

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

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Sunday Morning Meetings

**11:15 AM—Music & Reflection
in the Auditorium (except as
noted)**

**September 4—10:30 AM in
Ceremonial Hall
The Working Class Exodus from
the Roosevelt Coalition**

Abe Markman

Society Member

Andra Miller Presides

**September 11
Remembrance, Redemption and
Renewal: What the Legacy of 9/11
Should Teach Us**

Gerald Ranck

Music Director

Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh Presides

**September 18
Poetry & Ethics (Booksigning)**

D. H. Melhem, Ph.D.

Carol Nadell Presides

September 25

Tony Hileman

Executive Director of the

American Humanist Association

Bonnie Bean Presides

Music Benefit

Plan to be with us **Sunday,
October 16**, at 2:00 pm in
Ceremonial Hall for the
**Music Benefit Concert for
the Stained Glass Windows.**

Join us for a sparkling, new
and different program—Listen
to music! Hear poetry!
Enjoy the afternoon with us.
For information and to vol-
unteer, call Dr. Ruth Cohen
at 212-860-4096.

Music Prelude

Gerald Ranck

This year—my 22nd—will see some musical programs and soloists that will further expand our aesthetic sensibilities and hopefully offer both enjoyment and enrichment to our Sunday morning programs.

September 11 Melton Sawyer sings Old American songs by Aaron Copland.

October Flutist Immanuel Davis (Poulenc) and clarinetist William Blount (Saint-Saëns) will perform.

November Myra Vassian will sing Appalachian folk songs, and I will join Jon Liechty in a Mozart piano duet.

Much more to come. Don't forget singing practice at 10:30 am on Sunday, September 25.

Sunday Morning Meetings

**September 4—10:30 AM in Ceremonial Hall—4th floor
The Working Class Exodus from the Roosevelt Coalition**

Abe Markman

Since the 1960s and 1970s, members and former members of the working class have been abandoning the New Deal/Roosevelt Coalition in ever-increasing numbers. It has been extensively reported that they are willing to vote with conservatives against their own economic interests.

For thirty or forty years most members of the working class showed their support for New and Fair Deal programs and entitlements by voting for a liberal national agenda. Why has that changed? I have studied this phenomenon for many years, have begun writing about it, and would like to share some of my insights.

Most of the address will focus on why so many working-class people are furious with liberals. I will also briefly outline some of my proposals aimed at convincing them to start a return exodus to the progressive fold.

Please note that this is the last of the summer hour programs, starting at 10:30 am and lasting about one hour. To get us started in an upbeat mood Jon Liechty will play some wonderful ragtime piano pieces. After the formal program, we plan to continue an open exchange and a lively discussion for about a half-hour or so. I will welcome critical as well as positive responses to my remarks.

Starting September 11—Sunday Morning Meetings will begin at 11:15 AM in the Auditorium

September 11—Remembrance, Redemption and Renewal: What the Legacy of 9/11 Should Teach Us

Gerald Ranck, Music Director

As the horrific atrocities of September 11, 2001, merge into historical memory, it behooves us to take stock of the long-term meaning of that day, and to look at the political and cul-

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Staff Directory

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Ethical Culture: Who We Are

Excerpted from *Ethics as a Religion* by David S. Muzzey, Founding Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester

No one has been able to detect the stage in man's development at which conscience, the sense of right and wrong, and the duty to follow the right and shun the wrong entered into his mind. Yet that was the critical moment of evolution. That began all that is of worth in our world: truth, justice, love....Then religion was born, the religion of ethics. And whenever a sick age has risen in new strength to throw off the accumulated poisons of injustice, lethargy, superstition or despair, it has been by virtue of rebaptism of ethical fervor; whenever a sick soul has recovered peace of mind and zest for life, it has been because a new ethical stimulus has roused him to a realization of his privilege to be a member, even the humblest member, of the company of those who, undaunted by adversity or despite, have carried forth the banner of truth.

This ethical approach to religion has a liberating effect. There is a fine passage in the little volume entitled *On the Religious Frontier* by Percival Chubb, for many years leader of the St. Louis Ethical Society.

It is with a blessed sense of relief from anxiety as to belief [writes Mr. Chubb] when the axis of the mind is changed from belief to conduct. A man should know that his responsibility for his beliefs hinges upon his responsibility for the conduct of his life.... Living comes first, and living is a progressive undertaking. We must not cease to grow, because growth is the sign of life. So our beliefs will grow and change. There can be no finality, no fixation.

Sunday Morning Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

tural society we've permitted to develop since then: an ineffectual liberal response to the conservative/religious onslaught from the right has placed us in a war with Iraq while Osama bin Laden is alive and active; a somnolent, sloppy, and lazy media has abetted the process; and an ill-educated and culturally illiterate citizenry continues to weaken our moral and aesthetic fiber. A massive and ferocious revival of progressive political and cultural values is needed—and soon—or 9/11 will be just another bad day on the road to what truly will be a national coma. The good news: not only can we unleash a progressive revolution, but those of us here—in Ethical Culture—are already in the right place to set it in motion.

September 18—Poetry and Ethics

D. H. Melhem, Ph.D.

D. H. Melhem, Ph.D., is a poet, essayist, editor, author and novelist. Her seventh book of poems, *New York Poems*, has just been published. One of her first books, *Notes on 94th Street*, was the first poetry book in English published by an Arab-American woman. Dr. Melhem will present a historical overview of the contributions of poets to the development of social ideas, reading some of her own poems and those of others to illustrate the ideas we come to through poetry. Examples include John Milton's outstanding sense of the importance of political relationships and Percy Bysshe Shelley's view that poets are special, though unacknowledged, legislators of the world.

Dr. Melhem's numerous awards for poetry and prose include an American Book Award, a New York Heart Association Media Award, three Pushcart

Prize nominations, and prizes from Pen and Brush Inc., the World Order of Narrative and Formalist Poets, and Calliope. She has read and lectured in venues ranging from college campuses to the Library of Congress. A founding board member and first vice-president of the International Women's Writing Guild, she regularly gives a writing workshop at the Guild's annual summer conference at Skidmore College. Her website is www.dhmelhem.com.

September 25—Tony Hileman

Executive Director of the American Humanist Association

John and Abigail Adams' Letters "Star" in Harriet Bigus' Play

Andra Miller

Ever, Ever Yours, a play based on the letters of John and Abigail Adams, will be presented at the 2:00 pm Sunday program on September 18. It is one of four plays written by member Harriet Bigus, all based on the correspondence and diaries of the Adamses, one of which, *Give My Love to Mr. Adams*, won the 1998 Westhampton Playwrights' Forum Contest.

Ever, Ever Yours takes place during the harrowing time of the American Revolution. It is a tale of married lovers who share the glories of the American dream of independence and endure "cruel separation" and the many dangers of war. Included in the production are letters that have often been quoted: John's plea to Abigail, "Fly to the woods with our children," and Abigail's famous, "Remember the ladies."

Besides Mr. and Mrs. Adams, the play's characters include Abigail's feminist friend, Mercy Otis Warren;

King George III, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. The play's historical time span includes the 1774 Continental Congress; April 19, "The shot that was heard around the world"; the beginning of the Revolutionary War; the Declaration of Independence (according to John, "Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America"); John's appointment as Commissioner to the Court of Louis XVI; and, finally, Abigail's rejoining John in France.

But the main appeal of this play is not the history, it is the marital conflict and transcendent love John and Abigail express for each other. As the playwright says, "I am, after so many years working on these plays, still moved to laugh and weep over these letters."

Ethics and the Theater

Patricia Bruder Debrovner

Back by popular demand, our Ethics and the Theater series will be presented once a month on Wednesday evenings throughout the year, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This series, which celebrates the world of live theater, explores ethical conflicts presented by playwrights through readings and discussions. Our first session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14. To inaugurate this new season, we will present Henrik Ibsen's haunting play, *Ghosts*, in which a son makes the ultimate demand of his mother.

If you love theater, you'll enjoy seeing members read aloud key scenes from the plays and then participating in the stimulating discussion that follows, as we consider the ethical dilemmas the characters face. If, in addition, you think you'd enjoy joining the cast of a future play, don't be shy about letting us know! For more information, call Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210, ext. 113.

Socrates Cafe: Evolution vs. Intelligent Design

Ken Gans and Abe Markman

On Sunday, September 25, we will facilitate an open discussion on “Evolution Versus Intelligent Design.” This debate has been much written about in the news of late. We urge all philosophers to participate in this Socratic-style discussion. We hope that it will lead to a series of “Socrates Cafe” raps about important issues.

How can we account for order in the universe? Perhaps the most famous argument for intelligent design comes from William Paley, a nineteenth-century theologian, who argued that if a watch was found on an isolated island in the middle of the ocean, it would probably be assumed not to have assembled itself. Must we, therefore, infer the existence of an intelligent designer that established the order of the universe? The most famous argument for evolution, of course, is Charles Darwin’s “Origin of Species.”

We look forward to a stimulating debate among intelligent friends. Do come. This could be the start of something great!

Membership

Suzy Frazer

We’ll be working on renewing the Caring Committee support system for members and a streamlined method for our Ethical Action-oriented members to feel involved and fulfilled. Also, CULTURED COMEDY CLUB will return—with perhaps a cabaret added and some celebrity fundraisers being considered. We’ll have more information on this soon.

On Friday, October 14, at 5:30 pm, there will be a special Cocktail Party

on the 5th floor. We’ll also have a tour of the building for all new and current members. The tours will be run by our own archivist, Marc Bernstein, and promises to be very interesting and enjoyable. Come! Marvel! Meet and greet! RSVP to me at 212-874-5210 ext. 113.

Please let me know if you’re planning to attend our **super retreat**, which will be held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2. We’ll have a chance to bond with other members, make new friends, relax, discuss, renew and refresh ourselves in beautiful Walker Valley. Please call me to reserve your place as soon as possible.

NEW!! A Task Force on Corporate Ethics has been formed by our members, with an 18-month goal:

- 1) To educate ourselves
- 2) To ally/join with other ongoing groups
- 3) To arrange for notable guest speakers, films and debates
- 4) To advocate reform legislation

All are welcome, so please join us at the meeting with guest speaker on October 5. Contact co-chairs Heather Grady, heathergradynyc@yahoo.com, or Eric Weynand, eweynand@yahoo.com for more information.

Our Ethical Family

Suzy Frazer

A warm welcome to our new members:

R. Lori Berliner belonged to an Ethical Culture Youth Group years ago and was married here by Dr. Jerome Nathanson. After 35 years of working for the U.N., she has been a volunteer teacher for Learning Leaders. Her interests include photography, English, French, German, and Spanish. Lori’s delighted to return to Ethical Culture, as she is in complete agreement with the Society’s philosophy.

Renée Goodstein is a psychologist who works at St. Francis College and

attended Columbia’s Teachers College. She enjoys running and art. Renée has attended our Sunday Meetings and the recent talk here on “Torture and Lies: Who Is Accountable?” She is very interested in working with the new Health and Well-being Program here at NYSEC.

Youth and Family Programs

Lynda Kennedy

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. Though things slowed down for us this summer, it was anything but quiet around here. The Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls brought 70 girls and young women, ages 8-18, to the Society for music instruction, self-esteem building and a celebration of girl power. They truly rocked the halls! For more information about Willie Mae, see their site, www.williemae-rockcamp.org.

This year the Society will continue to enhance its offerings for children and young adults, and their families. Once again, we will be offering a Sunday school promoting an understanding of diverse ethical beliefs, public service and self-expression. We will also reprise our collaboration with the American Place Theater for a week-long drama program for teens, and our family workshop series. To find out what else is in the works, or to volunteer with Youth and Family Programs, call Lynda at 212-874-5210, ext. 106.

Film Forum

Valerie Leiman

September 9—Manhattan (1979)

Reworking the themes he explored in *Annie Hall* and *Play It Again Sam*, Woody Allen comes up with an insightful, screamingly funny feast

for the eyes; working with his long-term collaborator, Gordon Willis. This black-and-white cinematography recalls the great visual effects of *Citizen Kane* and *The Third Man*.

Diane Keaton returns as the object of Allen's awkward affections, and is joined by Meryl Streep as the wife who divorced him to live with a lesbian.

Film historian Richard Bruno hosts the series by beginning with an introduction about the city and the times, at 6:45 pm, and leads a lively, fun-filled discussion with the audience following the showing. The doors open at 6:30 pm and complimentary popcorn will be served. Admission: Members, \$3; nonmembers, \$4. These evenings are a lot of fun, so be sure to join us.

Drawing Class

Barbara E. Litke

Want to express yourself, accept a new challenge, and have a great time? Eight weeks of art classes begin Tuesday, September 20 at 6:15 pm. Admission: \$70 for members; \$120 for nonmembers; drawing materials cost approximately \$15–\$20 and are purchased by the student.

To register, call Barbara E. Litke, 212-586-2593 or Gloria Chandler at 212-874-5210, ext. 117.

Writing Workshop Fall Session

Elaine Berman

The 10-week fall session of Ethical Culture's Thursday writing workshop, "The Joy of Personal Writing," will begin on October 6. The workshop, led by Elaine Berman, is for both experienced writers and people who would like to try writing. For information, please call Suzy Frazer at 212-874-5210 ext. 113.

Save Our Pianos!

Andra Miller

You can help us save our pianos! Jon Liechty pointed out to me that the pianos we have need to be treasured and coddled. Please don't put anything on them. If they get scratched by a button or zipper, the cost to repair them is very expensive—and the deterioration that happens if they're not repaired can be disastrous. Spills, too, are ruinous, so don't set cups or containers on the pianos. Just keep 'em bare. Thanks.

At the Society for Ethical Culture

Penelope Gharthey

Coming here

Won't get you anywhere very glamorous
Won't get you fame or fortune
Press coverage or a book contract.

For your picture on the society page

Try Carnegie Hall, the Opera
Or a funky, downtown club
And for drama

Broadway's not too far away.

For that old-time religion

Select an elegant cathedral, a born-again service

Or ride on the coat tails of a politician
"of faith."

Coming here

Won't get you very far

After all, inside yourself is quite near
and always has been.

But be careful!

It's difficult. It's dangerous

And you don't know what you'll find
Maybe something important, challenging, contentious

Something you may not really want to hear right now.

Coming here

Won't get you anywhere very glamorous.

You won't be "seen."

But you'll see yourself

And others

A little better.

Fall-Winter Retreat Special Event

Valerie Leiman

Playing and commenting on the structure of the music he was performing on Sunday, June 12, in Ceremonial Hall, Jon Liechty, our talented young musician member, received a standing ovation at the program's end from an enthusiastic audience of more than thirty.

The Membership Service Committee of the Society had sponsored this performance in support of our upcoming Fall Weekend Retreat, in order to sample interest in further such musical presentations. Jon provided an informative leaflet and expertly fielded a variety of questions from the audience.

Notes from the Spring Pastel Drawing Class

Sabine Rosenberg and Carol Rost

This was our first art class. Barbara Litke, our instructor, began with simple enough instructions by introducing primary colors and a few basic universal ideas related to art. We had all purchased our \$15 worth of supplies yet still were not sure how we would manage on this uncertain adventure into creating art.

We got through the first class with some rudimentary patterns, and combined colors, but Sabine Rosenberg and I both felt we were not advanced. We both skipped our next class, but the following week, we both showed up; after all, we had paid for these classes, so why would we Humanists want to be negative, especially when in a learning mode?

Now nearing the last class, of eight in all, we not only show up, but we

(voluntarily) do our homework. We found this course doable, and ultimately relaxing, as we sit down to draw, and then fill in the beautifully layered pastels that complete our drawings. We are looking forward to the fall class that Barbara plans to teach.

Reception and Tea

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

On Sunday, July 25, a packed house was on hand to celebrate collaborative efforts to eliminate racial disparities in mental health care. The American Psychiatric Foundation came together with the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Office of Minority and National Affairs and the National Medical Association to discuss how working collectively can help put an end to the mental health care disparities faced by minority communities.

Hosted by the Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York and Associates and the United Social Services, Inc., of the New York Society for Ethical Culture at the Society's Meeting Hall, more than 100 guests were treated to a reception and tea, which included a performance by the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Dancing Through Barriers Ensemble.

Executive Director Laveen Naidu talked about how, in its own way, the Dance Theatre of Harlem has been "dancing through barriers" since its inception in 1969. Dancing Through Barriers acts as a "traveling university," working to educate young people about the art of dance.

CBS News Correspondent Michelle Morial served as moderator for the event. Morial told of how she has been faced with the effects of disparities while interacting with people in her personal life and career and expressed

her appreciation that such a collaboration was now taking place.

"Today was about demonstrating how these collaborations can work to help serve our patients and community," said Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross, managing partner of the Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York and Associates, Vice-Chairperson of United Social Services, and trustee of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

Dr. Harrison-Ross, who is also an APA member and Distinguished Life Fellow, played an integral role in bringing together the many groups that participated in the event. She has been deeply involved at the leadership level of nearly all of the supporting organizations.

"It was truly an honor to take part in this event. All of the participating organizations deserve to be commended for their commitment to their communities," said Altha J. Stewart, M.D., President of the American Psychiatric Foundation. "I truly believe that in the future we will be following this model of collaboration with great results." This event was supported by a grant from Pfizer Inc.

Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop

Barbara E. Litke



(L-R) Maria Fridman and Judith Ginsburg

Twice each year, through the efforts of Maria Fridman, the Social Service Board, and Judith Ginsburg, an outside volunteer who coordinates this program, homeless or formerly homeless men and women come together to celebrate their talents. They arrive from shelters as far away as the Bronx and Staten Island to participate in the Unforgotten Voices Creative Workshop. Space in Social Hall is

donated for the evening by the Ethical Culture Society. Each of these events salutes those who live in the shelter system and the several who have moved on with their lives into independent living. This is the fifth year that I have joined with them and each year proves more heartwarming than the previous one.

Each of the performers has a sentimental story of his or her own. I recognize the piano player who comes every year to sing songs he has composed. A singer originally from Puerto Rico recently arrived from Paris and dedicated his songs to the 'ladies in the back' (how pleased we were to have been honored). He sang a medley of Johnny Mathis songs acknowledging our musical era. His infectious personality drew everyone into a hand-clapping and swinging sing-along.

Following his performance, Carla, a young woman who writes plays and poetry, read one of her poems. There was a hushed silence of camaraderie as we listened. Another woman shyly rose, then sang with verve, keeping in tune with the pianist. Several more men and women came up front to become stand-up comedians with slapdash humor. They left any shyness at their seats, and we all had a wonderful time.

There was also a table displaying a variety of paintings in vibrant colors done by workshop members. Some were painted on cardboard, paper, or wood blocks. Many framed or unframed drawings rendered in pencil or charcoal and drawn on white, brown or colored papers completed the exhibit. Punch, cookies and cake added to the festivities. I look forward to joining with these talented people again, six months from now, and I heartily recommend that you be sure to attend also.

September 2005

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
 Friday, 9:00 am–1:30 pm (until Friday, September 2)
 After September 2: Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <u>ECRDG: (Ethical Culture Reading Discussion Group)</u> September 14 – Philip Roth, <i>The Counterlife</i> Great Books: “Clashes of Culture” September 21 – Clifford Geertz, <i>Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight</i> | | | | | | |
| 4 10:30 am – Morning Meeting In Ceremonial Hall – 4 th fl. Abe Markman, Society member will speak on “The Working Class Exodus from the Roosevelt Coalition” | 5 Society Offices Closed | 6 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter | 7 6:00 pm – Men’s Group 7:30 pm – Shelter | 8 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter | 9 7:00 pm – Film Forum re- sumes with Woody Allen’s Manhattan (1979) | 10 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation |
| 11 10:30 am – Colloquy 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – TBA | 12 6:00 pm – Board of Trustees 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter | 13 6:00 pm – Women’s Group 7:30 pm – Shelter | 14 3:00 pm – ECRDG 6:30 pm – Ethics and the Theater 7:30 pm – Shelter | 15 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter | 16 | 17 9:30 am – Supervised Visitation |
| 18 10:15 am – Poetry Reading 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 2:00 pm – Adams Letters – a play by Harriet Bigus | 19 6:30 pm – Monday Writing Workshop 6:30 pm – Social Service Board 7:30 pm – Shelter | 20 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:30 pm – Shelter | 21 7:30 pm – Shelter 7:30 pm – Great Books: Clashes of Culture | 22 7:00 pm – Thursday Writing Workshop 7:30 pm – Shelter | 23 | 24 9:30 am & 1:30 pm Supervised Visitation |
| 25 10:30 am – Singing Practice 11:00 am – Ethics for Children 11:15 am – Morning Meeting 12:45 pm – Cafeteria 1:45 pm – Sociates Cafe: Evolution vs. Intelligent Design | 26 7:30 pm – Shelter | 27 6:15 pm – Drawing Class 7:30 pm – Shelter | 28 7:30 pm – Shelter | 29 7:30 pm – Shelter | 30 Fall Retreat →→→→ | |

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

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

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ETHICAL CULTURE 

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