 6:00 pm – Socrates Café	18 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	19 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 pm – Nonviolent Communication Workshop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	20 7:00 pm – Earth Rise	21 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
22 10:00 am – Ethics in the News 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Community Meeting	23 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	24	25	26 Society Offices Closed Thanksgiving	27 11:00 am – Ethics on the Air	28 No Supervised Visitation program today
29 10:00 am – Coffee 'n Chat 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour	30 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	<p>Great Books: November 4 – Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (Complete work) ECRDG: Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group November 11 – Benjamin Markovits, <i>A Quiet Adjustment</i> Great Books: Great Conversation II November 18 – John Rawls, "Distributive Justice" (from <i>Collected Papers</i>)</p>				

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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