



Summer Orientation Series

This Summer, BSEC's Leader Lisel Burns will be hosting a series of workshops and discussions on some of the essential elements of Ethical Culture. The series is open to members and newcomers, without a fee. Literature will be available for sale or loan.

Wednesday June 12 - *Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture*

A Newcomer open house and open question session with Lisel Burns at her house and (weather permitting) in her back yard. For those of you who have not taken the basic Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture workshop, this meeting will have an abbreviated version of the workshop, and time to talk. 6:30-8:30pm, 21 Park Place (between 5th & 6th Aves).

Wednesday June 19 - *Worth and Value in Ethical Culture Philosophy*

What are the ethical and personal "bottom lines" in this community? How does the statement that we have "faith in the capacity and responsibility of humanity to make a more humane world" translate in the world of Ethical Culture members? Be reminded with the rest of us of the difference it makes to affirm the worth of all persons, without exception, and claim our own rights and responsibilities in every relationship we have. 6:30-9pm, 21 Park Place.

To be scheduled in July:

Straight Talk, Conflict Resolution, and Basic Agreements

Principles and practices for communication and decisionmaking at BSEC.

"Eliciting the Best" and Other Tools for Ethical Living

What do we really mean when we try to apply this Ethical Culture principle, whether in our everyday relationships or in our attempts to state our moral concerns in the larger community? Does this principle really make an adequate foundation for ethical living? Conflict resolution strategies, and other strategies we can add to our ethical toolkits will be reviewed. This group will also brainstorm possible classes for fall Life and Ethics classes.

Check the BSEC website (bsec.org) for updates. Please contact Lisel Burns if you would like to attend, or would like more information. 718-783-2298 or liselburns@aol.com

Your Support Needed: Naming Street After Etheline Dubin Committee Meeting June 25

BSEC is moving forward in the effort to have a street named in the memory of activist and dear friend Etheline Dubin. Come to the next meeting of the Transportation Committee of Community Board 8, Tuesday, June 25 at 7pm, at the Haitian-American Daycare Center at 1491 Bedford Ave (at St. John's Place, take the subway to Franklin Street), where they will consider the proposal to co-name a portion of Lincoln Place near the Dubin household in Prospect Heights.

A big show of support will ensure that the proposal is accepted. If you can't attend the meeting, take the time to write a letter of support that we can bring to the meeting. Send letters to the Society, c/o Rita Wilson. If you have friends who live in the Prospect Heights area, encourage them to attend the meeting or write a letter themselves.

NYSEC June 30 Platform on International Criminal Court

You are all encouraged to attend the New York Ethical Society Platform (2 West 64th St, Manhattan) on Sunday, June 30th at 10:30am. John Washburn will be speaking on the topic *Establishing The International Criminal Court; Establishing an Ethic of Peace*. John is the convenor for The American Coalition for an International Criminal Court. There will be a reception and talk back following. The National Service Conference, led by BSEC member Martha Gallahue, and a major advocate for the ICC, will hold its annual meeting afterwards in Room 514.

The Old First Reformed Church (Carroll Street & 7th Ave) will be hosting a series of workshops on *Ethics and Action* on Sundays at 11:30am from June 16 through July 21. BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will be leading the fifth session on July 14.

Ethical Action News

BSEC's Ethical Action Committee co-sponsored one of its most successful events by hosting an Israeli high school graduate, Haggai Matar, 18, who founded a youth movement opposing military service in the Occupied Territories.

Matar said he will go to jail rather than serve in the Occupied Territories. He recruited draftees to sign a letter to Prime Minister Sharon opposing such service because of Israel's expropriation of Palestinian lands, arrests and executions without trials, house demolitions, torture, and the prevention of health care. "These actions are not only illegitimate, they do not even achieve their stated goal - increasing citizens' personal safety. Such safety will only be achieved through a just peace agreement between the Israeli government and the Palestinian people."

He said that Israeli peace advocates believe that suicide bombings and the Intifada would end if Israel agreed to United Nations' demands that Israel withdraw from the Occupied Territories, return to its 1967 boundaries, close down settlements, and agree to a divided Jerusalem. A question period reflected people's strong views about the Mideast crisis. Although many people supported Mr. Matar's courage and articulate and thoughtful views, others expressed doubt that Palestinians would ever agree to peace with Israel. Therefore, they said any Israeli concessions would be futile.

Aron Trauring, an Israeli American, who served in the Israeli Defense Force and reserve units, also spoke at the meeting. He said his sons have joined Matar's organization and are prepared to go to jail for their beliefs. He said that Matar's group has had a powerful effect on Israeli society, inspiring 450 Israeli soldiers and reservists to sign a letter similar to Matar's, and send it to Prime Minister Sharon.

Almost 350 people attended the May 20th meeting at the beautiful Old First Reform Church in Park Slope. Over \$2000 was raised from the audience to support Matar's work with Israeli peace groups. Matar is concluding a national speaking tour throughout the United States at religious, youth and other organizations.

An Ethical Action Planning Retreat will be held 10am-2pm, July 27th, at 21 Park Place.

Please contact Charley Horwitz if you have any questions or would like to contribute to Ethical Action. (chorwitz@earthlink.net)

**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 Strock, Lisel Burns, Charles Horwitz, Maureen Egginton, and Martha Gallahue.

**Fundraising News:
Self-Sufficiency and New Ideas**

The recession is continuing, and the BSEC investment portfolio has barely boken even this year, making it even more difficult to provide monies to offset our ongoing deficits. We are still in pursuit of a balanced budget and to that end we will be increasing our efforts on acheiving self-sufficiency via our programs and membership activities, as well as monitoring rentals and private events held at BSEC for income-generating opportunities. Ideas being explored at present include:

Fees for Some Programs

Increasing paid participation in BSEC programs will help those programs support themselves. This Spring, our new *Life and Ethics* series broke even in its startup, which was our hope and success. Six workshops with speaker fees, with most of the speakers donating their fees back to BSEC, enabling us to pay for additional advertising and a professional-quality brochure.

Raffle On a Larger Scale

The 50/50 raffle project is underway. Ruth Pikitch and Bruce Leibowitz announced the first drawing in our new \$5 raffle program will be at the opening Sunday Platform this September. You can get tickets anytime, and many of you will be receiving a mailing very soon with additional information. Check the website (*bsec.org*) for updates.

Please contact Bruce Liebowitz if you have any fundraising ideas, or if you would like to help out with the raffle and/or other events this summer.

Thanks to Bruce and Ruth for all their tireless fundraising efforts all year long!!!

Membership News

Many thanks and bon voyage to Greg Ruth and wife Jen who, after four years of service to the Society as Caretakers, will be leaving at the end of the summer. They are expecting their first child in July, and plan to move to Northampton, Massachusetts where they have family. Thanks, congratulations, and good luck!

Martha Hoffman is back from Texas, where she spent the year teaching history at TCU in Fort Worth. She says that she *liked* Texas, but she's happy to be back in Brooklyn. She hopes to begin work again soon on the Henry Neumann archive project which was interrupted by her absence.

Robin Feld has a gallery show! Entitled *Room to Breathe: New Paintings and Work on Paper by Robin Feld*, the show runs from June 19th to July 28th at the David Allen Gallery, 331 Smith Street, Brooklyn (F or G to Carroll Street), 488-5568. Her opening reception is Friday, June 21, 6-8pm. If you haven't seen her work, this is your best chance yet. Congratulations, Robin!

BSEC Members Tony Severo, Martha Gallahue, and Kurt Johnson will be attending the *AEU Leadership Summer School* at "The Mountain" in North Carolina this summer. BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will also be participating.

BSEC will be hosting the *AEU Growth and Development Conference* November 1 & 2, 2002. People from all across the country will be attending, and host families in Brooklyn will be a welcome service to many. Contact Hank Gassner (*kargas@earthlink.net*) for more information.

A new e-mail address has been set up for Society rentals and outside events, handled by Building Manager Sheila Jean-Baptiste Kosoff: *BSECRentals@aol.com*.

BSEC SUMMER 2002

Sunday 6/9

11am: *Closing Platform.*

Tuesday 6/11

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 6/12

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Summer Orientation Series

6:30-8:30pm, 21 Park Place:

Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture

Friday 6/14

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents folk-music legend *Oscar Brand*, a singer and musician, as well as an encyclopedia of folk songs, a music historian, and a raconteur.

Saturday 6/15

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

Tuesday 6/18

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

Wednesday 6/19

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Summer Orientation Series

6:30-8:30pm, 21 Park Place:

Worth & Value in Ethical Culture Philosophy

Friday 6/21

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *Jenny Hill & Liquid Horn*, a funky mixture of jazz, Afro-Cuban, and Brazilian grooves. Also blues/jazz composer/musician *Dayna Kurtz* in her Good Coffeehouse debut.

Saturday 6/22

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

Tuesday 6/25

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

Wednesday 6/26

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 6/28

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents their finale concert of the Season, featuring the *Brooklyn Women's Chorus*, led by Bev Grant.

Saturday 6/29

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

Thursday 7/4

Fourth of July Picnic

Sunday 7/14

11:30am-12:30pm: *Ethics & Action Workshop*, Old 1st Reformed Church, with *Lisel Burns*.

Saturday 7/27

10am-2pm: *Ethical Action Planning Retreat*

Sunday 9/15

Super Sunday

Friday 9/20 & Saturday 9/21

Brooklyn Jamboree!

Sunday 9/22

Opening Platform