



From the Leader's Desk: Assessing Our Work and Setting Our Priorities

Here at BSEC we have a shared life stance. It is based upon a shared faith in what humanity can be, and also a sense of accountability to that shared understanding, however different our ways of being and doing in the world may be. We have a shared agenda, and it is that we want to help every BSEC community member develop the relationships, the willingness and the capacity to approach all issues, including the most controversial facing humanity, from a proactive, non-dogmatic and moral perspective. We have a shared project in the world. It is the exploration and the encouragement of ethical living, from the most personal journey to the efforts affecting the conduct of nations. It is on this account we work on a personal, local and global basis for a renewal of ethical considerations in all matters, for the eradication of poverty, and for an end to racism and environmental degradation.

The 2003-2004 Season was a time of transition and community insight. As BSEC, founded in 1906, approaches its centennial and we plan for this great occasion, we invite the larger community to help us choose priorities for our work in our second cen-

ture and the new millennium.

Several years ago, Grace Lee Boggs, from the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership in Detroit, talked at our Sunday Platform about the need for organizations and individuals to periodically take time to reflect upon the hopes and accomplishments of their "generation" in the world. Now in her late eighties, coming to the end of a lifetime of ethically focused social activism and rich mentoring of me and countless others, she told us that each generation needs to be both gentle and honest, while asking the following questions,

"How much of our original dream, vision and passion remain? What have we accomplished? What work is undone? What social resources - skills, time, bricks and mortar, love, spirit, place and finance do we represent? What can we do with our resources to build bridges to younger people and their dreams rather than only asking them to join in to help us finish ours?"

We determined that morning to invite that reflection, and through that dialogue find ways to pass along the work and social hopes our current generations have not finished realizing. We determined also to find

young people, whose opportunities to serve the common good are just beginning, asking them to bring their passions to BSEC, knowing it is an honor for some of us further along in years to be of real assistance in younger people's projects and service.

This past Season's Sunday programs and theme, the Fall World Music series at the (BSEC) Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor, the dedication of the Garden of Peace and Remembrance, the spring 2004 Life and Ethics Series sessions Jazz workshop, Spoken Word performances, the South African Film Festival evening in April and the March benefit film program raising \$800 by and for young people traveling to monitor the spring elections in El Salvador, were a good beginning on that road. Most of the film program participants were under forty, and particularly the Jazz and South African film evenings welcomed audiences more representative of Brooklyn's diverse population than ever before. In important ways we are opening our community to many voices, as we seek again, each generation, to answer Felix Adler's call, to find and serve "our part in this world."

Sincerely, Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader

September Platforms

The theme for the Platforms for the Season 2004-2005 is:
"Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture."

September 19 *Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture*

We open our new Season with an exciting preview of the Season's plans and programs. Lisel Burns, BSEC Leader, will introduce a monthly series exploring foundational ideas and life questions as they are understood in Ethical Culture.

September 26 *Ethical Action: Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture*

BSEC's Ethical Action Committee will introduce its theme of *Reclaiming Our Democracy* and new BSEC member Perry Dell (and others) will present a short play he has written, "Echoes From the Rooms" based on poems by Carl Sandburg. After the program and lunch, members, guests, and children from the Children's Sunday Assembly are invited to take part in a community peace walk through the neighborhood to Gethsemane Church for an interfaith peace program and planting of a "Peace Pole."

October 3 *Life Reflection: Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture*

What happened at the World Parliament of Religions in Barcelona this past July? Hear from Martha Gallahue who participated as part of our National Service Conference's involvement with interspiritual dialogue on a local, national and global basis. Hear plans for this Season's activities supporting personal life reflection and self development of our members and friends. Speakers: Martha Gallahue and Lisel Burns, Leader

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

September 11 Colloquy

Kurt Johnson and Constance Pigozzi will lead a Colloquy with music, readings, and reflections on Saturday September 11th at 3pm at the Meeting House. The theme will be "Remembering". Everyone is welcome and invited to stay for the September Reflections Group immediately following.

The Church of Gethsemane invites BSEC members and friends to take part in an International Peace Day interfaith celebration on September 26th at 1:30pm. The program will highlight the peace actions of various congregations and include displays of artwork and performances by the youth from the congregation. A peace pole, paid for from monies collected at last year's service for this purpose, will be planted immediately following the service in the garden. BSEC members will be walking together to Gethsemane after platform and lunch.

Ethics for Children

September Greetings from Audrey Kindred. Long-time Children's Sunday Assembly teacher, I am newly appointed to the wonderful challenge of directing Families' and Children's Ethics Programs at the BSEC. I am looking forward to fruitful collaborative processes with Clergy Leader Lisel Burns, BSEC's Board and Staff, and a vibrant Parent Advisory Committee spear-headed by parent/administrator Fiona Boneham with Janice Novet, Robin Feld and Janine Hausler.

I come to this new leadership role knowing CSA well, and ready to take the next step in an adventurous path marked by the indelible footprints of the CSA directors that have preceded me. I look forward to the spirited collaboration of fellow teachers, Margit Sheldon and Simba Yangala. And I melt with inner joy thinking of children, parents and young assistant teachers, from my earliest days here to the present time, who so richly have touched my heart and mind through ethical learning experiences. Rather than a step forth, I find myself prancing with joy and eagerness about the task at hand and the year ahead.

Collaborative family learning and responsiveness to family needs are the driving forces of our programming this year. Our weekly gatherings, Children's Sunday Assembly, begin on Sunday September 12 at 10:30 am, at the schoolyard located around the corner from BSEC itself, on 1st Street. We welcome all families, newcomers and veterans alike, to join in as we embark upon a year of fun, explorative learning for all ages.

I personally want to extend a supportive hand to any parents who are curious about Ethical Culture. I want to extend this hand to parents who are looking hard for supportive constructs in the mission of bringing up children with compassion, worldly curiosity, and thoughtfulness toward others. I want to call out to parents who wish for support in facing modern familial challenges, and to parents who are not comfortably embraced by more traditional centers of faith. I want to call out to parents for whom a values-based vision of family living sounds exactly right. Our family's and children's programming are inclusive of all self-defining families and in this time in history we can bring unique and deep value to the cliché cultural codeword: "family values." I encourage you, Interested Parents, to get in touch with me by email at ethicalkin@hotmail.com or by phone at (718)789-7958 x2; to ask for more information; to explore BSEC and to give our program a visit.

CSA is at the core of our programs, and from it, other programs are growing. Stay tuned for "Family Night Out" in our October newsletter. The logistical details for CSA will follow. Interested families are welcome to come and check out our program on any or all Sundays between September 12 and October 24, during the First Segment of our CSA program: Ethical Family Camp. Two visits per family during this first segment are cost free for "program explorers." Overall program prices are kept very low for the public and still lower for pledging members of BSEC. No committed participant will be turned away for lack of funds. By our October 31st Celebration and Open House we hope you'll be bringing friends along with you, and be signed up and ready for Segment Two: a whole season of fun, thoughtful alternative approaches to holiday celebrating: "Reframing the Holidays Through Family Ethical Action."

Caring & Sharing

I recently received a medical bill I wasn't expecting for \$354.00 for lab fees. I had a physical in the spring and usually the lab fees are included in the various copays I have.

If you get a similar bill you are not expecting, do not panic, and do not pay the bill automatically. I called the laboratory, and asked why Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ was sent a bill when I live in NY state. Mistakes do occur in medical billing. I gave the clerk the numbers of my Blue Cross-Blue Shield medical groups which were not given the lab by my Doctor's office. I explained that Blue Cross-Blue Shield might not pay the bill because I am a member of Medicare. Blue Cross-Blue Shield administers my account and that they might get a check from Medicare for the services.

Always look over ANY medical bills you receive carefully. There is some fraud, but the billing is complex and there are a lot of honest mistakes out there.

It will soon be apple season. Apples are rich in potassium and really do keep the doctor away.

- Roger Kaufman



Join CSA: Children's Sunday Assembly

We meet on most Sundays between September through June, 10:30a.m-12:30p.m.; in the school building next door (entrance on 1st Street, just off Prospect Park West) Through our ongoing classes, intergenerational celebrations and community service projects, children develop an ethical identity. To strengthen a child's inner moral compass, our programs emphasize skill building in communication, self-reflection, action & consequence and conflict resolution. We focus on how to create a better world through our service to others.

CSA Curriculum: 2004-05

September 12 – October 24

Come, explore and get to know the program through our open house forum of "Ethical Family Camp"

October 31 - February 13

Let worldly concern and humane outreach enhance your holiday spirit by "Reframing the Holidays Through Family Ethical Action"

March 6-May 22

As the spring buds blossom, so do our children's ethical identities blossom in "Children as Ethical Learners and Leaders"

TO VISIT OUR PROGRAM, contact Audrey Kindred, program director of BSEC's Family and Children's Ethics, at (718)789-7958 or Ethicalkin@hotmail.com

Ethical Action Committee

The first Ethical Action Committee meeting of the season will be held at Lisel's house on Saturday, September 18, 2004 at 10 am. Bagels, juice and coffee will be served. All BSEC members are urged to attend. Please RSVP via email to Chorwitz@earthlink.net.

The agenda will include plans for EA events, including the proposed theme for the year: A Call to Take Back America and Restore Democracy. Our government's growing empire overseas has brought us preemptive war, violations of our civil rights and liberties and a growing disparity between the rich and poor.

Please read an excellent popularly written book covering all of these issues: *We the People, A Call to Take Back America* by Thom Hartmann and Neil Cohn (\$16.95). Also, please help us brainstorm speakers, videos, events and books that might fit into our theme.

InterSpiritual Dialogue

As part of the celebration of 2004's International Day of Peace, and InterSpiritual Dialogue's role as a Partner for "Eleven Days of Global Unity," the Second Annual InterSpiritual Ceremony for Peace will be held at Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway at 121st Street, in James Chapel from 11:45am to 12:30pm, on International Day of Peace, Tuesday, September 21st. The ceremony is being coordinated through Theatre Group Dzieci. A procession will begin promptly at 11:45am. All are welcome.

For information, contact ISDialogue@aol.com. See also www.internationaldayofpeace.org, www.WeTheWorld.org and www.worldpeace.org

Other events in "Eleven Days of Global Unity" include:

9/12: Interdependence Day Festival 2004; CUNY Graduate Center, 34th St & 5th Ave Noon to 6:30 pm; Local and international speakers, performers and workshop presentations; including **Brooklyn Womens Chorus** (1-2pm). Admission \$25; students, seniors, & low-income, \$15. information at 212 817-8215 and www.WeTheWorld.org/sept12fest

9/11: Annual citywide music festival in New York, in remembrance of September 11th and a celebration of our universal humanity. www.septemberconcert.org/about.html

9/11: The Ribbon International Interfaith Prayer Service, 11:00am-1:00pm, starts at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Park across from the U.N. www.theribboninternational.com

9/12: The **U.S. Department of Peace campaign**, 10am-2pm, presents "The Pursuit of Peace" at Pier 63/Lackawanna railroad barge (Hudson River at 23rd Street. Music, meditation, inspirational speakers, and more in celebration of the hope and unity which were prevalent throughout our city in the days and weeks following September 11, 2001. Speakers include best selling author Marianne Williamson, Lynn McMullen (national Campaign Director for the Department of Peace), and Congressional speakers. www.nyc-dop.com

9/12: UN Rally to Stop Genocide and Slavery in Sudan; UN Plaza (Dag Hammarskjold) Park; www.iabolish.com/sudan

9/19: 16th Annual EcoFest at Lincoln Center/Damrosch Park www.ecofest.com/index2.htm

9/19: International Day of Peace, Central Park band shell

9/19: Music Therapists for Peace/Drumming Circles for Peace, 3pm at the Goodwin Loft in Soho. Anyone and everyone can participate! homepages.nyu.edu/~ehb2/mtp.html

9/21: Peace One Day; Ziegfeld Theatre, 141 W 54th St., 6pm doors open, R.S.V.P Feature documentary: A Peace One Day Production in association with the BBC and Passion Pictures. www.peaceoneday.org

9/21: Central Park International Day of Peace Vigil, Central Park www.idpvigil.com

9/25-9/26 World Unity Festival, Randall's Island. On the 10th anniversary event. www.worldunityfestival.com

Howard Zinn to Speak

Brooklyn Parents for Peace
20th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, October 13, 2004, 8:00pm
Special guest Howard Zinn will talk on *The War and the Election* at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn Heights. Zinn, a radical historian, social activist, and playwright, is the author of the celebrated *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to the Present*, *War and Terrorism*, and his autobiography *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*.

Tickets are \$25 to advance the work of Brooklyn Parents for Peace. (\$10 for low income, students and seniors). E-mail bpfp@brooklynpeace.org or call 718/624-5921 for more information.

Brooklyn Peace Fair 2004

Saturday, October 16, 2004, 11am-5 pm
The Brooklyn Peace Fair is an all-day event that brings together people from across Brooklyn to learn about peace and justice issues at home and abroad in a fun, dynamic environment. Organizations and individuals present workshops, discussion groups, films, arts activities, storytelling, performances, and much more. The Brooklyn Peace Fair is FREE and open to the public. Children, teens, educators, and adults of all ages are welcome!

NEW LOCATION: YWCA
30 Third Avenue, at Atlantic Ave.

The AEU Board meeting will take place in New York, September 11.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE MUSIC PARLOR CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF CONCERTS

The Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor, a program of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture and one of New York City's oldest folk venues, will celebrate its 30th year the only way it knows how: by offering its best schedule ever of bluegrass, old time, acoustic blues, world and folk music, including New York's top local talent and internationally-renowned traveling acts.

Almost every Friday night from mid-September to late June since 1974, the Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor has provided a home for live roots music after many other such venues shut their doors – among them, Gerdies Folk City several years ago and the Bottom Line just last year.

The Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor remains a “home for acoustic roots music” and the best “listening room” in New York City. No loud conversations at the bar to disturb patrons' listening pleasure – in fact, no bar. No espresso machines for the performers to try to sing over. Just good acoustics, an appreciative audience, a gorgeous room, free coffee and tea, and a great roster of performers.

The room – the main meeting room of the historic BSEC mansion – is set up in concert-hall style. The venue is completely volunteer-run, and admission is kept low – \$10-\$15 adults, \$6 kids – for two sets of music from 8 to 10pm.

Good Coffeehouse Music Parlour

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture's weekly Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor concert series kicks off its 30th Anniversary season with these great performances:

September 17-18: 7th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree: A day and a half of workshops, jamming and concerts of traditional American music.

September 17, 8:00pm: Concert by James Reams & The Barnstormers

So, there are still people who still think that authentic bluegrass music can't be made in New York City? Clearly, they haven't heard James Reams & The Barnstormers (www.jamesreams.com). With critically acclaimed albums (the last one was nominated by the International Bluegrass Music Association as a Recorded Event of the Year, and they've been consistently included on DJ “Hot Picks” lists), a touring schedule that runs from Maine to South Carolina to James's home state of Kentucky to Michigan, and a growing dossier of magazine and newspaper articles about them, including feature articles in the two major bluegrass magazines, this is bluegrass music the way it should be played and the way you have to hear it.

September 18, 12:30-10pm: The only event of its kind in the Northeast, this is the place to play and hear the best in old-time and bluegrass music. Workshops (harmony singing, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, banjo and more) start at 12:30, jamming goes on all day, evening showcase concerts start at 6pm – all for \$3 (yup, three dollars). Bring your acoustic instrument (guitar, mandolin, fiddle, stand-up bass, banjo or Dobro) (or if you don't play an instrument, bring your ears), bring your love of American traditional music, bring your kids, bring your friends. If you haven't ever heard the ring of a banjo and the chop of a mandolin echoing through the hills and hollers of Park Slope, then you've missed one of this city's delightful incongruities.

September 24: *closed for Yom Kippur*

October 1: *Traveling Troubadour Series (\$15)*

Paul Geremia (www.fishheads.net/geremia) hails from Rhode Island, but for the past 38 years he has been on the road full-time, thrilling audiences with his virtuoso acoustic blues guitar playing and passionate singing. He is equally impressive on six- and twelve-string guitar and is one of the world's great rack harmonica players. Come see why he's been called a “national treasure.”

The 7th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Jamboree September 17 & 18

Park Slope might seem an unlikely place for a bluegrass and old-time music festival. But each September the hills and hollers of Park Slope ring with the sounds of banjos, fiddles, mandolins, guitars, Dobros and big upright basses.

The annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree will be held on September 17 and 18 at the historic meetinghouse and surrounding gardens of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. The day and a half festival is the only event of its kind in the NY area. As in past years, musicians from all over the Northeast convene in Park Slope to play and enjoy the music that originated with the earliest immigrants to this country. The settlers from Scotland, England and Ireland combined the ballads and instruments of their tradition with the music and instruments of the slaves to produce this country's first “fusion” music (in fact, the American “banjo” was originally the African “mbanza”).


James Reams, the person who conceived of the Jamboree and is a member of the planning committee, said, “We like to keep things on a small scale. We want people to feel at home and have a good time. The only thing big about the Jamboree is the ‘big time’ we hope everyone has! That's why the Jamboree's motto is, ‘Just a big old-time.’” Despite plans to keep it small, the Jamboree attracts more than 700 musicians and fans of old-time and bluegrass music. Added James: “We're lucky we have great neighborhood organizations that support and sponsor American traditional music. In addition, there are lots of incredibly talented musicians in the area as well as an appreciative audience and supportive radio deejays, so we have all of the ingredients to keep the Jamboree going.”

The Jamboree kicks off with a bluegrass concert on Friday night by James Reams & The Barnstormers (nominated last year by the International Bluegrass Music Association as an Emerging Artist of the Year). Saturday's activities run from 12:30 to 10:00pm (admission \$3 – that's right, three dollars) and feature workshops, all-day jamming (with acoustic instruments only: acoustic guitars, fiddles, mandolins, banjos, Dobros, upright basses, dulcimers, harmonicas, etc.), and evening concerts. The workshops cover such topics as bluegrass harmony singing, fiddle, banjo, fingerpicking guitar styles, mandolin, harmonica (A-diatonic), acoustic guitar maintenance and repair, and songs of the Old South.

Featured musicians include Rafe Stefanini, Orpheus Supertones (Walt Koken, Clare Milliner, Kellie Allen and Pete Peterson), The Southern Schoolhouse Rascals (Gil Sayre, Ambrose Verdibello, Dave Howard, Ray Alden and Pat Plankey), Wild Bill Jones (Bill Christophersen and Rhys and Christina Jones), Major Contay and the Canebrake Rattlers (Pat Conte, Bill Dillof, Tom Legenhausen and Mark Farrell), Ellen and John Wright.

September 2004 at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> 	6	7 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	8 7pm:T' ai Chi	9 7:00pm: Platform Comtee Meets 7pm:Nonviolent Communication	10	11 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi 3pm: Colloquy in honor of September 11th
<p>12</p> <p>10:30am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly Parental Welcome and Sign-Up</p>	13 7pm: Storytelling	14 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	15 7pm:T' ai Chi	16 6:30pm: Personnel Comtee Meets 7pm:Nonviolent Communication	17 8pm: Good Coffeehouse \$10 donation (JAMBOREE)	18 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi 12:30-10pm: JAMBOREE
<p>19</p> <p>10:30am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 11am: Platform: <i>Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch After Lunch: Walk to Church of the Gethsemane for International Peace Day Service</p>	20	21 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	22 7pm:T' ai Chi	23	24	25 7:45-9:45am: T' ai Chi
<p>26</p> <p>10:30am-12:30pm: Children's Assembly 11am: Platform: Ethical Action: <i>Waging Peace: Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture</i> 12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch</p>	27	28 7:30-9pm: Brooklyn Women's Chorus	29 7pm:T' ai Chi	30 6:30pm: Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	