



# Ethically Speaking

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## Message from the President-Eda Kapsis

Greetings all! Here at the end of a summer and at the dawn of a new year for our Society, a US presidential election year, and nearing the end of the first decade of this century, there is much to celebrate and much to do. Together we share the joy, challenge, and inspiration of ethics and the 8 commitments of ethical culture as our common language, and that makes all the difference. Below are updates on a few key topics.

### June Membership Meeting

The membership meeting in June produced many gifts for us all including: a fond farewell for Lisel, passing all but one revised constitutional articles, passing of our behavioral covenant (with a much more engaging title!), board elections, celebration of member milestones including Nettie Paisley's ordination, and much more. It was wonderful to hear from all who were able to join! The membership passed the *(cont. on page 5)*

### Sundays at the Meeting House

10:00 am: Members' Sharing Circle, Library

10:30—12:30 pm Children's Sunday Assembly

11:00—12:30pm Platform, Meeting Room

1:00pm or as noted Afternoon Program

### Sunday Platforms

**Sept 14, 11 am**  
 One Nation, Indivisible: Protecting the Separation of Church/State with **Lori Lippmann Brown**

**Sept 21, 11 a.m.**  
 The Hidden War at Home with **Aziz Huq**

**Sept 28 11 a.m.**  
 How Do We Create a Good Life? with **Rev. Nettie Paisley**

## Head of Secular Coalition Opens Society's Year

Our government's secular character, built into it at our nation's founding more than 200 years ago, protects both religious and nonreligious Americans. Over the past three years, Lori Lippman Brown, director of the Secular Coalition of America, has served as the first Congressional lobbyist explicitly representing the 10% to 15% of Americans who are nontheistic (humanists, atheists, agnostics, etc.) In her talk, One Nation, Indivisible: Protecting the Separation of Church/State, Brown reports on how this unique lobby is being received on the Hill, in the media and by our theistic allies, and will discuss the coalitions fighting to keep separate Church and State.



Lori Lippman Brown

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### Education Outreach Task Force

In June, the Ethical Culture action committee approved the mission of a task force that will attempt to develop an outreach program on the issues stemming from Mayor Bloomberg's control of the New York City school system and the harm that it is doing both to the teachers and children in public education in this city. The Task Force which is being chaired by Joel Shatzky with Ellen Raider, Carolyn Meiselbach and several advisory members of BSEC will begin promoting programs geared to the community to create a dialogue among parents, teachers and, especially, students, to examine critically what is going on in the schools, what can be done to reform instruction, and how to roll back the "testing mania" that is deceiving the public into thinking that test scores accurately measure student learning.

### Welcome Readers by Joel Shatzky, editor



The editor with his special assistant: Sophia Shatzky

I would like briefly to introduce myself as the new editor of "Ethically Speaking." As a former teacher of journalism, I've always tried to have a "nose for news" and instructed my students to do the same. I would like to urge all of you at BSEC that if you find an item that would be of interest to the membership, please contact me at shatzkyj@cortland.edu and I will be happy to consider your item for publication. This, of course, includes any announcements involving members of the BSEC community and their loved ones. "Ethically Speaking" is your way of letting others in our community know of things that not only inform but bring us together. I would also like to suggest a "Members' Op Ed" page that would give an opportunity for your opinions to be published so that the membership hears the many, and often varied, voices of the BSEC membership. Looking forward to a rewarding and exciting year for "Ethically Speaking" and BSEC.

## Civil Rights Activist, Aziz Huq, Speaks



### Sunday, Sept 21, 11 a.m. The Hidden War at Home with Aziz Huq

Thinking about civil liberties abuses in the war on terror, we think most often of Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and CIA black sites in Europe and elsewhere. But there is another, less remarked side to the "War on Terror" occurring close to home, in immigration agencies, in prosecutor offices, and in the police stations. In surprising ways, this domestic front, because it receives so little attention, is the site of deeper civil liberties violations than places in the media spotlight. The domestic 'war on terror' also has startling continuities with the 'war on crime.' The whole approach must be reconsidered before we make old mistakes in new forms again.

Aziz Huq directs the liberty and national security project at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. He is counsel in several cases concerning detention of citizens and non-citizens without due process, including a group of US citizens detained in Iraq and Ali Al-Marri, the only person detained as an "enemy combatant" in the United States. He has written numerous *amicus* briefs in national security and civil rights cases. Before coming to the Brennan Center, Mr. Huq clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for Judge Robert D. Sack of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He teaches a seminar at NYU Law School on "Just War Theory and Terrorism," was in 2006 awarded a Carnegie Scholars Fellowship. His book *Unchecked and Unbalanced: Presidential Power in a Time of Terror*, co-authored with Fritz Schwarz, was published in March and was called "necessary reading" by Michiko Katakana in the *New York Times*.

## Nettie Paisley Leads Special Member Platform

### How Do We Create A Good Life?

With Member, Rev. Nettie Paisley

Sunday, September 28, 11am

*(This special platform welcomes new members)*

Ethical living is based on right conduct. Right conduct does lead to a good life. When we live an ethical life, how good do we really have to be? Long-time community activist Nettie Paisley has been an active member of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture since 2003. In June of 2008, she was ordained as an Interfaith Minister through the One Spirit Seminary in New York City after serving an internship at the Church of Gethsemane, which serves ex-prisoners and their families. Among her many community activities, Rev. Paisley shares educational and fundraising support to PS 44, in Bedford Stuyvesant. She continues to enjoy spreading inner peace to others through the healing practice of Reiki.



Rev. Nettie Paisley

## Jamboree Opens The Good coffeehouse "September 12th"

### 11th Annual Park Slope Old-Time & Bluegrass Jamboree September 12-13, 2008

A day and a half of workshops, jamming and concerts of traditional American music:

#### September 12, 2008: James Reams & The Barnstormers – Bluegrass concert Adults: \$10, Kids: \$6

After a summer of concerts and bluegrass festivals around the Northeast, James Reams & The Barnstormers ([www.jamesreams.com](http://www.jamesreams.com)) are back at their home venue, the Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor, to kick off the annual Jamboree, now in its 11th year.

#### September 13, 2008 12:30pm-10pm: Workshops, jamming, concerts Adults & Kids: \$4

The only event of its kind in the Northeast, this is the place to play and hear the best in old-time and bluegrass music. Workshops (harmony singing, fiddle, guitar, banjo and more) start at 12:30, jamming goes on all day, showcase concerts start at 6pm – all for \$4 (yup, four dollars). Bring your acoustic instrument (guitar, mandolin, fiddle, stand-up bass, banjo or Dobro) – or, if you don't play an instrument, bring your ears, bring your love of American traditional music, bring your kids, bring your friends.

### BSEC's

#### Mission Statement

**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 realize a more just and compassionate world.

BSEC belongs to a federation of Ethical Culture & Ethical Humanist Societies and/or Fellowships in the U.S. known as the American Ethical Union

[www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**



**CSA Tag Sale  
October 18th**



**Terry Tempest  
Williams  
@ BSEC  
October 20th**



**August:**

**2nd:** Cynthia Stallard  
Dorothy Wood

**3rd:** Lois Kellerman

**12th:** Laura Duffy

**18th:** Rita Wilson

**21st:** Edith Calabro

**23rd:** Gary Schechter

**26th:** Constance Pigozzi

**29th:** Valene Francis

**September:**

**8th:** Annette Bernstein

**9th:** Fiona Bonham

**17th:** Justin Stallard

**18th:** Annemarie Mogil

**19th:** Maureen Egginton

**Be Well!**



**Children's Sunday Assembly (CSA)**

**A family program of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (BSEC)**  
53 Prospect Park West · Brooklyn, NY 11215 · (718) 768-2972

Greetings,

I hope you've had a great summer. I'm so pleased to welcome you back to this vibrant community of ethical exploration. For families who wish to bring their children up with values of ethical living and community, this is the place to be!

Our fall calendar follows. We begin on September 14, at 10:30 am. Simultaneous to the children's program, as you know, are the adult forums called "Platforms" with wonderful speakers addressing important questions of our day. To find out who is speaking this month, visit [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org).

Please generously share information about CSA and BSEC to your neighbors and friends. It would be a shame to keep a sparkling gem, a secret.

My support to you !

**Audrey Kindred, Director**

**Children's Programs/BSEC Family Programs**

Phone (212) 920-4483

E-mail: [akindred@gmail.com](mailto:akindred@gmail.com), [ethicalkin@hotmail.com](mailto:ethicalkin@hotmail.com)

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**Program Day Overview**

10:30-11:00am: Enter and Sign in

11:00-11:20am: Join Platform for "Welcome" and song (twice a month)

11:20-12:15pm: CSA Group Project

12:15-12:30pm: Closing Circle for CSA

12:30pm: Children meet up with parents on playground (option of joining the Society for "lunch-with-the bunch").

**The Fall Season, 2008**

September 14: Opening Day

September 21: International Peace Day (1:30 Field Trip: Peace March to Church of Gethsemane for Interfaith Service)

September 28: Member Platform; oldest group may attend

October 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: Camp Out at BSEC

October 12: Columbus Day Weekend – no CSA

*More to Come.....*

*(cont. from page 1)*

budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. New board members elected in June include Fiona Bonham, Alec Gershberg, Reina Horowitz, and Dennis Stallard. Rita Wilson was also elected but due to family and other circumstances is requesting a 6-month leave of absence. That request, and consideration of it, will be presented at the September board meeting.

### **Board**

The new board elected officers in July. I am pleased and honored to serve as President for a second year. Also graciously remaining in their seat for second year are Greg Tewksbury as Vice President and Tasha Paley as Recording Secretary. Tom Castelnovo is assuming responsibility as Pledge Secretary and, true to form and heart, he'll focus anew on connections among members and connections BSEC has to the local and global community. Vandra Thorburn, newly re-elected to the board, will serve as Treasurer. The treasurer's new toolkit including guidelines and audit procedures is essential on our road ahead.

### **Leader Search**

The Leader Search Task Force worked diligently all summer routinely meeting weekly. The board met with the task force this summer as well. The task force is pursuing a plan that includes short and long term planning. News of their progress will come in the fall.

### **Sunday Programming**

The Sunday Task Force has planned Sunday program in cooperation with the members of the Leader Search Task force. Sunday platforms and programming will be new and diverse. I very much look forward to all that is in store for us all on Sundays.

There is more activity to discuss as well as stories and pictures to share – including those from the annual CSA camp out of August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I know we are all grateful for the many contributions of the board, committee & task force members, and volunteers. Please reach out to Damal or a board member if you would like to be more involved. And please do share our programming event announcements with friends and neighbors. We can all welcome friends and members alike.

Be Well!  
Eda



### **Thank you, Diane!**

Diane Kirschner has moved on from editor of this newsletter which she has so ably done for the past few years. Welcome Joel Shatzky to the hot seat!

### **The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (BSEC)**

#### **Open, Clergy Leader**

**Damal Edmond,**  
**Administrative Director**  
bsecdirector@yahoo.com

#### **Board of Trustees Executive Committee:**

President: Eda Kapsis  
Vice President: Gregory  
Tewksbury  
Treasurer: Vandra Thorburn  
Secretary: Tasha Paley  
Pledge Sec.: Tom Castelnovo

#### **Trustees:**

Fiona Boneham, Alec Gershberg,  
Reina Horowitz, Dennis Stallard  
and Rita Wilson

Board Emeritus: Constance  
Pigozzi  
Leader Emeritus: Lois Kellerman

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#### **Next Newsletter Deadline:**

**September 20**

Send submissions to  
bsecnews@gmail.com

Editor: Joel Shatzky  
Proofreader: Vandra Thorburn

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Shatzky



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