

Leader Services Catalog

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THE NATIONAL LEADERS COUNCIL
OF THE
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A message from our Leaders

The National Leaders Council and the American Ethical Union are making available this catalogue of Leader services. It consists of workshop and platform offerings that professional Ethical Culture Leaders are willing to provide to Ethical Societies at reasonable cost. The goal of this catalog is twofold: (1) to support Ethical Culture on a national level by offering expertise to all societies, especially those without the benefit of regular professional services; and, (2) to increase interaction between local societies.

Services in the catalog are divided into workshops of varying lengths (from 90 minutes to two-day) and platform addresses. Workshops are listed by content area, and platforms are listed alphabetically by platform title. The last section is an alphabetical list of Leaders participating in this catalog, along with a short biography. We are considering that in a future edition we might offer a list of consultation services, but for the moment assume that some

Leaders might be willing to offer longer-term consulting help to societies and their boards concerning topics relevant to their workshops.

The services offered were suggested by individual Leaders, representing where they believe they can offer some expertise. As a result, there may be some topics or issues not covered, and there may be some overlap. Please let the National Leaders Council and the American Ethical Union know if there are ways it can support your local society that are not offered by this catalog and we will discuss internally how best we can meet such needs.

The fee for professional Ethical Culture Leader services is \$250/day plus travel expenses. In order to request a Leader to come to your society to offer a workshop, platform, or consulting services, contact the AEU office. It may be possible for the AEU to arrange to cover some of the expenses on a case-by-case basis, especially for societies with limited financial resources but big dreams.

Many leaders have very full schedules, so be aware that you need to put your request in well in advance.

Contents

A message from our Leaders	1
Workshops Offered.....	6
Ceremonies & Aesthetics.....	6
Planning Your Own Memorial Service. Susan Rose.	6
Conflict Resolution and Mediation	6
Compassionate Mediation of Differences/Conflict. Joy McConnell.	6
Congregational Development, Growth, Sustainability	6
Becoming a Giving Congregation. Bart Worden.	6
Building a Successful Pledge (Stewardship) Campaign. Mary Herman.....	6
The Care and Feeding of Volunteers. Joy McConnell.	6
Congregational Growth: Factors and Choices. Jone Johnson Lewis.	6
Developing and Growing Your Society. Randy Best.....	7
Head, Hand, Heart, and Song. Bart Worden.....	7
Leadership Transition Workshop. Joy McConnell.....	7
So You Want to Grow Your Society. Joy McConnell.	7
Welcome -- More than a Handshake! Mary Herman.	7
Diversity, Tolerance, and Welcoming Community	7
Multicultural Modeling: White Anti-Racist Activism in Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.....	7
Storytelling Circles. Anne Klaeyesen.....	8
Ecology and Sustainability	8
Ethical Engagement through Environmental Restoration. Curt Collier.	8
The Ethics of Eating. Anne Klaeyesen.	8
Ethical Culture History and Philosophy.....	8
Ethical Humanism 101. Kate Lovelady.....	8
Ethical Humanism - Religion for Non-Believers and Believers. Richard Kiniry.	8
Felix Adler and the Philosophy of Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.....	8
Introduction to Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.	9
Religious Roots of Ethical Culture. Curt Collier.....	9
Re-Writing the 10 Commandments. Randy Best.	9
General Ethics and Moral Philosophy.....	9
Egoism and Altruism and More. Hugh Taft-Morales.	9

Peacebuilding.....	9
Communication for Connection. Joy McConnell, Jone Johnson Lewis, Anne Klaeyesen and others with advanced training	9
Culture of Peace and Ethical Culture Workshop. Martha Gallahue.	10
Peacebuilding Series. Martha Gallahue.	10
Peaceful Conflict Resolution. Joy McConnell.....	10
The Red Green Game (what Competition is all about). Randy Best.	10
Personal Life and Transformation (Self-Improvement)	10
5 Steps to Overcoming a Life Crisis. Randy Best.	10
Advance Medical Directives. Susan Rose.....	10
Composing an Ethical Will. Anne Klaeyesen.....	11
Developing an Ethical Personality. Bart Worden.....	11
Ethical Culture and Family Life. Amanda Poppei.	11
Ethical Mindfulness. Kate Lovelady.	11
Forgiving Others - a Process. Randy Best.....	11
Singing the Holiday Blues. Anne Klaeyesen.	11
The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven. Anne Klaeyesen.....	11
Religious Education.....	12
An Ethical Culture Coming-of-Age Program. Hugh Taft-Morales.	12
Skills	12
ToP Facilitation Skills. Lisel Burns.....	12
Social Justice/Ethical Action.....	12
The Global Mission of the National Ethical Service. Martha Gallahue.	12
Ethical Fitness Seminar. Lisel Burns.	13
Guest Leader Platforms	14
"Agitate, Agitate, Agitate: An Ethical Portrait of Frederick Douglass" by Anne Klaeyesen	14
"Beyond Right and Wrong" by Jone Johnson Lewis	14
"Bringing Ethics to Life" by Bart Worden.....	14
"Building Ethical Democracy" by Hugh Taft-Morales	14
"By This We Live" by Mary Herman.....	14
"Cherishing Diversity" by Joy McConnell.....	14
"Child Labor: Then and Now" by Jone Johnson Lewis	14
"Companion Paths of Ethical Humanism and Buddhism" by Anne Klaeyesen	15

“Compassionate Communication” by Bart Worden	15
“Contemporary Slavery: A Persistent Moral Outrage” by Anne Klaeyesen.....	15
“Counseling Inspiration: Healing of Self and Other” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	15
“Cultivating Empathy” by Jone Johnson Lewis	15
“The Culture of Ethical Culture” by Lois Kellerman	15
“Dangerous Ideas Revisited – How Ideas Affect our Lives” by Randy Best	15
“Dare to Lead: Moral Heroes and Feet of Clay” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	16
“Deed: Building Social Justice” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	16
“Doubt, Faith, and Truth” by Randy Best.....	16
“Eliciting the Best” by Joy McConnell	16
“Empathy – Concern for Other” by Randy Best.....	16
“Ethical Culture and ‘The Great Turning’” by Joy McConnell	16
“Ethical Culture as More than Religion” by Hugh Taft-Morales	16
“Ethical Engagement through Environmental Restoration” by Curt Collier	17
“Ethical Humanism and Secular Humanism” by Kate Lovelady.....	17
“Ethical Partnership” by Bart Worden	17
“The Ethics of Poetry” by Anne Klaeyesen	17
“The Ethics of Social Security” by Kate Lovelady	17
“Feminism is NOT a Dirty Word” by Anne Klaeyesen	17
“Fiction as Ethical Crucible” by Joy McConnell	17
“Forgiveness – Forgiving Others” by Randy Best.....	18
“Hear Us Roar - Again: The Revival of the ERA” by Anne Klaeyesen	18
“Honor Inherent Worth” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	18
“I’m a Believer!” by Amanda Poppei	18
“Jagged Edges” by Mary Herman.....	18
“John Lovejoy Elliott, Good Neighbor” by Anne Klaeyesen	18
“Justice for Juveniles: A Call to Ethical Action” by Anne Klaeyesen	18
“Living More Simply: Making Ethical Choices” by Susan Rose	19
“Love...and Ethical Culture: What’s Love Got to Do with It?” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	19
“Moral Education: Nature, Nurture and Knowledge” by Anne Klaeyesen	19
“Mortality, Transcendence, and Irony” by Hugh Taft-Morales	19
“My Wake Up Call – A Response to a Life Crisis” by Randy Best	19
“Painting Sunlight” by Mary Herman.....	19

“Place2Place: Partnerships as Ethical Practice” by Lisel Burns.....	19
“Questions for the Journey” by Mary Herman	19
“Raising Children in Ethical Culture, Keeping Children in Ethical Culture” by Susan Rose	20
“Reclaiming Ethical Culture Spirituality” by Anne Klaeyesen	20
“Religious Roots of Ethical Culture" by Curt Collier	20
“Saying No and Saying Yes” by Jone Johnson Lewis	20
“Social Reform Through Photography: Jacob Riis, Lewis Hine and Sebastio Salgado” by Anne Klaeyesen .	20
“Spiritual Suffering and Bringing Out the Best” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	20
“What Makes Us Human?” by Amanda Poppei.....	20
“Where is the Movement in the Ethical Culture Movement?” by Richard Kiniry	21
“Worship the Earth: Common Ground” by Hugh Taft-Morales.....	21
“Your Brain on Ethics” by Jone Johnson Lewis	21
Leader Profiles	22
Randy Best	22
Lisel Burns	22
Curt Collier	22
Martha Gallahue	22
Mary Herman	22
Lois Kellerman.....	23
Richard Kiniry	23
Anne Klaeyesen.....	23
Jone Johnson Lewis.....	23
Kate Lovelady.....	23
Joy McConnell.....	24
Amanda Poppei.....	24
Susan Rose	24
Hugh Taft-Morales	24
Bart Worden	24

Workshops Offered

Ceremonies & Aesthetics

Planning Your Own Memorial Service. Susan Rose.

Why do we have memorial services? What do you want your memorial service to be like? What don't you want your memorial service to be like? Thinking about how you want to be remembered after you die can help you think about how you live, and give good guidance to your loved ones in holding a memorial service for you. Explore different options for memorial services and begin creating your own memorial service.

Conflict Resolution and Mediation

Compassionate Mediation of Differences/Conflict. Joy McConnell.

With more than 30 years of peaceful conflict resolution training and practice, Joy McConnell offers compassionate strategies to Societies experiencing differences or conflict before those become destructive. The goal is to bring resolution with understanding and consideration of all needs.

Congregational Development, Growth, Sustainability

Becoming a Giving Congregation. Bart Worden.

To be successful Ethical Societies require contributions of "time, talent and treasure." This interactive workshop focuses on the last (and often most difficult) of the three: financial contributions. Together we will explore attitudes that help or hinder generous giving and consider ways to help the congregation engage in productive discussion about pledging and other ways of contributing.

Building a Successful Pledge (Stewardship) Campaign. Mary Herman.

At a recent AEU Assembly, it was announced that the Washington Ethical Society had the highest member pledges in our movement. Learn how your Society can lift your pledge drives to new levels and glean tips on how to put fun in your campaign so that the pledge drive is one of the most enjoyable and community-building activities your Society experiences all year. Drawing upon many years of successful pledge campaigns at the Washington Ethical Society, Mary will provide a step-by-step outline to plan a winning campaign at your Ethical Society.

The Care and Feeding of Volunteers. Joy McConnell.

With more than 30 years of experience working with volunteers in Ethical Societies, Joy has developed helpful guidelines for motivating your members to volunteer, for finding the right person for the job, for providing adequate support and resources, for avoiding volunteer burnout, and for developing lay leadership for the future.

Congregational Growth: Factors and Choices. Jone Johnson Lewis.

Using some of the newest research on congregational growth across religious lines, this interactive workshop encourages leadership in a Society to discover what might work best to build on their strengths and meet the needs of those looking to join an organization such as ours. What works best: a focus on outside service (ethical action, etc.) or meeting the needs of members or newcomers? What role does publicity usually play in growth? What are the paths by which visitors become members or become really involved? These and

other questions, myths, and methods will be explored as a basis for a Society's decision-making around growth goals and strategies.

Developing and Growing Your Society. Randy Best.

I will share the findings of the 2009 Growth Research Learning Team. There is no magic here, only suggestions for organization, delegation and hard work. I will also review Great Expectations, an earlier AEU effort to assemble resources for growth. Strategies to implement growth strategies in your Society will be developed.

Head, Hand, Heart, and Song. Bart Worden.

Is your Society interested in including more singing in your Sunday meetings and other events? If so, this interactive workshop can help your congregation get started with congregational singing or enhance your program if you already do sing together. Bart has recorded a CD of Ethical Culture friendly songs and will demonstrate how it (and other sources of music) can be used to enhance the singing experience.

Leadership Transition Workshop. Joy McConnell.

This workshop is for Societies who are losing a Leader and preparing to call a new Leader. Joy provides an outline and explanation of the various steps, considerations and processes that will lead to a smooth and gratifying transition for all concerned. This would also help Societies considering professional leadership where there is none at the present time.

So You Want to Grow Your Society. Joy McConnell.

Joy will share strategies and programs for growing your Society while deepening community, relationships, and contribution within and beyond the Society as well as helping members find more purpose and fulfillment in their lives.

Welcome -- More than a Handshake! Mary Herman.

What does a newcomer experience at your Society? The answer to that question will determine your Society's future and, to a large extent, what a newcomer experiences across our Societies will determine the future of our movement. Attending an Ethical Society (or any religious congregation) for the first time can be daunting. How do we provide a warm and inviting welcome to our visitors – one that will encourage them to return? Explore various aspects of hospitality and welcome in your Society: data and numbers as means to this end, clear paths to membership, assessing how welcoming we really are. Mary will provide important tools to help your Society welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into your Society and keep them coming back!

Diversity, Tolerance, and Welcoming Community

Multicultural Modeling: White Anti-Racist Activism in Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.

This interactive workshop promotes anti-racist activism and multicultural fluency in the lives of participants, their family, and their friends. Within an environment of safety and integrity, we explore how to transform roadblocks to multicultural agency in ways that bring out our best. The values and ideas of Ethical Culture will inform our discussions.

Storytelling Circles. Anne Klaeyesen.

Stories hold the seeds of growth, relationship and healing, fertilized by the special act of telling them. Storytelling is never a solo performance – one person speaking something at another – but rather a dynamic process in which the inner muscles of the spirit, intuition and emotional intelligence are exercised and strengthened. In storytelling circles, there is a commitment to hearing everyone’s story. Listening soothes our feeling of isolation; telling gives shape and meaning to our experiences. This participatory workshop offers resources and techniques to give people confidence to share their stories.

Ecology and Sustainability

Ethical Engagement through Environmental Restoration. Curt Collier.

This workshop will explore the connections between humans, their environment, and our natural world. Too often humans approach nature not as partners but as exploiters. By shifting our orientation to the environment, we find fertile ground for ethical enrichment. This is an introduction to ethical ecology as well as how our lives might be different with it.

The Ethics of Eating. Anne Klaeyesen.

We eat to stay alive and for pleasure. Whether we realize it or not, we make choices every time we eat: What nutritional value does this food have? How many calories does it contain? How have its growth and harvest impacted other people and the planet? This workshop explores the ethical issues bound up in the food we eat and provides resources to develop a conscious practice that is healthful, ethical and enjoyable.

Ethical Culture History and Philosophy

Ethical Humanism 101. Kate Lovelady.

This 3-hour interactive workshop introduces participants to some of the basic ideas and history of Ethical Culture; its format provides opportunities for personal reflection and for participants to get to know each other. Designed for prospective and new members but also suitable for longerterm members who would like to know more about Ethical Culture.

Ethical Humanism - Religion for Non-Believers and Believers. Richard Kiniry.

Who says your life has to have meaning? Even if you don’t care about ideas like meaning, Ethical Humanism offers a sensible but inspiring understanding of life’s journey. Ethical Humanism has a history situated on the fringe of religion and its approach is of use to both the confused and to know-it-alls. This 4-hour workshop, designed for the curious whether Society members or newcomers, will offer an opportunity to examine the philosophy of Ethical Humanism while questioning the “big issues” such as God, faith and morality. We will relate the philosophy to practical ideas - economic and social justice, Capitalism vs. Socialism, the environment, abortion and minority rights.

Felix Adler and the Philosophy of Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.

The workshop is intended to nurture: 1) an appreciation for the roots of Ethical Culture; 2) an understanding of strengths and limits of Adler’s thought; and, 3) an on-going dialogue about the meaning and future of Ethical Culture. We will discuss Adler’s perspective on religion, society, relationships, and human nature.

Introduction to Ethical Culture. Hugh Taft-Morales.

After a brief historical overview, this workshop will explore in more depth four areas of Ethical Culture philosophy and how it relates to living our lives: 1) the primacy of ethics; 2) our deep respect for the worth of every person; 3) our a desire to take ethical action and build social justice; and, 4) our commitment to building ethical relationships.

Religious Roots of Ethical Culture. Curt Collier.

The idea for Ethical Culture arose out of the dynamic interplay between Jewish and Christian religious idealism on the one hand and modernity on the other. Adler drew heavily upon Western spiritual traditions, but also distinctly parted from them. This workshop explores the religious roots of Ethical Culture and why Adler was truly a religious radical.

Re-Writing the 10 Commandments. Randy Best.

This values clarification workshop approaches what brings meaning to our lives through a group process with some humor. It is surprising what rules are considered important.

General Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Egoism and Altruism and More. Hugh Taft-Morales.

This workshop explores the role of reason, emotion and desire in moral behavior; selfish, unselfish, egoistic and altruistic behavior; and, alternative approaches to philosophy of the self, including ethical interrelatedness and no-self theories, such as Buddhism.

Peacebuilding

Communication for Connection. Joy McConnell, Jone Johnson Lewis, Anne Klaeyen and others with advanced training

Within Ethical Culture, we seek to create relationships and communities where everyone matters -- where the deep needs of all are considered and heard, where individuals are treated as having worth, and where people connect with honesty and empathy to each other, within the community and to others in their lives. Many of us have found that learning and practicing the process of Nonviolent Communication™ has helped us towards these purposes. These practices apply to our social action work, to our personal relationships and to the building of an effective and compassionate culture within our Ethical Societies.

1. *Beginning level: **Communication for Connection Basics:*** 6-hour workshop* or, where transportation is feasible, four 2-hour weekly sessions. Learning the basics of a process called Nonviolent Communication, or Compassionate Communication, where we enhance our ability to effectively and compassionately express and listen to the universal human longings that are behind everything people do and say. Whether in our ethical action or in our personal lives or within our Ethical Societies, how can we listen with empathy and express ourselves with honesty to build more authentic relationships?
2. *Beginning/Intermediate level: **Starting a Practice Group:*** Consultation or workshop on the basics of practice groups based on the process of Nonviolent Communication, including practicing some sessions and resource recommendations.
3. *Intermediate level: **Practicing Empathy:*** 6-hour workshop. Improving our ability to hear and understand what's going on for others, as a basis for building the kind of community and relationships where

everyone's needs matter. Includes practice in distinguishing the beliefs that people may hold and the actions that they may take -- with which we may agree or disagree -- from their underlying feelings and needs that motivate their actions. Based on the process of Nonviolent Communication.

4. *Intermediate level: **What's Making You Angry?*** ... and how to move beyond anger to effective action that honors the deeply felt needs inspiring that anger and builds communication and connection, without polarizing and dividing. Based on the process of Nonviolent Communication.
5. *Intermediate level: **Getting Past "No"***: 6-hour workshop. How do we turn demands into requests? How do we react when we make a request of another and the answer is "No"? How do we respond to the request another might make of us when our first impulse is to answer "No" -- or with an unwilling "Yes"? This workshop is based on the process of Nonviolent Communication.

Culture of Peace and Ethical Culture Workshop. Martha Gallahue.

Both institutionalizing peace and embedding the culture of peace worldwide has made great strides in the 21st century. Youth especially are embracing this trend. This workshop will demonstrate how peace education and peace building initiatives promote cultural shifts and moral development. We will explore key UN documents, the Earth Charter and the innovative peace education model used by National Peace Academy as effective means to implement cultures of peace.

Peacebuilding Series. Martha Gallahue.

Peacebuilding is a term to describe those strategic and systemic initiatives that institutionalize peace on every level - personal, social, political and ecological. These workshops will describe particularly those strategies and best practices that promote the essential ethical culture vision for peace.

Peaceful Conflict Resolution. Joy McConnell.

This training provides information for recognizing different stages of conflict and how each level can be managed with the most positive and peaceful outcomes. Specific, compassionate strategies for dealing with different stages will be offered and practiced in the group.

The Red Green Game (what Competition is all about). Randy Best.

This is a large group exercise for 20+ participants. Groups will engage in a competition/ cooperation reward game. Issues emerge such as adhering to alliances, telling the truth, and what winning is really all about.

Personal Life and Transformation (Self-Improvement)

5 Steps to Overcoming a Life Crisis. Randy Best.

This workshop presents a model for overcoming a major life crisis presented by Nobel Peace Prize winner Jerry White in his book "I Shall Not Be Broken." The stages for coping and overcoming a crisis will be presented and discussed. A model of Forgiveness will also be presented as an additional coping aid.

Advance Medical Directives. Susan Rose.

Who makes medical decisions for you if you are not able to? Having a legally designated health care proxy who is aware of your preferences for end of life care, makes it more likely that your wishes will be followed and that you and your loved ones can have a better experience going through the difficult time.

Composing an Ethical Will. Anne Klaeyssen.

A legal will disposes of one's valuables, and an ethical will communicates one's values to family and friends. It is a different kind of legacy, a "voice of the heart" that is as unique as the person writing it. This workshop takes participants through a process of reflecting upon their personal values and beliefs, life's lessons, and hopes for future generations. Then they explore different ways of giving these insights expression, including letters, photos and videos, and creative art.

Developing an Ethical Personality. Bart Worden.

This interactive workshop explores how people develop as human beings with a strong emphasis on how we nurture ethical character and ethical habits. Concepts from philosophy, developmental psychology, sociology, Nonviolent Communication and behavioral economics will be presented and related to personal experience.

Ethical Culture and Family Life. Amanda Poppei.

What does it mean for your family to "practice" Ethical Culture as your religion or your core set of values? How do you incorporate Ethical Culture into your home life? Amanda Poppei will explore daily and weekly practices that encourage multigenerational involvement with Ethical Culture principles.

Ethical Mindfulness. Kate Lovelady.

Mindfulness meditation and the use of mindfulness principles in everyday life can be an important tool in personal and community development. This participatory workshop is designed to help Societies set up their own ongoing Ethical Mindfulness practice groups.

Forgiving Others - a Process. Randy Best.

This workshop will present a model for forgiving others that focuses on the benefits to the forgiver. Unconditional forgiveness can set us free from resentment and grudges. Forgiveness is presented as a goal that can improve our experience of life.

Singing the Holiday Blues. Anne Klaeyssen.

The traditional winter holidays, from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, can be a time of unrealistic expectations and increased stress. Marketing for these holidays starts as early as October and is relentless. Many of us face weighty decisions about when, where, with whom, and even whether, to celebrate them. This workshop explores the dynamics and ethical implications of this cultural, social, and religious phenomenon together in a supportive, participatory environment.

The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven. Anne Klaeyssen.

Our forgiving self is the strongest, most loving part of who we are. It allows us to voice our anger without doing damage, acknowledge our part in what has gone wrong, and see the flaws in ourselves and others as part of our humanity. This workshop introduces participants to key concepts in the process of forgiveness and invites them to examine their own ethical struggle to forgive and be forgiven.

Religious Education

An Ethical Culture Coming-of-Age Program. Hugh Taft-Morales.

Unlike many coming of age programs, COA-MATT demands as much of parents as it does of teens. By focusing on evolving family relationships, COA-MATT teaches communication and agreement making skills that honor and celebrate the birth of ethical young adults.

Skills

ToP Facilitation Skills. Lisel Burns.

A skilled ToP facilitator, Lisel introduces groups to the ToP Facilitation Methods used to engage small and large groups in practical, participatory meetings which enable participants to reflect together upon the practical aspects and significance of their situations, develop working creative consensus in answer to significant questions, and develop action plans to accomplish a complexity of key actions toward goals of their own choosing. There are three ToP workshop units:

- 1) The Focused Conversation: provides a structured dialogue that deepens the group's shared perspective, elicits clear ideas and achieves full participation. Use it to collect data and suggestions, discuss important issues, focus multiple interests on a particular issue, and explore levels of consensus that already exist.
- 2) The Consensus Workshop Method: provides an integrated thinking process that facilitates consensus in a short period of time. Use it to create a shared vision, goals and objectives, set team priorities, motivate team members, develop policies, and identify blocks to communication.
- 3) The Action Planning Process: designed to allow those responsible for a specific event or project to accomplish their task by clarifying directions, aligning resources, designating roles and responsibilities, and building team trust and support. Use it to organize a conference or event, to develop a project plan, to initiate a publicity campaign.

Social Justice/Ethical Action

The Global Mission of the National Ethical Service. Martha Gallahue.

This Workshop will link our Statement of Purpose with present activity as a non-governmental organization at the UN. We will describe why and how coalition building is core to the growth of Ethical Culture and why and how our global presence provides mutual benefit in shaping ethical foreign policy. We will discuss the Rose L Walker Fund and how it may be used to develop seed money for local projects providing an added value to your local community.

NES has a history of leading the way in some specific areas in the ethical culture movement. We were the first group to promote the organizational leadership of women through inter-societal collaboration and national identification. We were the first to produce *The Dialogue*, and to officially associate with the UN in the Department of Public Information. Over the years at the UN, we have inserted the term "ethics" and "ethical approaches" into official documents. Recently, we have aligned with the interspirituality movement in an effort to reconcile the no-win argument between theism and non-theism in the context of peacebuilding. We recommend reading Kurt Johnson's recent book (don't have exact title with me) for further explanation.

Ethical Fitness Seminar. Lisel Burns.

Lisel Burns is certified to offer this Nine Step Ethical Decision Making Framework developed by the Institute for Global Ethics founded by Rushworth Kidder. The participatory seminar equips participants with an effective framework to apply consistent, ethical decision making processes. There is a \$15 materials charge if participants keep the Seminar literature.

Guest Leader Platforms

"Agitate, Agitate, Agitate: An Ethical Portrait of Frederick Douglass" by Anne Klaeyesen

Born in February 1818 to a slave mother and white father he never knew, Frederick Douglass grew up to become a leader in the abolitionist movement and the first African-American citizen to hold a high rank in the United State government, as Consul General to Haiti. In his autobiography, Douglass related the several lives he had lived: "First, the life of slavery; secondly, the life of a fugitive from slavery; thirdly, the life of comparative freedom; fourthly, the life of conflict and battle; and fifthly, the life of victory, if not complete, at least assured." Shortly before his death, he whispered to a young follower, "Agitate, agitate, agitate."

"Beyond Right and Wrong" by Jone Johnson Lewis

Ethics is about deciding who's right and who's wrong, who's good and who's evil, right? In our Ethical Culture tradition, ethics is about relating to others by attributing essential human worth, right or wrong. Jone will explore this paradox.

"Bringing Ethics to Life" by Bart Worden

Ethical Culture's maxim, "elicit the best in others and thereby elicit the best in oneself," is a call to unlock hidden potential for the good and so contribute to a more ethical culture. But how would one go about exerting energies in ways that would result in positive benefits for others and for oneself?

"Building Ethical Democracy" by Hugh Taft-Morales

The tradition of Ethical Humanism can help by reminding us that democracy is not merely a form of government, but is an approach to human relationships. Pragmatic engagement, personal relationships, and realistic idealism can reinvigorate our civil discourse and help us build an ethical democracy.

"By This We Live" by Mary Herman

In our non-creedal tradition, we are not handed a set of beliefs, or doctrines to recite, or a list of rules to follow, and to pass on to our children. So when personally critical moral decisions need to be made, where is it that we find our center? What do we live by, and why? Join Mary as each of us explores our own "list" of rules to live by, our own ethical map of the world, the formation of our deepest values, and the way they shape our lives.

"Cherishing Diversity" by Joy McConnell

Seeing diversity as something to cherish is a core attitude in building deeply ethical community. In choosing to attribute worth to each person, we are challenging ourselves to be in relation with those whose ideas and values may be very different or even abhorrent to us. How do we work with our differences to find creative outcomes for difficult issues facing us?

"Child Labor: Then and Now" by Jone Johnson Lewis

Using powerful images from the past and present, we'll take a look at the problems of child labor in history and now. We'll also look at how and why the Ethical Culture movement was so involved in this issue in our earlier history, and some ways that individuals and societies can make a difference on the issue today.

[“Companion Paths of Ethical Humanism and Buddhism” by Anne Klaeyesen](#)

Both Buddhism and Ethical Culture are non-theistic religions of ethics that emphasize compassionate living. Both had founders who believed that people must experience and share their common humanity and goodness. There are, of course, differences in the practices each has developed. This platform explores the similarities and differences, and suggests ways in which these two religions might be integrated.

[“Compassionate Communication” by Bart Worden](#)

Marshall Rosenberg developed a system of communication called “Nonviolent Communication” that is designed to help people connect with each other compassionately on the deepest level in a way that meets each person’s needs. The underlying concepts for his system resonate with those of Ethical Culture and may be very helpful for our efforts to “elicit the best.”

[“Contemporary Slavery: A Persistent Moral Outrage” by Anne Klaeyesen](#)

To many, the word “slavery” recalls the transatlantic slave trade of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, relegated to a barbaric past. Too few realize that the enslavement of human beings exists today. International organizations such as Anti-Slavery International and Free the Slaves estimate that at least 27 million people are held in slavery-like situations, most of which remain clandestine in nature or, in some cases, accepted as part of society, making them difficult to eliminate. Public ignorance has contributed to governmental and international inaction to abolish slavery. Learn more about this moral outrage and what you can do to stop it.

[“Counseling Inspiration: Healing of Self and Other” by Hugh Taft-Morales](#)

In the context of Ethical Culture, counseling can nourish our ethical relationships and our congregational life. Hugh will explore the counseling orientations of Alfred Adler and of existential therapists such as Victor Frankel while weaving an amazing tale of his own family’s psychotherapeutic adventures.

[“Cultivating Empathy” by Jone Johnson Lewis](#)

Empathy is a crucial attitude and skill for developing more ethical relationships in personal life, in politics, at work, in every venue in life. Drawing on resources in science, philosophy, psychology, and personal development, Jone Johnson Lewis will explore empathy as an ethical practice. How do we learn empathy as a skill and nurture empathy as an attitude?

[“The Culture of Ethical Culture” by Lois Kellerman](#)

An idea can't be fully grounded in human community without its own distinct, evolving ethos. Based on a fourteen year action-research project, culminating in 1994 with the AEU publication of Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture, this document represents the primary understandings and core values of Ethical Society members living out their lives together during that time. The formal "Commitments" were taken up by many communities and are still in use today. It is hoped that each new generation will add to the conversation about this grounding life view.

[“Dangerous Ideas Revisited – How Ideas Affect our Lives” by Randy Best](#)

Beliefs are important. We do not act randomly. What we believe motivates us to act. Our actions speak to our beliefs. Ideas have power. The ideas that we hold in our heads inform our relationships and our actions in the world. For good and bad, powerful ideas influence the world around us. But all ideas are not created equal.

“Dare to Lead: Moral Heroes and Feet of Clay” by Hugh Taft-Morales

Great leaders, such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., are often placed on a pedestal, yet we are disappointed by their human limitations and frailties. From an Ethical Culture perspective, Hugh explores how to acknowledge the goodness and flaws of our moral leaders in a way that brings out our own best as moral leaders.

“Deed: Building Social Justice” by Hugh Taft-Morales

How should Ethical Humanists view it - as an uncontroversial effort to make our political and economic relationships fairer or as a politically charged coercive redistribution of resources? How should members of Ethical Societies envision and actualize social justice? How radical can we get?

“Doubt, Faith, and Truth” by Randy Best

Doubt informs my interactions with the world. I celebrate doubt as a source of openness and possibility. Doubt is a creative alternative to the pitfalls of certainty. Yet a certain amount of faith is necessary in order to motivate me from the paralysis of existential uncertainty. A certain leap of faith - the willingness to make foundational assumptions - is required for me to act in the world. I assume reality exists independent of my own mind. The world is real and knowable. The virtues of doubt, faith and truth will be explored during this Platform. Consideration will be given on how these virtues influence ethical behavior.

“Eliciting the Best” by Joy McConnell

“Seek to elicit the best in others, and thereby you will bring to light the best that is in yourself.” This “supreme ethical rule” articulated by our founder, Felix Adler, is still considered important and relevant in our approach to ethical human relationships. Yes, but how do we actually do that? Joy shares approaches and her own personal journey in understanding how we actualize this maxim in our own lives.

“Empathy – Concern for Other” by Randy Best

The limits of our collective ability to care about others is something that concerns me. I struggle to recognize the worth in others – to realize the ethical ideal of intrinsic human worth. Empathy for others is a necessary part of what it means to be human. The value and pitfalls of Empathy are presented in this platform.

“Ethical Culture and ‘The Great Turning’” by Joy McConnell

Joanna Macy wrote, “The Great Turning is a name for the essential adventure of our time: the shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization.” How do Ethical Humanist values align with this shift? What part can we play in being one with this evolution in human culture? Joy will explore these ideas and lead an interactive discussion about what contributions we could make to such a cultural turning.

“Ethical Culture as More than Religion” by Hugh Taft-Morales

Felix Adler placed ethical commitment to the worth of all people above any other truth claim or religious belief. While Ethical Culture has a humanist religious hearth that offers warm inspiration to many, those not “religiously minded” need not gather round the fire. In ethical relationships independent of any religious claim is where Ethical Culture lives.

“Ethical Engagement through Environmental Restoration” by Curt Collier

There is a connection between humans and their environment, and our natural world has much to offer. However, too often humans approach nature not as partners but as exploiters. By shifting our orientation to the environment, we find fertile ground for ethical enrichment. This is an introduction to ethical ecology as well as how our lives might be different with it.

“Ethical Humanism and Secular Humanism” by Kate Lovelady

What are the similarities and differences between our movement and the secular humanist movement? This inspirational platform, while respectful of the values of secular humanism, ultimately celebrates the unique role of Ethical Culture as a form of religious humanism focused on community and relationships.

“Ethical Partnership” by Bart Worden

Putting deed before creed is often easier said than accomplished, especially when it comes to reaching out to others who may have different beliefs than ones we hold. An “ethical partnership” model in which one focuses attention on eliciting the best from someone while letting go of a need for personal gain can make a difference.

“The Ethics of Poetry” by Anne Klaeyen

Once upon a time, everyone loved and recited poetry. It was the language of life. The meter and rhythm of poems helped people to remember them and thus pass along their images, stories, and values from generation to generation. Poetry’s meaning isn’t obscure, but it isn’t simple either; sometimes it takes a lifetime to understand and appreciate a poem, other times an instant. They express our humanity in words and give it meaning. Join Leader Anne Klaeyen in an exploration of the ethical aspect of poetry and celebrate National Poetry Month, established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets to promote the presence and accessibility of poetry in our culture.

“The Ethics of Social Security” by Kate Lovelady

This talk advocates for the importance of Social Security in America as a concrete example of the kind of interdependence that Ethical Humanism promotes, and it explores the fears and misconceptions that have convinced some to advocate for privatization.

“Feminism is NOT a Dirty Word” by Anne Klaeyen

Women's History Month is an opportunity to examine today's feminism. Does it remain as vibrant a social, cultural and political movement as it once was? Why do so many young women shun the label of "feminist"? What, if anything, has taken its place? This platform explores the different historical 'waves' of feminism and emphasizes the need to revive the Equal Rights Amendment.

“Fiction as Ethical Crucible” by Joy McConnell

For all of us who love good literature, fiction can offer deep paths to understanding the human condition and the ethical dilemmas faced by people who live a conscientious life. Joy, who has an MA in English Language and Literature and taught English Literature and Values Education during her twenties and thirties, shares a personal journey through what some great books have taught her about ethical living.

“Forgiveness – Forgiving Others” by Randy Best

What is it? Do I need it? Should I give it? Do I need to wait for an apology? Forgiveness is both an act and the attitude toward another that results from the act. It is letting go of anger and hurt caused by the actions of another. It is not always offering absolution. Sometimes it is acceptance or even resignation about something that you cannot change in another. Sometimes it is just a new level understanding about someone else. Forgiveness acknowledges my hurt. It does not wipe the slate clean. It does not necessarily renew trust. It is necessary to move beyond my pain. Forgiveness is letting go. Forgiveness lifts a burden of anger and resentment. Ultimately, forgiveness is something that I do for myself.

“Hear Us Roar - Again: The Revival of the ERA” by Anne Klaeyen

In January 2011, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia reminded women that we are not included in the U.S. Constitution. The 14th amendment that has been construed to interpret corporations as persons, and allow them to make political campaign contributions, according to him, does not refer to women. Any protection afforded us comes through a decision made in a 1971 case Reed v. Reed, which could easily be overturned. So where does that leave us? Take it to the states and the streets, proclaim it from the platform: It’s time to revive the Equal Rights Amendment.

“Honor Inherent Worth” by Hugh Taft-Morales

In the whirlwind of our busy lives we are challenged to transform the brief moments of recognition of another’s humanity to ignite and sustain the fire of commitment to build a better world. How can Ethical Culture help us appreciate other people in a way that nurtures ethical and spiritual living?

“I’m a Believer!” by Amanda Poppei

Ethical Culture is creedless: there’s nothing you “have to” believe in order to be a member of our faith. So are we non-believers? What does that even mean—to believe nothing? Amanda will make a case that liberal religionists of all stripes believe quite a lot...in fact, that they might even have faith.

“Jagged Edges” by Mary Herman

Compassion, it has been said, is the leading indicator of our moral strength. It is the hallmark of a healthy religious community; it is what leads the work we do in the wider world; it is what champions the kind of world we wish to inhabit; it is what guides us to be the kind of people we wish to be. In reality, it also creates risks and vulnerabilities for both the giver and the receiver. As Ethical Culturists we know a genuinely caring community depends on demonstrating the truth of our values and our authentic commitment to one another. Join us as we explore the efficacy of cultivating compassion, and what the practice of compassion requires of us.

“John Lovejoy Elliott, Good Neighbor” by Anne Klaeyen

We often think of John Lovejoy Elliott in contrast to Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler - the avuncular, attractive Elliott and the austere, academic Adler. The truth is, of course, more complex; still, their friendship inspires us today. Learn more about the character and work of the transplanted Midwesterner Elliott in this address that places him at the center of the U.S. settlement house movement.

“Justice for Juveniles: A Call to Ethical Action” by Anne Klaeyen

Leader Anne Klaeyen has been working with a coalition of community activists and faith-based groups to address the issues and influence the decisions that affect children who have been caught up in the criminal

justice system. She provides background information, strategies, and updates on important milestones toward meaningful reform.

“Living More Simply: Making Ethical Choices” by Susan Rose

How do the choices we make affect us and the earth around us? What are the ethical implications of our consumption? Can we be conservers rather than consumers? Explore ways that you might make changes in your life to be more respectful of the earth.

“Love...and Ethical Culture: What’s Love Got to Do with It?” by Hugh Taft-Morales

Love is one of the most overused, diverse, and important aspects of human existence, and yet it is unclear how it fits into Ethical Culture. Hugh explores how love can be understood within the context of the faith in human reason and goodness that lies at the heart of Ethical Culture.

“Moral Education: Nature, Nurture and Knowledge” by Anne Klaeyen

Founder Felix Adler once wrote, “We should teach our children nothing which they shall ever need to unlearn; we should strive to transmit to them the best possessions, the truest thought, the noblest sentiments of the age in which we live.” How do we do that? Children are capable of moral insight; adults can help them to reflect upon their behavior and learn from experience, the best teacher of all.

“Mortality, Transcendence, and Irony” by Hugh Taft-Morales

Hugh Taft-Morales explores mortality, transcendence, and the importance of irony and humor in processing the reality of death. Whether suffering the loss of a loved one or contemplating one’s own mortality, we can draw strength from Ethical Culture.

“My Wake Up Call – A Response to a Life Crisis” by Randy Best

In this platform, Randy will share his experience of emotional and physical recovery following a traffic accident. He talks about the tools that helped him in this journey. He credits his Ethical Humanist philosophy as a perspective that helped him pick up again and get moving.

“Painting Sunlight” by Mary Herman

In one of Lawrence Ferlinghetti’s poems he “asked a hundred painters and a hundred poets how to paint sunlight on the face of life.” The novelist David Grossman compares the act of creativity to breathing. Join Mary in an exploration of the creative response and its connection to our perceptual, emotional and ethical lives.

“Place2Place: Partnerships as Ethical Practice” by Lisel Burns

Ethical Society communities can engage in local to global development in crucially different ways. Using the Brooklyn Ethical Society long partnership to quake –ravaged Leogane, Haiti, Lisel Burns invites us to strategize place2place “principled partnerships” with people struggling to better their communities from the inside out – either locally or globally.

“Questions for the Journey” by Mary Herman

“Live the questions now,” wrote Rilke to his young poet friend. “Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” There are fundamental questions that shape our

lives. They have no final answers yet they remain with us, companions on our life's journey. These same questions, when asked in light of the future of our ethical movement, are tools for helping us see ourselves, both as we are, and as we might be. What are the questions we can ask ourselves to help us bring meaning to our personal lives and to our Ethical Society?

“Raising Children in Ethical Culture, Keeping Children in Ethical Culture” by Susan Rose

Can Ethical Culture find ways to keep the children who go through our Sunday Schools and youth groups as active participants in the Ethical Culture Movement? What can parents and Societies do to encourage their children to consider membership in Ethical Culture Societies as they grow into adulthood? Ethical Culture offers valuable Sunday School experiences, yet few remain active. Susan shares the experiences that kept her involved in Ethical Culture from the age of 3, and invites Societies to plan for keeping kids connected.

“Reclaiming Ethical Culture Spirituality” by Anne Klaeysen

Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler frequently used the language of spirituality: words like “holy,” “sacred,” “divine,” and “soul.” He told us to “conceive of progress spiritually.” Yet we have become uncomfortable with this language, ceding it too readily to theistic communities, fearful of what supernatural visions we may be conjuring. “What a great loss!” says Leader Anne Klaeysen, who speaks on the necessity of developing authentic Ethical Culture spiritual practices.

“Religious Roots of Ethical Culture” by Curt Collier

The idea for Ethical Culture arose out of the dynamic interplay between Jewish and Christian religious idealism on the one hand and modernity on the other. Adler drew heavily upon Western spiritual traditions, but also distinctly parted from them. We will explore the religious roots of Ethical Culture and why Adler was truly a religious radical.

“Saying No and Saying Yes” by Jone Johnson Lewis

If an Ethical Society is a community of people committed to making their lives and the world more humane – then learning to say “no” and learning to say “yes” are, you might say, our most essential spiritual practices. As is knowing when to say which.

“Social Reform Through Photography: Jacob Riis, Lewis Hine and Sebastio Salgado” by Anne Klaeysen

The expression “A picture is worth a thousand words” finds resonance in this presentation of photography that exposed social conditions in need of reform.

“Spiritual Suffering and Bringing Out the Best” by Hugh Taft-Morales

To save a few, we must process the suffering of many. Recalling his time volunteering with an organization called Safe Passage in Guatemala, Hugh explores how the energy, enthusiasm, and integrity of those living in Central America's largest landfill enriched his life and reinforced his commitment to Ethical Culture.

“What Makes Us Human?” by Amanda Poppei

Amanda considers what philosophers have understood as “necessary” to be considered human—and poses some Ethical Culture possibilities, as well.

“Where is the Movement in the Ethical Culture Movement?” by Richard Kiniry

While Felix Adler created a unique religious philosophy, he never insisted that members of the Ethical Culture Movement accept that as a shared belief system. Ethical Societies have always had the character of liberal religious congregations but does that make a movement? The issue becomes, is there a common cause that motivates our loose federation of Societies? If we were to be an actual movement, what values, beliefs, and concerns would create the foundation of a passionately held shared vision.

“Worship the Earth: Common Ground” by Hugh Taft-Morales

The image of the earth reflects the existential limitations central to human existence, and serves as a humanist icon - an enduring, sacred, symbol worthy of spiritual devotion. Not only does it remind all human brothers and sisters of our interconnectedness, it reflects a profound philosophical link between beauty and fragility.

“Your Brain on Ethics” by Jone Johnson Lewis

Current neuroscience can tell us much about ethical living, including insights that our brains are hardwired for relationships and are capable of lifelong learning. Felix Adler pointed to the “pain of divided consciousness”: why is it sometimes very difficult to behave the way we consider “ethical” – why do we lash out at others, verbally or even physically? Why do we avoid or run away from conflicts? Experiments show that we actually don’t see others as human beings, but as objects, during certain kinds of reactions. What does the science of the brain tell us about how to learn to react more often and more quickly out of compassion, attributing worth? (requires a PowerPoint projector)

Leader Profiles

Randy Best

A life-long member of Ethical Humanism/Ethical Culture, Randy was born in St. Louis and grew up attending the St. Louis Ethical Society where his parents are still active members. Since 2008 he has served as the Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle. Randy received a B.A. from Grinnell College and a Master's Degree from Harvard University. He is also a graduate of the Humanist Institute, certified Mediator, and Pastoral Counselor. Randy lives in Durham North Carolina with his wife Sarah Howe, a ceramic artist. They have four children who they have home schooled. In addition to his work in Ethical Culture, Randy works at Duke University as the Administrative Director of the Physics Department.

Lisel Burns

Lisel Burns is Clergy Leader Emeritus, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. Her training and facilitation links Leadership/Legacy Projects of National Congress of Neighborhood Women USA to global efforts of Groots International/ Huairou Commission, connecting local community justice efforts to grassroots - led community development initiatives around the world.

Curt Collier

Curt Collier is one of three Leaders of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. He is also Deputy Director of Groundwork USA, an environmental organization founded by the National Park Service and the EPA that address urban blight and habitat degradation through community building. Mr. Collier is a frequent guest lecturer on environmental challenges, urban agriculture, and on fostering stewardship in urban youth. He has served for many years as one of the mentors for the Lay Leadership Summer School. He is a graduate of the Humanist Institute and served as a mentor for the Institute as well. He is a former instructor of Audiology at Texas Tech University, and Texas A&M Kingsville, as well as an instructor in University Studies at Hofstra University.

Martha Gallahue

Martha Gallahue, a certified Leader for Ethical Culture, works especially with the National Ethical Service and Essex Society in Maplewood, NJ. She has served for sixteen years as Main Representative at the United Nations for the National Ethical Service formerly known as The National Service Conference. During her tenure she has embedded NES in NGO initiatives at the UN (Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, United Religions Initiative, NGO Committees on Sustainable Development and Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, Faith and Ethics Network for The International Criminal Court, etc.). One of her contributions is to be a main architect for the Rose L Walker Fund along with Dr. Kurt Johnson and Kay Dundorf. She is an interactive psychoanalyst in private practice and has written numerous articles for the AEU and given Platforms in 15 Societies and Circles. Martha participated in the US Army Military College Seminar Series (by invitation only) in 2013. She will use practical illustrations from all these experiences. Martha uses a flexible application of the appreciative inquiry approach to design her workshop presentations.

Mary Herman

Mary Herman, the Leader for Congregational Life at the Washington Ethical Society, joined the program staff in 1996 and has been a member since 1980. Mary's areas of leadership at WES include membership, celebrations, adult education, compassionate care, Deepening Circles, leadership development, annual

pledge campaign, and pastoral counseling. Mary also provided leadership in the Meetinghouse "Opening Doors" and "Closing the Gap" campaigns that raised \$1.5 million to expand and make accessible the WES Meetinghouse. She has a Master's Degree in Human Development and is a graduate of the Humanist Institute.

Lois Kellerman

Lois, a senior Ethical Culture leader in the New York City area for over 20 years, earned M.A.'s in psychology and education and was an English teacher and social worker. She developed the "Discovery Journal: An Ethical Culture Rite of Passage for Young People" and "Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture." She is author of *Marriage from the Heart: 8 Commitments of a Spiritually Fulfilling Life Together*. She served on the Board of the Harvard Association for Moral Education and was co-chair of the Columbia University Moral Education Seminar.

Richard Kiniry

Richard Kiniry was Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia for twenty-one years. He spent his college years in a Catholic seminary, raised chickens in India for two years with Peace Corps, and had his own Stained Glass business for many years. Mr. Kiniry is a graduate of, among other institutions, the Humanist Institute and the leadership program of the Ethical Culture Movement.

Anne Klaeyesen

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen is Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Ethical Humanist Religious Life Advisor (chaplain) at Columbia University, and Co-Dean of The Humanist Institute. She earned a Doctorate in Ministry from Hebrew Union College and holds masters degrees in business administration from New York University and in German from the State University of NY at Albany. Anne and her spouse Glenn Newman joined the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture when they were married there in 1982 and raised their children Andrew and Emily in the BSEC community.

Jone Johnson Lewis

Ethical Culture Leader since 1991, Jone Lewis has been serving the Northern Virginia Ethical Society as Leader since 1997 and is currently serving as well as the Interim Clergy Leader of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture. She has a B.A. from Mundelein College's Women in Management program, and an M.Div. from Meadville-Lombard Theological School (UU). She has experience and interest in developing leadership (lay and professional), growing congregations and the Ethical movement, Ethical Culture history and philosophy, humanism, women in history, social justice, insights on ethics from science, conflict management and communication skills, including Nonviolent Communication.

Kate Lovelady

Kate, Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, was born and raised in New York City, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern University. From 2003-5 she served three Ethical Societies as Leader Intern. She joined the staff of the AEU Lay Leadership Summer School in 2004 and was certified as a Leader in September 2005. Kate has a partner of fifteen years, musician Bill Dechand, and her current interests include singing, vegan cooking, and pragmatism.

Joy McConnell

After serving as Associate Leader in St. Louis and Leader in Chicago, Joy served as AEU Growth and Development Professional during the 1990's. Joy consulted with Ethical Societies across the US, was involved in AEU growth initiatives and led many workshops. Joy was one of the founders of the AEU Lay Leadership Summer School and served on staff from 1996 to 2008. She has an MA from The University of Chicago and graduated with the third class of the Humanist Institute.

Amanda Poppei

Amanda Poppei is the Senior Leader of the Washington Ethical Society. Amanda brings a passion for social justice and a commitment to building a multigenerational community to her work at WES. She was drawn especially to WES' sense of warmth and caring, and to the Ethical Culture emphasis on living and acting with integrity. Amanda sees a religious community as a place where we travel through life together, helping each other to be the people we wish to be. Amanda is also a Unitarian Universalist minister, and has a strong background in interfaith work from her chaplaincy and seminary experiences. Before attending seminary, she worked as a fundraiser for a national literacy nonprofit.

Susan Rose

Susan is the Dean of the American Ethical Union Leadership Training, Leader of the Ethical Society Without Walls and on the Humanist Institute Board. She is a lifelong member of Ethical Culture and encourages people to think about how they live their lives and planning for the end of their lives. Susan lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Hugh Taft-Morales

After a 25-year teaching career, Hugh is currently is leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society and is a consulting Leader with the Ethical Society Without Walls. In the summer of 2011, he will also begin serving as Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. He has a Masters in Philosophy from University of Kent at Canterbury and graduated from the Humanist Institute in 2009. He is married and has three children.

Bart Worden

Bart Worden is the current Executive Director of the American Ethical Union and the Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester in White Plains, New York. He has a bachelor's degree from Hope College, a master's degree in social work from N. Y. U. and is also a graduate of the Humanist Institute. In addition to his Leadership role, Bart serves as Associate Executive Director for a community mental health center. His wife, Ruthanne, introduced him to the Ethical Society and their two sons are graduates of the Sunday School.

Index of Individuals

Best, Randy, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19, 22
Burns, Lisel, 12, 13, 20, 22
Collier, Curt, 8, 9, 17, 20, 22
Gallahue, Martha, 10, 12, 22
Herman, Mary, 6, 7, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22
Kellerman, Lois, 15, 23
Kiniry, Richard, 21, 23
Klaeyesen, Anne, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23
Lewis, Jone Johnson, 6, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21, 23
Lovelady, Kate, 8, 11, 17, 23
McConnell, Joy, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18, 24
Poppei, Amanda, 11, 18, 21, 24
Rose, Susan, 6, 11, 19, 20, 24
Taft-Morales, Hugh, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24
Worden, Bart, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17, 24