



## Life & Ethics A Lecture and Workshop Series for Personal Growth and Community Development

Dear Members and Friends,

The planning of our spring series "Life & Ethics" is well under way. Soon you will be receiving a brochure with detailed information about the program's cornucopia of topics and guest speakers, including civil rights lawyer (and BSEC Member) Charles Horwitz, conflict resolution expert Ellen Raider, and the award-winning poet and novelist Sapphire. You will use the registration form in the brochure to preregister for your choice of events — and enjoy various levels of discounted admission.

There is still time to get involved as a volunteer: Please contact me at (718) 625-2328. Most importantly, help us spread the word so that many newcomers — and oldcomers — will take advantage of this exciting new program. Thanks to all of you who took time to fill out our recent survey, your feedback is very helpful in shaping this series.

Christiane Siebert, *Life and Ethics* Coordinator

## February Platforms

This Season's Platform Theme is *Foundations of Ethical Living: Vision, Action, Practice, and Reflection*. The question of the year is "What is the Good Life?" How do we balance our outward and inward lives, and shape them into a coherent and ethical whole?

*Platforms will begin promptly at 11am.*

### February 3: *Inner Change to Outer Change*

Questioning our own intentions, deeds, and their consequences. What are your personal ethical challenges and what makes them important to you? We will hold a community conversation on volunteered examples of ethics in our everyday lives.

### February 10: *What Would Emerson Do? — And What We Must Do*

The Ethical Culture movement is Felix Adler's response to Ralph Waldo Emerson's call for a religion of ethics. What would Emerson do today in response to the terrorism we have experienced? What can we learn from this great American thinker? This platform address explores these questions and suggests a contemporary response. With Anne Klaeyens, BSEC Member and currently Leader-in-Training at the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

### February 17: *Personal and Favorite Poetry*

In honor of National Poetry Month, BSEC devotes a platform each year to the expressive power of language, as Members share their own poetry, or poems that hold great meaning in their lives. The offering is sure to include at least a few international selections. Constance Pigozzi, Platform Committee Chair, will preside.

### February 24: *Y.E.S. Group Annual Platform*

Members of BSEC's youth group (*Y.E.S. = Youth of the Ethical Society*) present their annual platform, which always makes for a provocative and engaging Sunday morning.

### March 3: *Street Children*

Robert Belenky, a dear friend of the BSEC Haiti projects, and Vermont psychologist working long time with youth and their families now spends his retirement traveling annually to Haiti and to Russia, working with youth there too, largely street children and children in orphanages. His extraordinary photos and stories of this work offer a chance to see and feel the world through the eyes of these children and come away with their and his hopes, as well as hardship.

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.

## A Message from The Ethical Action Committee General Meeting/Retreat February 23

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Ethical Action Committee has been inactive recently and we want to change that. Therefore, we are convening a meeting to solicit your ideas. The meeting will be Saturday, February 23, from 1 to 3pm in our library. Light refreshments will be served.

We want to brainstorm what projects we should add or discontinue and new ways to work more responsibly and effectively. In this regard, we want to identify new human and material resources, new ways to make our projects more meaningful and ways we can make our entire membership and community more vitally involved in ethical action.

As you may know, members of our Committee have been or are involved in many projects, including the following:

### Local and Domestic Issues:

- Universal health care
- Environment
- Fifth Avenue Committee (housing & jobs)
- CHIPS (homeless issues)
- Brooklyn Parents for Peace
- Separation of church and state
- Peace Site
- Million Moms March (gun control)
- Race discussions and reparations

### Global Issues

- Haiti-related projects
- National Service Conference
- Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue
- The Colombia Plan

Please let me know if you can attend our meeting, or if you have any questions or suggestions. You can reach me at (718) 230-3537, or at [chorwitz@earthlink.net](mailto:chorwitz@earthlink.net).

Fraternally,

Charles Horwitz

For the EA Committee

**Did you know** that each time you help us secure a private event rental of the Meeting House you contribute to our fiscal safety? Please refer interested friends and neighbors to Sheila Kosoff, our Business Manager, at the BSEC office for more information. Soon rental info will also be easily available on our website.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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**Building Manager:** Sheila Kosoff 768-2972

**Board Special Projects:** Tony Severo

**Peace Site:** Maureen Egginton 638-7095

**Coffeehouse:** Linda Stallard 768-2972

**Environment:** Kurt Johnson 768-2972

**Youth Group:**

Irene Baker, Tony Severo, Eddie Coyne

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Bob Strook, Lisel Burns, Rita Wilson, Constance  
Pigozzi, Charles Horwitz, and Christiane Siebert.

*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.

Donate \$25/Year  
to help support the newsletter  
(and stay on the mailing list)

## FEBRUARY 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

### Friday 2/1

**8pm:** Good Coffeehouse concert series presents multi-instrumentalist *Barry Kornhauser*, performing music with recent collaborators; also Margaret Morrison's birthday tap-dance extravaganza.

### Saturday 2/2

**10-11am:** *The Art of Belly Dancing.*

### Sunday 2/3

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *From Inner Change to Outer Change* with Lisel Burns.

### Monday 2/4

**7-9pm:** *Stone Soup Storytelling Group*, a workshop for storytellers of all levels of experience.

### Tuesday 2/5

**7:30-9pm:** *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. We believe every woman can sing! Join us. 768-2972 for info.

### Wednesday 2/6

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

### Friday 2/8

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents new-jazz sounds of the *Schanzer Speech Duo*, with Bernadette Speech and Jeffrey Schanzer, with guests Holland Hopson and John Jannone.

### Saturday 2/9

**10-11am:** *The Art of Belly Dancing.*

### Sunday 2/10

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *What Would Emerson Do?* with Anne Klæyssen.

### Tuesday 2/12

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

### Wednesday 2/13

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

### Friday 2/15

**8pm:** Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: an evening of jazz with the *Mike Amendola Group* and the *Rose Bartu Quartet.*

### Saturday 2/16

**10-11am:** *The Art of Belly Dancing.*

### Sunday 2/17

**10am-12:30pm:**

Children's Sunday Assembly.

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Personal and Favorite Poetry.*

### Tuesday 2/19

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

### Wednesday 2/20

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

### Friday 2/22

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents the world-renowned banjo wizardry of *Ken Perlman.*

### Saturday 2/23

**10-11am:** *The Art of Belly Dancing.*

**1-3pm:** *Ethical Action Retreat.*

### Sunday 2/24

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

**11am:** Annual Y.E.S. Sunday Platform.

### Tuesday 2/26

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

### Wednesday 2/27

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

### Friday 3/1

**8pm:** Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *K.J. Denhert*, soulful singer-songwriter, and *Jen Chapin*, singer-songwriter carrying on the tradition of her father Harry Chapin.

### Saturday 3/2

**10-11am:** *The Art of Belly Dancing.*

### Sunday 3/3

**10am-12:30pm:**

Children's Sunday Assembly.

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Street Children*, with Dr. Robert Belenky.

## Planning New BSEC Programs: Your Input Is Requested

BSEC is looking into the possibility of a number of new programs to offer at the Meeting House. We would like to get an idea of who would be interested in taking part, and at what times.

**Computer seminars**, led by two of BSEC's leading technical wizards, Steven Klips and Jason Dubin. Have all your questions answered on how to make your computer more useful and fun. We can hold these on Sunday afternoons or Wednesday evenings. They can also arrange home visits.

**Yoga class!** We have a Yoga teacher who is willing to tailor her classes to the BSEC community needs. Possible times would be Sunday before Platform, Thursday evenings, or an early weekday morning.

Contact the Leader's Office at 783-2298 to express your interest and your time preferences.

## Membership News

*New Member: Martha Gallahue.* Martha is a psychotherapist and a longtime resident of Park Slope. She has also had a long-standing relationship with Ethical Culture, and currently coordinates the National Service Conference, the AEU's NGO at the United Nations, and has decided to formally join the community here in Brooklyn.

The Life Reflection discussion groups continue to grow. A third group has formed that meets on Wednesday evenings, with two other groups meeting on Saturdays. Contact Kurt Johnson at [johnsk@coudert.com](mailto:johnsk@coudert.com) if you would like to take part in this fascinating program.

BSEC Members are able to raise funds for the projects through Lunch with the Bunch, our Sunday after-platform luncheon. Donna Roberts recently was able to raise over \$100 for the Women's Leadership Support Group and Y.E.S. Contact Fran Rabinowitz at the BSEC Office if you would like to sponsor a Lunch, or if you would like to donate a dish.