



ETHICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

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June 2007

Sundays at BSEC

► Annual Membership Meeting ◀ June 10th - 1:15 pm

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting addressing the business of our Society. See pages 5 & 6.

10 AM - For Members

A sharing circle of mutual respect formatted on a repeated go-around for as long as time permits. All members wishing to build bridges of understanding are welcome.

Platform Programs

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

* Free * All Welcome

June 3: Colloquy – an informal meeting on the theme of *Recognition*

June 10: Member Appreciation, with new member presentations, led by Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader, and the BSEC Board.

Saturday, June 16, 10:15 AM: Attend a Platform at the **Ethical Humanist Society of LI** as part of the AEU Assembly: *And You Call Yourself 'Ethical'!* - From *Diversity in the Creed to Unanimity in the Deed* with Leader Anne Klaeyen. How many times have you heard the question: "And you call yourself 'Ethical'?" No doubt every faith tradition has a variation of this rhetorical question meant to shame someone who doesn't toe the majority line. Can there really be unanimity in the deed when we welcome diversity in the creed? See www.ehsl.org for details and directions.

Loss and Celebration

It is hard to believe that within the two years since this photo was taken in June 2005 (at BSEC's party celebrating Charley's retirement from his day job), we have lost two of the most beloved, active and dynamic members of our community, Donna Roberts and Charley Horwitz. The magnitude of our grief is beyond words. The legacy of these two dear friends will be talked about for years.



Hundreds gathered on January 7th at the Park Slope United Methodist Church to celebrate and honor Charley's life and work. Family and friends, spanning his whole life, spoke of the husband, father, grandfather, pal, community member, activist, advocate, teacher, mentor, champion, and inspiration they knew and loved. Slide shows put together by son David and friends from the Peoples Republic of Takoma Park gave us a chance to reconnect with Charley's warm and gregarious presence. Music provided by Jaque Dupree and others gave wings to Charley's spirit, definitely present with and in us that day. A reception followed, hosted by BSEC, for which many members contributed homemade food, some of which were Charley's favorites. Guests were invited into the library to participate in a video recording of memories of Charley as a present for his family. Connections and reconnections were made - some of us learning that friends we knew outside of BSEC also knew Charlie and Carol from their other lives, while relating to others around shared interests that Charley and Carol also hold dear.

A memorial for Donna is being planned for Saturday, July 21 from 1:30-4:00 pm. Donna's partner, Leonora Lucon, welcomes any pictures, voice tapes, writings of or by Donna that may be out there in the extended community, so she can compile the best possible displays and possible slide show to honor and remember Donna and her extraordinary presence. Please contact Lisel Burns, liselburns@earthlink.net, if you have something to share.

With Donna's death being so recent (Thursday, May 17), we are still reeling from the news. I met Donna in 1989 when she joined an educational program for union women activists that I was directing and teaching at Cornell's NYC campus of the Industrial and Labor Relations School. Donna, as I recall, was not a union member then, yet she was very interested in workers' rights. I was impressed with Donna's ability to see the bigger picture beyond her personal needs. I remember Donna always asking questions, wanting to understand more than just the information being communicated. I recently dug up some pictures from that time, when the class gifted me with a chair I still use today. There we are, laughing and smiling, and that is how I often think of Donna.

It was such a joy to meet her again at BSEC shortly after September 11, 2001. We quickly became friends and colleagues in our Ethical Culture work.

Among the many things for which I am grateful to Donna, was her making it possible for me to attend the AEU Assembly, sharing her room with me on more than one occasion, and encouraging and supporting me in assuming the job she held at the AEU office. She became my teacher, sharing not only her knowledge and experience, but also her commitment to openness, honesty and eliciting the best. I remain inspired by her to search for my higher self and to try to move through life with the love and compassion I saw her demonstrate.

Donna and Charley were deeply connected to our Society. In the depths of their illnesses, they both brightened when I would share news about our group. They were committed to act in ways that elicited the best of our Society and in others. BSEC will be planning other opportunities for us to publicly and collectively within our community share our memories of both Charley and Donna, and act in their names towards ideals we all hold dear. We celebrate Donna's life and recent marriage to Leonora, described by Lisel below, and extend our deepest sympathy to Leonora and Carol and their families who are our family as well.

~ Diane Kirschner

WEDDING DAY, Park Slope

Sunday May 13th was a tremendously happy day. Donna was out of bed for the first time in weeks (except trips to the hospital in a wheelchair). Two friends helped her dress in a wonderful African wedding trousers and shirt, and carried her in a chair up the narrow stairs to her wedding ceremony. Food was spread all over the room and BSEC peace cards colored by the children and a bright big banner that Tasha Paley, Fiona Boneham and others created helped the room sing a wedding song. Leonora and Donna exchanged vows and rings and then listened to tributes from near and far. So many - thanks to all of you who sent on such short notice a letter or email conveying happy wishes, or spoke so movingly on the BSEC tape we also played at the ceremony. She particularly smiled at the children wishing them well and singing songs (Thanks Io, Xena, Tyler and Irene) and telling them that the BSEC Spring Festival that morning had focused on mothering and nurturing mother-spirits like Donna and Leonora (thank you Audrey and Laura and Irene Duffy).



We know Donna in many different ways. As a wonderful woman in her own right, as the beloved partner of Leonora, as a loving sister and daughter, deep spirit woman, mother spirit to many children, caring activist, and forceful yet quiet ethical leader, co-founder of the monthly HOPE dinner, Woman's Festival regular, music lover, BSEC Board member, former American Ethical Union administrator, and Ethical Culture/American Humanist Association ceremonies officiant.

With several powerful and loving circles of friends drawing around, Donna and the health/love warrior Leonora have battled with the relentlessly spreading cancer with both western and alternative approaches. She showed an amazing willingness to bear ongoing pain daily for the sake of staying in this precious world, with people who love her, for another 24 hours. She never avoided talking of a future foreshortened by her illness, and has in fact comforted her circles with her willingness to accept her coming death. She's inspired every one who has come near with her spirit and continuing humility toward the universe and its mysteries. Each of us left her having received some bit of wisdom, advice, and careful thought.

As always, with the mysterious creatures we call women, there has been and will continue to be regular living side by side with tragedy. Arguments, remonstrations, lots of logistics, health-related strategies and always laughter, side splitting laughter. Though the dream of long life was not to be, there has been a realization that Donna and Leonora were able to live out a fulfillment of dreams once only imagined. The time upstate together even during this awful year, Donna's birthday party in the apartment, brother Hal and his partner coming in for a week, Donna's niece from Colorado visiting, so many NY friends' quiet visits communicating more powerfully than years of email or talk, and so much more. Donna and Leonora and those who gather from near and far to send Donna on her way, each in their own way, are the family and neighbors of the caring communities we dare to hope will one day be there for all of us.

I'm deeply grateful, partly as myself, and partly as a stand in for all of the BSEC community, to be here with Donna and Leonora and their immensely heart full community - of women surely and also of people of all ages and backgrounds - each willing and ready to take a part with Donna and Leonora on this year long vigil.

May we also be there in the next period, the next steps of Leonora's pain and suffering, with comfort and community.

~Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader

Leader's Essay

Acceptance, Allegations and Attitudes

In Jungian therapist Robert Johnson's short book outlining the role of a shadow identity in the human psyche, he tells a story of a Japanese Buddhist priest accused by local villagers of making a young woman pregnant. The young woman in question had a boyfriend, but afraid for his safety, she had told the elders confronting her that it was the village priest who brought her to this condition. She helped her boyfriend leave the village with a story of going to the city to find work. A delegation of villagers went to the priest's hut and finding him working in the garden confronted him with the young woman's story and shame. The priest listened quietly to the accusations. He then said "Ah so" and returned to his work. The villagers spread far and wide the story of the rogue priest who had violated his vows and a young woman's purity. They whispered behind their hands from a distance and either castigated or shunned the priest when they crossed his path. Whenever the subject was raised to him, the priest would listen and nod slowly, saying "Ah so" and nothing more. Some years went by. At long last the young man who had fled the village around the time of the young woman's pregnancy, returned and came with the young woman to the priest's hut. The couple confessed the lie she had told her family and the village, recounting the true role of the young man, and asked the priest's forgiveness. "Ah so" said the priest and smiled. Later, as the village elders found out the truth and reflected upon the considerable wrong done to the priest, a delegation came to his hut. He was working in the garden and when they told him of what they had learned, he said, quietly, "Ah so."

Our Attorney General lies to Congress and presides over the deliberate turnover of the national Justice Department to Republican Party far right operatives. Though the Democrats took back the U.S. Congress last November with a promise to bring our democracy back to life, GIs who have enlisted for college scholarships and pumped up re-enlistment bonuses are still dying alongside uncounted Iraqi civilians and soldiers every day. And it's happening "on my watch," as my Navy dad would say.

Looking back twelve months, I'd say it has not been an easeful year. When friends have to fight insurance companies for basic health care amidst their already terrible suffering, when daily news reports outline our nation's moral misadventures here and abroad conducted in my name or when I read or hear of untrue allegations about myself or others anywhere, the compassionate detachment of that Buddhist priest helps me forego

reactions. But he doesn't tell me what will sustain compassionate detachment and feed my non-violent inner spirit rather than the angry tiger sleeping lightly beside her. It has taken a circle of allied persons to do that.

Close to home three of the world's great souls - Charley Horwitz, Donna Roberts and Blanca Nebbia - are and will always be on my shortest list of good people, as well as beloved friends, mentors and social justice allies. They have stood like great trees in the social forest all their lives, like trees whose greened branches reach for the sun while sheltering a multitude of earth creatures great and small below. Within the last two years each took a crackling lightning strike and suffered severe consequences. Charley and Donna died from severe forms of cancer. Blanca wheels herself around the Bellevue hospital rehab unit, having recovered much strength from her fall and fractured leg. She's lost some short-term memory from seizures and that's troubling. She'll go now to live with daughter Selva and her partner Irenie in Jersey City instead of staying downstairs in my brownstone - always ready for an morning or evening conversation or strategy session regarding a family of squirrels in our back yard who seemed to view her beloved flower garden as an open air squirrel restaurant for chewing and digging.

Not withstanding these losses, the journey through these health situations is part of a circle of treasured people close to the stricken person and his or her family caretakers allowed to share their most intimate and terrible times, "even unto" the land of death, created new meanings for all of us, in life changing ways. In those circles and participating with the ever-widening BSEC governance team this season, I have led a restorative, truly privileged life this past year. As part of the ongoing work of communication among people serving a larger ideal than their own self-protection, I sought and received caring feedback on ways my actions or attitudes triggered negative behavior by others. I challenged and was challenged for no other reason than love for one person or the common good. I re-learned universal village and wisdom teachings saying that honesty, gentleness and reciprocity are ethical treasures at the heart of meaningful living.

It seems to me that those voluntary circles we need and hopefully find in dire times, not only make tragedy's unfairness bearable (if not acceptable or understandable). It is in those circles founded outside our comfort zones, for purposes of love and service, that ethical relations are the priority and the necessity for which we live. People trying to comfort or reduce suffering put that need first and do not let ego get in the way of that intention,

without paying the price of failure. Accepting that life is what it is - no matter what happens - is a natural attitude our ethical humanist life stance also suggests, one I prefer to metaphysical speculation, howsoever tempting.

Ethical Culture, to me, has ideas and language flexible enough to carry people of all backgrounds the precious and vulnerable message that cultures can and do perish unless ethical, humane values are upheld across traditions in the worst as well as in the most ordinary of times. The BSEC member landlord who finds an apartment for a low income generous spirit with two dogs she so loves, the folks who stood by 24/7 or just came by a house in mourning with yet another dish of food and hug for comfort, the lawyer widow who now offers our Board her professional expertise pro bono to help heal her husband's beloved BSEC, the folks who worked on the recent Peace Award we gave to the Iraq Veterans Against the War, the former Yale student who makes cartoons by night and sweeps our front sidewalk so clean every other day now, the CSA parents and children of BSEC celebrating in song Donna and Leonora's deathbed wedding May 13, the BSEC Board voting this month to hold themselves to high written standards of conduct and communication (I can easily go on and on) represent to me a culture of peacemakers.

We are making an ethical culture, modeling ethical culture when we do the next right thing, when we know we receive most as we give of ourselves, when we earn our integrity by making repeated decisions going against the easy market values of our larger culture. People who buck market values that say "Look out mainly for yourself; get over where you can, stay victim or aggressor; blame and judge others" and imagine that we all wage painful battles somewhere inside, are our everyday mentors.

May we each grow more into our better selves this year, further whole yet imperfect at the same time. May we continue making mistakes but intend no harm, as we seek to find and carry out what Felix Adler called our vocation, our "part in this world." May we expand our circles of caring and mutual encouragement again this year, circles where judgment, suffering and injustice are transcended, and may we then go out more able to face what comes to us without reaction, with renewed resource, with at least an "Ah so" and a smile.

Children's Sunday Assembly



We will meet at 10:30 am in the garden of BSEC, on June 3 and 10.

July 21 –22: See the new musical play, *Little Refugee From Zaire*, written by and starring member and Sunday School teacher, Simba Yangala, at BSEC Meeting House at 6 pm. Net proceeds benefit the Children's Student Assembly.

CONTACT Audrey, [ethicalkin at hotmail.com](mailto:ethicalkin@hotmail.com), with questions or comments.



NEW BSEC PROGRAM:

LOVE AND EQUALITY broadly

defined is a new group formed by ceremony couples, single friends, and gay and straight BSEC members. Our intention is to build an online and event-based network through fun and fundraising activities around social issues starting with marriage equality.

Jaque DuPree, Donna Minkowitz, Lisel Burns, Reina Horwitz,, KC Mitsui and Leechee Leong are the founding members and welcome all who wish to join their planning team. We currently meet by conference call alternating with in-person supper meetings.

Our first event, the Valentine's Party on Feb 10, 2007, raised money for NYS Pride Coalition, which works on marriage equality, and Just Matrimony, the AEU project for marriage equality.

Email loveandequality@gmail.com to volunteer or get additional information.

The Brooklyn Society
for Ethical Culture (BSEC)

Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader
Liselburns at earthlink.net

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee:

President: Martha Gallahue
Vice President: Remi Gay
Treasurer: Vandra Thorburn
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Edith Calabro, Maureen Egginton,
Eda Kapsis, Roger Kaufman, Ruth
Pikitch.

Board Emeritus: Constance Pigozzi
Leader Emeritus: Lois Kellerman

September Newsletter Deadline:
August 18

Send submissions to
Bsec53ppw@yahoo.com
Please put "NEWSLETTER"
in Subject line

June Newsletter Staff
Editor: Diane Kirschner
Proofreaders: Abby Scher & Vandra
Thorburn

Volunteer editors sought. Please
contact Martha Gallahue,
marlalar at mindspring.com

**This is BSEC's Mission Statement.
Are we living up to it?**

**The Brooklyn Society for Ethical
Culture** is a humanistic religious and
educational fellowship promoting
knowledge, love and practice of
ethics-centered living. As a diverse
and welcoming community, we assist
each other in developing ethical
ideals, exploring choices, navigating
our life journeys, and working to re-
alize a more just and compassionate
world.

BSEC belongs to a confederation of
Ethical Humanist Societies or Fellow-
ships in the U.S. known as the
American Ethical Union

www.aeu.org



And Now a Word from our President

Dear Members,

With the new elections coming up on June 10th (the most important meeting of the year), we bring our fiscal season to a close. I am most happy that we are moving forward with our strategic efforts to implement the Alban recommendations. When Carol Horwitz agreed to be our pro bono attorney we turned a corner in helping the Board to develop into a stronger more responsible entity. Some of the hesitancy in proceeding more quickly had to do with confusion about nonprofit legal mandates. While there still exists much confusion in our Society, it may be that we can move our conflict into a healthier place now that there is more clarity.

Health issues also impacted us this year on the Board. Our deepest losses of course, are Donna Roberts and Charley Horwitz (who though not currently a Board member, had served as President and knew the issues so well). But also, we have lost to illness Perry Dell, our first President this year and Constance Pigozzi, who is making a good recovery. Many thanks to Lisel Burns, Adriana Baker and Diane Kirschner for filling in the Platform responsibilities that Constance oversaw so competently. Remi Gay, our Vice-President, has been away for two and a half months due to illness as well, but is now on the mend.

The Board has voluntarily reduced itself from 16 to 10 members, which in fact, is more appropriate to our congregational size. We have worked diligently to update our documents and have restructured several committees, working effectively with task forces. We plan to have another All Members meeting in October to vote on other proposed changes, which need more time for reflection about their appropriateness before they are presented for a vote. For example, the personnel handbook is currently in the hands of our lawyers, Mary Holland and Carol Horwitz, for review. The Alban Task Force will next review the constitution and bylaw revisions.

We are making headway in reducing our paid staff, which has finally enabled us to balance our budget. As we say goodbye and thank you to Tony Severo and Jim Alford, we welcome our new Director of Administration Damal Edmund, who will start on June 1st. Damal is completing a Master's Degree in Urban Studies and will soon live close by in Brooklyn. Three months after Damal takes over, Rita Wilson will be leaving her current paid role with us as well. We thank Nettie Paisley and Ellen Raider for heading up such an effective search team that enabled us to find Damal. Lisel Burns has also reduced her role to half time and Maureen Egginton relinquished her paid position in communications.

Despite an auditor's report finding extreme deficit spending and serious mismanagement issues especially during 2004-5, (over \$100,000 was removed from our endowment then), there continues to be denial by some members that it was so serious or on the part of a few that it ever existed. The Board finally voted to approve a forensics audit for that period. This audit took place on May 22, 2007 and we hope to have the results available for you in time for our June 10th meeting. This audit focused on about \$29,000 of checks written to cash or to individuals without receipts, vouchers or some accurate verification of accountability.

Lay leadership is flourishing with lots of fresh faces such as Abby Scher and Greg Tewksbury, co-chairing the Ethical Action committee, Nettie Paisley coordinating Life and Ethics programming. Tasha Paley, who facilitates the sharing circles, Donna Minkowitz who leads the new group, Love & Equity, Helen Engelhard, who organized the Work of the Weavers

concert honoring Charley Horwitz, and Sandy Schilen presenting an informative Platform on Grassroots women's leadership. We appreciate Tom Castelnuovo's role leading a group to develop a Fund Monitor team and advising us on a new Fund manager. We thank Tom and Eda Kapsis for their efforts with the Budget Review Committee that included conducting feasibility studies before we restructured our staff. It is a delight to see the Zisman's jump right into pro-active participation on several fronts, and Dupree has moved mountains with her contribution of song at Platform and in programs. Even at tense moments, she has given us her gift to help us through.

There were lots of long time members as well cheering us on: Anne Marie Mogil photographing our events, Dennis and Linda Stallard particularly helping with the building, along with Diane Kirschner who stepped in to edit the newsletter. Fiona Boneham and Annette Bernstein served on the Nominating Committee, Nancy Richardson, who organizes and often staff the greeters' table, Stephen and Joan Klips who help with our publicity and volunteer in the office, and always Lisel. Special thanks to Rita Wilson who continues to help and help and help. We can't end the year without thanking the parents group all of whom are now members: Lisa Servon and Alex Gershberg, Tracey Jindyeh, Janine Hausler, Pam Mills and Eda Kapsis, Fiona, Laura Duffy, Janice Novet and our Director Audrey Kindred.

I especially want to thank all of the Board members for hanging in there. They are Remi Gay, Warren Miner, Vandra Thorburn, Maureen Egginton, Eda Kapsis, and outgoing members Roger Kaufman, Ruth Pikitch and Gary Schechter. Edith Calabro will leave the Board one year early, so when we choose our candidates, we will be electing four, the fourth will finish Edith's term for one year. Edith's grounded practicality is a service wherever she is.

This hasn't been an easy year for any President, but I learned from every single person on the Board. More and more of our votes are showing the re-emergence of consensus. All of us have tried to do the right thing as we saw it. Let us hope we did enough for the community to move forward. What a radiant mix of individuals exist here. I must single out Lisel's persistent enthusiasm for the life of this community. It seemed this year neither death, intransigence, "spin," or hyper-drama deterred her from continuing her infectious invitational welcome that continues to bring new members and new life to this Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. It is our job now to engage them and to model for them right relations with one another that hopefully will make the world a better place. Thanks for this opportunity to serve. It wasn't my first choice, and my friends have had to bear too much with my shortcomings. I feel deep gratitude for it all.

~ Martha Gallahue

Membership Meeting Agenda Sunday, June 10th

1:15 pm: Call to Order – Martha Gallahue,
President

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of protocol for Minutes

3. Approval of Minutes of last year's
annual meeting, June 25, 2006

1:25: Reports

• Leader

• President

• Treasurer

1:45: CODE OF CONDUCT
Presentation and Discussion

2:00: Introduction of Candidates for the Board

2:30: ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

3:00: Introduction of the Budget for 2007-08
Presentation and Discussion

3:30: VOTE ON BUDGET

4:00: ADJOURN

Treasurer's Report

~Vandra Thorburn, Treasurer 2005-07

Many thanks to all those involved in the discussions and preparation of the budget for 2007-08. Following a lengthy discussion at the May 17th Board meeting, a provisional budget was approved for presentation at the membership meeting for input and approval.

Eda Kapsis, Chair of the Budget Review Task Force, and Tom Castelnuovo's have brought considerable non-profit management expertise to the budget process. They are aligning the budget to the auditor's categories. Based on the audited figures of 2004-05 and the draft audit of 2005-06, the preliminary cut on the new budget was to add a 6% COL increase to basic income and operating expenses. There was a debate about how much interest from the trust fund could be allocated in the budget and discussion on the use of depreciation to help present a balanced budget.

Philosophically speaking, the budget anticipates a stronger commitment to programming, fundraising and

membership activities. Please review the details in the membership packet that you will have already received to prepare for our June 10th membership meeting where you will be asked to support this budget.



Celebrating Peace Site Sunday, May 20, 2007

*~ Greg Tewksbury and Abby Scher,
Co-chairs, Ethical Action Committee*

This was an amazing and beautiful day in every way. The annual Peace Site Platform was dedicated to the memory and good work of two very special members of our community – Donna Roberts and Charley Horwitz. They are missed, loved and continue to inspire.

Every year, BSEC recognizes the strength of some group or person struggling for peace. The 2007 Peace Site award, given by the Ethical Action Committee on behalf of the Brooklyn Society, went to the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). Accepting the award on behalf of the Iraq Veterans was Demond Mullins. A member of the New York National Guard who served a tour of duty in Iraq, Demond is featured in the film *The Ground Truth: The Human Cost of War*, a documentary about the experience of Americans who fought in the Iraq War. The *Ground Truth's* subtitle, "*Sometimes the Greatest Act of Courage is to tell the Truth*" foreshadowed Demond's powerful reflections.

During the Platform, Demond spoke to this theme by sharing his dilemma of being in Iraq, not supporting the war, and trying to get out with his life. After coming home, Demond stated that he knew he had to speak out and work with other veterans to try to stop this unjust and unjustifiable war. It was then that he joined Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) was founded in July 2004 at the annual convention of Veterans for Peace (VFP) in Boston to give a voice to the large number of active duty service people and veterans who are against this war, but are under various pressures to remain silent. From its inception, IVAW has called for:

- Immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq;
- Reparations for the destruction and corporate pillaging of Iraq so that Iraqi people can control their own lives and future; and
- Full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women.

Today, IVAW members are in 43 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and on numerous bases overseas, including Iraq. IVAW currently has 17 chapters around the country and in Canada. To find out more and read their statement "Why we're against the war" go to www.ivaw.org.

The love and power we need to challenge the war was nurtured, not only by hearing Demond tell his story, but also from the performances of Dupree and her guitar accompanist Ben Silver, and the participation (as reader) of Bea Rubin, the BSEC member who inaugurated the Peace Site. Maureen Egginton, co-chair of the Peace Site, led the platform with grace, ending it with a walk out to the peace garden.

Following the platform, Todd Ensign, Founder/Director of Citizen Soldier, which is running a GI coffeehouse at Fort Drum, NY, joined Demond for a panel discussion, Co-sponsored with Brooklyn Parents for Peace, the panel discussion was attended by over 50 people. Todd and Demond spoke about the importance of an active GI movement of Iraq Veterans to stop the war. We had an interesting discussion about the ethical and political dilemmas of working inside mainstream party structures or organizing outside. All agreed that only an active grassroots citizens' movement would stop the war. To find out more about the GI Coffeehouse at Fort Drum and to lend your support contact Citizen Soldier at www.citizen-soldier.org.

Take Action To Stop The War ("Fund The Troops, De-Fund The War")

Call Congress: Tell them to end this disastrous war, (800) 828-0498

Military Families Speak Out – www.mfso.org

Iraq Veterans Against the War – www.ivaw.org

Keep up with local actions – Brooklyn Parents for Peace – www.brooklynpeace.org

Happy Birthday

- ☆ Victoria Wagnerman - April 29
- ☆ Annie Lanzilotto – June 1
- ☆ Adriana Baker – June 2
- ☆ Glenn Newman – June 3
- ☆ Jean Shaffer – June 6
- ☆ Ethel Kirschner, Diane's 88 yr old mom – June 10
- ☆ Ali Jindyeh and his mom, Tracey - June 12
- ☆ Charlotte Alper – June 20
- ☆ Diane Milder – June 20

Welcome to New Members:

Ted Cox, Jacque Dupree, Alec Gershberg and Lisa Servon, Princene Hyatt, Mirelle Samson, and Sylvia and Milton Zisman.

*** Member News ***

Simba Yangala has written and is performing a one-woman show, to be presented at BSEC on July 21 and 22. See CSA news.

Lisel Burns will attend "In Praise Of Mountain Women" convocation in Tennessee, May 30-June 4.

Martha Gallahue has been appointed to the New Growth Research Learning Team, an AEU study group, which also includes Tim Beardsley (Washington), Jone Lewis (No. Virginia), Karen Wilcox (Westchester), Tom Hoepfner (Chicago) and Nick Sanders (Philadelphia).

Joan and Stephen Klips' 18-year old niece, Sara, has just won \$500 (plus another \$500 for her school's art department) for her winning entry in an art contest, sponsored by the Columbus, Ohio Fire Dept. The contest theme was preventing arson and her first-place award was for the caption - *Arson Destroys - Life, Family, Peace* – on a poster depicting drawings of a home on fire. The poster was turned into a colorful billboard that now sits on a rooftop overlooking a community. The local press release is available at <http://tinyurl.com/2abn5f>



Building & Grounds (B&G) Committee Report

Warren Miner, Committee Chair, offers this update on B & G activities as of May 14, 2007:

The carpeting of the stairway from the first to the second floor has been refurbished. Tradespersons have taken the existing carpeting, made customized cuts and re-carpeted only the treads of the stairway. Joan Klips, a member of the B & G Committee, was the big motivator in getting this job finished.

Landscape and gardening: Tentatively, a regular part-time employee who submits a time sheet, is cleaning, reseeding, mowing and attending to the lawn on a regular basis. The lawnmower has been refueled, lubricated. Alex Gershberg has spent some time helping to trim the privet bushes (trees) on each side of the Sun Room steps back to six feet. Lisa Servon and Gardening Committee have completed four planter arrangements plus an extensive boarder with shade loving plants. The Gardening Committee throughout the summer will provide maintenance for these plantings and requests are out for more volunteers to join in on this enjoyable work.

Roof Maintenance: Contractors are making bids for repair to the northeast roof corner. This repair will be completed in time for the cold weather.

Pointing of exterior wall masonry: This is ongoing work that will probably continue for a few years because of the age of the building.

Plumbing: Leaks exist in the fourth & third floor waste pipes that connect the building's three bathrooms. Repairs will be conducted during the summer. As for the lavatory in the Sun Room, the sink fixtures need to be made secure and the bathroom floor needs retiling.

Interior general repair: Regular attention has been given to the usual items that come up for repair; i.e., doorknobs, loose screws, light fixtures, broken chairs, etc. Of course, if any member catches something that needs attention, please feel free to mention to one of the B & G Committee members, who are: Warren Miner, Joan Klips,

The Sun Room's Tiffany Windows frames have been delivered to Venturella studios for expected installation by the end of June.

Lastly, the **main meeting room's floor** will be recoated this summer.

[**Editor's Note:** Anyone wishing to contribute funds towards these repairs or to volunteer your labor and expertise please contact Warren.]

From Sharing & Caring Chair, Roger Kaufman

As many of us walk down the street we have curiosity about many of the people we see. Lately along Church Avenue, I see men in Blue Jump suits sweeping the streets. They are from RWA - Ready, Willing & Able, a division of John Doe, Inc. I have also seen similarly suited men in Manhattan.

In talking to Glen, one of the sweepers, I found out that RWA workers are offered, housing, food, and schooling in exchange for their street sweeping. They are mostly men, who are ex-convicts, and are willing to stay drug-free and try to get ahead in life. There are many such organizations as Ready Willing & Able. I hope to report on these organizations in the future.



HOPE DINNER

Donna Roberts prepared food for the Hope Dinner, a project of a local church at 6th Avenue and Sterling place. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 3-6 pm, dinner is served to 40 people with HIV-AIDS. If you wish to help finance, buy, prepare and transport food, contact Diane Kirschner, kirschnerd@hotmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing: Sunday NVC group, Writers Group, Women's Tuesday Chorus, weekly Tai Chi and Yoga. Call BSEC office for details.

BSEC SPONSORED:

July 29, 2-5 PM: Plan to attend the BSEC camp beach party, straight and G/L/B/T/Q friendly, benefiting justmatrimony.org and the BSEC. Write loveandequality@gmail.com for information.

AEU SPONSORED:

June 14-17: AEU Assembly, LI, NY
Hosted by Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island;
held at campus of CW Post and EHSLI.
Check the AEU website, www.aeu.org, for details.

Just Matrimony: Since Donna was the founding Director of this marriage equality advocacy project and a former Administrator for the AEU, we will host a display table honoring Donna and promoting the Just Matrimony project at the upcoming AEU Assembly. Lisel Burns has accepted the role of consulting leader to the project starting July 1 and welcomes all persons who would like to volunteer in Donna's name to further the cause of love and equality. Contact the web site, www.justmatrimony.org, or talk to Lisel.

August 12-19: AEU Summer School for Ethics The Mountain, Highland, NC

First time offering of a family camp and learning adventure in an incredibly beautiful setting with gourmet food and convivial company. Leaders Jone Lewis, Joe Chuman, Joy McConnell and Fritz Williams, along with lay leaders, offer a menu of programs from which participants will select their learning experience. Call the AEU office, 212.873.6500, for update. Don't miss this chance to meet fellow Ethical Culturalists and enjoy a memorable week away. This event is open to all.

September 8: SAVE THE DATE

Compassionate Communication Workshop for Ethical Culture members. Hosted by the Baltimore, MD Ethical Society. Explore Nonviolent Communication, its relationship to our Ethical Culture work and its application to internal Society communications. Check the AEU website, www.aeu.org, for details.

NY SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

PRESENTS *Ethics on the Air:* June 22, Aug. 24, Sept. 28, 11-11:55 am on WBAI, 99.5 FM. Tune in to hear some exciting programming. Details can be found on their website, www.nysec.org.

FRIENDS OF BSEC:

Thursday, June 7: A benefit honoring Grace Paley hosted by our community partner group, Brooklyn Parents for Peace. Details at www.brooklynpeace.org.

June 17, 1 PM – 5 PM, *Passion to Connect—*
Conscious Activism. Reese Grand Ballroom, Fashion Institute of Technology, SW corner of 28th St. and 7th Ave. Andrew Harvey, Carolyn Myss, and many other "notables". Organized by former member Kurt Johnson. Cover charge \$20. Space limited to 500. Tickets can be purchased from the website. Hosted by OneVoice-www.coalitionforonevoice.org

June 20: VALR (Veterans Access/Learn Reiki), a program to bring healing energy to veterans, will debut on Oct.20 in the Elliot Room of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights. Those wishing further information can call Linda Gnat-Mullin, a Reiki Master, at 718-499-4702.



The Very Good Coffeehouse & Music Parlor
Fridays, 8:00 PM. Adults: \$10 | Kids: \$6, unless otherwise noted

June 1: Frank & Nancy Moccaldi and friends

Frank and Nancy Moccaldi have always provided their audiences with a unique and surprising experience. Their music usually ranges from old-timey to blues, but you never know what, or who, to expect in between. Sing along with beautiful voices and harmonies, heart warming and foot stomping music, guitars, banjos, harmonicas and fiddles.

June 8: Adults: \$15 | Kids: \$6 - **Steve James**, acoustic blues - Traveling Troubadour Series

Steve James, who lives in Austin, Texas, is a master of many acoustic blues finger picking and bottleneck styles. "Flawless finger picking and slide guitar paired with an idiosyncratic writing style and an exuberant performance persona makes Steve James come on like a full band." - Dirty Linen magazine.

June 15: Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop

A celebration of Gay Pride with host, Robin Burdulis. Participants TBA at a later date.

June 22: Brooklyn Women's Chorus

The Brooklyn Women's Chorus - 45 women singing together to create one powerful voice for peace and justice - is directed by Bev Grant and backed by a band of Brooklyn musicians.

June 29: Margot Leverett - Klezmer/Bluegrass Fusion

Klezmer clarinetist Margot Leverett joins forces with some of NYC's top bluegrass players to explore the shared musical spirit of two genres literally worlds apart. Appalachian and southern fiddle tunes by Bill Monroe meet Klezmer melodies from pre-war Russia and Eastern Europe, some newly discovered. The resulting medleys and improvisations are at once raw, funny and foot stomping.

The Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor re-opens September 14-15 with the 10th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree: 1½ days of workshops, jamming, and performance featuring traditional American music.



Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

53 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215

The spirit of the departed shall not know the blight of mortality; for it shall live on in the lives made sweeter by its presence and its gracious influence. For love is stronger than death, and love shall build within the heart a shrine where the true image of the departed shall shed its light in the days to come. – Stanton Coit