



AEU Growth & Development Conference Schedule

Friday, November 1

6:30pm: Registration, Reception, and Dinner

8:15-9:30pm: Opening Program: *What People are Looking for in an Ethical Community* led by Curt Collier, Leader at Riverdale-Yonkers.

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

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

All events take place at the BSEC Meeting House. See you there!

Ethical Action News

The Ethical Action Committee would like to call your attention to three important events taking place in the month of November.

Sunday, 11/17, the *Brooklyn Alliance for Justice and Peace* will hold a planning meeting from 4 to 6pm, with a social gathering afterwards until 8pm, at the Meeting House. The coalition, led by longtime activist Finley Schaefer, and sponsored by BSEC along with several local churches and community organizations, will build on what was established at its initial 9/29 meeting.

Saturday, 11/23, a daylong conference on Iraq will be held at the Riverside Church at 120th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. Ethical Culture Leader Jim White (former leader of the Essex Society) is one of the main organizers of this important city-wide anti-war event. Registration (\$25) begins at 9:30am and the first session begins at 10:30. Participants will have the opportunity to learn effective techniques for protesting the war, as well as have a chance to learn what's really happening inside Iraq. For more information contact Maria Burgos at (212)870-6700 at Riverside Church. Contact Charley Horwitz if you need a ride.

Sunday 11/24 at 1pm, back at the Meeting House, there will be a presentation entitled *Justice for East Timor?* with Aderito de Jesus Soares (East Timorese lawyer and founder of the East Timor National Jurists

Association) and John Miller (Media Outreach Coordinator of the East Timor Action Network).

For more information on these events, on BSEC Ethical Action, or how to get involved, contact Charley Horwitz (e-mail chorwitz@earthlink.net or call 230-3537).

Children's Sunday Assembly Wampanoag Festival Sunday 11/17

The Children's Sunday Assembly will be celebrating an annual BSEC Thanksgiving tradition on Sunday November 17th at 11am: the *Wampanoag Festival*, which is based on the Native American tradition of reciprocity. CSA Students and BSEC Platformgoers will join together in a powerful reminder of the abundance of our lives and all the things we have to be grateful for.

That afternoon, from 3:15 to 4:15pm, the CSA is planning another fun-raising Ethical Swim at the Prospect Park YMCA on 9th Street. A \$5 donation is asked for each child.

Mark your calendars for Sunday December 15th. This year's Winter Festival is going to be a Winter Party, from 11am to 1pm, and we hope everyone can come!

Note: *There is NO CSA on Sunday Dec. 1*, for Thanksgiving weekend.

For more information about the Children's Sunday Assembly, contact CSA Director Tracey Jindyeh (jindyeh@hotmail.com or 748-7084).

November 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.

November 3: Election Sunday: Special Candidates Forum

Green? Democratic? Independent? Republican? Other? Democracy asks citizens to make their votes count. What do our ethics require in the voting booth? At the request of Warren Miner, former President of BSEC and a long-time leader in the local Independent Democratic Club, the BSEC Ethical Action Committee has invited representatives of the four main candidates for New York State governor to join our Election Sunday platform. Bring your questions relating to the ethical dilemmas posed by the elections this November.

November 10: Restorative Justice: Healing One Another

A discussion of alternatives to our present system of punitive and retributive prison sentencing, and the negative impact of the Rockefeller Drug Laws and the death penalty. Guest speakers from our neighbor in Park Slope, the Church of Gethsemane, an "intentional community of prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, and those who are in solidarity with the imprisoned and the poor." Led by Rev. Elizabeth Alexander and Chibueze Okorie, with readings from *Breaking The Silence*, a book of poetry written by women in prison.

November 17: Wampanoag Festival

An annual intergeneration celebration of abundance and gratitude.

November 24: Thanksgiving Colloquy

A more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony, with sharing, music, and reflections.

December 1: Setting Standards for Ethical Decision-Making

When we choose to attribute worth to all humanity, what does that require of us when it comes to ethical decision-making? What preparation do we need to clarify our own values with such an aim? BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will bring ideas from the *Institute For Global Ethics* in Camden, Maine (globeethics.org) to the Ethical Culture table.

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

BSECOffice@aol.com
www.bsec.org

Leader: Lisel Burns

President: Constance Pigozzi

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Pledge Secretary: Ruth Pikitch

Board Members:

Frank Bottini, Maureen Egginton, Tracey Jindyeh, Rita Wilson, Joan Donnen Klips, Bruce Leibowitz. *Emeritus: Marshall Dubin, Isabel Ross, Charlotte Alper.*

Building Rentals: Rita Wilson, Linda Stallard

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

Special Projects & Communications:

Maureen Egginton 216-7532

Sunday School: Tracey Jindyeh 748-7084

Caretaker: James Alford

Peace Site: Maureen Egginton 216-7532

Coffeehouse: Linda Stallard 768-2972

Environment: Kurt Johnson 768-2972

Youth Group:

Irene Baker, Tony Severo, Eddie Coyne

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NOVEMBER 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

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: Sunday Platform:
Election Sunday: Special Candidates Forum.
12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Monday 11/4

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

Tuesday 11/5

7:30-9pm: *Brooklyn Women's Chorus* directed by Bev Grant. We believe every woman can sing! Call 965-0720 for details.

Wednesday 11/6

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 11/7

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting.

Friday 11/8

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents music from the African Savannah *Fula Flute*, featuring master Tambin players *Bailo Bah* and *Sylvain Leroux*.

Sunday 11/10

10am-12:30pm: Children's Sunday Assembly.
11am: Sunday Platform:
Restorative Justice: Healing One Another.
12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Tuesday 11/12

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

Wednesday 11/13

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 11/15

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: *Ben Silver* and *Bruce Markow*.

Sunday 11/17

11am: *Wompanoag Festival.*

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

4-8pm: *Brooklyn Alliance for Justice and Peace planning meeting and social gathering.*

Tuesday 11/19

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

Wednesday 11/20

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

7pm: Brooklyn Flix: Woody Allen's *Radio Days*. Refreshments and discussion after the film.

Friday 11/22

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents *Gene Yellin, Michal Shapiro & the Bluegrass All-Stars* along with the *Brooklyn Corn Dodgers*, for a rousing evening of traditional American music.

Sunday 11/24

10am-12:30pm: Children's Sunday Assembly.
11am: *Thanksgiving Colloquy.*

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

1-3pm: *Ethical Action Workshop: Justice for East Timor?*

Tuesday 11/26

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

Wednesday 11/27

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Sunday 12/1

11am: Sunday Platform: *Setting Standards for Ethical Decision-Making* with Lisel Burns.

Membership News

New member Vijay Rao has taken on the chair of the Membership Committee, sharing the organization of membership systems, newcomer welcome, and coordination of community work opportunities within BSEC. The Committee will be providing monthly newcomer workshops, and is looking into the creation of a buddy system, pairing current Members of BSEC with prospective and new Members, providing a solid point of contact as they acclimate themselves to the community.

BSEC President Constance Pigozzi feel off a stepladder last month, but didn't break anything and is recovering nicely.

We are planning some New Year's Eve suppers at homes of members this 12/31. Then, if we have the volunteer hosts and planners, we'll open the Meeting House for a late-night dessert party with dancing and fireworks in the park to follow. Contact the BSEC couples network or the fundraising committee to help. Call 783-2298 or e-mail liselburns@aol.com. The Winter Crafts Fair is coming up! The annual event will be held at the Meeting House on Saturday, December 14th. To volunteer for publicity outreach, hosting, setup and cleanup, or anything else, contact Linda Stallard via the office.

BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will be working in Germany doing grassroots organizational training from November 11-24.

The Gowanus Artists Annual Open Studio Tour took place on the weekend of October 26 & 27, and included the studio of BSEC Member Robin Feld as one of the stops.

Did you know? Whenever you refer a person to use our Meeting House as a rental site, you are making a gift to BSEC, and we appreciate it.

Coming December 8:

Family Values, Ethical Culture Style

On Sunday 12/8 our Platform will consider a pro-family society that we would support wholeheartedly. What would local and other policies look like if we rejected the ethos of selfishness and greed and rewarded families that raised children to be caring and responsible people? This open mike program will take all comers as long as they have ideas to share that could actually be implemented — whether in families, schools, workplaces, local communities, or national policy.