



## Life & Ethics Series Opens March 6

BSEC's *Life & Ethics Series* will have its opening event on Wednesday evening March 6 at 7:30pm, when *Lisel Burns* leads a dialogue entitled *Ethics In Our Lives*, as she explores how the core ideas of Ethical Culture can be a source of concepts and values to inform the choices we make in our individual lives. The cost for the workshop is \$10, \$8 for BSEC Members.

The next Life & Ethics Workshop will be held Wednesday March 20, 7:30pm: *The Healing Power of Writing*, with the award-winning poet and novelist *Sapphire*, as she introduces us to the power of the creative writing process to help us begin to face and heal our traumas through story, poetry and song. This workshop is \$12, \$10 for BSEC Members.

On Sunday, March 24, 2-6pm, the Life & Ethics Series will host a special event: a four-hour *Quality Management Workshop*, with internationally acclaimed quality leadership consultant *Linda Bankoski*, who will offer us a values-based approach to group and project management where excellence is a mutually agreed aim and everyone's initiative is encouraged. This special event is \$25, \$22 for BSEC Members.

Early Bird discounts of \$2 are available up to seven days before each event. Registration forms are available from the BSEC Office, or online at [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org). You can also check the website for upcoming Life & Ethics events in April and May. We hope you can join us for one or all of the workshops in this exciting new series!

## Ethical Action News

A robust and lively session of the Ethical Action Committee on Feb. 23 discussed the crucial need to involve the whole Society in its projects. Accordingly, it agreed to meet again soon to prioritize its goals and present them at a Society-wide meeting. A preliminary plan was proposed which balances personal and community ethical development with modes of action which focus on specific areas of need. An annual "Ethical Audit" will help ensure that Society resources are being employed effectively to those ends.

In addition to its past projects, the EAC is considering heightened support for immigrants' rights in the wake of 9/11, and the need to learn more about our government's foreign policies, especially those involving the Middle East. The EAC also agreed to explore artistic and cultural work as a valid avenue for Ethical Action.

## March 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.*

### March 3: *Street Children*

Robert Belenky is a dear Friend of the BSEC Haiti projects, who, as a psychologist in Vermont worked extensively with youth and their families in that state. He now spends his retirement traveling annually to Haiti and to Russia, working with youth in those nations, largely street children and children in orphanages. His extraordinary photos and stories of this work offer a chance for us to see and feel the world through the eyes of these children, and come away with a sense their and his hopes, as well as hardships.

### March 10: *The Equal Rights Amendment is Alive and Well*

Dr. Dorie Rothman has been a psychotherapist for more than 40 years. She is the co-founder of the ERA Campaign Network and has been the New Jersey ERA coordinator since its founding. This Network is dedicated to the work of seeing that the major flaw in our Constitution be corrected by the addition of the Equal Rights Amendment, which is now only three states away from being ratified.

### March 17: *What is a Family? Issues Facing Gay and Lesbian Parented Families Today*

Come to a community conversation with people who deal directly with the discrimination and legal restrictions that confront alternative families wishing to adopt and raise children. The panel will include Cheryl Perlman, a therapist on these issues, Ernesto Muestre, who is in the planning stages of adoption, and Rebecca Lurie, co-parent, with Ellie Spicer, of Tyler and Cameron of the BSEC Children's Sunday Assembly. Also invited will be Terry Bogis, from the Centerkids Program of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Manhattan. After lunch we will offer an entertaining 30-minute video *That's a Family: A Film for Kids about Diversity* by Deborah Chasoff, which reviewers say "breaks new ground on helping kids see and understand many of the different shapes that families take today."

### March 24: *Where Exactly Will My Serenity Be Located? A Conversation About Place and Promise in Ethical Relationships*

Most of us have one or more special places in memory, where life balanced out, as in Churchill's "Home is wherever we spent our summers as a child." Come and share memories of places and times when the world softened and we found rest. Can those feelings be reclaimed through the promises of deliberate community today? Co-facilitated by Lisel Burns and Kurt Johnson.

### March 31: *Spring Colloquy*

The Colloquy is a mediative, participatory Ethical Culture service, with music, sharing, and reflection on the themes of the season.

### April 7: *Raising Moral Children: Philosophy for Children and Other Great Resources for Families and Communities*

What can we do to help children develop strong reasoning and moral judgment in an age of sound bytes and instant gratification? With David Kennedy, Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children at Montclair State University. After Lunch, Dr. Kennedy will lead a workshop in the techniques of Philosophy for Children for parents, educators, and interested others.

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. Please stop by!

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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*Ethically Speaking* is published 6-10 times a year  
by BSEC. This month's issue was produced by  
Bob Strook, Lisel Burns, Charles Horwitz, Tracey  
Jindyeh, Constance Pigozzi, 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  
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# MARCH 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

## Friday 3/1

**8pm:** The 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 Assembly.

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

## Monday 3/4

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

## Tuesday 3/5

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

## Wednesday 3/6

### Life & Ethics Series

**7:30-9:30pm:** *Ethics In Our Lives.*

**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.* Bring  
your instruments, friends, and a snack to share.

## Friday 3/8

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series  
presents husband-and-wife duo *Kate & Lou*, who  
will team up with friends for a rousing evening of  
American roots music.

## Saturday 3/9

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

## Sunday 3/10

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *The ERA is Alive and  
Well* with Dr. Dorie Rothman.

**2pm:** *Children's Sunday Assembly Ice Skating  
Fundraiser* at Wollman Rink in Prospect Park.

## Tuesday 3/12

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

## Wednesday 3/13

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

## Friday 3/15

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series  
presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food  
Coop: *Zen Music, Zen Words*, a program of  
Japanese shakuhachi music and Zen koans.

## Saturday 3/16

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

## Sunday 3/17

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *What Is a Family?*

**1pm:** Video Presentation: *That's a Family.*

## Tuesday 3/19

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

## Wednesday 3/20

### Life & Ethics Series

**7:30-9:30pm:** *The Healing Power of Writing.*

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

## Friday 3/22

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series  
presents Crossroads Music Awards finalists  
*Ellsworth and Hicks*, guitar ace *Jon Kolleeny*,  
and singer-songwriter *Patrick Wicker*.

## Saturday 3/23

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

## Sunday 3/24

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

**11am:** *Where Exactly Will My Serenity Be  
Located?* with Lisel Burns.

### Life & Ethics Series

**2-6pm:** *Quality Management Workshop.*

## Tuesday 3/26

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

## Wednesday 3/27

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

## Saturday 3/30

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

## Sunday 3/31

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Spring Colloquy.*

## Monday 4/1

**7-9pm:** *Stone Soup Storytelling Group.*

## Tuesday 4/2

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

## Wednesday 4/3

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

**6:30-10pm:** *Pinewoods Folk Open Sing.*

## Friday 4/5

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series pre-  
sents gifted singer-songwriter *Jane Barnett*; also  
*The Garden Verge*, urban folk music with Tammy  
Greenstein & Doris Muramatsu.

## Saturday 4/6

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

## Sunday 4/7

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Raising Moral Children.*

**1-2pm:** Workshop in Philosophy for Children.

## CSA Fundraiser On Ice for March 10

Please come on Sunday, March 10 at 2pm to our ice-skating fundraiser at the Kate Wollman Rink in Prospect Park for an afternoon of fun. Enter the park at the Parkside and Ocean Avenue entrance. Admission to the rink is \$4 for adults and \$2 for seniors and children under age 14.

Hire a volunteer for \$10 an hour to teach your child how to skate or watch your children too young to skate. Buy a snack bag for \$3 at the rink. All money goes directly to the Sunday School.

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh at [jindyeh@hotmail.com](mailto:jindyeh@hotmail.com) or (718) 748-7084. We are looking for people of all ages.

If you think your family would like to hire a volunteer please also contact Tracey to help line one up. Please tell a friend to join us. See you on the ice!