



## Ethical Action: Suggestions for Giving

Ethical Action asks that readers take a personal inventory of the numerous opportunities we each have— close to home or away— to promote, encourage, or extend financial support to a project we believe furthers our ideals.

This month, some suggestions:

- Make a personal gift to Haiti Fonkoze, or a loan to add to the BSEC \$5000, and ask some friends to join you.
- Help send a child to Haiti Leogane summer camp — \$15 for each student enrolled.
- Enroll with the Fifth Avenue Committee as a FAC Activist; 250 have done so to date.
- Help the BSEC Sunday School: endow a place at next fall's family weekend for \$150.
- Donate to the Philadelphia Ethical Society's Camp Linden, the Long Island Society's Kenyan School Fund, or the Washington Ethical Society's International Project.
- Donate to BSEC in honor of someone you love who has died.
- Put a person or group you admire in your will.

## Weekend of Winter Gifts & Holiday Celebration Dec. 14-16 Fool's Mass, Crafts Fair, and Winter Festival

BSEC is planning a full weekend, December 14-16, celebrating the gifts we share.

First, on Friday 12/14 at 8pm at the Good Coffeehouse, will be the experimental theatre group DZIECI (with BSEC member Bob Strock), with their annual presentation of *A Fool's Mass*. The show is a blend of buffoonery and hymn-singing, and follows the efforts of a band of village idiots at a church somewhere in medieval Europe as they try to make the best of things after their beloved priest has died of the plague. Thoughtful holiday entertainment for the whole family.

Next, on Saturday 12/15 11am-4pm, BSEC celebrates *Winter Crafts Fair 2001*, where our magnificent turn-of-the-century landmark mansion will be transformed into a gallery of original arts and crafts, including pottery, jewelry, clothing, toys, art prints, and much more. A chance to find the perfect holiday gift. Also: delicious refreshments and BSEC program booths, including YES, CSA, and local and global community development. *Volunteer coordination meetings will be 12/2 and 12/9 at 1pm.*

Finally on Sunday 12/16 at 11am, join us for our annual *Winter Festival*, an intergenerational celebration of the gifts that all traditions and cultures can share, not only this time of year, but year-round.

### *Life Reflections: a Discussion Series*

Do you have questions about linking inner and outer life issues you'd like to explore with other people who share your concerns? Identify core values and help bring balance to your life through thoughtful, open conversation. *Life Reflections*, a small group discussion series, will start this winter. Call 783-2298 for more information.

### Computer Workshop Open House December 2nd 1:30pm

We now have three computers in the membership and Leader's offices and one in the Library. We have at least two members who are volunteering to mentor others in using the computers on either Mac or PC platforms.

We want to raise funds for improving our technical capacity via the office computers and the website. One way would be through potential computer students who will contribute \$5-15 to BSEC in exchange for computer help.

We will be having a computer training Open House on Sunday 12/2 at 1:30. Come try out your computer questions on Steven Klips. Please contact the office or check the website for the workshop series to follow this winter.

## December 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. No Platform December 30.*

### **December 2:** *Auditing Our Lives for Ethical Living: Practices and Projects*

How do we measure the extent to which Ethical Ideals permeate our lives and influence the groups we call community? With BSEC Leader Lisel Burns and new member Frank Bottino.

### **December 9:** *The Healing Power of Theater*

Religion and theater derive a vital energy from shared roots. BSEC Member Bob Strock describes his work with the experimental theater group *Dzieci*, which explores this energy through theatrical performances involving ritual and transformation, and in healing interactions with marginalized populations in hospitals and other institutions.

### **December 16:** *Winter Festival*

Join the students of the Children's Sunday Assembly for an annual BSEC tradition. An intergenerational, festive, and thoughtful exploration of the December holiday season, as we share our traditions, stories, creativity, and other gifts.

### **December 23:** *Holiday Colloquy*

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

### **January 6:** *Linking Our Inner and Outer Worlds*

What balance of attention to our inner and outer worlds makes for a unified and unifying life? Is it possible to take our inner depths seriously while still paying heed to the predominant value of external achievements in our culture? With Lisel Burns and Kurt Johnson.

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.

### Interracial\*

Lilly White and Chocolate Brown  
Scandalized a northern town.  
They were seen at work and play  
In the brightest light of day.  
Flaunted nothing, made no show,  
Though it might as well have been so.  
The loaded word "miscegenation"  
Aggravates a nervous nation.  
The mere idea engenders pain  
In a fevered public brain.  
"We're in love, so we're all right,"  
Say Chocolate Brown and Lilly White.

Marshall F. Dubin

*\*Dedicated to my wife Etheline. We were married for forty-two years until she passed away in September 1997.*

**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)

## DECEMBER 2001 BSEC CALENDAR

### Saturday 12/1

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

### Sunday 12/2

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

**11am:** Platform: *Auditing Our Lives for Ethical Living* with Lisel Burns and Frank Bottini.

**1:30pm:** Computer Workshop Open House.

**1:30pm:** Mideast dialog (closed session).

### Monday 12/3

**7-9pm:** *Stone Soup Storytelling Group*, a workshop  
for storytellers of all levels of experience. Led by  
professional storyteller Mary Savage. \$5-12.

### Tuesday 12/4

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

### Wednesday 12/5

**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.*

### Friday 12/7

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse concert series  
presents *David Roche and Family and Friends.*

### Saturday 12/8

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

### Sunday 12/9

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *The Healing Power of Theater* with Bob Strock.

### Tuesday 12/11

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

### Wednesday 12/12

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

### Thursday 12/13

**6:30-8:30pm:** Orientation supper at Lisel's.

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

### Friday 12/14

**6:30-8pm:** Library potluck supper.

**8pm:** Good Coffeehouse concert series presents  
Theatre Group Dzieci's *A Fool's Mass.*

### Saturday 12/15

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

**11am-5pm:** **WINTER CRAFTS FAIR.**

### Sunday 12/16

**10am-11am:** Children's Assembly.

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Winter Festival.*

### Tuesday 12/18

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

### Wednesday 12/19

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

### Thursday 12/20

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

### Saturday 12/22

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

### Sunday 12/23

**11am:** *Holiday Colloquy.*

### Wednesday 12/26

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

### Thursday 12/27

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

### Saturday 12/29

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

### Tuesday 1/1

**1-5pm:** *New Year's Brunch.*

### Wednesday 1/2

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

### Thursday 1/3

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

### Friday 1/4

**8pm:** The Good Coffeehouse; performers tba.

### Saturday 1/5

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

### Sunday 1/6

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

**11am:** Sunday Platform: *Linking Our Inner and Outer Worlds* with Lisel Burns and Kurt Johnson.

## New Year's Brunch Jan. 1, 2002

BSEC will host a New Year's Brunch January 1  
2002, 1-5pm. Volunteers will be needed to help  
plan and organize the event. Contact Ruth Pikitch  
at 256-6739 to volunteer your time or a donation.

No formal gathering has been planned for New Year's  
Eve this year, but the library will probably be open  
for members who wish to get together informally  
before the fireworks in Prospect Park. Check the  
website or with the office closer to the date.

If you know of any group who is interested in  
renting the space on 12/31 (or any other day as  
well!), please have them contact Building  
Manager Sheila Kosoff as soon as possible.

An end-of-year personal retreat is also possible.  
For those interested in ending the year with a good  
supper, deepening your thoughts about how you  
will live in the coming year. If you would like to  
retreat, or host a group at home or go to another  
member family for the evening, please contact  
the Membership Office before 12/15.

## Membership News

CSA teacher Margit Sheldon and her husband Bob are the proud new parents of Christopher Walker Sheldon, who was born on Sat. Nov. 17, weighing in at 9 lbs. 1 oz. Congratulations!

Sarah Weiss has been elected the new present of the Brooklyn Y.E.S. group. And Ritchie Buzzo was made an officer in the national Y.E.S. organization at the national conference last month. Congratulations to you both!

BSEC President Constance Pigozzi is an active member of the Brooklyn College Conservatory Chamber Choir, and she will be singing with them at their winter concert on Saturday December 1st, 7:30pm, Union Church, 80th St. & Ridge Blvd. (2nd Ave.). The concert will feature beautiful Renaissance works by Josquin, Palestrina, and Victoria.

A memorial garden and donation project is getting off the ground. Local landscape garden designer Anne Weiden joins Celeste Leibowitz and Lisel to develop a design.