



## From the Leader's Desk: Making the Crucial Difference

I hold that purposes do matter and so does agreement at the most basic level of identity and moral values. I regard membership at BSEC not only as a commitment to a sincere dedication to ethical living in principle, but also to daily relations with fellow members.

When opposing groups or individuals frame their respective political and religious points of view as competitive, even mutually exclusive, defeat of the OTHER becomes our image of victory rather than uncovering ethical truths or a better world for all. In today's civic argument over Iraq, the government and the progressives can both err by mistaking their own partisan political positions for an overall standard for the nation. They forget the wisdom of the folk song, "Playing With Fire" that "God (or alternatively, the voice of conscience) is not a gun."

I don't feel deceived when Kofi Annan, The United Nations Secretary General, and in my

mind the "other" president of the world, sees world poverty and degradation as the real enemies to be vanquished and asks us to adopt a set of millennium goals for world development. His message is that disagreements don't have to violate ethical ideals.

But when our President describes the ultimate villain as international terrorism "targeting our American way of life and its symbols," his speechwriters and political advisors give him language designed to push strong religious and patriotic buttons.

With a shared vision, those buttons cannot be pressed so opportunistically. I think American identity and moral vision should be the core conversation for the upcoming election.

Not surprisingly, I think the core project at our little BSEC is also identity and moral vision, and then figuring out how to do our best to live in consonance with our best selves.

This spring's Life and Ethics Series will turn on Dr. Martin Luther King's call for a "values revolution." We will wonder what would be different if in the last 40 years we had dedicated more energy to personal and civic reflection on moral vision and core values for life in these United States and with the global family.

This winter, intentional community will be on BSEC minds and I recommend the February 1st platform where Martha Gallahue and I will review some of the benefits of the economic and timesharing cooperative and collaborative communities of which we have been a part. What better way to desegregate our economic and learning lives than to pool our efforts, resources and skills in a spirit of cooperation? Thus we become another thread in the vast fabric of global community-making in service to a vision of humanity's well being, all for one and one for all.

- *Lisel Burns*

### February Platforms

#### **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? With Lisel Burns and Martha Gallahue, longtime member of Womanshare ([www.womanshare.com](http://www.womanshare.com)), a community of women exchanging services and resources on an equal time basis.

#### **February 8** *Facing History and Ourselves: An Overview*

Join Tracy Garrison-Feinberg and Kevin Feinberg for an introduction to "Facing History and Ourselves," an award winning program training high school social studies teachers to address major ethical questions raised by historical events and issues, such as the Nazi period and holocaust studies, slavery in the US and contemporary reparations movements, and contemporary human rights abuse on a global basis ([www.facing.org](http://www.facing.org)).

#### **February 15** *BSEC Members' Report from Israel and Palestine*

Carol and Charles Horwitz will report on their two week trip to Israel and Palestine with human rights leaders. After lunch, discussion and a video of their trip will be presented at 1:30 pm in our library.

#### **February 22** *Unknown Voices*

In honor of Black History month, professor of English and Actress Cynthia Zakai Barksdale will present a program including tributes to Paul Robeson and to Nina Simone, along with various poems and readings exploring the Black Experience.

#### **February 29** *Progressive Politics in Hard Times*

These are bad times for the center-left side of American political opinion. At the national level, the debate we hear is mostly between the right and the far-right; ideas of equality and decency have lost ground as "the market" has triumphed. Still, most people hold reasonably humane views, this disjuncture between public opinion and public policy should, in fact, give us hope. Dan Cantor, who has been a community, labor, and political organizer for 25 years, will offer a perspective on how to make progressive views not just popular, but powerful.

*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.*

### February Guest Speakers

8th: Tracy Garrison-Feinberg has degrees in secondary education and history from the University of Texas at Austin. Kevin Feinberg has a B.A. in history from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in social studies education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Both have taught high school and are now staff members with Facing History and Ourselves.

15th: Charles and Carol Horwitz are long time activists for peace, justice and civil rights. Charles is a labor lawyer and Chair of BSEC's Ethical Action Committee; Carol is an attorney representing AIDS organizations.

22nd: Cynthia Zakiah Barksdale received an M.F.A from Yale School of Drama, M.A. from Adelphi University and B.F.A from Howard University. She is presently a Professor of English at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Connecticut where she produces an annual event honoring Paul Robeson, featuring such legendary artists as Oscar Brown, Jr.

29th: Park Slope resident Dan Cantor was labor coordinator for Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1988 Presidential campaign and has worked across the country to build multi-racial, class-oriented coalitions. He has written numerous articles on American politics, and is co-author, with Juliet Schor, of "Tunnel Vision."

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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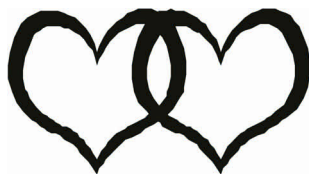
**Peace Site:** Maureen Egginton 638-4767

**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.



A great big thank you to Gary Schechter, who has very generously made a donation of \$5,000 to BSEC! This timely gift will be put to excellent use in keeping our building safe, healthy and beautiful. Gary is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees and we thank you for your hard work and support as well as kindness.



### Caring Sharing Committee

*Love as a main ingredient*

'Tis February, the month of Valentine's Day and the Sharing and Caring Committee is discussing the subject of love.

Love is good for you; along with spinach; so, I recommend love as a means for lengthening and improving the quality of life. Love as an antidote to stress.

Here are some thoughts about foods and long life. Since the way to a man or woman's heart is through his or her stomach, think about food as a tool for reaching that sought after "karma" of life. The typical American diet is low in fiber, and 35% of elderly Americans suffer from just one digestive disease - diverticulitis.

Some tips: Add some beans to your menu. I eat bean paste and bean salads and put beans in my soups. Try to get some of your sugar energy from fruits. Boil your beef and skim off the fat (I do not follow this one). Living in a house with six individuals, I have found that food becomes like religion and it is difficult to get anybody to change his or her diet. I hope someday to write a cookbook featuring mildly spiced food as medicine for a healthy, long life.

When it comes to portions - moderation in all foods but not in hugs and kisses. Happy Healthy Valentines Day.

*- Roger Kaufman*

Many thanks to Dr. Abe Lieberman who has added to his previous generous donations with a new gift of \$1000 for the Memorial Garden.

Thank you as well to Lisel's beloved aunt, Mary Ann Stewart, for her donation of \$1500 to BSEC for clergy-related expenses.

Rita Wilson wishes to send her heartfelt thanks to all the folks who sent cards, kind words, and condolences to her and her family this past month.

Josie Radosta dropped the Society a thank you for the birthday card sent by Ruth Pikitch. Several members have in fact asked that the newsletter extend thanks to Ruth for sending out birthday cards each month. The newsletter editor thought the card she received in November of an elderly peasant woman gesticulating like she was giving a lecture in life seemed particularly appropriate in honor of her big 40th b-day!



### Membership News

Lisel recently received the following note she thought others might like to see:

Dear Lisel,

Thank you for recommending Donna Roberts to us for the performance of our wedding. Donna put so much care into her words, both written and spoken for our ceremony! It was everything we had hoped it would be. I've enclosed a check for the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture...

Best Wishes for the New Year,  
Lois Lefkowitz.



Congratulations to Annette Bernstein's daughter Claudia, who just finished up a two and a half year Masters Degree course at the Pratt Institute to become a school librarian. A party was held to celebrate and thank the many people who helped along the way to make this a reality. Annette is very proud of Claudia and we all wish her luck in the future. Claudia is looking for a 2-bedroom apartment and would appreciate any leads. You may reach her at (718)256-7664 or email claudiaBina@aol.com. Condolences to Rashida Meah Kahn on the death of her mother in December. Rashida has gone to Bangladesh for several weeks to be with her family.

Congratulations to Donna Roberts and Leonora Lukon, who celebrated their 20th anniversary together January 1st.

Dorothy Klein has returned to better health and it has been good to see her at several BSEC events lately.

Liz Alexander has had another operation but is back at home.

Jonathan Wagnerman won \$130 in our 50/50 raffle drawing held January 1. Keep your eyes open for the next raffle - it's a great deal for the winners and for BSEC.

We will make a membership directory with pictures this winter! Melanie Richardson has agreed to chair the Membership Committee and we will be orienting interested newcomers through this spring, starting with a Relationship Building workshop February 8 after Platform and monthly suppers before the Friday coffeehouse. Please let us know if you have a friend who might like to know more about BSEC and our membership welcome programs, so we can reach out to them.

## REFLECTIONS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Color is not a human or a personal reality; it is a political reality.

- James Baldwin, "The Fire Next Time" (1963)

The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice.

I had no alternative.

- Paul Robeson, actor and activist

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### *On peaceful means*

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

#### *On six principles of nonviolence*

- Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage
- Nonviolence seeks reconciliation, not defeat of an adversary
- Nonviolent action is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying an evil-doer
- A willingness to accept suffering for the cause, if necessary, but never to inflict it
- A rejection of hatred, animosity or violence of the spirit, as well as refusal to commit physical violence
- Faith that justice will prevail

#### *On the right time*

The time is always right to do what is right.

## Paul Robeson Honored

Abe Lieberman sent in the following note and bit of verse: On Sunday February 22, we will be honored with a platform on Paul Robeson (along with other voices of the African American experience). To honor the good deeds of this man, the U.S. Postal



Service will be issuing a 37-cent first class stamp in February 2004. I am happy that the U.S. Government has finally realized the true worth of this man, Paul Robeson.

Ev'ryone knows 'tis the season to be merry,  
And here are tidings I know that you will hail:  
Come next year in the month of February,  
There's a FIRST CLASS stamp  
For your FIRST-CLASS mail.

12/31/2003

Each Season the BSEC Membership Welcome Committee offers a series of workshops designed to introduce some basic ethical concepts we think are useful in building relationships and also information about the Ethical movement and the network of Societies, including the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

New members are asked to complete four workshops within 12 months of joining; newcomers usually take workshops in order to decide whether joining the BSEC community is a next step for their own personal and community development.

Any of the following can fulfill the "workshop" requirement:

\* Sunday, February 1: Intentional Community - Eliciting the Best in Everyone (11:00 platform meeting)

\* Sunday, February 8: Relationship Building (1 pm.) following the 11:00 platform, drawing on Lois Kellerman's book *Marriage from the Heart* as a background for conversation and communication/conflict skills as tools to share.

\* Sunday, February 15: 10-11am "Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture" before the 11:00 platform

\* Friday-Saturday, March 6-7: Overnight Retreat (at the Oaks in New Rochelle) "Life Based Upon a Powerful, Personal Faith in Humanity" (a fee is charged to cover lodging and food costs).

Please RSVP to the Leader's Office (783-2298) or [Liselburns@aol.com](mailto:Liselburns@aol.com)

## Ethics for Children Sunday Assembly

Winter Semester: Exploring Ethical Culture  
10am-12:30pm

February 1: Statement of Purpose. How does this compare to our family's statement of purpose?

February 8: What platforms do we like? What's our favorite part of platform and why?

February 22: What kind of "platform" experiences like church or synagogue did my parents experience growing up? What benefits did they have and how were they hard?

#### Class schedule

10-10:30: Free playground time in our wonderfully equipped outdoor space

10:30-11: Rotating schedule of art/movement/cooperative activity

11-12: Individual, age-appropriate classes

12-12:30: Closing circle: familiarize class with the formal Platform Meeting ceremonies, such as the milestones (sharing of birthdays or special events)

All welcome. Ages 3-14 with a special room for toddlers.

### Children's Musical

#### *How the First Word was Made*

Based on a story by Rudyard Kipling

Produced by Ari and Ben Kreith

Ages 3-adults

\$10 adult, \$8 per child CSA Benefit

Sunday, February 22: 3pm-4pm

Saturday, February 28: 12-1pm

Sunday, February 29 3-4pm

Each performance will be followed by a children's workshop led by art therapist Ari Kreith, giving the children an opportunity to create pictures to communicate a story that is important to them. All proceeds benefit the Ethics for Children Sunday Assembly.

### Family Night Out

Friday evening February 20 begins a Family program open to all ages at BSEC. On third Friday evenings from 6-9:30 pm. Parents can stay or go out after leaving children for a fun-filled evening with our CSA staff planning the program. Please tell your friends as membership is not required. We see this program as an affordable and needed community service. Our requirement is that the children are old enough to be left with our CSA staff for an evening.

Contact CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh for more information on the Sunday Program or any of these CSA-related events (718)748-7084 or [jindyeh@hotmail.com](mailto:jindyeh@hotmail.com)

## Bach at Zion at BSEC

January 25 was a sunny winter day, just right for an afternoon concert. The Meeting Room was graced by a beautiful hand decorated harpsichord, along with flute and soprano. The audience of about 40 music lovers from around the city enjoyed the program and a wine reception that followed, when visitors got a chance to meet the musicians, and BSEC members in attendance were happy to answer enquiries about the Society. Thanks to Constance Pigozzi for persevering and bringing this concert to us after a snow storm canceled the original performance. Proceeds from the concert benefited the Memorial Garden.



The Reflections Group continues to meet first Saturday in the afternoon 3-6 at Lisels. Newcomers welcome. Contact kurjoh@msn.com

## International Valentines Supper

Friday, February 13, 6:30: Newcomers and members are invited to join the membership committee before the Coffeehouse for supper: bring a potluck contribution or \$7.00 for Haitian food; proceeds will go to Haitian grassroots development projects. Please rsvp 783-2298.



I have a dream that someday when someone hears that you are a member of Ethical Culture they will say: Oh! Then you know how to listen, communicate and respect other peoples' worth and dignity.

I am trying to make this sort of skill building part of my practice of Ethical Culture. I know that others have also done so at various times in the past. Maybe some day this dream will be realized.

Yours in Ethical Fellowship,  
Randy Best  
North Carolina EC Society

## ETHICAL ADVERTISING

In order to defray the costs of our newsletter production and distribution, we are offering advertising to members and friends beginning in the March edition of Ethically Speaking. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to further a cause, a business opportunity, or give a personal greeting (Happy Anniversary, Congratulations, and such).

\$20 each business card size advertisement per insertion up to 4 times with a choice of months. 3 1/2" x 2" black and white. \$15 each for 5 to 10 insertions.

The editors reserve the right to approve each ad on its content and any mistakes will be handled with a replacement ad rather than a refund. Ads rejected due to space limitations will be given priority in the following issue. All ads need to be prepaid and the application should be accompanied with a check made out to the Society, with Newsletter Ads and the desired month in the memo line. Please send your information no later than the 15th of the month for insertion in the next month's newsletter. For further information please contact Maureen Egginton at [bsecPeace@aol.com](mailto:bsecPeace@aol.com) or (718) 638-4767.

## FUN(D) RAISING ARTS ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Lively Arts Adventures - with Joan Klips  
February 11 at 10am & February 13 at 6 pm. Tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, followed by lunch in their new cafeteria. RSVP by 9pm on February 10.

February 17 at 2pm & February 21 at 2 pm. Join us in viewing the exhibit "The Enduring Legacy of George Balanchine" at the Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts. Listen to taped interviews of Balanchine's principal dancers, and see a professional class on video - projected onto a large screen. Later, we'll eat at the newly-expanded cafeteria in Avery Fisher Hall. RSVP by 9pm on February 16.

All events have a \$5 fee to raise funds for Lay Leadership School this July. There is also an entrance fee for the Metropolitan Museum: some donation has to be made, though individuals can decide what amount to pay. RSVP for these activities to Joan at (718) 748-1127.



BSEC member Les Lopes and friend Janet Kaplan are involved in a couple of upcoming poetry readings:

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2004 7:30pm  
Janet Kaplan at the Community Bookstore of Park Slope (7th Av between Carroll Street & Garfield Place)


THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004 6:00pm  
Angelo Verga, Janet Kaplan, and Les Lopes at the Cornelia Street Cafe (between Bleecker and West 4th)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



# February 2004 at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: <i>Intentional Communities</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>	<p>2 7pm: Storytellers workshop</p>	<p>3 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>4 5:30-8:30pm: Non Violent Communications Workshop 7pm: T* ai Chi</p>	<p>5 7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>6 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation</p>	<p>7 7:45-9:45am: T* ai Chi 3-6pm: Reflections Group (at Lisel's)</p>
<p>8 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: <i>Facing History and Ourselves: An Overview</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 1pm: Workshop: Relationship Building</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>11 10am: Arts Adventures: Metropolitan Museum 7pm: T* ai Chi</p>	<p>12 7:00pm: Platform Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13 6pm: Arts Adventures: Metropolitan Museum 6:30 Valentines Dinner 8pm: Good Coffeehouse</p>	<p>14 7:45-9:45am: T* ai Chi </p>
<p>15 10-11am: Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture (workshop) 11am: <i>BSEC Members' Report from Israel and Palestine</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 1:30pm: Video and Discussion: Israel and Palestine</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 2pm: Arts Adventures: Lincoln Center 7:30-9pm: Women's Chorus</p>	<p>18 5:30-8:30pm: Non Violent Communications Workshop 7pm: T* ai Chi</p>	<p>19 7pm: Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>20 6-9:30pm: Family Night Out 8pm: Good Coffeehouse</p>	<p>21 7:45-9:45am: T* ai Chi 2pm: Arts Adventures: Lincoln Center</p>
<p>22 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: <i>Unknown Voices</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus</p>	<p>25 7pm: T* ai Chi</p>	<p>26 7pm: Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:45-9:45am: T* ai Chi</p>
<p>29 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 10-11am: CSA Parents Meeting 11am: Platform: <i>Progressive Politics in Hard Times</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>						



## February Good Coffeehouse

**February 6** *John Hasbrouck* has been honing his skills as an acoustic guitarist for more than a quarter century. His highly personal fingerstyle and bottleneck guitar playing takes its inspiration from traditional, roots and contemporary American and world music, as well as artists such as Charley Patton, Michael Hedges and John Fahey. Hasbrouck's first CD, *Ice Cream*, was called one of the best CDs of 2002 by Acoustic Guitar magazine. He lives in Chicago. This is his first Brooklyn appearance.

**February 13** *Ken Perlman* is a pioneer of the 5-string banjo style known as "melodic clawhammer" and a master of fingerstyle guitar. He is considered one of the top clawhammer players in the world, known in particular for his skillful adaptations of Celtic tunes to the style. On guitar, Ken's finger-picked renditions of traditional Celtic and Southern fiddle tunes are not to be missed. Ken is also an acclaimed teacher of folk-music instrumental skills. He has written several widely respected banjo and guitar instruction books and has been on staff at prestigious teaching festivals around the world.

**February 20** Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop:

"Fine musicians seem to be among Iceland's most visible exports these days, and pianist *Sunna Gunnlaugs* is proof that jazz is as much a part of the picture as the pop of Bjork or Sigur Ros." -*Time Out New York*. She and her quintet play compositions fusing her native Icelandic folk music and jazz with lyricism and grace.

*Ohad Talmor* (saxophonist & composer) and quartet perform radical jazz originals. As an arranger/composer, his writing includes pieces for the Brecker Brothers, Lee Konitz, Steve Swallow as well as music written for leading classical musicians such as Martha Argerich, the Spring String Quartet in Austria and the Axis String Quartet in New York.

**February 27** *River Alexander* is a songwriter, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist (guitar, violin, harmonicas, mouth harp, tin whistle) who draws deeply from the wellsprings of rural blues, traditional Irish music and early jazz. Recipient of an NEA meet-the-composer grant and winner of the 1994 Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Ceoil (traditional Irish music competition) on harmonica, he has performed at Symphony Space, Merkin Concert Hall, Lincoln Center and The Smithsonian as well as at dances, house parties and the sidewalks of New York.

*TriBoro* hails from the boroughs of New York, but looks beyond the Hudson, to other places and other times, for songs and inspiration. They are an acoustic vocal trio that applies fine three-part harmony to an eclectic mix of musical genres – old-time, country & western, bluegrass and more. TriBoro is Phyllis Elkind (Manhattan), Don Friedman (Brooklyn) and Evy Mayer (the Bronx).

TICKETS: \$10 at door (\$6 for kids)