



## “Stronger Societies for a Stronger Ethical Movement”

### 14th Annual Society Growth and Development Conference

Friday Evening & Saturday, October 24 & 25

Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

The goal of the conference is to share information on a variety of topics in order to strengthen Society skills in creating effective and growing Ethical communities.

Topics Include:

- ° Attracting Young Families
  - ° Improving Society Publicity
  - ° Membership Growth Techniques
  - ° Attractive & Inviting Society Web Pages
  - ° Accessing Ideas & Resources on the Internet
- Conference brochures and registration forms are available from the BSEC Office and the AEU website. Contact Hank Gassner at [kargas@earthlink.net](mailto:kargas@earthlink.net) or the AEU office at 212-873-6500 if you have for questions.

## From the Leader’s Desk: Late Summer Questions

“Ain’t nobody want to plant the corn, (but everybody want to raid the barn,” goes “Raid the Barn,” the reggae song (by Anthony B.) that my Bahamian nephew, Burns Taylor, played repeatedly during our August family vacation in the New Hampshire mountains.

Out of the rapid, Jamaican-accented phrases, why did those two lines jump out at me? My nephew insisted that the song attracted him only because of “the tone and the beat” and “definitely not for the message of the lyrics.”

Since childhood, I have had a hunger for message in music and art. And like any good proverb offering community insight on a big question, those reggae lines asked a big question with no doctrinal beliefs attached. As the lyrics rushed on, I was asking myself, “What will I be planting in my several organizational fields this coming year?”

In some group efforts (say, my community household or block association), I am a fairly passive community member, happy to pay

extra to work less, ready to eat at harvest time, but “too busy” most days to take the mop to a dusty floor, much less show up for planting. Here, however, in my extended family, at BSEC and in a few other places where I have decided to engage my hopes for humanity and the planet, you can often find me taking a turn seeding or weeding long rows in the earth, or sitting in a meeting, figuring how to pay the farm bills this month.

As we move into the fall, our respective secular, religious and ethical heritages play out around us in many different levels of observance. Each religious tradition and its holy days or practices sound their respective moral calls, with interpretation of and accountability to those calls now, in these modern times, largely left to the individuals – for some by membership, for others by folk culture and family memory.

Wherever we stand on that continuum, this October we too can start the Jewish New Year by answering the Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur reflective call to pay our debts, regret our sins of speech, attitude, action and inaction, then approach our neighbors to make right those relations.

In November, the Islamic tradition or our own ethical urging may call us to join Ramadan’s 30-day fasting and remembrance. All through the year, Hindu and Buddhist wisdom traditions teach nonviolence and ask us to wage peace in our hearts, no matter how the world rages about us. And in December, the Christian year begins with the celebration of the birth of a compassionate rabbi whose life lessons began in a lonely stable below a bright star.

I consider the richness of religious and ethical tradition a positive force in my cultural life and a powerful source of ethical insight and positive jihad, or inner moral struggle. The traditional religions have their place, and their constituencies, many of whom join our critique of the challenges to ethical living now being played out on TV screens, on the internet, and in the marketplace. I view Ethical Culture as a community where one’s theology is personal business, but ethical living is a chosen responsibility to keep faith in humanity’s capacity for goodness. Whether people root their action on theological or naturalistic grounds is secondary to this aim.

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## October Platforms

### October 5

*What Does Strategy Have to do with Waging Peace?*

World spiritual leader Dali Lama cautions his audiences, “Calling for peace peace, peace is not enough! You must have nonviolent strategies toward that peace.” What strategies for peace are we using now in the BSEC Ethical Action Committee? How do they play out in the emerging Brooklyn Community Action Network (BCAN), our support for local and global self-help projects, and our plans for BSEC programs this coming Season? Join your own ideas with those of Ethical Action Chair Charley Horwitz, Ethical Action, BSEC Leader Lisel Burns, Peace Site Chair Maureen Egginton, and others.

### October 12

*Defining Moments: Experiences From My Heritage*

This year’s *Heritage Platform* asks members to share stories from their heritage that helped to define their personal values and outlook on life. Led by Constance Pigozzi and Martha Hoffman.

### October 19

*How Does the U.N. Relate to Science, Ethics and Religion?*

Reflections on commemorating United Nations Day, which falls on October 24th this year. With Dr. Kurt Johnson and National Service Conference Director Martha Gallahue.

### October 26

*Political Art: An Ethical Graphic Counterbalance*

Graphic artist and illustrator Thomas Kerr will focus on imagery created by artists in response to unethical societal problems. Introduced by BSEC Member Joel Cohen.

### November 2

*Thoughts on Election Day*

With BSEC Ethical Action Chair Charley Horwitz.

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**

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**Coffeehouse:** Linda Stallard 768-2972

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**Youth Group:**

Irene (Adriana) Baker, Tony Severo

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

*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.

**Music for Platforms:  
What would you  
like to hear?**

Do you have a favorite piece of music that you'd like to share with the rest of us? Please bring in your favorite CDs or tapes for the Platform Committee to consider (see Diane or Constance) or share the title/artist with Diane Kirschner via e-mail: [kirschnerd@hotmail.com](mailto:kirschnerd@hotmail.com). Please suggest pieces no more than 4 minutes in length. Thanks for helping us expand our listening pleasure!

## October Ethical Action Activities

### Clean Water Activists in Nicaragua at BSEC October 8th

On Wednesday, October 8th, at 7:30 pm, BSEC/EAC will host Elisabeth Merritt who will offer a slide show and discussion on sustainable grassroots economic development in Nicaragua. Her project, El Porvenir ("The Future"), a California-based social justice and human rights group, has worked in rural Nicaragua for 14 years. It helps communities dig wells to obtain clean water, build latrines and communal washing facilities and do reforestation work. Villagers provide volunteer labor and the project provides the materials and financing. The project offers Elderhostel and work trips for small groups who wish to experience village life while helping local families help themselves. Contact Charley Horwitz for more information at 718-230-3537.

### Peace Fair at BSEC October 18

BSEC and Brooklyn Parents for Peace are sponsoring a Peace Fair on October 18. We expect hundreds of children and adults during the day long event from 10 am until 4 pm. The Fair's purpose is to have fun while educating folks about peaceful alternatives to war. Poets, videos, music, dance performances, workshops and discussions will be held at our building and at Poly Prep. Free food will be served. The Fair promises to be the most ethnically and racially diverse event we have ever sponsored. Tracey Jindyeh, our Sunday Assembly Director, has helped plan the Fair with BPPF for several months. Contact her for more information.

### October 25th March on Washington

Brooklyn Parents for Peace is recruiting Brooklynites to join the October 25th March on Washington. The organization supports a UN takeover of peace-keeping and humanitarian relief in Iraq in order to prevent another Vietnam-style quagmire. BPPF may book a bus. For more information call BPPF at 718-624-5921 or email [bpfp@brooklynpeace.org](mailto:bpfp@brooklynpeace.org).

### "Education Provides the Means to Fight Misery in Haiti"

On Sunday, October 26, 7 pm, the BSEC/ EAC will host a wine and cheese reception for Father Joseph Philippe, the founder of Fonkoze, the most successful alternative bank for the poor in Haiti. Several BSEC members helped Fonkoze get started and now it has 230 staffers and 18 branch offices that lend money to the poorest of the poor. Fr. Philippe is now starting a new venture, Fondwa University, whose goal is to help peasants learn modern agricultural and business techniques to help fight the horrific human misery in Haiti. Contact Charley for more information.



## Membership News

Ouafa Jindyeh's mother, Safia, is seriously ill in Spain and is not expect to live long. Tracey has asked if any members or friends have "miles" on American Airlines that they can donate to help her family travel to Spain in this difficult time. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Tracey at (718) 748-7084.

Rose Castro has had several operations on her eyes due to glaucoma and will be undergoing more surgery on October 1st. Best wishes for a full recovery.

Our thoughts and hopes are with Rev. Liz Alexander and Martha Gallahue as Liz prepares for upcoming surgery.

Congratulations to Charlotte Alper on the marriage of her son Robert in September.

Congratulations to Cynthia Stallard and Edmond Francis who have started their first semesters away at college, Cynthia at SUNY Geneseo and Edmund at Ithaca College.

Congratulations to Kurt Johnson for joining the North American Board of the Dali Lama's western community organization.

Bob Strock and Martha Hoffman, along with Theatre Group Dzieci, spent a wonderful three days as artists-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, September 23-25.

October Birthdays: Abbey Scher (5th), Les Lopes (6th), Rose Castro (16th).

Anyone interested in sponsoring Lunch with the Bunch, please contact Rita, Tony or Tracey, (718) 768-2972.

The YES group is recruiting new members: if you know a teen-ager 13-19 who has interest in youth activities (games, movies, bowling), dynamic discussions and ethical/social actions call Adriana, (718) 768-2972.



## October Good Coffeehouse Schedule

October 3

*Los Acustilocos* is a six piece band (flute, acoustic bass, acoustic guitar, Venezuelan cuatro, accordion and percussion) that performs original songs based on rhythms from Brazil, Haiti, Cuba and Venezuela. Their music has an emphasis on vocal harmonies and lyrical melodies, and they sing in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Creole and Portuguese. Their music makes for great listening -- and hip moving.

-plus - *Alma Y Vida* is a New York-based band that plays a fusion of jazz and a South American style of African music called Candombe that was developed in Uruguay, South America. Lead by drummer Ramón Echegaray, *Alma Y Vida* also features a trio of tamboriles, the typical Uruguayan candombe drums, with guitarist-pianist Beledo, and Toshi Someya on bass.

October 10 *Closed for Columbus Day Weekend*

October 17 *Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop*

Peter Hess (tenor saxophone, clarinet) aligns himself with those musicians who ignore musical boundaries and are fond of the various traditions they're breaking with. He will be joined by Scott McLemore (drums) and Will Woodard (bass).

-plus - Michael Blake's *Free Association* (saxophones) finds ways to make fragments and tangents behave in a comprehensive manner. Blake's band revitalizes the *Art Ensemble's* old game: ancient to the future continuity, doled out in a subversively vivacious manner.

October 24

The *Women's Accordion Orchestra* performs traditional as well as contemporary musical pieces, under the direction of the internationally known accordionist Walter Kerr.

October 31 *Closed for Halloween*

### LEADER'S OFFICE AT BSEC

In addition to pastoral services, programming and Sunday Platform meetings, clergy leaders in the Ethical movement, like other clergy, involve themselves on behalf of their Societies and as individuals in a variety of activities in the larger community. Lisel is now working on the Health and Welfare committee of the National Leader's Council and developing possible collaborations for the BSEC and the Leaders Council with the Institute for Global Ethics ([www.globalethics.org](http://www.globalethics.org)) based in Camden Maine. In Brooklyn she is on the Boards of the (Mideast) Dialogue Project, and the Fifth Avenue Committee, which is celebrating 25 years of work building affordable housing and organizing for social and economic justice with a gala evening at the Brooklyn Museum October 23. For the National Congress of Neighborhood Women and GROOTS International. She is doing a series of leadership support training meetings with public housing tenant reform leaders in NYC, and a learning exchange between St. Louis, NYC and Clearfork Valley, Tennessee in Tennessee October 9-13. Later this Season she will go again to Germany to continue a training series for leaders of the Germany-based Mother Center movement.

## Friday Evening Fellowship & Coffeehouse

The Leader's Office and the Membership Committee is sponsoring a monthly Friday night community supper series this Season, especially intended to orient newer people or couples planning ceremonies but welcoming longtime members too. Some evenings will have a topic or a workshop; others strictly for socializing. Good food promised every time! Our first get-together is planned for October 3: Newcomers, Ceremony Couples and Members can come to the meetinghouse starting around 6pm. We'll eat and chat until the Coffeehouse starts at 8 PM. Bring your own food or beverage contribution with \$3.00 admission or sign up for this month's Coco Roco Peruvian food buffet at \$6.00 per person. Supper plus Coffeehouse admission will be \$16.

### Halloween "Monster Mic" Party

The Fun-d Raising Committee will host a Halloween Party at BSEC.

Friday, October 31, 8pm

Open mike for poetry, music and ... "whatever"

Prizes for Best Costumes.

Refreshments available.

Doors open at 7:30pm.

\$5 suggested donation.

### Baroque Music Concert

Early baroque duets and arias performed by Lea Simone and Deborah Carmichael, with Daniel Swenberg (theorbo) and Lisa Terry (viola da gamba). BSEC Meeting House, October 26th, 3 pm. For information call 768-2972. The concert is a fundraiser: \$15 suggested donation.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Brooklyn, New York 11215  
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Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture