



## War Tax Resistance Workshop, Sunday April 13th:

The BSEC Ethical Action Committee is co-sponsoring a workshop on War Tax Resistance at BSEC being led by the highly-respected anti-war group, the *War Resisters League*, on Sunday April 13th at 1:30pm in the BSEC Library.

Herb Dalin, a beloved BSEC member, teacher, and classical musician, has arranged for long-time peace activists, war resisters, and neighbors, Ed Hedemann and Ruth Benn, to meet with us. The workshop will include topics such as current military spending, what war taxes are, reasons and methods for refusing to pay them, legal consequences of resistance, resources and support for tax resisters, and the history of war tax resistance.

In 1982, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, in response to a march for nuclear disarmament, remarked, "Let them march all they want, just so long as they continue to pay their taxes."

## BSEC Fundraiser, 50/50 Raffle:

Beginning with the April 6 Sunday Platform, 50/50 raffle tickets will be available at \$5 each. The 2002 winner received over \$600, and with your help and participation, we hope to increase this amount significantly.

Also, there will be many extra prizes so please try your luck. The drawing will be held at the opening Platform in September. Anyone holding unused tickets from last year, please bring them to the office.

## Mourning Our Loss

We regret to announce the death of longtime member Ruth Stern. There will be a memorial service at BSEC Saturday, April 5, at 1pm, led by Lisel Burns. Our condolences go out to Ruth's daughters Anna and Leah, her son David, and their families.

## April 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.

### April 6: *Ethics On the Edge: Communities, Moral Boundaries, and Doing Good*

Embedded in any value system are limitations to those values, where the ideals of a perfect morality come up against the realities of the material world. How do we define these moral boundaries in our own lives? Does it bother us to think that our ideals might have limits? How do we match our personal core values and moral boundaries with those of groups and communities we choose to affiliate ourselves with (or create one if none exist), and agree to hold ourselves accountable to? Join BSEC Leader Lisel Burns for a rich discussion.

### April 13: *Spring Festival: Conflict Resolution*

Join the students of the Children's Sunday Assembly, CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh, and special guest Ellen Raider for this year's Spring Festival, with the theme of *Conflict Resolution*. Children and grownups alike can take part in stories, activities, and exercises to help all of us hone our skills in resolving conflicts peacefully.

### April 20: *Spring Colloquy*

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

### April 27: *Peace Site Platform: Brooklyn Parents for Peace*

See the article on this page.

### May 4: *An America "Which Never Has Been, and Yet Must Be"*

With Langston Hughes' haunting image of the America "not yet" we feel the prophetic power of culture to tell hard truths in heart language. With a national government acting as if we are not only "already" the "best" nation we can be, but also proclaiming our ideals as morally superior to those of the rest of the world, perhaps our patriotism is best spent in a search for a language that speaks to a national "wisdom of insecurity" (in the words of Allan Watts), facing up to both subcultural and overall national shadows. With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns and Les Lopes, local poet.

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.

## BSEC Peace Site Award

**This Year's Recipients:  
Brooklyn Parents for Peace &  
Brooklyn Heights Peace Action**

### Platform Sunday April 27th, 11am

Brooklyn Parents for Peace and Brooklyn Heights Peace Action have been chosen as joint recipients of BSEC's 2003 Peace Site Award. They will be recognized at our Peace Site Sunday Platform on April 27th at 11am. A workshop and informal discussion with the awardees will follow the Platform.

We salute BPFPP/BHPA for practicing what they preach, and for their perseverance, commitment, energy, courage, and intellectual vigor in fighting for peace and social justice. Jointly, they have held countless rallies, teach-ins, marches, vigils and peace demonstrations. They have also raised thousands of dollars for anti-war ads in local newspapers.

Brooklyn Parents for Peace was founded 20 years ago, and some of the original parents are now grandparents. Since then, BPFPP has grown and has 1,500 supporters. Many BPFPP/BHPA members are university professors whose views are regularly solicited by the media. Co-chairs of BPFPP are Carolyn (Rusti) Eisenberg, a history professor at Hofstra, and Charlotte Phillips, a pediatrician.

Brooklyn Heights Peace Action is part of the group, formerly SANE/Freeze, which has been working for peace since 1957 and has affiliates in 27 states and 100 local chapters, including Brooklyn. Members come from all walks of life, work in all kinds of jobs, and are people of many faiths and many racial and ethnic backgrounds. Jaki Williams Florsheim, diversity coordinator at Packer Collegiate Institute, and Henry Florsheim, an accountant for Citibank, are co-chairs of BHPA.

For the past year, BSEC has provided space for the organizations' joint monthly meetings.

The *Children's Sunday Assembly Stoop Sale* will take place on Sunday, April 27th and Sunday, May 4th from 11am to noon. They would like donations of children's toys, children's books and children's clothes (no adult clothes or furniture or household items). They also need volunteers. Please contact Tracey Jindyeh at 718-748-7084 or via e-mail [jindyeh@hotmail.com](mailto:jindyeh@hotmail.com) for more information.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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**Leader:** Lisel Burns

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**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

## APRIL 2003 BSEC CALENDAR

### Tuesday 4/1

**7:30-9pm:** *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. We believe every woman can sing! Call 718-965-0720 for details.

### Wednesday 4/2

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan with J.P. Harpignes. \$13/class; \$40 for 4; BSEC members free.

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

### Friday 4/4

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *New Translations*, featuring Barry Kornhauser on cello and Kyoto Kitamura on vocals.

### Sunday 4/6

**10-10:50am:** Yoga Class.

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Communities, Moral Boundaries, and Doing Good* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

**12:30pm:** **BSEC Town Meeting.**

### Monday 4/7

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

### Tuesday 4/8

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

### Wednesday 4/9

**7:30-9:30pm:** Life & Ethics Series: *Building Beloved Communities.*

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

### Friday 4/11

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents an evening of traditional American music with *The Otis Brothers* and *The Gowanus Canal Hotshots.*

### Sunday 4/13

**10-10:50am:** Yoga Class.

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Spring Festival* with Tracey Jindyeh and the students of the Children's Sunday Assembly.

**1:30-3pm:** *War Tax Resistance Workshop.*

### Tuesday 4/15

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

### Wednesday 4/16

**7:30-9:30pm:** Life & Ethics Series: *Sexual Exiles: Choosing between being true to oneself and one's country.*

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

### Sunday 4/20

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

### Tuesday 4/22

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

### Wednesday 4/23

**7:30-9:30pm:** Life & Ethics Series: *From Rock-n-Roll to Hip Hop: Moral Voices in Today's Music.*

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

### Friday 4/25

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *Kate & Lou*, plus *Pat Wictor.*

### Sunday 4/27

**10-10:50am:** Yoga Class.

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Peace Site Award* with Brooklyn Parents for Peace.

**12:30-2pm:** Peace Site Workshop.

### Tuesday 4/29

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

### Wednesday 4/30

**7:30pm:** Life & Ethics Series: *Couples and Ceremonies: Should We or Shouldn't We?*

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

### Friday 5/2

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents a special event: bluegrass gospel legends *The Sullivan Family*, in their first show in New York City since the early 80s. *Limited seating*, call 718-965-8490 for more information.

### Sunday 5/4

**10-10:50am:** Yoga Class.

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *An America "Which Never Has Been, and Yet Must Be"*

**And don't forget... May 23-26**

**American Ethical Union Assembly at the Philadelphia Ethical Society.**

## Life & Ethics Series 2003

How are our inner lives, our relationships, and our roles in society affected by our ethical understandings? The BSEC Life & Ethics Series 2003 offers opportunities to explore the moral meanings in a variety of topics, and their relationship to our evolving life choices. Find out how ethical inquiry can enhance self-reflection, artistic expression, and the processes leading to conflict resolution and constructive social action. Facilitators will share their own experiences and insights while encouraging others to do the same. Join us for the entire series or one or more workshops. Contact the BSEC Office to register, or see our website ([bsec.org](http://bsec.org)) for more info.

### Wednesday, April 9, 7:30-9:30pm

*Building Beloved Communities:* a moral conversation with Gwendolyn Braxton.

### Wednesday, April 16, 7:30-9:30pm

*Sexual Exiles:* a documentary film on choosing between being true to oneself and one's country, followed by a discussion with the director Irenie Sosa.

### Wednesday, April 23, 7:30-9:30pm

*From Rock-n-Roll to Hip-Hop:* moral voices in today's music, facilitated by Mark Naison.

### Wednesday, April 30, 7:30-9:30pm

*Couples and Ceremonies:* Should we or shouldn't we? facilitated by Donna Roberts, Rita Wilson, and Lisel Burns.

### Saturday May 17, 3-5pm

*Coming Home:* developing resources for grounding a life, facilitated by Lisel and Stephanie Burns.

### Wednesday, May 28, 7:30-9:30pm

*Spiritual Activism:* a discussion on the role of contemplation in a time of crisis, with Martha Gallahue and Kurt Johnson.

Watch for a Conflict Resolution workshop in May, and a BCAN benefit dinner and screening of the documentary *Counting on Democracy*, with director Danny Schechter, on May 17th at 6pm.

Workshops are \$10 each, \$60 for the series of seven (BSEC members \$7/\$50). Register at least one week prior to each workshop and receive a \$1 discount.