

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM–Auditorium

February 1

“Agitate, Agitate, Agitate”

The Life And Work of

Frederick Douglass

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader

Bonnie Bean Presides

February 8

Memory, Nostalgia, and Ethics

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Chris Bernhardt Presides

February 15

Gods, Gays, and Guns: Religion

And the Future of Democracy

Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

February 22

Living Our Passion in

Ethical Culture

Martha Gallahue, UN

Representative of the AEU’s

National Service Conference

Curt Collier Presides

February Happenings

On **Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 pm**, in Room 514, led by Dr. Anne Klaeysen, we’ll explore the **Foundations of Ethical Culture**. (See page 5)

Join us starting **Thursday, February 5, 7:00 pm**, in Room 507, for a weekly course, **The Ethics of Hip-Hop**, to explore one of today’s most exciting cultural movements. Prominent artists, educators, and writers will discuss hip-hop and its role in our culture. (See page 6)

Come on **Saturday, February 7, 2:00 pm**, to our **Darwin Day Family Festival**, a program of talks and entertainment for adults in the Auditorium and games and songs for children in Social Hall. (See page 9)

President’s Notes

Andra Miller



At our last Board meeting (January 12), the main issue of discussion was the setting up and operation of a **Program Council**—organizing all the committees that plan membership and public programs under a Program Coordinator, who will work with the Leaders and report to the Board. We are doing this to make sure that all Society programs are scheduled so as to not conflict with each other, to provide support for special programs from other program committees, to coordinate joint efforts (themed programs running from one program to another), and to take on special projects. Though its main purpose is to streamline program operations, we also expect this will keep the Board of Trustees from getting over-involved in the details of program (Continued on page 2)

From the Leader’s Desk

Dr. Anne Klaeysen



An Enduring Friendship: Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony

In the center of a lovely park square in Rochester, New York, is a striking bronze statue, a tribute to the friendship of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, whose bodies are interred in nearby Mount Hope Cemetery. It is called “Let’s Have Tea,” and that’s just what the friends are doing: sitting together, on a scale slightly larger than life-size, face-to-face in sturdy Victorian chairs, with a table between them set with a teapot, two cups, and two books. “They’re not talking about any particular issue,” says the sculptor Pepsy Kettavong, “but they both are anxious to hear what each is thinking. You’re not quite sure who’s talking or who’s listening, so you have that balance.” (Continued on page 3)

Save the Date:

Friday, February 27

Ethics and the Theater

(See page 7 for details)

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President's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

planning—although it continues to be the Board's responsibility to approve any program being contemplated.

We have been developing this plan for the past few months (many other Societies are organized this way) and have already named the coordinator, Sheila Kleinwald. She's been working with our Leaders to group program committees in sensible arrangements by function: Education, Sunday Programs, Ethical Action, Public Relations, and Membership. For each of those functions, we'll find a chair or co-chairs—and it will be their responsibility to keep tabs on the plans of their respective committees and then meet once a month with the other four chairs (or co-chairs), Sheila, and the Leaders to report, advise each other, and plan together.

Naturally, there needs to be a set procedure to follow for anyone wanting to institute or suggest a program. Sheila and the Leaders are working on that, along with other procedural details. As before, all programs need the sponsorship of one of the program committees.

Advisory Board—Also instituted at the January Board meeting was the new Leaders Advisory Board: Dr. James Farer, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross,

Law'nence Miller, Sheila Kleinwald, and Chris Everett. Memorize those names! Our Leaders welcome your comments and suggestions, but in the event you are unable to go to them directly, any of these five people can carry your message.

As I'm sure you've realized, it is a delight and an inspiration to work with our three Leaders. They bring a wealth of Society experience to their tasks, and they enthusiastically pour themselves into all that they do. We need to stop often and be grateful to have them leading us here at NYSEC.

And, as I find it necessary to do from time to time, I need to yet again thank the Board—your representatives. You really should attend a Board meeting to see the devotion and concern every Trustee has for doing the right thing, making the right decisions, representing you honestly, and keeping our mission in mind. Things get delightfully heated at times, as we bring to the discussion yet another facet of whatever problem we're facing. It's good to know that passion comes with ethics. We generally meet the first Monday of the month. Check it out.

I'd like to give a special thank you to one of our hard-working Board members, Heather Grady. She has done the best job ever in spearheading the Pledge Drive. She's organized, methodical,

thoughtful, and an excellent leader for her committee and the staff who work with her. Thanks, too, to her committee members and the staff—if I start naming names, this will go on forever. In addition to this demanding duty, Heather is our Treasurer, a job she’s also undertaken with enormous energy; she’s worked her way through all the financial aspects to fully understand what NYSEC faces, and with the Finance Committee is finding the answers. I hope you get a chance to join me in giving her a gentle pat on the back for work well done, and for the work she continues to do.

Don't forget to let me or Moe-Swe know if you want to help at the Darwin Day Festival on Saturday, February 7!

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

The statue represents the early days of their friendship, when they were not yet old, or famous, when they could find time to talk over the causes that drew them together: abolition and women’s suffrage. Douglass and Anthony met in 1845 while he was on a speaking tour. In 1847, attracted by Anthony’s active women’s movement, Douglass and his wife, Anna, moved their family to Rochester, where the famous former slave became a prominent publisher and abolitionist spokesman. Their home became one of the stops on the Underground Railroad. In 1848 Frederick Douglass attended the first Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls and wrote about it in his paper, *The North Star*:

“All that distinguishes man as an intelligent and accountable being is equally true of woman; and if that government is only just which governs by

the free consent of the governed, there can be no reason in the world for denying to woman the exercise of the elective franchise, or a hand in making and administering the laws of the land.”

Anthony, later recalling that he was the only man who came to their convention and stood up with them, said, “From that day until the day of his death Frederick Douglass was an honorary member of the National Women’s Suffrage Association. In all our conventions, he was the honored guest who sat on our platform and spoke in our gatherings.”

In fact, Douglass died on February 20, 1895, only hours after sitting next to Anthony on the platform at a meeting held in Washington, DC, where he had been greeted with resounding applause and responded with a gentle bow.

But their lifelong friendship was not always an easy one. It encountered a serious challenge after the Civil War when they disagreed over suffrage. Under the Civil Rights Bill of 1866, Negroes and women had the same civil and protected status, but lacked the ballot. Anthony proposed universal suffrage and vowed to fight the idea of the Negro male being given suffrage before women received the same: “Men, their rights, and nothing more; Women, their rights, and nothing less.” The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed all citizens the right to vote, regardless of race, but did not include voting rights for women. Douglass tried to persuade his friend to support its ratification: “When women because they are women are dragged from their homes and hung upon lampposts . . . then they will have the urgency to obtain the ballot.”

Asked if that was not also true about black women, he responded, “Yes, but not because she is a woman but because she is black.” The amendment was ratified in 1870. Anthony, although arrested for voting in 1872, died before she could do so legally.

The sculptor, whose studio is on the park square, likes to see children climb into the laps of the two friends. In 1980, at the age of eight, he escaped with his family from Communist-led Laos in a canoe. After two years in a Thai refugee camp, they found sanctuary in Rochester. “Our idea was to utilize history to get people involved,” says Kettavong. “It’s a social statement. A black man and a white woman are drinking tea together. A Laotian makes their sculpture. It could be a metaphor for American democracy.”

To learn more about Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, and their enduring friendship, join me for Sunday Platform on February 1 and March 1.

Sunday Morning Meetings

11:15 AM—Auditorium

**February 1—“Agitate, Agitate, Agitate”
The Life and Work of
Frederick Douglass**

Dr. Anne Klaeyens, Leader

Born in February 1818 to a slave mother and a white father he never knew, Frederick Douglass grew up to become a leader in the abolitionist movement and the first African-American citizen to hold a high rank in the United States government, as Consul General to Haiti. In his autobiography, Douglass related the several

lives in one he had lived: “First, the life of slavery; secondly, the life of a fugitive from slavery; thirdly, the life of comparative freedom; fourthly, the life of conflict and battle; and fifthly, the life of victory, if not complete, at least assured.” Shortly before his death, he whispered to a young follower, “Agitate, agitate, agitate.” Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens highlights Douglass’s ethical journey and legacy.

February 8—Memory, Nostalgia, And Ethics

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Is there an ethics of memory? At first glance, memory seems beyond our control. We cannot remember what we cannot remember and we cannot forget what we cannot forget. When it comes to memory, freedom to choose seems to elude us and with it moral obligation. But don’t we have an obligation to keep in mind the concerns of those people who are near and dear to us? What does it say about our caring for others when we cannot remember what is important to them? By contrast, don’t we have an obligation to forget memories that lead us to vindictiveness, hatefulness, and revenge?

In his address, Dr. Chuman will contend that shared memories are the mortar that holds communities together. He will explore the ethical dimensions of memory and how we need to respond to memory if we are to be ethical agents in a social world.

February 15—Gods, Gays, and Guns: Religion and the Future of Democracy

Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou

In his talk, Rev. Osagyefo Uhuru Sekou, Professor of Preaching at the Seminary Consortium of Urban

Pastoral Education and author of the forthcoming *Gods, Gays, and Guns: Religion and the Future of Democracy* (Ig Publishing, 2009), will address the power of the religious right, the prophetic tradition of the Black Church, the anti-gay marriage movement, and the need for religion to be tempered by democratic ideas.

Rev. Sekou is a third generation ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ (Pentecostal) and special assistant to its Bishop of New York, Southeastern District. In 2006 the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, appointed him the first Associate Fellow in Religion and Justice. He is the former co-coordinator of the Democracy Action Project of the Institute for Policy Studies (Washington, DC), which after the 2000 elections trained a multiracial group of over 100 young activists from around the country. He also led the effort to organize 18- to 24-year-olds and served as senior advisor on urban public policy for the 2004 Kucinich for President Campaign.

A contributing editor to *The Fellowship Magazine*, Rev. Sekou has written and lectured widely in the U.S. and abroad on religion, race, sexuality, social justice, and contemporary politics. He has appeared on Fox News’ “O’Reilly Factor,” NPR’s “News and Notes,” WBAI’s “Beyond the Pale,” Air America’s “The Laura Flanders Show,” CSPAN, and CNN, and his work has been covered in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. An activist in the labor, educational, and political spheres, he worked in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, promoted the unionization of hotel workers, founded a workers’ rights legal clinic, and was the

founding national coordinator of Clergy and Laity Concerned About Iraq.

February 22—Living Our Passion in Ethical Culture

Martha Gallahue, UN Representative of the AEU’s National Service Conference

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person, [in] the neighborhood...the school or college...the factory, farm, or office... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

“Let your vocation be your vacation.”—ascribed to the Buddha

“To be rooted within oneself is to always have some of your attention on the inner energy field of your body; to feel your body from within, so to speak. Body awareness keeps you present.

*It anchors you in the Now.”—Eckhart Tolle, *The Power of Now**

Martha Gallahue, an interactive psychoanalyst in private practice and the main UN representative of the AEU’s National Service Conference, will describe how Ethical Culture elicits her passion for the movement and will share some reflections that have grown from her Leader training process. She will describe how she sees growth in the Ethical Culture Movement through “modeling the way,” “inspiring the message,” and “encouraging the heart”—terms used by Kouzes/Posner in *Leadership Challenge*.

Ms. Gallahue is completing her Leader training in Ethical Culture, and will then continue to represent the Ethical Culture vision and mission in the National Service Conference of the AEU and serve as Leader-at-Large. At the UN, she is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of NGOs' Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns, where she founded the Universal Ethics Working Group.

Early Sunday 10 AM

(Rooms subject to change)

Feb. 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 a lot of fun, so join us! Ceremonial Hall—4th fl.

Feb. 8—Colloquy: Courage. Harriet Bigus presides. Room 408.

Feb. 15—Poetry Readings—We invite you to come and read a poem, or simply listen. We usually introduce each poem by saying a few words about the poet. If possible, please bring copies of one of the poems you will be reading. Cheryl Gross presides. Room 408.

Feb. 15—Singing Practice—Led by Pat Debrovner and Jerry Ranck. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoon 1:45 PM

Feb. 1—Ethical Endings. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen presents a follow-up workshop to last month's **Composing an Ethical Will**. This session

will focus on end-of-life practices, for example, preparing a health care proxy and a living will, planning for a memorial service, etc. Letting your desires be known and putting them in writing, together in one place for your family, is an ethical gift. Get started, or continue what you have already started, at this workshop. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 8—PIC Open Meeting. Adele Welty of the September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows will present a documentary about an Iraqi organization, LaOnf (which means "no violence" in Arabic.) LaOnf (www.laonf.net) is a network of Iraqi activists building a nonviolence movement to resist occupation, terrorism, and corruption in Iraq. Abe Markman presides. Ceremonial Hall.

Feb. 15—Community Meeting. Members are invited to attend the Society's Community Meeting immediately following lunch in the Social Hall. We will discuss what has gone well and what needs improving. Bring your comments, questions, suggestions, and concerns. Ceremonial Hall.

Foundations of Ethical Culture

NYSEC's Leaders will present the next **Foundations of Ethical Culture** course this month on Wednesday evenings, at 6:30 pm, in the Adler Study, Room 514. This course is free and open to the public. However, we ask that you register with the Leaders' office, so that we'll know how many course handouts to prepare.

The dates and topics are:

Feb. 4—Introduction

Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen

Feb. 11—Precursors of Ethical Culture

Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman

Feb. 18—Felix Adler's Philosophy

Leader Dr. Joseph Chuman

Feb. 25—Everyday Applications of Ethical Culture

Leader Curt Collier

Lunch Discussion Science and Faith Thursdays, 12:00 Noon

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyesen in the Elliott Library for this month's series of lively discussions about contemporary ethical issues. We'll explore the field of science and its relation to religion and faith, focusing on a different aspect each week. Copies of relevant articles are available in the Leaders' office.

Feb. 5—Physics

Feb. 12—Evolution

Feb. 19—Moral Psychology

Feb. 26—The Universe

Our Ethical Family

Moe-Swe Myint

New member **Josh Adams** was the Society's busiest member during the past season with his Ethical Action Committee projects such as decorating our women's shelter; our coat and canned food drive; and coordinating the New Year's Eve Party, which by everyone's account was a rocking success. He managed to lasso in a bunch of members to volunteer for his various projects—and a good time was had by all!

I want to thank Bonnie Bean, Carole Chamlin, Anne Klaeyesen, and Andra Miller for taking over my duties while I was away for a mini-vacation and, as

ever, Amy Schwarz and her crew for their indefatigable enthusiasm with the Sunday platforms.

I also have sad news:

Estelle Levinson, a Life Member of the Society, who joined Ethical Culture in 1938, died on January 11. In 1946, Leader Algernon Black officiated at her

marriage to her first husband, Ira Furst. Estelle is survived by three children and many grandchildren.

Former member **George LaMothe** died on January 7, his niece, Margaritte LaMothe, reported. George had been a member since 1964 and was 95 years old. A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 15.

Winterfest 2008

Moe-Swe Myint

The Society's building was buzzing and humming with activity all through the winter holidays. We celebrated the seasons with Winterfest on December 21 in Ceremonial Hall. The theme was a "Celebration of the Regenerative Power of Life." There was a Children's Presentation and music by the Sunday School students, as well as the Society Chorus. Curt Collier directed and presided, along with Rita Chawla and Jamie Cid for the children. Members and guests alike came bearing skeins of yarn to be donated to our "One Stitch In Time" project. Hand-knit items will be made from the yarns collected for those in need.



Leader Curt Collier in costume



Candle-lighting ceremony with the Sunday school children; Curt Collier in the background



(L-R) Society members Eva Yachnes and Law'nence Miller performing a skit about homeless people

Teen Ethical Leadership

Rita Chawla

If you're between 13 and 16 and looking for a community of like-minded young people who want to make the world a better place, then it's time to register for the next session of NYSEC's Teen Ethical Leadership Program.

This free program, which runs from February 1 to April 19, (no session Feb. 15 and April 12), Sundays 2:00-4:00 pm, is a series of dynamic, interactive workshops that aim to inspire ethical leadership and social activism in teens. Participants will learn about the art of leadership through community service projects, team-building exercises, role-playing scenarios, challenge games, case studies, guest speakers, social justice films, and discussions and debates. They will gain the foundation, tools, and techniques for ethical leadership, which is based not only on knowledge and skills, but also on broad vision and integrity. They'll develop confidence by learning new skills so they can become role-models for other teens.

Besides being a really valuable learning experience that will help you make a difference, the program is a lot of fun! Sessions will include time to socialize, with pizza and snacks; workshops; and group activities. For more information and to register, call 212-874-5210, ext. 106, or email rchawla@nysec.org.

The Ethics of Hip-Hop

This new Adult Education series, curated by Marlon Rice, NYSEC Building Manager, and Leader Dr. Anne Klaeysen, with guest lecturers and art-

ists, will be offered on Thursdays, at 7:00 pm, in Room 507.

According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, hip-hop is a “cultural movement that attained widespread popularity in the 1980s and ’90s; also, the backing music for rap, the musical style incorporating rhythmic and/or rhyming speech that became the movement’s most lasting and influential art form.” Although widely considered a synonym for rap music, the term “hip-hop” refers to a complex culture comprising four elements: deejaying, or “turndabbling”; rapping, also known as “MCing” or “rhyming”; graffiti painting, also known as “graf” or “writing”; and “B-boying,” which encompasses hip-hop dance, style, and attitude, along with the sort of virile body language that philosopher Cornel West described as “postural semantics.”

Over the years, hip-hop has become an international music and cultural movement that has, at times, reinforced racist and misogynist stereotypes and promoted explicitly violent images. This series examines the ethical dimensions of hip-hop and how it can offer positive images and role models to a new generation.

Course speakers: George “Rithm” Martinez, an international artist/activist/educator and a political pioneer of the hip-hop community, and was recently selected to serve as a U.S. Cultural Envoy, working with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. embassies, and NGOs throughout Latin America. He is a founding Board member of the Hip-Hop Association, as well as a founder of the Blackout Arts Collective. He is a faculty member teaching political science at Pace

University, and has produced radio and television programs.

MiRi Park (aka Seoulsonyk) teaches in NYU’s dance education program, and is the program coordinator for the Oral History masters program at Columbia. She holds an MA in American Studies from Columbia, and a BFA in dance and a BA in journalism from the University of Massachusetts. Ms. Park has presented her work on hip-hop dance at the Conference on NY State History, the Oral History and Performance Conference, and the Society of Dance History Scholars. She dances professionally, and her writing has appeared in *The Village Voice*, *KoreAm Journal*, and *Dance Spirit Magazine*; she is currently co-writing a feature film adaptation of *Planet B-Boy*.

Participants must register for this course with the Leaders’ office. The fee is \$10 per class or \$30 for the series for nonmembers and \$5 per class and \$15 for the series for members.



Ethics in Film

Eric Volpe

Join us on Friday, February 6, at 7:00 pm, for the first film in our coming season of monthly film showings and discussions (doors open 6:30 pm), to view *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*, a classic science fiction movie.

What would happen if Earth went off-course and started edging closer to the sun? This fast-paced, well-acted 1961 black-and-white British film answers that question with a reporter’s focus. Of particular interest to us at this time is what transpires when the citizenry begins to run out of water.

Today, with population growth, corporate use, and pollution of our dwindling water supplies, such a scenario has the ring of reality.

Come and join us for this taut, gripping story and to participate in a lively discussion after the film, to be led by Andra Miller. A \$5 donation will be requested to cover the cost of coffee, soda, and popcorn. Enjoy!

Future films are:

March 6—*Forbidden Planet*

April 3—*Silent Running*

May 1—*Soylent Green*

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

On Friday evening, February 27, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Ethics and the Theater will present *No Exit*, by Jean Paul Sartre. In this play, first performed in 1944, just before the liberation of Paris, three mutually antipathetic characters, a man and two women, are trapped by their mutual dependency. Is it true that “hell is other people,” the plays most famous line?

This work is one of the defining documents of French existentialism. Come and participate in a lively discussion of the ethical issues raised in the play, led by Muriel Berger, which will follow the reading. Richard Van Deusen directs our talented cast. Suggested donation: \$5.

Ethics in Action— A Volunteer Opportunity

Marlon Rice, NYSEC Building Manager, is also an avid community vol-

unteer. He has organized a mentorship program at the Bedford Community Charter School in Brooklyn and is looking for volunteers to visit with students and tell them about their chosen professions. Help to inspire the next generation by contacting Marlon at mrice@nysec.org and scheduling a time to share your vocational insights.

Ethical Blasts From the Past

*Dr. Henry Neumann, Leader
Brooklyn Ethical Society, 1911 to 1957*

In his essay, "The Courage of Ethical Faith," Dr. Henry Neumann wrote, "We are not here only to multiply acts of kindness or truthfulness. These are undoubtedly necessary. We take them for granted as the mere ABCs of right living. Nor are we here merely to work at this or that piece of social reform or reconstruction. Profound changes are necessary, but in the interest of a still more profound inner transformation. Acts of integrity and kindness, civic and social remaking, a radically better schooling, are all vitally requisite; but we need to see them all of a piece in the light of the chief demand made upon thinking men and women—the demand to be clear in their own minds about what gives the whole business of living its final importance."

PIC: Breakfast/Forum on Paid Sick Days

Abe Markman

Councilwoman Gale Brewer, the keynote speaker at the November

20 forum, wrote to us that it was a "breakthrough event." Although it was more contentious than we had hoped, some interesting suggestions were made, for example:

Chuck Hunt, Executive Vice President of the NYS Restaurant Association, said that each business should create a bank of days that would include sick days. Donna Dolan, Chair of the NYS Family Leave Coalition, thought that might be worth considering. Mr. Hunt also said it would be easier for local businesses to deal with the added costs and disruptions in service if paid sick days were enacted on a national level. Nancy Ploeger, President of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, suggested that small businesses should be given a subsidy. For a full report and to view the video of the event, click or log-on to: <http://www.nysec.org/sitemap/ethical-action/public-issues-committee/>.

Special thanks to: Anne Klaeyens for her welcoming remarks; Erika Miller of the "Nightly Business Report," the very capable moderator; Nancy Rankin and Sherry Leiwant of A Better Balance for their introductory Power Point presentation; Julie Blutstein, NYSEC's Director of Communication and Development, whose expertise and endless work carried us through; and Bonnie Bean, JoAnn Mason, Pat Berens, Pauline Kravath, and Lee Loshak, some of whom came in at 6:00 am that morning to set up a glorious display of decorations and food; the other members of PIC; and the 60 guests representing elected officials and a wide variety of women's and advocacy organizations.



Social Service Board: SSB Hosts Unforgotten Voices

Dr. Maria Fridman

On December 10, the New York Society again hosted the Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop, which I have helped coordinate for over 20 years, and which the SSB cosponsors. This was an evening of poetry, art, singing, dance, and music by a collective of talented artists and performers who are or have been homeless. The director/coordinator of Unforgotten Voices, Judith Ginsburg, also invited special guests from the Volunteers of America Ward Island Community Theatre Arts Workshops and Fresh Starts Cultural Theatre Production (under the auspices of the Keener Shelter program). John Pinder, the Keener program coordinator, helped make the evening a memorable one, as always.



(L-R) Roxlyn Moret, dancer, and Judith Ginsburg

Commenting on the event, Judith noted that the Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop has been around since 1985 and the NY Society has had a relationship with the group from

its beginning, hosting performances twice a year since then. For a number of years, Judith said, Unforgotten Voices met twice a month at St. Clements Church on West 46th St. to work on ensemble pieces, rehearse solo works, and create artwork with supplies obtained through a New York State Creative Arts Grant.

A Dance of Struggle

In those days, she recalled, a motley group of six to ten performers presented an expressive dance/movement piece, called *The Toll That's Taken*, depicting the struggle of the homeless. Judith, who is also a dance/movement and creative arts therapist and has worked with homeless folks since 1982, created and choreographed this very moving piece.

At the December performance, this dance was performed by Judith and two other longtime Unforgotten Voices members, Carla Cubit, who is also a visual artist, rapper, poet, and playwright, and Caleb Lambert, a poet who recently came from upstate, where he has lived and worked and had his own business for more than 15 years. The dance deals with the isola-

tion, hostility, austerity, and struggle to survive of homeless people. It also depicts the fleeting bonds sometimes made while down-and-out and the physical and mental difficulties that are associated with homelessness.

The dance ended with a uniting of energies, the dancers working together for the common good. They chanted and moved to a reggae mantra, "We don't need no more trouble," as they collectively moved toward the audience, with one hand cupped "holding" the heart and one hand reaching out, staring into the eyes of the audience members and singing, "What we need is love."

Joan Kraft Laskoff, Professor of Economics, Technology, and the Environment at Clark University of Massachusetts, who is working on a documentary film about creativity by the homeless, was very impressed that NYSEC's Unforgotten Voices featured "such a dynamic and talented group of performers—musicians, singers, poets, dancers, and rappers—who are or formerly were currently city shelter residents." She will include the performances in her film.



Carla Cubit, dancer, writer, and poet



Performer Ray Gant and Joan Kraft Laskoff

**DARWIN DAY
FAMILY FESTIVAL**

Come and bring your friends for an afternoon celebrating Darwin's 200th birthday. Speakers on the legacy of "The Origin of Species" – entertainment – samplings from the book – and "Darwin" himself.

And if you have kids or your friends have kids, bring them too – there's a separate program of evolutionary fun and games for them. Finished off, of course, with birthday cake and *Happy Birthday, Dear Charlie*.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7
FROM 2 TO 5 P.M.
\$10 for adults,
free for kids.**

**Call Moe-Swe for tickets
(212/874-5210, ext. 113)
or get them online at
[http://www.brownpaper
tickets.com/event/53583](http://www.brownpaper tickets.com/event/53583)**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
– Contribute an hour or two watching out for the kids or helping with the tickets and ushering. Call Andra at 212 627-3944.

SSB: Supporting Education

Since 1995, NYSEC's Social Service Board has been providing four tuition scholarships annually to the East Harlem School at Exodus House. On December 2, 2008, students, staff, trustees, families, and members of the community gathered to witness the much-anticipated opening of the new building, complete with ribbon cutting.



The new East Harlem School



Ribbon-cutting time



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with other officials, at the ceremony



Students at the opening of their new school building

Ringling In the New Year

Andra Miller

The enthusiasm was contagious at the NY Society for Ethical Culture's New Year's Eve party. Forty-four people happily celebrated with nibbles and drinks, engaging conversation, a bit of dancing, entertainment, door prizes, the 11:30 pm singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" along with other organizations around the world, and the midnight rooftop viewing of a great fireworks show.

The event was organized by Josh Adams, with encouragement from some of the Membership Cultivation Club (MCC) members. Josh handled

the hiring of a bartender; the arrangements with the staff for room set-up; the design of announcement flyers and the evening's printed program; the ordering of food, wine, and champagne; the round-up of two door prizes (a classy watch and theater tickets); the planning for decorations—and, with Beth Zucker, the arrangement for music from her jazz collection.

I pitched in by soliciting two more door prizes (dinner for two at O'Neal's and a \$25 certificate from Bed Bath & Beyond), designing and producing the tickets, and calling up my long-ago years of ballet training by performing a comedy dance. Several committee members worked on the decorations and Scott Falk, Josh's

husband, managed the door, taking ticket stubs for the drawing, giving receipts for the tax deduction portion of the tickets, keeping track of who came, and handing out the programs.

As this was the first such party planned by the MCC, we learned a few things so that next year the New Year's Eve party will be even better. But we count this one a great success; many attendees called the next day to say what fun they'd had, and the fundraising portion of the ticket sales brought us \$1,300, which we will use as seed money for future events.

Thanks to all whose participation made it such an enjoyable event, and thanks to everyone who helped in set-up and clean-up. And though you've heard it many times, Happy New Year!

February 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 10:00 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – Workshop on Ethical Endings 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	2 March 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 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:00 pm – Prospective Members' Reception 7:30 pm – Great Books	5 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – The Ethics of Hip-Hop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	6 7:00 pm – Ethics in Film	7 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation 2:00 pm – Darwin Day Family Festival
8 10:00 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 1:45 pm – PIC Open Meeting 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	9 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	10	11 3:00 pm – ECRDG 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC	12 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – The Ethics of Hip-Hop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	13	14 No Supervised Visitation today
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 – Community Meeting	16 Society Offices Closed Presidents' Day	17 6:00 pm – Socrates Café 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 8:00 pm – 25 th Anniversary Concert – Gerald Ranck	18 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC 7:30 pm – Great Conversations II	19 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – The Ethics of Hip-Hop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	20	21 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
22 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Social Hour 2:00 pm – Teen Ethical Leadership Program	23 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop	24	25 6:00 pm – Discussing Ethical Issues Group 6:30 pm – Foundations of EC	26 12:00 pm – Leader Lunch Discussion 7:00 pm – The Ethics of Hip-Hop 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop	27 11:00 am – Ethics on the Air 7:00 pm – Ethics and the Theater	28 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation

Great Books:

February 4 – Dante, *The Inferno*
 Bible, *Ecclesiastes*

ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group)

February 11 – Richard Ford, *The Lay of the Land*

Great Books: Great Conversation II

February 18 – Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Grand Inquisitor*

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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