



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE;  
GROWING OUR FUTURE**

**LEADER’S MESSAGE;  
WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS...**

**N**OW THAT WE’RE 50 – a half-century in our building — and going on 100 — centennial of our founding is 2021, it’s a natural time for our Society to be looking ahead. That’s just what we began to do, together, at our annual fall member meeting, and what we will really dig into in earnest at the “Growing Our Future” retreat on Saturday, November 9, 9 A.M. to noon, at the Society. So my first theme for this column is: I hope I will see you there. The Board and the Long Range Planning Committee can’t create a full vision for our membership unless the full membership shares their visions. (Also, I will bring homemade chocolate chip banana bread. So obviously you are not going to want to miss it!)

The new income from the construction project next door to us, along with contemplation of our momentous anniversaries, prodded the Board to finally begin our own over-due project, an ad hoc committee for long range planning. The Board formed the committee to guide us in how we will handle the easement money, both the lump sum and the annual income thereafter. Actual investment decisions will be the task of the newly revived Finance Committee, but those specific financial decisions have to be based on broader thinking about how the Society wants to use the money – to what end? What are our goals for its use? And we can’t identify those goals unless we look well beyond the money. What do we, as a Society, want to do? How will we do it? What do we want for ourselves? How will we impact the world? The easement money is an important piece of our future. But it is just one piece.

The Board adopted five principles\* to govern our decision-making process around the easement money. But really these principles apply to the whole planning process: it should be goal-driven, transparent, and, of course,

*(President’s Message, continued on page 4)*

**F**AIRLY SOON AFTER I BECAME THE LEADER FOR ECSW the property next to ours (25 Saxon Wood Road) changed hands. The new owners were planning on building an assisted living facility there – a plan that was greeted with dismay by many in the neighborhood. Our board president was approached by a representative of the owners because they needed the Society’s help.

ECSW’s property and the property next door share an unusual characteristic: our driveways begin in the City of White Plains but they connect to properties that are mostly in the Village of Scarsdale. The dividing line between White Plains and Scarsdale roughly follows the path of the stream one must cross to get to the main area of the property.

This unusual geography meant that the group that was looking to build an assisted living facility needed to get approval from two municipalities. Scarsdale readily approved the plan but White Plains opposed it, potentially resulting in a situation where they could build a facility but would have no access to it.

So ECSW was approached with a request to share our bridge and driveway and allow the facility to build a driveway off of ours that would permit access to their lot. In return, the Society would receive a one-time payment as well as an annual licensing fee for continued access. And to keep the agreement in place while awaiting approvals and funding, an annual fee would be paid to the Society as well.

While the plan comes at a cost to the Society – in place of a wooded lot will be a large building and there is bound to be an increase in traffic – it also brings a number of opportunities our way and is, in my opinion, less costly to neighborhood than the facility having its own driveway and bridge given the narrow and winding nature of Saxon Wood Road. I am also looking forward to increased visi-

*(Leader’s Message, continued on page 4)*



Sunday, November 24  
THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL.



Ethical Culture Society  
of Westchester  
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White Plains, New York 10605  
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A Humanist Fellowship

## SUNDAY PLATFORM & Sunday School 10:30 A.M.

**Leader** Bart Worden  
**President** Colleen Kapklein  
**Vice President** Stan Snegroff  
**Secretary** Richard Koral  
**Treasurer** Maggie Voltaire  
**Religious Education**  
**Director** Lilly Schulz  
**Office Manager** Zo Halton  
**Art Director** Lori Fedio  
**The Page** Elizabeth Grippe  
**Proofreader** Oliver Swift  
**Platform Video Tech** John Hernandez

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Colleen Kapklein, President  
Stan Snegroff, Vice President  
Maggie Voltaire, Treasurer  
Richard Koral, Secretary  
Martina Bruner  
Lori Fedio  
Lenny Meyerson  
Jason Sadler  
Oliver Swift  
Michael Yellen  
James Young

### COMMITTEES

**Caring** Lucia Meyerson  
& Ruthanne Worden  
**Ethical Action** Oliver Swift  
**House & Grounds** Lori Fedio  
& Jim Young  
**Leadership Support** James Young  
**Membership** Zo Halton  
**Nominating** James Young, Chair  
**Nursery School** Richard Koral  
**Ad-hoc Long Range Planning Comm.**  
Bart Worden,  
Colleen Kapklein,  
Richard Koral,  
Amy Fuller,  
James Young  
Diane Berman  
Oliver Swift  
**Platform** Bridget McGraw  
**Pledge** Michael Yellen  
& Barbara Finiguerra  
**Public Affairs** Greg Daugherty  
Charlotte Klein

### Bart Worden, Leader ECSW

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*The Page:*  
Submissions, comments, etc.;  
Please contact Liz Grippe  
[lizgrippe@optimum.net](mailto:lizgrippe@optimum.net)

**November 03** “At the UN: Evolving Consciousness towards a Process of Peace,”  
Kay Dundorf, President National Ethical Service  
National Ethical Service has a rich history at the United Nations and  
as part of the American Ethical Union. Kay will talk about the back-  
ground of NES and how we work today toward a “comprehensive con-  
sciousness shift” in our dedication to peace and human rights.  
*Regular Sunday School*

**November 10** “Got Free Will?” Richard Koral  
Humanism and its mandate that we improve our world has an in-  
herent assumption - that people have the power to decide that they  
will change, improve and make themselves live up to their highest  
aspirations. But philosophers have always struggled with the  
amount of free will people really possess as many of our choices  
are made for us. Now, new research in neuroscience shows how  
much of our thinking appears to be pre-programmed. In the age-  
old debate between free will and determinism, who is winning?  
*Veterans Day, No Sunday School*

**November 17** “How a Screen Saturated, Commercialized Childhood  
Undermines Ethical Culture, and What We Can Do about It,”  
Susan Linn. Advertising and marketing are factors in so many  
problems facing children today from childhood obesity and vio-  
lence to sexualization and the erosion of creative play. Even more  
troubling is how commercialism undermines cultural and ethical  
values. The forces invested in commercialism are powerful, but  
there are significant steps we can take to reclaim childhood from  
corporate marketers.  
*Regular Sunday School*

### November 24 Thanksgiving Festival



### First Sunday Sharing, Alternatives to Violence Project

This is a grassroots, volunteer program dedicated to reducing violence in  
our lives and society. Their workshops and support groups in prisons and  
after release have markedly lowered recidivism. Our donations will help with  
the purchase of manuals and other workshop supplies.

The Alternatives to Violence Project provides a space to practice transforming  
conflict into win-win outcomes. No one loses. Conflict becomes an opportunity  
for greater understanding, an opportunity to deepen relationship.

<http://avpny.org/>

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## NOVEMBER 2013 EVENTS

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**Most Sundays**  
9:30 A.M.

**Colloquy**, *self-reflection and meditation on a chosen subject within a nurturing, protected group environment.* Leader's study

**Sunday, November 3**  
12 NOON

**Newcomers' Information Session**,  
Leader's Study.



**Tai Chi Schedule** (weekly)  
Saturdays at 9:30 A.M., \$10/class  
RSVP: Lenny Meyerson, 914 720-7092

**Monday, November 4**  
7:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M.  
& SOCIALIZING AFTER,  
FREE EVENT

**UK's Sunday Assembly at NYSEC**, 2 West 64 Street (at Central Park West).

Enjoy the fun of being alive with humor, music, and inspirational talks. The Sunday Assembly is a god-free congregation that meets to hear great talks, sing songs and generally celebrate the wonder of life. It's a service for anyone who wants to live better, help often and wonder more. Sunday Assembly started in London in January 2013 and accidentally became a movement. There are now Assemblies in Exeter, Melbourne, New York and Bristol, with others starting soon all over the US. <http://sundayassembly.com/>

**Wednesday, November 6**  
7:30 P.M.

**Board Meeting**



**Men's Night Out; Tequila Sunrise**  
Wednesday, November 20 at 7:30 P.M.  
145 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont 834-6378

**Friday, November 8**  
7:00 P.M.

**Community Circles**, Community Circles are a small and friendly discussion on a subject matter, sometimes philosophical and sometimes ethical. We meet in members' homes, enjoy light refreshments, and share our thoughts and concerns, experiences and ideas. Please contact Stan Snegroff, [TessSnow@aol.com](mailto:TessSnow@aol.com) to RSVP. We need a list in order to plan the groups.

**Saturday, November 9**  
9:00 A.M. — 12 NOON



**Membership Retreat at the Society**  
*Please come, share your thoughts and hopes for our Society as we head toward our 100th anniversary.*



**Wednesday, November 20**  
7:30 P.M.

**Practical Ethics Discussion Group**: Based on the book *Ethics for Everyone* by Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus of Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and "Popular Psychology" columnist. Monthly meeting, Haber Room.

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### About Our Speakers:



#### Kay Dundorf

Kay Dundorf is President of National Ethical Service (NES), a Non-Governmental Organization that is affiliated with the Department of Information at the United Nations and is an affiliate of the American Ethical Union. She served as Treasurer for National Ethical Service since 2008 and oversaw the Rose L Walker Fund's growth. At the UN she was elected to the Executive Council of the CONGO Committee Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns. She is a member in the civil society coalition of United for a Culture of Peace and the Spiritual Caucus. Kay also serves as Director of Finance on the Executive Team of Riverdale -Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture.



#### Susan Linn

Susan Linn is Founder and Director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. A psychologist, she is an internationally recognized expert on creative play and the impact of media and commercialism on children. Her books on children, commercialism, and play have been praised in publications as diverse as *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Mother Jones* and helped launch the movement to reclaim childhood from corporate marketers. An award winning ventriloquist, she and her puppets appeared on *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*. Among other honors, Dr. Linn received a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association for her work on behalf of children.



#### Richard Koral

Richard Koral is a long-time member of ECSW; he is a former Society president and is now president of the national board of the American Ethical Union. Richard is also in Leadership training for the Ethical Movement. He attended the Humanist Institute and is a candidate for Doctor of Ministry in the interfaith pastoral counseling program at Hebrew Union College. But his true calling, he says, is woodworking.

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ethical. It should consider both the near- and far-term, and input from all interested members. And it should be a shared responsibility. For all these reasons and more, attendance at the "Growing Our Future" retreat is very important. We want you to share your thoughts, your hopes, your dreams for our future! There will be a variety of ways to do so that Saturday morning, so that everyone can contribute in a way they feel comfortable with.

If we were so inclined, we could spend almost all the money right now just on structural repairs to our building (i.e. we need a new roof and windows). If we put it all toward our operating budget instead, we could keep ourselves running at the exact level we are at today for roughly five years. Neither of these paths would lead to the kind of long-term financial security I think is required – the money derives from selling a piece of our land, and what comes of it should be as foundational and long-lasting as the ground we are literally built on. Nor would either of those paths help us grow. Or dream. Or envision a future together and then discover how to create it.

That's envisioning is what the November retreat will be all about. Do we want more staff? Do we want to beautify our building? Do we want to concentrate on community partnerships? Do we want to devote more resources to Ethical Action? Or the Sunday School? Or our social media presence? And how does the money affect these things? How do these things affect the money? What does not require money? What else do we need besides money and how will we get it? How will we decide among priorities? Who are we, anyway? And where are we going?

No one person (or Board, or Committee) can work this out on their own. This November, let's begin this journey together.

— Colleen Kapklein

*(Leader's Message, continued from page 1)*

bility with our wider entrance, more people driving by on a regular basis, and the possibilities of connecting with the residents and staff of the facility.

This summer the funding for the assisted living facility finally came through and the arrangements for sharing the bridge and driveway have begun. The bridge has been significantly fortified, the driveway is in the process of being widened, and substantial work has been done to prepare the property for the new building. Construction should begin in the next few months and the building may well be completed within the next year.

The arrangement we have with the assisted living facility owners brings a significant opportunity for ECSW. We have been experiencing financial stress for some time and while this new income does not solve our financial issues it does significantly enhance our position and will help us establish a strong foundation for the future. The board has initiated a long range planning effort and a financial planning workgroup to clarify the needs and priorities of the Society and to establish a plan for wise management of the financial resources needed to address the priorities.

We have an excellent opportunity to improve on what we do and to expand our range of activities. With the added security of the new funding, I am confident that we can realize our hopes and dreams for bringing ethical culture to life both now and into the future. And there is a wonderful opportunity for us to get started when we gather at the meeting house on November 9th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM for what I expect will be a lively and productive morning. I look forward to seeing you there!

— Bart Worden

## **THE FIVE PRINCIPLES**

*Guidelines for handling income from the easement – and the whole long-term planning process*

1. Financial decisions will be based on the long- and short-term objectives of the society.
2. Goals and priorities for use of the money will be derived with broad input from members who want to give it.
3. Decisions about the money will be transparent.
4. No member should individually benefit from any decision about the money, or have sole responsibility for decisions about the money.
5. We should handle the money ethically. (Though we may have to define what ethically means to us as it pertains to money.)



**Sunday School Corner**  
**NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
 By Lilly Schulz, Sunday School Director

October has been a busy and engaging month for the Sunday School. Our older students are writing letters to send to the singer, Taylor Swift, asking her to donate to the Malala Fund. Both Taylor Swift and Malala favor literacy as their main issue for raising funds. The students are hoping to appeal to Taylor Swift on this basis. Our younger students have been reading stories related to the inclusion of others and accepting other's differences. The students also learned about Algernon Black and Felix Adler and colored in portraits of these two important men to the history of Ethical Culture. They also went on a nature walk and made beautiful bouquets of flowers that are still in bloom on the grounds of our beautiful Society.

On Saturday, October 12, the teenagers of the Society, all graduates of the Sunday School, held a fundraiser to raise money to attend their upcoming YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) conference. This year's YES Conference will be held over the weekend of November 8-10, 2013 at the YMCA Camp Letts in Edgewater, Maryland.

On Sunday, October 27, we were invited to the "Happy Bones Festival" at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. The event was for children 3-13 and their families. The purpose of the festival was for nurturing, creative fun with the season's themes, free of commercial

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The YES group from our society, with the help of a few adult members, organized a Mexican-themed dinner to raise funds for their attendance at the upcoming YES Conference in November. Maya made some mouth-watering guacamole. Matteo provided chicken and vegetarian burritos. Noah created chicken and vegetarian quesadillas. Parents and other adults contributed chili, beverages, and ice cream. The food was delicious and the company was fabulous. Sebastian entertained us all with his jokes! Thanks to everyone who attended and/or donated for supporting our teens. Thanks to all those who contributed an item or logistical support to the event - Ruthanne, Bart, Lilly, Colleen, Matt, Barbara, Jyoti, Jugnu, Al, Adriana, Bridget, and Franklin.

— Bridget McGraw



*A special thank-you to the table wait staff (some pictured above).*

*Photos courtesy of Geri Friedman, Eliz. Grippe*

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trappings, gore and fright. Activities included decorating sugar skulls, painting friend's faces, bobbing for apples, dancing with harvest themed yoga moves and happy bones... and of course... discovering friendships.

**"Ethics For Children"** is an ongoing program at NYSEC, for children of all kinds to work together, developing the core of their deepest humanity through creative collaboration, ethical engagement, and leadership development. The fall season theme is: "Animating Friendships Near and Far."

**The American Ethical Union's Religious Education Fall Conference and Family Retreat** will be held at the Stony Point Conference and Retreat Center, in Stony Point, New York over the weekend of Nov. 1 - 3, 2013. This year's topic is "Be the Difference, Not the Bully: Building Ethical Community".

How do we create caring ethical communities that don't tolerate bullying? How do we empower children and adults to stand up for what is right? We will meet together to address the issue of bullying and establish our ultimate goals as ethical educators. We will work towards creating standards for an ethical education. Parents, teachers, religious educators, and families are welcome. Join us for a weekend of collaboration, community and FUN!



### **ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Ethical Action Committee met on October 20 to plan activities for the coming year and several issues were discussed. We would like to combine with other groups for joint action on projects if we can. The Society helped set up the library at the Coachman several years ago, but it seems that it is underutilized. We might try to set up programs to help with this, or otherwise to connect with Slater Center, where the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Library is now housed. In general, White Plains suffers from a lack of after-school programs.

Other matters discussed were the selection of our "first Sunday" collection recipients. The November organization will be Alternatives to Violence. ESNW Leader Bob Berson is involved with a reentry program for prisoners, which we will investigate. The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice, which focuses on wrongful convictions, will be a future recipient. These would all be relevant to our recent focus on criminal justice/police accountability issues. A recent push in New York is the "raise the age" campaign to change the age at which people are treated as full adults by the criminal justice system from 18 to 21. The need for an environmental project was also discussed, recalling the success of the "No Impact Man" program.

The Committee plans to meet again to talk about actions for the holidays and the Day of Deeds, which this time may focus on developing a program the Society can develop rather than finding out about what other groups are doing.

— Oliver Swift



## HIGHLIGHTS OF MINUTES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, October 02, 2013

Membership Meeting: Invitations were sent out to the entire membership. Discussed the agenda and the people who are to present the several items. Amy and Bart to make a presentation.

Leaders Report: Bart is arranging a change in his Guidance Center hours. In January he will step down as Assistant Director and will curtail his hours yet further. He will have more time for ECSW and the AEU.

Bart wants to rethink the Sunday experience. It is the most important interaction people have with the society and with the Movement. Starting time needs discipline, roles are not clear from week to week. It is not hard to improve on things with added attention. More live music will enliven the morning. After having visited 20 societies, he sees that ours is the only one that forbids applause. Clapping suggests a welcome to the presenter. That can add some energy. There was acclamation around the Board. Colleen suggests using the projector for the lyrics of community songs.

YES fundraiser for this Saturday night. Eventbrite is a free program to sell tickets and register people for your events. We will employ the program for the YES event to register intent to come, so we can try it out.

Bart has a draft format for a new signage on the driveway. Reviewed and discussed.

Long Range Planning Committee: Colleen reports that the Committee had one meeting and another will take place before the Membership Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: This month's report is a draft and has two incomplete entries which will be cleared up. Richard describes his discussions with Steve Klein, CPA concerning his retention as supervising accountant, his survey of our books, and his fee estimate of \$500 to \$600 per quarter. He will generate one or two more visits to clear up certain setting-up concerns he has, which would be \$400 for probably one visit. His charges will come in close to the \$2000 we already budgeted for accounting. Passed motion that we retain his firm, Ronald M. Tvert & Co CPA's.

Arya Samaj - Maggie sent a letter to their president to request payment of back-log of rents due. We will have discussion with them about raising the rent to more contemporary levels and requesting regular payments so it does not accumulate like it has.

Web site: Bart reported on his discussion with Terry Karp, web developer, and described her suggestions and proposals. Board passed motion to hire Terry to develop a new program rather than re-jigger the old one, and to employ the Adobe Business Catalyst software as recommended.

Nursery School: Richard and Jim reported on the status of the NS and the challenges it faces. The enrollment is much lower than last year, and this reflects a condition experienced by pre-schools all around the County. Staff and hours were curtailed and classes were consolidated, while still trying to fulfill the expectations of the parents. Ea will work with the bookkeeper to do a new projected budget for the year.

CSA: A CSA would like to use our space as a pick-up site. That would require one day a week likely Wednesdays for 3 hours. The season runs from late spring to Thanksgiving. They want indoor space and therefore someone must open and close the Building. They are *not* looking to pay rent. Host site receives one share of the produce as compensation and we would benefit from our own exposure among people who are generally interested in green issues. They should not be generating trash, they come in with some tables, and perhaps will need some storage space. The board has questions: Will it be messy? What happens with shares not picked up? It will require the commitment of one of our member to supervise. We will meet with their representative and see what they are like.

YES: group is planning to go to the annual meeting in D.C. 3 or 4 kids are going and Al Maroun will chaperone. They need some support towards expenses. We agree to put up \$200 in addition to the funds raised at the Ethical Chefs Dinner.

Old Business: Finance Committee - some people were recruited to it but it is not fully formed yet. Some of the planning for investment will be influenced by the results and recommendations of the Long Range Planning committee.

New Business: Martina Brunner will need to resign from the Board because she is spending the winter in Maine. The Nominating committee will propose a candidate who can serve as a replacement trustee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
— Richard Koral, Secretary



*A Humanist Fellowship*

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Ethical Culture Society of  
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7 Saxon Wood Road  
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## **Save the Date: The Box Party**

*(a whole-Society activity of Giving, Caring, Sharing, Snacks, Music and Fun)*  
**Sunday, December 15, immediately after hospitality as usual**

**It's not too early to acquire or set aside items to donate. Here's the list of the items we'll aim to put in each box we fill and wrap for the Grace Church Community Center men's and women's shelters and teen mentoring program:**

- ✓ travel size toiletries (soap, shower gel, shampoo, lotion, etc.), deodorant, razors and shaving cream; combs, brushes, and picks, toothbrushes, toothpaste (but NO mouthwash, please) hand sanitizer, small tissue packs, chapstick
- ✓ NEW socks and underwear (sizes for men, women and teens) hats, gloves, mittens, scarves – most urgently men's, esp. gloves!
- ✓ low denomination gift cards to a drugstore or grocery store small gift items like books (gently used OK), playing cards, puzzle books and pens, travel size games, note cards



### **CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS**

If you would like to make handmade hats or scarves for the boxes, I have yarn I'm happy to share with you for that purpose. I'll be bringing it to platform between now and then, so see me if you are interested!

Colleen ([ckapklein@optonline.net](mailto:ckapklein@optonline.net) or [914 674 4015](tel:9146744015))