2016 ETHICAL CULTURE HUMANIST AWARD
HONORS PLANNED PARENTHOOD –
Still Fighting After 100 Years!

For only the 20th time in 46 years, since its establishment in 1970, we will proudly present our highest honor, The Ethical Humanist Award, to Planned Parenthood. Why not present it annually? There’s a good explanation for that. The criteria are quite specific and rigorous. The Award honors “an individual who has acted with extraordinary moral courage, without regard for the sanction or acclaim of his or her peers or of society, and whose actions have had broad humanizing implications.”

And 2016 will mark the first time the Ethical Humanist Award is being given to an organization rather than an individual, marking the moral courage and tenacity of so many who, for so long — 100 years! — have been fighting for women’s health and well-being, based on respect for each individual’s right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning. The organization delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide.

Accepting on behalf of Planned Parenthood will be Dawn Laguens, Executive Vice President and Chief Experience Officer of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and the...
Back to School

Public school teachers bemoan that they can do little more than “reach to the test.” All their training and creativity are stifled by an education reform movement which, starting in the 1980s, emphasizes national Common Core standards, having abandoned the progressive pedagogy of John Dewey that many of us experienced. Remember the field trips, school plays and festivals, and the thrill of “learning by doing”? Parents wanting that for their children today shell out tens of thousands of dollars in annual tuition to private schools or compete for scholarships.

Why does our nation have this dichotomy? And why do our students continue to fall “in the middle of the pack” compared to other industrialized nations?

Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has tracked what our students know and can do in various subject areas. It issues what is known as “the Nation’s Report Card,” and several institutions analyze these data, looking for answers and solutions.

In his article, “In Praise of Dewey” (Aeon 7/28/16), Nicholas Tampio holds the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Charles Koch-funded conservative think tank, the Heartland Institute, responsible. “For both the business community and traditional-values conservatives, Dewey’s pedagogy fails to train workers, and inculcates liberal, even socialistic values.”

This year is the centennial of Dewey’s ground-breaking tome, Democracy and Education: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education. Tampio notes that “his pedagogy has been under assault for at least a generation.”

This should be of great concern to Ethical Culture because, in many ways, Dewey took Felix Adler’s place as the philosopher of our movement. When I attended my first National Leaders Council retreat, I heard one leader heatedly say to another, “You have forsaken your father Felix Adler for your stepfather John Dewey.”

Nonetheless, Adler would never have endorsed teaching to Common Core standards and preparing students to get better jobs. Both he and Dewey believed that education was essential to moral development and participatory democracy.

Children should be encouraged to pursue their own interests, find their own voices, and fight for a world where everyone can learn, grow, and develop. To be a fully participating member of a democracy means far more than just voting on Election Day. It requires a deep understanding of humanity and the ways we organize ourselves, an appreciation of history and cultures, and a commitment to the common good.

To be a fully participating member of a democracy means far more than voting on Election Day. It requires a deep understanding of humanity and the ways we organize ourselves, an appreciation of history and cultures, and a commitment to the common good.
Encampment for Citizenship

FAVIO APOLLON, Ethical Teen Leader

This summer, thanks to support from the community of Ethical Culture and the staff of the Encampment for Citizenship (EFC), I spent three weeks in workshops on building community in a democracy! My time at the Encampment was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I appreciate having met young people from different backgrounds who want to build better communities where they live.

Now I realize that so many social justice movements have been started by young people, cultures, and a commitment to the common good.

The Encampment was founded in 1946 after World War II, to insure that another event like the war would never happen again. Algernon Black, a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, and Alice K. Pollitzer, a prominent civic leader, wanted to bring youngsters from all different backgrounds together. Young men and women of different races, religions, classes, genders, and sexual orientations gathered to have conversations about how to build a community, how to run the government, how youth can take action in their own communities. In those early years, Eleanor Roosevelt, who was on the EFC board of sponsors, not only supported the Encampment, but often hosted all the campers at her Hyde Park home.

This summer’s Encampment was at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Our first day began with creating a “River of Life” to introduce ourselves and get to know each other.

Because I live in New York, I tend to think that I have seen and talked to people of every culture. But I was wrong! I had never talked with a Native American — someone whose family and ancestors had not immigrated to America. I enjoyed learning about my Native American friend’s tribe and her life, and realizing I had many new wonders to discover about America.

We had to create a form of government together, so we chose to create a Quaker-style democracy. We had art, social justice, and theater workshops. We explored the state of Massachusetts to analyze aspects of government from city to district, from mayor to immigrants. We analyzed how to relate what a community needs to what a community wants. Also, we had discussions about where we live, comparing our communities and learning how to make them better.

My experience at the Encampment was such a privilege. It was grand getting to meet so many incredible young people from all around the country. I didn’t have much hope about our generation’s future before. Because of the Encampment, I realize that so many social justice movements have been started by young people. Now I want to use the knowledge that I gained to empower my community and make it better.

ETHICAL EXPLORERS
Fall Season starts Sept. 11

AUDREY KINDRED
Coordinator of Children and Family Programming

September Theme: DEEDS by Ethical Explorers
All ages are welcome to participate.
(www.CompassionGames.org)

SEPTEMBER 11
10am, Family OPEN HOUSE in Adler Study – Room 514: Bagels will be served, while a song circle, info-talk and children’s activity are offered around Ethical Themes. Newcomers will learn from veteran Ethical Explorers.
Ethics for Children and Teens Info Session Registration process and Ethical membership options
11am, ETHICAL Community meets in Auditorium for community greeting and music/
Sunday Platform
Adults and teens may stay for the Morning Meeting
Children will participate in an independent project of DEED
1pm, Ethics for Youth Leaders 6th Fl. Cafeteria
Teen Table working session: Brainstorming the Season Ahead

SEPTEMBER 18
11am, FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL celebrating “International Peace Day.” Bring friends.

SEPTEMBER 25
11am, Ethics for Children group theme: “HOME – of heart, mind, and body
1pm, Ethics for Youth Leaders 6th Fl. Cafeteria
Teen Table working session: and Launching Compassion Games Projects

Send RSVPs or Inquiries to EthicsForChildren@NYSEC.org. For more information, visit: www.YoungEthicalExplorers.blogspot.com.

Here we are bright and early this morning for the first session of The Encampment for Citizenship Intergenerational Weekend. Thanks from Favio for sponsoring him, and thanks from me for supporting The Encampment. I’m on the board, and we two are on the 70th reunion team. Save the date: Saturday, 11/19, 6 pm in Ceremonial Hall, followed by Sunday platform with Ada Deer (1956 Encamper at Fieldston). This date was chosen because it is EFC founder Algernon Black’s birthday. His grandson will join us for the reunion.
Best wishes to all,
Anne
EXPLORE ETHICAL
SHARE IDEAS, TAKE ACTION, HAVE FUN

ADLER READING SEMINAR
Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader
Discuss the works of Felix Adler and other thinkers whose writings are seminal to Ethical Culture and Humanist philosophy.

- **Tuesday, Sept. 20, 7–8:30pm**
  - (monthly, 3rd Tuesdays)
  - Leaders’ Office, Room 502
  - Free

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

EMPOWERING ETHICAL ELDERS
(monthly, 1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Light refreshments served
To register, call 212-721-4407
Elliott Library, Room 507
Free

DEALING WITH PAIN WITHOUT MEDICATION - THE OPEN FOCUS METHOD
Joan Griffith-Vega, MA, MFA

- **Sep. 1, 6–8pm**
  - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
  - Gary Barberio

ETHICAL DEATH CAFÉ
Rev. Dr. Barbara Simpson, Bereavement Program Coordinator at Caring Hospice Services
We’ll gather in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat delicious cake as we strive to increase our awareness of death and help one another make the most of our (finite) lives. Topics include health-care proxies, ethical wills, and green burial.

- **Sunday, Sept. 11, 1:30–3:30pm**
  - Caring Hospice Services

- **Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2:30–4:30pm**
  - (monthly, 2nd Sun. and 4th Wed.)
  - Ceremonial Hall


guests $5 suggested donation

NEWCOMERS’ RECEPTION
Meet Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Ethical Culture Leader, and other members. Have you heard about us and been curious? Have you been to one or more of our programs or events and wanted to learn more about us? Find out who we are and what we do. Ask us about our programs or events and wanted to learn more about us? Find out who we are and what we do. Ask us about Ethical Culture – our philosophy, social ethics, programs, and membership. Spend an hour with us, comfortably chatting over snacks and beverages. Please email Maggie Determann at mdetermann@nysec.org, or call 212-874-5210 x117 in advance to attend.

- **Monday, Sept. 19, 7–9pm**
  - Elliott Library, Room 507
  - Free

LEADER’S LUNCH DISCUSSIONS
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Read the articles in advance—access them online, pick them up when you attend the next weekly discussion, or ask Maggie (room 501) for them.

SEPTEMBER THEME:
HUMAN NATURE

- **9/1** — “Group Study” Charles Duhigg, The NY Times, 2/28/16
- **9/8** — “Worlds Apart: Choosing a School for my Daughter in a Segregated City” by Nikole Hannah-Jones, The NY Times, 6/12/16
- **9/15** — “There’s No Such Thing as Free Will” by Stephen Cave and “Genes Are Overrated” by Nathaniel Comfort, The Atlantic, June 2016
- **9/22** — “The War on Stupid People” by David H. Freedman, The Atlantic, July/August 2016, and “Overvaluing confidence, we’ve forgotten the power of humility” by Jacob Burak, Aeon Magazine, 7/28/16
- **9/29** — “Smile, Frown, Grimace and Grin – Your Facial Expression is the Next Frontier in Big Data” by Jerry Adler, Smithsonian Magazine, December 2015, and “Beyond Anger” by Martha Nussbaum, Aeon Magazine, 7/26/16

For Advance Registration contact Yalitza:
ygarcia@nysec.org
212-874-5210 x117

NOT A MEMBER?
All the more reason to attend a Sunday platform meeting or any one of our “Explore Ethical” programs. You’re always welcome!

GREAT BOOKS
Larry Schiff, Tamara Bedic, and Carol Kennedy, Co-organizers/Hosts
A PASSION IN THE DESERT
Honoré de Balzac; THE BLACK CAT, Edgar Allan Poe; THE REAL THING, Henry James; and A LADY WITH A DOG, Anton Chekhov
Read the selections in advance (they’re usually under 70 pages), and be prepared to discuss the questions that interest you by referring and reading to us the specific related text. Because this is the format for the discussion, it is important that we all have the same text. To purchase The Great Books Foundation Short Story Omnibus we’ll be using through June 2017, visit http://store.greatbooks.org/colleges-book-groups/literature-anthologies/adu-bus.html.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7–9pm**
  - (monthly, 1st Wednesday)
  - Elliott Library, Room 507
  - Members Free

LEADER’S LUNCH DISCUSSIONS
Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader
Read the articles in advance—access them online, pick them up when you attend the next weekly discussion, or ask Maggie (room 501) for them.

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SPEAKING OF SCIENCE...
Andra Miller
SOCIAL ROBOTS AND COMPASSION
Herb Klitzner, Computer Technologist and Market Analyst

Learn about the social robot (SR) field, which started about 20 years ago. As “social coordinating agents,” SRs engage humans socially and collaboratively. They can take over complex tasks or do things as simple as standing in line. The key to designing successful SRs is giving them a degree of “empathy” so that humans are willing to engage with them. We’ll discuss whether SRs with the “understanding” involved for empathy and compassion will lend themselves to the concept of “artificial creativity.”

Monday, Sept. 26, 6:30–8pm
(monthly, last Mondays)
Adler Study, room 514
Members $5, Guests $10
suggested donation

TUESDAYS WITH TED — TALKS, THAT IS
Dr. Anne Klæyser, Leader

Everyone Loves TED! It’s even better when you can discuss the talks with other people. Together we will view selections with contemporary ethical themes and engage in a lively discussion. After each session, links to the talks will be published on our website for repeat viewing.

Tuesdays, starting Sept. 6
Afternoon and Evening Sessions:
1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2–3:30pm
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30–8pm
Elliott Library, Room 507
Members Free
Guests $5 per session
suggested donation

WISDOM & WORLD AFFAIRS
Ken Gans

These philosophical discussions cover a wide variety of subjects—the fate of humanity, world affairs, humanism, and many others.

Tuesday, Sept. 6 and 20
(monthly, 1st and 4th Tuesdays)
Room 508
Free

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION MEETINGS
UNITED FOR ACTION Thu., Sept. 8, 6:30–9pm
350NYC Wed., Sept. 28, 7–9pm
Please check lobby monitor for room assignment.

HELPING HANDS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS, COMPANIONS, AND CAREGIVERS

Through the Empowering Ethical Elders program, social workers Mark Zilberman and Wendy Panken are available to consult with you and provide personal guidance.

Call for an appointment:
212-721-4407.
SEPT. 4  LABOR DAY COLLOQUY: “WORK”

Monica Weiss

Let’s think about, and talk about that word: labor—its importance in our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. We will explore together how labor, in its broadest sense, can elevate or undermine our humanity.

Our shared charity is The Fortune Society, whose mission it is to support successful reentry from prison and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities. The Society, founded in 1967, works to create a world where all who are incarcerated or were formerly incarcerated can become positive, contributing members of society. They do this through a holistic, one-stop model of service provision that includes: Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), drop-in services, employment services, education, family services, health services, housing services, substance abuse treatment, transitional services such as the Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (R.I.D.E.) program, recreation, and lifetime aftercare.

SEPT. 11  9/11 AFTER 15 YEARS: A REFLECTION

Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Leader, and the Peace of Heart Chorus

Almost a generation ago, on a bright Tuesday morning, it felt like the earth had stopped spinning. Tragedy struck in the form of planes turned into weapons. Thousands of people were killed, a nation mourned and then plunged into a war that lives on today. When the dust settled and the debris was cleared, we realized that the earth was still spinning and our lives were reeling out of control.

On this fifteenth anniversary, in spoken and sung words, with full and heavy hearts, we will share a community reflection. Where were we then? Where are we now? How can we do our part in this world to promote loving kindness and peace?

Our shared charity is Peaceful Tomorrows, founded by family members of those killed on September 11th who have united to turn their grief into action for peace. By developing and advocating nonviolent options and actions in the pursuit of justice, they endeavor to break the cycles of violence engendered by war and terrorism. Acknowledging their common experience with all people affected by violence throughout the world, Peaceful Tomorrows works to create a safer and more peaceful world for everyone.

SEPT. 18  WE DID IT BEFORE, WE CAN DO IT AGAIN: HOW ETHICAL CULTURE HELPED SAVE AMERICAN SOCIETY

Dr. Joseph Chuman, Leader  Liz Singer presides

Our Society is in a state of crisis, divided by class, democracy compromised. We have actually been there before. From the last decades of the nineteenth century until World War I, American society suffered from the weaknesses and oppressions that looked very much like those we confront today. But visionaries and activists rose to the occasion and restored American society from the ravages left by the Civil War and accelerated by the Industrial Revolution.

The Progressive Movement, of which Ethical Culture was a major component, asserted its influence on all levels and had many different expressions, from organizing labor, to building settlements, to winning for women the right to vote, to breaking up monopolies that kept the laboring masses poor and oppressed.

In my first address of the new season I will take a look at the Progressive Era and Ethical Culture’s place in it. It is my hope that the address will produce an ample introduction to the environment that gave birth to Ethical Culture and the notable men and women who were part of it. But my purpose is not solely historical. Its intent is to serve as a source of inspiration for us even now.

Our shared charity is the Bergen Sanctuary, founded by the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, forming a coalition of societies, religious institutions, and individuals in northern NJ. Their program, “New Life in America — for the Persecuted and Disenfranchised from Around the World,” provides housing and support for asylum seekers who have come to our country, escaping dire situations worldwide.

SEPT. 25  THE ETHICS OF ACTION

Curt Collier, Leader  Dr. Anne Klaeysen presides

In his farewell address to the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Leader Curt Collier will reflect on how Ethical Culture has shaped his environmental work and how relational based, not dogma based, ethics can indeed transform the world. The address will end with a welcoming service for Collier’s new son Anderson.

Our shared charity, National Parks Service (NPS), part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, was created in 1916. The NPS is charged with the dual role of preserving the ecological and historical integrity of the places entrusted to its management (all U.S. national parks, many American national monuments, and other conservation and historical properties) while also making them available and accessible for public use and enjoyment.
RFRA, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OR LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE?
Toni Van Pelt  Co-founder, president, and Congressional lobbyist, The Institute for Science and Human Value

Based on religious objections with increasing frequency, we are seeing individuals, businesses, organizations, and institutions claiming a right to discriminate by refusing to provide services to women, LGBTTI people, and the disability community, and by resorting to hiring discrimination.

These are the same arguments that were used in the 1960’s to oppose laws requiring integration in restaurants because of sincerely held beliefs that God wanted the races to be separate. We even saw some religiously affiliated universities refuse to admit students who engaged in interracial dating. Now the radical right is working to expand allowance of this discrimination for “moral” reasons.

Imposing beliefs on others who do not share them goes against the very fiber of Secular Humanist, Feminist and shared American family values and principles. Ms. Van Pelt will discuss the history of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), and outline the damage it has done to date and the potential for future damage. She will also discuss ways you can help to stem the tide of religious special exemptions to the rule of the law and to assist and insist in the establishment of secular moral principles in American culture.

Toni Van Pelt launched and directed one of the first public policy offices of the secular humanist movement in Washington DC, focusing on the importance of science, the use of empirical evidence as the basis for public policy, separation of church and state, secularism, and women’s and LGBTQI rights. She continues in that role today.

She regularly makes presentations on a variety of issues including proposed federal legislation and regulations, human rights, how to effectively participate in federal and state government, how to lobby legislative bodies, and on the United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women. As a secular humanist, feminist activist and citizen of the world, she serves on the board of the Institute for Humanist Studies, is the Chairwoman of Americans United for Separation of Church and State Speakers Bureau, and has served on many of the boards and committees of the National Organization for Women since 1989.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6:30pm
Ceremonial Hall – 4th Floor

ELECTION 2016: FATAL ATTRACTION
HOW EMBEDDED DEATH ANXIETY MAY HAVE A MATERIAL INFLUENCE IN THE VOTE FOR THE NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT

A Dialog With Dr. Sheldon Solomon, Professor of Psychology, Skidmore College

The 2016 presidential election promises to be one of the most spirited affairs in the history of American politics, due in large measure to Donald Trump securing the Republican Party nomination. Dr. Solomon will host an engaging and lively dialogue, presenting social psychological research on why people vote the way they do. His own research studies the effects of how the “ awareness of death” changes human behavior, particularly in regard to America’s voting.

Based on Ernest Becker’s The Denial of Death, Erich Fromm’s Escape from Freedom, Eric Hoffer’s The True Believer, and Marshall McLuhan’s notion that “the medium is the message,” Dr. Solomon will examine the allure of Donald Trump and his promise to “Make America Great Again” by banishing Muslims and Mexicans.

Dr. Solomon’s work has been featured in the award-winning documentary film, Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality. He is co-author of In the Wake of 9/11: The Psychology of Terror and The Worm at the Core: On the Role of Death in Life.

American Psychological Society Fellow, Dr. Solomon is a recipient of an American Psychological Association Presidential Citation (2007), a Lifetime Career Award by the International Society for Self and Identity (2009), and the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs Annual Faculty Award (2011). A favorite on campus, Dr. Solomon is known for his engaging and dynamic speaking style. For a preview of Dr. Solomon’s work go to: http://tinyurl.com/solomon-washingtonpost

The evening is sponsored by the New York Society for Ethical Culture, the Contemporary Heroism Initiative, the Ernest Becker Foundation, and Skidmore College.

Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30pm
Ceremonial Hall – 4th Floor
Reception follows
$30 suggested donation
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/election-2016-fatal-attraction-tickets-26335454052

SUNDAY LUNCH
A message from our Sunday Programs and Environmental Committees

Our summer schedule of 10am Bagels & Coffee Breakfast in Ceremonial Hall continues through Sunday, Sept. 4.

Lunch at 12:30pm in the cafeteria following Platform will resume on Sunday Sept. 11 — with an "ethically modified" menu. The Factory Farming presentation in June provoked much discussion and reflection about ethical and compassionate food choices.

Many of us had strong reactions to the inhumane practices involved in animal agriculture. Although much of it was not new to us, the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Two years ago we eliminated meat (from mammals) from our lunch menu, and we have now decided to eliminate all poultry as well.

We will continue to offer fish (tuna, white fish, salmon). Our catering specialist at Fairway has a list of many vegetarian options, including sushi platters, to keep our lunches interesting and varied from week to week. Eating vegetarian or vegan even one day a week is a step in a better direction, especially for the animals that don’t end up on our plates.

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THE SAME HEART, from p. 1

This beautiful film was recently featured at the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis. Awa Sangho, the “Golden Voice of Mali,” Volker Goetze, and Yacouba Sissoko will kick off the evening with a world music concert.

Following the screening, there will be a Q&A with the filmmakers, Len and Georgia Morris, along with Reid Maki of the Child Labor Coalition, Karen Orenstein of Friends of the Earth, and Dean Baker of the Center for Economic Policy and Research.

Guests with VIP tickets will also attend a reception where they will meet the musicians, panelists, and filmmakers — and receive a copy of the film and soundtrack.

The evening is co-sponsored by Ethical Culture NYC, Media Voices for Children, the Child Labor Coalition, and Friends of the Earth. Tickets will be on sale at the door.

2016 HUMANIST AWARD HONORS
PLANNED PARENTHOOD, from p. 1
Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF). Ms. Laguens work is extremely noteworthy in its own right. Among her achievements, besides shaping the organizations’ message and strategy, she led the successful campaign to defeat the Pence amendment, which would have eliminated funding for Planned Parenthood’s preventive health care services; and successfully worked to help reverse the Susan G. Komen for the Cure decision to stop providing grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates. Through her work at PPAF, Dawn Laguens helped to re-elect President Barack Obama, a champion for women’s health and economic security.

This evening is also a celebration of the resounding victory enjoyed when, this past June, the Supreme Court ruled 5-3 that Texas cannot place restrictions on the delivery of abortion services that create an undue burden for women seeking an abortion.

The evening will feature, in addition to the award presentation itself, a short video about the work of Planned Parenthood, and a moderated panel discussion entitled: “The Politicizing of Women’s Health and Sexuality: What can we do about it?”

A number of notables from the world of social justice will be at the event, along with some of our political representatives who have also supported the actions of Planned Parenthood through the years.

Following the award presentation will be a cocktail reception hour for Dawn Laguens and our panelists, including a “speak out” from many of the well-known attendees.

Catering, in keeping with the values of Ethical Culture, will be by the Fortune Society.
MORE REASONS TO BE A MEMBER

A Place to Belong BY EVA YACHNINES

I know many people who never think about their place in the world; they know exactly where they belong. They’ll say, without hesitation, “I’m a New Yorker,” or more broadly, “I’m an American.” If asked, I, too, will say much the same, but my statement will carry no emotional resonance.

The truth is that I don’t feel totally at home anywhere, and I really long for the feeling of belonging. Perhaps my emotional detachment is the result of having lived in three different countries by the time that I was nine years old. None of my moves were willingly undertaken. The first one was when I was six and was put on a Kindertransport from Austria to England; the second one was my voyage to the United States.

Even though I came here with my mother and knew that my father was waiting for me, I barely remember my father and was quite happy in my English boarding school. I barely knew that my father was waiting for my voyage to the United States.

If asked, I, too, will say much the same, “I’m an American,” or more broadly, “I’m an American.” If I travel to another country, perhaps I could find that feeling of belonging to a community that they give their members. I hoped that perhaps I could find that feeling of belonging at Ethical Culture. However, I was too comfortable with my leisurely Sunday routine of a drawn-out breakfast and the New York Times to browse through, so it took several months until I actually took the long trip from the Bronx to the Society building. That was fourteen years ago, and I’ve hardly missed a Sunday at Ethical Culture since that first one. America may still feel just a little foreign to me, but I’ve found my community, “the place where (almost) everybody knows my name.”

OUR ANNUAL AUTUMN GETAWAY
At Stony Point Center, New York
Friday–Sunday, OCTOBER 7, 8, and 9
Discovering ETHICAL/Discouraging Ourselves

Some Highlights
Friday night — cocktails, music, games
Saturday — poetry, canoeing, scenic walk, farm visit, campfire and singing, and catered dinner at the Gilmor
PLUS — colloquy, “Our Stories” hour, arts & crafts (really!) at the new Arts Center
Wonderfully reduced prices. And some surprise treats too!

Two “exclusively Ethical” accommodation options:
Gilmor Sloane House & Allison House

All-inclusive Rates (per person, double or triple occupancy):

Full Weekend Rates (Friday dinner – Lunch Sunday)
$297 Gilmor Sloane House (w/private bath)
$235 Allison House (shared bath & shared room 2 to 4 per)

Daytripper Rate (full day Saturday):
$70 includes lunch and dinner

RESERVE NOW TO ASSURE YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS.
Make your $100 deposit by Sept. 10.
Contact Maggie for more information:
212-874-5210 x113

A NEW SEASON FOR POETRY

The sculptor takes a lump of clay and makes art. The composer combines musical notes into new combinations and gives us music, and the poet puts words into new sequences of expression and gives us the poetry. These and more are the arts that bring beauty, inspiration, even consolation into our lives.

A number of us have become regulars at the monthly poetry readings (3rd Sundays, 9:30am) where moderator Cheryl Gross sets an atmosphere in which we are encouraged to share and discuss poems that have brought us pleasure and meaning. Our tastes lead us everywhere, from the classics to the contemporary, and sometimes include original works by participants in the group. The hour and a half passes quickly; we always leave wanting more.

Here, for the curious, are titles of some of the poems we shared last season. (And, keep in mind that one of the pleasures at our Autumn Getaway — for those of us who do so enjoy this — will be a poetry hour with Cheryl.)

WORK

Brass Spittoon
Good Workers
Digging
Abandoned Factory
Two Tramps in Mudtime
Give Me Grit

ARTS IN POETRY

My Last Duchess
Nude Descending a Staircase
Cezanne’s Ports
I Sit and Look Out
Art and Life
Edward Hopper and the House by the Railroad

POEMS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

An Arab Shepherd is Searching for His Goat
On Mount Zion
Some Advice to Those Who Will Serve
Time in Prison
Ode to Tomatoes
Dwarf Birches

Langston Hughes
Gary Snyder
Seamus Heaney
Philip Levine
Robert Frost
Carl Sandburg

Robert Browning
X.J. Kennedy
Allen Ginsberg
Walt Whitman
Robert Haas

Edward Hirsch

Yehudi Amichai

Nazim Hikmet
Pablo Neruda
Yevgeny
Yevtushenko
NEW MEMBERS
Please welcome the newest addition to our Ethical family, Daniel Francis. Daniel is a freelance art and character creator and the director of “Happy, Smiling Workshop for Children,” which is seen on various NYC public television channels. Originally from the Dominican Republic, he has been living in NYC for several years. Daniel hopes to become more involved in our programs and perhaps work with our Ethics for Children program.

CONGRATULATIONS
Some of our members have wonderful news to share! First of all, our brilliant music director, David Gracia, will be opening a charter school in Washington Heights. After working on a proposal for two years, David was told that it has finally been accepted, and plans are moving full-speed ahead for a Sept. 2017 opening.

Congratulations are very much in order for Andra Miller as well. She has been named President of the American Ethical Union (AEU). Andra was elected to the AEU board of directors and then named AEU president at the July Assembly in St. Louis. She is also a past president of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, having served from 2007 to 2014.

Deborah Schlein welcomed her second grandchild this summer, a baby boy with the beautiful name of Orion Hunter.

Lastly, singer/songwriter Cy Adler has released a new album titled “No Job, No Bread? Sing a Jolly Song,” available on iTunes, Spotify, CD Baby and Youtube.

AND YOUR NEWS
If you have any news you would like to share with our community, please let me know, and I will be happy to include it in the Ethical Family column.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS...

ON BECOMING AEU PRESIDENT
One would think seven years at the helm of Ethical Culture would be enough “presidenting” for any one life, but apparently I have a deep down wicked desire for presiding at meetings — running the show, so to say. I knew accepting the nomination to be AEU president (which I did at the American Ethical Union Assembly in St. Louis in July) would mean more work for me, but I just couldn’t pass on another chance to be in charge. Well, not really in charge, just head agenda-setter and conversation-director for AEU board meetings. I knew all about the board because in the past, I had served on it for three years before I was president here.

I lucked in to a great group of directors that I am thrilled to be working with — from the Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, St. Louis, Long Island, Bergen, Mid Rivers (MO) and Brooklyn Societies — also some great Leaders: the AEU Executive Director; two representatives and an alternate — our own Anne Klaeysen, from the National Leaders Council (NLC); as well as an alternate and a representative — our own Favio Apollon, from Future of Ethical Societies (FES).

Of course, it is convenient for me that the AEU “headquarters” is right here in our building. I invite you to check out the AEU website (AEU.org) to find out what you don’t know about our center-for-connection to all the other Ethical Culture, Ethical Humanist and just plain Ethical Societies. Lots of action there!

I’d be happy to hear your ideas and answer any questions you have about the AEU. Sorry, you can’t run for the AEU board because the rules are only one person per Society. But keep it in mind for the future — my term is only for three years!

— Andra Miller
**SNAPS**

**VESTED INTERESTS...**
Our own Maggie and L pose in their new Ethical vests – the “Thank you” to all those who pledged early this year — and have received emails to come in and try the vests on for size so they can be ordered for you. If you’re among those early pledgers, don’t forget to stop by Maggie’s office (504) by Sept. 15.

**AND — SAVE THE DATE:**
**Sunday, Nov. 13** immediately following Platform, there will be another delightful and entertaining Members Only 2017 Fair-Share-Giving Pledge Party Luncheon in Ceremonial Hall.

**WHERE WE STAND...**
Passersby see this banner on our Meeting House representing our support for a Living Wage for All. Ours was among the first congregations to strike alongside fast-food workers and join the “Fight for $15 & a Union.” Read the American Ethical Union resolution at: [http://aeu.org/resource/2016-living-wage/](http://aeu.org/resource/2016-living-wage/).

**GOOD NEWS IS BLOWING IN THE WIND...**
Ethical Culture members were there, in Philadelphia, to demonstrate for Clean Energy at the Democratic Convention. On the left are Hugh Taft-Morales, (Leader of the Ethical Society of Philadelphia); Janet Glass (President, Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County), and Vince Brancato, with Monica Weiss on the far right, holding the WinWindNY banner, marching with 350NYC. Monica and Vince are co-chairs of Ethical Culture NYC’s Environmental Stewardship Committee.

**PICTURE THIS...**
The first meeting of our Photography Arts Club took place in Elliot Library on June 5, 2011. Celebrating the newly created, large green area of the library, there are over 30 photos by member Dr. Charles Debrovner, who stated “I believe photography arts are more relevant than locations”. All attendees agreed “Right On Chuck!!”

**WELCOME HOME...**
Long-time members Abe Markman and Virginia Scherer shared fantastic health news with us recently, expressing much gratitude for their supportive Ethical family.

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**Office hours for the month are Monday – Friday, 9am – 6pm**

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**ETHICAL CULTURE HUMANIST AWARD HONORS PARENTHOOD**

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**WHERE WE STAND...**
"It’s an emergency...act like it!" According to the above message, the meeting on September 14, 2016, focused on “RFRA, Religious Freedom or License to Discriminate?”

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**ETHICAL OUTLOOK** September 2016
ETHICAL

We are Ethical Culture NYC, a humanist community dedicated to ethics, social justice, and education since 1876.

We celebrate life’s joys, support each other through life’s crises, and work to make the world a better place.

Join us for hundreds of community and cultural programs where people meet to explore and embrace ethical living.

Learn more about us at our website, www.ETHICAL.nyc — or, better still, visit with us. You’re always welcome.