


# November 2004 ■ At The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
++ LOCATION OTHER THAN BSEC GCH- GOODCOFFEEHOUSE MUSIC PARLOR: SEE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS AND PRICES \$ FEE OR DONATION	1 7-9pm Storytelling \$	2 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	3 6:30-9:30: Community Sing \$ donations 7-9 Tai Chi with JP Members Free	4 7pm Board Meeting	5 6:30: Creative Action Group 8pm: GCH: Ernie Hawkins \$	6 12:30pm Guitar Workshop \$65 ++3pm: Reflec- tions Group
7 10:30: CSA 11:00: Platform: "Ethical Considerations in Our Lives – What Are They and How Do We Put Them First?" 1pm: YES Group	8 7pm: Book Group We The People 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	9 7pm: Book Group We The People 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	10 7-9 Tai Chi with JP Members Free	11 7pm Platform Committee	12 8pm: GCH: Bill Christophersen, Gil Sayre; and John Lead \$	13
14 10:30: CSA 11:00 Platform: "Doing Good: Experiences, Pitfalls and Possibilities" 1:15pm EAC Training Workshop: 1:30:pm YES Group	15 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	16 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	17 7-9 Tai Chi with JP Members Free	18 6:30-7:30 Building & Grounds Committee	19 THIRD FRIDAY FAMILY NIGHT OUT 6:30-10pm \$ 8pm GCH: Roberta Picket \$	20
21 10:30: CSA 11am Platform: Wampanoag Intergenerational Festival 1:30 YES Group 1:15 Ethical Action Committee Meeting	22 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	23 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	24 7-9 Tai Chi with JP Members Free	25 HAPPY THANKS- GIVING 	26 NO GCH TODAY	27
28 NO CSA TODAY 11:00am Thanksgiving Colloquy: Theme: "Acceptance"	29 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	30 7:30-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus				



**We would be pleased if you would add your thoughts this month to our BSEC Sunday community conversations on the topic of ethical considerations both on November 7 and 14.**

**Nov. 7— "Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture: Ethical Considerations in Our Lives – What Are They and How Do We Put Them First?"** The community reflection will explore ways that we can, as families, workers, and community members, identify and be proactive in prioritizing ethical considerations. With Leader, Lisel Burns and The Brooklyn Women's Chorus.

**Nov. 14-- "Doing Good: Experiences, Pitfalls and Possibilities"** With Robert Belenky, author and child psychologist working with street children in Haiti and Russia, author of a new book of photographs, whose proceeds benefit the children.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:** Robert Belenky is a clinical child psychologist and author presently working on a series of books about children in Haiti, Russia and the United States, whose lives have not been easy. The latest book **Camaraderie** is about "encardrements," a French word referring to the frames that define a person's life.

Dr. Belenky, postulates that the children are sustained by a particularly important frame, their ancient, still vital culture. If we are to be of use to such children, Belenky argues, we must see them in their full context, framed by friends, families, community, and all that defines and enhances them. And, he thinks, we can do this best through the arts.

"I have come to believe that there is a more useful way to think about intervention in the lives of others that does not involve charity at all. Rather, it is possible to work together in solidarity and commitment with all parties coming to appreciate everyone's full humanity. It is not difficult, as difficult as one can imagine, to get into such a frame of mind."

Many of us, appalled by the misery prevalent in the world, aspire to nurture those who suffer and to heal all wounds. It is a laudable aspiration but often difficult to achieve. Sometimes the effects of our efforts are the opposite of what we intend. Examples abound; donations of rice to Haiti had the effect of destroying the local rice economy. The same was true for Haiti's textile industry with respect to generous donations of jeans and t-shirts.

You may want to go with Bob to Haiti with his work camp from January 3-17, 2005. The three organizations there with which he is involved are: a girl's orphanage in Port au Prince, "Le Foyer des Filles de Dieu, an art apprenticeship program in Mont Rouis and a youth community educational and cultural program in La Vallée de Jacmel, "CODEHA."

**Nov. 21 — "Wampanoag Thanksgiving Festival"** Annual Intergenerational Platform with Children's Sunday Assembly and Remi Gay. A Native American Ceremony of Gratitude. Celebrate and honor the Native Americans' attitude of thankfulness to the earth, with traditional storytelling, Cherokee songs and dance. The Wampanoag were the people who greeted the Pilgrims and helped them live through their first winter in Massachusetts. Together they celebrated the settlers first harvest festival, playing games, singing, dancing, as well as feasting. "Gathering Around the Fire," Peace Chant to The Four Directions, "How Raven Made the World," a Forgiveness Ceremony, and the Blanket Dance.

**Nov. 28 —Thanksgiving Colloquy: With the theme "Acceptance."** A more meditative ethical culture ceremony with sharing, music and reflections. Led by Constance Pigozzi.

**Dec. 5--"Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture:** What should be done about gentrification and displacement in Bed-Stuy and surrounding areas?" A panel of community leaders and experts share their ideas." Led by the Ethical Action Committee of BSEC. A follow-up workshop will follow after lunch at 1:15-3 pm.

**Platforms are free and open to the public. All are welcome. BSEC – 53 Prospect Park West & 2nd Street – 718-768-2972 - [www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org)**