



Life & Ethics Series

Perspectives of the Islamic World Wednesday May 8, 7:30pm

BSEC's Life & Ethics Series continues on May 8 with *Perspectives of the Islamic World*.

Ervand Abrahamian offers a critical response to the narrow-minded portrait of the crisis in the contemporary Middle East in the American media. Mr. Abrahamian is Distinguished Professor of History at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of CUNY. In his published works he explores social and political issues in the Middle East from a historian's perspective. He is an Armenian born and raised in Iran. He now lives in Brooklyn.

Conflict as Opportunity Wednesday May 29, 7:30pm

The Life & Ethics Series concludes its season on May 29 with *Conflict as Opportunity*.

When conflicts are handled badly they result in anger and frustration; when handled well they can be a source of growth. Learn how to deal productively with conflicts at home and work from Ellen Raider, who has taught conflict resolution throughout the world and was co-founder of the International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The cost for each workshop is \$12, \$10 for BSEC Members, with a \$2 discount if you reserve seven days prior to the event. See our website (bsec.org) for more information.

May 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?

May 5: Peace Site Platform

BSEC honors Rita Lasar, who lost her brother in the World Trade Center attacks, and then went to Afghanistan with other 9/11 survivors to meet with, and call world attention to, Afghani people who have lost family members in the conflict there.

May 12: Mother's Day Colloquy

A reflective, participatory Ethical Culture service. With music, meditation, and sharing on the theme of motherhood.

May 19: Recognition Day

Students of the Children's Sunday Assembly.

May 26: Memorial Day Platform

Celebrate the lives of those who have left us.

June 2: Membership Sunday

Join us to welcome formally and hear from the people who have made the decision to join the BSEC community this past season.

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 Debate Over Israeli Past Learning Event at BSEC Thursday May 2nd, 7pm

Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives is presenting a series of Learning Events on the theme *Thinking About Israel?* co-sponsored by the Park Slope Jewish Center. BSEC is proud to host the first event, Thursday May 2nd, 7-9pm, with *Contested Territory, Contested Identities: Historians' Debate Over the Israeli Past*, with Dr. Uri Ram of the New School University & Ben Gurion University.

Other events in the series will take place at Kolot Chayeinu, 1012 8th Ave, between 10th & 11th Streets in Park Slope. Call 390-7493 for more information.

Peace Site Platform May 5 - Rita Lasar

Every year BSEC gives a Peace Site Award to an individual or group who has made great contributions to the cause of peace in the world, and invites them to speak at one of our Sunday Platforms. This year we are proud to announce that the award goes to Rita Lasar. Join us on Sunday May 5 at 11am, to honor Rita and hear about her trip to Afghanistan with other 9/11 survivors. She met with bereaved Afghan families and shared her own grief over the loss of her brother, who had stayed behind to help a paraplegic friend after the towers had been hit. Through Global Exchange, Rita is a founding member of the group *September Eleventh Families For Peaceful Tomorrows*.

Please come and share, food, music, and your thoughts and hopes for peace at the BSEC Meeting House, the first building designated as a "Peace Site" in New York City in the 1970s. Video following Lunch.

Ethical Action News

BSEC sponsored a well-attended Life and Ethics workshop on spirituality and social action on April 17th.

Members marched in Washington DC on April 20, to protest our government's foreign policies and repressive domestic policies.

BSEC has continued to host meetings of the *Dialogue Project* Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue Group. This past month, group members were interviewed by WNYC and PBS. Several BSEC Members participate in Dialogue meetings.

BSEC members have marched for 13 straight Saturdays to protest the denial of civil liberties to our Brooklyn Arab and Muslim neighbors. Approximately 35 have been jailed in the federal Brooklyn Detention Center since shortly after September 11th. Recently, a lawsuit was filed to obtain the names and charges levied against the detainees.

BSEC has helped Brooklyn Bridges, an educational and civil liberties support group for our Arab and Muslim neighbors, who have been harassed because of their religion or their appearance since September 11th. The BSEC board voted to be their fiscal sponsor and provided meeting space for the group.

The next Ethical Action Committee Meeting (open to all BSEC Members and Friends) will be held at 9:30am on May 18th, at Lisel Burns' house (21 Park Place, bet. 5th and 6th Aves). The agenda includes a proposed BSEC statement about the Mid-East war, the role of the arts in ethical action, suggestions for new programs and an evaluation of our current programs. A light breakfast will be served.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
(718) 768-2972
fax (718) 768-3278
BSECOffice@aol.com

Leader: Lisel Burns

President: Constance Pigozzi

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Pledge Secretary: Bruce Leibowitz

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Ethical Action: Charles Horwitz 230-3537

AEU Board: Greta Gladney 768-2972

Membership: Maureen Egginton 638-7095

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Platform: Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

Sunday School: Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

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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MAY 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

Wednesday 5/1

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.

Thursday 5/2.

7-9pm: Learning Event: *Contested Territory, Contested Identities: Historians' Debate Over the Israeli Past* with Dr. Uri Ram.

Friday 5/3

6:30pm: Language & Resource Exchange Supper.

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *Anybody's Guess*, featuring the talents of Dave and Maggie Roche, Alex MacDonald, David Kumin, and Marlon Cherry.

Saturday 5/4

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

Sunday 5/5

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

11am: *Peace Site Platform: Rita Lasar*.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Monday 5/6

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

Tuesday 5/7

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 5/8

Life & Ethics Series

7:30-9:30pm: *Perspectives of the Islamic World*.

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 5/10

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents the bluegrass sensation *James Reams and the Barnstormers*, for a night of foot-stompin', heart pumping, traditional American music.

Saturday 5/11

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

Sunday 5/12

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

11am: *Mother's Day Colloquy*.

Tuesday 5/14

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

Wednesday 5/15

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 5/17

6:30pm: Language & Resource Exchange Supper.

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: *Tomas Rodriguez and Friends* gather to play selections from Tomas' forthcoming CD, *Dialogo*; also *XODO*, combining sultry, lilting vocals with the driving rhythms of Brazil.

Saturday 5/18

9:30am: *Ethical Action Meeting* 21 Park Place.

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

Sunday 5/19

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

11am: Sunday Platform: *Recognition Day*.

Tuesday 5/21

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

Wednesday 5/22

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Saturday 5/25

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

Sunday 5/26

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

11am: Sunday Platform: *Memorial Platform*

Tuesday 5/28

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

Wednesday 5/29

Life & Ethics Series

7:30-9:30pm: *Conflict as Opportunity*.

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Saturday 6/1

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

Sunday 6/2

11am: *Membership Platform*.

1pm: *Annual Membership Meeting*.

4:30pm: *Poetry on Sunday Afternoons*.

Membership News

Greeter Chairman Selma Richman would like to express her gratitude to all the volunteer greeters who have given their time this past Season, including Ruth Pikitch, Rita Wilson, Annette Bernstein, Marshall Dubin, Dorothy Wood, Maureen Egginton, Edith Calabro, Gary Schechter, Bea Rubin, Bea Garber, Celeste Leibowitz, Jason Leibowitz, and Irene Baker.

Justin Stallard will be attending Polytechnic University this fall on an academic scholarship to study Computer Science. Congratulations Justin!

Alex Mogieleff announced at the April 14 Platform that on April 11, he and Remi were divorced. As a result, he will soon be moving to Long Island City and will transfer his membership to the New York Society. Alex said he would miss the friends he has made here at BSEC over the past 24 years or so, and that this was not an end but a new beginning.

Newcomer and reflections group regular, Mo Eich, has put together a fundraiser for BSEC called *Poetry on Sunday Afternoons*, which began April 28. She designed and printed postcards, and gathered poets together to read their works. The next Poetry Sunday will be June 2 at 4:30pm. We encourage you to send in poems for consideration to bsecoffice@aol.com.

Hoping for happy and healthy recoveries to Rita Wilson and Audrey Kindred.

The brand new Language Support and Exchange Program is getting off the ground. In April the small group of volunteers — one conversant in Arabic and French, two in Spanish, one in Portuguese and the rest English-only — convened twice and got training as English mentors. More volunteers and folks who want to practice English are welcome. There are two suppers this month: Friday May 3 and May 17, at 6:30pm. Plans are underway to start a Sunday group, for those who can't make it on Friday. For more information, call Devlin Goldberg (212) 929-3591.

Membership Meeting

Sunday June 2nd, 1pm