



WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
5:00 P.M.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE;
ETHICS IN ACTION**

AS PART OF THE ANNUAL FALL MEMBER MEETING, there was an informal survey which included questions on where our members volunteer their time, and what other organizations they support with donations. There is a whole lot of Ethical Action going on out there! Our members are tutoring, leading art classes, teaching yoga, walking dogs, providing job search skills coaching, knitting hats for those in need or warmth, writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience, working with children at the Coachman family center, helping out in their local school systems, providing health services at Red Cross shelters, performing international medical missions, facilitating parenting and literacy groups, organizing a library books store, educating seniors about Medicare rights, doing political organizing, and helping ex-convicts become entrepreneurs. And that's only a partial list of all the many Deeds being done.

You can find ECSW members doing their bit to make the world a better place in a wide variety of venues, including:

- Afya Foundation
- American Red Cross Health Services
- Amnesty International
- Civil Liberties Union
- Dress for Success
- Ethical Culture Nursery School
- Every Person Influences Children
- Greenburgh Public Library Friends
- Greenvale Elementary School
- Martin Luther King Library
- Medicare Rights Center
- Move On
- Neighborhood Watch
- New York Hospital
- Pets Alive Westchester
- Playing for Change
- Surrogate decision making committee

(President's Message, continued on page 4)

**LEADER'S MESSAGE;
OPPORTUNITY**

WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY – RIGHT NOW – to pursue our hopes and dreams for our Ethical Society's future and I invite you to consider how you will participate in that effort.

On November 9th we had a workshop at the Meeting House that was well-attended, energetic and productive. The workshop was hosted by the Long Range Planning Committee who has been meeting in recent months to do what the name implies: develop a solid plan for our future. The workshop was led by Amy Fuller and me and was based on a Technology of Participation facilitation method called "Action Planning." In the course of our three hours together we envisioned a successful future, assessed our current state of affairs, and identified important areas to attend to if we are to realize that success. A report from the workshop will be sent out via email so if you missed the event you can get a flavor of it and see what we came up with.

Two tools were also presented during the workshop and I'd like to share them here, too. The first tool is a conceptual framework that aims to provide a simple and easy to grasp overview of the complex system called a "congregation."

All congregations, to be functioning well, must address three core elements of the organization's activity/focus: "Inreach," Outreach and Service.

Inreach refers to those activities directed toward the congregation itself: pastoral caring, Community Circles, social events, Colloquys...the activities attended by members and friends who are already connected with the Society.

Outreach refers to those activities directed toward people who are not already part of the congregation or are considering becoming more engaged with the congregation. These efforts would include public-oriented events: No Impact Man, Islamophobia, Race to Nowhere, Hidden Battles, Pop-Up Playground as well as our participation

(Leader's Message, continued on page 4)

Ethical Culture Society
of Westchester
7 Saxon Wood Road
White Plains, New York 10605
Telephone (914) 948-1120
Fax (914) 948-3819
Email ecsw@optonline.net
Web Site
www.ethicalSocietywestchester.org

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

Office (914) 948-1120
Home (914) 923-1021
FAX (914) 948-3819
email Barttsky@aol.com
or ecsw@optonline.net

The Page:

Submissions, comments, etc.;
Please contact Liz Grippe
lizgrippe@optimum.net



A Humanist Fellowship

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

December 01 "The Current State of Civil Rights in the United States of America," Mayo Bartlett, Esq.
Regular Sunday School

December 08 "Gratitude: A Humanist Perspective," Bart Worden
Regular Sunday School

December 15 "Restorative Justice," Jenny Besch
An overview of Restorative Justice in general with some examples of programs in other states throughout the country as well as a view of our use of it in Westchester County.
Regular Sunday School

December 22
5:00 P.M.

**Winter Solstice Festival, 5 P.M.***A Family Celebration*

December 29 TBA

.....

About Our Speakers:**Mayo Bartlett Esq.**

Mayo Bartlett has "...worked for the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for more than ten years, and served as a litigator in the Superior Court Trial Division prior to his appointment as the Chief of the Bias Crimes Unit. Mr. Bartlett has provided hate crime training for the law enforcement community, and he works with community organizations and schools to ensure that hate crimes are properly identified, reported, and investigated. Mr. Bartlett is a co-founder of SAFE PASSAGE, a youth law forum that brings issues of law and policy to the classroom, and he speaks regularly on the topics of human rights and non-violent conflict resolution."

https://mayobartlett.com/Mayo_Bartlett-Profile.html

(Continued on page 3)**First Sunday Sharing, Hour Children's Center**

Hour Children's Center supports the families - and especially the children - of the women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

Among other services, Hour Children's Center provides a residential nursery unit, transportation services, a playroom, visitation programs, parenting education classes, advocacy services, a Teen Time program, and other opportunities for families to remain connected during the period of separation. The mission of Hour Children's Center is to offer women inmates the opportunities and tools they need to become effective parents and to offer the children the support they need while their mothers are incarcerated at the Facility. Hour Children's Center serves as a national model for prison family reunification programs and is one of the only places that offers comprehensive family support.

DECEMBER 2013 EVENTS

Most Sundays
9:30 A.M.

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

Wednesday, December 4
7:30 P.M.

Board Meeting

Sunday, December 8
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

Sunday, December 8
12 NOON

Ethical Action Committee meeting

Friday, December 13
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 to RSVP.

Saturday, December 7
10:00 A.M. — 4 P.M.

2013 Fair Trade Festival & Crafts Sale, Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave. White Plains. Suggested admission: \$2.00—\$5.00 helps support a fair trade cause.

Saturday, December 14

9th Annual Amnesty Write-a-Thon, Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains. See page 6 for more details.

Monday, December 16
7:30 P.M.

Book Discussion Group, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.
Meeting at Pandolfos' home. Call Bev & Oliver for directions & to RSVP [\(914\) 761-8981](tel:9147618981).

Wednesday, December 18
7:30 P.M.

Men's Night Out, Hunan Village II, 222 East Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale.
(Telephone:472-3838). RSVP Oliver Swift



(about our Speakers, continued from page 2)

Bart Worden

Bart has served as Leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester since 1998. Bart also currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Ethical Union.
See his bio at: <http://ethicalsocietywestchester.org/leadership/>



Over 3 decades of service, building a better community.

Jenny Besch

Jenny Besch, Director of the Westchester and Rockland Mediation Centers of CLUSTER, Inc. since 1998, is a certified mediator and State Certified Trainer with advanced training in community mediation, parent-child mediation, custody-visitation

mediation, divorce mediation, child permanency mediation, lemon law arbitration, employment discrimination mediation, victim offender mediation and restorative justice group conferencing. She holds a Masters degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University, where she also did her undergraduate work. She has served on the Board of Directors of the New York State Dispute Resolution Association, as well as EPIC, a noted parent effectiveness training and service organization. She presently serves on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and is an active Participant on the Mid-Hudson Regional Youth Justice Team.

In addition to her work at WRMC, Jenny is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University in their graduate program in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, where she teaches Advanced Mediation.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

- Toastmasters International
- Volunteer Center of United Way
- WESPAC

ECSW members are supporting an even wider array of organizations and contribute to groups working locally, nationally, and internationally on environmental issues, humanism, animal welfare, public radio, women's issues, child advocacy, hunger relief, health care, politics, and much more.

Even with all this involvement, we are still wanting more. Members who filled out surveys were full of ideas on projects and problems they'd like to see if ECSW could take on as a group. For example:

- Community garden
- CSA
- Amateur theater group
- Learning to garden
- Teaching computer skills
- Providing educational opportunities for under-privileged children
- Book exchange
- Hunger
- Job and job search skills training
- Affordable health care
- Resisting consumer culture
- Drug law reform/decriminalization
- Supporting other community organizations by letting them use our space
- Arts collective
- Women's rights
- Supporting animal shelters
- Resisting consumer culture
- Sprucing up our own home!

I've found the breadth and depth of what I've learned from this survey to be quite inspiring. And, the survey was designed to uncover what our members are working on, on their own, so it doesn't even cover what we work on collec-

(Continued on page 5)

(Leader's Message, continued from page 1)

with other groups on community oriented projects such as our joint UUA/ECSW chorus, joining CSAs... These activities are directed toward being a part of a larger community in a way that is helpful and appealing.

Service, while all congregations need a service focus, our "Deed Before Creed" ideal adds to the importance of this area for us. This area includes our work with Habitat, WestHab, Futura House and other local organizations as well as our support for regional, national and international efforts.

Use the core elements to help you focus attention on our past, current and future activities – do our activities mostly reflect our interest in Inreach, Outreach or Service? How well are we doing on each of the three elements? How well are the three areas integrated into our culture? Where do your passions lie? Are you drawn more to one element than another?

The second tool is a strategic model for organizing I'm calling the "Five Factor." For many congregational organizations there has been a tendency toward one and two person "committees" that make organizing, and sustaining an organization, difficult. With one-person committees the individuals involved are likely to feel under-supported, have a difficult time getting adequate help, and are prone to feeling used up and burned out. The Five Factor refers to the minimum number of people for planning and implementing programs and processes – that number is FIVE.

Here's how it works, strategically: Say you are interested in the Society developing a program, doing a service or hosting an event. Who are five people who share that interest and would be willing to work on planning and implementing the plan? With five you have energy, ideas and connections that will be key to success. If you don't have five people interested perhaps there is not sufficient support at the present time for bringing the idea to reality.

We had almost thirty people out to our workshop – and there were a good number of people who wanted to come but were unavailable. If each of us gets on at least one group of five we can realize the wonderful potential

of our membership and do so with confidence. Do you have an idea that you'd like to work on? Are you wondering what others are looking to do so you can join in? Don't be surprised if you are approached in the near future with an offer to join an adventure!

— Bart Worden



Photo: Gerri Friedman



Photo: Jason Sadler

Thanksgiving Festival Thanks!!

***...to everyone who
cooked, set up &
helped with cleanup
after the feast.***

***Also ...to festival planners:
Bart Worden, Jim Young, Lori Fedio.***

***...to folks who came on Saturday for set-up:
Richard Koral, Jack Billig, Lucia Meyerson,
Lenny Meyerson, Terry Stamm, Eric Steinnagel,
Zo Halton and Elizabeth Grippe for the programs.***

(President's Message, continued from page 4)

tively. Nor does it reflect all the many volunteer hours our members devote to the Society itself. Not only that, all this derives from just the slice of the membership that was able to attend the member meeting, and took the time to write down their accomplishments.

If you did not fill out a survey at the member meeting, I'd be delighted to add your details to this portrait; email me at ekapklein@optonline.net and I'll email you a survey. Or just shoot me a note about what you want to share.

I'm looking to put together a "team of 5" to work on making the best use of this information. How can we use it to network amongst ourselves when we are looking for volunteer opportunities, individually or as a group? How can we use it to help show visitors what we are all about? What can we learn about ways our children can get involved? How can we keep up to date with what some members are working on that others might be interested to join in on? How can we support our members in the work they do? How should we celebrate our selves and the many ways we put our ethics into action? If this is of interest to you I hope you'll be in touch. (see email above, or, call me 914 674 4015)

— Colleen Kapklein

Sunday School Theater presented a wonderful adaptation of a selection from the book *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb.



Top: The Taliban reads proclamation prohibiting girls from going to school in front of girls on school bus.

Bottom: The cast takes a bow.

Photos: Courtesy of Jason Sadler



Sunday School Corner
NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
By Bridget McGraw

YES!

Four teens from our society attended the YES (Youth of Ethical Society) Conference in Washington DC from November 7 to 10. They joined approximately 30 youth from other Ethical Culture societies for a weekend of fellowship and discussion. The teens visited some of the museums and monuments in the capital on Friday, and then retreated to a camp for the rest of the weekend. They discussed the theme of utopia, played games, and enjoyed the camaraderie of the group. Noah Velazquez and Matteo Maroun, as high school seniors, graduated from the YES group. Maya Weber and Sebastian Maroun plan to return to next year's YES Conference.



Thank you Al Maroun for transporting and chaperoning!

Observation from Al:

"I was impressed by the YES conference. It's well run and the kids really take over and do a great job. It's hard to describe, but the kids seem to experience more than just a conference. It's like they're attending a family reunion. In such a short time frame the friendships and bonds they make are incredible. I'm glad I was a part of the experience and witnessed "the magic."



Hour Children's Center, Bedford Correctional Facility Gift Drive, collection dates: Sunday December 1, 8, 15 Holiday Wish List 2013

Ages 0-2

- Clothes: size newborn & up (No blue, black, gray, or orange)
- Crib mobiles
- Stacking cups
- Blocks
- Shape sorters



Ages 3-5

- Action figures
- Trucks
- Stuffed animals
- Baby dolls of color
- Puzzles

Ages 6-9

- Legos
- Barbie/Bratz dolls of color
- Remote control cars
- Hats, scarves, and mittens (No blue, black, gray, or orange)

Ages 10-12

- Craft kits (No scissors, clay, or sharp objects)
- Sports equipment: basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and baseball mitts
- Rainbow Loom Kits



Ages 13-17

- Watches (Only analog)
- Wallets
- Makeup kits (Only dry makeup; No mirrors)
- Bath and body sets (May not contain alcohol as the 1st or 2nd ingredient)
- Headphones
- Board games (For teens)



All Gift Donations must be unwrapped & clearly labeled that they are for Hour Children's Center.

All gifts enter the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and must first be screened by security. The following items are not permitted:

- No electronics (such as Gameboys, video games, iPods, DVDs, etc.)
- No items that promote violence.
- No clothing that is blue, black, gray, or orange.
- No *Play-Doh* or clay.
- No scissors, mirrors, or nail polish.
- No items made of glass or in glass containers.



Questions?

Contact Liz Grippe, lizgrip@gmail.com
914 684-2614

Should you have any questions about whether a gift will be accepted, please email us at hourchildrenbhcc@gmail.com or call our office at (914) 241-3100 ext. 4050 / 4055.

Amnesty International AMNESTY WRITE-A-THON



"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile...Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression..."

These words from the Universal declaration of Human Rights form the foundation for the work of Amnesty International. Every year, Amnesty USA Group 42 holds a Write-a-Thon near the anniversary of its adoption in 1948. Members and friends of the group write letters urging governments and leaders to protect those rights. Some of you may have received a letter about this already.

This year, our 9th annual Write-a-Thon will be held on December 14, 2013 at the Community Unitarian Church at 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. All materials for writing, including background materials are provided, as are light refreshments and door prizes for those helping to write letters. We invite all who are interested in promoting human rights around the world to come and help our cause. If you have any questions, please contact Oliver Swift.



*The Ethical Chorus performance of "Thanksgiving Song" by Mary Chapin Carpenter.
Conductor: Glenn Babakian
Accompanist: Leah Linden,
Page turner: Matthew Voltaire
Ethical Chorus director: Jeff Grippe*

HIGHLIGHTS OF MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, November 05, 2013

Membership Meeting: Board reviewed the Membership Meeting. Colleen suggests that the Membership Meetings sometimes be held in the day, (especially for those having trouble driving at night), perhaps after a Platform. Older members also appreciated the contact when asked to attend. Oliver suggests having a presentation by committees of their plans or accomplishments at future meetings.

Colleen reported the questionnaires filled in at the Membership Meeting revealed that people are engaged in many different volunteer activities. She suggests a bulletin board so members could post brochures from their organizations.

Long Range Planning Retreat: Colleen reports that LRP Committee met again. The Membership Planning retreat will be Saturday at 8:30. Bart and Amy will run the process and the entire membership is invited.

Web site: Bart reports that there has been progress in the new website development. There is a format for the home page. After consideration of choices, Motion: was made and approved to move the web hosting to Terry Karp, who offers service and supervision. On question where in the budget the money is available to pay for hosting, confidence was expressed that there will be additional resources from higher pledges.

CSA: In order to move forward to host the CSA, we will still need someone to be site coordinator /monitor. The role involves opening the Building, supervising the pick-up of the vegetables once a week for about three hours. Bart believes that our area is beginning to experience food insecurity, and participation might enable us to enter into this area of care. Other Societies are also involved in this type of activity. Before we are approved, we still have to be interviewed by the farmers.

Leaders Report: Discuss setting up for Platform in the back of the Meeting Room. Suggestion that we try it for a few more weeks and then assess it.

Bart prepared a script for the Presider to follow, in order to create more uniformity, to which appreciation was expressed.

What do we want to do for the future?

There are three legs to community:

- 1) caring within the community,
- 2) outreach and caring for those outside, having a perspective and activities geared towards people outside the community

- 3) service, people working together can make a difference. How can we make this work for us, what can we do to express who we are in those spheres. For one thing, we can reach out to people in our own community. Some members are presently in need of care. We need more organization to help us accomplish this better. It would have a big impact on our community. Lenny suggests a new concerted effort to develop a means of communication with older members, especially those who have lost regular contact with the Society.

Nov 19 is the second anniversary of the death of Kenneth Chamberlain. There will be a vigil outside the White Plains Public Safety Bldg. sponsored by the Westchester Coalition for Police Reform. Bart will be there. Query: Shall we be a "supporter"? A number of organizations are sponsors. Motion adopted: that the Society be a co-sponsor of the event.

Raise the Bar is a movement to raise the age for a defendant to be tried as an adult to 18. Bart attended a recent event at the WP library, and he reports that it was packed with the public and with public officials, but no press presence at all. Bart recommends this as a cause to support.

Treasurer's Report: Maggie reports we have almost \$10K in pledges contributed so far, representing 16 members. Tenant had credits and rebates for the inconvenience of the bridge construction and some plumbing work was done in the Parish House.

Old Business: Nominating Committee has yet to appoint a person to replace Martina on the Board.

New Business: We need a method to remind ourselves of things that have to be done. Procedures Manual? Jim suggests that everyone bring a list of things that would have to be on a procedures calendar and have it kept forever.

Respectfully Submitted,

— Rich—



*Gratitude Soup
a Thanksgiving Festival
gratitude sharing activity;
Ruthanne Worden and
Sunday School helpers
Photos: Gerri Friedman*

A Humanist Fellowship

Phone: (914) 948-1120
Fax: (914) 948-3819
Email: ecsw@optonline.net



Ethical Culture Society of
Westchester
7 Saxon Wood Road
White Plains, New York 10605



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 or [914 674 4015](tel:9146744015))