

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

TWO WEST 64TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023 TEL.212 874-5210 E-MAIL OFFICE@NYSEC.ORG

## **Sunday Programs**

**May 4**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh Presides

**May 11**

### **"Caught Between Worlds in Europe's Shadow: A Tale of the Emerging Muslim Odyssey"**

*Behzad Yaghmaian*

Professor of Economics,  
Ramapo College, NJ  
Meg Chapman Presides

**May 18**

### **FOUNDER'S DAY**

#### **"The Faith of a Reformer: Emerson at 200"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader  
Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh Presides

**May 25**

#### **"Race, Politics, and Prison"**

*Robert Gangi*

Executive Director, Correctional  
Association of NY  
Dr. Judith D. Wallach Presides

WQXR-FM (96.3)

#### **Broadcasts**

1st and 3rd Sundays of  
the month at 7:30 am

**May 4**

#### **"If Men Were Angels: James Madison, the Bill of Rights, and Democracy's Dilemma"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

**May 18**

#### **"The Pull of Puritanism: America's Everlasting Religious Conundrum"**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian*

Senior Leader

## **SUNDAY MORNING MEETINGS**

### **May 4 ANNUAL MEETING**

At our usual meeting time, we will hold our Annual Membership Meeting. Members, be sure to attend. We need your voice and your vote. There will be an election of members to the Board of Trustees and a vote on a proposed by-laws amendment.

### **May 11 Caught Between Worlds in Europe's Shadow: A Tale of the Emerging Muslim Odyssey**

*Behzad Yaghmaian, Professor of Economics at Ramapo College, NJ*

The September 11 tragedy created a renewed interest in Islam, Muslim countries, and a population largely unknown to the West. It radically changed the world of migration, as combating terrorism began to coincide with halting illegal migration. A sense of fear, lack of trust, and intrigue about Muslims emerged. Regardless of this, migration from the Middle East to the West only increased in recent years. On top of this, the war in Afghanistan followed closely by the present war in Iraq is and will only continue to augment the flow of refugees.

Behzad Yaghmaian has been traveling with migrants from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries in the Middle East and Africa in the past 10 months. He will tell the stories of hope, aspiration, hardship and survival among these migrants and refugees.

### **May 18 The Faith of A Reformer: Emerson at 200**

*Dr. Khoren Arisian, Senior Leader*

Ralph Waldo Emerson seldom goes out of fashion; we return to him regularly for uplift and insight. Two hundred years after his birth on May 25, 1803 Emerson can still amaze. How fortunate that on May 18, we shall not only be approaching the 200th anniversary of his birth but shall also have just passed our Ethical Culture Founder's Day. A perfect time to observe both occasions. Felix Adler's initial religious inspiration, after all, was Transcendentalism; indeed, out of admiration for the Concord oracle the Adlers named their first child Waldo. In the pulpit Dr. Adler in effect took Emerson's advice: speaking to the Harvard Divinity School students in 1838, Emerson had declared, "The true preacher can be known by this, that he deals out to the people his life—life passed

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ACTIVITIES

## Film Forum

Barbara Levenson



The setting is 1959 at the traditional Walton Academy. Seize the day! Carpe diem! Make your lives extraordinary! Such was the advice given by English teacher John Keating, portrayed by Robin Williams, to his students. Could such advice have adverse effects on both the teacher and his students? This question is examined in the film *Dead Poets Society* directed by Peter Weir and written by Tom Schulman who won the Oscar for best screenplay. Join us at the Film Forum on Friday, May 16 for a viewing of this remarkable film and a thought-provoking discussion. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the movie begins at 7:00 pm. Admission: \$3.00 for members and \$4.00 for non-members, popcorn and beverages included.

## Who Will Nurture Our Children

Abe Markman

You are invited to participate with Latanya Frazier, Lizzy Soenarjati and me in a discussion on crossing an important social divide on Sunday, May 18, 1:30 pm.

On one side of the divide are those who strongly believe that women should raise their children as stay-at-home moms, while men assume the traditional role of principal breadwinner. Many in this group believe funding of a universal day-care system would encourage more women to choose to work outside the home. On the other side are those who believe that there should be a universal day-care system in this country so that women or men are freer to pursue careers outside the home. If universal

day-care advocates take the lead in supporting sizable subsidies for home-care, would stay-at-home advocates be more open to support universal day-care? I will present a draft of a fairly brief essay. After responses from Latanya and Lizzy, your criticism, ideas and suggestions will be solicited.

## Salon: Ethics and the Media

Mary Domowicz and Robin Burnosky

How have you responded when you perceived newspaper or TV reporting to be unethical? Is it ethical for the media to utilize scare tactics to drive up ratings/sales? How do you filter the massive quantities of journalism currently available? What are some ethical resources you rely on for your news? Have you ever put yourself on a Media Diet? Monday, May 12, 7:00-8:30 pm. Join us to discuss these questions. Register with Ben Bean at 212-874-5210 ext 113.

## Strathmere Ensemble



Gerald Ranck

Thursday, May 8, at 8:00 pm, treat yourself to an All-Bach Concert with Blanche Honegger Moyse, guest conductor. The program will include Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor performed by Gerald Ranck; Cantata No. 82 sung by Mary Westbrook; the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 played by Louise Schulman and Lieu-Wen Ting, violas; and the Oboe and Violin Concerto in C minor with Gerard Reuter, oboe, and Mitsuru Tsubota, violin.

## Ethical Action Committee

Carol Rost

**The Book Sale** was a great success! We raised over \$500 to be donated to our DNA fund. Many thanks to everyone who contributed books, and then many thanks for all those who attended, and others who just showed up for the book sale; thanks also to all the volunteers! This truly was a team effort! We are already planning another Book Sale in 2004. So save your books!

**Rockefeller Drug Laws.** On Thursday, May 8, at 10:00 am there will be a march starting at Rockefeller Center noting the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the onerous Rockefeller Drug Laws. The march will proceed to Governor Pataki's office where there will be a rally at 12:00 pm. Please attend and give support to the effort to repeal these harsh drug laws.

**Peace Activities.** The Peace March on Saturday, March 22 was well represented by our members, along with numerous others who walked from 40<sup>th</sup> street down to Union Square and beyond. The Peace Vigil that took place earlier in the month, across from Lincoln Center, was also well represented by our members.

**Petition to Rescind the 2001 Tax Cut.** Phase 11 is meeting with success. The Boards of the American Ethical Union, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Riverdale/Yonkers Societies support this effort. Please sign the petition on page 3—and attend our next EAC meeting Thursday, May 22 at 6:00 pm.

Thanks to members and visitors who contributed over \$800 to Oxfam for aid to Iraqi refugees.

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through the fire of thought.” The result of such intention would be less, consolation, and more, provocation. In this historic oration, Emerson laid out his revolutionary critique of Christianity – namely, that it “dwells with noxious exaggeration about the *person* of Jesus” – implying an unjustifiable intimacy. He expressed a parallel objection to the Christian deity: personal theism assumes that God, if there is one, somehow must look like us! Not so, retorted Emerson, coming up instead with the impersonal “Over-Soul,” signifying the force, energy and implicate order of the universe. As he got older Emerson came to realize that right action is religion’s core consequence of merit, that pure religion equals pure morality. Ultimately, Emerson challenges us all to be faithful to who we are and what we must do in the world.

**May 25 Race, Politics and Religion**

*Robert Gangi, Executive Director, Correctional Association of NY*

The debate about the Rockefeller Drug Laws in New York State continues. These harsh laws horrendously affect the use of prisons. Critical issues of the day include conditions of confinement and treatment of mentally ill prisoners in upstate prison facilities.

Robert Gangi has been the executive director of the Correctional Association of New York for over 20 years. This organization does policy analysis and advocacy on criminal justice issues. It has recently been focusing on modification of the brutal Rockefeller Drug Laws, which have had appalling effects on the minority populations of New York City.

**To the United States Congress:**

**Petition**

**Stop the Bush Tax Cuts Approved by Congress June 2001—We Cannot Afford Them**

We urge you to rescind (repeal) the Bush Tax Cuts approved by Congress in June 2001—Phase II effective 2004-2010. **There is still time.**

- » The surplus \$5.6 trillion (10 year projection) has already evaporated
- » The Bush tax cuts will increase the budget deficit an estimated \$200 billion per year or more
- » Phase II of the tax cuts will go mostly to the 1% of wealthiest Americans
- » The tax cuts will have a severe impact on Medicare, Social Security, Labor, Education, Prescription Drugs for Seniors, War efforts, Homeland Security
- » Budget deficits at state and local levels will mean cuts in programs that require Federal Assistance

Signature	Name (Print)	Address (Apt, Zip)	Phone	E-Mail

Please return to Maria Feliz Fridman, New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th St., New York, NY 10023  
 Tel: 212-874-5210, Fax: 212-595-7258, E-mail: office@nysec.org, www.nysec.org. We will forward this petition to Congress.

## May Calendar

### *Support Group*

Fridays, 6:30 pm

### *Supervised Visitation*

Saturdays, 9:30 am & 1:30 pm (except 5/24/03)

### *Ethics for Children*

Sundays, 11:00 am

### *Morning Meetings*

Sundays, 11:30 am

### *Shelter*

Sunday-Thursday, 7:30 pm

### *WQXR-FM (96.3)*

Sunday, May 4 & 18, 7:30 am

### *Newsletter Deadline*

Thursday, May 1

### *Men's Group*

Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 pm

### *Strathmere Ensemble*

Thursday, May 8, 8:00 pm

### *Caring Committee*

Monday, May 12, 5:00 pm

### *Board of Trustees*

Monday, May 12, 6:00 pm

### *Salon: Ethics and the Media*

Monday, May 12, 7:00 pm

### *Women's Group*

Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 pm

### *Film Forum*

Friday, May 16, 7:00 pm

### *Social Service Board*

Monday, May 19, 6:30 pm

### *Membership Committee*

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 pm

### *Ethical Action Committee*

Thursday, May 22, 6:00 pm

### *Society office closed*

Monday, May 26

## Reading Programs

### *Great Books Discussion Series*

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 pm

Diderot, *Rameau's Nephew*

Gogol, *The Overcoat*

### *Ethical Culture Retirement Activities*

Wednesday, May 14, 3:00 pm

Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

### *Great Books Discussion Series –*

*Fiftieth Anniversary Series*

*The Evil and The Guilty*

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 pm

TBA

### *Sundays at the Society*

#### **Mornings:**

May 4 Leaders' Writings 10:15 am

May 11 Colloquy 10:30 am

May 18 Poetry Reading 10:30 am

May 25 Yoga Meditation 10:30 am

#### **Afternoons:**

May 4 Members' Luncheon 12:30 pm

May 11 Ethics Study 1:30 pm

May 18 Orientation 1:00 pm

Discussion: Markman 1:30 pm

May 25 No Program (Holiday)



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