



WINTER CRAFTS FAIR: Saturday, December 16 11am - 4pm

GIFT SHOPPING?

BSEC celebrates Winter Crafts Fair 2002 on Saturday, December 16th, 11am-4pm. 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. Find that special something for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

Also: delicious refreshments and BSEC program booths, including YES, CSA, and local community development. Call the BSEC office at 768-2972 for information, or to volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

American Ethical Union News May National Assembly Workshop Proposals Sought

The American Ethical Union is looking for workshop proposals for the National Assembly in Philadelphia this May. The theme of the assembly is *Our Common Faith: Building a National Ethical Presence*. The organizers of the Assembly want to cast a wide net for participants. If you think you can offer an interesting but unusual workshop, contact the BSEC Office for information on how to apply. The Assembly will be held Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26), and workshops will take place on Saturday afternoon and Monday morning. The workshops will be 90 minutes in length unless there is a special request, which can be accommodated.

Ethical Action News International Human Rights Day December 10, 2002

International Human Rights Day 2002 is Tuesday, December 10th. The Ethical Action and the Peace Site Committees invite BSEC members to participate in two International Human Rights Day events.

On Monday December 9th, 7pm, religious and peace groups will meet at the Church Center for the UN, 777 United Nations Plaza, to hear anti-war speakers, including Reverend James Lawson, a famous civil rights leader in the South, and Scott Ritter, a former United Nations arms inspector.

Plans for civil disobedience will be discussed. Even if you are not prepared for civil disobedience you are urged to attend. Christian, Jewish, and Muslim groups urge that individuals bring a check to support medicine for Iraqi children, and to make the point that the United States should help children with medicine not missiles. We hope that you will join us.

The next day, December 10th at 10am, at First Avenue and 47th Street in Manhattan, there will be an interfaith ritual and reflection with singing, followed by optional non-violent civil disobedience led by religious leaders.

All BSEC members are invited to come to the Ethical Action and Peace Site Committees' quarterly meeting on Saturday December 21st at 10am. The meeting will take place at Maureen Egginton's apartment, 135 Eastern Parkway #7G. Bagels, juice, and coffee will be served.

New Year's Eve Plans? Make Your Dinner into a BSEC Fundraiser

Here's a way to celebrate the joys of the New Year and also make a little money for BSEC and other good causes: host a 50-50 dinner party, and ask all your guests to make a small donation (say, \$10), half of which would go to BSEC's general fund, and half which would go to the charity of your choice.

BSEC Leader Lisel Burns will help anyone who would like to plan such a dinner by obtaining donations of food from local chefs. Contact her (liselburns@aol.com or 783-2298) if you would like to host, help, or attend.

December 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.

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 (globoethics.org) to the Ethical Culture table.

December 8: *Family Values, Ethical Culture Style*

We will consider a pro-family society that we would support whole-heartedly. 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.

December 15: *Winter Festival*

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

December 22: *Holiday Colloquy*

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

December 29: *No Platform - Happy New Year!*

January 5: *Finding an Ethically Responsible Place in a Post Modern World*

Being ethically responsible is no small task in today's community. Global corporatization, the decline of participatory democracy in our own country, and a public relations war on truth leave life's basic questions answered by a muddle of advertising slogans and paid-for messages. At the same time, we try to find purposeful living locally in the face of gigantic forces operating worldwide. In so doing, we join a global movement, directed towards meaningful, humane living, for ourselves and families everywhere. With 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**

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Irene Baker, Tony Severo, Eddie Coyne

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DECEMBER 2002 BSEC CALENDAR

Sunday 12/1

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

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Monday 12/2

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

Tuesday 12/3

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

Wednesday 12/4

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 12/5

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting.

Sunday 12/8

10am-12:30pm:

Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform:

Family Values, Ethical Culture Style

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Monday 12/9

7pm: *Anti-War Meeting at the Church Center for the United Nations.*

Tuesday 12/10

*****International Human Rights Day*****

10am: *Interfaith Ritual, Reflection, and Civil Disobedience, 1st Ave & 47th St, Manhattan.*

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

Wednesday 12/11

6-7:30pm: Membership Committee Meeting.

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

7:30-9pm: Newcomers' Workshop.

Friday 12/13

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents "the Bobby McFerrin of Cameroon", *Gino Stitson*, singing unusual intricate rhythmic arrangements in his native Bamileke tongue.

Sunday 12/15

11am-4pm: **Winter Crafts Fair.**

Sunday 12/15

11am: *Winter Festival.*

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch.

Tuesday 12/17

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

Wednesday 12/18

7-9pm: T'ai Chi Chuan.

Friday 12/20

8pm: The Good Coffeehouse concert series presents Third Fridays with the Park Slope Food Coop: *Rhythm-Do-It*, featuring Pakistani master tabla player Mulazim Hussain; also *The Brooklyn Brandenburgers*, a unique chamber ensemble led by Martha Siegel.

Saturday 12/21

10am: Ethical Action and Peace Site Committees quarterly meeting. At Maureen Egginton's apartment, 135 Eastern Parkway, #7G.

Sunday 12/22

11am: *Holiday Colloquy.*

Sunday 12/29

No Platform - Happy New Year!

Sunday 1/5

10-10:50am: Yoga Class, call 748-7084 for info.

10am-12:30pm:

Children's Sunday Assembly.

11am: Sunday Platform: *Finding an Ethically Responsible Place in a Post Modern World* with BSEC Leader Lisel Burns.

12:30pm: Lunch with the Bunch

Membership News

BSEC depends on the financial contributions of its members. If you have not yet made your pledge for this Season, please contact BSEC Pledge Chair Ruth Pikitch, at 256-6739.

So many thanks to the Membership Committee, and BSEC Members Donna Roberts, Tony Severo, Rita Wilson, and Linda Stallard, for such a successful BSEC hosting of the AEU National Membership Conference the first weekend of November! We got rave reviews!

There will be a Newcomers' Workshop at the Meeting House on Wednesday, December 8, at 7:30pm. The Membership Committee will meet beforehand, at 6pm, for all those interested.

A Faith Project and Life Reflections weekend retreat will be held away from BSEC at the end of January, either January 24th & 25th, or January 31st & February 1st. Contact Kurt Johnson (johnsonk@coudert.com) or Lisel Burns (liselburns@aol.com, 783-2298) if you would like more information or are interested in participating.

Best wishes and a speedy recovery from spinal surgery, with some frustrating complications, to Jim Reams, long-standing BSEC friend and Booking Director of the Good Coffeehouse. He has a raspy voice after surgery, so calls are better postponed for now.

BSEC newsletter editor Bob Strock's theater group, *Dzieci*, will not be performing *Fool's Mass* at BSEC this December as they have in the past. You can still see Bob and the other Fools at Grace Church in Manhattan December 9, 10 & 14. Bob will appear with *Dzieci* in the World Premiere of *The Devils of Loudun* at the Off-Broadway house La MaMa etc, January 2-19. Contact Bob (strock@mindspring.com) or go to *Dzieci's* website (dziecitheatre.org) for more information.

A Holiday Gift Idea

Looking for the perfect ethical holiday gift? Don't forget (BSEC Leader Emerita) Lois Kellerman's new book (written with Nelly Bly): *Marriage from the Heart*. Based squarely on Ethical Culture principles, it's a compelling and sensitive blueprint — for readers of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, and stages of marriage — for building a spiritually fulfilling relationship. There is an excellent interview with Lois on beliefnet.com, entitled *What the World Needs Now*.