

## **The National Service Conference of The American Ethical Union, 2006-7**

**At the AEU:** In 2006, The NSC was proud that two Resolutions it steered to the floor in Chicago passed at the National Assembly, The Resolution in Support of a Department of Peace and a Resolution advocating the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. To implement the first Resolution, we joined with an NGO working group at the UN promoting departments of peace throughout the world. With regard to the Iraq resolution, more ethical culture members at the local level expressed in action views supporting it. Brooklyn Society promotes actively the term, Culture of Peace.

This year, we are proud to sponsor three national ethical action projects that will be voted upon at the 2007 national assembly. Whatever the outcome of the vote, NSC stands firmly behind the AEU's determination to increase our commitment to national actions that will unify our societies and heighten our voice in the United States.

Speakers Phyllis Ehrenfeld, Sylvain Ehrenfeld, Kurt Johnson, Martha Gallahue and Paul Raynault have offered Platform talks at Baltimore, Bergen, Brooklyn, Chicago, Essex, Long Island Society, New York, northern Westchester and Suffolk Societies this year.

We invite all of you to attend the Friday luncheon at the AEU Assembly where Ian Williams, UN Correspondent to *The Nation* will speak. Ian covers many topics at the UN.

We will give time for questions after his talk.

**At the United Nations:** Our main resource for public information at the UN continues to be Thursday morning briefings at the UN. Phyllis, Sylvain, and Martha are present regularly for them. Through the NGO Executive Council and special support from last year's President of the General Assembly, more direct contact with governmental actors at the General Assembly has been provided through special meetings. Martha founded a working group Universal Ethics and Global Concerns as part of a rigorously active NGO CONGO Committee Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns

She serves as well on their Executive Council. This is the first time that accredited NGO's who do not have the preferred ECOSOC status have been allowed that opportunity. This group is planning a week of spirituality in October to celebrate the founding of the UN. Martha's presence keeps human-centered spirituality visible amid diverse perspectives.

**In the community:** Our most visible presence has been felt at Teaneck, New Jersey, where Phyllis Ehrenfeld along with Sylvain, cofounder and President of the local UNA/USA have created several outstanding programs, the last was on February 15, called "Why Genocide". Patrick Hayford, distinguished African diplomat, and Director of the UN's Special Advisor Office on Africa spoke on the situation in Darfur. Paul Raynault saw his Student World Assembly meet in Ghana, Africa. Paul also traveled to Nigeria earlier. Kurt Johnson's work on inter spirituality continues. He has co-founded an inter-spiritual group in New York city called One Voice. Their next program will take place Sunday, June 17th. Lyndon Wilburg has moved to Atlanta, Ga, where he continues his advocacy for equality among races. NSC cosponsored a jazz concert for the Culture of Peace in April at the United Methodist Church in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Sylvain has spoken at two schools in New Jersey. We extend special thanks to Leaders Joe Chuman and Lisel Burns for their guiding presence and help.

**In the NSC:** We welcome two new members to our Executive Committee, Abe Markmen of Ethics in the News and Jacqueline Pope, already active at the UN with the NGO Committee on the Ageing. Both Abe and Jackie are members of New York Society. We have nominated this year Phyllis Ehrenfeld to become our new President. Other Executive Council members are Rose L Walker, Lucile Kleiman, Sylvain and Phyllis Ethrenfeld, Paul Raynault , Donna Pang, Martha Gallahue, and Kurt Johnson. We are from New York, Bergen, ESWOW, and Brooklyn Societies.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Gallahue, President