



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Feb 4 Stanislav Jaracz, “Electric Vehicles 101”

The buzz on electric vehicles is getting stronger every year. Yet, it is still not clear for many people, what are the benefits and limitations of driving electric and why should we care? Why should we switch? People always have many questions: How far can I go on a charge? Where do I charge them? Are they safe? How do I service them? Internal combustion engines moved a long way over the 100 year history of personal transportation, it is cheap and the infrastructure is in place. Yet, this technology has reached its limits and it is time to move on.

In this seminar you will learn: (1) The basics of electric drive technology; (2) The right and wrong way of choosing a vehicle; (3) Who benefits and who loses on EVs; and (4) Current and future EV lineup.

Stanislav (Stan) Jaracz is an Electric Vehicle (EV) advocate and promoter of renewable energies as one of the most impactful way of achieving social justice and responsibility in our society. He is a member of NJ Electric Auto Association and Plugin America and actively promotes electric drive at numerous events over the last 5 years. He teaches about the many benefits of EVs. He works with NJ municipalities and their Green Teams to accelerate deployment of EVs and charging infrastructure. Stan is passionate to learn more about sustainable living, applying it in his personal life and then sharing with others to inspire the same.

Stan moved to the USA from the

Czech Republic in 1998 for the purposes of PhD studies at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University. After receiving his PhD in Organic Chemistry in 2004, he moved to enhance his experience at University of Stony Brook. In 2007, Stan moved to NJ where he has worked at various science positions in the consumer products industry.

Feb 11 Joanne Douds, “The GreenFaith Certification at St. Andrew and Holy Communion Church, South Orange — How to Transform a Community to Live a Sustainable Life”

Joanne Douds was born to Swedish parents making her life sustainable from the beginning.

She began working with the head of San Francisco’s Baywatchers, and got involved in raising money there at a grand gala event. Seated next to Robert Kennedy Jr., she was asked to volunteer with Riverkeeper, which protects the Hudson River. Here lies the beginnings of her work.

The GreenFaith Certification presented itself in NJ and she proposed St. Andrew & Holy Communion commit to achieving this for it’s community. Reverend Fletcher Harper, its founder, was a pioneer in the 1980’s in uniting faith leaders to make an impact on environmental issues. This certification was the culmination of much work to impact large groups of people and teach them to protect their health and the environment.

Today, the impact for GreenFaith has turned nationwide. Now, embarking on a project called “Green Circles,” the mission is to bring local people together to make a greater impact as a

group and a greater impact in an area.

The Ethical Society and SAHC are now part of a “Green Circle” and are looking to enlighten the people of this area about a greater way of life.

Feb 18 – Betty Levin, “Becoming Age 92 — Joining the 90’s Crowd”

Inspired by Mel Brooks, Norman Lear and Carl Reiner, ages 90, 94 and 95 respectively, an HBO documentary was created, *“If You’re Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast.”* I’ve somewhat joined their organization. Not that I have their talent and humor, I’ve nevertheless somewhat entered their sphere, feeling full of ‘piss and vinegar.’

My presentation will discuss this unique time, full of gratitude, awe, sense of fun — how do you make it count? Yes, I possess some health issues. As long as I can keep them under control with reasonable efforts, I will use whatever time I have as meaningfully as possible. As an Ethical Culture humanist — trying to create a more humane world and bringing out the best in others and thus myself — if I possessed unlimited power, my sense of justice would continuously prevail to bring fairness to all of society worldwide. But no one possesses that ability, so we humans here in the USA are confined mostly to participatory democracy and free speech, available by the privilege of our unique and precious US Constitution. Just think — those early courageous mutinous citizens risked hanging by the British King by asserting their passions for freedom and justice.

Thus, finding meaning for my time rewards me, continually shaping me, sometimes in despair to think my final

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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Office hours

Monday–Friday 8:15 to 9:45 am
Sunday 9:30 am to 12 pm



The Ethical Culture Society

is a religious and educational fellowship that seeks to achieve the ethical life without dogma; to develop the highest values in human relationships in ourselves, our families, and our community; and to elicit the best in others, thereby eliciting the best in ourselves.

Ethical Culture is a Humanist Religion — Come and visit! Did you know that we perform weddings, baby namings and other humanist ceremonies? Call 973-763-1905

Newsletter

Opinions offered in this publication are those of the authors. Newsletter items must be received by the eighth of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition. Editor reserves right to edit for length, clarity and content. *If you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call me, especially if time-sensitive.* — Howard Gilman, newsletter email: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

epoch includes the destructive, ignorant forces of the Trump era. Yet, I note a new awakening as sensitive citizens respond with enlivened force to assert fresh energy to 'matter'. Perhaps that is the irony of life — to never relinquish hope, using whatever creativity and positive energy we possess to hopefully make a difference. Meanwhile, to learn well from one's errors and grant forgiveness.

While thus occupied, laugh and have fun along the way as long as life continues, with 90 the new 65! — *E. Betty Levin*

Feb 25 Amy Blake, Christopher J. Goedecke and Brian Vivas, Family Ethical Education Program

Please join the Educational Initiative as noted author, Buddhist monk and career martial arts teacher and 8th degree black belt, Christopher J. Goedecke (Buddhist Hayashi Tomio), explores the topic, *'How Do I Fit In?'*

Having lived an alternative lifestyle as a martial sensei and Buddhist monk, Goedecke will share his own life experiences aging in a fast-paced society, discovering the importance of bolstering the mind/body connection and offering ways to cope with the daily struggles and conflicts that Life often presents to us.



Christopher Goedecke and Brian Vivas

Working with the children will be Brian Vivas, a professional martial arts teacher. He will offer children practical hands-on techniques and strategies for dealing with common physical conflicts. Vivas has been practicing karate for nine years. We will all join together at the end to share our experiences and learnings. Please join us on February 25th. — *Amy Blake*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Folk Friday, February 9, 7:30 pm

Sing along and jam. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening. Bring refreshments to share. 7:30 pm, second Fridays of the month through June. Everyone invited!

“Who We Are” at our Ethical Society — a Follow-up Report

Thanks to all participants of our Dec 16 “Who We Are” program — 13 Society members and 3 friends: members Esther Barcun, Diane Beeny, Barbara & Marty Cotler, Elaine Durbach-Norstein, President Zia Durrani, Bill Graves, new member Phyllis Hackett, Vice-President Jackie Herships, Secretary E. Betty Levin, Lisa Novemsky, Treasurer Jeanine Rosh and Rosalie Sussman. Friends attending included Barbara Lipman, Janet Mangano, our longtime volunteer provider of piano music, and a former member, Lili Hartman.

After our satisfying pot-luck lunch (some “cosmic plan” seems to manage a delightful, all-encompassing variety of foods — see photo), we shared our Life Journey, information about our families and, particularly, how and when we came to our Essex Society. Barbara and Betty joined 50 years ago, Bill in the past 30 years, others at varying times. A prevalent theme — many women reported they were attracted to and joined the Society after their divorces. A suggested implication: women seem to experience an enlightened sense of independence accompanied by an emerging value system that pointed to our humanistic religious ideas.

Our stories reflect depth and keen interests as each shared historical involvements. Remember our weekend retreats at Hudson Guild Farm? These interrelational events always seemed to function well, both adults and children enjoying mixed activities together. I recall one year the children spontaneously gathered themselves together in the on-site barn, wrote a play and later performed it for their parents. Another sweet memory: Marion Josephson would thoughtfully bring condiments — cinnamon, nutmeg, brown sugar — to add to our morning breakfast oatmeal. Unfortunately, the farm has since been sold. Betty reported her fervent love of the country setting and had selected a tree which she would have liked to become a memorial for her some day. “Poetry” as a particular interest arose as a common enticement that attracted several individuals to the Society via the special talents of instructors Phil Sosis and Sylvia Kramer. Janet Bruders was remembered as a

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Inette and	29	30 11 am - Chair Yoga	31	1 February 2018	2	3
4 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Stanislav Jaracz, "Electric Vehicles 101" 12 pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	5	6 11 am - Chair Yoga	7	8	9 Folk Friday, 7:30 pm	10
11 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Joanne Douds, "GreenFaith Certification — How to Transform a Community to Live a Sustainable Life"	12	13 11 am - Chair Yoga	14 1 pm - ECSEC Board	15	16	17
18 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Betty Levin, "Becoming Age 92 — Joining the 90's Crowd"	19	20 11 am - Chair Yoga	21	22	23	24
25 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake, Christopher J. Goedecke and Brian Vivas, Family Ethical Education Program - 'How Do I Fit In?'	26	27 11 am - Chair Yoga	28	1	2	3

theatrical presence who introduced us to improvisational enactments. Betty shared one of her long-held wishes has been to find another improvisational leader to return this activity to our Society again, to evoke both our combined creativity and develop a special bond. Can anyone help here? She reported, "I remember a particular skit in which Sy Josephson and I were in competition for the same job. As we sat in the waiting room awaiting our interviews, he was 'looking me over,' making derisive remarks about my imagined abilities in his typical humorous manner, his deprecations were hilarious."

Zia reported the limited conditions of growing up in India, that intellectual activities and books were limited. However, she particularly cited her father as a decidedly positive influence who encouraged another daughter to

become a physician. Zia eventually moved to England where she attended university and was first introduced to the concept of "humanism," an idea she had never previously encountered. Her world opened in new ways that has continued to broaden.

Bill Graves recalled when his father took him to a political rally in the Midwest when Truman was running for the vice-presidency on the FDR ticket. He amusingly cited the "drawling" discourse by Truman who cited the hardships those farmers had formerly endured under the past Hoover administration. His enactment of Truman's speech with hand motions was worthy of an off-Broadway presentation. We were all charmed.

— *Respectfully, E. Betty Levin,*
Member, Board of Trustees
[To be continued in
next month's newsletter.]

New Year's Eve Party

On a very cold New Year's Eve, eleven brave folks met at the home of Morris and Ruth Silver for our 3rd annual Silver's Fund Raiser evening. Ruth served a meal beyond belief – thirteen different dishes plus two desserts, fruit and drinks. Morris was the perfect host. The incredible food was followed by group singing of old standards, folk and ethnic songs, with a solo by Diane Beeny.

We played fun games, laughed together and shared a bit of ourselves with the group. Five hours later we all departed (reluctantly) to face the 9 degree weather. How can we thank the Silvers for what has become such a special annual event! They opened their home and their hearts to all of us. May this new year bring them good health, peace and joy.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web
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Collections: Please remember to bring canned or boxed food items for the
Food Pantry box in our front hall. Donations go to the NJ Food Bank.

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