

Ellen Braunstein, Director of Religious Education

The CEP complemented Calvin
Dame's 12/19 Winter Festival talk with
our seven stories of how different
cultures have chosen to bring light
into the darkest time of the year.

Diverse rituals have found their way
into some of our modern holiday
celebrations. These include Zagmuk,
the oldest festival which Jada
Caraballo explained was staged to
physically battle monsters of the night,
and Eric Morgenstern's Spanish
translation of Mexican Las Posada.
Without the drama of giant wheels of
fire rolling down hills, we lit real

candles to honor these ancient ways and
then joined the big story circle with our
given word.

This first semester has gone quickly as we
get ready to welcome the New Year and
plan our science fair for Darwin Day.
Meanwhile, although we won't meet again
until January 2, 2011, we hope adults who
attend the 12/26 Platform will *please*
remember to bring hats, scarves, gloves,
and mittens for needy *children and adults*
during this very cold winter.

ETHICAL OPERA GROUP

The new season for the Ethical
Opera Group will run, as usual,
from January through the end
of June. We'll meet on the last
Friday of the month on the first
floor of the Ethical Society at
7:30 pm. The meeting will last
about two hours, with a ten-
minute intermission halfway
through. During each program,
we'll listen to CDs, as well as
watch videos and DVDs. Drinks
and refreshments will be
served. If you have any friends
who might enjoy the evening,
please feel free to invite them.
Below is the schedule:

January 28—Jewish Opera Singers

Through the years, some of our
very fine opera singers have
been Jewish. I'm not suggesting
that those singers who aren't
Jewish are not as good; some, in
fact, are even better singers.
However, as it happens, there

are quite a few Jewish opera stars
whose names and wonderful voices
you know. Among those whom
we'll hear tonight are Jan Peerce,
Richard Tucker, Beverly Sills,
Roberta Peters, Robert Merrill and
George London.

February 25—Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

One of Mozart's most popular
operas, *The Magic Flute* contains
some truly beautiful music. This
evening we'll watch excerpts from
each of the acts and hear various
versions of certain arias.

March 25—Last Acts of Some Famous Operas

Often the final act of an opera is
the most memorable in terms of
drama and musical beauty.
Tonight, we'll watch the last acts of
some famous operas. Included will
be *Carmen*, *La Boheme*, *Aida*,
Andrea Chenier and *Tosca*.

April 29—Three Sopranos

You all have heard of the three
tenors: Pavarotti, Carreras and
Domingo. Tonight, I've chosen to
play arias sung by three wonderful
sopranos: Maria Callas, Leontyne
Price and Montserrat Caballe.

May 27—A Tribute to Ferruccio Tagliavini

With a voice very similar to Gigli
and Schipa, Ferruccio Tagliavini
sang with great sweetness and
beauty. Able to sing dramatic roles
as well as lighter ones, he deserves
greater recognition and
appreciation than he has received.
Tonight, we'll see a half-hour video
of him performing on *The Voice of
Firestone* as well as hear him sing
many familiar arias.

June 24—An Evening of Your Choices

Instead of my choosing singers and
music for your enjoyment, I am
going to ask you to pick your
favorite arias and/or singers. I will
incorporate your choices into this
evening's program.

DECEMBER BOARD MINUTES

1. YES Conference: Dan Harding said that he was elected as president of the National YES group, giving him the responsibility of coordinating next year's national conference.

2. Financials/Fundraisers
Discussion was held regarding possible income producing lectures and events.

3 Water tower: The village of Garden City needs to use 50 feet of our land, specifically the woods closest to the water tower, to temporarily store equipment as they do repairs to the water tower. Their work will start in the spring, running from March to December 2011. When they conclude their work, they will restore our property. We would like Wayne Outten to

handle negotiations with the village.

4. Social Action: Tara Klein and Alison Pratt both urged us to resume social action activities, which occupied a significant place in our Society in the '70s, and even through the decades that followed. It was suggested that we make social action a theme of our 60th anniversary party, or we could incorporate social action themes as part of our platforms for a month or two. Tara will set up a meeting with interested members of our Society on Wednesday, December 15, to continue this discussion.

5. Weill grant: We will contact school principals via e-mail, if possible, to send them information about Weill grants. So far, we have

received a few calls expressing interest from students. Alison suggested that it would be good to have Weill grantees present what they are doing at the Teen Arts Festival.

6. Resurrecting the Membership Committee: Calvin Dame will work with those who are interested in reviving the Membership Committee.

7. Faculty February or March Madness:
We want to have a series of lectures in either February or March. Alison Pratt, Judy Rosemarin, and Don Morgenstern have agreed to be lecturers. We need someone to coordinate the series..

DARWIN DAY – A CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE

It's time to start planning for our annual "Darwin Day/Stand Up For Science" event. This year, "Darwin Day" will be celebrated on Sunday, February 20. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., our guest speaker will be Dr. Victor Shuster, who will speak on the topic of "How Science Works." Afterwards, a fun, intergenerational event will take place, which will include a pizza lunch, beverages and snacks for purchase. There will be wonderful displays of science projects on the stage. Other activities will include a graffiti wall, face painting and the ever popular "Survival of the Fittest" game. Our resident biologist, Dr. Joan Petersen, will

lead some exciting, hands-on science activities. Volunteers are needed to help out, run events, oversee the Welcome table and participants of all ages are encouraged to come out and enjoy this great day. "Darwin Day" is one of only two events where the Ethical Humanist Society does outreach to the general public in order to raise awareness of our organization and attract new members. It is very important that the congregation come out and support this event. To find out how you can help out and for further information, please speak to Sharon Stanley and/or Ellen Braunstein.



BENEFIT CONCERT

On Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 8:00 p.m., "Tattoo Blue" is performing a benefit concert. This event will take place at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, located at 38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY. All proceeds will be donated to the Ethical Society to help them continue their commitment to ethical relationships and social action.

"Tattoo Blue" is a local Long Island band who plays traditional and rock blues songs from "Stormy Monday", to "Jesus Left Chicago" and "Chain of Fools." The band is Lizzy Walsh on Vocals, Guy Abbey on Drums, Craig on Bass and Hal Spergel on Guitars. Suggested donation will be \$10 per person. Soda, snacks, coffee and tea will be served. For additional information, call the Ethical Society at 516-741-7403.

AROUND THE AEU

The **Riverdale Society** has been involved in creating and sending knit goods to Afghanistan since the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. The Knitting Forces was started by a society member to let the Afghan people know Americans were concerned for them freezing in the winter time. The web site is maintained free of charge at: <http://www.specialknittingforces.org/start.htm> That web site also has a sizing chart for knitters. If you would like to contribute knitted clothing to the Special Knitting Forces please bring your contributions to the Society clearly marked for Special Knitting Forces. Knitted clothing may also be mailed to:
Special Knitting Forces
Riverdale Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture
4450 Fieldston Road
Bronx, NY 10471

The **St Louis Society** is sponsoring a *Passport to Kwanza* celebration the last Thursday of the month. The celebration will combine the efforts of the St Louis Art Museum, the society and a local sorority chapter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Simply put, we need your help. We need helpers for Darwin Day, the Teen Music, Art, and Poetry Festival, and we need backstage assistance for a play. If you can help out, please let Phyllis know.

SPICE REPORT

The Spice committee is pleased to announce that \$1440 was raised thru Spice events for the society. We want to sincerely thank our wonderful hosts who gave so much of their time, efforts and own financial contributions. We also appreciate every guest who attended on behalf of these fundraisers! We want to especially acknowledge all the efforts of our office manager Phyllis Herzog, who is always pleasant and helpful. Thanks also to Susan Feifer for her patient and expert help with the Newsletter which is so vital to our success. In addition to the fundraising aspect of these events it is wonderful to have time to socialize and enjoy one another as a community!

My final thank you's are to Pat Spencer and Alice Sprintzen who without their help and encouragement there wouldn't be any SPICE events!

We all ready have some great SPICE events lined up for 2011. Please watch for our Save the Dates article in the February Newsletter.

The Spice Committee
Lorraine, Pat and Alice

EVENTS WITH CALVIN

Extended Milestones Following the Platform on January 23rd, I will once again offer an opportunity to share more fully any news in your life, or to discuss whatever is on your mind. Grab some coffee or tea, and join me for discussion. Calvin

Wednesday Lunchtime Discussion Group The Wednesday lunchtime discussions continue: join us! Calvin will lead discussions on January 5th, "The Demise of Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Will It Make A Difference?"; January 12th, "Lying and Truth: Is It Ever Right To Lie?"; January 19, "An Ethical Dilemma"; January 26th TBA.

The Ethics Cafe The first Ethics Cafe had a good turnout and a lively evening. We'll convene again Wednesday, January 12th. The topic for discussion will be "Lying And Truth: Is it Ever Right To Lie?"

OUR TIMES COFFEEHOUSE

January 21st Bill Staines

Anyone not familiar with the music of Bill Staines is in for a special treat.

For more than forty years, Bill has traveled back and forth across North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folksong societies, colleges, concerts, clubs, and coffeehouses. A New England native, Bill became involved with the Boston-Cambridge folk scene in the early 1960's and for a time, emceed the Sunday Hootenanny at the legendary Club 47 in Cambridge. Bill quickly became a popular performer in the Boston area. From the time in 1971 when a reviewer from the Boston Phoenix stated that he was "simply Boston's best performer", Bill has continually appeared on folk music radio listener polls as one of the top all time favorite folk artists. Now, well into his fifth decade as a folk performer, he has gained an international reputation as a gifted songwriter and performer.

Singing mostly his own songs, he has become one of the most popular and durable singers on the folk music scene today, performing nearly 200 concerts a year and driving over 65,000 miles annually. He weaves a blend of gentle wit and humor into his performances and one reviewer wrote, "He has a sense of timing to match the best standup comic."

Bill's music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease his

feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon, the on-the-road truckers, or the everyday workers that make up this land.

Many of Bill's songs have appeared in grade school music books, church hymnals, and scouting campfire songbooks; he is one of only a few songwriters to have eight songs published in the classic song collection, **Rise up Singing**. Composer David Amram recently described Bill as "a modern day Stephen Foster...his songs will be around 100 years from now."

Over the decades, you have heard Bill singing on Garrison Keillor's **A Prairie Home Companion**, HBO's award winning series **Deadwood**, and Public Radio's **Mountain Stage**.

Additionally, his music has been used in a number of films including **Off and Running**, with Cyndi Lauper, and **The Return of the Secaucus Seven**, John Sayles' debut as a writer-director.

In 1975, Bill won National Yodeling Championship in Kerrville Texas. Another important recognition was given to him in 2007. Presented by the Boston Area Coffeehouse Association, The Jerry Christen Award recognized Bill's contribution to New England folk music.

Currently, Bill has recorded 26 albums; The Happy Wanderer and One More River were winners of the prestigious **Parents' Choice Award**, taking a gold medal and silver medal

respectively. His songs have been recorded by many artists including Peter, Paul, and Mary, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy, The Highwaymen, Mason Williams, Grandpa Jones, Jerry Jeff Walker, Nanci Griffith, Glen Yarborough and others.

As well as recordings, over 100 of Bill's songs have been published in three songbooks: **If I Were a Word, Then I'd Be a Song, Movin' It Down the Line**, and **Music to Me**, the latter published by Hal Leonard Corporation. His song, **All God's Critters**, has been recently released as a Simon and Schuster children's book with illustrations by Caldecott honor-winning artist, Kadir Nelson.

"Folk music is rich in the human spirit and experience. I've always wanted to bring something of value to people through my songs." With these thoughts, Bill continues to drive the highways and back roads of the country year after year, bringing his music to listeners, young and old.

Make sure to come early. Doors open at 7:15 pm.

Suggested donations for this performance:

Adults: \$20

Seniors (65 and up) and students (w/school I.D.): \$12

Children (under 12): \$6 (very young children are free)

HELP WANTED

Editor needed for The Ethical Humanist – the monthly newsletter of the EHSLI. Long hours, no pay, knowledge of EHSLI required, computer literate. Seriously, after many years Susan Feifer, Lyn Dobrin, and Ivo Antoniazzi have asked to be relieved of their duties putting out our newsletter each month. They did a great job and deserve our thanks for a job well done. We do, however, need someone to step up and take over as editor of the newsletter. If you have the time, please let Phyllis know – and we'll help guide you thru your first few issues.
