

February 2013

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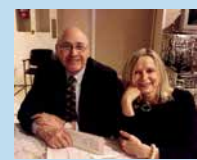
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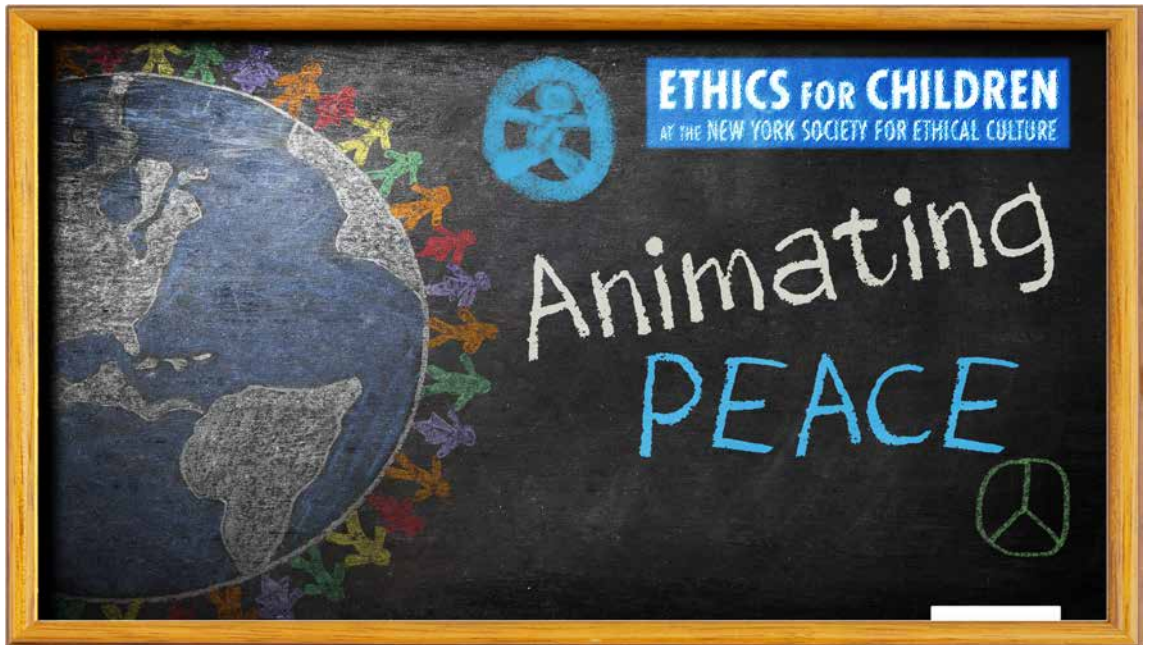
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Ethics for Children: Animating Peace

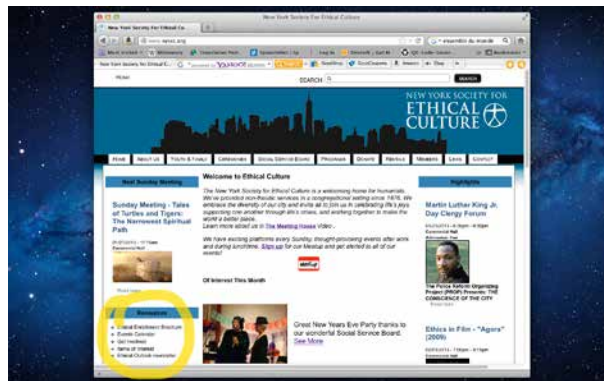
This is our special program to help your children develop the moral and ethical compass they need for leading good lives. Animating Peace, an eight-week series, starting **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3**, explores the

different realms of stop-motion animation using claymation, lego-mation, and drawing. Children will make their very own animation video focused around ideas of peace throughout history.

The program is offered to children ages 3 – 12 years old with preregistration required. The cost is \$100 for eight classes running through March 24. For more information please e-mail us at ethicsforchildrens@nysec.org.

Where to Find Us On the Web

The current issue of **ETHICAL OUTLOOK** along with many past issues may be found on our website's home page (www.nysec.org). Look for the "Resources" listing on the left-side column and click on "Ethical Outlook newsletter" (circled in yellow at right). You will be sent to a new page where you may download the issue and read it on your computer monitor or print a hard copy to read later.



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Leaders' Desk

DR. ANNE KLAEYSEN

A Visit to Rikers Island

The first impression I had of this island that sits between the boroughs of Queens and the Bronx was one of desolation, but perhaps that was because I went there knowing its purpose as a prison. Watch enough *Law and Order* television shows and you become familiar with Rikers. It sounds ominous, and it is. Studying a map before my trip, it looked like one could leap from the eastern coast

of the island onto the tip of a runway at LaGuardia airport, but there's only one bridge from Queens to Rikers and plenty of barbed-wire fences. Sanitary landfill enlarged

this once 90-acre island to 400 acres accommodating ten major jails and an average of 15,000 inmates. There are also a bakery, laundry, infirmary, print and tailor shops, maintenance and transportation divisions, and a power plant. The facilities were situated high enough to withstand Super Storm Sandy with neither flooding nor power outage, and no one was evacuated.

So why did I make this trek? I was invited by the Osborne Association to attend a graduation and luncheon on December 4 for the latest class of the *Fresh Start* and *FamilyWorks*

parenting programs. Osborne was founded in 1933 "to create opportunities for people affected by the criminal justice system to further develop their strengths and lead lives of responsibility and contribution." *Fresh Start* and *FamilyWorks* are two of its many programs, the former offering training in culinary arts, computer literacy, and life skills; the latter teaching men how to better

"Mass incarceration is a racial phenomenon that is a moral outrage calling out for justice."

communicate with their children and become better parents. I rode on the bus with the graduates' families and other guests. The children were dressed up in suits and

dresses; most of their mothers said they saw no point in dressing up since they would have to remove all their accessories before entering the social hall. I learned this when I had to deposit my jewelry and scarf in a locker. My wedding ring wouldn't budge, so I was allowed to wear it through the metal detector and into the room where I was patted down by a prison matron.

The 19 inmate graduates were decked out in royal blue gowns and black mortarboard caps. They looked resplendent and beamed at the assemblage. What a proud day this

Continued on page 4

Ethical Enrichment

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7:00 PM** (doors open at 6:30 pm), in Ceremonial Hall to see *Agora* (2009), directed by Alejandro Amenábar, and starring Rachel Weisz and Max Minghella.



A historical drama set in Roman Egypt, concerning a slave who turns to the rising tide of Christianity in the hopes of pursuing freedom while also falling in love with his master, the famous female philosophy and mathematics professor Hypatia of Alexandria. Afterward, join me in our lively post-film discussion.

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

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen will host a discussion on *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1988, *Beloved* tells the story of Sethe, who has escaped from slavery but is haunted by its heritage. This chronicle of slavery and its aftermath is set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War and is inspired by the life of Margaret Garner, who temporarily escaped slavery during 1856 in Kentucky by fleeing to Ohio. A posse arrived to retrieve her and her

children under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fugitive_Slave_Act_of_1850), which gave slave owners the right to pursue slaves across state borders. Margaret killed her two-year-old daughter rather than allow her to be recaptured. Morrison revisited Garner's story in 2005 when she wrote a libretto for the opera *Margaret Garner* (<http://www.margaretgarner.org/>). As Morrison described it, "If *Beloved* is about forgetting, *Margaret Garner* is about remembering."

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

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

On **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *American Experience: Freedom Riders* (2009), directed by Stanley Nelson.

Based on the award-winning book *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*, this documentary chronicles the daring and courage of a group of activists, black and white, who challenged the segregation laws of the Southern states. The film focuses on how the civil rights campaign was conceived and how the movement eventually became a major concern for the Kennedy administration.

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



SUNDAY PLATFORM MEETINGS

11:15 am Ceremonial Hall, Fourth Floor

FEBRUARY 3

The Black Institute: An Interview with Bertha Lewis

Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader
Chris Bernhardt Presides

FEBRUARY 10

Too Many Guns!

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Henryka Komanska Presides

FEBRUARY 17

Freedom of Mind – Helping Loved Ones Leave Controlling People, Cults, and Beliefs

Steven Alan Hassan
Monica Weiss Presides

FEBRUARY 24

The Problem with Our Food, and Why It's Killing Us

Curt Collier, Leader
Dr. Anne Klaeyen Presides

NOT A MEMBER?

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

Leaders' Desk

A Visit to Rikers Island (continued)

was for them! The speakers, including NYC Department of Correction Commissioner Dr. Dora Schriro, Osborne Executive Director Liz Gaynes, and NYC Council Member Danny Dromm, kept their remarks mercifully short to allow more time

for families to reconnect. I drifted slowly around the room, taking it all in: correction officers on guard, teachers and board members from Osborne schmoozing with elected officials and their staffs, children racing around, and babies being passed around, laughter over

photographs snapped and shared, the hubbub of human interaction within the walls of a prison. The inevitable “it’s a small world” moment came when I chatted with a deputy warden and discovered that she had interned at the NY Society 20 years ago with the supervised visitation program. Now we are partnering with Osborne to offer supported televisitation between children in an office at our meeting house and their incarcerated parents.

We talk about change and yet few of us believe it’s possible. Even when we devise programs for organizational change and dedicate ourselves to personal transformation, a small, persistent voice whispers, “People don’t really change. Things stay the same.” But I witnessed hope that day on Rikers, and it was real. Change

seems impossible because it’s so arduous; it takes time, strength and patience – and unconditional love.

I could only imagine the lives of the families with whom I celebrated and knew that I was an outsider, someone untouched, but not unmoved, by their tragedies. Life is unfair: an overwhelming majority of inmates on Rikers and in every prison across the country are people of color. Mass incarceration is a racial phenomenon that is a moral outrage calling out for justice. We can make a difference by joining the efforts of our ethical societies and the American Ethical Union to humanize criminal justice.

The last speaker at the ceremony was graduate Michael Raplye, who read his poem, *I am from*.

*I am from loneliness, pain,
and failure.*

*I am from mistakes, misfortune,
mis-opportunity.*

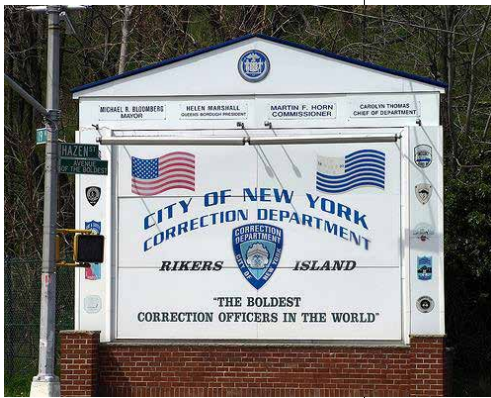
I am from insanity and dismay.

*I am from drugs, crime and
jail. Having brought to light
what I am — or was. It’s not
where I’m going. Not any more.*

*I am from change and
new beginnings.*

*I am from the future
that I’ve painted my picture.*

*I am from tomorrow,
which I live today.*



more Ethical Enrichment...

Ethics & the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

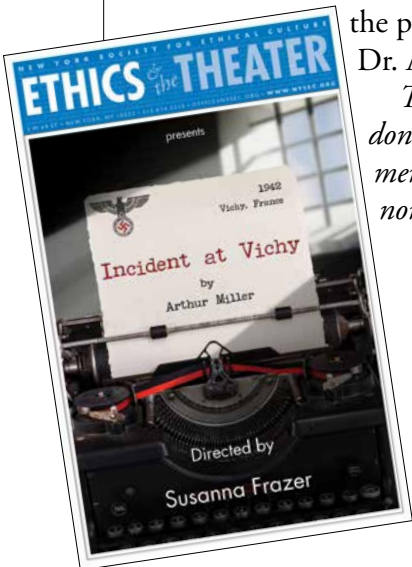
On **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 7:00 PM**, Ethics and the Theater will present *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller.

It's 1942; six men and a boy sit in a detention center in Vichy, France, waiting to be examined by a "professor" and a German major. All except one, an Austrian aristocrat, are "undesirables": Jewish, gypsy, Communist. Does that one exception mean they've all been brought in for nothing more sinister than to have their identity papers inspected? If not, what can be done — by the detainees themselves and by those, neither victim nor victimizer, who bear witness? Miller's characters struggle to find answers to these questions that will allow them to reclaim their humanity in a world in which, as the major states, "there are no persons anymore."

Susanna Frazer directs our cast. Come at 6:30 pm for a reception and after the reading participate in a discussion of the ethical issues of

the play led by Dr. Anne Klaeynsen.

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



Health and Nutrition

Join Elizabeth Collier, Certified Holistic Health Coach, on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM**, in Room 507, for a free introductory session of her upcoming health and nutrition class. Learn about Elizabeth's approach to health and wellness, and hear how her class will give you the tools to reach your health goals this year.

The class fee for members is \$60, and for nonmembers it is \$90.

If you're not sure about registering for the class, which runs for eight sessions, on alternating Mondays beginning March 11, come to this free session!

ETHICAL CARES

We care, and we'll be there for you. The Caring Committee will help you should you fall ill or be incapacitated, whether you're home, in the hospital, in rehab, or in a nursing home. We can do shopping, pick up a prescription or a meal — or help prepare it, bring you to the doctor, or just visit by phone or in person. All you need do is call the committee chairperson, **STEPHANIE ROSENBLATT** at 212-586-0017, and she'll make the arrangements. Stephanie says, "Don't hesitate. Call me; that's why we're here."

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Looking Back: Moments from Our Past



E L I N O R E K A P L A N

The Hudson Guild: John Lovejoy Elliott and Ethical Start the Settlement Movement in America

John Lovejoy Elliott was an undergraduate at Cornell University when he heard Ethical Culture's founder Felix Adler speak. Adler's words about helping to make the world a better place struck a responsive chord. Elliott became an ardent follower and friend of Adler, a lifelong member of the Society, and its second Leader. He's best known for his work with The Hudson Guild, undertaken and accomplished with the Society.

Inspired by the "settlement movement" that had just begun in London, Elliott moved to New York's Chelsea neighborhood and started a club for local boys, dubbed the "Hurley Burlies." With its success, he continued forming clubs — for boys, girls, working women, and families — ultimately merging them all into the Hudson Guild Neighborhood House, incorporated in 1896, with the mission of organizing Chelsea residents to help themselves and improve neighborhood living conditions. He didn't do "for" them, he helped to empower them to do for themselves. A Clubs Council determined

many of the Guild's policies and programs, and a District Committee of block representatives reported on housing, health, and social conditions in the neighborhood, and worked to improve them.

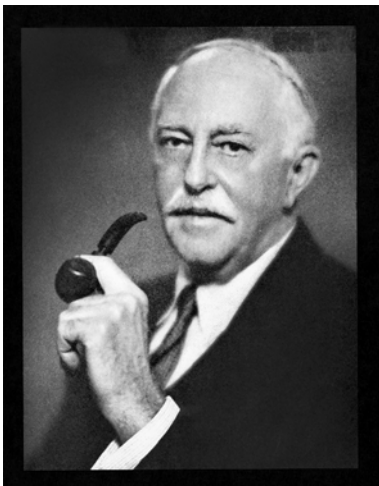
The Guild offered programs and services to community residents. Eventually, it had a permanent home at 436 West 27th Street, which housed a library, print shop, club rooms, and baths. The Guild opened the city's first free kindergarten (1897), summer play school (1917), one of the city's first public recreation areas, Chelsea Park (1913), and its first public bathhouse (1915). They opened dental, prenatal, and well-baby clinics (1919). They organized summer outings and camping trips to area beaches, parks, and campgrounds. In 1917, Ethical Culture secured several hundred wooded acres in New Jersey's Watchung Mountains for the Hudson Guild Farm, where they initiated environmental education and camping programs that flourished for 75 years.

With Elliott at the helm, the Guild succeeded in lobbying for the

"Elliott fell in love with one of the city's worst neighborhoods and dedicated his life to the people there."

— NYC Housing Authority

John Lovejoy Elliott



(NYPL)

Yesterday



Children reading at Hudson Guild Traveling Library, ca. 1910. (NYPL)

enactment of the NY Tenement law (1901), and helped form the Chelsea Homes Corporation that in 1915 sponsored model tenements, providing clean, affordable homes. The NYC Housing Authority, on its website, says, “Elliott fell in love with one of the city’s worst neighborhoods and dedicated his life to the people there.”

The Guild established the League of Mothers’ Club (1913) and founded the School for Printers’ Apprentices (1912) – so successful that it was later incorporated into the NYC public school system. For the next several decades, scores of settlement houses were established in cities across the country, emulating The Hudson Guild and the teachings of Ethical Culture by providing forums for public debate of political issues and galvanizing popular opinion in support of progressive social legislation.

During World War I, when food shortages and inflation made it difficult for many families to make ends meet, the Guild sponsored a cooperative store to ease the economic burden on Chelsea residents. In the 1920s, they formed the Cellar Players, a theater group that performed in the settlement house basement,

Today



Children getting ready to ride the Chelsea High Line Park on a Hudson Guild outing.

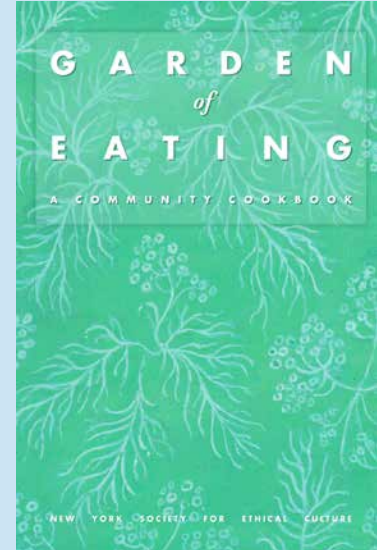
and they created music and art departments. They addressed health care through low-cost medical, dental, and maternity clinics, most welcome with the onset of the 1929 Depression.

When the US Housing Act was passed (1937), Hudson Guild got community support and obtained approval for new, low-cost, city-funded housing in Chelsea (1938). During WW II, they hosted USO activities, sponsored social programs for Coast Guard men, cultivated “victory gardens” at the farm in NJ, and started a veterans’ consultation service to help returning servicemen adjust to life at home.

Elliott died in 1943, but the work he inspired continued. The first Chelsea housing project, completed in 1947, is named for him, and so is the Elliott Neighbors Club for Senior Citizens. Soon the Guild opened one of the city’s first community mental health clinics. In 1950 it offered some of the first English-as-a-Second-Language classes. The Hudson Guild still thrives, serving thousands of Chelsea residents and continuing to provide a summer camp program for neighborhood youngsters. Elliott’s teachings and guidance continue to help make this little part of the world a better place.

SAVE THE DATE!

Garden of Eating — A Community Cookbook Potluck Dinner and Book Release Party!



Join our other Ethical food lovers on **Saturday, April 27, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm**, in Ceremonial Hall, for a wonderful Members Potluck Dinner and Book Release Party. Reserve your copy of the Ethical Members’ *Garden of Eating — A Community Cookbook* at the prepublication price of \$20 to all attendees. The regular price is \$24.95. (Note the original artwork cover by John Drummond.)

There is no charge to attend the members potluck. To reserve your copy of the cookbook, mail your check for \$20 to NYSEC, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023.

We will be taking orders for the cookbook at upcoming Platforms and as many events as we can, until the closing publication date, to be announced. All proceeds will go to the restoration of our Green Kitchen.

Social Service Board

New Year's Eve Party Fun and Fundraising!

Nicola Antonio DeMarco

The Social Service Board will bring its energy and visions into 2013 stronger and more focused than ever...with a little help from its successful New Year's Eve Party Fundraiser!

On Monday, December 31, fireworks began early, as in our historic Auditorium here at NYSEC the timeless music of



President Andra Miller

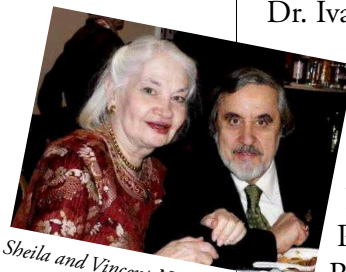
The Platters flowed through the rafters — and our hearts. Then, with feet still stompin' and smiles and good cheer in full bloom, the party started in our Social Hall with an open bar, more music, and a delicious variety of food. At midnight, some of us watched fireworks over Central Park as we sipped Champagne, while others stayed indoors and sang old favorites. Did we all have a good time? Is it 2013?

Our fundraising exceeded expectations! We attracted a diverse audience from many professions, age groups, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and regions of America. In our effort to let people know about the party and the music, we also reached more than 300,000 people over the radio, in newspapers, on the Internet, and through the mail with the

message of Ethical Culture and the ongoing and growing work of the Social Service Board.

With SSB Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross leading the way, our New Year's Eve Party culminated a year of unprecedented achievements and ushered in a new year full of hope and challenges. In 2012 we completed our second successful year of "Empowering

Ethical Elders," which provides the highest quality of up-to-date information on issues faced by elders and their caregivers, which meets twice a month. We also opened our citywide "Supportive Televisitation Program," which gives incarcerated parents an opportunity to share time, through a high-tech video link, with their children, who can thus avoid the long journey to an upstate facility and still have a parent read to them, or sing a song with them, or share their latest homework with that parent. Also in 2012, we continued our soccer program for underserved children, awarded more scholarships, rejuvenated The Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York, maintained



Sheila and Vincent Navarro



Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

our homeless shelter, provided Sandy disaster relief, and began organizing C.A.S.A., our school for adjudicated youth.

The Social Service Board membership has nearly doubled in the past two years alone. We have many needs and opportunities for your volunteer time and donations. In 2013, the best is not only yet to come, it has already begun!

Thanks to all who donated, purchased a ticket, or volunteered as an usher or decorator, and to our Committee, which organized the party: co-chairs Dr. Ivan Queveralu and Nicola

Antonio DeMarco, as well as Marlene Williamson, Roberta Yancy, Rob Hofman, Helen Meecs, Howard Parker, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Frank Corigliano, and President of NYSEC Andra Miller. Without Andra's ideas and support, we would not have had this fundraiser at all.

Councilwoman Gayle Brewer was also on hand to help us ring in the New Year. We thank her for her advocacy and dedication to the SSB and the New York Society.

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ROSEMARY IRVING, WALLY PATAWARAN, AND
MARK ZILBERMAN

Sunday Morning Platform Meeting 11:15 am

FEBRUARY 3

THE BLACK INSTITUTE: AN INTERVIEW WITH BERTHA LEWIS

Interview by Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader Chris Bernhardt Presides



Dr. Anne Klaeyesen will interview Bertha Lewis, founder of The Black Institute and former CEO of the Association for Community Organizations for Reform (ACORN), about her social justice work. The mission of The Black Institute is to shape intellectual discourse and dialogue and impact public policy from a Black perspective, translating the “think” in think-tank into “action” through a head, heart, and feet strategy. Dr. Klaeyesen met Lewis through her involvement with Occupy Faith and joined the Clergy Workers Justice Network at The Black Institute, where she has participated in public actions to support low-wage workers.

The shared charity is The Black Institute.

FEBRUARY 10

TOO MANY GUNS!

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader

Henryka Komanska Presides



The tragedy of Newtown has opened an opportunity to revive the effort to stem gun violence, an opportunity that has been dormant for far too long. This talk will look at some of the facts and issues, including the forces that those who are eager for a sane gun policy are up against.

The shared charity is SANDY Relief through Groundwork Hudson Valley.

THIS MONTH'S SHARED CHARITIES...

The mission of THE BLACK INSTITUTE is to shape intellectual discourse and dialogue and impact public policy uniquely from a Black perspective (a perspective which includes all people of color in the United States and throughout the Diaspora). The Black Institute will translate the “think” in think-tank into “action” through a head, heart, and feet strategy: the head being research, data gathering, polling and academic partnerships; the heart being civic education, training and development; and the feet being on the ground organizing and issue-based campaigns. The Black Institute will change the discourse of public debate, train and educate new leadership, and develop initiatives to build wealth, build power, and deliver justice to Black people.

GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY is an environmental justice non-profit that works with communities to improve their physical and social environment. This is done by collaborating on projects, among them: turning dangerous vacant lots into community gardens, planting trees, replacing graffiti with murals, and forming alliances within the community. Some of these projects are done through school programs and many of them are intergenerational. We are dedicated to environmental stewardship and community empowerment. All of our projects engage local residents in hands-on projects, from design to planting.

Founded in 1979, the INTERNATIONAL CULTIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ICSA) is a global network of people concerned about psychological manipulation and abuse in cultic groups, alternative movements, and other environments. ICSA is tax-exempt, supports civil liberties, and is not affiliated with any religious or commercial organizations. ICSA's mission is to apply research and professional perspectives on cultic groups to educate the public and help those who have been harmed.

FEBRUARY 17

FREEDOM OF MIND – HELPING LOVED ONES LEAVE CONTROLLING PEOPLE, CULTS, AND BELIEFS

**Steven Alan Hassan, founder
Freedom of Mind Resource Center**

Monica Weiss Presides



Mr. Hassan will discuss his new book, which focuses on how to help people to reality test and think critically, and how to help a loved one in a potentially destructive relationship or group.

Hassan is one of the foremost authorities on cults and mind control, with more than 36 years of cult awareness activism. A Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) and Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), he has written three books on cults, which have received critical acclaim from both peers and members of the clinical psychology community. *Combatting Cult Mind Control: The #1 Guide to Protection, Rescue, and Recovery from Destructive Cults* (Park Street Press, 1988) has been published in seven languages. His other books are: *Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves* (FOM Press, 2000), and *Freedom of Mind: Helping Loved Ones Leave Controlling People, Cults, and Beliefs* (FOM Press, 2012).

His insightful perspective and commentary have made him a definitive source for hundreds of national and international media outlets, including: *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Larry King Live*, *The Today Show*, *60 Minutes*, *Night Line*, *Good Morning America*, CNN, *Anderson Cooper*, and *Piers Morgan*.

The shared charity is International Cultic Studies Association.

FEBRUARY 24

THE PROBLEM WITH OUR FOOD, AND WHY IT'S KILLING US

Curt Collier, Leader

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides



Environmentalist and Leader Curt Collier's talk will focus on the evolution of food production in America and the challenges most of us face in finding healthy and sustainable food to eat. He will talk about recent initiatives in New York to change our food system, and why these have had only limited success. His talk will include fun tidbits about our eating habits and culinary predilections.

The shared charity is SANDY Relief through Groundwork Hudson Valley.

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

FEBRUARY 3

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

FEBRUARY 10

COLLOQUY: REDEMPTION

Joseph Marvel presides. Room 408.

FEBRUARY 17

POETRY READING

February invites so many poetic responses: Winter, Valentine's Day, and Black History Month. Come and share some poems with us! Cheryl Gross presides. Room 508.

FEBRUARY 17

CHORUS PRACTICE

Led by Pat Debrovner and Jon Liechty. All voices, big and small, are welcome. We'll practice the songs we sing on Sunday mornings. Ceremonial Hall.

Sunday Afternoons 1:30 pm *(Except as noted. Rooms are subject to change)*

FEBRUARY 10

ETHICS IN THE NEWS

Mary Ellen Goodman presides. Room 508.

FEBRUARY 17

LIFE WITH HEALTH: FOOD = MEDICINE

"The food you eat can be either the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison" – Dr. Ann Wigmore.

Join Elizabeth Collier, Certified Holistic Health Coach, for a discussion of how our food can prevent and reverse disease. Our society is more focused on treating existing disease with medications and surgeries than on preventing disease with a healthy diet and lifestyle. As a result, we are creating new diseases and becoming sicker every year. In this workshop, we will learn about the foods that heal our bodies and hear from others who have cured diseases by changing their diet. Resources for further investigation will be distributed. Ceremonial Hall.

FEBRUARY 17

PHOTOGRAPHY ARTS CLUB *(2:00 pm)*

Peter Houts and Valerie Leiman preside. Adler Study, Room 514.

Sunday Afternoons *continued*

FEBRUARY 24

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SUPPORT CIRCLE

We'll discuss lifestyle choices, our impact on the planet, and ways we can make a meaningful difference. Participate in serious, pragmatic, and practical discussions about culinary choices, commuting alternatives, and how our purchases aid or hamper the natural world, among other topics. Participants will be asked to keep a log of their choices and to share openly with others in a supportive atmosphere. This course is open for those wanting to make a real commitment to eco-living. Admission is free. Curt Collier, Leader, presides. Ceremonial Hall.

more Ethical Enrichment...

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

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. This month's topic: **RELIGION**. Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitza Garcia in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

FEBRUARY 7

"DUSTING OFF GOD" by Tom Bartlett, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 8/13/12, and "SEEING GOD IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM" by Oliver Sacks, *The Atlantic*, 9/18/12.

FEBRUARY 14

"THE INSIDE STORY OF A CONTROVERSIAL NEW TEXT ABOUT JESUS" by Ariel Sabar, *The Smithsonian*, 9/18/12.

FEBRUARY 21

"SPINOZA IN SHTREIMELS: AN UNDERGROUND SEMINAR" by Carlos Fraenkel, *Jewish Review of Books*, Fall 2012.

FEBRUARY 28

"LOOK BACK 2012" and "LOOK AHEAD 2013" on *Religion and Ethics*, PBS, 12/20/12.

Our Ethical Family



MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

We are very sad to announce the deaths of Ethical Culture Leader Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter and member Elliot Lewis Gruenberg, both on December 30, 2012. They will be sorely missed.



Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter

DR. MATTHEW IES SPETTER, a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, who retired in June, 2000, died on December 30 peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family. He was 91 years old.

Born in the Netherlands, he participated in the Dutch resistance during World War II until his capture by the Nazis. He was imprisoned in several concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Buchenwald. A witness at the International War Criminal Trials in Nuremburg, Germany, and a member of the G2 and G3 section of U.S. Army Intelligence, he was awarded the Resistance Cross by the government of the Netherlands.

In 1951, Dr. Spetter and his family moved to the United States, where he became involved in the Ethical Culture Society. Dr. Spetter worked tirelessly for human rights, civil rights, and international peace. He was a Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Ethical Culture Society from 1954 until 1994 and Chairman of the Department of Ethics for the three Ethical Culture schools from 1951 to 1976; he also taught at the American Ethical Union's Encampment for Citizenship. He

was an associate professor at the Peace Studies Institute and the Department of Religion at Manhattan College, and taught at Antioch College and Bard College. He was a clinical member of the American Association for Family Therapy and a member of the American Psychological Association; lectured at Montefiore Hospital and New York Hospital; and was a founding member of the Riverdale Clergy Council and a very active member of the community.

Dr. Spetter understood the importance of mental health. He founded the Riverdale Mental Health Clinic in 1960, an important community resource today. He was also an author of numerous, annotated lectures regarding what matters about life, radio programs, and publications, including among many others, *The Courage to Stand Alone* (1960); *Man, the Reluctant Brother* (1967); *To Deny the Night* (1970); *Coping With Our Darker Hours* (1994); *The Work Is Peace in: Building a World Community* (1990); *Humanists Say "Yes" to Life* (1980); and *Our Hidden Oneness* (1994).

Dr. Spetter is survived by his son Job; Job's wife Gina and their sons Chase and Job Robert; his daughter Ruth and his stepchildren Connie Boykan, Rick Berke, Gary Berke, and Wendy Berke Hall and their respective families. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him or simply heard him speak.

ELLIOT LEWIS GRUENBERG, a member of the Washington and Riverdale-Yonkers Societies for years before joining the New York Society for Ethical Culture in 2001 along with his wife Ruth, died on December 30. He was 94 years old.

Elliot Gruenberg was involved in many activities as a Society member, and he also served as Treasurer of the American Ethical Union. He was an electrical engineer, and in his long career was an executive of many companies dealing with electrical and mechanical engineering, artificial intelligence, and space exploration. He was an inventor and held 22 patents in various fields of telecommunications and digital communications systems, encryption, coding and decoding, and scanless television transmission systems. He is also the author of *Handbook of Telemetry and Remote Control*, McGraw-Hill Book Co. (1967).



The following members are celebrating birthdays in February:

ELINORE KAPLAN	2/2
VINCENT BRANCATO	2/4
MICHELLE AINSWORTH.....	2/7
BERNETTE RUDOLPH	2/7
KEN GANS	2/8
PATRICIA BERENS	2/9
MICHELE DONEY.....	2/17
KENNETH LASHINS	2/17
ROGER MICHAELS.....	2/18
LAURA OSTWALD.....	2/18
LOUETTA RILEY.....	2/20
EDWARD FINFER	2/24



Start Snapping

Let's celebrate Ethical — who we are and what we do, how greatly involved we are, and how very much we enjoy it all and one another — in an ongoing, frequently changing exhibit of photos: photos of us in a discussion group, at a potluck dinner, jazz concert, or Platform Meeting, on an outing, at our shelter, working in a committee... whatever. We'll post those photos everywhere — in *Ethical Outlook*, on our website, and on our very walls! It's a snap, really. So, go ahead! Just bring your camera, or your cellphone (if it's got decent resolution) to any or all Ethical events you attend, and start snapping.

Ideally you'll be able to download your photos at the computer and send them to Beth Zucker at bzucker@nysec.org, or come in and we'll help you. Of course, if you're really a techie, you'll make the photos bright and clear in Photoshop or iPhoto, or whatever you use. But the rest of us will just send them in and leave the adjusting to the pros.

Please provide the caption information: what the event was and who's in the photo (standard form calls for naming names from left to right, top to bottom). Don't trust yourself to remember later; write down that information at the time you shoot. Okay, everyone: Lights, Camera, Action!

Calling Everyone In Our Ethical Community:

Dr. Maria Fridman is looking for volunteers for the Women's Shelter. Volunteers will be asked to stay overnight (7:00 pm to 7:00 am) at our Shelter downstairs. You will be given training beforehand. So, if you are free at least one evening a month, why not spend it here and make it an ethical night out for yourself? Membership Associate Moe-Swe Myint will be helping Dr. Fridman run the Shelter, so if you know someone who is interested in helping others please call or email Moe-Swe at 212-874-5210, ext. 113 or mmyint@nysec.org.



WELCOMER-FOR-A-DAY

Please volunteer to be the one to extend a warm welcome to a newcomer — inviting him/her to join you at an Ethical event that you attend (discussion group, play-reading, film, Sunday luncheon, etc.) — and to give him/her your Ethical Member Card, writing in your name and phone number or email address, as you choose. You can get some new cards from Yalitza Garcia, in the Leaders' office.

If every active Ethical member will do this three times a year, it will make a big difference.

Member Profile



LUCILE KLEIMAN, MEMBER SINCE 1954

*“Ethical Culture
is my religion;
it is my identity;
it is who I am.”*

My introduction to Ethical Culture came through their free youth socials in the 1940’s, Friday night folk dancing, initiated by Leader Henry Herman. It was a wonderful, wholesome place to be. Some years later, when I had graduated from college and begun teaching, I found repeatedly that the people whom I gravitated towards were members of Ethical Culture. So it was for social reasons that I would come to the Society. A great part of what I’m calling “social” reasons has to do with shared values. These were young men and women who seemed to know and give thought to just who and what they were; we were honest to ourselves and one another. We were Humanists. None of us were members of Ethical, but it was our social nexus.

Subsequently, I met Ted and we agreed that we wanted a religious affiliation. It was clear to both of us that Ethical Culture Society answered that need. Ted and I were married in Ethical Culture in 1954, with Henry Herman officiating. We joined in the following year. Our social life was at Ethical. The friends we’d made also joined, and Ted helped to establish the Young Couples’ Club, which became a vehicle for recruiting new members. It was a wonderful social circle for many years.

When our daughter was nursery school age, we sent her to Ethical

Sunday School and became active Sunday School parents. In those days, many parents came to Ethical through that door — first sending their children to the Sunday School, then joining the Society. I remained involved in the Sunday School as a parent, teacher, and curriculum developer for the Religious Education Program of AEU.

Social activism was another essential part of our life at Ethical. In those days, it was very hands-on. Ted joined the Men’s Group and I joined the Women’s Conference (WC)— now the National Ethical Service — which represents the Ethical Culture Societies as an NGO at the U.N. It was through the WC that I became liaison to the newly formed West Side Planned Parenthood organization. I recall another of our undertakings, which was to meet with members of major media to promote diversity in advertising. Also, we created a visitation program to women in prison. I became editor of the WC’s national newsletter, *Dialog*. Simultaneously I represented the Society at the programs which were in collaboration with the Ethical Culture School, such as arts sales and auctions. Ted became Vice President of the Society.

We sent our daughter to the Ethical Culture Fieldston School (where, incidentally, she met the man to whom she’s been married for more



Garden of Eating Excerpt...



than 30 years) and Sunday School. I remember Beth making a point of bringing Ethical Culture brochures with her to camp so that when the other kids would ask her “What are you?” she could hand them the literature. When Beth (who remains a member today) was in fifth or sixth grade, I became a teacher at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale, and worked there for the next 30 years. I tried to be the “voice” of the Society on the faculty and, over the years, became a member of the Ethical Culture School Board, the Ethical Culture Society Board, the Social Service Board (SSB) and the SSB Supervised Visitation (now the SSB’s Supportive Televisitation Project) Board. I also participated on a number of committees, including the Membership, Religious Education, and Caring.

Currently my active participation in the organization continues. I attend Anne’s weekly Thursday discussion groups, many of our Advocacy Forum presentations, and social events, and serve as vice president of the National Ethical Service Board. Many of my friendships started in and continue with members of the Society.

In essence, Ethical Culture has been and is my family’s way of life. Beth was married at Ethical, by Leader Mel Grupp. When Ted died, his memorial service was at Ethical.

How can I put it? Ethical Culture is my religion; it is my identity; it is who I am.

crab cakes

Patrick Whitaker Arenas

Tod is from North Carolina, and vacationed on the Outer Banks every summer as a kid. My best friend Juan is from Coastal Georgia, St. Simons Island to be exact. The two of them do not consider it Independence Day without crab cakes. However one 4th of July, Juan and his partner Roberto were living in Iowa City, Iowa, (which is a landlocked state). Tod called every store and Juan drove all over the state looking for fresh crab. Tod had to use canned pasteurized crab, and Tod and I did learn something from the experience. I think the lesson is to never use pasteurized crab because it does not taste good, or if you are traveling to a landlocked state — FedEx your crab the day before you leave. The good news is that Juan and Roberto now live in Savannah, GA, so we don’t have this problem any more.

- 1 cup dried bread crumbs
- 2 large fresh eggs
- 2 lbs jumbo lump crab meat, picked clean
- ½ cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and diced
- 1 cup mayonnaise, preferably home made
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup canola oil for frying
- 4 scallions, chopped

In a large bowl, gently fold together the bread crumbs, eggs, crab meat, cilantro, scallions, peppers, mayonnaise, and salt and pepper to taste.

Form the crab meat mixture into 24 small, thick cakes, about two inches in diameter. Heat the canola oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat until hot, not smoking. Cook the crab cakes for two to three minutes per side, until golden brown, turning them with a spatula. Drain them on a plate lined with a paper towel before serving. Serve hot. Serves 8, with 3 cakes each.

To reserve your copy of *Garden of Eating — A Community Cookbook*, mail your check for \$20 to NYSEC, 2 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023.

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

FEBRUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Notes: Ethics in Film: <i>Agora</i> (2009) — February 1 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group: <i>Beloved</i> , by Toni Morrison — February 4 Ethics and the Theater: <i>Incident at Vichy</i> , by Arthur Miller — February 8 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries: <i>American Experience: Freedom Riders</i> (2009), by Stanley Nelson — February 25					1 March 2013 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Ethics in Film	2
3 10:00 Chorus Practice 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership	4 1:00 Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group 6:30 Board of Trustees Meeting	5 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs	6 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	7 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	8 7:00 Ethics and the Theater	9
10 10:00 Colloquy 11:00 Ethics for Children 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Ethics in the News	11	12 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	13 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	14 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	15	16
17 10:00 Chorus Practice 10:00 Poetry Reading 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Life with Health 2:00 Photography Arts Club	18 Society Offices Closed Presidents' Day	19 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Wisdom and World Affairs 7:00 Respective Members' Reception	20 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	21 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:00 Empowering Ethical Elders 6:30 Thursday Writing Class	22	23
24 11:15 Morning Meeting 12:45 Brunch/Social Hour 1:00 Teen Leadership 1:30 Sustainable Living Support Circle	25 1:00 Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries 6:30 Health and Nutrition Class	26 12:30 Tuesday Writing Class 6:00 Social Service Board 7:00 Felix Adler Seminar	27 1:00 Strength Exercise Class	28 12:00 Leader Lunch Discussion 6:30 Thursday Writing Class		

ENSEMBLE DU MONDE

Marlon Daniel | Music Director

SEASON 2012/13
A World of Music

MAINLY MOZART


Marlon Daniel, conductor
Jourdan Urbach, violin

Saturday, February 16, 2013

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

2 West 64th Street, New York, NY

7:30PM



MAINLY MOZART

Experience the genius of Mozart, Haydn and Saint-Georges performed by Ensemble du Monde, one of the most internationally diverse chamber orchestras in the world. Dynamic violin virtuoso Jourdan Urbach joins the orchestra to perform Mozart's "Turkish" Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219. Help support the Ensemble by buying VIP Tickets (\$150) that include a special Meet-the-Artists Reception at Bar Bouloud (1900 Broadway @ 64th Street).

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN
Symphony No. 52 in C Minor, Hob. 1:52

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
Violin Concerto in A Major, K. 219 "Turkish"

LE CHEVALIER DE SAINT-GEORGES
Overture to L'amant anonyme

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201

Tickets: \$150, \$45, \$35, \$20 (students/seniors)
 advanced sales available online at www.brownpapertickets.com

Dear Ethical Member,

Please help us to create an Ethical Culture Guide to Volunteerism:

Many of our members have the time, ability, and desire to do volunteer work. In fact, many already do volunteer within Ethical, as well as in other organizations in the community. More of our members would like to volunteer, and would appreciate knowing what it is you do and where you do it. For that purpose, we'd like to create an Ethical Guide to Volunteerism, and we'll need your input. It will have two sections, one for volunteerism at Ethical Culture, and one for outside of Ethical Culture.

Please complete this questionnaire, answering any or all the questions that are relevant to you, and return it to Yalitza Garcia, whose office is on the 5th floor.

Many thanks,
The Membership Development Committee

At Ethical

1. If your work stems from your involvement on a committee, what committee is that, and what does it do? If there's more than one committee or area in which you volunteer, please describe all of them.
2. As a volunteer, what is it that you do?
3. If there are other volunteer activities done within that group, please describe them.
4. As far as you know, are more volunteers needed?
5. Realizing that you might be quoted, please describe the gratification you get from this participation.

Outside of Ethical (in NYC)

1. At what organization(s) do you volunteer? If you volunteer at more than one, please describe each.
2. What is the name of the committee or group within the organization, and what does that committee/group do?
3. As a volunteer, what is it that you do?
4. If there are other volunteer activities done within that group, please describe them.
5. As far as you know, does the organization need more volunteers in a particular area?
6. Realizing that you might be quoted, please describe the gratification you get from this participation?

Please feel free to add any further comments or information.

Name: _____

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL

WE ARE ETHICAL CULTURE,
a community that believes all individuals have inherent worth and
dignity, and a responsibility to strive for ethical growth.

Ours is a nontheistic religion in which deeds and their results matter more than ideology.
We believe that leaving the world better than we found it is the highest good.

Learn more about us at our website — or, better still, visit with us.

You're always welcome.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL OUTLOOK

February 2013

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