



Michael Dinh-Cohen of Tikkun Speaks January

BSEC is honored to have Michael Bin-Cohen, an attorney and New York City area organizer for Tikkun (Hebrew for “to mend, repair, and transform the world”), speak at our January 26th platform.

Tikkun is the nation’s largest progressive Jewish magazine and social change organization. It aspires to be an alternative voice for Jews and non-Jews on moral and ethical issues confronting our country. It seeks to organize Tikkun-based communities across the country around peace and justice, environmental, economic reform, personal and spiritual development issues. The San Francisco-based organization reaches out to all people of good will, including Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and non-believers. About half of its membership is non-Jewish.

Last January, almost 2,000 persons participated in Tikkun’s first national conference in New York City. Cornel West and other academic and religious leaders and community activists led dozens of workshops at two Manhattan synagogues. Workshop topics included organizing, ending the Israeli-Palestinian war, reforming our electoral system, multinational corporations, schools, health care, sexism, racism and spiritual and personal relationships.

Ethical Action Update

Last December, the BSEC Board of Trustees approved fiscal sponsorship for a “network in formation” known as the Brooklyn Community Action Network (BCAN). BCAN’s goal is to gather social action, peace and justice groups, and churches in Brooklyn into one collaborating network. This has been the main focus of BSEC’s Ethical Action Committee for several months.

On September 29th, BSEC hosted a one-day “kick-off” seminar for BCAN, which featured Reverend Finley Schaef, a renowned Park Slope pastor and social activist. Over 50 people, representing 35 organizations, participated.

Charles Horwitz, BSEC Ethical Action Committee Chair, along with Leader Lisel Burns, board members Maureen Egginton and Kurt Johnson, and members/friends Roger Kaufman, Ellen Raider, and Diane Kirschner have been involved in the planning stages.

Several Brooklyn churches and organizations have been actively involved. BCAN envisions a network of socially-minded groups, which can share calendars, activities, and also partner on social and justice issues. It also seeks to establish an “Open University”

which would provide many “teaching/learning” opportunities in Brooklyn.

BCAN’s next general meeting will be on Sunday, February 23, 3-6pm, at a place to be announced. All BSEC members and friends are invited. For further information contact Charles Horwitz at 230-3537, or chorwitz@earthlink.net.

Children’s Sunday Assembly

No CSA on 1/19, for the MLK Holiday.

CSA is offering traditional Hatha Yoga classes open to all. Learn the basics of beginning postures, yoga breathing, and relaxation techniques. This program will improve overall general health and well-being. Bring a blanket or mat and comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. Classes are Sunday mornings, 1/5&12, and 2/2&9 at 10-10:50am, in the BSEC library. Donations: \$8 BSEC Members, \$10 for non-members. Call Tracey Jindyeh at 748-7084. November 8-10, teachers Audrey Kindred, Ann Mazzocca, and CSA director Tracey Jindyeh attended the AEU Religious Education Conference with the theme “A Festival of Festivals”. Much was learned and will be put to good use in the future.

Extra special thanks to Remi Gay for leading the Wampanoag Festival last November.

And thanks to all those who came to the Ethical Swim on 11/17 at the Prospect Park YMCA. A good time was had by all. Contact Tracey if you are interested in coming the next time.

January Platforms

This Season’s Platform Theme is *The Heart of Ethical Culture: Faith in All People; Eliciting the Best from Ourselves and Others*. Following the themes of community, social action, and personal journey, we will offer opportunities to engage with the community in new ways throughout the year.

January 5: *Finding an Ethically Responsible Place in a Post Modern World*

Being ethically responsible is no small task in today’s community. Global corporatization, the decline of participatory democracy in our own country, and a public relations war on truth leave life’s basic questions answered by a muddle of advertising slogans and paid-for messages. At the same time, we try to find purposeful living locally in the face of gigantic forces operating worldwide. In so doing, we join a global movement, directed towards meaningful, humane living, for ourselves and families everywhere. With Lisel Burns.

January 12: *Winter Colloquy*

A more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony, with sharing, music, and reflections.

January 19: *Martin Luther King Legacy Platform*

Hear Dr. King’s words on war, poverty, and American culture. BSEC Members and Friends will join together in this annual celebration of the legacy of the great civil rights leader, featuring readings from his speeches and writings, plus music and reflection.

Followed at 1:15pm by the workshop *Building the Beloved Community* led by Gwendolyn Braxton, Coordinator of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom’s NY Metro Area Race and Freedom Project. This free workshop will include discussion about systemic racism, racial justice, and a vision of building local beloved communities.

January 26: *Tikkun: To Mend, Repair, and Transform the World*

With New York City activist and attorney Michael Dinh-Cohen. See article on this page.

February 2: *Core Values for a Lifetime: What Do We Really Stand For?*

When the chips are down, what set of values and bottom line principles best serve us? If we are not already clear on our core values and their implications for everyday decisionmaking, then what are we waiting for? Intergenerational differences, both in our values and in our approaches to living them, will be introduced by special guests from Generations X and Y. BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will preside.

Platforms are held every Sunday morning from 11am to 12:15pm in the main hall of the Meeting House at 53 Prospect Park West, followed by a convivial and delicious buffet lunch.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
(718) 768-2972

BSECOffice@aol.com
www.bsec.org

Leader: Lisel Burns

President: Constance Pigozzi

Vice President: Tony Severo

Treasurer: Kurt Johnson

Recording Secretary: Gary Schechter

Pledge Secretary: Ruth Pikitch

Board Members:

Frank Bottini, Maureen Egginton, Tracey Jindyeh, Rita Wilson, Joan Donnen Klips, Bruce Leibowitz. *Emeritus:* Marshall Dubin, Isabel Ross, Charlotte Alper.

Building Rentals: Rita Wilson, Linda Stallard

Ethical Action: Charles Horwitz 230-3537

AEU Board: Greta Gladney 768-2972

Membership: Lisel Burns 783-2298

Caring & Sharing:

Celeste Leibowitz 336-3683

Platform: Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

Special Projects & Communications:

Maureen Egginton 216-7532

Sunday School: Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

Operations Manager: James Alford

Peace Site: Maureen Egginton 216-7532

Coffeehouse: Linda Stallard 768-2972

Environment: Kurt Johnson 768-2972

Youth Group:

Irene Baker, Tony Severo, Eddie Coyne

Ethically Speaking is published 6-10 times a year by BSEC. This issue was produced by Bob Strock, Lisel Burns, Maureen Egginton, Charley Horwitz, Marjo Walker, Tracey Jindyeh, and Rita Wilson.

JANUARY 2003 BSEC CALENDAR

Sunday 1/5

10-10:50am: Yoga Class, call 748-7084 for info.

10am-12:30pm: Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform: *Finding an Ethically Responsible Place in a Post Modern World* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch

Monday 1/6

7-9pm: *Stone Soup Storytelling Group*, a monthly workshop for storytellers of all levels of experience. Led by professional storyteller Mary Savage.

Tuesday 1/7

7:30-9pm: *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. We believe every woman can sing! Call 965-0720 for details.

Wednesday 1/8

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan with J.P. Harpignes. \$12/class; \$40 for 4; BSEC members free.

6:30-10pm: *Pinewoods Folk Open Sing* with potluck supper & snacks.

Friday 1/10

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents the comedy/music troupe *Modern Man*, with David Buskin, Rob Carlson, and George Wurzbach.

Sunday 1/12

10-10:50am: Yoga Class, call 748-7084 for info.

10am-12:30pm: Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform: *Winter Colloquy*.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Tuesday 1/14

7:30-9pm: *Brooklyn Women's Chorus*.

Wednesday 1/15

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

7pm: Brooklyn Flix: *Requiem for a Dream*.

Friday 1/17

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: *The Cooperating Cooperators*, with David & Mary Roach, Dave & Leeann Kumin, Eddy Rosenthal and Lissy; also *Mikey (Mapouka) Valenti & Gina Ferrera* playing gylil music from West Africa.

Sunday 1/19

11am: Platform: *Martin Luther King Legacy*.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

1:15pm: Workshop: *Building the Beloved Community* with Gwendolyn Braxton.

Tuesday 1/21

7:30-9pm: *Brooklyn Women's Chorus*.

Wednesday 1/22

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 1/24

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *A Night of Magic*, with magic authority, performer, author, and historian Richard Steven Cohn, plus an array of great NY magicians, including Torkova, Brooklyn's own Marco Monteverdi, rising magic star Ryan Oakes, and comedy magician Jon Stetson.

Sunday 1/26

10am-12:30pm:

Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform: *Tikkun — To Mend, Repair, and Transform the World* with Michael Dinh-Cohen.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Tuesday 1/28

7:30-9pm: *Brooklyn Women's Chorus*.

Wednesday 1/29

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 1/31

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents longtime BSEC friend and leader of the Brooklyn Women's Chorus, Bev Grant, with her own group: *The Bev Grant Band*, with Bruce Markow, Barry Kornhauser, Robin Burdulis, and Richard Bryant. Also, *Paprika* performing a spicy blend of music from around the world.

Saturday 2/1

3-6pm: First Saturdays, Monthly Life Reflections, at Lisel Burns' house. Call 783-2298 for details.

7pm: Ann Klaeyen installation ceremony as New Leader of EHSLI (in Garden City).

Sunday 2/2

10-10:50am: Yoga Class, call 748-7084 for info.

10am-12:30pm: Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform: *Core Values for a Lifetime: What Do We Really Stand For?* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

Membership News

Ethical Culture Leader, Jean Somerville Kotkin, passed away Saturday, January 4th, 2003. A memorial service to honor and celebrate her life will be held at the New York Society for Ethical Culture on Saturday, February 22nd, at 2pm.

Thanks to our building manager Jim Alford and his team for the glorious new meeting room floors, which were refinished over the new year.

Congratulations to Linda Stallard and the team at last month's Winter Craft Fair for their efforts that went into such a successful fundraising event. Over \$1,000 was raised for BSEC, and an excellent time was had by vendors and guests.

Welcome to Erika Hawkins, newcomer from Fort Greene, who is working, along with Anne Marie Mogil and Lisel Burns, to develop over this winter a picture directory of members and their social concerns, beginning with many photos Anne Marie has taken at BSEC events over the years. To help, or to contribute a picture or news of your social concerns to share with others, please contact Lisel at 783-2298 or liselburns@aol.com.

Longtime BSEC Member and Lay Leader, Ann Klaeyen, is poised to become Full Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Her official installation will be at EHSLI, (38 Old Country Road, Garden City) on Saturday, February 1st, at 7pm. Anne (and Ethical Culture) received a great profile in the January 11th issue of *New York Newsday*. Congratulations from all of us Anne, it's been a long and worthwhile road!