



# ETHICALLY SPEAKING

*The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture*

53 Prospect Park West at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215  
718.768.2972      www.bsec.org      bsecOffice@aol.com

**MARCH 2007**

## **AND NOW A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT'S DESK. . .**

Dear BSEC Members,

Thank you for your feedback on the President/Leader letter sent out in January and more thanks to Diane Kirschner for reviving our very important newsletter this month. Maureen Egginton gave much talent, devotion and time to our newsletter. She will be a tough act to follow. Kudos to you, Maureen. We are looking for other issue editors, so please contact me if you'd like to lend your talents to this enterprise.

The BSEC Board is hosting an All-Member meeting, the third one this year, in the form of a pot-luck supper on Saturday, March 31st, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm, which we hope will make it easier for our families with children to come. Childcare services will be available. Ruth Pikitch and Vandra Thorburn are co-planners and we want this gathering to be fun and spirited, intending to give no more than an hour to business. The October 29th meeting was for strategizing implementation of the Alban recommendations, the December 3d meeting was to give voice to those who seek correction in the process of change. The March 31st meeting is to pull together all the vibrant sectors of the community that are thriving and have done so throughout our transitional time. There may be one more meeting before our Annual meeting - to discuss the constitutional and bylaw changes and seek

clarity on our 2007-8 budget before our annual membership meeting. I would like during our Annual meeting to discuss pledging.

Another feature of this All-Member meeting on March 31st is to kick-off our Centennial Celebration of the founding of Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. We hope that as many of you as possible will come and bring your children.

As of February 28, Tony Severo is no longer on payroll and Lisel Burns has agreed to go to half time. The building and grounds committee, chaired by Warren Miner, is instituting more stringent oversight measures and the Board is in debate about the continuing of commissions to those on staff acting as rental agents. With these changes, we hope to reduce our budget by around \$30,000. But we must also increase our revenue and hope to discuss this further with you.

Your support and steadiness of commitment within this Society is worthwhile. Indeed, we have an opportunity to grow together in deep ways through covenant behavior as a community. I will write more on this wonderful idea the next time. But if you are a "googler," check out the term on the Alban Institute site, [www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org).

All the best,  
Martha Gallahue, BSEC President

### In this issue

- Upcoming Sunday Platforms
- Ethical Action Committee Update
- From the Leader's Desk
- AEU Report
- BSEC Events
- Program News
- Good Coffeehouse Programs
- and more . . .

### **The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture**

is a humanistic religious and educational fellowship promoting the knowledge, love and practice of ethics-centered living. As a diverse and welcoming community, we assist each other in developing ethical ideals, exploring choices, navigating our life journeys, and working to realize a more just and compassionate world.

BSEC is one of 25 Ethical Culture or Ethical Humanist Societies or Fellowships in the U.S. federated as the American Ethical Union

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

## SUNDAY'S AT BSEC

**10 AM - For Members:** Our Member's Sharing Circle continues on Sunday mornings, as a time for us to share our feelings and needs as regards BSEC with each other. It is a circle of mutual respect formatted on a repeated go-around for as long as time permits. We welcome all members who wish to partner in this endeavor to build bridges of understanding. Come join us and check it out.

### Platform Programs

11:00 am – 12:30 pm \* Free \* All Welcome

**March 4:** Leader Lisel Burns will speak on *Moral Engagement in Everyday Living*. Using resources from the Institute for Global Ethics, Lisel will explore these questions: Which ethical questions seem perennial and which are more alive in us today? How do we work through our ethical dilemmas? How do we develop and apply moral courage?

**March 11:** *The Grass Roots Women Model for Ethical Change at Home and at the UN*. In the context of current UN meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, BSEC member Sandy Schilen, an economist and global organizer for GROOTS INTL, speaks on how GROOTS works, across issues and regions, to support the efforts of women grassroots leaders and their partners in community development, practices that hold important lessons for all responsible activism.

**March 18:** *Journalists Pay a Price for Pursuing The Truth: A special Ethical Action Platform on Press Freedom*. Nina Ognianova, coordinator of the Europe and Central Asia Program of the Committee to Protect Journalists, details the challenges in holding the powerful accountable, countering threats to journalists, and defending the peoples' right to know. (See enclosed flyer)

**March 25:** The Life and Ethics Committee is proud to host *Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement*. Constance Pigozzi, present Chair of the Platform Committee, will offer this platform, originally presented by our late and beloved lay leader, Sharon Peterson, on March 31, 1996.

**April 4:** *Growing Older Together: Applying a Communitarian Vision and Ethical Values*. Lisel Burns, BSEC Leader, a longtime adherent of intergenerational community living arrangements, and elders Blanca Nebbia and Anne Marie Mogil explore how we can plan to grow older with a family of friends of different generations and backgrounds and counter fears of ending our lives unhappily alone or institutionalized. Economic, ethical and social policy issues will also be discussed.

## ETHICAL ACTION ANNOUNCES PEACE SITE AWARD

At its February meeting, the Ethical Action Committee agreed to present the 2007 Peace Site award to Iraq Veterans Against the War. Founded in April 2004 at a Veterans for Peace gathering, Iraq Vets through their witness remind the country of the personal costs of the war and offer moral depth to the opposition. Its members give support to conscientious objectors and speak to high school students about the realities of military service. Through their efforts, the support of active duty personnel for the withdrawal of occupying troops in Iraq is made visible and the moral case for reparations for Iraqis in the wake of the destruction wrought by the invasion is kept center stage.

EAC Co-chair Greg Tewksbury and Maureen Egginton will together organize the May Peace Site event honoring the group.

Watch for two events in March sponsored by the committee: Nina Ognianova of the Committee to Protect Journalists will speak at the March 18<sup>th</sup> platform about the deadly price some journalists pay in their attempt to do their job; and March 14 at 8 PM, the committee hosts a screening of *Brooklyn Matters*, the new documentary about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards redevelopment project and destruction of a Brooklyn neighborhood.

In our discussions we try to keep in mind both the big moral and political picture of our work. But this year, the American Ethical Union's EAC is asking local committees to keep the national network of societies in mind as well. We are invited to organize a national project for societies to work on collaboratively, a discussion that will be on-going this spring.

In another national initiative, Diane Kirschner organized the committee's nomination of the Committee to Protect Journalists for the AEU's Elliot-Black award, to be presented at June's Assembly (see AEU article). The winner will personally receive the award, delivering a keynote speech (free / open to the public) following a special awards dinner. Other nominees are Lt. Cmdr Charles Swift, the Navy lawyer who argued before the Supreme Court that President Bush overstepped his authority in setting up a military tribunal for Guantanamo detainees – and won; Matthew LeClair, the New Jersey student who outed his history teacher for proselytizing Christianity in the classroom; David Kaczynski, the brother of Unabomber Ted, who now serves as director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty; and Robert Smith, a lifelong peace activist and founder of the 30-year-old Brandywine Peace Community. Voting is currently underway with the winner to be determined by month's end.

The Brooklyn Society  
for Ethical Culture  
(BSEC)

Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader  
Liselburns at earthlink.net

Board of Trustees

Executive Committee:

President: Martha Gallahue  
Vice President: Remi Gay  
Treasurer: Vandra Thorburn  
Secretary: Warren Miner  
Pledge Secty: Gary Schechter

Edith Calabro, Maureen Egginton,  
Eda Kapsis, Roger Kaufman,  
Ruth Pikitch, Donna Roberts

Board Emeritus: Constance Pigozzi  
Leader Emeritus: Lois Kellerman

---

April Newsletter Deadline:  
March 18

Send submissions to  
Bsec53ppw@yahoo.com

---

March Newsletter Staff  
Editor: Diane Kirschner  
Proofreader: Abby Scher

Volunteer editors sought. Please  
contact Martha Gallahue,  
marlalar at mindspring.com

## AROUND TOWN

**Saturday, March 10: Park Slope  
Food Coop's Adult Variety Show  
featuring BSEC member Tasha  
Paley – 7:30 PM - \$10 / \$6  
children & limited income**

Also featuring musicians we've  
enjoyed at BSEC, Bev Grant &  
Martha Siegel, among others.

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> –  
Documentary Screening –  
7:30 PM - Garfield Temple. *The  
Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln  
Brigade in the Spanish Civil War*,  
from filmmakers Noel Buckner,  
Mary Dore and Sam Sills. To join  
the BSEC delegation RSVP to  
liselburns@earthlink.net**

## BSEC EVENTS

**March 11: SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**, to which all members are invited, will be held at 1:30 PM, after Platform. (The BSEC Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month, 7pm. Members are welcome.)

**March 14: Screening of *BROOKLYN MATTERS* - 8:00 PM – Free** – hosted by the Ethical Action Committee. Isabel Hill is a well-respected documentary filmmaker who has worked as a city planner and preservationist for more than three decades. Her first urban planning documentary, *Made in Brooklyn*, which won the Municipal Art Society's Elliot Willensky Award. **Panel discussion with filmmaker follows screening. See enclosed flyer for details.**

**March 31: Members Potluck Supper – Meeting House - 4:00-8:00 PM**  
Members, their families and friends are invited to kick off our centennial year of celebrations with this members' event in honor of the March 30, 1907 Certificate of Incorporation signing by the first 15 Trustees. Admission + food donation. **See ad for details.**

## PROGRAM NEWS

**Friday Night Gatherings – contact Lisel for registration and details**  
**6:30-8:30 PM:** NEW Friday monthly *Life & Ethics* suppers with Lisel Burns, at BSEC, will start once six pre-registrations have been received. This is an opportunity to exchange mutual support and also do small service projects (of self-care or for others). Please bring an open heart, \$5 or a potluck food donation and we will see what transpires.

**6-7:30 PM:** NEW Small group starting up one Friday a month. Join music loving BSEC music parlor volunteers for a new small group gathering before the coffeehouse program.

**BSEC Writers** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday to share their work and mutual encouragement. Contact Kim Brandon at kimdarniece at optonline.com for more information.

**BSEC Compassionate Communication Practice Group**, based on the teachings of Marshall Rosenberg, meets on Sunday 4-6 PM. Contact co-facilitator Lisel Burns, liselburns at earthlink.net.

**Yoga** with CSA Director Audrey Kindred, meets Tuesday, 4:30 PM and Saturday at 10:30 AM in the BSEC Library. Contact Audrey at ethicalkin at hotmail.com.

**Leadership Group: Contact Lisel to register for this** new small group supporting each other's leadership, beginning in March on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 10 AM (or another time if needed) to discuss practical ethics. The first reading will be "A Concept Map of Ethical Culture" available for download at www.aeu.org and at Sunday's book display.



## PROGRAM NEWS, CONTINUED

### Life & Ethics

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, a cheerleading girls team of 3rd to 5th graders came with family supporters to BSEC for a rousing program and afternoon refreshments, to introduce more of the dedicated PS44 community to BSEC and begin this spring's activities as community partners. Thanks to Nettie Paisley for organizing this event.

Two peace-oriented events are being planned for this spring: A "Seeds of Peace" reading produced by Helen Engelhardt, who produced last year's *The Work of the Weavers* concert, the first in a series of events honoring Charles Horwitz, and a concert of anti-war music and jazz by Stephanie Bates and Ed Stout, who have brought the house down at past BSEC events! Watch the newsletter and your email for further details.

**CSA Fundraising** continues this season with families and staff having raised more than \$4000 in addition to their family pledges, and tuition payments by non-members. We look forward to another tag sale benefiting the CSA this spring. **Please save** those gently used items from your bookshelves, computer desk and clothes closet and get in touch with Audrey ethicalkin at hotmail.com) or the office regarding storage and transport your items to the Society for the sale.

### Membership

Are you interested in finding out more about BSEC membership? Rita Wilson leads the membership team this season and will be glad to schedule your visit with the clergy leader and suggest readings to further your exploration of Ethical Culture. Contact Rita in the BSEC office, 718.768-2977 or bsecOffice@aol.com.

### Your Pledge Makes a Big Difference

### Thank You!

Dear Fellow Members,

Just a quick reminder that we are in the middle of the 2006-2007 season, and about to launch the Centennial Year celebrations of the Society. We look back with pride at the great speakers who have addressed our community, the many social and ethical actions, the good educational work and reflect on those who have contributed to the life and history of the Society.

As you know, your financial contributions support the programs, the maintenance of our building and office staff. We are fortunate that we have a building that can generate another source of income, yet it is the personal support of the members that inspires the confidence and connection among the membership. Many thanks go to those that have contributed generously this year.

If you have concerns regarding pledging, I do hope you will contact me (646) 918 7766, so that together we can work to support the Society we hold dear.

Sincerely,  
Gary Schechter, Pledge Secretary

☆☆☆☆

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*

Edward Everett Hale



To all the March Babies:

- ★ Blanca Nebbia--- 3/ 11
- ★ Bob Strock--- 3/ 11
- ★ Ruth Pikitch--- 3/ 12
- ★ Marie Yoleine Gateau--- 3/ 16
- ★ Diane Kirschner--- 3/ 25
- ★ Xena Brooks--- 3/ 27
- ★ Lisel Burns--- 3/ 29
- ★ Mary Buchwald--- 3/ 29



### Congratulations

to Cynthia Stallard on being awarded a full scholarship to Hofstra Law School!



Congratulations to Janine Hausler and Will Devlin and their children Dea, Aria, Layla and Zane....and Welcome to their new baby daughter and sister, Xeda.

### IN MEMORIAM

Our sorrow goes out to

Janine Hauser and Will Devlin, on the loss of Will's mother this past winter, and Dennis and Linda Stallard on the death of Dennis's mother, on March 2.

*"The dead are not dead if we have loved them truly. Let us arise and take up the work they have left unfinished."*

- Felix Adler  
- Founder, Ethical Culture Movement

## **AT THE LEADER'S DESK, MARCH 2007**

To The Editor: Sent and Unsent

Do you write letters to the editor? Below are two letters over my name which raise issues I care about, and hopefully also link BSEC's name to standing up for values Ethical Culture promotes. One, forcefully written by Abby Scher, BSEC Ethical Action co-chair, was sent to the local Courier paper. I happily co-signed after a Courier columnist, Shavanna Abruzzo, attacked a new Arab language and culture theme school whose first principal will be Debbie Almontaser, a multicultural educator whose past 9/11 anti-hate and interfaith leadership earned her first place on the BSEC's Community Honor Roll award several years ago.

The other was written to the *Brooklyn Paper*, responding to another letter to the editor (see below), which attacked BSEC's community partner, Gethsemane Church. The Gethsemane ministry, made up largely of former prisoners, is negotiating to sell their corner garden to a local developer, to endow a future for their church and its struggling community. Because it isn't always wise to respond publicly to an attack, however unjustified, the letter will stay unsent, until the congregation lets us know that public support will do more good than bringing more attention to the controversy.

"For all the winter's rains and ruins are over  
The days dividing lover and lover,  
And all the Season of snows and sins;  
The light that loses, the night that wins;  
And time remembered is grief forgotten,  
And in green underwood and cover  
Blossom by blossom the spring begins."  
- Charles Swinburne

I wish you good spring, and I wish you many letters to the editor - letters sent and letters just as important, but for good reason, unsent.

### **To the Editor,**

Shavana Abruzzo's commentaries are often offensive but her February 23rd column on the new public school focusing on Arab culture takes the cake. Her ignorance is just astounding, as is editor Kenneth Brown's willingness to have falsehoods published in his paper. Where to start? First, the new school is being opened by the small schools office of the Department of Education. It is not a charter school, nor is it supported by corporate dollars, as Abuzzo claims. Not only that, but it is one of many new small public schools with a culture as a theme. There are at least six theme schools around Latino culture and an Asian theme school. This is standard.

She also, shockingly, says that the school is being opened by an institution with the same interests as the World Trade Center attackers and is a "golden opportunity to slake the fanatical thirst of Arab Muslims"! I'm not sure what institution she is speaking of, but no institution related to the school shares the interests of the attackers. This is just pure libel.

More Abruzzo falsehoods: she groups all Muslims with the Trade Center terrorists, and also seems to think that the school has an Arab Muslim theme. More than half of Arab Americans are Christian and the Arab world is diverse culturally and religiously. Shockingly, she further writes "sadly Arabs are among the most notorious races inhabiting the planet."

Courier Life editors failed in their journalistic obligation to edit falsehoods out of a commentary and failed in their ethical obligation by running such an offensively ethnocentric columnist. It is time for you to say publicly that she has gone too far, apologize to the people of Brooklyn, and finally, pull the plug on her embarrassingly unprofessional column.

Abby Scher, Co-Chair Ethical Action Committee  
Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader, Brooklyn Society for  
Ethical Culture

### ***A letter as yet unsent:***

#### **To the Editor:**

Last week a neighbor of the Gethsemane church, a Park Slope prison ministry serving folks in and released from our criminal justice system (though others are there and welcome), wrote harshly regarding a previous issue's interview with Gethsemane's pastor Liz Alexander. When pastor Liz cited words of the Christian Gospel in defense of their little community's efforts to secure their fiscal future with the sale of their corner yard, she was called "sanctimonious". The letter writer also cited Gethsemane's congregation as a possible threat to community children's safety simply by their church's proximity to a local school, whether or not the building sale goes through.

Speaking as two local clergy from quite different faith traditions, we offer another point of view. Citing Rabbi Jesus as an ethical leader who prioritized poor and otherwise marginalized people doesn't

necessarily make a person "sanctimonious." It also seems to us, that rather than being a threat to an increasingly elite Park Slope neighborhood, the Gethsemane congregation with its special welcome to those coming out of a punitive prison system is like its interfaith cousins, the C.H.I.P.S. soup kitchen and St. Francis shelter community – serving local homeless and hungry people. They both add a good deal of value to our community.

They do good in partnership with the poor every day. By bucking market values and serving the poorest of the poor on a daily basis, people like Rev. Liz Alexander and Sr. Mary Mahoney and their equally dedicated colleagues and congregants, are living ethical lives. Their projects offer us a chance to help and tell our children that there are local places where everyone is welcome, no matter their social status or background.

A real estate partnership with Fifth Avenue Committee enabled C.H.I.P.S. to purchase and rehabilitate their building instead of being driven out of the area by the rising rents. If the Gethsemane congregants can secure their community's fiscal future by a fortuitous land sale, perhaps rather than decry their choice of heroes, we might raise a cheer that thanks to women like these, every so often, the last really do get to be first!

Lisel Burns, Clergy Leader, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, and Board of Directors, Fifth Avenue Committee

Dave Dyson, Pastor Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church

***Here is the letter to which we were responding:***

*Garden furor grows*

**To the Editor,**

It's bad enough the Church of Gethsemane garden is being sold to condo developers for millions, but I, for one, am troubled by having to endure a sanctimonious justification for the sale by the church's pastor ("Rev. Liz Speaks: Garden Must Go," Park Slope Edition, Jan. 13). I've seen Jesus invoked to justify many silly things, but never a lucrative real-estate deal.

It is equally frustrating that the writer, Nica Lalli, accepted Rev. Liz at face value. The Gethsemane congregation is apparently made up of convicts, ex-cons and their families. Lalli says the church is somehow helping to reduce prison recidivism. If so, then how? Can the church produce statistics?

Which raises another question: who exactly is meeting at this church, which is two blocks from PS 107? If ex-cons are likely to commit crimes, as Lalli tells us, then does the Gethsemane congregation pose a threat? We don't know the answer because when various local residents called Rev. Liz to politely discuss the garden sale, she hung up on us.

They used to feed Christians to the lions. Rev. Liz is feeding her neighbors to profit-hungry developers, developers who don't even have the dubious claim to the virtue the Rev. asserts. But then neither the Rev. Liz nor the writer Lalli live next to the garden, so they won't suffer years of construction for the privilege of having their light and air taken away.

That must make it easier to be sanctimonious.

- Edward Lewine, Park Slope

*"Our ethical religion will die if we do not breathe life into it, if we do not make it come alive within us. Ethical Humanism is not a mental exercise, stimulated by intelligent Platform speakers; it is a way of life that leaves no part of us and our relationships untouched."*

- Anne Klaeyesen, Leader,  
- Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island



**American Ethical Union News**

**[www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)**

While each Society contributes dues to the AEU, many members are not aware of all the AEU contributes to the growth and development of our Society and the movement. The AEU is headquartered in Room 406 of the New York Society at 2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street and the archives are housed in its basement overseen by Marc Bernstein, the archivist (archives at aeu.org), who is on staff of the AEU. Check out the AEU website where you will find the bylaws of the AEU, a library of writings by Ethical Culture leaders, resources on Society development and so much more.

The AEU is currently preparing for the annual Assembly where four Board members will be elected. Ethical Action projects will also be presented to the Assembly, which is composed of delegates from each Society. Brooklyn will choose its delegates (assigned per # of members), who will vote on behalf of the Society. This year's meeting (Thursday evening, June 14 through lunch, Sunday, June 17) is hosted by the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, with events at their headquarters as well as on the campus of CW Post. All members will soon receive a brochure in the mail (and information will be posted on the AEU website). Besides the business meetings, there will be an array of workshops to choose from to broaden your knowledge of Ethical Culture and related topics. There is a registration fee for the Assembly. Housing, reserved on campus or

at a local hotel, and transportation to/from Garden City is extra.

The AEU also supports clergy leaders and sponsors their training. Our President Martha Gallahue is one of four members currently enrolled in the program, which is overseen by two co-Deans, including Susan Rose Teshu. Susan grew up in the Brooklyn Society and is now a Leader herself. The National Leaders Council is the means through which the AEU supports current leaders, and this body elects two of its members to serve on the AEU Board. Currently they are Bart Worden, Leader, Westchester Society, and Boe Meyerson, Leader, Essex Society.

Over Memorial Day weekend in NYC, college-age members will meet at the annual conference of Future of Ethical Societies (FES). FES is now an official affiliated organization of the AEU, as is The National Service Council, our NGO at the UN. If you know a student who might be interested in meeting other teens towards linking service to their values for a more humane world, please have them email office at [aeu.org](mailto:aeu.org).

Save August 12-18 for AEU Lay Leadership Summer School II, a family-inclusive, learning and activity week open to all members, to be held at The Mountain, in the mountains above Highland, NC, 3 hours outside of Atlanta. Check the AEU website for details.

Last year's Religious Education conference featured our Leader, Lisel Burns, presenting a history of the movement's social activism, in response to the conference's theme of Ethical Action. This year's conference will be in Stony Point, NY, Nov. 9-11, scheduled to coincide with that month's AEU Board meeting and a meeting of the Presidents Council. This body of Presidents was convened to strengthen the communication between local Societies and the AEU. They have been meeting regularly to exchange information, set priorities for the movement and share resources. There is an on-line Presidents' Forum to facilitate interaction among our Societies Lay Leaders.

YES (Youth of Ethical Societies – high school age youth) will have their conference in November 2007. This year, our Leader Emeritus Lois Kellerman joined Susan Buzek, long-time coordinator for YES and FES, in coordinating the group on behalf of the AEU.

Ten times a year, the AEU distributes the Ethical Action Report to Leaders, Presidents and Ethical Action Chairs who then distribute it to their membership. Each issue highlights issues seeking membership action. You can also reference this report on the AEU website. Additionally, four times a year you receive your own copy of Dialogue, the AEU magazine, filled with commentary by Leaders and members covering a range of topics of interest to our community.

Interested in getting involved on the national level of the Ethical movement? Consider serving on a committee. This year Joan Donnen Klips joined the

Assembly planning committee. Presidents and Leaders recently received a mailing that solicits recruits for the many committees that engage in the work of the AEU. Speak to Martha or Lisel to find out which committee interests you, and get involved.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**  
**ONE HUNDRED YEARS**

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF THE BROOKLYN  
SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
CITY OF NEW YORK : ss.: Filed and Recorded Mar 3, 1907  
COUNTY OF KINGS )

WE, the undersigned, of full age, being desirous of associating ourselves for the purpose of increasing among men the knowledge, the love and practice of the right, as hereinafter is more particularly described, pursuant to and in conformity with Acts of the Legislature of the State of New York, relating to membership Corporations, do hereby certify and declare that we are all of full age, two-thirds of us are citizens of the United States, and all of us are residents of the State of New York.

We do further certify and declare as follows:

FIRST: That the particular objects for which said corporation is formed are as follows, viz: To increase among men the knowledge, the love and the practice of the right.

This Society shall undertake to maintain a public platform for the discussion of moral questions in the light of recognized standards of right conduct and for the development of higher standards; to conduct classes for the development of the moral life; and to engage in any educational or philanthropic work in harmony with its objects and consistent with the laws of the State of New York.

On March 30, 1907, the above document was signed by the original fifteen Trustees of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. To begin a year of events to honor and celebrate our incorporation

THE 2006-2007 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INVITES  
MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

TO A BROOKLYN  
**POTLUK** SUPPER

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007**  
AT 53 PROSPECT PARK WEST (BET 1ST & 2ND STREETS)  
**4:00 – 8:00 PM**  
MUSIC, DANCING, STORIES, GAMES

RSVP  
RUTH P – 718 256 6799  
OR [BSEC53PPW@YAHOO.COM](mailto:BSEC53PPW@YAHOO.COM)

\$15  
ADULTS

***See Me Beautiful***

*Look for the best in me  
That's what I really am  
And all I want to be  
It may take some time  
It may be hard to find  
But see me beautiful*

*See me beautiful  
Each and every day  
Could you take a chance  
Could you find the way  
To see me shining through  
In everything I do  
And see me beautiful.*

- Red and Kathy Grammer

**THE VERY GOOD COFFEEHOUSE  
AND MUSIC PARLOR**

Adults: \$10 | Kids: \$6

**3/ 9: Jan Smith and Jeff Vogelgesang**

*No Depression* magazine called *Tin Heart*, **Jan Smith's** first record, "a thoroughly enjoyable mix of folk, country and bluegrass." Smith's style distills elements of acoustic-pop, jazz and blues. Featured on the recording are mandolin and guitar player **Jeff Vogelgesang**, her husband, and a veteran bluegrass musician whose versatility serves every arrangement

**3/ 16: Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Coop**

**Robert Dick and Ursel Schlicht** play colorful, truly original music for flutes (soprano, bass and contrabass flute) and piano. Drummer Percussionist **Todd Isler**, with accompanying musicians, plays tunes from the upcoming disc, *Soul Drums*, a world jazz journey.

**3/ 23: Frank Fotusky / JD Duvall**

**Frank Fotusky** plays acoustic blues in the style reminiscent of the great East Coast "Piedmont" players such as Rev. Gary Davis, and Blind Willie McTell, consisting of sophisticated syncopation with fingerpicked guitar. The result is a sound that resembles that of the ragtime piano. World troubadour **JD Duvall** has picked up music from the Bayou to Africa, mixing

civilizations and color. He fingerpicks the blues or throws in a samba. He creates a world brew in his tunes.

**3/ 30: Singer/songwriters Sonya Lorelle and Jeannette Miller**

Bluesy songstress **Sonya Lorelle** performs sophisticated piano-driven tunes. With the release of her CD *The Life You Wanted* in 2005, she received 1st place in the North Carolina Songwriter's Coop Competition and 2nd place in the Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest. **Jeannette Miller's** music traverses the boundaries of pop and folk with a tinge of country thrown in. *Sound Views* magazine praised her "swanky, take-charge vocals" and declared her release *Dream Time* a small miracle. She's twice garnered awards in the Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest.

**April 6: CLOSED**

**The Barons of Bluegrass**

Three songs from this CD by James Reams, (longtime volunteer artistic director of the *Very Good Coffeehouse and Music Parlor*), Walter Hensley & The Barons of Bluegrass are being offered for free on [www.download.com](http://www.download.com). Search for Reams or Hensley under "Music" or "Artist". You'll find three songs from the album that you can download and listen to on your computer, burn to a CD, put on your MP3 player.



**Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture**  
53 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

"Observing without evaluating is the highest form of human intelligence." - Murti