

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

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

October 1

The Value of Values

Tony Hileman

Senior Leader

Dr. Charles H. Debrovner Presides

October 8

Why Call Waiting Isn't "Kosher"

Arthur Dobrin

Leader Emeritus, Ethical

Humanist Society of Long Island

Joseph Marvel Presides

October 15

Democracy and Our Civic **Responsibilities**

Tony Hileman

Senior Leader

Muriel Berger Presides

October 22

Human Dignity, Lost and Regained

Dr. Joerg Bose

Tony Hileman Presides

October 29

The Midterm Elections and the **War on Terror**

Dr. Richard Pious

Andra Miller Presides

The **Eighth Annual Benefit Concert** for our stained glass windows will be held on Sunday, November 19, 3:00 pm in Ceremonial Hall.

We'll present a sparkling array of new compositions, works by emerging composers and artists, and new music written especially for our own Jon Liechty.

October Happenings

Ethics and Journalism—Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 pm. The Adult Education Committee is proud to announce that *New York Magazine*, Demos, and the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism will join with NYSEC to present an exciting event highlighting the importance of a free press. *(Continued on page 4)*

NYSEC Open House Tour—Sunday, October 8, 1:30 pm. During the Open House New York Weekend, we'll once again explore the Society's renowned landmark building. *(Continued on page 6)*

President's Notes

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh



Changes, Both Personal and Institutional

As many of you know, my wife and I have bought a new home in Beacon, New York, and no longer live in the city. We both continue to work in the city and will, of course, continue to be members of the New York Society, though we will probably check out our sibling societies in Westchester and Northern Westchester from time to time.

Holly and I have both lived in the city for most of our adult lives, so it is with some sadness and fear of loss that we have relocated to Beacon. Of course, this kind of change brings with it both loss and gain. We have a new home, a new environment, new things to learn about, new places to go, and new friends to meet. It's a new adventure, though not without its challenges.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Morning Meetings

October 1—The Value of Values

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

Values are our judgments about the way things should be, how we ought to behave, and the relative worth of these "shoulds" and "oughts" in relation to each other.

For our values to be real to us, *to be really ours*, we need to realize and experience them in the deepest, most profound ways. We need to absorb them completely and apply them consistently in our daily lives. Only by doing so can our values become strong enough to support the weight of our lives.

How do we come by our values? How do we establish and develop them? How do we form our opinions of how things ought to be?

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 Jon Liechty, Reporter
 Barbara Litke, Poetry Editor
 Deborah Foster, Production

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 Sheleigah Grube, Assistant to the Senior Leader
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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

We look forward to continuing to commune with our friends at Ethical Culture and very much want visitors once we are more settled.

And speaking of changes, at the September 11 Board meeting I announced to the Trustees that I will make this my last year as President. This has little to do with our move. It is just time. At the end of this season I will have been President for six years, which is plenty long enough, perhaps even a little too long, for the health of an institution. It is time for me to step aside and let fresh energy and fresh thinking rise up and take the reins. It will be good for the Society and, I think, good for me, as I reorient myself and consider what the themes of my 50's will be.

I am proud of what has been accomplished during my presidency. We undertook and successfully completed a major renovation of our Concert Hall, which became the basis for generating income that has allowed us to balance our budget. We have undertaken, or had forced upon us, significant staff changes, including the hiring of a new Executive Director and a new Senior Leader. We have successfully navigated these changing waters to leave the Society in a strengthened position, one from which I hope we can grow.

Growth is the one thing that eluded my watch, though certainly not for lack of thinking about it and attempts to change. It may well be that not all the conditions for growth are right yet. Whatever the reasons, growth will remain a challenge for the next administration.

Of course, all of this could not have been accomplished without a lot of hard work from the Board, the staff, and all the members who volunteer their time in so many ways to support the work of the Society. Leaders lead; they provide vision and manage the flow of membership and staff energy towards that vision. And if something is accomplished, it is everyone's accomplishment. No one of us can do it alone. There is much still to be done to secure the future of the New York Society. I have confidence that the next generation of leaders will arise and make their mark on the Society for the better. I have confidence, too, that the Society can grow both in membership and impact on New York City.

As for this year, there are still a few things to be done. We got off to a good start at our September 11 Board meeting. I look forward to a few more accomplishments, which I hope will give the next administration even more with which to work. I've enjoyed my time as President and I thank all who have supported me and helped me along the way.

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

October 8—Why Call Waiting Isn't "Kosher"

Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus

Traditionally, Orthodox Judaism decided which actions were considered

legitimate and which were considered illegitimate by deeming them “kosher” or “non-kosher.”

But what about modern technology and why, for example, was call waiting put on the “non-kosher” list? And what lessons can a Humanist learn from such reasoning?

October 15–Democracy and Our Civic Responsibilities

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

Based on the cherished principle of social equality, the democratic process is central to the task of ensuring a humane environment for all. It recognizes the worth of each individual and respects our personal efforts toward self-fulfillment. As Ethical Humanists, we consider participation in the democratic process a civic duty, one that is essential to the propagation of human rights and civil liberties in an open, secular society. Yet less than half of all eligible Americans vote in a typical election. Why do so few participate in this most essential expression of our shared responsibility?

October 22–Human Dignity, Lost And Regained

Dr. Joerg Bose

One’s sense of dignity is shaped and understood differently depending on the various cultural systems in our world. In the face of such competing systems of values and standards, how can we obtain universal agreement about what human dignity consists of? “Human Dignity, Lost and Regained” will address the importance of being esteemed and valued by ourselves and others, a kind of dignity that is essentially social.

In past and present times of war and abuse, the value and dignity of a human being has often been trampled on. What makes it possible for some

individuals to retain their personal dignity in the face of humiliation? Dignity that has been lost is something difficult to restore because it depends to a great degree on obtaining others’ approval. However, the capacity for compassion with self and others is the ultimate resort of the victimized, disrespected individual. It is this capacity that enables us to transcend the various culture-bound understandings of dignity.

Joerg Bose, M.D., has been Director of the William Alanson White Institute since 2000, where he has been a Training and Supervising Analyst and faculty member. He also is a Clinical Associate Professor at Columbia University (College of Physicians and Surgeons) and is in private practice. Dr. Bose has lectured, taught, and written on issues of self and narcissism, trauma, shame, depression, and the relationship between psychoanalysis and the arts.

October 29–The Midterm Elections And the War on Terror

Dr. Richard Pious

Republicans have described Democrats as “soft” on national security in the past two elections, and are playing the national security card in the 2006 midterm elections. Democrats claim that Republicans manipulate the timing of alerts and arrests, and cross the line in their charges against anti-war opponents. This talk explores the choices the Bush administration has made in combating terrorism, and how the current elections intersect with, and are likely to influence, Bush’s policies.

Richard M. Pious is Adolph and Effie Ochs Professor of American Studies at Barnard College and a professor at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University. His books include *The American Presidency* (1979), *The President, Congress*

and the Constitution (1984) and, most recently, *The War on Terrorism and the Rule of Law* (2006).

**Early Sunday
10:00 AM**

Oct. 1–No program scheduled.

Oct. 8–Colloquy–A meditative hour exploring thoughts about a presented subject. Phyllis Kreuttner will guide this probing, quiet, contemplative interlude. Room 408.

Oct. 15–Poetry Reading–A peaceful hour with Cheryl Gross reading the poems we especially like. Come to read as well as listen, or just come and listen. Room 408.

Oct. 22–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 join us. Ceremonial Hall.

October 29–Remembrance Sunday

Tony Hileman, Senior Leader

10:00 am–Ceremonial Hall

Many of those who accompanied us along life’s way had a profound influence on the way we are. That influence continues long after our separation through distance or death. It is appropriate that we take time out to remember those whose influence lives on through our actions, a quiet time to reflect on how we benefited from them and how we can pass those benefits on to others. Members and friends will have an opportunity to honor the individuals who played an important, perhaps formative, role in their lives and to speak in remembrance of them, if they wish.

Sunday Afternoon 1:30 PM

Oct. 1—No program scheduled.

Oct. 8—Dr. Charles H. Debrovner will speak about stem cell research.

Oct. 15—Dr. Charles H. Debrovner will discuss therapeutic cloning.

Oct. 22—Dr. John Gurney, Jr., will speak about global warming.

Oct. 29—No program scheduled.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

Let's welcome our new member:

Emily Ascher is an attorney whose family has a long history with the Society; her mother and grandparents were all members. She is a volunteer at the Harlem Children's Zone and enjoys cooking, knitting, and solving crossword puzzles.

Emily will be getting married to Justin Rand this fall, in a ceremony by an Ethical Culture officiant. Congratulations to both of you!

We'd also like to introduce **Sheleigah**



Sheleigah Grube

Grube to all—she is Tony Hileman's new assistant and she can be reached at 212-874-

5210, ext. 118. Sheleigah comes to the New York Society from many years of working in social service. Welcome!

Sadly, we must report the death of long-time member **Connie Flynn**, who also worked for many years with the American Ethical Union.

Volunteers Needed



Milt Nobel

Are you interested in volunteering to work in the NYSEC

Membership Office? It's fun and much needed. If you'd like more information, call me at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Society member Dr. Milt Nobel, one of our volunteers, is shown above helping in the office.

Adult Education Committee: Ethics and Journalism

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

(Continued from page 1)

This very special evening, entitled "Ethics and Journalism: Should We Trust the Media?" will honor Clay Felker, founder of the Felker Magazine Center at the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Orville Schell, Dean, will be our moderator.

A free press is one of democracy's most precious attributes. Should its primary goal be to inform or to entertain? Is it possible for it to resist governmental and corporate pressure and succeed in offering news that is free of bias? These and many other important questions will be explored by a distinguished panel of experts, including Helen Thomas, longtime journalist with Hearst Publications; Adam Moss, Editor-in-Chief of *New York Magazine*; Jeff Jarvis, of *Buzzmachine.com*; Richard Stengel, Managing Editor of *Time Magazine*; and Randall Pinkston, CBS-TV news correspondent.

The Adult Education Committee is deeply grateful for the tireless and invaluable efforts of Leslie Doyle, the Society's Director of Marketing and Special Events, to make the event a reality. Leslie was responsible for pursuing the speakers and establishing the relationships that made it all possible. The event is free and open to the public, so plan to come early to get a good seat in what will undoubtedly be a packed house! Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Caring Committee

Carol Nadell

The Caring Committee is being reorganized. We have a small Steering Committee with the following members: Ben Bean, 212-580-1757; Bonnie Bean, 212-397-9526; Carole Chamlin, 212-628-6462; Barbara Levenson, 212-799-2920; and Carol Nadell, Chair, 212-757-1510.

We are looking for additional helping members who are interested in being part of the Committee, but not necessarily required to attend meetings. They would be available to visit members in need, phone them, or send cards and notes to them. If you'd like to become a helping member of the committee, please call Carol Nadell, or email her at Carol@Selectivecasting.com.

If you feel you need the services of the Caring Committee or if you know someone else who might, please contact any of the members of the Steering Committee or Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Ethics in the News

Abe Markman

The NYSEC Board has approved the formation of a new standing committee focused on ethical issues in the news,

as well as three of the committee's proposals. These proposals—on Iraq, stem cell research, and global warming—will be presented for endorsement to the membership at the Society's 2007 Annual Meeting. The proposal on Iraq is in support of the resolution adopted by the AEU at its most recent Assembly in Chicago in July.

By the time you read this, we will have informed the membership of the details of the proposals and the permanent name for the committee. Its temporary name, the Strategic Ethical Action Committee (SEAC), will be changed to reflect more closely how we plan to function. Members of the Board had expressed the view that we function more like a think tank than a hands-on-action committee.

The new committee is gearing up for the upcoming elections on a non-parti-



At a Sunday Morning Meeting, members learn about the committee's work

san basis. Some of our members have already had face-to-face interviews with prominent candidates on our issues. In order to deepen members' understanding of these issues we are scheduling several Sunday afternoon sessions on the topics.

The first sessions are:

- Oct. 8**—Dr. Charles H. Debrovner, Stem Cell Research
- Oct. 15**—Dr. Charles H. Debrovner, Therapeutic Cloning
- Oct. 22**—Dr. John Gurney, Jr., Global Warming, and

Part Two, On Winning Political Approval

Nov. 26—Bill Sweet, author of *Kicking the Carbon Habit*, On Global Warming

Our thanks to everyone who has helped, and a special thank you to our Senior Leader, Tony Hileman. He has been there for us every step of the way.

Film Forum

Cheryl Gross

The second film in our 2006-2007 series, "Reel Justice: Courtroom Dramas," on Friday, October 6, will be *Adam's Rib* (1949). Directed by George Cukor, the characters in this witty comedy face an ethical dilemma. The film stars the superb duo Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy as Amanda and Adam Bonner, married lawyers on opposing sides in the trial of Doris Ettinger (Judy Holliday in her film debut), who is accused of shooting her husband while he was in the arms of another woman.

Amanda's defense of Doris is laden with women's rights issues and rests on the idea that if tradition allows a man to shoot his wife's lover to defend his home and family, it has to be okay when a woman shoots, because she and her children have been abandoned by an unfaithful husband. Adam, as prosecutor, defends the law, saying that no man or woman has the right to take



David Leiman and Cheryl Gross at a recent Film Forum showing

the law into his or her own hands. Can this couple still enjoy dinner together and each other's affection, or are their differences irreconcilable? Richard Bruno will again lead us in a discussion about this classic film.

Doors open at 6:30 pm; the movie begins at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Popcorn and beverages are included, so come and enjoy a lovely evening.

Fall Bike Trip

Henryka Komanska

It's fall again, and it's time to get in gear! Join us on Saturday, October 14, for a four-hour biking adventure from 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. We'll be cycling approximately 22 miles on 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 Eleanor Roosevelt statue at 72nd Street and Riverside Drive. Bring a water bottle, a 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. Please note that you **absolutely must** wear a bicycle helmet, or you will not be permitted to ride. There is no sign-up procedure; just show up at the appointed time and place. Rain cancels.

Save the Date—Come to a Membership Community Meeting with Senior Leader Tony Hileman, President Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh, and committee heads on Sunday, November 5, 1:30 pm in Social Hall. Get to know what NYSEC is up to!

Open House Tour

Dr. Marc Bernstein, Archivist

(Continued from page 1)

I'll be leading the tour, and I want to express my appreciation for the dedicated team effort of Leslie Doyle, Events Director, and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Social Service Board Chair, who worked with me and helped make this event possible. Thank you.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for members and friends to learn more about our historic building and see its beautiful features "up close." To help the tour run smoothly, participants will be admitted to the Concert Hall in three groups of 30, beginning at 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm, and 2:30 pm, for Marc's presentation of a slide lecture highlighting the building's Art Nouveau architecture, which was crafted with the needs of a new religious movement in mind and reflected a faith that celebrated democracy.

If you missed the last tour in May, or would like to take the tour again, please join us for a fun-filled and educational afternoon.

We also need volunteers to assist us during the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.



Marc Bernstein

cal questions of life. Everyone is welcome, so come and share your thoughts. For more information, please call Ken Gans at 212-787-7000.

Make Your Vote Count: A Forum on New Voting Technology

Gail Ettinger

The County Commissioners will choose your voting machines before October 31st. Listen and ask a panel of experts and elected officials how your votes will be counted. This may be your only chance to have your voice heard before this decision is made for you. Join us on Wednesday, October 25, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.



NYSEC's renovated Concert Hall and one of our beautiful stained glass window

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Membership Activities Committee is considering having a Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner on Thursday, November 23 at 3:00 pm.

The Society will supply turkey and drinks—members will bring side dishes and desserts. This festive dinner will be served in Ceremonial Hall.

We need to know approximately how many people to expect, so if you'd like to attend or if you want more information, please call Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Thanksgiving dinner in our beautiful building would be a fine prelude to the upcoming holiday season. If you want to participate, let Suzy know.

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

This month's Ethics and the Theater presentation, on Wednesday, October 18, 7:00–9:00 pm, is Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*, 2004 winner of both the New York Drama Critics Circle and the Outer Critics Circle awards. Set in New York City in 1905, the play dramatizes the efforts of an illiterate black seamstress to realize her dreams of marriage and success as she fashions intimate apparel for clients, whose

ranks include wealthy white women and prostitutes, among others.

Our cast includes Diane Debrovner, Barbara Fennell, Cheryl Gross, Alex Mogleieff, Sharon Nneka Pope, and Godfrey Simmons. Come for an entertaining and thought-provoking evening.

Socrates Café

Ken Gans

Join us every third Wednesday of the month 6:00–8:00 pm, at the Socrates Café for stimulating discussions on Humanism and the basic philosophi-

October 2006

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am – No program 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – No program	2 November 2006 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	3 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	4 6:00 pm – Men's Group 7:00 pm – Ethics in the Media 7:30 pm – Great Books	5 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	6 7:00 pm – Film Forum <i>Adam's Rib</i> (1949)	7 No Supervised Visitation program today
8 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – Open House Tour 1:30 pm – Stem Cell Research	9 Society offices closed	10 6:00 pm – Drawing Class 6:00 pm – Women's Group 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	11 3:00 pm – ECRDG	12 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	13	14 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 9:30 am – Bike Trip
15 10:00 am – Poetry Reading 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – Therapeutic Cloning	16 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 6:30 pm – Social Service Board	17 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	18 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Great Books: Great Conversations I	19 6:00 pm – Orientation 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	20	21 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
22 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – Global Warming	23 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	24 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	25 7:00 pm – Make Your Vote Count	26 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	27	28 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
29 10:00 am – Remembrance Sunday 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:30 pm – No program	30 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	31 6:00 pm – Drawing Class	<p>Great Books: October 4 – John Dewey, <i>Habits and Will</i> John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group) October 11 – V.S. Naipaul, <i>Bend in the River</i> Great Books: "Great Conversations I" October 18 – Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus Bound</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.

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