



# Ethically Speaking

*The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture*

53 Prospect Park West at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215  
718.768.2972                      [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org)                      [bsecOffice@aol.com](mailto:bsecOffice@aol.com)

April / May 2007

## ***Awarded 2007 Elliott-Black Award by the AEU***

The Committee to Protect Journalists, nominated by the Ethical Action Committee of our Society, was elected by sister Societies and endorsed by the AEU Board as the recipient of the 2007 Elliott-Black Award. The AEU gives this award in recognition of and tribute to an individual or organization that, in the larger community, has made a significant ethical contribution to society at personal risk and hardship.

CPJ is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending press freedom worldwide. For over twenty years CPJ has been publicly revealing abuses against the press, organizing public protests and working through diplomatic channels to act on behalf of imprisoned and threatened journalists. CPJ publishes articles and news releases; special reports; a biannual magazine, *Dangerous Assignments*; and *Attacks on the Press*, the most comprehensive annual survey of press freedom around the world. Their website, [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org), reports the latest news on the arrests, disappearances and deaths of journalists and other media workers, as well as government activities and policies that threaten press freedom.

To protect their independence, CPJ does not accept government support of any kind. With full-time program coordinators in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, CPJ monitors the press and tracks developments through its own independent research, fact-finding missions, and firsthand contacts in the field. CPJ shares information on breaking cases with other press freedom organizations worldwide through the International Freedom of Expression Exchange, a global e-mail network.

The award dinner and ceremony, a highlight of the AEU's 92nd Assembly, is scheduled for Saturday, June 16 at 6:30 pm (award presentation at 8:30 pm) on the CW Post campus of LI University. The Assembly, hosted by the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, will run from Thursday evening, June 14 through lunch Sunday, June 17, and features a variety of workshops and events, as well as the AEU's business meetings. The award ceremony is free and open to the public. Other events may involve a fee. Details are available at [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org).

## ***Iraqi Veterans Against the War 2007 Peace Site Honorees, Part of BSEC's Culture of Peace Series of Events***

May 20<sup>th</sup>, Peace Site Sunday, honors the Iraqi Veterans Against the War (IVAW). This special day dedicated to peace is inspiring the BSEC Culture of Peace series of events. IVAW member Demond Mullins will accept the award at the 11am Platform and inform us of their current actions and ways in which we might choose to partner with them. Following a special lunch, a panel of activist groups of veterans and their families will speak on the challenges they face and the activities in which they're engaged, again presenting opportunities for our participation.

From their website, [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org): "Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) was founded by Iraq war veterans 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 ordinary Iraqi people can control their own lives and future; and
- Full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other support for returning servicemen and women.

Today, IVAW members are in 41 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and on numerous bases overseas, including Iraq. IVAW members educate the public about the realities of the Iraq war by speaking in communities

and to the media about their experiences. Members also dialogue with youth in classrooms about the realities of military service. IVAW supports all those resisting the war, including Conscientious Objectors and others facing military prosecution for their refusal to fight.”

### **The BSEC Peace Site**

The Peace Site of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture was inaugurated in 1983 by co-founders Bea Rubin, an artist whose work reflects her dedication to peace and justice, and Marion Kronheim, who later bequeathed \$1,000 for the Peace Site in her Will. Each year the Ethical Action Committee of the Society selects a person or group to be honored. The special Sunday Platform and luncheon presents an opportunity to recognize the honoree and to inform the membership and public about their work.

The Garden of Peace and Remembrance is designed as a living symbol of our commitment to peace and our interconnectedness. Providing a tranquil space to remember and honor heroes in the cause of Peace, it was dedicated in 2004 with two awards: one to honor Rachel Corrie (1979-2003), a young peace activist who lost her life in Palestine while working with the International Solidarity Movement, and the other for The Parents Circle, an organization of Israeli and Palestinian families, who, having suffered the loss of loved ones in the ongoing conflict, are committed to work together for peace and reconciliation.

The Garden center is circular in design, surrounded by plants belonging to the Ericaceae or Heath Family, a family of plants found on all continents. Four stone benches, representing the four major continents, face each other fostering unobstructed communication in the service of peace. Engraved plaques on the benches, as well as the surrounding Belgian stones, honor donors' personal heroes and are still available as a way for you to honor a loved one. (See Martha Gallahue for details)

### ***Culture of Peace Series***

The Ethical Action Committee is creating a series of events to promote a culture of peace. As the newsletter goes to press, the committee is working on a film program for **Thursday, May 17** of a documentary by a fellow Brooklyn resident of his experience as an embedded journalist in Iraq. In June we're hoping to bring together local peace groups and constitutional rights advocates for a discussion on the government's recent spying on peace groups engaged in military counseling.

What did these groups know that the government didn't was us to know?

**Mark your calendars and check the BSEC website - [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org) – for program updates.**

### **\*\*\* Member News \*\*\***

## ***Happy Birthday to***

- ☆ Linda Stallard - April 8
- ☆ Herb Dalin - April 15
- ☆ Joel Cohen - April 17
- ☆ Emily Neeman - April 18
- ☆ John Duffy - April 20
- ☆ Antoinette Wagnerman - April 20
- ☆ Greta Gladney - May 13
- ☆ Coreen Matthews - May 19
- ☆ Anne Klaeyesen - May 21
- ☆ Simba Yangala - May 23
- ☆ Victoria Wagnerman - date unknown

Member **Joan Klips**, reading her CCNY Alumni Publication, found the following item about **Lydia and Jerry Last's daughter, Jovie**:

“Jovie Last , CCNY student, has won the Esther Unger Poetry Prize for her poem, entitled " A Mother's Love: Ancient Language." She has also won the English 110 Family Narrative Award, for her work entitled "My Matriarch", also published in the CCNY Literary Magazine "Promethean." Congratulations Jovie!!

Our healing wishes go out to Constance Pigozzi, beloved former BSEC President, and current Chair of the BSEC Platform Committee, as she recovers from a surgery at Maimonides Hospital.

**CSA Director Audrey Kindred** and twin sister Jesse are visiting Ethiopia for several weeks, where they were born and lived for 4 years.

Leader **Lisel Burns** officiated two memorials recently, and spent her birthday, March 29, speaking at a Mini-Summit on women leaders participating in community development across faith bases. The event was hosted by the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, now funding anti poverty collaborations between feminist and women's faith based groups. With a reduced schedule at BSEC, Lisel will again travel for [www.Groots.org](http://www.Groots.org) leadership support

## Sundays at BSEC

**10 AM - For Members:** Our Member Sharing Circle continues as a time for us to share our feelings and needs with each other as regards. It is a circle of mutual respect formatted on a repeated go-around for as long as time permits. We welcome all members who wish to partner in building bridges of understanding. Come and check it out.

### Platform Programs

11:00 am - 12:30 pm \* Free \* All Welcome

**April 8: Spring Colloquy: *Growing Older Contd.***

Led By Lisel Burns/Joanie Klips; to follow 4/1 platform  
A colloquy is a more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony with time for sharing, music and reflection.

**April 15: *Creativity Sunday.*** Join the BSEC Writer's Group for a Sunday devoted to the creativity of the written word.

**April 22: *The Lost Art of Happiness* presented by**

**Dr. Arthur Dobrin.** Every rational person wants to be happy. But modern notions of happiness often stand in the way of achieving our most desired goal. In his latest book, Dobrin presents a philosophical look at happiness based in the latest scientific findings relating to evolution, sociology and biology. Books will be available for sale. **Arthur Dobrin** is Professor of Humanities at Hofstra University and Leader Emeritus of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. He is a prolific author and activist whose books include: *Love is Stronger than Death* (1986), *Ethical People and How They Get To Be That Way* (1998), and *Love Your Neighbor \* Stories of Values and Virtues* (1999), along side more recent books on moral development, Africa, and business ethics.

**April 29: *Religion Ethnicity: Ethical Culture and Violence*, presented by Dr. Joe Chuman,** will explore the positive and negative aspects of multiculturalism and how ethnic and religious identity can become the rationale for violence. **Joe Chuman** has been the Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, NJ for 32 years. He has a doctorate in Religion from Columbia, where he teaches Religion, and Human Rights for masters and doctoral students. As an activist, Dr. Chuman has worked on behalf of human rights and civil liberties and in opposition to the death penalty, as well as for many other progressive causes. He has recently founded a sanctuary for refugees seeking political asylum in the U.S. Often referred to as the best modern interpreter of Adler, EC's Founder, Dr Chuman has agreed to a book of his Sunday platform addresses, which will be published later this year.

**May 6: *Emerson: The Ideal in America* presented by Jim Manley,** Filmmaker, and Director of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Institute (A screening of his film about Emerson's life will be shown at 10:00 am.)

**May 13: Family Spring Festival: In Praise of Mothering/Parenting: *ALL people and ALL families of ALL kinds are welcome***

**May 20: Peace Site Sunday:** Platform, luncheon and afternoon panel (see article in this issue for details)

**May 27: Memorial Platform**

Members and friends will remember and honor those who have died with a personal candle lighting ceremony.

**June 3: Recognition Day** - details in June newsletter.

**June 10th is Membership Sunday,** with the BSEC Board organizing the program. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Children's Sunday Assembly



**CSA Calendar for April, May, June:**

We will meet at 10:30 am in the garden of BSEC, on these Sundays.

- ▶ April 1, (not 8), 15, 22, 29
- ▶ May 6, 13, 20, (not 27)
- ▶ June 3 and 10

**Sunday, May 13th, CSA hosts PARENTS**

**DAY:** an intergenerational community festival contemplating and honoring the "Mothering" in our lives. Children arrive at 10:30 as usual, with the program beginning at 11am. ***ALL people and ALL families of ALL kinds are welcome!***

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, CSA hosts its SPRING**

**FUNDRAISING SALE.** To contribute beautiful items to benefit CSA, please bring them to the Billiard Room of BSEC between May 13-20<sup>th</sup> or contact BSEC leader Lisel Burns to arrange earlier storage. Many thanks for your offerings and your purchases at this event!

**Sunday, June 3rd, CSA hosts Recognition Day and Town Hall Meeting.** Details in June newsletter.

**CONTACT Audrey:**

**ethicalkin@hotmail.com. w/ comments.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Some of us came together for a potluck supper, Saturday, March 31st. We left that event energized by sharing some fundraising strategies, developing centennial events for 2007-8, getting to know our children better and having fun together. Ruth Pikitch and Vandra Thorburn took responsibility for planning this event. Kudos to both of them. Not only did we enjoy each other's company and delicious food, we read the names and addresses of the fifteen original founders of BSEC, on March 30, 1907. Afterwards, Ruth Pikitch led us in a discussion of our feelings about belonging to the Brooklyn Society. This led to stories that dated back over forty years ago and included the views of our newest and youngest members, Cici and Milo Gershberg, 4 and 2 years old. We welcome more opportunities to be together in this way.

In other areas of governance, implementing the Alban recommendations is a bumpy ride, but we are moving forward. We are making progress in 3 areas especially: 1) simplifying our office staff; 2) updating our constitution and bylaws; 3) finding a transparent process to evaluate our Leader and handle other personnel matters. With the first, the Board narrowly approved a job description for a Director of Administration and the search is on. The search team is Nettie Paisley, Ellen Raider and Nancy Richardson. Regarding the constitution/bylaw revisions, Constance Pigozzi reported she would be ready to bring her team's work on to the Board in April. She is working with Celeste Leibowitz, Tony Severo, and others. Regarding evaluations, Lisel Burns, Stephen Klips and Tasha Paley are working with members of the Board to begin a process called "360" evaluations. Annette Bernstein and I are revising the Personnel Handbook. We thank Mary Holland ahead of time for agreeing to read the Handbook to ensure we have included the appropriate updates that are legally required.

Susan Nienaber of the Alban Institute will return for Stage II of consultations on Friday, April 20th and Saturday, April 21st. She will focus on the Board, in sessions that are open to members. Covenant behavior in our BSEC community will be a major theme of discussion. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend these training sessions on Saturday morning and afternoon. You will be notified as soon as we have the exact times. Please call 718-369-7565, if you wish further information.

On Sundays, at 10:00 am, some of us continue to meet at the healing circle facilitated by Tasha Paley. This circle arose the day Susan Nienaber delivered her findings to the BSEC community last September. Those of us who have come even once to the circle have

experienced it as a safe place to express our stories and our dreams for the BSEC community. We continue to hold diverse perspectives on issues. What if we looked at these views as if everyone was right rather than tried to change minds? What an idea!

Thanks again to Diane Kirschner for taking on the newsletter! I urge all of you to complete paying your pledges. Our pledges are part of the new life of the community.

– Martha Gallahue

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Life & Ethics*

**Saturday, April 14, 8:00 pm: International Dances of Peace.** At BSEC, SUFI chants and folk dance movements from many traditions. Cosponsored by Park Slope Methodist Social Action Committee. \$10. Reservations: 718.784.8176

**Sunday, April 22: The Key Ethical Challenge: The Environment.** 3-5:00 pm, at the BSEC. Donations accepted. Cosponsored by BSEC's Ethical Action Committee. BSEC president Martha Gallahue explains the views of many non-governmental organizations throughout the world regarding consciousness shifts needed to cope w/ unfolding ecological changes. To include networking w/ other local activists.

**Saturday, April 28: A Culture of Peace Concert.** 8-11:00 PM. Park Slope United Methodist Church. \$25. Featuring Stephanie Bates & Co., classic soul and Ed Stoute Trio, classic jazz – artists that "bring the house down." Co-sponsored by the PSUM Social Action, Brooklyn Parents For Peace & National Service Conference, American Ethical Union.

**Thursday May 10, 7:30 PM Dr. Mary Rothchild-Health Situation in Israel/Palestine** - cosponsored by BSEC Ethical Action and Brooklyn Parents For Peace IP Committee

### PARTY

**Saturday, May 19: PS 44 Third Annual Fundraiser,** 8:00 PM – midnight, PS 44, 432 Monroe St, in Bed Stuy, NY. \$50. Attire: semi-formal. Delicious Gourmet Cuisine and music provided by Stephanie Bates & Co. and Ed Stout Jazz Trio. Sponsored by Southern Comforts, [www.southerncomforts.net](http://www.southerncomforts.net), and BSEC Ethical Action. BSEC members C horwitz and Nettie Paisley launched this project three years ago; members can participate to strengthen a school supporting staff, students and their parents to provide quality values - based education.

## **From the Leader's Desk....**

### ***How Now Shall We Live?***

Over the past tumultuous period in local as well as national/global communities, I wage a daily struggle against (my own and others') distractions and denial. These two temptations dull my awareness of situations viewed from either the smaller or bigger picture. Putting too much or too little attention on personal or localized stressful situations, we can easily lose the sense of purpose and perspective crucial to sustaining our sources of meaning and efficacy. Massive sales of self-help literature represent to me the state of popular culture's use of "perennial knowledge", or wisdom traditions. The enormous success of Oprah Winfrey's linking of good works to ongoing spiritual or inner self development, for example, speaks to a widespread yearning for ways of living that rebalance both spirit and material life, and the need for nurturing ourselves with both inner and outer heart work.

With an increasing number of people, I see a challenge before us. We think that a cultural/ethical reorientation, a reframing and maturing of our capacities for collaborative moral vision and action must take place if economic and political reorganization of societal resources will ever serve humane, participatory and democratic ideals on a large scale. This won't take place overnight. But it can and will take place all over the world if people of good will can learn how to connect our personal aims and social efforts with others who might share these basic needs and values, yet use quite different strategies to meet them.

I think the good news is that so many local efforts are already in some level of connection to other such heart initiatives all over the world. I call that large network, "all the people for more ethical cultures," and it comforts me to think about vast numbers of people in their communities, moving in similar, more humane directions. Eventually I believe these energies will connect for the common good. On the way, we need to find language and forms to honor and link more efforts for cultures of peace, justice and creativity everywhere.

One path toward recognition of a globally shared ethical project, across traditions, geography and generations, is learning from the lives of people. Across the ages persons have sought or found fulfillment, happiness (or both) inside the ideal of the common good, as part of the "beloved community," rather than over or against it. My sense is that our "political" (in the sense of our ethics writ large) focus is best put on both the expansion of basic entitlements (integrating both the powerful global human rights perspectives with more local community/human development visions), and also on finding our part in the world of inner development to

realign human hearts. Only then, I believe will we know large numbers of people moving from hierarchy to partnership models, from top down to bottom up, from individualism to renewed community, - working for a world community where we freely choose societies where all care for one and one also cares for all.

On one of many visits to the West, the Dalai Lama said he had never met such unhappy people as in his travels in the affluent Western world. In longtime EC Leader Dr. Arthur Dobrin's most recent book, *The Lost Art of Happiness*, (which I highly recommend and will have on sale at BSEC) he explores a community-oriented vision of happiness that he holds and that was, until fairly recently, held by most of the world's people. We look forward to his speaking at the BSEC on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Arthur tells a story of Joshua and Raili Ongesa, a happy, a highly esteemed couple, peasant farmers - old friends since the Dobrin's Peace Corps days in Kenya. The Ongesas live in Tabuka, a rural area of Kisii, Kenya. They are active in both church and community, and with the Dobrins, co-founders of the wonderful Sema Academy, which some of us have the privilege of helping to support with an annual contribution. They live extremely simply, with material resources considered meager by U.S. standards.

Kinds of happiness invoked by teachings of wisdom traditions across generations and the globe, described so marvelously in this book, are a far cry from the quite individual and nuclear family oriented, material "success" (one family with enough homes, televisions, cars, computers, and cash for the consumer lifestyle) that our current culture now markets to all ages on a 24/7 basis.

What projects and messages really can buck the enormous power of this market-driven culture? This to me is a crucial question for those of us in the more comfortable classes of the world village. It is crucial because we can too easily live out our different lives still largely in denial or distraction. We can be members of this network of shared attention to ethical living and make our own relationships in these families and voluntary communities our main social project, for good or ill.

Building an authentic local community is an enormous project itself. But the goal of the Ethical Societies was to become ethical powerhouses - effective mutual encouragement and support systems for the core project, of internal and societal human development. **We are here to help each other find and keep our eyes on the prize — the power and passion of ethical living.** To that end we re-dedicate our local Societies and relationships there. Toward that end, I'm more than willing to go through the downs and enjoy the ups along the way.

- Lisel Burns, BSEC Clergy Leader

## Ethical Action at BSEC

- Abby Scher, Co-Chair, EA Committee

### ***Searching for a Solution in the West Bank***

It is surprising how calm Jeff Halper remains when talking about such a tragic and combustible topic. Jeff is the Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHN) and a former Professor of Anthropology at Ben Gurion University. On March 25<sup>th</sup> he visited the Brooklyn Society, sponsored by our Ethical Action Committee and Brooklyn Parents for Peace, and laid out a devastating picture of Israel's repression of ordinary Palestinians in the West Bank by telling the story of home demolitions and, in particular, the demolition of Salim and his family's home in 1998.

While done in the name of security, only 5 percent of house demolitions target the homes of those who have committed violence, according to Halper. Most are against those like Salim, who built a house on land he owned even though the Israeli authorities refused to issue him permits. The Israelis send in guest workers, from Romania or Africa, to clear out the possessions from the home. Then paid contractors send in bulldozers, sometimes tragically operated by Palestinians who may even know the target, to tear down the home. And the Israeli Committee volunteers come in and rebuild the home, again and again, as the Israeli authorities continually demolish it.

With its home demolitions, the Israeli government is forcing ordinary Palestinians to stay away from the borders and cluster toward the center of the West Bank in yet another strategy of containment. Day to day harassment then inflicts everyday life as the Israelis force Palestinians to move, with passes, through those contained areas and through checkpoints. The zig-zagging wall not only captures key water sources, but divides villages and even the buildings of a university, as we saw in Halper's photos. Of course, the residents of the hundreds of Israeli settlements enjoy free passage on roadways built for their use alone.

With its nonviolent direct action, The Israeli Coalition Against House Demolitions offers a small bit of humanity and solidarity against the actions of the government. It works closely with Israeli and Palestinian organizations such as the Land Defense Committee, the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee, and the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People. In 2006, the American Friends Service Committee nominated Halper jointly with Palestinian intellectual and activist Ghassan Andoni for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For Halper, the situation, while not hopeless, will only be resolved by pressure from outside Israel. While

Halper said 65 percent of Jewish Israelis would dance in the streets if that happened, he felt the population was no longer able to act to make it a reality. On the other hand, Israel's occupation couldn't last a month without U.S. financial support, giving Americans a particular responsibility to pressure our government to support withdrawal. The case of Salim's house demolition is also being heard by the International Criminal Court, putting a global spotlight on the inhumane policy with the hope of ending it.

What then? Forty percent of the Palestinian economy flows through the hub of East Jerusalem, which would have to be part of a Palestinian state. But Halper fears a two state solution is not sufficient. In a visionary proposal, he suggests a European Union style arrangement tying the economies of neighboring Arab states with that of Palestine and Israel.

### ***Atlantic Yards Update***

A film and discussion about Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards project sponsored by the Ethical Action Committee attracted more than 75 people on March 14. Isabel Hill, a documentarian whose office is housed in the Society, screened *Brooklyn Matters*, her documentary on the subject. Once built, it will be the largest development in NY's history, even larger than Starrett City. With 17 high rises, it will create a huge architectural wall dividing Prospect Heights and Fort Greene.

One stumbling block to its development remains. Forest City/Ratner, the builder, needs the government to use eminent domain to take over the land from those who refuse to sell. Otherwise, the various agencies have fast-tracked the process. The Ethical Action Committee is now considering holding a fundraising party for *Develop/Don't Destroy Brooklyn* in early summer to help defray their legal expenses.

- The AEU's ***Ethical Action Report*** outlines issues and quick actions to take now. Visit [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org) to learn what you can do.

#### **The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture**

is a humanistic religious and educational fellowship promoting the 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 confederation of Ethical Humanist Societies or Fellowships in the U.S. known as the American Ethical Union

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



## What's NEW at the AEU

### PBS Series

The American Ethical Union, American Humanist Association (AHA), Institute for Humanist Studies, and the HKH Foundation, are cosponsoring a PBS series of three one-hour broadcasts entitled "Jonathan Miller's A Brief History of Disbelief." The Center for Inquiry will be the primary sponsor.

This broadcast renders a historical perspective on faith, doubt and disbelief. Written and narrated by the acclaimed British intellectual Jonathan Miller, it traces the first "unbelievers" in ancient Greece through the role of disbelief in America's founding to its flourishing today.

Attribution to the cosponsors at the beginning and end of each broadcast will extend our visibility and outreach nationally. This broadcast will air on 55 public television stations across the country, premiering on May 4. Check local listings and the website [www.abriefhistoryofdisbelief.org](http://www.abriefhistoryofdisbelief.org) for details. Prior to the broadcast, Bill Moyers will interview Jonathan Miller on *Bill Moyers Journal*, Friday, May 4 at 9:00 pm on PBS.

### AEU Board Actions

The AEU Board votes to join groups:

**Freedom to Marry** ([www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org)) is the gay and non-gay partnership working to win marriage equality nationwide. Headed by Evan Wolfson, a civil rights advocate and lawyer, Freedom to Marry brings new resources and a renewed context of urgency and opportunity to this social justice movement. It incorporates the work of its partner organizations into a larger whole, a shared civil rights campaign that fosters heightened outreach to non-gay allies.

Freedom to Marry encourages dialogue with Americans thinking through the need to end discrimination in marriage, provides support to targeted state and local efforts, and promotes fairness for all families, including same-sex couples and the children raised by gay parents. By working to secure equal access to civil marriage licenses from the government, we help reinforce our country's historic commitment to freedom, the pursuit of happiness, and equal justice for all. (Also see [www.justmatrimony.org](http://www.justmatrimony.org) for Riverdale Yonkers Ethical Society's/AEU initiative in this area.)

**Justice at Stake:** On February 14, 2002, a new campaign for fair and impartial courts was launched: the Justice at Stake Campaign, a nationwide, nonpartisan partnership of more than 30 judicial, legal and citizen organizations that have come together because across America, your right to fair and impartial justice is at stake. Judges and citizens are deeply concerned about the growing impact of money and politics on fair and

impartial courts. Their mission is to educate the public and work for reforms to keep politics and special interests out of the courtroom—so judges can do their job protecting the Constitution, individual rights and the rule of law. Learn more about the threat to fair and impartial justice, what's happening in your state, and what you can do to help protect the courts that protect your rights by visiting their website, [www.justiceatstake.org](http://www.justiceatstake.org).

### AEU Board of Directors Endorses the Brussels Declaration, a restatement of Europe's shared values

Supported by hundreds of national and European politicians, prominent academics and community leaders, the Brussels Declaration is the centerpiece of the campaign to head off claims by organized religion for even greater involvement in Europe's political affairs. Attempts to claim the Christian religion as the foundation for the continent's democratic and ethical values are being strongly contested. ([www.visionforeurope.org](http://www.visionforeurope.org))

### New Apportionment Formula for Assembly Vote

New apportionment formula developed by Task Force and endorsed by the AEU Finance Committee and Board will be introduced for Assembly approval. BSEC delegates will be able to vote on this issue. Delegate packets will be mailed in May with all the details. Stay tuned.

\*\*\* RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW \*\*\*

### June 14-17: AEU Assembly, LI, NY Hosted by Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island; held at campus of CW Post and EHSLI.

Brochures will be mailed to Societies in April. Check the AEU website and the next issue of *Dialogue* for details.

### 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. The brochure is available at [www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org) or by calling the AEU office, 212.873.6500. Don't miss this chance to meet fellow Ethical Culturalists and have a most memorable week away. This event is open to all.

**The Very Good Coffeehouse  
& Music Parlor**

**Fridays, 8:00 PM. Adults: \$10 | Kids: \$6**

**April 13: Pat Victor** plays lap slide guitar, in a performance that's part fireside chat, part meditation and draws from the deep wells of rural blues, gospel and country and presents fresh and inventive arrangements of traditional songs.

**Jud Caswell** has won five songwriting awards in this year alone (Kerrville, Boston, Falcon Ridge, Wildflower, Suwannee). His songs approach social commentary and simple pleasures with integrity and genuineness.

**April 20: 3rd Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop Cooperating Cooperators:** acoustic guitars & harmonies with David Roche, David Kumin & families. Singer **Jezra Kaye** weaves her sultry, swinging magic on a mix of jazz standards, blues and sophisticated pop. Come find out why she and her great backup musicians always pack the Good Coffeehouse.

**April 27: Blues and ragtime guitarist Nick Katzman** (Traveling Troubadour Series), making a rare U.S. appearance, with special guests Paul Handelman on harp and Thomasina Winslow on guitar & vocals, recorded a series of highly regarded albums in the 1980s for Kicking Mule records, an influential guitar record label. Praised for his virtuoso picking skills and ability to craft songs that sounded as if they've been written in the 1920s, Katzman, a native New Yorker, now lives in Germany.

**May 4: Singer/songwriter Tim Grimm**  
Indianapolis Monthly listed Tim Grimm as their singer-songwriter of choice. "The way this talented artist can paint pictures dripping of time-honored Americana images with his words, can not help but evoke comparisons to everyone from Woody Guthrie and Steve Goodman to Nebraska-era Bruce Springsteen," said Midwest Beat Magazine. Tim's show at the Good Coffeehouse last year was one of the most talked-about of the season.

**May 11: Our own James Reams & The Barnstormers.**  
With a touring schedule from Maine to South Carolina to Kentucky to Wisconsin, James Reams & The Barnstormers brings urban grit to traditional bluegrass music. *Sing Out* magazine writes: "...tight instrumental excellence and hard-edged vocals ...uncompromising, hard-core bluegrass..."

**May 18: 3rd Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop Bruce Markow** delivers acoustic folk, rock, jazz and Afro-Brazilian infused songs with stirring melodies and colorful lyrics exploring the woes and wonders of becoming more fully alive. **Jean Rohe and her band** perform an exciting mix of original and folk music from various parts of Latin America, done with a global twist. With diverse musical backgrounds that span jazz to improvisation to folk music of the Balkans and back to Brazil, the band brings a wide range of experience and expertise to their unusual sound.

**May 25: CLOSED**



**Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture**  
53 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

*Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could.  
Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can.  
Tomorrow is a new day. Begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.  
This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear with its hope and invitations to waste a moment on the yesterdays.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson