



## 12th Annual AEU Growth & Development Conference October 26 & 27 at the Northern Westchester Ethical Society

This fall's conference, sponsored by the AEU Membership Committee, is designed to help Ethical Society officers, board members, committee chairs, and other committed volunteers in their efforts to develop more effective ethical communities.

The program will feature workshops on a variety of topics to enhance your skills and knowledge of Society growth and development techniques. It will also provide an opportunity to get to know members of other societies dealing with similar challenges, to share ideas, experiences, problems and solutions.

Workshop topics will include membership growth, improving teamwork between lay and professional leaders, creating a spirit in our societies where we treat each other in accord with our ethical ideals, innovative adult programs, and using *Great Expectations*, a manual containing ideas and materials from Societies around the Movement, which has just been converted to a computer accessible format.

Registration is \$65, \$75 after October 15. Please contact the BSEC Office for more information.

Anyone who hopes to take part in the future growth and development of BSEC, or participate in the National Ethical Movement, is encouraged to attend. As we work together to share experiences and skills, we can help each other to make our Societies more attractive and more effective.

### October 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?

*Platforms will begin promptly at 11am.*

#### **October 7:** *Raising the Quality of Our Relationships*

BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will review styles of communication, decisionmaking, and inquiry. Communication tools, including the Meyers Briggs Inventory, will be discussed. A workshop will follow where you will get a chance apply the ideas of the talk to building practical skills.

#### **October 14:** *Social Identity and Heritage: Values and Practices*

Each of us has a social heritage, a set of identities with their own experience of history, place, and culture. Members will share how they carry their heritage forward, using core values and practices which they learned growing up within their social framework. If you would like to participate, see Constance Pigozzi, [constancefp@hotmail.com](mailto:constancefp@hotmail.com) or 331-1137.

#### **October 21:** *Community Partnerships In Ethical Living*

Where did we get the idea that where and how we engage in our local neighborhoods doesn't matter? Should we hold ourselves accountable to communities of place, when so many people seem to ignore the communities where they live? Join representatives of several projects organized by our community partner in local development, the *Fifth Avenue Committee*, in a discussion of alternative approaches to preserving the affordability, quality of life, and precious diversity of our neighborhoods, and how people like us can get involved.

#### **October 28:** *New Dreams for Ethical Culture*

What steps can Ethical Culture take to clarify our identity and purpose? With Jim Pomerico, former AEU board member, current chair of the AEU Growth and Development Committee, and member of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County in Maplewood, NJ.

#### **November 4:** *Reforming Our Democracy: Some Ethical Considerations*

Lisel Burns is joined by representatives from *Brooklyn Voices*, the federation of values and faith based groups promoting the Brooklyn Pledge and other alternatives in the face of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

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.

### A Note From the Editor

These past few weeks have been among the most difficult weeks ever in New York City. As part of the effort to give relief to those who are suffering, and to encouraged a state of heightened ethical awareness among all individuals, we have put up a couple special pages on our website at [bsec.org](http://bsec.org).

One page is dedicated to reflection and inspiration, with a collection of stories, poems, quotes, and other creative work submitted by members in response to the recent events. Another page is dedicated to providing up-to-date information on where people can go to make donations or volunteer, as well as meet with other people in an effort to promote wisdom and compassion in these troubling times.

Visit the website regularly for frequent updates, and expect a major overhaul around October 15.

Wishing peace, joy, and room for suffering,  
*Bob Strock, editor*

### Walter Lawton to be Honored November 3rd

On Saturday November 3 at NYSEC, there will be a special dinner in honor of Walter Lawton, long time Ethical Culture Leader, civil rights activist, and psychotherapist. Lisel Burns will be among those speaking in his honor. People considering the legacy we leave and ways of honoring folks *before* they die are especially welcome to join Lisel and others on this trip. The cost of dinner will be \$25-\$50, with proceeds going to the Walter Lawton retirement fund.

### 10/24 Discussion at NYSEC on the Faith-Based Initiative

The New York Society for Ethical Culture will be hosting a roundtable discussion on Sunday, October 24, entitled: *The Faith-Based Initiative--Why It's Bad for America*.

Bergen County Leader Joseph Chuman will moderate a discussion by a number of notable figures, including Katha Pollitt of *The Nation*, Ellen Willis, the Director of the Center for Cultural Journalism at NYU, Mark Stern, the Legal Director of the American Jewish Congress, plus other religious and media figures. Sponsored by the Ethical Culture Metropolitan Leaders Council. Be part of a contingent from BSEC who will be in attendance.

**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

**Vice President:** Tony Severo

**Treasurer:** Donna Roberts

**Recording Secretary:** Kurt Johnson

**Pledge Secretary:** Greta Gladney

**Board Members:**

Rita Wilson, Tracey Jindyeh, Ruth  
Pikitch, Frances Rabinowitz, Gary  
Schechter, Joan Donnen Klips.

*Emeritus: Marshall Dubin, Isabel Ross,  
Charlotte Alper.*

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

**AEU Board:** Greta Gladney 768-2972

**Caring & Sharing:**

Celeste Leibowitz 336-3683

**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

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

*Ethically Speaking* is written by a number of BSEC members. Views expressed in this publication are always open to friendly discussion. Our newsletter staff, like the membership at large, may vary in their thinking on many issues, yet we are all committed to putting deed before creed, and to strive constantly toward living out, each in our own particular way, the Ethical Ideal of eliciting the best from ourselves and others.

Donate \$25/Year  
to help support the newsletter  
(and stay on the mailing list)

# OCTOBER 2001 BSEC CALENDAR

## Tuesday 10/2

**7:30-9pm:** *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. We believe every woman can sing! Join us. 768-2972 for info.

## Wednesday 10/3

**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* with potluck supper & snacks.

## Thursday 10/4

**7:30-8:30pm:** *Ball Room Dancing Lessons*, led by Christina, an international competitive dancer. \$15, discount for BSEC Members. Call (212) 781-7475 for information.

**7:00pm:** Board of Trustees Meeting.

## Saturday 10/6

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

## Sunday 10/7

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Raising the Quality of Our Relationships* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

**1:30-3pm:** *Workshop: Straight Talk and Relationship Building*

## Tuesday 10/9

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

## Wednesday 10/10

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

## Thursday 10/11

**7:30-8:30pm:** *Ball Room Dancing*.

## Friday 10/12

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents an evening of beautiful guitar and vocal music with husband-wife singing duo *Ed Bridge and Kirsti Kaldro*, and singer-songwriter *Susan Guinn*.

## Saturday 10/13

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

## Sunday 10/14

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

**11am: Platform:** *Social Identity and Heritage: Values and Practices*.

**1-3pm:** *Learn-in:* looking for root causes of anger against America.

## Tuesday 10/16

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

## Wednesday 10/17

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

## Thursday 10/18

**7:30-8:30pm:** *Ball Room Dancing*.

## Friday 10/19

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Co-op: the buffoonery, song, and transformation of theatre group *Dzieci*. \$10 donation.

## Saturday 10/20

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

## Sunday 10/21

**10am-12:30pm:**

Children's Sunday Assembly.

**11am:** Sunday Platform:

*Community Partnerships in Ethical Living*.

**12:30:** Lunch with the Bunch.

## Tuesday 10/23

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

## Wednesday 10/24

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

## Thursday 10/25

**7:30-8:30pm:** *Ball Room Dancing*.

## Friday 10/26

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents a night of traditional and original tunes by superb fiddler *Sam Zygmuntowicz* and his band *JAYBIRD!* \$10 donation.

## Saturday 10/27

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

## Sunday 10/28

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

**10-10:45am:** End-of-life Issues Discussion

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *New Dreams for Ethical Culture*.

**1-3pm:** Workshop on Ethical Culture Identity

## Tuesday 10/30

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

## Wednesday 10/31

**7-9pm:** T'ai Chi Chuan.

## Thursday 11/1

**7:30-8:30pm:** *Ball Room Dancing*.

## Friday 11/2

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *Lisa Gutkin & Friends*, a Celtic and contemporary violinist and her compadres.

## Saturday 11/3

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

## Sunday 11/4

**10am-12:30pm:**

Children's Sunday Assembly.

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Reforming Our Democracy: Some Ethical Considerations*.

**12:30:** Lunch with the Bunch.

## AEU Religious Education/ YES Conference Nov. 9-11

The AEU Religious Education Conference will be held November 9-11 at the Holiday Hills retreat center in Pawling NY, with the theme *Telling (Y)Our Story*, with Fritz Williams, AEU Leader and "storyteller extraordinaire". This conference will be a sharing, hands on time to tell our stories, share what has worked and what we are not so sure of.

The annual Y.E.S. (Youth of Ethical Societies) Conference for 13-18 year-olds will also be held at the center the same weekend. Be sure to register in advance for either conference!

Only a couple hours north of NYC, the grounds are lovely with a lake and walking trails. This is a great chance for a family getaway with a plus! The conference fee, housing, and food costs are all reasonable. You may also attend Saturday only, if you like.

**Sponsor a Y.E.S. Member who might not be able to otherwise attend!** Call the BSEC Office for registration forms and for information on sponsoring a teen or Sunday School family.