



# ETHICALLY SPEAKING

Volume 99 Issue 10

## JUNE 2005

Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture • 53 Prospect Park West  
& 2nd Street • Brooklyn • NY • 11215 • 718.768.2972  
bsecOffice@aol.com • www.bsec.org

### 2004-2005 Platform Theme

**WAGING PEACE:**  
**Realizing the Promise of  
Ethical Culture**



### JUNE PLATFORMS

5

**Membership Platform**--Lisel Burns, Leader,  
will speak briefly on the past year's theme:  
"Realizing the Promise of Ethical Culture."

The Membership Committee will  
recognize new members and give  
kudos to volunteers.

Followed by the  
Annual Membership Meeting

12

### The Lighter Side of BSEC

We invite you to participate in a  
Celebration of Humor

19

### Father's Day Colloquy, Theme: "Heroes"

A colloquy is a more meditative  
Ethical Culture ceremony on a theme,  
with sharing, music and reflection.

(Closing Platform of the season)

•

Platforms are held Sundays at 11am at the  
BSEC Meeting House and are free and  
open to the public.

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### ETHICS FOR CHILDREN

Sundays, 10:30am-12:30pm

June 5, 12,

**ALL WELCOME**

### LEADER'S ESSAY: GET A (N ETHICAL) LIFE!

What are we to do in a world and time when each week in the US of A seems to taunt those of us who are trying to learn how to be decent people under pretty challenging circumstances? So many right/wrong questions seem to be judged by POWER. At **level one** (of 5 levels of moral reasoning established by psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg), we live by Dodge City rules. In the family, the committee, or the government, "Might Makes Right," and what I want decides what is good."

"First Your Turn, and Then My Turn," **level two**: reciprocity, the next step out of Dodge City ethics, says that taking turns at the till makes it right to be there. We watch hustlers and criminals on both sides of the legal system looking out for themselves, rewarding their friends and using their resources and our government's tax dollars to punish people or groups who value anyone or anything else.

Tribes, ancient or modern, take a **level three** step up this moral reasoning ladder and then we hear "Our Country (or Clan or Committee) Right or Wrong" as the right thing to do. Loyalty to Family, Tribe, Religious doctrine, or other family-style community is another way of seeing right and wrong. But this is far from being ethical, (that "obligation to the unenforceable" good), for "wrong" here is reduced to disagreeing with "US."

To remedy these conditions, I think we need some real heroes on our team. We need them to uphold the laws, but more importantly, to hold to ethical principles beyond the letter of the law, when the law is not enough to remedy wrongdoing. Law abiding people, folks who stop their cars at red lights and go with green ones raise the ethical bar to **level four** - the rule of law, and the expectation of equal treatment for all under the same law. We need people willing to play fair, to identify rules and stick with them against power plays and tribal walls.

I hope a place in ethical culture heaven is reserved for the people at **level five**, those who really take ethical principles to heart, struggle with them, and finally risk disapproval, retribution, or injury to stand by them. I know that Ethical Culture was founded to develop and inspire such people, surrounding them with others concerned to raise the ethical level of human relations in the world.

They say persistence is a good deal of leadership. I agree. That goes for ethical living too. Most of what really good people seem to do, in my opinion, is bother to turn the TV off long enough to think things through for themselves, and then find and stick with values or positions or people they believe in, through difficulties both thick and thin.

This past week my brother Robin, who has Downs Syndrome, was able to stretch his legs out straight for the first time in nearly five months. An urgently needed back operation finally released some pressure on a nerve that had him in a wheelchair the last few months and threatened to keep him there for the rest of his life.

cont'd....

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY  
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST & 2ND STREET  
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(718) 768-2972  
*bsecOffice@aol.com*

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*Ethically Speaking* is published 10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue includes contributions by Lisel Burns, Constance Pigozzi, Rita Wilson, Tina Aridas, Maureen Egginton, Charlie Horwitz, Roger Kaufman, Celeste Leibowitz. Please send contributions to Maureen Egginton at *brooklynethicalsociety@yahoo.com*.

**June 18 deadline for Summer Issue**

Unfortunately, space constraints sometimes dictate whether a contribution can be included.

*Leader's Essay cont'd....*

The reason? My sister Steph, who leads humanity largely through how she loves people and believes in their promise, who never ever gives up on anybody, kept on keeping on, insisting that Robin be fully tested, persisting with her firm and gentle inquiries to this victory through the Florida non-profit caregiver organization's relatively passive medical services and state government bureaucracy. He's had a rough time gone through another emergency operation for complications, but Robin is fine now; he's going to be the wildest guy in the rehab center for the next few weeks, and we're all so pleased he's got a good chance to walk again.

Ethical people act on humane values. They go public; they act for what they feel is right, and good; they stand by people or groups who are being mistreated, and they stand by the values they have learned to cherish, even at risk of their own suffering.

This past week I made two new friends, parents of a neighbor and friend, who stayed with Blanca and me at 21 Park Place for a few days. Teenagers in Poland, suffering a good deal during the Nazi period, Sylvia and Mory raised their family in NYC, retired to Florida and are active in holocaust survivor groups. Next week they take a niece to revisit a Warsaw Poland they knew as children, including the Ghetto where Mory spent time. Hardly typically progressive, nonetheless, they said they too felt reminded in the current USA of the chill of a propaganda-soaked population, of simplistic scare strategies painting all issues black or white, good or evil, and a media conversation that dampens our sense of the real complexities that ethical issues always present.

This past year, Joseph Darby, a young American soldier serving in Iraq sent a CD with its terrible photos of American young people treating Iraqi prisoners like personal slaves, posing them in humiliating, sexually explicit positions, certainly violating their bodies and their self respect by taking away physical and religious dignity with the denial of body privacy. Today the radical conservative hue and cry blames News-week magazine for reporting what we knew from Joseph Darby's pictures already- that the Koran was a symbol which could be desecrated as part of aggressive interrogation approved by our new Attorney General Gonzales.

For that reason, my choice for overall ethical hero this year is young Joseph Darby who sent the Abu Ghirab photos for the world to see what USA democracy's delegates were and still may be doing to captive prisoners in Iraq. His reflection, his values and his courage blew open a formerly secret wrong doing committed in our government and people's name, and for that, all of us, believe, are in his debt.

Are we really in 2005? Or are we going backwards? We are going to have to learn some deep persistence if we are to turn back the rise of what I think now is a pre-fascist combination of ultra right government and big business dominance buying their "reframe" of the national conversation in the media and through them a voting public which should not be for sale.

Values do matter. At the character level, "kiss up and kick down" people like John Bolton will continue to operate with impunity - until people like us screw some moral courage together and speak out to stop them. We need to start asking our friends and our families for their stories about easy or hard ethical choices and find out what sustains faith that humane values and ethical living really matter and are worth organizing our lives to serve. What are the criteria for your and my decision making? What stories do we have of ethical decision making put to the test? I'd like to listen to you, and share some ideas from the Institute for Global Ethics founder Director Rushworth Kidder's excellent new book, **Moral Courage**. That, and George Lakoff's new handbook for reframing progressive messages and political metaphors **Don't Think of an Elephant!** may be the inspiration for our first summer Ethical Study and Supper Café in my back garden. I hope you'll consider joining us. *Leader, Lisel Burns*

**Member News:**

- Best wishes to Kurt for his speedy recovery from pneumonia.
- Room to Rent in Kensington – call Robin Feld at 646-337-8499 or email *rfeld@hotmail.com*
- Melanie thanks all those that sponsored her in the AIDS Walk. She is proud that she finished and also raised about \$353 for a great cause.

## SAVE THIS DATE IN SEPTEMBER

### Echoes From the Rooms of Carl Sandburg

A performance at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

On Sunday, September 11, 2005, a day meant for reflection and affirmation, the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture will present a dramatization of selections by the great American poet, Carl Sandburg (1878-1967), performed by Perry Dick Dell and directed by John Lisbon Wood.

Entitled Echoes from the Rooms of Carl Sandburg, this performance will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the historic Park Slope mansion that is home to the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door, and include complimentary refreshments in the garden. The event is a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, and one of our many cultural programs for the enjoyment of the New York community.

New audiences will be introduced to one of America's greatest poets by actor and playwright Perry Dell, whose moving rendition breathes new life into Sandburg's powerful works. In a 1-hour and 15-minute presentation, Mr. Dell dramatizes selections from 35 of Sandburg's poems that uncannily mirror the personal mindset on this very American day of remembrance.

For more information please call Celeste Leibowitz at 718-336-3683 or email her at bruceleib@aol.com. To reserve a place in advance write to BSEC at 53 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215, or call in with a credit card payment at 718-768-2972, or send a fax to 718-768-3278.



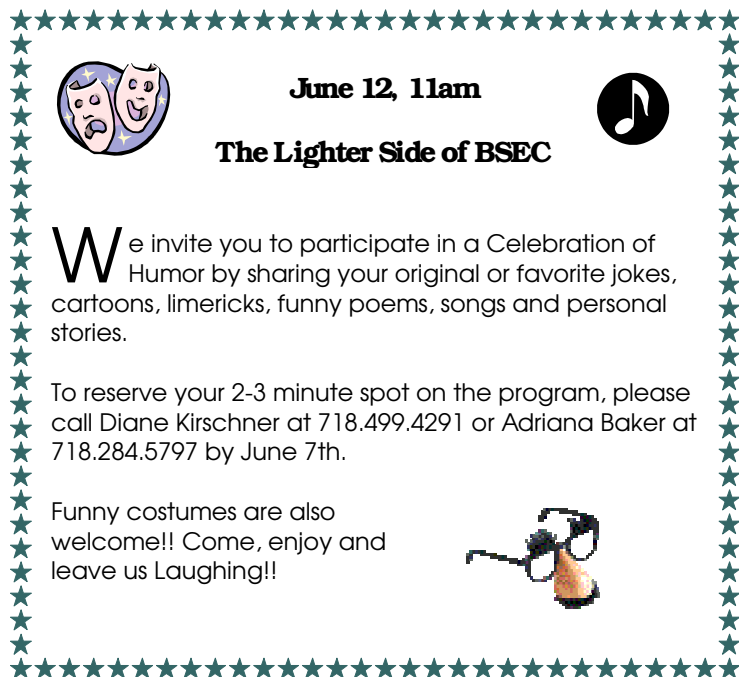
### BSEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, June 5, immediately following Platform.

The agenda will include voting for new board members and discussing/approving the budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006. Watch your mailboxes for more details.

A potluck lunch will be served. If your last name begins with:

- A-F bring a salad or vegetable
- G-L bring a dessert
- M-R bring an main dish/casserole
- S-Z bring bread



June 12, 11am



### The Lighter Side of BSEC

We invite you to participate in a Celebration of Humor by sharing your original or favorite jokes, cartoons, limericks, funny poems, songs and personal stories.

To reserve your 2-3 minute spot on the program, please call Diane Kirschner at 718.499.4291 or Adriana Baker at 718.284.5797 by June 7th.

Funny costumes are also welcome!! Come, enjoy and leave us Laughing!!



### HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Annie Lanzilotto--1
- Adriana Baker--2
- Glenn Newman--3
- Stephanie Heacox--5
- Jean Shaffer--6
- Frank Bottini--6
- Ali Jindyeh--12
- Tracey Jindyeh--18
- Charlotte Alper--20
- Diane Milder--20



## LIFE & ETHICS 05

### SAVE THIS DATE

Friday - June 24 - 8pm \$10

BSEC Community Honor Roll Award(s) will be presented at this event, with a reception to follow at 10-11pm.



BSEC COFFEEHOUSE & MUSIC PARLOR  
Brooklyn Women's Chorus

Bev Grant and Brooklyn Women's Chorus' annual sell-out concert is a must-see.

**FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT THE LEADER'S OFFICE AT**

BSEClder@aol.com, or call the office - 718-768-2972

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS — WHAT ARE WE ABOUT — GETTING TO KNOW BSEC**

The Membership Committee is continuing the New Member Orientation Series. Following is the schedule and the topics that will be presented. This is the series that is required of all new members in order to help them become more well-acquainted with Ethical Culture as well as with BSEC itself. The classes will be offered on Saturday mornings, with an alternative time of Wednesday evenings in order to try to accommodate as many busy schedules as possible. At the completion of the series, there will be a BBQ to celebrate! All sessions will be held at BSEC.

**RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**

Saturday, June 4, 10am-12pm  
(alt Wednesday, June 8, 7-9pm)

**ELICIT THE BEST**

Saturday, June 18, 10am-12pm  
(alt Wednesday, June 22, 7-9pm)

**The BBQ will be held immediately after the final Saturday session on June 18.**

To be held concurrently on Saturday, June 18: a review of the 4 classes geared to more established members who want to brush up on their membership essentials!

If you have not done so already, please send in your pledge by the end of BSEC's fiscal year on June 30.

If you need information on the status of your dues, please call Ruth Pikitch at 718-256-6739.



**PLATFORM THEME FOR 2005-2006**

**BSEC: BEGINNING OUR SECOND CENTURY PUTTING ETHICS FIRST**

**SHARING CARING**

Mayor Koch: How' m I doin' ?

How are we doing?

My ex-super is 85 and legally blind. She was recently admitted to the hospital for an infected burn. When she was discharged her cardiologist gave her an updated group of prescriptions. Her mistake was she also took blood pressure medications prescribed by her regular doctor.

Please, I tell everybody, have a 9x12 craft envelope near your door marked EMS, with a list of your insurers, pre-existing conditions, living will, medical power of attorney and prescriptions. When you call 911 or are getting ready to go to the hospital, the admitting clerk, discharge social worker and discharge doctor can give you the appropriate information.

I also once knew a cardiologist who wanted all clients and patients to carry a normal electrocardiogram in your wallet so that if you do have a heart attack, the hospital cardiologist will have a good idea of how your heart behaves under normal conditions. Don' t say I didn' t warn you! Have a good, healthy and happy summer, and avoid a sun burn.

Roger Kaufman

**SECOND ANNUAL CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM PEACE WALK**



**JEW S, CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS BRING MESSAGE OF PEACE FROM BROOKLYN TO MANHATTAN:**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005, 5PM**

Several hundred Jews, Muslims, Christians and other people of good will are expected to join the second annual Children of Abraham Peace Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge on Thursday, June 9, 2005, beginning at 5 pm.

5pm: Participants will gather at the Dawoud Mosque in Brooklyn, (The Islamic Mission of America) 143 State Street between Clinton and Court Streets, where Borough President Marty Markowitz and religious leaders will speak briefly, followed by ritual, singing and the reading of a statement.

The walk will proceed through Brooklyn Heights and over the Brooklyn Bridge, bearing a banner with the word "Peace" in Hebrew, Latin and Arabic, and the phrase "To Save a Single Life is to Save the Whole World."

6:30-8pm: The Walk will conclude at St. Paul' s Chapel at Broadway and Fulton Street where there will be speakers, and children singing. Light snacks will be provided. St. Paul' s Chapel is a beacon of interfaith collaboration located close to Ground Zero. The participants seek to revive the spirit of Spain' s "Golden Age," an unparalleled period of interfaith collaboration and spiritual enrichment. Last year' s successful walk, which was shown around the world by the Voice of America, began at a synagogue and ended at a mosque, both in Brooklyn. This year' s route is intended to bring the Walk' s peaceful message to more people of good will by crossing the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan.

BSEC is one of the Co-Sponsors for the Peace Walk. For more information, contact Charlie Horwitz at [chorwitz@earthlink.net](mailto:chorwitz@earthlink.net) or call 718-230-3537

## THE GOOD COFFEEHOUSE MUSIC PARLOR 30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

### BROOKLYN'S HOME FOR ACOUSTIC ROOTS MUSIC

Shows start at 8 PM – (\$10 at door, \$6 for kids, \*except where noted)

**Jun 3** **David Ippolito** ([www.thatguitarman.com](http://www.thatguitarman.com)) is a singer-songwriter known as “That Guitar Man From Central Park” and has built a musical career based on grassroots performances. *The New York Times* calls him “the most famous person no one knows.” Get to know him tonight.

**Jun 10** The **Southern Schoolhouse Rascals** is a group of five musicians with lifetimes of experience in the culture, history and music of the American South. The group includes the down home West Virginia lead singing and guitar of Gil Sayre, the tenor voice and mandolin of Dave Howard, the fine fiddling of Ambrose Verdibello, the banjo playing of Ray Alden, and a solid bass and vocals from Pat Plankey.

**Jun 17** 3rd Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop  
Celebrate Gay Pride with the Park Slope Food Coop, hosted by **Robin Burdulis**.

**Jun 24** **Season Finale**

The **Brooklyn Women' s Chorus**— 45 women singing together to create one powerful voice for peace and justice – is directed by Bev Grant (acoustic guitar and vocals) and backed by a band of Brooklyn musicians including Barry Kornhauser (bass), Bruce Markow (electric guitar/mandolin) and Robin Burdulis (percussion).

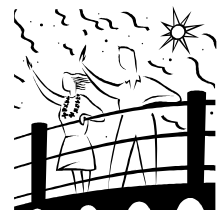
*Closed for the summer. See you at the 8th Annual Park Slope Bluegrass & Old-Time Jamboree, September 16-17, a day and a half of workshops, jamming and concerts of traditional American music.*

***Did you have a good time at the Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor? We're looking for volunteers to work one Friday night a month. Talk to one of the volunteers at the show, or call 718-788-2048 for more information.***

## IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

### FOND FAREWELL TO LINDA STALLARD

We hope that Linda Stallard won't be too far away from the Friday Night community gathering of musicians and magicians, comedians and microphones, members and neighbors known as the Very Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor. Knowing that son Justin will be taking over as Chair of the Good Coffee House Committee makes us feel very comfortable, as he has been beside Mom, Linda and Dad, Dennis, and sister Cynthia many Friday nights for about 4 years – and Justin knows all the ropes because he's had good teachers, besides Mom and Dad, like Tina Aridas and James Reams.



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Linda for all her dedicated hard work over the past years, fair weather and foul, showing up even when she probably didn't feel like it. We know she's taken good care of people, because we've heard so, from satisfied customers and musicians alike. Let's not forget that the Good Coffee House is also a Fund Raising arm of the Society, so we would also like to acknowledge and thank Linda for her considerable part in raising that money, and also for sustaining this historic enterprise which is celebrating its 30th Year Anniversary. Linda, we know we'll see you, because Justin is here, and besides, what else are you going to do with your Friday nights!!! Not goodbye but see you later.



Also, let's not forget Bruce Leibowitz, coffee-maker par excellence who hung up his cup this year. Bruce has served many, many years on the GCH Committee: (can you believe over 12 – It's so long ago he can't remember exactly!) setting up the chairs, collecting the money (YEH!!) and taking everything down, sometimes with the help of son Jason. Thank you so much, Bruce, for all the different hats you wear, one of them as a long time supporter of the Good Coffeehouse Fund Raising activities.



**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005 - 5-9pm**

**Celebrate ! Roast & Toast Charlie Horwitz !**



Join us on Sunday, June 26th from 5 to 9 PM for a celebration in honor of Charles Horwitz' s retirement and his many years of contributions to BSEC and the larger community.

This fun-filled affair will give Charlie' s friends, family and associates the opportunity to show their love and appreciation for his decades-long, passionate commitment to justice and peace. We also offer the many BSEC Community Partners and affiliations in the larger community a chance to extend recognition of Charlie' s dedication and leadership, including his past Presidency of BSEC and continuing role as Chair of the Ethical Action Committee, helping BSEC connect with and support organizations from Brooklyn to Haiti.

We invite one and all to participate with the folks who are planning a special presentation of toasts, roasts and skits. You could share a story if you would like to add to the fun. For the more amateur among us, there will be one voluntary rehearsal for timing and supportive feedback.

THERE ARE: the early years in the civil rights movement; 9 years organizing in Mississippi; teaching in a High School in East Harlem in the 60s; Legal Services Attorney for migrant farm workers for the Migrant Legal Action Program based in Washington, DC; helping build a peasant-owned microcredit and savings bank in Haiti (Fonkoze); and organizing and advocating in many Brooklyn community organizations. He is now retiring as Senior Attorney, Counsel' s Office, New York State Department of Labor, where he secured millions of dollars in settlements on behalf of sweatshop and other exploited workers against their employers.

**DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A WONDERFUL BSEC FAMILY & EXTENDED COMMUNITY GATHERING !!!**

Great food, live music, including medleys, from the 60' s, Haitian Compa dancing, and Mississippi Memories. Make your reservations early for this fun party - space is limited!

All proceeds will benefit BSEC, going towards major building repair and helping us with a matching grant we recently received from the New York Landmarks Conservancy' s Sacred Sites program. Please help us keep our home in good repair, so we can continue our support of local community organizations in the decades to come and have a great time doing it. Contact Tasha Paley at tashapal@jps.net if you'd like to perform.

**Planning Committee** : Lisel Burns, Perry Dell, Celeste Leibowitz,

**JOIN US AT:**

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR  
ETHICAL CULTURE**

**53 Prospect Park West & 2nd Street**

**Brooklyn, NY 11215**

[www.bsec.org](http://www.bsec.org)

For more information and to  
RSVP call Celeste Leibowitz 718-336-3683  
or email her at [bruceleib@aol.com](mailto:bruceleib@aol.com)

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information

**DEADLINE FOR COPY IS JUNE 20**

Send copy and payment to:  
Celeste Leibowitz, c/o BSEC  
53 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, NY 11215



# BSEC JUNE 2005

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Community Sing 6:30pm Tai Chi 7-9pm with JP Free for Members	2 7:30pm: Board Meeting	3 GCH: 8-10pm	4 10am-12pm Orientation Meetings: Relationship Building
5 10 am CSA 11am Platform 1pm Youth Group	6 Storytelling with Mary Savage 7-9pm	7 Brooklyn Women's Chorus 6-9pm Free for Members	8 Tai Chi 7-9pm with JP Free for Members <i>6-9pm Make-up Orientation Meeting - Call Melanie first</i>	9 Platform Meeting, 7pm	10 6:30-8pm Leader/ Supper: <i>Call Lisel</i>  GCH: 8-10pm	11
12 10am CSA 11am Platform 1pm Youth Group <b>L&amp;E OPERA WORK- SHOP CANCELED</b>	13	14 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 6-9pm Free for Members	15 Tai Chi- with JP 7-9pm - Free for members	16 6:30-8:30 Build- ings & Grounds Meeting	17 8-10pm GCH: 3rd Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop	18 10am-12pm Orientation Meeting : Elicit theBest  Followed by <b>BARBEQUE!!!</b>
19 11am Colloquy LAST PLATFORM OF THE SEASON  FATHER'S DAY	20 7:00-9pm--- NVC Practice Group	21 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 6-9pm Free for Members	22 <i>Tai Chi- with JP 7- 9pm - Free for members</i>  <i>6-9 Make-up Orientation Meeting: Call Melanie first</i>	23	24 <b>Life &amp; Ethics</b> GCH: 8-10pm Final Program with Brooklyn Women's Chorus & <b>Recep- tion following 10- 11pm with BSEC Honor Roll Award</b>	25
26 <b>CHARLIE HORWITZ RETIREMENT FUND RAISER 5-9PM</b> 	27 NVC Open Practice with Dian Killian	28 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 6- 9pm Free for Members	29 Tai Chi- with JP 7- 9pm - Free for members	30		

## JUNE PLATFORMS

**June 5: Membership Platform**--Lisel Burns, Leader, will speak briefly on the past year' s theme: "Realizingthe Promise of Ethical Culture."  
The Membership Committee will recognize new members and give kudos to volunteers.

Platform will be followed by a potluck lunch and the **Annual Membership Meeting**.

**June 12: The Lighter Side of BSEC:** We invite you to participate in a Celebration of Humor. Members are invited to join the CSA for a picnic following Plat- form.

**June 18: Father's Day Colloquy:** Theme, "Heroes" A colloquy is a more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony on a theme, with sharing, music and reflection. **(Closing Platform of the season)**

Platforms are held Sundays at 11am at the BSEC Meeting House and are free and open to the public

**Watch for news of upcoming colloquies over the summer.**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.BSEC.ORG**

Ethical Culture members join together in Ethical Societies to assist each other in developing ethical ideas and ideals and to work together to improve our world and the world of our children.



**"Always act to elicit  
the best in others and  
thereby in oneself."**

**Felix Adler, Founder**



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