

National Ethical Service, Annual Report July 2010- June 2011, to the 96th Assembly of the American Ethical Union

Rose L Walker Fund - The Rose L Walker Fund stands at \$71,000 and is in the National Ethical Service segregated account now that NES became officially incorporated. NES has rewritten its By-Laws, developed an investment policy and created a finance committee to insure fiscal accountability and continue with fund raising. None of this would have been possible without the support of the present AEU Board, AEU office staff and extraordinary volunteer contributions of time and expertise of the NES Executive Committee.

Presently, this Fund exists for three main purposes: to insure the permanence of the NES work at the UN, to provide small stipends in global emergencies and to develop special programming including seed grants for project development that align with our policy priorities. You must either be a member of NES or pay a processing fee to receive grants. For further information, check out our website: www.nationalserviceaeu.org. We continue to rely upon the generosity of our individual and Society members to cover operating expenses including management of our website.

The UN Department of Public Information has expanded its pass allotments. As a result, we are proud to welcome Kurt Johnson (ESWOW and Humanist Institute) and Catherine Bordeau (BSEC) in addition to Kay Dundorf (RYSEC), Martha Gallahue (Essex), and Jackie Pope (NYSEC) as our representatives at the UN. Sylvain Ethrenfeld, IHEU, is also with us. NES has submitted its application for ECOSOC status also as a result of formal incorporation. The exhaustive process typically takes two years for an outcome and would not have happened without the extensive volunteerism we receive.

At the United Nations, NES collaborated in a Culture of Peace program in late October and participated in the Cancun Conference on Climate Change in December. Dr. Anne Klaeyen, senior Leader at NYSEC served as a panelist to participate in an interfaith human rights program. Through the Committee of Religions, we co-sponsored a breakfast to launch Interfaith Harmony Week in February, inaugurated by the Jordanian government. Through the Subcommittee to Eliminate Racism and Eliminate All Forms of Intolerance, we co-sponsored a program in March called A Global Framework: Justice, Development, and Celebration. Through our NGO representatives, we exert leadership on the Executive Council of the NGO Committee Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns and are revitalizing the Eco-Spirituality Working Group. We Chair a Climate Change Working Group with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and are active on a subcommittee of Human Rights, the Faith/Ethics Based Network for an International Criminal Court and the Committee of Religions. With added representation, we plan to focus on the Commission on the Status of Women as well. We acknowledge with gratitude the articles of Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, whose articles on UN issues continue to be published in *the IHEU Humanist Magazine*, a global magazine, *The Dialogue* and local newsletters.

Beyond the UN, we were granted a scholarship to participate in the National Peace Academy Peace-Learning Peace-Building Intensive in Wilmington, Ohio last year and are writing a Peace Curriculum to be posted on the National Leader's Site for universal use throughout the movement. Essex Society rededicated itself to its official status as a US Peace site, September 26th and International Peace Day (September 21st) was celebrated in more than one Society along with Human Rights Day (December 10th). We continue leadership with the Coalition for One Voice, the Inter-spiritual Movement, The United Religions' Initiative and Earth Values Caucus. We co-hosted a program about the destructive practice of hydro-fracking at NYSEC on May 25th. Finally, we note with pleasure an increase of Platforms in world affairs throughout the movement that articulate heightened ethical cultural mindfulness of our global interdependence and interconnectedness. We continue to speak in Societies especially those who have supported our presence at the UN. We offer to post Platform talks on our website in solidarity with this trend. Please send onto: info@nationalserviceaeu.org.