

## **National Ethical Service 2014 Annual Report to the AEU Assembly**

National Ethical Service (NES), formerly the National Service Council, is a 501(c)(3) affiliated Ethical Culture organization founded in 1929. All members of the AEU are automatically members of NES and entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting according to the provisions of the By-Laws. We remain ever grateful to our contributors who help us maintain our budget and grow the Rose L Walker Fund.

We were the first group to:

- Promote inter-cooperation among local Societies (before the American Ethical Union was established),
- Participate in a national US Conference on Peace,
- Publish The Dialogue (now the American Ethical Union quarterly newsletter),
- Represent Ethical Culture at the United Nations,
- Develop working relations at the UN with the Missions and the Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), and
- Promote intra-spirituality encompassing both secular and religious traditions in the Ethical Culture Movement.

NES launched the Rose L. Walker Fund in 2008, the first fund to offer seed grants to fledgling initiatives that promote Felix Adler's worldview on promoting a more evolved civilization that is inclusive and equitable. We support initiatives that are new and include appropriate strategies that promote dignity and empowerment through creative initiatives. This Fund is invested in socially responsible stocks and bonds. Only the interest is used to support special programming of National Ethical Service along with appropriate Seed Grants. We give priority to those fledgling initiatives that emerge in local societies or among our members. For information about applying to the fund, please contact: [info@nationalserviceaeu.org](mailto:info@nationalserviceaeu.org)

## **National Ethical Service Today**

At the United Nations, National Ethical Service through Global Movement for the Culture of Peace collaborated in another People's Forum on the Culture of Peace on September 6, 2013. The Forum was convened by GA President Vuk Jeremic. We were privileged to work directly with the President's Special Advisor, Ambassador Dejan Sahovic, during the planning. Nearly 83 countries signed onto the Resolution and several hundred civil society persons participated. All of our representatives are now taking advantage of the website: [un.org/webcast](http://un.org/webcast), which allows a bird's eye view of more than one proceeding at a time. We invite all of you to connect with this webcast..

NES collaborated in the planning of the Week of Spirituality in October to celebrate the UN's 68th birthday. We hold leadership positions on the Committee of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, the sub-committee on Racism, the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace and the Eco-Spirituality and Climate Change

Working Groups. We issued a youth pass to Lucy Schmitz of Ethical Society of Essex County.

Dr. Kurt Johnson has continued his appearances and programs regarding his book *The Coming Interspiritual Age*, which was selected as a "Best Spiritual Book for 2013" by *Spirituality & Practice*. Kurt's next book, *Fines Lines: Nabokov's Scientific Art*, will appear from Yale University Press in 2014. Kurt has continued working with the growing "Interspiritual Movement" ([www.thecominginterspiritualage.com](http://www.thecominginterspiritualage.com)), the international Contemplative Alliance ([www.gpiw.org](http://www.gpiw.org)) and, most recently, the leadership of United Nations NGO Forum 21, an alliance of UN NGO's tasked with tracking the UN's Millennial Sustainability Development Goals. Kurt continues to represent Ethical Culture at the UN through the National Ethical Service and serves on the UN Committee for Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns. He has recently spoken at venues like The Science and Nonduality-, Dawn of Interspirituality- and Big I (Independent, Integral, Interfaith and Interspiritual) conferences and contributed numerous magazine articles, videos and audios on the world's progress toward a healthy globalization and multiculturalism. In June he received the "Friend of God Award" at New York City's Riverside Church.

Members of our Executive Committee write "From the UN," a column on UN issues that is published regularly in Society newsletters and in *The Dialogue*. NES Platforms were given at NYSEC, RYSEC, ESEC, and Westchester. The NES Executive Committee is available to present Platform Talks highlighting global ethical issues. Send your request to: [info@nationalserviceaeu.org](mailto:info@nationalserviceaeu.org) We joined with WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) on a panel and review of film at NYSEC. We welcome the continuing increase of Platform Talks highlighting global ethical issues and are eager to create liaisons in local Societies with NES's Executive Committee.

Visit us at [www.nationalserviceaeu.org](http://www.nationalserviceaeu.org) or on Facebook. All proceeds of this luncheon will go to the American Ethical Union. We appreciate your continued financial support of National Ethical Service.