



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 10

Visit our website: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)

DECEMBER 2016

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Programs are subject to change without notice. All are welcome. Programs begin at 11 a.m. 973-763-1905

### Dec 4 Sarah Price, “Amish Culture”

Sarah Price grew up with close relationships with Mennonite families and has a deep respect for their values and practices. She will discuss aspects of their lifestyle, like their attitude toward technology, their approach to bringing up children, and how they deal with the outside world.

Sarah Price is a former professor of marketing, and prolific author, known for her line of Amish romance novels, and many others. A Morristown resident now, Sarah Price self-published her first book, *Fields of Corn*, in 2009, a book she wrote thirty years earlier while studying anthropology and writing at Drew University (Madison, NJ). With her Anabaptist upbringing, she was drawn to the amazing culture of the Amish of Lancaster County where Ms. Price is heavily involved with numerous Amish communities where she is considered family by some and friend by most others. *Fields of Corn* became an Amazon bestseller and fans began asking her for more books. In 2013, she signed with Realms, a division of Charisma House, to publish the Amish Classics series. Initially focusing on the retelling of Jane Austen’s timeless classics from within an Amish setting, her first traditionally published book, *First Impressions, A Retelling of Pride & Prejudice*, debuted on the ECPA bestseller list. She intends to continue retelling classics, including the Bronte sisters and Victor Hugo, as she enjoys “raising the bar” on her own intellectual stimula-

tion as well as that of her expansive base of loyal readers. In 2014, she signed with Waterfall Press and published *An Amish Buggy Ride* which became a #1 bestseller in Religious Romance.

### December 11 Amy Blake, Educational Initiative program — “Celebrating”

This is the time of year for many celebrations. Why do we celebrate? What do we celebrate? How do we celebrate? When do we celebrate? Do we only celebrate holidays? What makes something worth celebrating? Let’s come together as a community and explore this topic. Please bring a memento from a celebration that is important to you to share. You may bring a quick craft to share as well. We have a CD player so music and stories are also welcome. Let’s look for our sameness and diversity between generations and cultures. This is a program directed by The Educational Initiative.

We hope to see you all there ... members, families, children and guests.

### Dec. 18 Abdul-Alim Mubarak-Rowe, “Islam and Social Justice”

Abdul-Alim Mubarak-Rowe spoke on this topic at Essex Ethical in 2001. We feel, especially in view of the interest stirred by our Nov. 6 program on Islam, that it was a good time for him to revisit the subject for us. Mr. Mubarak-Rowe is Communications Director for the New Jersey Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ), serving as

spokesperson to news media and to the public. He develops content for the organization’s newsletter, website and press releases. He is CAIR-NJ’s liaison to the New Jersey Congressional delegation, representing voices of the state’s diverse Muslim population.

Abdul-Alim Mubarak-Rowe is a communications expert, journalist and educator. He conducts workshops on political empowerment and civic engagement. For 30 years he worked in television broadcasting as an editor, cameraman and producer. Previously he was with CNN, New York, producing and editing.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Mr. Mubarak-Rowe has extensive experience as an educator and lecturer. He teaches religious history and comparative religion at churches and synagogues throughout New Jersey. In addition, he consults to Islamic organizations nationwide.

Mr. Mubarak-Rowe lives in Maplewood, NJ, with his wife and two daughters.

### Dec. 25 Colloquy, “Healing and Bridge-building in Post-Election USA”

In the spirit of Christmas Day, we plan to explore how we and the country can move forward in such a way that we bring out the best in others and thereby in ourselves.

### WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

We members often welcome our Sunday mornings at the Society by reuniting with our friends as they arrive. I am sometimes distracted, not

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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#### Editor's Note

Newsletter articles, announcements, etc., not to exceed 150 words in length, must be received by the first of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition. Submit items to: Howard Gilman, newsletter editor: gilman.howard@hotmail.com.

*If you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please email or call to be sure I know about it, especially if your item is time-sensitive.*

Editor reserves right to edit for length, clarity and content. Opinions offered in this publication are those of the authors.

...act so  
as to elicit  
the best  
in others  
and in  
ourselves

paying sufficient attention to Society newcomers, barely leaving enough time for offering to make them a name tag to smooth their introduction to our morning program.

I have asked Barbara Cotler, our Membership Chair, to allow organizing a committee to smooth this welcoming process. Are you willing to help me and our Society? Please phone me if you want to try bringing about a warmer introduction; I am eager to hear your ideas.

— E. Betty Levin, (973) 763-1033

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SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE  
*From the November 6 committee minutes. Attending: Sue Willis, chair; Diane Beeny; Barbara Cotler; Zia Durrani; Betty Levin; Lisa Novemsky.*

Chair Sue Willis reported that Huda Shanawani wrote that yes, they would like us to continue with collections of cooking oil and detergents for Syrian refugee families in Elizabeth.

She also told us that Bill A547 strictly limiting the use of solitary confinement in New Jersey's prisons passed the NJ Assembly in late October. It has already passed in the Senate, so this is the last step before the bill goes to Governor Christie for signature.

We then discussed our various collections for 2016-17, beginning with coats for Valley Settlement and the oil and detergent for the Syrian refugees.

We also voted in favor of collecting stationery for the First Friends "Stamp Our Despair" program to provide writing packages for immigrant detainees so they can stay in touch with their families. This one has a deadline: By November 30, 2016, please bring to the Society stick pens, 2 pocket folders, small writing paper, size 10 and 6 envelopes, assorted greeting cards, blank note cards, forever stamps, blank colored paper, monetary donation for phone cards, and notes of encouragement. You may also send them directly to First Friends of NJ/NY, 53 So. Hackensack Ave, Kearny, NJ 07032.

Next we made a decision to invite Ingrid Hill to be our 2017 Local Hero. We read over an ACLU-NY write up about her, and every-

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Dec. 9 Folk Friday** — Sing-along and jam with all the new folks that are adding their voices to the mix. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. 7:30 pm second Fridays of the month, through June. Everyone is invited! (973) 763-8293, lnovemsky@comcast.net.

**Robert Freese's exhibition** of Presidential Shadow Boxes is on display at the Society through mid-December.

one was enthusiastic. She has been for many years an activist with People's Organization for Progress as well as the ACLU and the NAACP. We decided we will try to make the program honoring a fuller event, with Elaine's agreement, perhaps inviting POP or ACLU or the NAACP to present a program unless Ingrid is willing to be the speaker.

Sue is to get in touch with her and ask if she is willing to receive the Local Hero Award.

Lisa also mentioned that our first honoree, Susan Barry, continues to volunteer with the UN project at Maplewood Middle school. She thinks this could make an interesting program too, and Lisa is to reach out to Elaine to see if she's on board for that program.

Martha, who couldn't be with us, wrote that she participated in November 4th's UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change official beginning was "entered into force." Secretary Ban ki Moon shook everyone's hand. She says, "It was a happy time. More negotiations upcoming in Morocco next week."

She also asked that we consider supporting the new Peace Alliance bill, Congressional Bill HR1111 to establish a US Department of Peacebuilding reintroduced by Barbara Lee. (Previous one was introduced by Dennis Kucinich). "This bill makes nonviolence a national organizing principle and gives peace

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake, "What is Gratitude?" family program	28	29 11 am - Chair Yoga	30	1	2	3 December 2016
4 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Sarah Price, "Amish Culture" 12 pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	5	6 11 am - Chair Yoga	7	8	9 Folk Friday 7:30pm	10
11 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake, Educational Initiative program	12	13 11 am - Chair Yoga	14 3 pm - ECSEC Board Meeting 7 pm - Transgender Topics	15	16	17
18 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Abdul-Alim Mubarak-Rowe, "Islam and Social Justice"	19	20 11 am - Chair Yoga	21	22	23	24
25 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Colloquy: "Healing and Bridge-building in Post-Election USA"	26	27 11 am - Chair Yoga	28	29	30	31

an institutional platform in our government.” See <http://peacealliance.org>.

The committee happily voted to take a position in favor of this bill.

We decided we’d like Martha to tell us more about a campaign by the AEU National Ethical Action Committee to implement the Sustainable Development Goals passed in 2015 by the General Assembly of the UN.

Finally, Sue agreed to reach out to Huda Shanawani to ask if there is any interest in having some of the Syrian refugee children get together with some of the pre-teens in our community for exchange. (This idea came from Zia and her daughter Yasmin).

Our next meetings are scheduled for December 4, 2016; January 8, 2017 (first Sunday is Jan. 1).

## DICK BOHN

We are saddened by the death of Dick Bohn, age 86. Dick passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 1, 2016, after a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Survived by his wife of 61 years, Nancy (Hewitt); daughters, Marjorie (Kip) Thomas and Carolyn Bohn Nelson; grandchildren, Benjamin and Erin Thomas, Charlie and Sophie Nelson. Dick graduated from Georgetown University before going on to work for Ford Motor Company for 33 years. He was also a proud Army veteran, having served during the Korea War. Dick loved traveling, both for work and for pleasure.



He and Nancy visited all 7 continents, lived in Mexico, Greece, England, and Panama and traveled to 92 countries. Dick’s greatest passion was being a family man: a loving husband, dad, and grandpa.

Dick and wife Nancy were longtime members of the Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood. As expressed by Martha Gallahue, we shall never forget Nancy’s and Dick’s devoted service to our Society, where they spent many years; “their legacy is long here and we are grateful.”

Condolences and shared memories can be sent to Nancy (who is with their daughter in Minneapolis) at [dnbohn@comcast.net](mailto:dnbahn@comcast.net).

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web site:  
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**Food Bank** — Please remember to bring canned or boxed food items for the food pantry box in our front hall. Donations go to the New Jersey Food Bank. **Children's Books** — We accept children's books to be donated to the Parenting Center for children of need.

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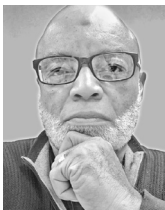
## ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · DECEMBER 2016



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