



ETHICALLY SPEAKING · NOVEMBER 2006

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

**2006-2007 Theme: "PRACTICAL ETHICS:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE LOCAL TO GLOBAL"**

NOVEMBER PLATFORMS

Nov 5 -- "Green Living and Practical Ethics: Making a Difference Local to Global, Part II," with Lisel Burns, Leader.

Nov 12 -- Join Anne Klaeysen, Leader of the Long Island Ethical Humanist Society in a three-part exploration of Ethical Culture history and practice.

10:15am -- A Meditation

11am -- "John Lovejoy Elliott: A Friend to All." In 1889, while a student at Cornell University, John Lovejoy Elliott met Ethical Culture founder Dr. Felix Adler, and in 1894 he became Dr. Adler's assistant at the New York Society. Together they worked to build the Ethical Movement: Adler was the austere scholar, and Elliott the effective social worker. It has been said that Elliott exemplified in his actual relationships with people what Adler was preaching as a prophet. Leader Anne Klaeysen tells the story of this extraordinary man, whose last words were: "The only things worth living for and working for are love and friendship."

1pm Workshop: "The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven"

Nov 19 -- "Wampanoag Sunday" The Children's Sunday Assembly leads us at an intergenerational Platform to celebrate the abundance in our lives.

Nov 26 -- Thanksgiving Colloquy on the Theme: "Character," led by Constance Pigozzi. A colloquy is a more meditative Ethical Culture ceremony based on the book by Dr. Arthur Dobrin, *Spelling God With Two O's*, with music, sharing and reflection.

Dec 3 -- "Ethical Culture Social Action, Core Values and Their Application Today," with Lisel Burns, Leader. Join clergy leader Lisel Burns for a participatory platform reviewing basic Ethical Culture social action history and core values and contrasting them with moral and market-based metaphors current today. Consider some other positive traditions and their core values. Help draw out and prioritize ethical challenges we might be uniquely positioned to address today.

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

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

November 5, 12, 19

Ongoing Admissions

ALL WELCOME

OUR TRADITION OF THE WAMPANOAG FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 19, 11am

"Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together.
All things connect." -----Chief Seattle

BSEC has been celebrating the Sunday before Thanksgiving as the Wampanoag Festival for over 30 years.

It is our way to both remember to give thanks for the bounty in our lives, and to thank the first Americans for care-taking this land. For those of you who may not know, the Wampanoag were the people who greeted the Pilgrims, helped them survive, and with whom the first Thanksgiving was celebrated. Today their descendants still live on Cape Cod and I have personally experienced their generosity with travelers.

During our celebration we take the time to remember our connection to the earth, to give thanks, and to tell a traditional story about the wonder of nature. More recently, we began to conduct a forgiveness ceremony that is based on authentic Native American forms and music - with permission - and to end with a celebratory circle dance. The Platform is for people of all ages. Please join us.

Chant to the Four Directions – Traditional Tsalagi (Cherokee) by Remi Gay, former CSA Director
Gathering around the Fire
Telling of A Story
Forgiveness Ceremony
Traditional Native American celebration dance song
Blanket Dance

Remi Gay
2nd Vice President

The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture is a humanist religious and educational fellowship promoting the knowledge, love and practice of ethics-centered living. As a diverse and welcoming community, the Society assists in developing ethical ideals, exploring choices, navigating our life journeys and working to realize a more just and compassionate world.



Affiliated with the American Ethical Union.
www.aeu.org

**THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY
FOR ETHICAL CULTURE**

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Maureen Egginton 768-2972

Bea Rubin, Chair Emeritus

Platform: Constance Pigozzi 331-1137

Ethically Speaking is published 10 times a year by BSEC. This month's issue includes contributions by Lisel Burns, Maureen Egginton, Audrey Kindred, Constance Pigozzi, Tina Aridas, Rita Wilson, Nettie Paisley, Kim Darniece and Remi Gay.

Send contributions to Maureen at
brooklynethicalsociety@yahoo.com.

Deadline – 1st of each month

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

MESSAGE AND PRACTICE: AT THE LEADER'S DESK – NOVEMBER 2006

At a multicultural wedding in the BSEC back garden last week Lia Namakawa and John Morrison honored their diverse heritage by making intricate genealogy charts for guests to peruse during the evening festivities. They also invited several people in the multinational, extended family to share thoughts on love and marriage from their respective faiths.

Officiating the ceremony, I represented the family's Ethical Culture legacy, since Lia's grandmother's family joined the BSEC community and sent their daughter to the Brooklyn Ethical School next door. I spoke briefly about the founding of the Ethical Movement, and read a portion of Wendell Berry's powerful essay "Poetry and Marriage." I spoke to the need for modern humanity to engage those parts of traditional cultures that best fit our own core values and ideals. It behooves us to each try in our generations to live out our choice of values as collaboratively and courageously as we are able.

Other speakers were the groom's grandfather who is a longtime Christian Presbyterian elder, a close woman friend conversant in Jewish wedding tradition and practice, and a robed Japanese Zen Buddhist Abbot. We learned Jewish wedding message and ritual. We were inspired by Gospel thoughts from John's grandfather. When the Abbot, meditation teacher and mentor of the bride's father, who practices Zen Buddhism, rose to speak, he told a simple story.

Bowing to the assembled community and then turning to the couple before them, he said, "Congratulations, Congratulations! You think I am going to offer you congratulations, as so many people have done since you announced your engagement, isn't that right?" They nodded assent.

"No," he said, "I am not going to congratulate you today along side all of the others for it might mean very little, a drop of water in an ocean of congratulations. But someday, there will come a time when you two have a FIGHT, a big fight, and then each of you will think and say "She or he is wrong! I am right!"

"If you take some time then to reflect, away from the fight (somewhere like the bathroom) perhaps you will ask yourself what is really going on, and what really matters to you. Then, I hope you will come back to each other. I hope you might say three things to each other: First, "Thank you for marrying me, and making me your wife/husband. " Second, "I am sorry." Third, "I love you."

"When that day comes, when you mean those three sentences, and say them genuinely to each other, then you are truly married. It is on that day that I will gladly tell you, "Now you are really married! Now I will offer you congratulations!"

In Ethical Culture, a religion written with a small "r" for most of us, we profess a faith in humanity's capacity for goodness that includes, if not begins, with acceptance of our own such worth. Isn't religious or spiritual practice for us, then, the practice of nurturing that worth, that capacity, into fulfillment in our own and others lives? In my opinion, our communities and Sunday morning programs exist largely for that purpose.

The Japanese abbot's simple story, to me, highlighted the notion that we are, in all our relations, invited by the universe to "achieve our own destinies" as retired leader Sheldon Ackley called our human quest in the personal philosophy course we offered together for several years at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. To become more than just good intentions and potentials, though, we need to do the mutual encouragement and capacity-building practices necessary to cultivate those positive potentials, and find strength to modify the negative potentials we all carry as well. How else to secure those positive consequences I would understand as our Ethical Culture "Congratulations?"

And as for our beloved nation's moral challenges This next weekend I'm joining member Helen Engelhart at a house party organizing us to call voters in important Congressional districts. May millions of people find their own ways to help this coming November Election serve the highest ideals of democracy. Perhaps, then we can turn to each other, all over this nation, after Democracy's high holiday, that first Tuesday in November, and exchange with good reason, and open hearts, the greeting of "Congratulations."

Lisel Burns, Leader

SPECIAL PROGRAMS WITH ANNE KLAEYSEN

MEDITATION

NOVEMBER 12, 10:15AM

Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler used many images and metaphors to explore spirituality. They may be unfamiliar because we so often think of Dr. Adler as an austere intellectual. He was careful to distinguish between symbol and fact, but freely used his imagination to develop visions of inspiration. Leader Anne Klaeyesen will use some of his words in a guided meditation to explore a different aspect of our humanism, one that releases our thoughts and engages our feelings, moving with our breath throughout our bodies and connecting with one another.

1:00PM WORKSHOP

“THE STRUGGLE TO FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN”

We live with many misconceptions about the nature of forgiveness that keep us from repairing our relationships. Forgiveness is not a compliant or automatic act but an important process, an ethical struggle that can last a long time and that needs to be understood and honored. Our forgiving self is the strongest, most loving part of who we are. It allows us to voice our anger without doing damage, acknowledge our part in what has gone wrong, and see the flaws in ourselves and others as part of our humanity. This workshop introduces participants to some key concepts in the process of forgiveness and invites them to examine their own ethical struggle to forgive and be forgiven.

Sunday, November 7 – 1pm

Join the new Co-Chair of the Ethical Action Committee, Abby Scher, in planning upcoming priorities for the 06-07 Season.

All welcome.

MEMBER NEWS

The BSEC community extends its heartfelt condolences to Rozanne Gold on the loss of her mother in October.

Diane Kirschner just returned from a 10 day training in Non Violent Communication at the Mountain in North Carolina, sponsored by the American Ethical Union.

Donna Roberts is feeling more perky having stopped part of her chemotherapy for a while.

Lisel Burns will hold evening language dialogue/suppers at her house second Sunday evenings beginning on November 12 and December 10. RSVP to Lisel.

NVC meetings held on Sundays 4-6pm

THE LIFE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE PRESENTS A SALUTE TO LITERACY

PART 1

Sunday, November 12, 2006 3 pm – 6pm

Come spend a cozy afternoon in the world of words!

HOW TO PUBLISH WORKSHOP

3:00 pm- 4:00 pm Admission \$5

Writing a book is a lot of work, getting it published is a major challenge. Meet authors in this workshop who will provide various tips and techniques for publishing your book.

Meet The Authors

BOOK SIGNING

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Free Admission

Browse all the wonderful literature and book displays. You will have an opportunity to meet the authors and purchase signed copies of their books.



Support the written word and the magic of reading a book!!!

PART 2

Sunday November 19, 2pm – 5 pm

BSEC's Creative Writers' Group - Presents

NEW VOICES

An afternoon of original poetry, short stories, memoirs and much, much more! MC' d by our own Rita Wilson, there will be a selection of writers reading their work. The afternoon will unfold with a songstress, and light refreshments will be served.

\$5 donation

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY ASSEMBLY OF BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE!

At 10:30 CSA meets in the BSEC yard entering at 53 Prospect Park West; at 10:45 we hold a PEACE MOMENT in the Peace Garden. At 11am we participate with all of BSEC in the opening rituals of the platform (15 minutes or so) then head over to Poly Prep for snack and ethical explorations and adventures (often in age specific groupings) and then a closing circle, which welcomes parents at 12:15-12:30 in Poly Prep.

Nov 5 – Religious Education Conference – Several families are going and Lisel Burns will be speaking on the history of social action in Ethical Culture. For those of you who choose to stay in NY there will be a small field trip to watch the Marathon on 4th Avenue - an annual CSA staple.

Nov 12 – CSA Newcomers' Day. Preparation for our Annual Wampanoag Festival -- a ceremony of thanks based on Native American values which will take place on November 19th.

Nov 19 – Wampanoag Festival: An intergenerational celebration of the first Thanksgiving. Invite friends and family to this unique annual platform led by the CSA. (See front page for full description)

Any questions, please contact Audrey at 212-920-4483 or ethicalkin@hotmail.com. We're looking forward to seeing old and new friends.

Audrey Kindred, CSA Director

Happy November Birthdays

Erica Hawkins--7 Donna Roberts--15
Remi Gay--19 Nancy Richardson--18
Martha Hoffman--22 Martha Gallahue--27



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NOVEMBER 2006 AT BSEC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30-9:30 Community Sing	2 7-10pm Board Meeting	3 8-10pm GCH:	4 7:45-9:45am: Tai Chi w/Sy 9:45am -Noon Yoga with Audrey
5 10:30 CSA – Field trip 11am Platform 1-3 Ethical Action Committee Meeting – ALL WELCOME	6 7--9pm Storytelling w/Mary Savage	7 7-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	8	9 7-9pm: Platform Meeting	10 8-10pm GCH:	11 7:45-9:45am..Tai Chi...Sy Tepper 9:45am -Noon Yoga with Audrey
12 10:30 CSA 10:15 MEDITATION with Anne Klaeyesen 11am Platform 1pm FORGIVENESS workshop/Anne Klaeyesen 3pm L&E MEET THE AUTHORS	13	14 7-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	15 10-11:30am Yoga w/Audrey	16 6:30-8:30 – Buildings & Grounds Meeting	17 8-10pm GCH: 6:30: Writer's Workshop with Kim Brandon	18 7:45-9:45am..Tai Chi...Sy Tepper 9:45am -Noon Yoga with Audrey
19 10:30 CSA 11am Platform 2-5pm – BSEC Writers' Group NEW VOICES	20	21 7-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	22	23 HAPPY THANKS-GIVING	24 Good Coffeehouse CLOSED	25 7:45-9:45am: Tai Chi w/Sy Pepper 9:45am -Noon Yoga w/ Audrey
26 NO CSA 11am Colloquy	27	28 7-9pm Brooklyn Women's Chorus	29	30 7pm Finance Committee		

MORE ABOUT PLATFORMS AND THE SPEAKERS

November 12 Platform Speaker: Anne Klaeyesen is Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. She was a member of the Brooklyn Society for over 20 years and served as Sunday School Director, Board Member, Treasurer, and office administrator. Anne is a graduate of the Humanist Institute and holds a Doctorate in Ministry degree from Hebrew Union College

Nov 19 Remi Gay has been a member of the BSEC for about 30 years having grown up in Ethical Culture. She is currently serving as 2nd Vice President and has served on many committees over the years and as the Sunday School Director. She is a member of the Brooklyn Community Story Tellers and performs all around the City.

Dec 3 — We can always act as individuals. When we so choose, we can act in union with others in the Ethical Culture movement and its allies. Since ethical decisions tend to go beyond what is "enforceable," making a difference through practicing ethical living will always be a challenge. Shared understandings of our EC core values as an action-oriented community can increase our potential for positive influence as the larger culture rewards denial, cynicism and double standards.

WHAT IS PLATFORM?

BY

CONSTANCE PIGOZZI, PLATFORM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Platform is a long-standing tradition started by Ethical Culture Founder, Felix Adler to bring "light and heat" to matters of concern in a formal setting. Both professional Leaders and experts from different fields speak on a variety of topics that impact our lives. Platform presentations examine major ethical issues and explore the personal and social aspects of living an ethical life.

They also include poetry, musical performances and community singing. Platforms offer opportunities to reflect on our lives and values, to wrestle with complex issues, and to engage with others in an ethics-oriented community. Throughout the year we also have special Platform events, such as Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Festivals; Remembrance Sunday; Founder's Day; Heritage Day and Recognition Day and Colloquies. Following Platform is a social time with light refreshments.

As you can see from the above, Platform is indeed a very important heartbeat of our Society. The Platform Committee works throughout the year in committee meetings and out, to bring you Platforms of interest and enjoyment and the preparation each week entails many, many hours of work. We are constantly striving also to encourage people to make them a part of their Sunday mornings, thus increasing our attendance. It is also a steady, though small, source of revenue.



AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR A WAY

BY

ROGER KAUFMAN, CARING SHARING COMMITTEE CHAIR

'Tis the season for apples. New York state has some of the best apples in the USA. Here are several little known facts about apples:

Johnny Appleseed took his apples to a lot of farmers. One of the first alcoholic beverages was apple brandy called "Apple Jack." It is still made by one distillery in New Jersey. The distillery has been in business since 1750. Calvados is a French apple brandy made in Normandy. Like the US apple jack - it is not smooth. I find the best brandies are made from grapes near the Spanish town of Jerez. House of Osborne and Fundador are two world renowned brandies which are smooth.

If you want to eat your apples, try the Empire or Cortland apples, but the best apple in NY state is the Macoun which is a rare find. The Circus produce stand at 60th and Fort Hamilton Parkway has one of the best selections of NY state apples, but hurry, it is already getting late in the apple season.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES



**THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUESTS HELP
IN PUTTING THE NEWSLETTER
TOGETHER EACH MONTH.**

**PLEASE CONTACT MAUREEN
AT BROOKLYNETHICALSOCIETY@YAHOO.COM
IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO WRITE, PROOF OR
COLLECT ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES
AND NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS.**

**ALSO, CAN YOU DROP BY THE OFFICE
TO ASSIST IN PRINTING AND FOLDING THE
NEWSLETTER READY FOR MAILING AT THE
END OF THE MONTH? PLEASE CALL
RITA IN THE OFFICE.**

"Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the Government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

--Abraham Lincoln,
From the February 27, 1860
Cooper Union Address

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THE BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE'S
GOOD COFFEEHOUSE MUSIC PARLOR'S 32nd ANNIVERSARY SEASON
53 Prospect Park West at 2nd Street in Park Slope, Brooklyn - 718-768-2972
Shows start at 8 PM - (\$10 at door, \$6 for kids, *except where noted)

BROOKLYN'S HOME FOR ACOUSTIC ROOTS MUSIC

Nov 3 Ragtime fingerpicking guitarist **David Laibman**. Dave Laibman is noted for his groundbreaking guitar arrangements of classical ragtime. This resulted in the groundbreaking album Contemporary Ragtime Guitar on Folkways Records in 1969. Its release is generally credited with having generated the first widespread interest among pickers in the adaptation of classic ragtime music to the guitar. If there was a Who's Who in finger picking guitar, David Laibman would be on the list.

Nov 10 Doug & Telisha Williams' Fuel-Injected Folk. Doug and Telisha Williams (DandTW.com) embody the true Southern song writing tradition. Playing what they call Fuel-Injected Folk, this husband-and-wife duo hails from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Their roots are real, their words are true, and their energy is contagious.

Nov 17 Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop Singer/songwriter night: **Rebecca Pronsky**: Boldly blurs genre lines while staying true to a solid and accessible song writing style all her own. **Jennifer Richman**: Inspirational folk-pop; treating the disabled through music by day, rock star by night! **The Mullikans**: "Rootsy pop songs that are visionary song craft." Ladybug (Elise Knudson)

Nov 24 CLOSED

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING ONCE A YEAR OR MORE WITH THIS MUSIC LOVING GROUP ON A FRIDAY EVENING.

Please contact the chair of the BSEC Coffeehouse Committee at darkfloyd7@speakeasy.net

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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First they ignore you, then
they ridicule you, then they
fight you, and then you win.

--- Gandhi