



## AEU RE Conference Nov. 8-10 "A Festival of Festivals"

The AEU Religious Education Conference will be held November 8-10 at the Stony Point Center in the Lower Hudson Valley. This year's theme will be *A Festival of Festivals*, for celebrating the wide range of Intergenerational Festivals that take place throughout the year at Ethical Societies across the country, and learning how to create them as meaningful and lasting experiences. It's a great getaway for families, and the child care program is run parallel to adult workshops, with shared meals and evenings. Donations to help sponsor families from BSEC are very much appreciated. Non-parents are also welcome!

For info or to make reservations or donations, contact CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh at 748-7084 or [jindyeh@hotmail.com](mailto:jindyeh@hotmail.com).

## November 1 & 2: BSEC Hosts the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual AEU Growth & Development Conference

BSEC opens the doors of its Meeting House to the entire national Ethical Culture Movement, and is honored to be hosting this fall's AEU Growth & Development Conference on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The G&D conference is designed to help Ethical Society officers, board members, committee chairs, and other committed volunteers in their efforts to develop more effective ethical communities.

Friday evening November 1<sup>st</sup>, we will host a potluck dinner for all attendees, with dishes supplied by the BSEC community, followed by the opening program given by Curt Collier, Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society. All day Saturday will be informative and interesting workshops, including one on diversity led by BSEC's own Donna Roberts and Lisel Burns! Registration is \$65, \$75 after 10/15, but *Brooklyn Members will be able to register for the entire weekend with a \$20 donation to BSEC!*

BSEC volunteers are needed to:

- offer home hospitality on Friday and/or Saturday nights.
- bring something for the Friday pot luck dinner and stay for the program that evening.
- offer to tour a small group Saturday evening after the program ends at 5:00pm, to show our guests the best that Brooklyn has to offer (possibilities include First Saturdays at the Brooklyn Museum, or new new sacred Latin music at BAM).

Take a look at the schedule below for specific times of workshops, or check with the office or

the website ([bsec.org](http://bsec.org)) for more details. Contact the BSEC Office to volunteer or to register!

### AEU G&D Conference Schedule:

#### Friday, November 1

**6:30pm:** Registration and Reception

**7:30pm:** Potluck Dinner

**8:15-9:30pm:** Opening Program:

*What People are Looking for in an Ethical Community* led by Curt Collier, Leader of the Riverdale-Yonkers Society.

#### Saturday, November 2

**8:30am:** Registration and Breakfast

**9:30am-12:15pm:** Morning Workshops

a) *Designing a Full-Service Sunday Morning* led by Fritz Williams and Bart Worden, Leaders in Baltimore and Westchester.

b) *Responding Ethically to the Tough Issues of the Day, as a Way of Building an Ethical Community* led by Jim White, Consulting Leader in Cleveland.

**12:15-1:30pm:** Lunch

**1:30-4:15:** Afternoon Workshops

a) *Welcoming and Fostering Diversity* led by BSEC's Lisel Burns and Donna Roberts.

b) *How to Publicize your Society* led by Chicago's Dorothy Lockhart.

c) *Membersihp 101* led by Hank Gassner, AEU Membership Committee Chair.

**4:15-4:45pm:** Closing Ceremony.

All events take place at the BSEC Meeting House. And remember, BSEC Members register for a \$20 donation, so contact the office for a registration form and take advantage of this great opportunity to learn how to make our Society stronger!

## October 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.

### October 6: *Eliciting the Best in Ourselves and Others*

What are we when we stop to honor our inner lives and feel our connection with all life? Dr. Kurt Johnson returns with several Life Reflection Group participants to launch this Season's new series of readings, retreats, and quiet conversation on matters of personal and universal importance.

### October 13: *Heritage Platform: Social Identities, Culture, and Internalized Oppression*

What differences do our social identity experiences make in our mental models, the perceptions and attitudes we bring to every situation? Lisel Burns invites a panel of members to explore the experience of both positive and negative elements in their own particular culture, and also the internalization of negative social conditioning we might call the "Achilles Heel" of self-destructive cultural distortions that every social identity carries.

### October 20: *Ethical Culture and the U.N.: Towards a More Humane and Global Society*

The United Nations remains mankind's best hope for creating a more humane society, and Ethical Culture is by deed and principle an integral part of the process. In this era of violent global conflict, we are compelled by a commitment to our principles to remain engaged in the quest to restore civil societies to the people of the world. The speaker, Lyndon C. Wilburg, a Mental Health Counselor, was born in Guyana in 1958, moved to the U.S. in 1980, and joined the Ethical Culture Society of Queens in 1995. He has been a member of the National Service Conference since 2000 and was a delegate to the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in 2001.

### October 27: *Doorways to Middle East Peace: Introduction to the Dialogue Project*

Hear the remarkable story of the Dialogue Project from its founder, Marcia Kannry, who moved from youth leadership in Israeli Zionist land development organizations to become a leader in New York City of dialogues among Palestinian, Israeli Jewish, and other people, toward lasting peace in the Middle East.

### November 3: *Election Sunday: What does Democracy Have to do With Local or Global Development?*

What are the relationships between what we do at our local polling place and what goes on in developing parts of the world, both near and far? 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.

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST  
BROOKLYN, NY 11215  
(718) 768-2972  
fax (718) 768-3278  
BSECOffice@aol.com  
www.bsec.org

**Leader:** Lisel Burns

**President:** Constance Pigozzi

**Vice President:** Tony Severo

**Treasurer:** Kurt Johnson

**Recording Secretary:** Gary Schechter

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

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

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

**Membership:** Lisel Burns 783-2298

**Caring & Sharing:**

Celeste Leibowitz 336-3683

**Platform:** Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

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

**Building Manager:** Rita Wilson 768-2972

**Bd. Special Projects:** Maureen Egginton

**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, Constance Pigozzi, Rita Wilson, and Maureen Egginton.

## OCTOBER 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

### Tuesday 10/1

**7:30-9pm:** *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. Call 768-2972 for details.

### Wednesday 10/2

**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 10/3

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

### Friday 10/4

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Ethiopian piano virtuoso *Tigist Ejigu*.

### Sunday 10/6

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

**11am:** Platform: *Eliciting the Best in Ourselves and Others* with Dr. Kurt Johnson and Life Reflection Group participants.

**12:30-1:30pm:** New Couples Orientation.

### Monday 10/7

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

### Y.E.S. Conference November 8-10 Sponsorships Needed

This year's Y.E.S. Conference (Youth of the Ethical Societies) will be held Nov. 8-10 at Frost Valley Center in Claryville, NY. You can make a difference by sponsoring a teen or adult mentor with a donation of any amount. Each teen matches the BSEC donation, and the weekend costs \$100- \$200 per participant.

### Membership News

At this Season's opening platform, Dr. Abe Lieberman made a surprise donation of \$5,000 to celebrate his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday! This wonderful gift will serve as a perfect start to a Capital Campaign to raise the funds we will need to see BSEC through this difficult financial period, where we face \$300,000 in building-related repairs and renovations, and our small endowment has been drastically reduced by the fallen stock market. Thank you so, so much, Abe!

Congratulations to both Joan and Stephen Klips, on taking early retirement from the NYC Human Services Administration, after productive careers as administrative social workers.

Last Spring's excellent **Life and Ethics Series** will start again in late fall with a workshop in Conflict Resolution and Mediation course led by Ellen Raider, a founder of the Institute for Conflict Resolution at Teacher's College. Volunteers are also needed to start the process of designing the full series of workshops, writing workshop descriptions and doing publicity. If you're interested in attending or volunteering, please contact the Leader's Office or [liselburns@aol.com](mailto:liselburns@aol.com).

**Film Club begins at BSEC!** Thanks to Dror Kahn, we are purchasing a video projector very reasonably, and will begin a "Brooklyn Flicks" film series (Brooklyn-oriented films, or films by Brooklynites) in October. For more information and dates contact Irene Baker ([ijb1096@aol.com](mailto:ijb1096@aol.com)).

**Wanted: Yoga Teacher** and prospective students for Yoga sessions at BSEC on Saturday, and also Sunday mornings if enough folks sign up. The cost of a teacher will be shared by students and further discounted for Members.

The grand prize winner of our first **50/50 Raffle** was a co-worker of Finance member (and raffle ticket seller *extraordinaire*) Bruce Leibowitz. She won over \$500, and so did BSEC! Next time you could be the winner, but only if you buy a ticket! Contact Bruce, or Ruth Pikitch for info.

### Tuesday 10/8

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

### Wednesday 10/9

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

### Sunday 10/13

**11am:** *Heritage Platform: Social Identities, Culture, and Internalized Oppression*.

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

### Tuesday 10/15

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

### Wednesday 10/16

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

### Friday 10/18

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop: jazz explorations with *Will Woodard Group* and world journeys with percussionist *Todd Isler*.

### Sunday 10/20

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

**11am:** Platform: *Ethical Culture and the U.N.* with Lyndon C. Wilburg.

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

### Tuesday 10/22

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

### Wednesday 10/23

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

### Friday 10/25

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents the vocal harmonies of *Ellsworth & Hicks*, plus singer/songwriter *Andrew Hunt*.

### Sunday 10/27

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

**11am:** Platform: *Introduction to the Dialogue Project* with Project founder Marcia Kannry.

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

**1:30-3:30pm:** **Ethical Action Workshop: Campaign Finance Reform.** Elizabeth Moretta from *Common Cause* will lead a presentation workshop on campaign finance issues.

### Tuesday 10/29

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

### Wednesday 10/30

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

### Friday 11/1

**AEU Growth & Development Conference**

**6:30-9:30pm:** Dinner & Opening Workshop.

### Saturday 11/2

**AEU Growth & Development Conference**

**8:30am-4:45pm:** Saturday Workshops.

(see front page for details)

### Sunday 11/3

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

**11am:** Platform: *Election Sunday: What Does Democracy Have to do With Local or Global Development?* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

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