



☪ From the President: Greetings in the New Year ☪

Dear Members and Friends of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture,

I want to take this opportunity as wish you all a very Happy New Year. I am now beginning the second half of my third year as President of the BSEC Board of Trustees and all I can say is that it has been a challenging and exciting journey. The Society is a place where so much life exists and I feel so privileged to belong to this extended family, where people of all ages, convictions and backgrounds unite with the sole purpose of eliciting the best in themselves and in others.

So much has been accomplished this year. The Peace and Memorial Garden, for one, is finally a reality and all that is needed is the surrounding landscaping. This will take place in the Spring. Soon we will ask you to donate to the garden by giving you the opportunity to place the names of your beloved as part of the circle around the benches.

The state of our finances is still not optimal. We still have to operate with a deficit but it is smaller than last year. We ask you, therefore, to review your pledge and try to increase it or perhaps make a specific added donation to the Society. Our building is very beautiful but it is also 103 years old and something is always breaking down and therefore it takes much money to maintain it. Most of all, funds are continuously needed to continue the work of spreading the message of Ethical Culture.

I wish to thank our Leader, Lisel Burns, and all the members of the BSEC Board of Trustees for their dedication and the many hours of volunteer time which they donate to the welfare of our Society. Thanks to Maureen Egginton, Tracey Jindyeh, Kurt Johnson, Joan Donnen Klips, Bruce Leibowitz, Ruth Pikitch, Vijay Rao, Gary Schechter, Tony Severo and Rita Wilson.

May the new year bring you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful life.

In Ethical Love, Constance Pigozzi

January Platforms

January 4 *January Personal Retreat: The Need for a Daily Ethical Practice*

Without daily reflection and challenge, are we kidding ourselves about ethical living? The world within calls for reflection and quiet; the world without demands our attention lest we lose our place in the crowded public square. An Ethical Society has as its first priority the personal support and ethical inspiration of its members. Let's gather and reflect on ways to make that happen this year. With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

January 11 *Health, Wealth and the UN*

Should societies concentrate on treating illness or promoting wellness for their populations? What can we learn from both preindustrial and modern times to promote health in underdeveloped countries? Are inequalities in status harmful to our health? With Sylvain Ehrenfeld, retired Professor of Statistics and current AEU representative of the IHEU (International Humanist Ethical Union) at the UN.

January 18 *Martin Luther King, Jr: Reflection and Legacy*

This year, our platform on the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., will be the center of an intergenerational program focusing on communities and values and the heroes who embody those values for the community.

January 25 *Spirituality Without God*

What is a humanist perspective on spirituality? What do we mean by "spirituality"? What are humanistic "spiritual practices"? With Kate Lovelady, poet and writer, AEU Leader-in-Training and Leader Intern at the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture.

February 1 *Intentional Community*

What kind of communities are really needed, if we are to follow our hearts and our sense of responsibility into cultural, political, or family leadership regardless of its earning potential in the larger society? Why not try a more deliberate form of community here and now at BSEC? With Lisel Burns and Martha Gallahue, longtime member of Womanshare, a community of women exchanging services and resources on an equal time basis.

Platforms are held every Sunday morning, 11am-12:15pm, in the main hall of the Meeting House at 53 Prospect Park West, followed by a buffet or potluck lunch.

Celebrate Martin Luther King at BSEC

Sunday, January 18

10-10:45am: Children's Sunday Assembly (with guests) morning program will focus on doing social action together.

11:00am: Intergenerational Platform: *Martin Luther King, Jr: Reflection and Legacy: Communities, Values and Heroes*
1:30pm: Showing of videos open to the public, starting with "Counting On Democracy" by Danny Schechter of www.mediachannel.org.

Monday, January 19

3:30-6pm, Meeting Room

BUILDING THE

BELOVED COMMUNITY

From Systemic Racism to Racial Justice Sponsored by The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Uniting for Racial Justice: Truth, Reparations, Restoration and Reconciliation (UFORJE) Committee and The Brooklyn Community Action Network (BCAN)

This workshop will encourage participants to share their own understanding of racism, and provide historical information about racism, its connection to other forms of oppression, corporate power and war. It will also introduce our new 2004 comprehensive racial justice program, which grew out of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerances (WCAR), Durban South Africa, August, 2001.

Gwen Braxton, coordinator of the WILPF NY racial justice committee, will facilitate. Invite friends and neighbors and come meet other people interested in racial justice work. Details: Maureen Egginton (718-638-4767).

Dr. Martin L. King: HIS LEGACY

He offered us love and hatred killed him.
He offered us peace and war engulfed us.
He offered us brotherhood

and racists mocked his striving.

His prayers were scattered petals.

Yet he lives on, indestructible.

"I have a dream," he said: Freedom!

Articulating dreams of millions.

And we will follow in the path he blazed.

by Marshall F. Dubin

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST
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President: Constance Pigozzi

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Pledge Secretary: Ruth Pikitch

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AEU Board: Martha Gallahue 768-2972

Membership: Vijay Rao 768-2972

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Caring & Sharing:

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Platform: Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

Sunday School: Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

Building Rentals:

Rita Wilson, Linda Stallard 768-2972

Operations Manager:

James Alford 768-2972

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Peace Site: Maureen Egginton 638-4767

Coffeehouse: Linda Stallard 768-2972

Environment: Kurt Johnson 768-2972

Youth Group: Adriana Baker 768-2972

Ethically Speaking is published 6-10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue was produced by Martha Hoffman, Maureen Egginton, Lisel Burns, Rita Wilson, Roger Kaufman, Ruth Pikitch, and Tracey Jindyeh.

Ethically Speaking is written by a number of BSEC members. Views expressed in this publication are always open to friendly discussion. Our newsletter staff, like the membership at large, may vary in their thinking on many issues, yet we are all committed to putting deed before creed, and to strive constantly toward living out, each in our own particular way, the Ethical Ideal of eliciting the best from ourselves and others.

In Memorium: Walter Lawton

On November 20, Walter Lawton, a longtime Leader in the ethical movement died, in Teaneck New Jersey, in his 89th year. A memorial was held on December 20: Although Walter had been a member of the Bergen Society, large crowds were anticipated, so the service was held at the New York Ethical Society. Lisel Burns spoke on BSEC's and her own behalf and reported that the memorial lasted three hours because so many people wanted to speak. The following is an excerpt from Joe Chuman's eulogy published on the AEU website:

Walter was a devoted member of the Bergen Society, and a professional Ethical Culture leader for more than 40 years. He was born in Georgia and throughout his life retained his distinctive accent, as well as the manner of a southern gentleman. Forever open to new ideas and experiences, during his long and extraordinarily productive life Walter traversed an ever-widening intellectual and religious course. In his early years, he served in the Baptist ministry, but moved on to become a liberal religionist, first serving in the Unitarian movement. As a Unitarian minister, Walter founded a church in Hollis, Queens. Shortly thereafter, Walter moved to Ethical Culture and entered professional leadership. His work with Ethical Culture roamed broadly. At various times he served as the leader of the Chicago, Northern Westchester, Queens and Westchester Societies, in each venue earning the admiration and respect of many members and friends for his dedication and commitment to ethical ideals as well as to those whom he served. Walter also served as director of Camp Madison Felicia, brought his skills as an outdoorsman to the directorship of the Weis Ecology Center, and for a brief while was the AEU's leader-at-large.

With the exception of Algernon Black there perhaps has been no Ethical leader more committed to grass-roots activism than Walter Lawton. Though he was involved in the environmentalist movement and was committed to urban education, as well as programs to alleviate poverty, no passion consumed Walter's energies more than the cause of racial integration especially during the spirited days of the Civil Rights Movement. Walter was deeply invested in the Civil Rights Movement through work with the AEU's Southern Project on Race in Alabama and other endeavors. His grass roots work in the South, often in the face of racial tension and violence, involved considerable courage, and Walter at times put himself at serious personal risk. Though he never marched to Selma with Martin Luther King, he did march with King and get to know him personally through protests in the streets of Cicero, Illinois.

Despite his noteworthy accomplishments, Walter was a preeminently self-effacing man. Walter had an enduring, though quiet, strength that came from the confidence of his inner convictions. In the spirit of humanism he was also extraordinarily kind... Walter Lawton retained a curious mind till the last day of his life. He was an avid reader, always to new idea and pathways in life. When he was past 70, Walter embarked on a career as a psychotherapist, completing the required training, which many younger people would have found daunting.

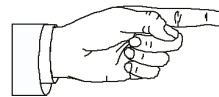
Walter leaves his beloved wife Edith, three children and three grandchildren. All those who were fortunate to have known Walter and to have been touched by his life will miss his graciousness, his sincerity, and his modest but unwavering commitment to the ideals to which he was so dedicated. His life will continue to inspire.

Membership News

Our sincere condolences to Rita Wilson on the death of her brother, Leroy Evans, on December 29. Judging from Rita's recounting of their conversations, he was a big-hearted, humorous, no-nonsense kind of man, who didn't back down from an argument or cut his sister any slack even as he grew increasingly ill and was hospitalized this fall. He will be missed even by some of us who did not know him in person.

January Birthdays: Dennis Stallard (4), Edmund Francis (12), Cameron Bossert (13), Andrew Newman (20), Noah Heacox (23), Bruce Leibowitz (31).

Members who have news for this page can email Martha Hoffman at mhof@mindspring.com



A Reminder!

Members who haven't done so, please fill out your pledge forms and return them to the BSEC Office, addressed to the attention of Ruth Pikitch. Also, please complete your pledge!

Program leaders are working on program plans and publicity needs for winter and spring. Contact Erika Hawkins or Les Lopes for Life and Ethics workshop ideas by mid January.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR PEACE

In a Global Movement, UNESCO launched the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, which includes the following:

Manifesto 2000

- ∑ Respect the life and dignity of every person without discrimination or prejudice;
- ∑ Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;
- ∑ Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;
- ∑ Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity giving preference always to dialogue and listening rather than fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;
- ∑ Promote consumer behavior that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;
- ∑ Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles; in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

Please consider signing the Manifesto 2000, an interactive network for information exchange on events that promote one or more of the "eight keys" of a culture of peace and support the global movement for a culture of peace; go to: <http://cpnn-usa.org/learn/peacekeys>

We can share Manifesto 2000 with family, workplace, friends and community to give others the same opportunity of engagement. The BSEC Peace Site objective is to collect as many signatures as possible by the Peace Site Award Platform in May. Printed copies will be made available for signature.

Call Maureen Egginton, 718-638-4767, or email BsecPeace@yahoo.com for more information.

Help for the victims of the Iranian Earthquake can be donated through the Red Cross at 1-800-helpnow and through Doctors Without Borders Donor Services team at (212) 655-3757, Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm or email donations@msf.newyork.org.

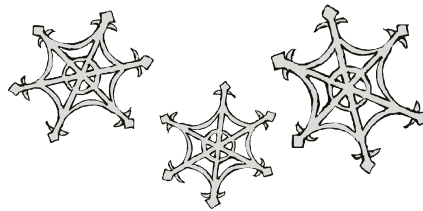
Caring Sharing Committee

For many years I have belonged to HIP, which is an HMO. I understand that there will be a new effort to get Medicare clients to get into HMOs. I understand that Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield has recently started to administer a Medicare HMO. I am meeting with an account executive from Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield to see if I can find out their reasons for thinking they are better than HIP. I do know that their directory of Participating Physicians is over an inch thick.

If any of you have had bad experiences with a Medicare provider please let me know at RKaufman33@aol.com and I assure you confidentiality. We will NOT use your name EVER.

I am currently trying to find a satisfactory Assisted Living residence for one of our members. Again if you have either a bad or good experience to report - confidentiality is assured.

I will be taking a series of free courses offered about various benefits by the Community Service Society of New York starting in January. I will notify you in this newsletter in the future months of anything new in benefits. - Roger Kaufman



Member Interests: Community Begins At Home

Roger Kaufman's interests in building community begin with the community he has created in his own home: Roger has filled his new home in Kensington, renting rooms to students and young professionals from France, Turkey and the US. His household now includes a writer, a retired minister, a Turkish architect who makes his own yogurt, a French student doing her year abroad working as an intern at the middle east desk of the NGO Human Rights Watch, a freshman at Hunter-CUNY majoring in history, and a Special Ed teacher from the NYC Department of Education. Roger is also exploring the purchase of another house in the area, this time as an assisted living household, where several BSEC members will team up to provide a caring living and learning place for residents and music or learning events for the neighborhood.

Benefit Concert at BSEC "Winter Celebration"

Bach at Zion

Baroque Chamber Concert:

Vivaldi, Telemann, Handel

with Michele Eaton, Soprano

Kathy McDonald, Baroque Flute

Rebecca Pechefsky, Harpischord

Sunday, January 25, 3 pm

Admission: \$15, includes wine reception

This was rescheduled from December 6, which was cancelled due to weather.

Community Partners:

Despite the blustery snow on Sunday December 14, several Children's Assembly families and other members spent the Winter Festival making care packages for Gethsemane Church's prisoner-care program, putting together school supplies for Headstart students in Sunset Park, decorating cookies and having a Festival of Light Ceremony. The work was appreciated! We received the following note from Gethsemane Church:

Dear Lisel and BSEC,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the recent donation of the care packages for members of our Project Connect Program.

The packages were wonderfully done and rest assured that they will be greatly appreciated by the prisoners we send them to. In this Season, where people get caught up with the rush of trying to get stuff done, it is very reassuring to know that some time is still put aside to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you once again, and on behalf of the congregation and members of Gethsemane, I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous new year.

You remain in our prayers. Yours truly,
Gerard Nagee



Waging Peace

Guatemalan woven (\$4) and beaded (\$6) bracelets and pens (\$3/2 for \$5) bearing the slogan "Wage Peace," are for sale with the profits going to Ethical Action and Peace Site. Please contact Diane Kirschner 718.499.4291 or kirschnerd@hotmail.com if you'd like to arrange a purchase. These make wonderful birthday, any-day gifts.

January Good Coffeehouse

January 9 Allison Kelley & Friends in a night of traditional singing and traditional songs.

January 16 Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop: Singer/songwriter Stephen Clair performs in a charming, octave-jumping deadpan style and offers thought-provoking songs that balance whimsy with pathos, angst with redemption, and horror with humor. -plus- Singer/songwriter Elisa Korenne blends husky vocals, engaging lyrics, and catchy melodies to create a raw, moody sound with a rock flair.

January 23 Special Performance -- *A Night of Magic*

Magic authority, performer, author and historian Richard Steven Cohn presents an array of magicians including outstanding comedy magician Jon Stetson; Boston's top magician, David Oliver, in his first Brooklyn appearance; off-Broadway magic star Michael Chaut; and man-of-mystery Diggy Fontaine. (Program subject to change.) Advance tickets (\$10 for all) available for this show only at Park Slope Copy, 123 7th Ave; tickets also available at the door on the evening of the performance.

January 30 *Straight Drive* is a NY/NJ-based bluegrass ensemble that is solidly grounded in the sounds of such legendary artists as the Carter Family, Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs while also performing original material. Fans of high-lonesome, traditional bluegrass will enjoy this band's first appearance at the Good Coffeehouse.

TICKETS: \$10 at door (\$6 for kids) - *except where noted*

Dzieci Theatre at the Brooklyn Museum of Art

The Brooklyn Museum of Art celebrates the New Year with European flair at the next First Saturday on January 3 from 6 to 11 p.m. BSEC members Bob Strock and Martha Hoffman will be doing "medieval street theater" as part of Dzieci Theatre from 6-7:30. The evening also includes Hands-On Art workshops, curator talks about works in the newly re-opened European wing, free dance lessons, live music, and the BMA Winter Ball with music by the Vienna Festival Orchestra. Lisel is thinking about organizing a group to go: talk to her if you are interested.

RESISTANCE CINEMA: A Not In Our Name Collaboration with The Community Church of New York. FREE screenings with post-screening discussions with filmmakers and audience members. Sunday January 11, 1:30pm, 40 East 35th Street (between Park and Madison)

Plan Colombia: Cashing-in on the Drug-War Failure (58 minutes) Despite 20 years of drug wars in the Andes, cocaine imports in the US have increased two fold in the last ten years. This film sheds light on the complex issues of drug-trafficking and the civil struggle in Colombia.

Resisting the Empire (28 minutes) A tool to facilitate critique of the media's coverage and participation in the War on Iraq.

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Social Action Around the World

Members interested in reading positive and constructive news from all over the world relating to voluntary work, the work of the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and institutions engaged in improving the quality of life, might want to check out <http://www.goodnewsagency.org>. You can receive their newsletter directly via email, by contacting them at: s.tripi@tiscali.it Articles this month include news about international legislation to ban land mines, strategies to curb human trafficking in Eastern Europe, programs for young people to raise HIV/AIDS awareness, World Bank investments for agriculture and irrigation, and programs to improve the nutrition of Afghan schoolchildren and the attendance of girls in particular, which has improved to the point that there are now six girls for every ten boys attending school. The site provides links to all the organizations and projects that are profiled: It is an interesting and enlightening read.


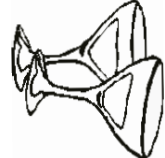

"We, The World" also has an informative website reflecting their commitment to creating a global strategy that can galvanize people around the world to awareness and action "human rights, ecology and animal concerns, peace and nonviolence, creating ethical economic systems, creating cultures of caring, self-sustaining green communities, personal and societal transformation, and many others whose work concerns the interests of literally billions of people and other life on our planet." Check them out at <http://www.wetheworld.org>

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture
53 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215



JANUARY 2004 at the BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 4 10am-12:30pm: Children' s Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: January Personal Retreat: The Need for a Daily Ethical Practice 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.	5 7-9pm: Storytelling Workshop	6 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women' s Chorus	 7 7pm:T' ai Chi	8 7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting 1 1:00pm: New Years Day Brunch	9 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation	10 17
11 10am-12:30pm: Children' s Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: Health, Wealth and the UN 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch	12 3:30-6pm: Workshop: Building the Beloved Community	13 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women' s Chorus	14 7pm:T' ai Chi	15 7:00pm: Platform Committee Meeting	16 8pm: Good Coffeehouse: Third Friday/ Park Slope Food Coop \$10 donation	17
18 10am-12:30pm: Children' s Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: Martin Luther King, Jr: Legacy 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch Afternoon: King Legacy Videos	19 3:30-6pm: Workshop: Building the Beloved Community	20 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women' s Chorus	21 7pm:T' ai Chi	22	23 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation	24
25 10am-12:30pm: Children' s Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: Spirituality Without God 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 3pm: Baroque Concert, \$15	26	27 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women' s Chorus	28 7pm:T' ai Chi	29	30 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation	 31