



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 4

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

DECEMBER 2015

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

**Dec. 6 Families for Education program** presented jointly by **Amy Blake**, Director of Families for Ethical Education Initiative (FEE) and **Martha Gallahue**, Leader.

In our local Society, Martha is promoting the growth of the ethical education initiative whose aim is to develop regular programming especially for children, leading to global citizenship. The program is designed for all ages and we especially invite those families who are eager to provide a dignity-based learning experience for their children.

Amy Blake has been described as “open to new ideas in ways that show an indefatigable thirst for knowledge, respect for skills and opinions of others and for the diversity that is present in this world. She is a tireless advocate for ethics and experiential learning.”

We invite the whole community with and without children to celebrate in festival mode together.

## **Dec. 13 Eugene Lieber, “War’s Insanity: Viet Nam & Iraq”**

An overview of two American wars and their lessons for today presented by Eugene Lieber, Professor Emeritus, Essex County College. Prof. Lieber lectures extensively around the state, covering historical topics from Ancient Rome to struggles in our contemporary world.

Eugene Lieber was an Associate Professor of History at Essex County College where he has taught American History and World Civilization for 39 years. For over two decades he has also lectured to various groups on a wide variety of topics, covering the world and the United States, ancient, modern, and the present. Now retired, he continues a community lecture schedule.

When summing up his view of history, Prof. Lieber wrote: “I must place human beings at the center of the story of history, what they have been capable of, for better or worse, in their relationship to nature and each other.”

## **Dec. 20 An Open Panel of Jewish ECS Members: “What Judaism Teaches About Morality”**

As part of our ongoing series on what other religions offer in terms of ethical teaching, Jewish members of the society are invited to offer their personal views on what they feel Judaism offers in terms of ethics — through its texts, rituals and traditions. We might also be joined by one or two guests, to get additional perspectives.

## **Dec. 27 Year-End Colloquy**

As is our tradition, we will close out 2015 with a circle discussion on the highlights and lowlights of the year, what meant most to us, and what we hope will change — or continue — in the year ahead. We’ll share our

resolutions for ourselves and for the country, and our hopes and commitments for ECS.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**Dec. 6 Social Action Committee**  
First Sundays, after program

**Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Folk Friday**  
Sing-along & jam second Fridays of the month, through June. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing, or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share — Everyone is invited! Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040. [lnovemsky@comcast.net](mailto:lnovemsky@comcast.net), (973) 763-8293

## **Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve Fundraiser Event**

Thanks to the generosity of Morris and Ruth Silver, a New Year’s Eve Fund Raiser Party will be held at the Silver residence in West Orange.

The evening will begin with dinner, followed by music, singing, games and entertainment, culminating with the welcoming of the new year. It’s a great opportunity to let down our hair and spend fun time with our Ethical friends, old and new.

Make your reservation early by calling the office at 973-763-1905 or Jeanine Rosh at 973-258-9395. Car pooling will be available. Donation will be \$35.00 per person, \$60.00 per couple. The “snow date” will be Sunday January 3rd. — *Jeanine Rosh*



*Elaine Durbach spoke on the topic, “A Personal Take on the New South Africa,” in an October 25th interview by Alice Robinson-Gilman. [Panoramic photo by Marshall Norstein.]*

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

516 Prospect St.,  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973-763-1905  
ecsec.nj@gmail.com  
www.essexethical.org



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of the authors.

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

## CULTURE OF PEACE — IMAGINING PEACE

by Diane Beeny

*"You may say I'm a dreamer /  
But I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us /  
And the world will live as one."*

— John Lennon, "Imagine"

John Lennon, a founding member of the "Fab Four" pop phenomenon "The Beatles", and his vision of global peace and justice continues to inspire millions around the planet long after his untimely murder on Dec. 8th, 1980 at the entrance to his home in the Dakota, at 72nd Street and Central Park West.

Just steps away, inside Central Park, the IMAGINE memorial inspired by him draws a steady



stream of tourists, fans, musicians and peace-loving admirers from around the globe. There, in "Strawberry Fields", among plants contributed by many nations, around the iconic circular black and white IMAGINE mosaic, people gather to meditate, take photos, and sing his songs together.

On October 5th, I attended a huge and exuberant 75th birthday celebration in Central Park's East Meadow, in John Lennon's memory, and hosted by Lennon's artist/musician/activist wife Yoko Ono. The original concept was to create the world's largest human peace symbol. Although we fell short of that



goal, we created an immense and diverse colorful human tableau that included busloads of schoolchildren and people who came from all over. We all raised our voices together to sing Beatles and Lennon songs, such as: "All You Need is Love", "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance".

## COMING IN 2016:

### Jan. 4, 2016 Eva Bouzard-Hui Art Exhibit

Eva Bouzard-Hui's Art will be exhibited at The Ethical Culture Society from January through March.

Eva states: "My show at the Ethical Culture Society will feature myself as an artist and art teacher. I have taught grades K-12 in the public school system in Caldwell, NJ and in several colleges in the area. I was supervisor of K-12 teachers and feel fortunate to have had wonderful and imaginative teachers to work with.

"Also, I taught life drawing at Columbia Teachers College where I earned an Ed.D. in Art and College Teaching. (continues on page 3)



Portion of a collage that is one of many completed for this January-March 2016 Show



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	2	3	4	5
6 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Families for Education, Amy Blake and Martha Gallahue, Leader Social Action Committee Families for Education	7	8 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	9 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30 pm – 9 pm	10	11 Folk Friday 7:30 p.m.	12
13 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Eugene Lieber, "War's Insanity: Viet Nam & Iraq"	14	15 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	16	17	18	19
20 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Open Panel: "What Judaism Teaches About Morality"	21	22 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	23	24	25	26
27 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Dec. 27 Year-End Colloquy — highlights and lowlights, our hopes and commitments	28	29 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	30	31	Christmas	
						<b>December 2015</b>

20th book published by longtime member

### Meredith Sue Willis's New Young Adult Novel *Meli's Way*

(Bouzard-Hui continued)

"My latest teaching experience was at Crane's Mill Retirement Community for their Open House in September 2015. Parents, children, grandchildren, and I myself all had new art experiences. I love mixing different ages together to teach art. It automatically requires one to teach and learn from others.



"Using my art to raise money for charitable organizations has always been a priority of mine. My work has benefited the homeless in Paterson at Eva's Shelter and the PUMA Center for Women & Children. My photographs of the artists at Crane's Mill were sold to raise money for Girls Gotta Run.

"When they see my exhibit, I hope others can feel as I do — that they say Yes! to a life of art and teaching.

"I am excited to show at the Ethical Culture Society."

— Eva Bouzard-Hui

Montemayor Press has just published the twentieth book by Essex Ethical Culture's longtime member, Meredith Sue Willis. *Meli's Way* is about



fourteen-year-old Melisandre Rossi who lives in New York City with her mother. Meli, a self-identified weird teenager, far prefers exploring the museum to attending classes at her upscale private academy. Increasingly bored, she convinces her mother to let her transfer to an alternative public high school, where she can study ancient Chinese ceramics and interact with students even weirder than she is. Yet life grows more complicated, not less so, when she makes this transition. At home, she has to tolerate how her mother shares Too Much Information about her new boyfriends. At school, Meli must navigate the tricky social world of her peers, adjust to a

curriculum that views all of Manhattan as the classroom, and make sense of her intensifying emotions toward a teacher. A summer trip to Italy, where Meli visits her Italian father and his new family, leaves her exhilarated but dizzy as her view of herself expands. Then Meli faces a terrible crisis: one of the darkest aspects of the wider world comes rushing into her life.

Willis's writing has been praised as "a[n]... important lesson on the nature and function of literature itself" by *The New York Times*. She teaches writing at New York University's School of Professional Studies as well as giving writing workshops for children and adults. She is a past Distinguished Teaching Artist for the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and a past president of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County.



*Meli's Way*, ISBN 978-1-932727-15-9, is available from the publisher, Montemayor Press at P. O. Box 546, Montpelier, VT 05675 and online at [www.MontemayorPress.com](http://www.MontemayorPress.com) as well as at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com. Meredith Sue Willis, [www.meredithsuewillis.com](http://www.meredithsuewillis.com)

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

**516 Prospect Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040**

**For information**, call 973-763-1905; visit our web site:  
www.essexethical.org; email: ecsec.nj@gmail.com

**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 2015



Amy Blake

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