



ETHICALLY SPEAKING

Volume 100 Issue 6

MARCH 2006

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

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture is a humanist religious organization dedicated to improving the ethical quality of relationships in personal lives and in the world. Affiliated with the American Ethical Union. www.aeu.org



The Fourth Commitment of Ethical Culture

All organizations no matter how well intentioned sometimes go awry and lose their way. This commitment the 4th of our 8 Principles has for the past two years not been followed nor adhered to as much as it needed to be leading to unnecessary fractiousness, distrust, dissension and the creation of impediments to decision-making at the Board level. No one person alone is to blame all involved parties to a greater or lesser degree are. The below commitment "to act with integrity is a reminder" of our main credo "Act as to elicit the best in others thereby in one self".

This is the highest we can aspire to and the most difficult to achieve, but this is what we must ask of ourselves not just in the confines of our building, but in our interaction with others in the world as Felix Adler intended and as well of any person who seeks to become part of the community we call "Ethical Culture".

Anthony C. Severo, 2nd Vice President,
BSEC Board of Trustees

Fourth Commitment:

We seek to act with integrity.

Treating one another as ends requires that we learn to act with integrity. This includes keeping commitments, and being more open, honest, caring, and responsive.

When a person chooses to belong to an Ethical Society, that person is making some very specific commitments that relate to the way he or she acts. While all of us realize we are "not there yet" in any full ethical sense, still, when we are voted in as members of an Ethical Society we have willingly relinquished some of our anarchistic impulses in order to honor the integrity of community life. This includes our right to say whatever we want to say whenever we want to say it. This is done not in the spirit of repression or mindless conformity, but rather to assure that the baseline conditions for productive ethical group interactions are met. These conditions includes: evolving a culture of trust rather than paranoia so that we can safely explore what it means to be ethical, and, modeling the ethical principles we have developed by the way we interact.

We commit to treating one another with fairness and kindness and to keep our promises to one another and be truthful with each other. We agree to not harshly judge each other, and to listen, and give each other space for response. We agree not to let the unethical aspects of the world all around us creep into our midst.

We will also personally refrain from lying, harassing, libeling, profaning, and engaging in continuous verbal abuse such as constant blaming, cruel criticizing, attacking, threatening, labeling, and ridiculing.

We will refrain from disrupting groups, since we are a voluntary community committed to developing a deeply ethical ethos. In group meetings we are committed to supporting one another even when we disagree. We will attend to the process as well as the content of our meeting. Toward this end, we agree to speak from our own experience, to refrain from put-downs and constant advice, to honor personal confidentiality and cultural differences, to accept our responsibility to help get our own needs met, and to help the group stay on the agreed upon tasks. We will honor the designated leadership of any group, and keep our commitments to begin all meetings and end all meetings on time.

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2005-2006 THEME - BSEC: BEGINNING OUR SECOND CENTURY PUTTING ETHICS FIRST

MARCH PLATFORMS

March 5 — "A Salute to Women's Herstory Month:" Come join a lively panel discussion on gender exploration, overlapping roles and voices featuring the Women of Ethical Culture.

March 12 — "From The Crown Heights Youth Collective to The Bethune Cookman College." With speaker **Dr. Myrah Brown Green, Co-Founder of The Crown Heights Youth Collective.** How community parents created a school and empowered their community.

March 19 -- "Putting Ethics First: Ethics in Taxation," with **Glenn Newman, President of NYC Tax Commission, Tax Appeals Tribunal.** No one likes to pay tax; but everyone acknowledges the need. What is taxed, how it is taxed and who pays present a wide array of ethical issues that must be considered in achieving a fair and efficient tax system.

March 26--"What I Learned From Women at the UN" with speaker **Phyllis Ehrenfeld, National Service Conference** representative at the United Nations. Learn the outcomes of a pen pal relationship and dialogue between Phyllis and an Iranian woman. With live music from the Brooklyn Women's Chorus.

April 2 — "Personal Solidarity: Being With and for a Person Through Illness or Mourning" with **Leader, Lisel Burns.** What are some ethical and self development issues for people who want to come through for people going through terrible times? What insights do these experiences offer us for the rest of our lives?

Platforms begin at 11 am each Sunday and are free and open to the public.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY ASSEMBLY 10:30-12:30

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 - Ongoing Admission

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

53 PROSPECT PARK WEST & 2ND STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11215
(718) 768-2972
bsecOffice@aol.com

- President:** Melanie Richardson
- Vice President:**s Tony Severo and Diane Kirschner
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- Leader Emeritus:** Lois Kellerman

Clergy Leader: Lisel Burns

Liselburns@earthlink.net - 783-2298

- Business Office:** Rita Wilson 768-2972
- Building Rentals:** Rita Wilson 768-2972
- Operations Manager:** Jim Alford 768-2972
- AEU Board:** Martha Gallahue 768-2972
- Buildings & Grounds:**
Constance Pigozzi 331-1137
- Caring & Sharing:**
Roger Kaufman 972-0468
- Coffeehouse:** Justin Stallard 768-2972
- Communications & Newsletter:**
Maureen Egginton - 638-4767
Brooklynethicalsociety@yahoo.com
- Ethical Action:** Lisel Burns - 783-2298
- Just Matrimony:** **Donna Roberts** - 768-2972
- Membership:** **Chair,** Melanie Richardson 768-2972, **Co-Vice Chairs:** Vandra Thorburn, v.thorburn@verizon.net, Annette Bernstein, annetteesl@aol.com
- Peace Site:** Maureen Egginton 638-4767
Bea Rubin, Chair Emeritus
- Platform:** Constance Pigozzi 331-1137
- Programs Oversight:** Lisel Burns 783-2298
- Sunday School:** Audrey Kindred 768-2972

Ethically Speaking is published 10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue includes contributions by Lisel Burns, Audrey Kindred, Constance Pigozzi, Rita Wilson, Tina Aridas, Maureen Egginton, Nettie Paisley, Donna Roberts, Vandra Thorburn, Melanie Richardson, Lisel Burns

Send contributions to Maureen at brooklynethicalsociety@yahoo.com.

**April Newsletter Deadline
March 15**

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

SPRING '06 MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

To launch the Centennial Membership Drive come to a luncheon with Guest Speaker, Arthur Dobrin.

**Sunday, March 26 at BSEC
1:00 - 3:30 pm**

\$50 members + 1 guest
\$25 for friends and guests

RSVP - by March 22 to the BSEC office at 718- 768 -2972 or Vandra at 718-623-1911.

ETHICAL CULTURE ORIENTATIONS

The Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture Series will begin on Saturday, April 8, 2006 hosted by the Membership Committee. The series will take place over four Saturdays during the months of April and May. Watch this space for further information. This series is good for Newcomers and as a refresher for long-time members.

FROM THE LEADER'S OFFICE — SMALL GROUPS FORMING

Please contact the Leader's office for information about the small groups in the process of formation this Season: 718-783-2298

**March 11 - 6:30 Zip code suppers for
11217 and 11238 at Lisel's house**

Call for Bed Stuy, Clinton Hill and Fort Greene next;

Save the June 30-July 3 dates for Chicago AEU Assembly with so many workshops, community building, Eliot Black Award and more.... if you would like to join the Leader, some board members and volunteer ceremony officiants who get annual training there, in an affordable trip and stay, contact Rita Wilson in the office who is on the emerging planning effort.

- * Growing Older Together - third Wednesdays, 1 pm
- * Informal Art Making - making our own greeting cards
- * Couples circle and supper - Saturday evenings - monthly, 5-8 pm
- * Courage to Lead Study Group - being scheduled at homes,
- * Parenting Circle/Religious Education Committee meeting, Sunday 3/12 -1pm
- * BSEC NVC group meeting weekly in March and then biweekly - Nellie Bright at nellie_bright@yahoo.com and Lisel Burns at liselburns@earthlink.net

**YOGA WORKSHOP & CHILDREN'S
ARTS AND PLAY**

CSA and Life & Ethics present a yoga workshop at BSEC. Audrey Kindred, CSA Director and Yoga Instructor offers a three week Basic Yoga Workshop with gentle stretch, deep breath, restorative release, and contemplative community. Beginners and all levels welcome. Saturday mornings 3/18, 3/25 and 4/1, 10am-12noon: \$40.00 total.

For families' convenience, there will be a simultaneous children's arts and play group \$20 per child for all 3-weeks (\$30 for two children). To register, and RSVP for planning purposes, contact Audrey at 718-789 7958 akindred@gmail.com

**2006 PEACE SITE
PLATFORM**

Suggestions welcome for a person who has performed outstanding commitment to the cause of PEACE for consideration as this year's recipient of the BSEC Peace Site Award in May.

Please email Maureen at BrooklynEthicalSociety@yahoo.com

With suggestions and for the date of the next Ethical Action Committee Meeting.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Blanca Nebbia--11 * Bob Strock--11 *
 Ruth Pikitch--12 * Marie Yoleine Gateau--16
 * Diane Kirschner--25 * Xena Brooks--27-
 * Lisel Burns--29 * Mary Buchwald--29 *



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BSEC March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7-9pm Com- munity Sing 7pm Finance	2 7pm: Board Meeting	3 GCH: 8-10pm	4 7:45-9:45am Tai Chi w/Sy
5 10:30 CSA 11am: Platform 1:30 pm BSEC Dia- logue Project 4-6pm BSEC- NonViolent Com.	6 7pm Storytel- ling Group	7 Brooklyn Women's Chorus 7- 9pm	8	9 7-9pm: Plat- form Meeting	10 GCH: 8-10pm	11 7:45amTai Chi w/Sy Zip Code Sup- per at Lisel's
12 10:30am CSA 11am Platform 1-3pm Rel. Ed. Mtng 4-6 Non Violent Com	13 7pm Member- ship Commit- tee	14 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 7- 9pm	15 1pm Growing Old Together (Leader)	16 6:30-8:30pm Building & Grounds Com	17 GCH: 8-10pm	18 7:45-Tai Chi w/Sy 10-12 Yoga & Kids Arts Play w/Audrey
19 10:30 CSA 11am Platform 1pm Art Making 4-6pm Non Violent Comm.	20	21 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 7-9pm	22 7-9 Finance Committee	23 6:30 - Buildings & Grounds Mtng	24 GCH: 8-10pm	25 7:45-am .Tai Chi w/Sy Tepper 10-12 Yoga & Kids Arts Play wAudrey
26 10:30am: CSA 11am Platform 1pm Arthur Dobrin Luncheon 4-6pm Non Violent Comm.	27	28 Brooklyn Women's Chorus, 7-9pm	29	30	31 GCH: 8-10pm	

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY ASSEMBLY - NEWS FROM
 AUDREY KINDRED DIRECTOR**

SAFFRON HEALING TAPESTRY — CSA participants collaboratively created a tapestry in support of "OUR OWN BSEC ETHICAL HERO" Charlie Horwitz, and his family. We hope it has brought them a great boost, and that as BSEC folks visit Charlie, they may get a dose of it's good energy as well. Also, watch the bsec web site for a glimpse of this tapestry..

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATES — Elder-children of CSA, Tyler Lurie-Spicer and Xena Brooks write of their ethical explorations: "We spent the Saturday before Valentines Day tabling at Union Square with the NY Fair Trade Coalition. We gave out Fair Trade coffee and chocolate and got people to send valentines to Bloomberg, asking him to pass into law a policy that will require all coffee purchases by the city to be Fair Trade coffee. Fair Trade coffee and chocolate means that the products were grown and harvested without exploiting labor. We are especially concerned about child labor and we are glad to have learned that the Fair Trade label includes fair treatment of all workers, including children."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING, March 12— A meeting of the Religious Education Committee will meet on Sunday, 3/12 at 1-3pm. If you feel you wish to become an active and contributing member of this committee, please contact me at ethicalkin@hotmail.com.

CSA in March: Sundays, March 5,12, 19 Spring Season begins on 3/26

AEU News

March 11 – The next AEU Board meeting will take place in Philadelphia. Meetings will be taking place in various localities in order to help accessibility.

March 10 — The second President's Council of local Ethical Societies will meet to follow up on their first meeting where these top five priorities were identified - 1. Communication infrastructure and processes; 2. Sharing resources among Societies; 3. Public presence, and public relations promotion; 4. Youth and young adult; and 5. Membership growth. 15 Societies came together for the first meeting at Stony Brook, NY in tandem with the National Religious Education Conference in November '05.

The 2006 AEU National Assembly will take place in Evanston, Ill. the weekend of June 30.

The National Service Conference at the UN is joining a coalition of NGO's interested in promoting Departments of Peace in countries throughout the world similar to the plan being promoted in the United States by The Peace Alliance. The NSC procured John Washburn to speak at the Assembly on The International Criminal Court.

Don't forget to go to www.aeu.org for lots of information and insights into the Ethical Culture Movement.

**THE GOOD COFFEEHOUSE MUSIC PARLOR - 31ST ANNIVERSARY SEASON
BROOKLYN'S HOME FOR ACOUSTIC ROOTS MUSIC**



Shows start at 8 PM – (See prices posted beside each performance)

March 3 **Patrick Wictor & Tim Grimm** – Singer-Songwriters with the blues. **Patrick Wictor** (www.patwictor.com) plays heart-felt blues-based roots music and blends the influences of tradition-minded musicians of the present and past, from Dave Carter and Bruce Cockburn to Dock Boggs and the Stanley Brothers. American Roots Music male artist of the year, **Tim Grimm** (www.timgrimm.com) has toured with Ramblin' Jack Elliott, appeared on film with Harrison Ford and shared the stage with poet Wendell Berry. His music most often draws comparisons to Woody Guthrie, Johnny Cash and acoustic Springsteen. **(adults \$10, kids \$6)**

March 10 **Guitar Masters Del Rey and Steve James – Traveling Troubadour Series** Steve James (www.stevejames.com), who lives in Austin, Texas, is a master of many acoustic blues finger picking and bottle-neck styles. Del Rey (www.coolname.com/go/del_rey) is Seattle's "Blues Queen," whose hot picking style on metal resonator guitar combines techniques of blues and jazz guitar and boogie woogie piano. Their duet shows are always a treat. A must-see show by a pair of virtuoso country blues guitarists. **(adults \$15, kids \$6)**

March 17 **Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop. Bruce Markow and Madam Levitsky's Yiddische Synchronators.** **(adults \$10, kids \$6)**

March 24 **Ginny Hawker & Tracy Schwarz – Mountain Music Traveling Troubadour Series.** Great singing and amazing harmonies from two icons of American music. "Their music calls to mind the purity of early country music, before commercialization set in."—Chicago Tribune. The distinctive southern mountain singing of Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz (www.ginnyandtracy.com) has a spellbinding effect as they wrap their songs in stories that make places and people very real and precious. The Smithsonian Institution has described Ginny's singing as "seeming to distill the experiences of the southern Appalachians." Tracy has been three times nominated for a Grammy. **(adults \$15, kids \$6)**

March 31 **Dale Miller and Frank Fotusky** – Acoustic Country Blues Guitar Traveling Troubadour Series. Dale Miller (www.dalemiller.com) is a guitarist who has mastered the early finger style country blues. He was Kicking Mule Records' best-selling American based artist in the 1970s and has recently returned to touring. **Frank Fotusky** (www.fotusky.com) plays acoustic blues in the style reminiscent of the great East Coast "Piedmont" players such as Rev. Gary Davis, Blind Boy Fuller, John Jackson and Blind Willie McTell. Along with this repertoire, his original compositions are rooted in this era and still carry a contemporary feel. **(adults \$15, kids \$6)**

**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

BSEC is a member of the American Ethical Union



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