National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union, Annual Report July,2009- June, 2010, to the 95th Assembly of the American Ethical Union

Our big news is that the NSC Executive Committee has agreed to change our name from National Service Conference to **National Ethical Service** to align ourselves more effectively with our core mission to promote an ethical culture throughout the world. We urge all of you to come to our NSC luncheon at the Conference on Friday, June 18th. **Our speaker will be Leigh Carter, Executive Director of Fonkoze,** who will share with us one kind of ethical service available to ethical culture today. After the NSC luncheon, we will be called NES of the AEU. The website will continue to be: **www.nationalserviceaeu.org.**

NSC mourned the loss of our President, Phyllis Ehrenfeld, also a member of Bergen Society, July 17th, 2009. In response to this loss, the NSC elected officers: Dr. Jacqueline Pope, **New York Society** as President, Dr. Kurt Johnson**, Ethical Society Without Walls** and Lucile Kleiman, New York Society, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, **Bergen** Society and Martha Gallahue, **Brooklyn Society** , Secretaries, and Kay Dundorf, **Riverdale Society**, Treasurer. The Executive Committee also appointed Martha Gallahue, 2009 certified **AEU Leader** to serve in that capacity on behalf of the NSC. Representatives at the UN are: Martha Gallahue, Dr. Pope and Kay Dundorf.

At the United Nations, in October, the NSC collaborated in the International Day of Ageing Conference. Later in the month, we developed and presented a program called "Empathy as a Tool for Reconciling Frameworks for Action." This program took place at the **Nigerian Mission** and launched an initiative called **Story Bowl**, whose purpose is to raise one million dollars to combat hunger through story telling. We acknowledge with gratitude, Brooklyn Society for the connection to Story Bowl and note that this initiative presented a program in April, 2010, at **Long Island Ethical Humanist Society.** In December, Andrew Newman, of the One Million Trees Project in NYC, presented a program and represented the NSC at the **Parliament of World Religions**.

The devastating earthquake in Haiti mobilized NSC to tap into the **Rose L Walker Fund** for $1000 and to initiate a fundraising campaign for relief to Haiti. Over **$12, 000** from all over the movement was sent to Doctors Without Borders. We acknowledge with gratitude the support from the **National Leaders Council** and the **AEU President's Council,** both of whom made a rapid response possible. Over $3000 was sent from **St. Louis and Washington Societies** to Fonkoze, a micro-credit bank co-founded by Charles Horwitz formerly Chair of the AEU Ethical Action Committee. NSC will continue to raise awareness to promote effective ways in assisting Haitians themselves to rebuild. The NSC now seeks to stimulate a focus on development in Haiti through promotion of such initiatives as Fonkoze, a micro-credit lending organization co-founded by a former member of the National Ethical Action Committee, Mr. Charles Horwitz, Esq. , and other equally worthy projects to promote sustainable development in Haiti.

Essex Society presented a Platform on the initiative to create a Peace Department within the US government (2006 AEU Resolution) in January. Betty Levin, member of NSC and longtime member of Essex gathered a local group of both members and non-members to develop a campaign to promote this initiative. They invited Dot Maver, from the Peace Alliance to speak in Maplewood, NJ. **Coalition for One Voice and One Spirit Seminary,** with NSC co-sponsoring a follow-up to both the **Copenhagen Conference** and the Parliament of World Religions**.** Speakers including Dr. Anne Klaeysen, who represented the AEU, discussed follow-up actions for both these sectors. During the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in May, the NSC teamed up with a coalition of NGO's, to present a program on Earth Rights. Martha Gallahue and Kurt Johnson collectively visited 10 Societies during this year in addition to several other venues to raise the visibility of a Culture of Peace, the rise of inter-spirituality and the relevance of ethical culture in the global arena.. NSC continues to build the **Rose L Walker Fund** along with the AEU. NSC collaborates with the **Social Justice Caucus of the National Leaders Council** whose focus this year was GLBT issues. We produced an informal paper on the Ugandan Bill to criminalize homosexuality. NSC supports the **NLC Call to Action** to be presented to the 95th AEU Assembly.