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Maria and Shelter Volunteers: Front row (left to right) — Jane Tuttle, Maria Fridman, Diana Glanternik; back row (left to right) — Craven Bryan, Rob Hofman, Chris Bernhardt, Vincent Brancato, Patrick Arenas, Elizabeth Ducat, Elder Maxwell, Michelle Chu

Honoring Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman

Moe-Swe Myint

We held the annual Volunteers' Dinner on June 19. It was a special occasion in appreciation of all the shelter volunteers who play such an important role in keeping our Women's Shelter open all year long. This year, it was extra special because Dr. Maria Fridman, Director of the

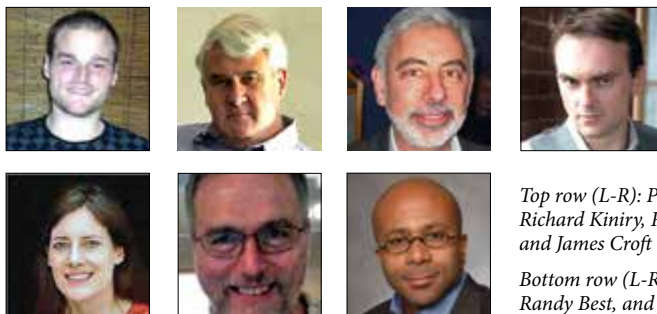
Women's Shelter, is retiring after 30+ years of service to the homeless community, and we were honoring her selfless dedication.

Maria's family and friends, shelter volunteers, and staff all came by to thank her. NYSEC Trustee and SSB Chair Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and Leader Dr. Anne

Klaeyssen talked about the history of our Women's Shelter and presented Maria with a lovely bouquet. It was announced that in addition to a plaque of appreciation for Maria that is in the works, the Women's Shelter will be named after her.

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A Summer of Platform Meeting Guest Speakers



Top row (L-R): Paulo Ribeiro, Richard Kiniry, Richard Koral, and James Croft

Bottom row (L-R): Tina Kelley, Randy Best, and Anthony Pinn

Starting July 14, the New York Society will host seven weeks of guest speakers at our Sunday Morning Platform Meetings. A full listing starts on page 8. Please keep in mind that summer Platforms start at 10:30 am.

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Leader's Desk



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

Bearing Witness to Homelessness

On Thursday evening, May 30, I participated in an interfaith service at St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan, then joined a candlelight procession to City Hall Park where I invoked the words of Ethical Culture Leader Algernon Black: "This is the call to the living, to those who refuse to make peace with evil, with the suffering and waste of the world." When the gates to the park were locked by the police at midnight, I rolled out my sleeping bag on the sidewalk and nestled alongside my fellow witnesses to homelessness, marking the 25th anniversary of the overnight vigil that became a 200-day encampment calling itself "Homeward Bound Community Services," but dubbed by the media "Kochville." A book documenting its story, *Sleeping with the Mayor*, by John Jiles, is the Ethics in Literature selection for August 4th.

I wondered whether I would be able to sleep. The sidewalk, even with a cushion was hard, and the

traffic on Broadway ceaseless. New York truly is a city that never sleeps — and never turns out the lights. Some of my companions sang, played instruments, danced, read, told stories, ate and drank. I looked around me at this great city I call home, knowing that if it became too hard to bear, I could take the subway back to Brooklyn and crawl into my own bed. I could wake up refreshed in the morning, take a shower and get dressed, and still make it back to the steps of City Hall by 9 am the next morning for the press conference.

But I didn't. I stayed. And I must have slept because I awoke to the shrill call of a bird overhead and remembered what my father once said when he visited: "I'll take a barnyard rooster any day over the racket of NYC birds." I had "slept rough" on a Broadway sidewalk and was now waiting for the Starbucks across the street to open so that I could avail myself

Continued on page 4

Honoring Dr. Maria Feliz Fridman's Service of 30 years to Ethical Action

Continued from page 1

Valencia Shelton, Respite Coordinator of the Antonio Olivieri Center, gave Maria a plaque of appreciation for her work on behalf of the shelter. Mark Roshkind, President of the Emergency Shelter Network Board of Directors and a shelter site coordinator, also talked about how the Emergency Shelter network came to be and thanked Maria for her tireless advocacy for the homeless.

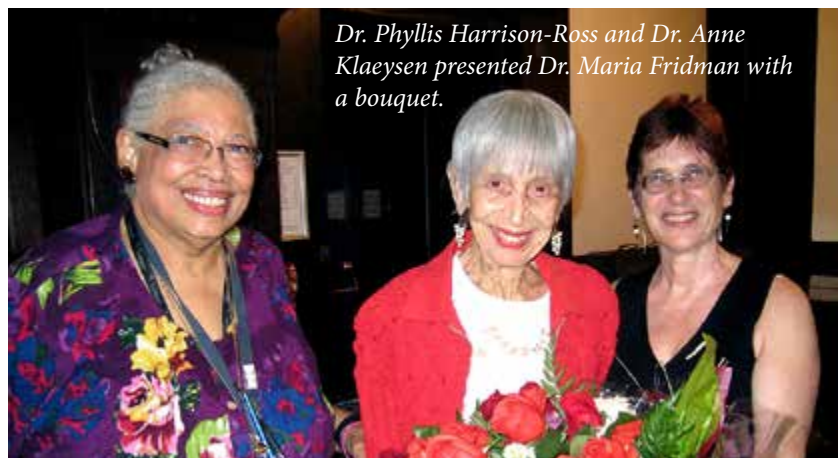
Other volunteers who have done so much were also recognized for their service. Dr. Harrison-Ross and Dr. Klaeyesen presented NYSEC's Teen Leadership Program participants with certificates of appreciation for their work on the Shelter Mural Project. Favio Appollon, Clara Malekshahi, Ali Riemer, and Sydney Riemer, along with Teen Advisor Amy Reid, showed up to cheer Maria on. The Women's Shelter volunteers were also given Certificates of Appreciation: Patrick Arenas, Vince Brancato, Chris Bernhardt, Craven Bryan, Michelle Chu, Elizabeth Ducat, Diana Glanternik, Rob Hofman, Elder Maxwell, and Jane Tuttle were there to receive their certificates.

This dinner could not have been a success without the help of Leaders' Assistant Yalitz Garcia-Krawczyk and her expert work on the invitations and the Certificates of Appreciation; and we want to recognize the NYSEC maintenance crew, who did a great job setting up the event in Ceremonial Hall.

Thanks to everyone!



Valencia Shelton, Respite Coordinator of The Antonio Olivieri Center, gave Maria Fridman a plaque of appreciation.



Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and Dr. Anne Klaeyesen presented Dr. Maria Fridman with a bouquet.



Photos by Juan Querviale

Members of NYSEC's Teen Ethical Leadership Program (L-R): Amy Reid, Teen Leadership Program Advisor; Clara Malekshahi; Ali Riemer; Sydney Riemer; and Favio Appollon, Shelter Mural Project artists.

Bearing Witness to Homelessness

Continued from page 2

of its bathroom and purchase a skim cappuccino. Later, we who remained gathered in to share our reflections, and I gave a “humanist blessing” while we held hands, passing a squeeze from person to person around the circle. The press conference was anti-climatic: few mayoral candidates and fewer media – just another ordinary day.

The latest Census Bureau figures show the city’s poverty rate catapulted to 20.1% last year, its highest point in more than 10 years.

Anti-poverty groups say working-class people are increasingly falling to the bottom of the economic food chain — those whose hours are cut back or lose the second job that paid for clothes and food.

Mayor

Michael Bloomberg pledged to slash homelessness by two-thirds by 2009. However, according to the Coalition for the Homeless, the shelter population has risen 61 percent while Mr. Bloomberg has been mayor, propelled by a 73 percent increase in homeless families. His administration is meeting its legal obligation by filling the city’s shelters to bursting. But, by ending housing subsidies, the city has no transitional housing support for the homeless. “The Department of Homeless Services seems to be operating in a time warp,” said Steven Banks, the attorney in chief for the Legal Aid Society and lead lawyer in homeless family litigation against the city

since the 1980s. “Its policies fly in the face of everything we’ve learned in the last 30 years.”

And what does Mayor Bloomberg say?

On the day when the above statistical snapshot was taken, he fumed that New York State’s guarantee to shelter the homeless means “you can arrive in your private jet at Kennedy Airport, take a private limousine and go straight to the shelter system, and walk in the door and we’ve got to give you shelter.” It costs taxpayers

an average of \$36,799 a year to shelter a family, according to city data, far more than it would to simply subsidize its rent.

I knew all of this before sleeping outside City Hall Park on May 30th. After all, the NY Society has run

Here is a snapshot of a day in March 2013 among New York City’s Homeless Shelter Population:

Total number of homeless people in municipal shelters:	50,748
Number of homeless families:	12,121
Number of homeless children:	21,219
Number of homeless adults in families:	18,490
Number of homeless single adults:	11,039
Number of homeless single men:	8,244
Number of homeless single women:	2,795

a shelter since 1982, and I serve on the clergy advisory council of the interfaith Emergency Shelter Network. But until that night my empathy was theoretical. The next morning I literally felt it in my bones.

We have now joined another coalition: United to End Homelessness. It includes advocates, homeless and formerly homeless individuals, service providers, faith leaders, and experts on the issue of homelessness in New York City. Our goal is to highlight New York City’s homelessness crisis during the 2013 mayoral election. Our next mayor must do better, and we will make sure that she or he does.

Ethical Enrichment and Events

Ethics in Literature: A Reading Group

Join us on **MONDAY, JULY 1, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens will host a discussion on *The Central Park Five: The Untold Story Behind One of NYC's Most Infamous Crimes* by Sarah Burns.

On April 20, 1989, two passersby discovered the body of the “Central Park jogger” crumpled in a ravine. She'd been raped and severely beaten. Within days five black and Latino teenagers were apprehended, all five confessing to the crime. The staggering torrent of media coverage that ensued, coupled with fierce public outcry, exposed the deep-seated race and class divisions in New York City at the time. The minors were tried and convicted as adults despite no evidence linking them to the victim. Over a decade later, when DNA tests connected serial rapist Matias Reyes to the crime, the government, law enforcement, social institutions, and media of New York were exposed as having undermined the individuals they were designed to protect. Here, Sarah Burns recounts this historic case for the first time since the young men's convictions were overturned, telling, at last, the full story of one of New York's most legendary crimes.

Join us again on **MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507, Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens will host a discussion on *Sleeping with the Mayor* by John Jiler.

This is a riveting tale of power and powerlessness, race, class, and individual personalities presented as vividly as in a novel. In the shadow of City Hall, but with no one to guide them, the members of the homeless community must decide

how to organize themselves, how to structure their meetings, and what rules the “residents” of their community must live by. The cast of characters includes Mayor Ed Koch himself, a politician's politician facing his Waterloo.

The discussion is free for members, and \$5 for guests.

Ethics in Film: Contemporary Documentaries

Join us on **MONDAY, JULY 15, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *Which Way Home* (2007) by Rebecca Cammisa, a Fulbright Scholar who traveled to Mexico to document the plight of the children left behind when their families travel to the United States to find work. Cammisa and her crew follow a trio of children who set out on their own from their Latin American abodes on a dangerous trek through Mexico en route to the U.S. border and — they hope — their families' embrace.

Then, on **MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyens in the Adler Study, Room 514. We'll be showing *What I Want My Words To Do To You* (2003) by Eve Ensler.

Inmates at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women try to determine if redemption is really possible after committing a crime. Proctored by playwright Eve Ensler, the convicts (including two former members of the Weather Underground) perform a series of writing exercises and discussions that could lead to healing. The film culminates in a prison performance of the women's writings by Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, and Rosie Perez.

The film showings are free to members, \$5 for guests.

SUNDAY SUMMER PLATFORMS

10:30 am Ceremonial Hall,
Fourth Floor

JULY 7

*A Reflection on
Patriotism*

Dr. Anne Klaeyens, Leader
Tod Whitaker Presides

JULY 14

Ethics of Video Games

Paulo Ribeiro
Monica Weiss Presides

JULY 21

*Faith for Faithless Times
or What Happened
to the Movement in
the Ethical Culture
Movement?*

Richard Kiniry
Dan Hanson Presides

JULY 28

*Artistic Depictions of
Life's Journey*

Richard Koral
Andra Miller Presides

AUGUST 4

*Building the Temple of
the Future: Fulfilling the
Promise of Humanism*

James Croft
Dr. Anne Klaeyens Presides

AUGUST 11

*Almost Home: Helping
Kids Move from
Homelessness to Hope*

Tina Kelley
Terry Perlin Presides

AUGUST 18

My Humanist Creed

Randy Best
Dr. Anne Klaeyens Presides

AUGUST 25

*Fostering Agents of
Positive Change*

Anthony Pinn
Joseph Marvel Presides

Choose Your Food

Come and join us on **MONDAY, JULY 1, 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507.

Revitalize your health and wellness with Elizabeth Collier, Certified Holistic Health Coach. Her holistic approach and philosophy of self-care will give you the tools to make sustainable changes and achieve your goals.

Members: \$50; Guests: \$90. To register, contact Yalitzza Garcia-Krawczyk at ygarcia@nysec.org, or 212-874-5210, ext. 118.

Humanist Culture Open Mic

Come on **WEDNESDAYS, JULY 17, and AUGUST 7, 7:15 PM TO 8:45 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a celebration of science, ethics, and human progress.

Bring a song, story, poem, or other performance art. It can be something you wrote, or an existing piece that inspires you. Beginners and experienced performers alike are encouraged to share. All are encouraged to listen. Send any questions to nyc@centerforinquiry.net. Co-sponsored by Center for Inquiry New York City.

There is no charge for these sessions.

Ethical Activism

Join us on **TUESDAYS, JULY 9, 16, and 23, 6:30 TO 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a discussion moderated by Dr. Anne Klaeyen, Leader.

Social justice takes many forms and has different goals; some are long-term, like the Settlement House movement; others are immediate and spontaneous, like Occupy Wall Street. We will explore the ways

in which ethics can be strategic and effective in our community by learning from activists in the areas of immigration, housing, living wage, and criminal justice.

There is no charge for these sessions.

Death Café

Come on alternating **WEDNESDAYS, JULY 10 and 24, and AUGUST 7, and 21, from 2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514, for a gathering moderated by Barbara Simpson where we'll find a relaxed and safe setting in which we can discuss death and the issues surrounding the subject.

The objective is to increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Our topics will include: health care proxies, ethical wills, and green burials. Barbara holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling and is the Bereavement Program Community Outreach Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services.

There is no charge for attendance.

Drum Circle

Join us **WEDNESDAYS, JULY 10, 17, 24, and 31, 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514.

Moderator Alan Berger and his wife have created drum circles at the Lillian Booth Actors Home, the Unitarian Congregation of Rockland County, and the Ethical Culture Family Weekend at the Stony Point Center, in NY. He is available for events and private parties held by organizations, companies, and others interested in exploring and participating in this great community-building experience. Alan is a longtime member of Ethical Culture and currently belongs to the Bergen County Ethical Society.

Admission for members is \$5 per session; for guests: \$10 per session.

"The Work:" Effective Communication To Repair and Deepen Relationships

Come on **THURSDAYS, JULY 18 and 25, and AUGUST 1 (in the Leaders' Office), 15, and 22, 6:30 TO 8:00 PM**, in the Adler Study, Room 514 for a series of workshops led by Marty Epstein, M.S., a coach, mediator, trainer in both "Effective Conversation" and "Nonviolent Communication." Participants must be committed to attending all five sessions.

"The Work," an approach based on the teachings of Byron Katie, is designed to help us examine the sources of our anxiety about our relationships and move beyond commonly accepted but harmful ways of seeking love and approval, especially the myth that equates love with need. In this class, using a series of questions and a method of inquiry, we will learn how to let go of these harmful patterns and explore how to fine tune our empathetic and listening skills so we can communicate with far more authenticity and intention. This approach can help us decrease our stress, reduce our anger and reactivity, clear and center our minds, boost our energy, and become happier in love and more effective in all our relationships. Recommended reading: *I Need Your Love — Is That True?* by Byron Katie.

Marty Epstein is a facilitator for the Work of Byron Katie who has given workshops at the UN, and is a teacher of negotiation at Columbia University, and also a teacher of Sanskrit. He has also managed large-scale outsourcing assignments for companies including Charles Schwab, 7 Co, Bank of NY, Mellon Corp., and Merrill Lynch.

He can be reached through his site at: www.effectiveconversation.com.

The charge for members is \$100, and for nonmembers, it is \$150.

Ethics in Film

Chris Everett

Join us on **FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 7:00 PM** (doors open at **6:30 PM**), in Ceremonial Hall to see *V for Vendetta* (2005), directed by Jamen McTeigue.

In an alternate future in which Germany has won World War II and Great Britain is now a fascist state, a masked vigilante known only as “V” conducts guerrilla warfare against the oppressive British government. When “V” rescues a young woman from the secret police, he finds in her an ally with whom he can continue his fight to free the people of Britain. The film stars Natalie Portman and John Hurt.

I’ll be leading a post-film discussion.

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

Summer Writing Class

Elaine Berman

We’ll have a five-week writing class this summer, which will meet on **TUESDAYS** from **12:30 PM to 2:30 PM**, in the Elliott Library, Room 507. The class will run from **AUGUST 6** through **SEPTEMBER 3**. We welcome new people to these workshops — those who want to get started writing, as well as people with writing experience.

Course fees are \$100 for members and \$140 for nonmembers. Registration in advance is required. For information and to register, call Yalitza Garcia-Krawczyk at 212-874-5210, ext. 118. If you’d like to read examples of work by our current and past writers, please visit our website, www.nysec.org/workshop-writers-space.

Summer Coordinators/ Greeters Needed

Amy Schwarz

From **JULY 7** through **SEPTEMBER 1**, Ethical Culture meetings will start at **10:30 AM**, an hour earlier. This period also is “vacation time” when many members will be taking long weekends, etc., including me. Thus, I am looking for people willing to replace me on several Sundays during that time. A schedule will be made around each volunteer’s preference, and I will fill in the gaps. I will happily go over the routine with anyone interested who has never done this before. It really is easy and fun, but requires the commitment to be there.

The coordinator/greeter should arrive by 10 am to hand out programs and welcome each person. We’ll ask for a volunteer from among the attendees to assist with gathering the collection, adding up the number of attendees, and giving the money collected to Moe-Swe Myint, Membership Coordinator.

To volunteer, phone me at home, 212-666-5219, or email me at schwarz@frick.org.

Sharing a Vision

Amy Schwarz

Poets and novelists, painters and sketchers, hikers and skiers, from the rituals of the American Indians to the scroll artists in China, all are enticed by mountains.

The idea of a mountain, high, remote, reaching into the sky appears ethereal seen through the mist or clouds and projects a spiritual power or longing.

I walk in a small, hilly town climbing to the best views of the mountains. Blue in the distance, majestic, and peaceful, The mountains soar above the clamorous disturbances below.

As in Cézanne’s *Mount Sainte-Victoire*, the vision is not enough. It should be grasped in a painting, a feeling.

I long to visit those mountains, but must be content to climb the hills my feet can reach.

Sunday Morning Summer Platform Meetings 10:30 am

JULY 7

A REFLECTION ON PATRIOTISM



Dr. Anne Klaeyesen, Leader

Tod Whitaker Presides

Patriotism is a complex concept fraught with emotion. It implies love of homeland, a narrative with heroes and heroines, and the challenges of upholding ideals among differing perspectives. It is also a responsibility all citizens must exercise to preserve secular democracy and hold our elected officials accountable to the common good.

The shared charity is the Fresh Air Fund.

JULY 14

ETHICS OF VIDEO GAMES



Paulo Ribeiro

Monica Weiss Presides

Video games have become a way of life for many people. Beyond the usual debates of the effects of violence and sexual content, video games have a broad range of ethical dimensions. From their design and message, to the business practices of the companies that produce and distribute them, and the culture of the gamers who play them, video games continue to be a source of controversy both for outside critics and within the gamer community.

Paulo Ribeiro is a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, NJ, and a Leader-in-Training with the American Ethical Union. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and is currently enrolled in the Humanist Institute. Paulo is also a longtime video game enthusiast and has worked as a graphic artist and game developer on several community-based game projects.

The shared charity is Fisher House Foundation.

JULY 21

FAITH FOR FAITHLESS TIMES OR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOVEMENT IN THE ETHICAL CULTURE MOVEMENT?



Richard Kiniry

Dan Hanson Presides

The Ethical Humanist understanding of life that includes the idea that life is an ethical experience is just what our unequal, environmentally degraded world needs. Ethical Culture is not just an alternative religion; it is a radical replacement for failed, traditional religion.

Richard Kiniry is Leader Emeritus of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. He spent his college years in a Catholic seminary, raised chickens in India with the Peace Corps, and operated his own stained glass business for many years. Kiniry is a graduate of, among other institutions, the Humanist Institute and the training program of the Ethical Culture Movement.

He is also the former Director of Camp Linden, a children's camp in Chester County, PA.

The shared charity is Camp Linden.

JULY 28



ARTISTIC DEPICTIONS OF LIFE'S JOURNEY

Richard Koral

Andra Miller Presides

The greatest question with which people have struggled since we first emerged as humans is “What is the meaning of our lives?” Throughout human history people have sought answers by every means of which they are capable. Today, we will survey some of these efforts to grapple with ultimate meaning through metaphor and art.

Richard Koral is a longtime member of the Westchester, NY, Ethical Society. He is an Ethical Culture Leader-in-Training and a candidate for Doctor of Ministry. He is also active on the national Board of the American Ethical Union and is currently serving as President.

The shared charity is The Actors Fund, Broadway Care.

AUGUST 4



BUILDING THE TEMPLE OF THE FUTURE: FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF HUMANISM

James Croft

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen Presides

Humanism — a life stance that exalts the highest human values of reason, compassion, and hope for the future — is unique, and the promise it holds for the world is unique. If more people lived their lives by Humanist values we would live in a better world. Yet the promise of Humanism remains unfulfilled: most human beings live in conditions that traduce their dignity and deny them their full humanity. Ethical Culture has a special role to play in fulfilling the promise of Humanism and building a better world — if we can find the courage and vision to do so.

James Croft is the Research and Education Fellow at the Humanist Community at Harvard, where he works on the Humanist Community Project, helping build communities for nonreligious people. He is a graduate of Cambridge and Harvard, and is currently studying for his Doctorate in the philosophy of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, while training to become a Leader in the Ethical Culture Movement. His upcoming book, *The Godless Congregation*, co-authored with *New York Times* bestselling author Greg Epstein is being published by Simon & Schuster.

The shared charity is The Doe Fund.

AUGUST 11



ALMOST HOME: HELPING KIDS MOVE FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOPE

Tina Kelley

Terry Perlin Presides

Each year 1.2 million young people in the US experience an episode of homelessness, though they are often invisible. Hear stories of kids struggling with family violence, prostitution, teen parenthood, rejection based on sexual orientation, or aging-out of foster care without a family, and learn about sensible ways to help them turn their lives around. Author Tina Kelley discusses the

work of Covenant House, the largest charity serving homeless and trafficked young people in the Americas, and hopeful reforms that could help keep them safer.

Tina Kelley was a reporter at *The New York Times* for a decade, where she was part of the Metro section team that won a 2002 Pulitzer Prize in the Public Service category for coverage of the September 11 attacks. She wrote 121 “Portraits of Grief,” short descriptions of the victims. At *The Times*, she also wrote many stories involving powerless or voiceless people, or those whose struggles went against the grain of popular opinion: the health problems of a Native American tribe living near a Superfund site, a high-school student who challenged a proselytizing public school teacher and received a death threat for his stance, a transgender vocational school principal in a rural town, and the lives of children waiting to be adopted out of foster care.

Tina is the co-author of the award-winning national bestseller, *Almost Home: Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope* (Wiley, 2012). Her first book of poems, *The Gospel of Galore*, (Word Press, 2003) won a Washington State Book Award; her second book, *Precise*, was published by Word Press in January 2013. During her 20-year newspaper career, she worked at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; *The Patriot Ledger* in Quincy, MA; *The Seattle Times*; and *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Her writing has appeared in *Audubon*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Orion*, *People*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The Best American Poetry 2009*. A graduate of Yale University, she lives in New Jersey with her husband and two children.

The shared charity is Covenant House International.

AUGUST 18



MY HUMANIST CREED

Randy Best

Dr. Anne Klaeysen Presides

Ethical Culture/Ethical Humanism does not have a creed. We are open to all who want to hold ethics as their ultimate concern. However, we do have an institutional point of view – we are part of nature and responsible for making the world a better place. Within this framework, we can develop our own ideas, our individual creeds. I will share ‘my Humanist creed’ and unpack and expound on the ideas in my creed. – R.B.

A lifelong member of Ethical Culture, Randy was born in St. Louis and grew up attending the St. Louis Ethical Society, where his parents are still members. Since 2008 he has served as the Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle. Randy received a B.A. from Grinnell College, in Grinnell, Iowa, and a Master’s Degree from Harvard University. He is also a graduate of the Humanist Institute, a certified Mediator, and a Pastoral Counselor.

Randy lives in Durham, NC, with his wife Sarah Howe, a ceramic artist. They have four children whom they have home-schooled.

The shared charity is Riverdale Mental Health.

AUGUST 25



FOSTERING AGENTS OF POSITIVE CHANGE

Anthony Pinn

Joseph Marvel Presides

Anthony B. Pinn (Harvard University, Ph.D.) is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies at Rice University. At Rice, he is also the founding Director of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning. The Center provides innovative ways to enhance leadership capacities in Rice students, and also provides opportunities to enhance the leadership skills of Houston-area high school students in order to position them to be agents of positive change.

An expert on African-American religion and theology, Pinn is the author/editor of 28 books, including *Introducing African-American Religion* (2012) and *The Black Church in the Post-Civil Rights Era* (2002). He has held significant offices with professional organizations such as the American Academy of Religion and the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Pinn is the Director of Research for the Institute for Humanist Studies, a Washington, DC, think tank.

The shared charity is Camp Quest.

SUMMER SHARED CHARITIES

FRESH AIR FUND, since 1877, the Fresh Air Fund, a not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer experiences in the country to more than 1.7 million New York City children from low-income communities.

FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, Providing a "home away from home" for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease, or injury.

CAMP LINDEN is a summer camp aimed toward inner-city youth looking for a chance to get out into nature. Located in West Chester, PA, this beautiful camp offers a wealth of activities and ways to get familiar with the outside world.

THE ACTORS FUND, Broadway Cares, is a nonprofit umbrella charitable organization that assists American entertainment and performing arts professionals through a broad spectrum of programs, including comprehensive social services, health services, supportive and affordable housing, employment and training services, and skilled nursing and assisted living care, with a current annual budget of \$21,000,000. It operates the Lillian Booth Actors Home.

THE DOE FUND is a nonprofit organization that provides paid transitional work, housing, educational opportunities, counseling, and career training to people with histories of homelessness, incarceration, and substance abuse.

COVENANT HOUSE is the largest privately funded agency in the Americas providing shelter, food, immediate crisis care, and an array of other services to homeless, and runaway youth (aged 16–21). In addition to basic needs, Covenant House provides a continuum of care designed to transition these young people into an independent adulthood free from the risk of future homelessness.

RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH (RMHA) is an award-winning, not-for-profit agency providing effective behavioral healthcare to approximately 2,000 individuals living in the Northwest Bronx, Upper Manhattan, and Westchester County. RMHA was founded by local leaders led by the Society for Ethical Culture in 1959 in response to the overwhelming perceived need for community mental health care in the area.

CAMP QUEST, founded in 1996, is the first residential summer camp in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Norway specifically for the children of nontheistic or freethinking parents (including atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, skeptics, rationalists, and others who hold a naturalistic worldview).

more Ethical Enrichment and Events...

Thursday Lunch Discussions Noon — Elliott Library, Rm 507

Bring your lunch and join Leader Dr. Anne Klaeyssen and Society members in the Elliott Library, Room 507, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. The July and August topics: "Mixed Bags." Folders with relevant articles will be available from Yalitzza Garcia-Krawczyk in the Leaders' office. Join the discussion.

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY (Society Closed).

JULY 11

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, 5/23/13; "OBAMA'S LONG ROAD TO PEACE" by David Cole, *New York Review of Books Blog*, 5/24/13; and "IN TERROR SHIFT, OBAMA TOOK LONG PATH" by Peter Baker, *The New York Times*, 5/27/13.

JULY 18

AFTER GOD: "WHAT CAN ATHEISTS LEARN FROM BELIEVERS?" various authors in *New Statesman*, 3/27/13.

JULY 25

"MY MEDICAL CHOICE" by Angelina Jolie, and "JOLIE'S DISCLOSURE OF PREVENTIVE MASTECTOMY HIGHLIGHTS DILEMMA" by Denise Grady, Tara Parker-Poe, and Pam Belluck, *The New York Times*, 5/14/13; "ANGELINA JOLIE IS STILL A WOMAN" by Eleanor Barkhorn and "THE SUPREME COURT CASE LOOMING OVER JOLIE'S BREAST CANCER COLUMN" by Andrew Cohen, *The Atlantic*, May 2013.

AUGUST 1

UPRISING IN TURKEY: various articles.

AUGUST 8

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE U.S. MILITARY: various articles.

AUGUST 15

THE FUTURE IS HERE: articles from the May 2013 issue of *Smithsonian*, including "X AND THE CITY" by Jerry Adler, "BLOCK PARTY" by Franz Lidz, and "THE PRINTED WORLD" by Elizabeth Royte.

AUGUST 22

"STAY OUT OF SYRIA" by David Bromwich, *The New York Review of Books*, 6/20/13; "AN ATROCITY IN SYRIA, WITH NO VICTIM TOO SMALL" by Anne Barnard and Hani Mourtada, *The New York Times*, 5/14/13; and "A SONG OF LAMENT FOR SYRIA" by Nihad Sirees, *The New York Times*, 4/26/13.

AUGUST 29

THE NSA-VERIZON SCANDAL: various articles.



Volunteering

A N D R A M I L L E R , P R E S I D E N T

Volunteering wasn't a big deal in my family, as my parents were caught up in working (two jobs for my dad), raising three girls, getting my little sister and me to dance lessons, and going to church. However, my mother did sign on to be leader of an after-school Blue Birds group, which grew up to a Camp Fire Girls group, and that proved to be a big commitment. We kids did some door-to-door selling of Camp Fire Girls donuts and then candy, which provided good experience in talking to strangers and attempting to convince people of the merits of our products and the organization itself. I think it also laid the groundwork for us to take volunteering for granted as being part of our lives.

In our adulthood, my sisters and I have taken on various volunteer jobs. My older sister knits caps for newborns in a Hawaii hospital, has visited and now writes to prisoners, and reads stories to kids in grammar school. My younger sister volunteers by doing office work at the Coalition of Medical Professionals, and is active in the Presbyterian Women's group of the Presbytery of San Francisco.

I have been active with the Sierra Club, having been recruited to the sprawl prevention/watershed protection committee for the Atlantic Chapter. It was a big, frustrating job, but was very meaningful to me. Subsequently, we collaborated with other environmental groups in a huge push to stop the building of an outdated, unneeded, and

three-times-the-necessary-size water filtration plant in Van Cortlandt Park. As if the kids in the area didn't already suffer enough from asthma, now there are trucks driving in and leaking exhaust into the air, as well as the chemicals needed for the outmoded filtration process. (Now there's a better and more efficient system that would have used two-thirds less parkland, but it's too late.) There's lots more that the Sierra Club is involved in — and volunteers are always welcome. For more information, contact the Atlantic Chapter: <http://newyork2.sierraclub.org> — Look for the volunteer registration form under the "Take Action" tab. For the New York City Group, contact: <http://nyc.sierraclub.org>.

I also volunteered for JBI International (this used to be the Jewish Braille Institute), reading books and magazines onto tape for blind people. I did that for several years, and enjoyed it very much until I got too old and too slow! I read cookbooks, poetry books, novels (finding different voices for the characters was a challenge), and magazines. They require that you audition to read, and then you are trained to sit in the booth and record materials. Though most of the books are in English, they also need people who can read Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish, and Spanish. If you would like to be involved — but not as a reader — you can be an "engineer." You sit outside the booth and follow along

to monitor the reading accuracy, and run the tape. Or, you can be a quality-control person, trained to check the completed readings. If you're interested in working on Braille production, volunteers are trained to do that too. For information, go to the website: <http://www.jbilibrary.org/volunteer>.

I've been a volunteer at Citizens Union (CU) for over 10 years now. I'm on the Local Candidates Committee; we interview those running for office, and produce a booklet with our preferences. It is great fun, and you get to meet some amazing people in all the boroughs. I was also on the State Affairs Committee for a while, but came to the conclusion that I was too unknowledgeable about state politics to contribute much to that group. Still, it was a great learning experience. I have recently joined the new Program Committee, which uses some of my writing skills. One can apply to be on a CU committee on the website, or just join Citizens Union as a regular member to find out what's happening in city and state government; contact them at: www.citizensunion.org.

My life has been enriched by the volunteer activities in which I've participated. In turn, volunteerism has helped me to grow personally and professionally. It's an integral part of who I am. Besides, who wants to sit around like a bump on a log — especially when one can help to make this world a better place?

Our Ethical Family



The following members are celebrating birthdays in July:

- LARRY HURST7/1
- AMY SCHWARZ7/5
- JOSEPH HORN7/9
- BEVERLY NEWMAN 7/10
- DEBRA CURTIS-GREEN .. 7/12
- CHARLES DEBROVNER... 7/12
- SHEILA KLEINWALD 7/21
- HASONI PRATTS 7/21
- JUDITH GRAEFF 7/22
- WILLIAM KULOK..... 7/24
- JANICE BUZBY..... 7/25
- ROBERT HOFMAN..... 7/26
- KATHLEEN O'CONNELL ..7/26
- MONICA WEISS7/26
- FLORENCE FALK-DICKLER.. 7/27
- LEONARD FARBMAN 7/28

The following members are celebrating birthdays in August:

- SUSAN NEEDLES 8/3
- DAVID LEE. 8/6
- NICOLA DEMARCO..... 8/7
- JOHN LOVELADY.....8/11
- LISA SMITH8/11
- JOHN KREUTTNER8/12
- PHYLLIS HARRISON-ROSS ..8/14
- JANET ASIMOV 8/16
- CAROLYN SAPIR.....8/18
- CAROL VAN DEUSEN....8/19
- LILY FRIEDMAN8/20
- LEAH LIEBERMAN8/22
- ALAN GARDNER 8/26
- DAVID LEIMAN8/27
- SABINE ROSENBERG8/27
- SONDRA STEIN.....8/29
- JANE UNGAR8/29



MOE-SWE MYINT, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE

Please welcome new members [Kristin Parker](#), [Lisa Smith](#) and [Ellen Kirschner](#). Kristen is a retired person with a background in business computer technology. She found us through Internet research. She has attended Compassion and Choice's End-of- Life programs and other programs at the Society, and is a volunteer at CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocate. Kristen says she is drawn to our humanistic fellowship.

Lisa is an accounting professional with experience in operations and management and also has training in public speaking. "Ethics" is what drew her to our Society. She belonged to the "Unitarian Universalists" and the Girl Scouts and she is interested in philosophy, family health, and making the world better. Lisa's daughter Lulu has been a vital member of our Ethics for Children program for the past two years.

Ellen Kirschner is a writer and a ceramicist, she also volunteers at Jazz @ Lincoln Center. She is an Ethical Culture Fieldston School alumna, class of 1968. Ellen is looking for a place with ethical values that'll provide friendship, community, and activism and she feels she's found one in NYSEC.

We had a very successful [15th Annual Benefit Concert for the Stained Glass Windows](#) on Sunday May 19. Dr. Ruth L. Cohen, a Life Member of the Society who started these annual concerts many years ago was, as always, the inspiration and coordinator behind the scenes. Jon Liechty, our Associate Music Director, did an excellent job of programming and secured incredible musicians who performed an eclectic repertoire. We

heard works by Elliot Carter, Lee Hoiby, Lerner and Loewe, J.S. Bach, and Charles Gounod; folk songs from Serbia and Portugal; and the reading of texts by Tennessee Williams, Thornton Wilder, and Dorothy Parker, as well as works based on poetry by Andrew Kreider. The very gifted musicians were Alison Davy and Mila Milosevic, sopranos; Javier Oviedo on alto saxophone; and Gene Rohrer and Jon Liechty on piano. Kudos to Leaders' Assistant Yalitzza Garcia-Krawczyk for her excellent pre-concert production work and to David McCants and the building's crew for their dedicated work.

On Monday, June 3, we held a cosponsored program, "[Common Ground on Entitlement Reform](#)" – a live panel discussion moderated by John Yemma, editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*. Panelists included Judd Gregg, former Senator and former Governor of New Hampshire, and Edward G. Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania. Members Muriel Berger, Vincent Brancato, Chris Bernhardt, Pat Cohen, Chris Everett, Henryka Komanska, John Kreuttner, Amy Schwarz, Eric Volat, Tod Whitaker, and Beth Zucker volunteered to make this program a success.

Our [Advocacy Forum](#) on June 6 was a panel discussion on "The Global and Local Atrocity of Sex Trafficking" with Leader Joe Chuman moderating. The panelists were: Stuart Perrin, author; Mara Schneider, FBI agent; Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall, of John Jay College; Dipti Mehta, performer/writer; and Max Walker, ECPAT: End Child

Prostitution and Trafficking, New York City. Many thanks to Director of Special Events Antonio Pagliarulo for expertly planning this event from start to finish, and to Trustee Tod Whitaker for his always gracious hosting.

The young people from our [Teen Leadership Program](#) and the children from our [Ethics for Children Program](#) came together on June 9 to present the Sunday Platform. It was an interactive program with the theme “Contemplating Human Worth” at which they asked those in attendance to think and write about, discuss, and draw pictures illustrating their ideas concerning the presentation, and conclude with “Reflection and Commitment.”

The Teen Leadership Program members participating were: Olivia Antrobus, Delia Ilopoulou, Clara Malekshahi, Ali Riemer, Sydney Reamer, Dan Ryans, Kevin Ryans, Favio Apollon, Anabel Sosa, and Matias Santiago. The Ethics for Children participants were: Jack Brokaw, Zeke Brokaw, Zoey Dillon, Tanna Dodson, Mia Gamboa, Lillian May, Lulu Smith, Jackson Zavala, and Simona Zavala. They led the song *Down by the River Side*, while Sydney Reimer, one of the teens, accompanied the singing on guitar. Ishmael Islam, 2012 NYC Youth Poet Laureate, read one of his poems. Teen Advisors Ishmael Islam, Amy Reid, and Audrey Kindred were instrumental in putting together this wonderful program.

Now that summer is really here, beginning on **JULY 7**, the Sunday Platforms will begin a bit earlier than usual. They’ll start **10:30 AM**, so set your alarms 45 minutes earlier so that you won’t be late. Summer also means it’s time to mark your calendars and save the dates for our [Annual Fall Membership Retreat](#) — from **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** — at the Stony Point Conference Center, in Stony Point, New York.

Garden of Eating Cookbook News

Dr. Ruth Cohen

This is a follow-up to our news release regarding the wonderful Pot Luck/*Garden of Eating* Cookbook launch held in April.

As those of you who attended remember, the event was a great success, with loud applause and wonderful dining selections, elegantly served, and presented to us by Tod Whitaker.

We have exciting news! We want you to know that we are the beneficiary of a generous anonymous donor who has placed our *Garden of Eating* Cookbook into a silent auction, and we will be the recipient of funds earned from the auction of the books.



NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

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NYSEC ANNUAL MEMBERS' RETREAT

We invite you to join us for a retreat weekend with your ethical family. The theme for this year's getaway is PEACE. We have reserved our space at the Stony Point Center, a familiar place for those who have joined us in previous years. Mark your calendar!

SAVE THE DATE:
September 20th – 22nd

A deposit of \$100 per person is required to make a reservation, and priority will be given to those stay the whole weekend. Prices include lodging and six meals.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY AUGUST 11TH

Contact Moe-Swe Myint for more information and to reserve your space.
mmyint@nysec.org 212.874.5210 x113



From Male to Female: My Transition

MICHELLE AINSWORTH, MEMBER

On April 13, Michelle Ainsworth addressed the Humanist Institute, classes 18 and 19, about being transgender. This article is a modified version of her talk.

Just to be clear: it pains me that I was born male, pains me so much that I made the big decision to eventually live as close to being a woman as medical science and life can get me. Changing genders is called transitioning, and is it ever! Aside from fears about loss of friends and painful medical procedures, emotionally, even the smoothest transitions involve sometimes bewildering changes to one's sense of self.

Why am I risking so much? I'm happier and I'm more confident, and friends, including Andra, have noticed this. I want to share a secret: although body angst inspired my transition, pronouns clinched the deal; female pronouns felt so much better! I could tell you stories about this!

Once I decided to transition, my doctor and I decided that taking female hormones would be the first step. The social worker he sent me to for screening had a short beard and a deep voice. I faced him. He took notes. Then he said: "Let me see if I have this correct:

you've wanted female physiology ever since you envied the girls in seventh grade, were cross-dressing for decades, and, Michelle, you still didn't realize you were transsexual?" "I still didn't," I admitted. I got my estrogen prescription anyway. I was almost as thrilled that they made it out to "Michelle" as I was to have it; I giggled all the way home.

After sharing that much of my personal story, I was asked to address three specific questions:

What do nontransgender people need to understand?

The difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. *Gender identity is who you are, sexual orientation is who you want to sleep with.* I try to be a "nice girl," but I was irked when a psychiatrist said to me, "How can you be transgender if you are romantically attracted to women?" This made me feel as if it was awkward, or even unsafe, to explore my gender feelings with him. In fact, I know transgender women who like men, I know transgender women who like women. There are heterosexual transgender women and lesbian transgender women. Gender identity and sexuality are separate.

What obstacles do I face

as a transgender person?

Right now? Bathrooms! Do I use the men's or the women's? Think about that for a minute! Store clerks and homeless people, for example, have recently called me "Miss" and "M'am." But I'm legally male. Which restroom do I use? I'm waiting — that's a question! (The students in the Humanist Institute classes uniformly said that I should use the Ladies' Room. I blushed.)

What would a humanistic approach be?

It would be simply that it is safe to explore gender identity. I didn't know when I started this that I'd end up transitioning. I wanted to explore it, and the exploration taught me that it felt right. Many people explore opposite gender feelings and find that it doesn't fit them. That's fine; it means their lives will be easier! But the humane approach is to create a safe space for that exploration to take place. Gender exploration is confusing enough without the fear of ridicule and far worse. In terms of humanism, I also want to explore further the idea that this ridicule links to sexism and that fears about transgressing gender are perhaps partly about stereotypes of what it is to be a man or woman.

Photography Arts Club Exhibition

Be sure to “focus on” the wonderful Photography Arts Club Exhibition of photos by Charles H. Debrovner in our Lobby box office [JULY 8](#) through [AUGUST 2](#) (enjoy a sampling, below).



July Calendar

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

SUNDAY MORNING PLATFORMS

10:30 am – Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor

ETHICS IN LITERATURE: A READING GROUP

Monday, July 1, 1:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507. *The Central Park Five: The Untold Story Behind One of NYC's Most Infamous Crimes* by Sarah Burns

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, July 1, 6:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

CHOOSE YOUR FOOD

Monday, July 1, 6:30 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507

WISDOM AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Tuesdays, July 2 and 16, 6:00 pm – Room 508

SOCIETY OFFICES CLOSED

Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 – observance of Independence Day

LEADER LUNCH DISCUSSIONS

Thursdays (none on the fourth of July, Independence Day holiday), 12:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507

ETHICAL ACTIVISM

Tuesdays, July 9, 16 and 23, 6:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

DEATH CAFÉ

Wednesdays, July 10 and 24, 2:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

DRUM CIRCLE

Wednesdays, July 10, 17, 24 and 31, 6:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

EMPOWERING ETHICAL ELDERS

Thursdays, July 11 and 25, 6:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507

ETHICS IN FILM: CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTARIES

Monday, July 15, 1:00 pm – Adler Study, Room 514. *Which Way Home?* (2007)

HUMANIST CULTURE – OPEN MIC

Wednesday, July 17, 7:15 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

THE WORK: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TO REPAIR AND DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS

Thursdays, July 18 and 25, 6:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

August Calendar

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, August 1

THE WORK: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TO REPAIR AND DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, August 1 – Leaders Office; August 15 and 22 – Adler Study, Room 514

ETHICS IN FILM

Friday, August 2, 7:00 pm (doors open 6:30 pm) – Ceremonial Hall, *V for Vendetta* (2005) directed by Jamen McTeigue

SUNDAY MORNING PLATFORMS

10:15 am – Ceremonial Hall, 4th floor

ETHICS IN LITERATURE: A READING GROUP

Monday, August 5, 1:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507. *Sleeping With the Mayor* by John Jiler

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, August 5, 6:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

TUESDAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Tuesdays, 12:30 pm – Room 507

WISDOM AND WORLD AFFAIRS

Tuesdays, August 6 and 20, 6:00 pm – Room 508

DEATH CAFÉ

Wednesdays, August 7 and 21, 2:30 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

HUMANIST CULTURE – OPEN MIC

Wednesday, August 7, 7:15 pm – Adler Study, Room 514

LEADER LUNCH DISCUSSIONS

Thursdays, 12:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507

EMPOWERING ETHICAL ELDERS

Thursdays, August 8 and 22, 6:00 pm – Elliott Library, Room 507

ETHICS IN FILM: CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTARIES

Monday, August 19, 1:00 pm – Adler Study, Room 514. *What I Want My Words To Do To You* (2003) by Eve Ensler

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

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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.

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ETHICAL OUTLOOK

July/August 2013

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