



## From the BSEC President

Dear Members and Friends of my extended BSEC family,

I am still feeling the afterglow of the wonderful honor you paid me on May 23rd with the great luncheon filled with such love and affection for me. I was especially excited and honored to receive a citation from my good friend, Marty Markowitz. What a surprise!! My thanks to Ruth and her team who worked so hard to give me such a wonderful day I will never forget. After fifteen years as a Board of Trustees member and three years as President, I have decided to step away and serve from a new perspective. During these years I have been a part of the governance of this Society and I have done my best to help it through many difficult times. We survived some very serious crises and we will continue to do so, if they come again, as long as we have people who love what we stand for and are dedicated to the philosophy of life so elegantly designed by our Founder, Felix Adler. We have such people. Never in all my lifetime have I met so many warm, friendly and kind friends who are always there ready to elicit the best in each other.

I hope to continue my duties as Chair of the Platform Committee and I will still be a part of several committees of my choice. I wish to thank the members of The Board of Trustees who come to long meetings and work so hard keep the functioning of this Society on smooth waters. They are: Maureen Egginton, Tracey Jindyeh, Dr. Kurt Johnson, Joan Donnen Klips, Bruce Leibowitz, Ruth Pikitch, Tony Severo, Melanie Richardson, Gary Schechter and Rita Wilson.

I wish to especially thank our Leader, Lisel Burns, for all the time and dedication she devotes to the betterment of our community.

Have a wonderful Summer in good health and with much happiness. Love, Constance

### Attention All Members!

Our annual membership meeting and election of new Board members will take on Sunday, June 13, 2004 at 1:00 pm

## From the Leader's Desk: Portraits & Footprints

The 2003-2004 BSEC Season draws to its formal close on June 13th, though community socials and at least one study group (in nonviolent communication) will continue through the summer. August will see four Sunday morning colloquy programs, thanks to Constance Pigozzi's willingness to coordinate and host this popular program.

On our two Sundays in June, we address our present and future in different but related ways. Sunday, June 6, the platform will engage your feedback on 2003-2004 at BSEC. This year we are adding to annual reviews a draft "social audit," looking at how organizational attention or inattention to our own espoused ethical principles have affected the footprint we leave this year. June 13 is membership Sunday, when newer members and newcomers have their chance to share with the community, and we hope to hear 2004-2005 plans from Melanie Richardson, BSEC Membership Chair. We also hold our annual family picnic with the Children's Sunday Assembly; Please consider bringing a friend or family with children as your guests and reserve their numbers with Tracey (748-7084).

The end of the Season and events in the larger world both encourage me to think about responsibility. In the June 2004 edition of *The American Prospect*, a progressive political journal, I just read about 31-year-old Joe Wezorek's artwork "War President," a portrait collage of our current president, George W. Bush. Posted in rows and columns, are small flickering replicas of photos making up the portrait. The pho-

tos are the faces of 609 soldiers (some repeated to total 1410 in the collage) killed in our President's preemptive war in Iraq.

While the photo collage is deeply unsettling, its symbolism meets a need I have for leaders and groups to take direct responsibility for the right and the wrong that is done on their watch. As soldiers, the young people in these small portraits fought and died for modern civilization's worthy and espoused ideals, democracy and freedom among them. But those who sent them to die are morally accountable for their deaths. The work encourages all of us to think about the deep meaning of responsibility.

The technique of photo collage also makes me reflect that BSEC's portrait is made up of all our individual portraits and the AEU, in turn, should have its portrait taken as snapshots of each individual Society. Locating our responsibilities, our accountability for the use of our assets of spirit, money, reputation, time, land, and so on, may seem a formidable project, but it is worth doing, and in my opinion, crucial to our credibility. To be blunt, a group or movement unwilling or unable to make regular assessments of its ideals and aims and the progress it has made to accomplish those aims leaves itself open to ethical challenge from all sides, and rightly so. Please vote this June by taking part in our community review, in person or by completing the questionnaire available via the office or email.

-Lisel Burns

Peace Walk: June 10, 5pm: details p.3



## June Platforms

June 6: *Auditing the 2003-2004 Season at BSEC: Intentions and Results*

When we discuss organizational efforts, do we want credit for our good intentions or do we focus on results? Can we look at BSEC intentions and results for this past Season without taking difficulties or honest feedback personally? With a community audit we can see our organizational "footprint" and take responsibility for it.

June 13: *Membership Platform*

We celebrate the end of the BSEC season by recognizing member contributions and new members. Hosted by the Membership and Sharing Caring Committees. Sign ups for summer activities will be available. CSA picnic and Membership Meeting will follow.

Platforms are held Sundays at 11pm at the BSEC Meetinghouse, followed by a buffet or potluck lunch.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST  
BROOKLYN, NY 11215  
(718) 768-2972

BSECOffice@aol.com

**Leader:** Lisel Burns

**President:** Constance Pigozzi

**Vice President:** Tony Severo

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**Pledge Secretary:** Ruth Pikitch

**Board Members:** Maureen Egginton,  
Tracey Jindyeh, Joan Donnen Klips,  
Bruce Leibowitz, Melanie Richardson,  
Rita Wilson.

**Business Office:** Rita Wilson 768-2972

**Ethical Action:** Charles Horwitz 230-3537

**AEU Board:** Martha Gallahue 768-2972

**Membership:**

Melanie Richardson 768-2972

**Fundraising:** Ruth Pikitch 256-6739

**Caring & Sharing:**

Roger Kaufman 972-0468

**Platform:** Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

**Sunday School:** Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

**Building Rentals:**

Rita Wilson, Linda Stallard 768-2972

**Operations Manager:**

James Alford 768-2972

**Bd. Special Projects:** Maureen Egginton

**Peace Site:** Maureen Egginton 638-4767

**Coffeehouse:** Linda Stallard 768-2972

**Environment:** Kurt Johnson 768-2972

**Youth Group:** 768-2972

**Newsletter:** Martha Hoffman

mhof@mindspring.com

*Ethically Speaking* is published 6-10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue was produced by Martha Hoffman, Maureen Egginton, Lisel Burns, Constance Pigozzi, Bob Strock, Rita Wilson, Roger Kaufman, Ruth Pikitch, and Tracey Jindyeh.

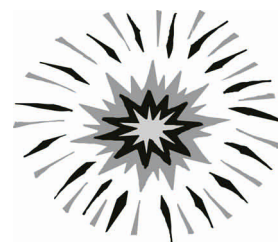
Kurt Johnson, Martha Gallahue, Martha Hoffman and Bob Strock of BSEC will be part of 20-person contingent attending the Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona, Spain, July 7-13th. Kurt and Martha Gallahue will be speaking at a program on Interspiritual Dialogue; Kurt also speaks at an event on science and religion; Martha Hoffman and Bob will be performing there with Theatre Group Dzieci.

Items for this page can be forwarded to Martha Hoffman at [mhof@mindspring.com](mailto:mhof@mindspring.com) or to the BSEC Office to my attention. Space considerations may limit our ability to include all items. See you in the Fall!



## Membership News

- Summer Birthdays: A very happy birthday to all members who will celebrate birthdays over the summer!
- June: Adriana Baker (2), Glenn Newman (3), Stephanie Heacox (5), Jean Shaffer (6), Frank Bottini (6), Ali Jindyeh (12), Tracey Jindyeh (18), Charlotte Alper (20), Diane Milder (20)
- July: Christiane Siebert (18), Kurt Johnson (21), Oufa Jindyeh (23), Robin Feld (24)
- August: Cynthia Stallard (2), Dorothy Wood (2), Lois Kellerman (3), Laura Duffy (12), Rita Wilson (18), Edith Calabro (21), Gary Schechter (23), Constance Pigozzi (26), Jason Leibowitz (29), Valerie Francis (30)



### Sharing and Caring Over the Summer

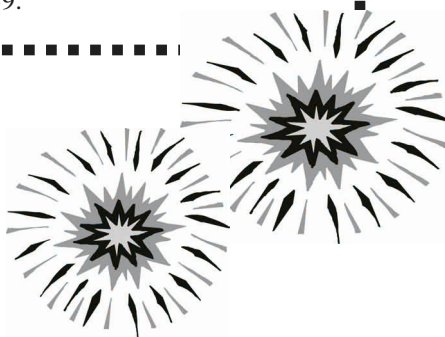
I will enjoy resting and gardening over the summer, but if any of you have a problem, please call me and I will get a group together or the right person to help you or your children or grandchildren, or parents or grandparents, etc.

What are some of our problems to think about? Some of us could use more money or a job or more hours of work. Some of us seek professional counseling or a free friendly ear. Others are gambling that they will not need any health insurance. These are problems to think about solving over the summer and during the year ahead.

Emergency sharing and caring phone number: 718-972-0468 Confidentiality assured.

- Roger, Sharing and Caring Committee

- Members and Friends are invited to the
- Fourth of July Barbecue held in the BSEC
- Meetinghouse Garden, beginning at 1
- pm. For more information call Ruth: 718/
- 256-6739.



**NOTICE TO MEMBERS:** The fiscal year will end on June 30th. Those of you who have not completed your pledge, please do so, and those who have not yet made a pledge, please try to make a contribution. Your pledge money is greatly needed to keep our Society and building running smoothly. Thank you all, Sincerely, *Ruth Pikitch*

### Brooklyn Pride

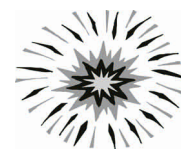
Saturday, June 12th is the Brooklyn Pride Street Festival and nighttime Parade. The Street festival begins at 10 AM and runs until 6 PM, while the Parade sign in is at 7:30 but the march actually starts sometime after 8. If I have enough people committed to sitting at the table during the street fair (six to eight people who can do 2 hour rotating shifts) and people to carry the banner (at least 6) in the parade, it will be worth our signing up to take part in the festivities.

Our presence at this event will increase our visibility in the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered) community, inform the community of our support for civil rights and same sex marriage, and publicize our availability for same sex commitment ceremonies. Please let me know ASAP if you can attend and help out either at the parade, the street fair, or both, and your hours of availability that day.

Thanks, in advance, for your help. Sincerely, Celeste 718-336-3683

### Garden of Peace and Remembrance

Members and friends are invited to consider placing a memorial plaque in our new Garden of Peace and Remembrance. Engraved bronze plaques are still available for the bricks around the perimeter, and there are many opportunities to "sponsor" one of the Garden plants in your loved one's name. If you're interested, please contact Celeste Leibowitz by email or at 718-336-3683. If you have already donated for a plaque, please accept my thanks, on behalf of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.



## August Colloquies

On four Sundays in August, at 11 am, we will hold colloquies in the BSEC Meetinghouse Library, based on the book: *Spelling God With Two O's*, By Arthur Dobrin

Themes:

August 1: *Patience*

August 8: *Perfection*

August 15: *Pride*

August 22: *Purity*

A colloquy is a more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony with sharing, music and meditation. For more information call: Constance Pigozzi, 718-331-1137.

## Ethics Online

Starting July 2, Arthur Dobrin will be teaching his fifth class online for Barnes & Noble. Arthur invites EC members to participate. He commented recently to the Leader Online Forum that it "would be a terrific way for Ethical Culture to present its message in a interesting and new forum. At least one person from a previous class contacted the AEU because of the course. Whether it leads to membership isn't all that important. More important in my mind is the exposure of our point of view to a larger world. So far I've had students from more than 30 states, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Kuwait and China. I am encouraging you to let your members know about the course. I think they will find it interesting." There is no fee for the class. To register, go to: [www.university.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.university.barnesandnoble.com)

## A Victory for Our Privacy Rights!

In a move that surprised people on both sides of the debate, Justice Department lawyers withdrew their subpoena for medical records from a New York hospital immediately following the March for Women's Lives on April 25, 2004. Government lawyers had stated that these medical records were necessary to demonstrate that abortion procedures obtained by patients were "never medically necessary," thereby substantiating their case for the abortion ban that was signed into law last November. The turnabout by the Justice Department is a huge victory for us and demonstrates that we can win when we stand strong in the face of intimidation tactics and assaults on our rights.

*Taken from a statement by Shirley Ranz, President, Brooklyn-Queens NOW*

## Walk for Peace

BSEC is co-sponsoring a Walk for Peace, June 10, 2004, 5:00pm, beginning at the Church of Gethsemane, 8th Avenue and 10th Street and ending at a mosque near Greenwood Cemetery. The purpose of the march is to promote understanding and good will towards our Muslim and Arab neighbors in Brooklyn. Jewish and Muslim children will sing peace songs. A supper will be served at the mosque. For more information, contact Charles Horwitz at 718-230-3537. Debbie Almontaser, BSEC Garden of Peace Honor Roll awardee and Muslim human rights activist, and Rabbi Ellen Lippman, a Jewish peace activist, are featured speakers.

## Life & Ethics: The Middle East

Charley Horwitz will continue his popular spring Life and Ethics series on the Middle East Conflict on Mondays in June, starting at 7pm. Recommended historical readings for participants. There is a small fee for participation. Space may be limited. Contact Charley 230-3537.

## Ethics for Children

June 6, CSA will have its Town Meeting from 10 to 11am. Parents, children and teachers meet to share one idea of something they particularly liked this year and one idea of what they would like to see different next year. Through this process every year the CSA grows. Our last class is Sunday, June 13. We will have our annual last class party. This year's theme is FIESTA. Families are welcome to come in Fiesta type clothing and bring their family's favorite game/activity, whether it's Scrabble or badminton or whatever game they want to play with others.

## National Service Conference

Constance Pigozzi, Gary Schechter, Joan Donnen Klips, Kurt Johnson and Martha Gallahue attended the 75th anniversary luncheon celebration of the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union in honor of Rose Walker long time President of the NSC. Prior to the serving of lunch, by acclamation, Rose L. Walker was declared President Emerita, Martha Gallahue (Brooklyn) President, Lyndon Wilburg (Queens) First Vice-President, Lucile Kleiman (New York) Second Vice-President, Phyllis Ehrenfeld (Bergen) Secretary, and Kurt Johnson (Brooklyn) Treasurer. Sylvain Ehrenfeld was Chair of the Nominating Committee. Fifty people who attended the luncheon included those from seven Societies and MAL's. Jeffrey Huffines, co-Chair of The Faith and Ethics Based Caucus of the International Criminal Court was the main speaker. Brooklyn was the first Society to join New York in the formation of a National Women's Conference. Original clippings of their first national engagement in 1930, The Cause and Cure of War Conference, are in the Brooklyn archives and copies were on display Saturday. The event took place at the New York Society of Ethical Culture on Saturday, May 29th, from 1:00-4:00pm and was chaired by Lucile Kleiman from New York Society.

## FUN IN THE SUMMER

Both July 31 weekend and Labor Day weekend we have reserved a place for 15 or more people who want to relax and have a family style weekend away together at the historical Murray Grove Conference Center (Unitarian) on the Jersey shore at Barnegat Bay where the National Leaders Council often meets. Bring a book, swimming gear for pool or beach. Sit, sleep, dance, meditate, talk or walk in the neighboring nature preserve. Workshops only for those so inclined. Contact Lisel with ideas or offers to help with logistics or program. The price will increase as the date of registration so register as soon as possible. June Registrations \$40 per night. July registrations \$50 per night to July 20. From then on \$70 per night, food included. Children's fees negotiable.

Other than that, we have suggestions for local beach trips parking in Dror Kahn and Madeleine Sorel's driveway in Manhattan Beach, "computer camp" workshops with skilled folks helping the rest of us upgrade basics or learn software programs or web skills, and trips to VERY modern music concerts with Stephen Klips.

All comers (newer folks and others) interested in reading Felix Adler or other Ethical Culture sources can take an orientation supper series at Lisel's backyard at 21 Park Place, weather permitting. Sign ups for these and other summer events will take place June 6 and 13, and continue via email or the office during summer office hours. Please feel welcome to suggest an outing or host an event you would like to share with others; some will be free and others designed as small fundraisers to help balance our delicate budget. Contact the office for a Summer schedule of fun and fundraising events

# June 2004 at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	2 7pm:T' ai Chi	3 7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting	4 8pm: Good Coffeehouse	5 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi 3-6pm: Reflections Group
6 10-11am: Children's Assembly <i>Town Meeting</i> 11am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 11am: Platform: <i>Auditing the 2003-2004 BSEC Season</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch	7 7pm: Life & Ethics: Mid East Conflict	8 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	9 7pm:T' ai Chi	10 5pm: Peace Walk, co- sponsored by BSEC	11 8pm: Good Coffeehouse	12 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi
13 10am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly: FIESTA 11am: Platform: <i>Membership Platform</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch 1pm: Annual Membership Meeting/Election of Board	14 7pm: Life & Ethics: Mid East Conflict	15 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	16 7pm:T' ai Chi	17 7pm: Personnel Committee Meeting	18 8pm: Good Coffeehouse	19 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi
20	21 7pm: Life & Ethics: Mid East Conflict	22 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	23 7pm:T' ai Chi	24 7pm: Platform Committee Meeting	25 8pm: Good Coffeehouse	26 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi
27	28 7pm: Life & Ethics: Mid East Conflict	29 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	30 7pm:T' ai Chi			

## June Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor

June 4 *Spotlight on Songwriting*: the "baggy-pants soul" of Ellsworth & Hicks and the "eloquent hook-laden gems" of James O'Malley.  
 June 11 *The Main Squeeze Accordion Orchestra* returns to the Good Coffeehouse with an evening of accordion music like you've never heard. If you are an accordion fan, this is your night. If you aren't, be prepared to change your mind!  
 June 18 *3rd Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop*: Join WOMBA and *Pulsation* and Ben Silver in a celebration of Gay Pride.  
 June 25 *Season Finale*: *The Brooklyn Women's Chorus* 45 women singing together to create one powerful voice for peace and justice.  
 Admission: \$10. *The Music Parlor closes for the summer*. See you at the 7th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree, September 17-18, 2004, a day and a half of workshops, jamming and concerts of traditional American music.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED  
 Brooklyn, New York 11215  
 53 Prospect Park West  
 Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture