



Benefit Supper and Film Screening Saturday, May 17 "Counting on Democracy"

You are invited to join our community in a garden party supper and a special screening of the landmark documentary on the Florida election that brought George W. Bush into the Presidency. The event-filled evening will include the following:

- Film screening with special guest independent film producer, author, and media Reformer Danny Schechter.
- Informal garden supper with donated food from diverse cultures.
- Silent auction with items and services donated by members of BCAN organizations, including BSEC, with proceeds to benefit the donor organizations and BCAN.

Forget the hanging chads and butterfly ballots. The Presidential election drama of 2000 is still a mystery to most Americans. Counting on Democracy investigates charges of disenfranchisement and 180,000 uncounted Florida votes cast largely by the working poor and people of color, uncovering racial exclusion, voting rights violations and the subverting of a recount in the most contested and controversial election in US history.

Counting on Democracy was featured at the 2002 Taos Talking Picture Festival, which described it as a: "... jaw-dropping, even terrifying account of just how shallow our nation's commitment to democracy can be." Go to globalvision.org for information on Danny Schechter and the Media and Democracy.

The cost for the evening is \$15-50 sliding scale. Contact Diane Kirschner (718-499-4291, kirschnerd@hotmail.com) or Lisel Burns (718-783-2298, liselburns@aol.com) for tickets.

May 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.

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.

May 11: *Mother's Day Colloquy*

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

May 18: *Recognition Day*

Join the students of the Children's Sunday Assembly and CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh as we recognize this year's graduates: Alejandro Kolleeny, Jason Leibowitz and Victoria Wagnerman. Congratulations to all of you!

May 25: *No Platform*

Many members will be in Philadelphia for the AEU Assembly.

June 1: *Updating Ethical Culture: What Will It Take?*

Movements that do not periodically review and re-understand their interface with ideas, ideals and history, usually lose their ability to speak with and for their members, and lose the ability to attract new participants. Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler's hope was to "reconsecrate" a modern sense of spirituality, rooted in respect for democracy and diversity. Has Ethical Culture movement got the ideas, will and discipline to become a fresh force of thought, word and deed in this next millennium? With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

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.

Ethical Action News: Join the Fonkoze Delegation Traveling to Haiti in June

Fonkoze, BSEC's main global partner, is an alternative bank for the Organized Poor which seeks to build a democratic economy in Haiti. Fonkoze invites BSEC members and friends to join a delegation to Haiti June 16-24, 2003.

BSEC members who visited Haiti some years ago said it was a life-changing experience. You will see the closest Third World country to the United States and see how micro-credit works to help the poorest of the poor. And you will see the beauty of a mountainous, country which almost 200 years ago organized the first successful slave revolt in the New World.

Fonkoze has grown from two staffers to 225 and from one office to 18 since it started six years ago. It is now one of the largest micro-credit banks in the country and has applied to become the first such organization in Haiti to become a full-fledged commercial bank.

The cost is \$700 (airfare is extra and is about \$400 round-trip) and includes all meals, lodging, activities, and transportation throughout the country. Contact BSEC's Charles Horwitz, a Fonkoze USA board member, at 718-230-3537 or Leigh Carter, Fonkoze USA Executive Director at 202-667-1277 to apply or if you want more information. If there is enough interest, we will have a special meeting about Fonkoze and Haiti at BSEC.

AEU 89th Annual Assembly "Our Common Faith" May 23-26, Philadelphia

The 89th Annual Assembly of the American Ethical Union will be held on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26, at the Philadelphia Ethical Society. The theme for this year's Assembly is "Our Common Faith: Building a National Ethical Presence".

Many workshops will be held each day, including a National Service Conference Workshop led by BSEC's Martha Gallahue. For more information, go to the AEU website (aeu.org), or call the AEU Office at 212-873-6500.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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Leader: Lisel Burns

Leader Emeritus: Lois Kellerman

President: Constance Pigozzi

Vice President: Tony Severo

Treasurer: Kurt Johnson

Recording Secretary: Gary Schechter

Pledge Secretary: Ruth Pikitch

Board Members:

Maureen Egginton, Tracey Jindyeh,
Joan Donnen Klips, Bruce Leibowitz,
Vijay Rao, Rita Wilson.
Emeritus: Marshall Dubin.

Building Rentals: Rita Wilson, Linda Stallard

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Sunday School: Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

Operations Manager: James Alford

Peace Site: Maureen Egginton 638-4767

Coffeehouse: Linda Stallard 768-2972

Environment: Kurt Johnson 768-2972

Youth Group:

Irene Baker, Tony Severo, Eddie Coyne

MAY 2003 BSEC CALENDAR

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.

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"*

1pm: Founders' Day Luncheon, honoring our esteemed Member and Benefactor, Dr. Abraham Lieberman.

Monday 5/5

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

Tuesday 5/6

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

Wednesday 5/7

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 5/9

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents perennial favorites *James Reams and the Barnstormers.*

Saturday 5/10

11am-5pm: Life & Ethics Series Special Class: *Conflict as Opportunity.*

Sunday 5/11

11am: Sunday Platform: *Mother's Day Colloquy.*

Tuesday 5/13

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

Wednesday 5/14

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 5/16

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: *Alegria plus Jenny Hill & Liquid Horn.*

Saturday 5/17

2-5pm: Life & Ethics Series: *Coming Home.*

6-9:30pm: *Counting on Democracy* benefit supper and film screening with the director, Danny Schechter.

Sunday 5/18

10-10:50am: Yoga Class.

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

12:30pm: Lunch With the Bunch.

2pm: Brooklyn Flix: *Jules and Jim.*

Tuesday 5/20

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

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

Wednesday 5/21

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

May 23-26

AEU Annual Assembly in Philadelphia: "Our Common Faith"

Sunday 5/25

No Platform.

Tuesday 5/27

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

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

Wednesday 5/28

7:30-9:30pm: Life & Ethics Series: *Spiritual Activism: The Role of Contemplation in a Time of Crisis.*

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 5/30

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *The Brooklyn Women's Chorus.*

Sunday 6/1

10-10:50am: Yoga Class.

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

11am: Sunday Platform: *Updating Ethical Culture: What Will It Take?*

1:15pm:

ANNUAL BSEC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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. Contact the BSEC Office to register, or see our website (*bsec.org*) for more info.

Special Class: Conflict as Opportunity

Saturday, May 10, 11am-5pm and the 4 Tuesdays following, 7:30-9:30pm

Last Season's workshop is now a short course. Conflicts handled badly result in anger and frustration; when handled well they can be an opportunity for growth. Learn how to deal productively with conflicts at home, at work, and within your community organizations. This hands-on course will allow us to explore the conflicts we all face, while attending to individual challenges.

Instructor: Ellen Raider, co-founder of and active participant in the International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution at Teachers College, Columbia University.

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.

Workshops are \$10 each (BSEC members \$7). Register at least one week prior to each workshop and receive a \$1 discount. Conflict Resolution Course: \$ 50-75.