

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings **11:30 AM–Auditorium**

June 6

Embedded in Nature: The Source of Our Spirituality

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

Ben Bean Presides

June 13

Human Partnership—Our Solid Ground

Dr. Matthew les Spetter

Leader Emeritus

Sheila Kleinwald Presides

June 20

Ethical Culture and the Anti-Imperialist League

Dr. Khoren Arisian

Senior Leader

Muriel Berger Presides

June 27

Everyday Courage

Fritz Williams

Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society

Dr. Khoren Arisian Presides

*Happy
Father's
Day*

June Happening

Wednesday, June 30, The Advocacy Forum presents: “Can America Be a Democracy and an Empire, Too? The Dilemma of Today’s Foreign Policy”. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Circles of Engagement follow. (See details on page 9.)

From the Leader’s Desk

Dr. Khoren Arisian



Catching Up!

By the time this newsletter is in everyone’s hands, we will have mounted two significant new Advocacy Forum programs, the first on March 31 and the second on April 13. The closeness of these two events could not have been avoided because we had to take advantage of the availability of author and political commentator Kevin Phillips and Charles Lewis, Executive Director of the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Public Integrity, both gentlemen speaking on the “Dynastic Presidency 2004 and the Religious Right.” This special Advocacy Forum proved to be provocatively honest about the four-generation Bush family’s political and financial hegemony.

Thus, on the evening of March 31 we inaugurated our Advocacy Forum project with *Harper’s* Editor Lewis Lapham; author and Executive Director of the Center for Inquiry—Metro New York, Susan Jacoby; Barry Lynn, Executive Director, Americans United for Church and State; and our colleague Joe Chuman, Leader of the Bergen County Ethical Culture Society, who conducted a sparkling interchange among our three guest panelists. This major event, which drew an attendance of 250-275, was followed by an action-oriented meeting for interested members of the audience, nearly three dozen of whom gathered afterwards for discussion in the Social Hall.

The overall response to the whole experience was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

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Sunday Morning Meetings

June 6—Embedded in Nature: The Source of Our Spirituality

Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader

Henry David Thoreau’s “Gospel of the Moment,” as he liked to express the notion that human life is meant to be lived *now*, was meant to serve as a touchstone for striving toward the possibility of wholeness. The world in its dynamic richness is not external to us but part of who we are. Life, Thoreau held, is by definition sensuous, the matrix out of which human relationships properly emerge. We are, therefore, both in and of the world, life’s sensuousness being the very vehicle whereby we connect with one another. As for the outcome of this process, Thoreau would readily agree with the renowned feisty English Unitarian, L .P. Jacks, who declared that real faith is “not belief in spite of the evidence but adventure in scorn of the consequences.”

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Ethical Culture: Who We Are

From: An Invitation to Action: A Vision of Ethical Culture
 National Council of the American Ethical Union, May, 2001

The creation of an environment in which worth and dignity are honored and ethical personality can flourish requires a dedication to social reform. We work to create such an environment through ethical engagement in society, ourselves living within our means and continually reassessing how much is enough, focusing our lives on internal and interpersonal riches rather than external possessions.

Ethical religion offers a positive vision of a more humane world in which all people can develop their unique potentials within an ever-expanding web of mutually supportive relationships. Actively wrestling to create a true sense of kindness, fairness, and responsibility between people, we become transformed by the power of that experience.

Ethical Societies promote moral engagement by

- Encouraging a more ethical engaged life—one oriented toward justice, simplicity, ecology, and people over things
- Examining our social and ecological impact and supporting sustainable development and fair labor practices, and by being conscientious consumers and producers

Leader's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

I estimate that the total cost of presenting a program such as this, with luminaries who have something of importance to share with us, can reach several thousand dollars. The likelihood of our getting outside grants for such sectarian purposes is proving to be practically nil, so we hope to be able to garner generous contributions from those who attend. In other words, we have to rely on the kindness of members and friends, as well as strangers, to help us continue. In order to publicize the Forums, we usually leaflet the entire West Side, other neighborhoods, major institutions, and universities. We also may purchase advertising time on WQXR for one-minute announcements, as well as many more announcements on WNYC, where the cost of a 15-second spot, normally \$600, may occasionally be pared down to less than half because of the Society's non-profit status.

Guest presenters generously give of their time without charge as a public service. These special mid-week programs are designed for all of us, not only for the public. Indeed, a major goal of this new undertaking is to attract new and younger people from the West Side and elsewhere in the city, nearly 100 of whom filled out cards indicating interest in the Society. It will be the responsibility of the Membership Recruitment Committee, under the leadership of Membership Director Suzy Frazer, to communicate with these interested folks with a view toward having as many of them as possible eventually become involved in the Society. A related thought: those who eventually join the Society will, of course, take on all the responsibilities of membership, but they will need the assistance,

interest, and guidance of those of you who are regularly active as members. It's a primary responsibility of mine and of others to attract new people to the Society, but it is very much up to *you* to welcome them; the program staff and I may influence new people to join because of our activities, but it is *you* as an Ethical Culture community whom they will look forward to joining for the long term. Membership growth is thus a responsibility of all of us: it takes people to attract and keep people.

The biggest ongoing story by far this past year was the total renovation of our magnificent auditorium, now drawing the interest of many groups throughout the city as a site for their events. We are only in the early stages of marketing this space and/or co-sponsoring programs with other groups. Meanwhile our average Sunday Meeting attendance during the program year from fall 2002 to the end of June 2003 was 125. Attendance was beginning to build rapidly when we had to start meeting in Ceremonial Hall from July 2003 to January 2004. This change somehow unsettled our steady attendance growth, causing us to have fewer attendees in Ceremonial Hall during the renovation period. Now that we are back in the auditorium, we are gradually returning to levels of the last year and a half. We hope, of course, that attendance will far exceed even those levels as future years unfold.

Since I arrived here in late summer of 2000, by which time Sylvia Anderson had been administrative assistant to my predecessors for 18 years, and had chosen to retire in her twentieth year here in June 2002, I have worked with a succession of four administrative assistants, the fourth one being Nora McCarthy. Please make your acquaintance with Nora, who works on the 5th floor, when you are at the Society. Nora is a highly skilled and organized administrative

assistant with a legal background and excellent communication skills. She is the mother of five grown sons and has been living in New York for 12 years. Her predecessors were all ambitious and intelligent young women who had many irons in the fire outside their work life and whose tenure was consequently short. My fervent hope is that Nora will be here considerably longer!

Now that there seems to be an end in sight to the stop-and-go character of administrative assistants, I'm anxious to get up to speed again. For, as Thoreau once put it, we are here on earth not only to thrive personally and with one another, but, more broadly, to affect the quality of the day. Therefore, the purpose of our exciting new programming is to reintroduce the Society to the community at large, putting forth a refreshed image of what we can be as an institution and to re-enter the life of the city as vigorously as we can.

Incidentally, owing to all the administrative changes I've mentioned, publicity for the spring series on liberal religion was insufficient and registration very low. The course was cancelled, but parts of it will be reconfigured into next fall's Platform season as a Sunday Meeting and afternoon presentation.

Budgets

Does your activity or program require a budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1? If you have not yet submitted a budget, please contact our treasurer, John Kreuttner, promptly.
 jkreuttner@nyc.rr.com
 Phone: 212-799-3466
 Fax: 212-799-1009

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

June 13 – Human Partnership – Our Solid Ground

Dr. Matthew Ies Spetter, Leader Emeritus

In a time of seemingly perpetual crises, latent fear often creates a sense of isolation. How can we build a stronger human partnership that will safeguard the private sphere and that will give us courage to resist the relativism which undermines human capacities?

June 20 – Ethical Culture and the Anti-Imperialist League

Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader
 Founded by Felix Adler in 1876, the Ethical Movement played an influential role in the anti-imperialist movement in the immediate aftermath of the short-lived Spanish-American war of 1898. The hope on the part of its early leaders—like William Salter—was that the U.S. government would play a constructive role in the former Spanish colonies, especially the Philippines. The moral quality of international relations was always uppermost in the mind of the founder. In a Sunday lecture before the New York Society in 1899, Adler argued that the then popular “White Man’s Burden” was little more than “sentimentalism.” Ever since 1895 he had noted a straight-line connection between the Monroe Doctrine and what he saw as the coming “war spirit in the United States.” In today’s Bush II unilateralist climate, pluralism is very much in a minor key: unilateralism is an offshoot of imperialist frenzy, while pluralism connotes an acceptance of diversity, multiple voices, and competing views. A useful primer for our June 30 Advocacy

Forum, “Can We Be a Democracy and an Empire, Too?”

June 27 – Everyday Courage

Fritz Williams, Leader, Baltimore Ethical Society

The stories of human courage we read about in newspapers or watch in film and television documentaries are hard for us to relate to. They involve feats of risk taking and death-defying bravery that make the rest of us look and feel like cowards. Yet, very ordinary human beings often show real courage in doing what has to be done to cope with the day-to-day challenges of life. Fritz Williams explores what he understands about courage and what continues to puzzle him.

Fritz Williams is Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society and, in that capacity, serves as primary speaker, teacher, pastor, and organizational leader. To these duties, Fritz brings extensive ministerial and communications experience. He has worked as a parish priest in the Episcopal Church, and also as a writer and producer at public television stations in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Detroit, Michigan.

From the Archives

Dr. Marc A. Bernstein

The Salters of the Earth



The lives of our earliest Ethical Culture Leaders feel remote indeed. However progressive on certain issues, their attitudes toward women, marriage, and sex distance

them from us, as does their Victorian rhetoric. Nor do these men have many living relatives to champion them for our generation. When Horace Friess, Adler’s son-in-law and a leader at the New York Society, passed away in 1975, the movement’s personal connection to Adler was severed. Thus, what a happy surprise it was to learn from Dorothy Lockhart, administrator and archivist at the Chicago Society, that William Mackintire Salter’s grandson, heretofore barely known, is now a member of the Chicago Society.

William Mackintire Salter, of course, was the founder of the Chicago Society and one of Adler’s earliest and most trusted colleagues. Salter had come from good ethical stock; his father, Reverend William Salter, a Congregational minister, was an abolitionist active in the Underground Railroad. The drama of Reverend Salter’s work comes to life in a letter from a Missouri Minister to Salter, on file in the Iowa State Department of History:

“Dear Brother Salter, I would inform you in confidence that there is a colored brother in your city who has left his master..you will be kind enough to find him out, and do all you can for him.... Do not trust anyone, not even this brother, that I am the sender of this information, as I am still in that section where he is from....”

Sunday Activities Mornings 10:30

- June 6 Readings of Ethical Leaders
- June 13 Colloquy
- June 20 Poetry Reading
- June 27 Yoga Meditation

Afternoons 1:45

- June 6 Ethics in the News
- June 13 *The Croton Watershed* Slides
- June 20 *You Can’t Take It With You* Film
- June 27 Fritz Williams Seminar

Reverend Salter's son carried on his father's work on race. William Mackintire was a signer of the petition to organize the NAACP and active in the Indian Rights Association. His interest in American Indians eventually led him to adopt a full-blooded Native American, giving him the name John Randall Salter. John Randall became an artist of some distinction and was the first Indian hired on the faculty of Arizona State College, Flagstaff. Inspired by the activism of William Mackintire, John Randall worked on behalf of progressive causes in Flagstaff, a city whose restaurant doors often had signs saying "No Indians or Dogs Allowed."

The impressive Salter line continued. John Randall's child, John R. Salter Jr., grew up to be a labor organizer and civil rights activist. He participated in the 1960 sit-in at the Woolworth Store in Jackson, Mississippi; marched with Dr. King at the Mississippi funeral of slain civil-rights-worker Medgar Evers; and wrote *Jackson, Mississippi*. As his father and grandfather were, he is active in work on behalf of Native Americans, particularly in the Chicago area.

Last spring John R. Salter Jr. gave an address at the Chicago Society, entitled, "Always an Activist: My Life as a Native American and Humanist." He explored the roots of his own progressive views by discussing the many Salters before him, thereby revealing how the past continues to shape the present.

New Member Events

Suzy Frazer

We had a grand Founder's Day celebration of our 128th anniversary on May 16. Our Special Meeting that day honoring

our past, present and future featured all of the new members who have joined this year (June 2003 to June 2004), and we'd like to list them here.

Lois Auritt, Lisa Barile-Knox, Diane Bauman, Debra Berg, Elaine Berman, Hope Bernstein, Marlane Bernstein, Dr. Marc A. Bernstein, Dr. Julia Boken, Shirlee Cohen, Leslie Doyle, Susanna Frazer, Kenneth Gans, Ruth Garbus, John Hilberry, Mark Hofmaier, Dr. Barbara J. Hunter, Veronica Lewis, Patricia Malkin, Dennis McKeivitt, Andra Miller, Dan Morgan, Milton Nobel, Ildiko Nyari, Bernice Price, Jirina Ribbens, Marlene Stowe, Michael Torres, Alan Tucker, Dominic Molloy Venturella, Dr. David Wellen, Ernest Wertheim and Deborah Yaffe.

WELCOME!

Another new member event was a lovely reception sponsored and organized by the Membership Growth Committee. We are very grateful to **Carole and Jerry Chamlin** for graciously hosting this fun, welcoming event in their beautiful home.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer and Members

News of our Members

Sarah Wright Kaye, a long-time Society member, and author of the acclaimed novel, *This Child Is Gonna Live*, was a featured speaker at the Seventh National Black Writers Conference at Medgar Evers College, CUNY, March 25-27. Gil Noble, journalist and host of the TV program, "Like It Is," was the keynote speaker.

Sarah paid tribute to John Oliver Killens, author of a groundbreaking first novel, *Youngblood*, and long-time president of the Harlem Writers Guild, where she served as Vice-President for many years. Her comments, resonating with the ideals of Ethical Culture, are repeated here:

"Of course we were all eager to be published. But being published could not be an end in itself. For we in the Guild were first and foremost about truth and humanity, about serving our people, about liberation. Certainly we were striving for some surcease from our steady grind of poverty and precarious living. Indeed many of us were as poor as church mice, forced to produce literature and hold down a full-time job at the same time."

Member **Linda Whinery** and Dr. Warren Wolf were married at the New York Society on Saturday May 1. Our Senior Leader, Dr. Khoren Arisian, officiated at the wedding. The happy couple met here at the Society, where they were class members at the Humanist Institute.

Our Extended Ethical Family

The Texas Supreme Court has denied the State of Texas petition to review the tax-exempt status case they brought against the **Ethical Society of Austin**. *Congratulations, Austin!* However, Texas plans to appeal to the United States Supreme Court. We will keep rooting for the Ethical Society.

Jean S. Kotkin Memorial Terrace

Dr. Ruth Cohen

We are pleased to announce that the initial proposals for the Jean Somerville Kotkin Memorial Terrace have been received and we are making inquiries for additional proposals. As we do that, we are asking that any members and friends who would like to volunteer for this project call Ruth Cohen, 212-860-4096, for more information. We are looking for your help in fundraising and other aspects of the project. Please join us in this and be part of a living memorial to a beloved Leader of the Society.

Ethical Action Committee

Christine Swann and Carol Rost, Co-Chairs



Marcella Montaruli, Henryka Komanska, Carol Rost, Victoria Grahams, Nancy Ambruster
 On April 25 eleven people from our Ethical Society arrived in Washington, D.C. for the historic “March For Women’s Lives.” One group, the bus contingent, got off to a rocky start; we couldn’t find the bus at Lincoln Center! Having finally located five big buses on Amsterdam Avenue in the early dawn, we boarded, the doors closed right behind us, and we were rolling toward Washington, with NARAL Prochoice New York, a sponsor of the Event.

Slogans we saw at the march included: “There is no Oil in Women’s Bodies, so Leave Us Alone!” and “If You Are Against Abortion, Don’t Have One!”

The group that traveled by van, having left on Saturday, had a comfortable drive and found their hotel accommodations very close to the march site. Apparently, at least a million people marched on that somewhat cloudy but otherwise very good day. There were wonderful people from



Christine Swann, Carol Nadell, Barbara Levenson



Christina Nargolwala, Bonnie Bean, Paul Berman, Carol Nadell, Christine Swann, Leigh McKay

everywhere carrying great signs. The bus and van groups actually met, by chance, and we laughed, took pictures, and then took a lunch break on the Great Lawn. Slogans we saw at the march included: “There is no Oil in Women’s Bodies, so Leave Us Alone!” and “If You Are Against Abor-tion, Don’t Have One!” We met up with David Corn, a former member, and Bob Berger joined the van group. There were also many men who turned out in support of the march. EAC will continue to follow and work on this issue, and everyone is welcome to our next meeting on Thursday, June 24, at 6:00 pm.

Sunday School News

Suzy Frazer, for the Sunday School Committee

The special 5-week Ethics for Children workshop of our ongoing Ethics for Children program began with a bang! Due to our word-of-mouth, advertising, community outreach, and a great write-up in Laurel Graeber’s column in *The New York Times*, many families called to inquire about the school. The first Sunday, April 25, more than 30 children joined our regular students!!! (We had to put several more families on a waiting list for the fall.) The special course culminated in an informal presentation on the last Sunday, May 23. We will be welcoming and encouraging these students to sign up for our open-ended Sunday School sessions in the fall. Also, in September we’ll be creating special events with speakers, which will address issues of concern to parents.

2004 PLEDGE REPORT							
Category	2004	%/total	2003	%/total	yr/yr % change	# or amt. +	# -
# in directory	296	100.0%	296	100.0%	0.0%		
pledging units	119	40.2%	89	30.0%	increased 10.2%	30	
doubled pledging	61	20.6%	61			61	
04&03 pledges identical	15	5.0%	15	5.0%		15	
1st pledge/no previous gifts	28	9.4%				28	
new pledges/previous gifts	29	9.8%				29	
total new pledges	57					57	
not pledging	177	59.8%	207	70.0%	fewer by 10.2%		-30
no giving both years	111	37.5%	111	37.5%			
03pledge no 04 pledge	26	8.7%					
lowered pledge/giving	8	2.7%					
totals monies pledged	\$156,646		\$77,935		increased 50.2%	\$78,711	

We are pleased to be able to finally bring you a report about the 2004 pledge drive results. All of us can be very proud of the results, while still realizing that we have a great deal of work to do if we are to realize our financial goal of \$250,000 in contributions and pledges by the end of 2004.

Thank you to everyone who pledged! As you can see from the chart, we increased our numbers by 57 pledging units and added \$78,711 in pledges from last year. Your commitment and support have allowed the Board of Trustees to more accurately plan and forecast the Society's future.

Please take the following information into account as you look at the results:

1. Pledging Units: families, couples, or individuals listed in our directory.
For simplicity of reporting, we used the names in the October 2003 directory for both years when comparing data.
2. Data is pledge information only. The only gifts taken into account were with new 2004 pledges—no 2003 pledges.
3. In 2003, \$87,860 was received in additional gifts from 91 members, 34 of whom did pledge in 2003.

Bravo! and Thanks! to brilliant teachers Rebecca Mason and Joanna Rush, and Carole Chamlin, Meg Chapman, Lynn Mallinson, and to all of our valiant volunteers. The kids seemed to love the experience and learned a great deal from this very rewarding and promising adventure.

Unforgotten Voices

Dr. Maria Fridman

The New York Society for Ethical Culture, the Social Service Board, and

Unforgotten Voices, a creative workshop, will present a collective of visual and performing artists who are or have been homeless on Friday, June 11, at 8:00 pm. Please join us for a truly enriching experience. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Spring Bike Ride

Henryka Komanska

Sponsored by the Membership Services Committee

This four-hour biking adventure will take place on **Saturday, June 5**, and

will see us traveling through five islands, Manhattan, Long, Roosevelt, Ward, and Randall Islands. This will be a great ride with many points of interest along the way. Cycling distance is 20 miles on mostly flat terrain. We'll meet at 10:00 am at the plaza for the Roosevelt Island Tramway (59th Street and 2nd Avenue). Bring a water bottle, snacks, and money for lunch. And remember that you must have a bicycle helmet. You will not be permitted to ride with us without one.

For more information call Henryka at 212-582-5192. Rain cancels.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Dr. Judith D. Wallach

On May 2, a large (and vocal) membership turned out to hear reports, amend the bylaws, and vote in a new board of trustees. The president, Senior Leader, and treasurer gave reports, which will be reproduced in the August issue of this newsletter.

After considerable discussion, three bylaws changes were enacted: use of *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis is to govern parliamentary situations not otherwise determined in the bylaws; a requirement that every member make a financial contribution annually to the Society; and annual reconstitution of all committees (with no-change a possibility).

New and re-elected trustees include incumbents Bob Berger, John Kreuttner, and Barbara Levenson, and newly elected members Margaretha Jones, Carol Nadell, Christine Swann, Sylvan Wallach, and Tom Weishaar.

At the luncheon, our usual cafeteria buffet, anniversary members were honored. Donna Fetonte spoke for the 50th anniversary members, and Jim Farer for the first anniversary members. President Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh made special mention of Eva Yachnes and Barbara Levenson as examples of many members who give countless hours of service throughout the year, often quietly and without recognition.

Comedy Tonight!

Suzy Frazer

The inaugural show of our new Cultured Comedy Club “Stand up for Peace” was a huge success and had the audience chortling and cheering!

The next show, featuring four top political, edgy comics (names to be announced) will be on Thursday, June 17. The doors open at 7:30 pm and the show starts at 8:00 pm. Admission for members is \$15 at the door and includes two free drinks. (Non-members pay \$20.) The show ends about 9:30 pm. Please stay afterwards for an informal reception with the performers. *Tell people* about this really fun way to spend an evening. Remember, Be there, or be square!

Cultured Comedy Club: Standup at Ethical will feature New York’s newest political and social comedians—every *third Thursday* in the Social Hall. New comedians will appear every month to skewer current events and social issues. These savvy satirists have performed and/or written for *Comedy Central*, *Late Night with Conan O’Brien*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *The Late Show with Dave Letterman*, in addition to appearing at top clubs.

The net proceeds will go to NYSEC’s social action programs.

For more information, call Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210 x113. Members will be given table-seating priority, so call ASAP; these shows will be *popular!*

Film Forum

Suzy Frazer

Membership Services Committee

The final offering of our film series will be the offbeat comedy, *A Mighty Wind*. This rollicking “mockumentary” spoof follows the travails of 60’s folk singers as they gather 35 years later for a reunion concert. Our excellent Richard Bruno will lead the discussion afterward. The film, directed by the masterful Christopher Guest (“Spinal Tap,” “Waiting for Guffman,” and “Best in Show”), will make you laugh, cry, and even sing along. Join us on Friday, June 18 in Ceremonial Hall. The doors open 6:30 pm, and the movie starts at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$3.

Left to right

Actress Denise Wilbanks

Actor Nathan Lane

Executive Director American Place Theater David Kenar

Author Sue Monk Kidd



The American Place Theatre played to a packed Auditorium on April 27. The Theatre’s Literature to Life program presents verbatim adaptations of American works to students, engaging them in drama, play writing, and literature. Sue Monk Kidd’s bestselling *The Secret Life of Bees* was enacted by the enormously talented Denise Wilbanks before an enthusiastic audience, after which author Kidd was presented with a Literature to Life award by Nathan Lane, star of *The Producers*. The Society is excited to have embarked on what we hope will be a continuing relationship with the American Place Theatre.

for members and \$4 for non-members. Popcorn and beverages are included. During the summer your Film Forum will hit the archives, film festivals, television's TNT, artsy film houses, and drive-ins to research the best in cinema. Our series resumes in October – see you then!

The Advocacy Forum*

Presents:

“Can America Be a Democracy and an Empire, Too? The Dilemma of Today’s Foreign Policy”

**At the Society, June 30,
7:00–9:00 pm**

Circles of Engagement follow

Presenters include:

Joseph Wilson—Former Ambassador (who blamed the White House for telling a newspaper columnist that his wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA operative)

Benjamin Barber—Political Commentator/Autor, *Strong Democracy*

Todd Gitlin—Open Democracy columnist; professor of journalism and sociology at Columbia University; and author of ten books, including *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage* (Bantam, 1987), and most recently, *Letters to a Young Activist* (Basic, 2003).

Other speakers TBA

Cosponsored with *Open Democracy



From the Classroom to the World

Barbara Litke

With quotes from Felix Adler, the photography exhibition at the New York Historical Society emphasizes the influ-

ence that the moral teachings of Ethical Culture has had on the photographers’ interest in social conditions during the early years of the 20th century. All of the photographs commemorate the effect on the students of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in fostering a creative and critical outlook that emulates the philosophy of Felix Adler.

Louis Hine, one of the photographers in the show, taught photography for several years at the Fieldston School. Several of photographers whose work also appears in the exhibit were students of his at the school or in his studio, including Doris Ulmann and Diane Arbus. The photographs of Hine, Paul Strand, and the others follow the Ethical Culture Society’s success in contributing to the regulation of child-labor laws, as they photographed children working in factories, on farms, or at home. The humanistic view the camera presents is one of a social consciousness that does not soften the dire living conditions of immigrant families. The exhibition will continue at the New York Historical Society through July 18.

News of the National Service Conference

Martha Gallahue and Dr. Kurt Johnson

The InterSpiritual Dialogue Community is the creation of the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union and the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. Through this initiative, the American Ethical Union will participate in the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain, July 7-13. The program, “Interspiritual

Dialogue: The Vision in Practice,” has been accepted, and Martha, Kurt, and Brother Wayne Teasdale (Roman Catholic monk and writer/theologian) will be the main presenters.

If this newsletter reaches you in time, you will be able to celebrate the National Service Conference’s 75th anniversary on Saturday, May 29, at the New York Society. The cost of the luncheon is \$30. For further information, call Lucile Kleiman at 212-724-3362 or e-mail Martha Gallahue at marlalar@mindspring.com.

**Make the Occasion Memorable
New York Society for Ethical Culture
A Landmark Facility - A Superb Location
Central Park West at 64th Street**

Make our newly renovated auditorium the setting for your special occasion. This spacious, comfortable chamber has fixed graduated seating, hand-covered oak paneling, Tiffany stained-glass windows, superb acoustics, anteroom, Steinway concert grand, and public address system.

- Seating for 800 people
- Stage 27 feet by 47 feet
- Monday through Thursday, \$3,000 for up to 6 hours
- Friday through Sunday and Holidays \$3,500 for up to 6 hours
- Steinway B (Hamburg) \$160
- Reception area and box office available

Our beautiful Ceremonial Hall with adjacent open patio overlooks Central Park West. It has mullioned stained-glass windows and high-beamed ceiling.

- Seating for 150 people in theater style
- Monday through Sunday, \$1,100 for up to 4 hours
- Steinway A Grand, \$175

A commodious Social Hall with adjacent industrial kitchen will fill many needs from parties to meetings to performances.

- Seating for 285 in theater style
- Monday through Thursday, \$1,100 for up to 6 hours
- Friday through Sunday and Holidays, \$1,300 for up to 6 hours
- Industrial Kitchen used in conjunction with Social Hall, \$350
- Steinway A Grand, \$175

A selection of smaller rooms is available at prices ranging from \$175 to \$525. Capacity up to 60 people. Upright piano available in some.

Call Leslie Doyle at 212-874-5210, ext. 144 or e-mail ldoyle@nysec.org for information, including pricing details and arrangements for rehearsals of events at another venue.

June 2004

(Office hours for the month: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 10:15 am – Leaders' Writings 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Ethics in the News	7 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 7:30 pm – Shelter	8 6:00 pm – Women's Group 6:00 pm – Program Committee 7:30 pm – Shelter	9 3:00 pm – ECRA	10 7:00 pm – Griet Support Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	11 8:00 pm – Homeless Artists	12 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
13 10:00 am – Membership Growth 10:30 am – Colloquy 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Slide Presentation	14 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 7:30 pm – Shelter	15 7:30 pm – Shelter	16 6:00 pm – Membership Services 7:30 pm – Shelter	17 7:30 pm – Shelter 8:00 pm – Comedy Culture Club	18 7:00 pm – Film Forum	19 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
20 10:00 am – Sunday Program Ctm 10:30 am – Poetry Reading 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:00 pm – Orientation 1:45 pm – Film for Father's Day	21 5:00 pm – Caring Committee 7:30 pm – Shelter	22 7:00 pm – Griet Support Group 7:30 pm – Shelter	23 7:30 pm – Shelter	24 6:00 pm – Ethical Action Committee 7:30 pm – Shelter	25	26 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation
27 10:30 am – Yoga Meditation 11:30 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Fritz Williams Seminar	28 7:30 pm – Shelter	29 7:30 pm – Shelter	30 7:00 pm – Advocacy Forum 7:30 pm – Shelter	<p align="center"> Great Books June 2 – Aristotle, On Tragedy Plato, The Republic ECRA: (Ethical Culture Retirement Activities) June 9 – Ian McEwan, Atonement </p>		

Ethical Culture is a humanistic religious and philosophical movement in which people share a core of common values: the worth of each individual, ethics as central to our lives, eliciting the best from each other and doing good in the world.

We seek truth as a growing, changing body of knowledge based on experience, reason and scientific observation, and seek to use it in support of human well-being.

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR
**ETHICAL
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