



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 1

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Jan 7 Suzanne Gilbert, “Loss, Love and Redemption: the Literature of Search and Reunion”

A new genre has emerged in English arts and letters during the last 35 years that can best be described as search and reunion in non-fiction. It echoes an ancient tradition in religion, myth and world literature that is human, universal and poetic. That is the tradition of the hero, often an adoptee, searching and bringing back a gift to civilization from his reunion.

This presentation will take a look at the catalysts in our own times that have us turning anew to a literary form of loss, love and redemption. This genre of search and reunion is represented by over 550 works of both fiction and non-fiction.

We will take a lively look at the emerging search and reunion genre through the lens of biblical scholarship, Boswell, Jung, Rank and Wells.

“Suzanne Gilbert” is the pen name of the contributor to two anthologies, an NPR “The Moth” story slam monologue “When the Unborn Give Birth” and the author of the novel *Tapioca Fire* set in New Jersey, Bangkok and greater Chiang Rai, Thailand, Tokyo and Nikko, Japan, and Corea, Maine.

Jan 14 Nkosi Anderson, “Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Philosophy of Love and Lessons for Today”

Nkosi Anderson, a PhD student in Christian Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, is our opening speaker for the 2018-2019

season in our series, “What Ethical Culture Can Learn from Other Religions, Philosophies, and Traditions.” He will be discussing what Christianity means to him, and how its principles inspire his commitment to social justice and service to the community.

Nkosi Anderson’s family has deep roots in South Orange and Maplewood. He is the son of Drs. Herman and Adunni Anderson and brother to Anwar Anderson. A product of First Baptist Church of South Orange, Nkosi graduated from Columbia High School in 1997. He has worked in public education, government and academia, and with religious, non-profit and community groups.

Nkosi remains committed to a number of movements for social justice and is active in a variety of organizations including South Mountain Peace Action, The Poverty Initiative/Kairos Center, Mother’s Kitchen and The Roots Project, Inc. Nkosi holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in African-American Studies, both from Columbia University. He also received his MDiv from Union Theological Seminary, NY.

Jan 21 Amy Blake and Moki Kokoris, Family Ethical Education Program

A renowned expert on “All Things Arctic” and environmental ethics, Moki Kokoris founded her own outreach education program called “90-north” after returning from the geographic North Pole. In addition to being Arctic Editor of various journals, she holds a position at the United Nations where her work focuses primarily on the impacts of climate and societal change on the indigenous peoples of the Circumpolar North.

Moki will introduce various topics that address how each of us can influence communities around the world, proving that we are all indeed connected, and that becoming better stewards of our planet and being mindful of our actions are essential to humankind’s survival.

Open discussion is enthusiastically encouraged. Our students will explore their relationship with our planet through the book, *This Is The Earth* by Diane Z. Shore and Jessica Alexander. We will brainstorm ideas that empower us to make a difference in the world.

Jan 28 Inette and ‘Iokepa Hanalei ‘Imaikalani: “The Return Voyage: On the Path of the Ancestors”

On a return voyage of another kind, journalist Inette Miller Imaikalani and her husband ‘Iokepa Hanalei ‘Imaikalani have agreed to come back to Ethical for the third time, to share with us their ongoing campaign to help the native people of Hawaii reclaim their great ancestral heritage, and their contemporary rights. As engaged as they are in that localized struggle, they shine a light for all of us on the power of inherited wisdom and the strength to be drawn from our roots. In addition to learning about the colonization of the Islands, the movement for indigenous rights and independence, we will hear about ho’oponopono, a traditional Hawaiian peacemaking technique. Iokepa has also promised to treat us to some aboriginal Hawaiian chanting.

‘Iokepa, the son of a Hawaiian father and American mother, was a successful entrepreneur on the mainland, who relinquished “everything I worked for all

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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William Graves
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Lisa Novemsky
Morris Silver
EC Monthly Programs Editor
Elaine Durbach
Editor/Graphics: Howard Gilman
Office Manager: Liz Cunningham
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.

my life” to embrace his aboriginal identity and reawaken his ancestral culture. Inette is a Jewish woman from Baltimore who surrendered a privileged writer's life to join him, camping on Hawaiian beaches with little food and no money, and walking the paths of his ancestors. Together, they packed all they owned into three suitcases and began their ancestor-driven “Return Voyage” across America.

Their message: what Native Hawaiians lived for 12,000 years — ritual practices that prevented war — have profound implications for the 21st century.

For more about the nature of their work, and to hear ‘Iokepa chant, visit: ReturnVoyage.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Folk Friday, January 12, 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!

Monday, January 15, 2–5 pm Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration and Volunteer Fair

*Columbia High School, 17 Parker Avenue,
Maplewood, NJ 07040.*

All are welcome to the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race annual observation of Dr. King's life and legacy. The celebration includes music and affirmations. Larry Hamm of the People's Organization for Progress will be the speaker. The Volunteer Fair follows immediately in the cafeteria. Attendees can visit with many local service organizations and nonprofits to learn about their work and sign up to volunteer.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to announce to our community that we have several new members who have joined our Ethical Culture family. This month, we are introducing Shannon Kirk and Jason DeBriere and their two daughters, Coralie (4.5 years old) and Maisie

(3 years old). In particular, Shannon is very active in our Family Education Program and has written the following about their reasons for joining our Society.

The Kirk-DeBriere Family

Shannon Kirk and Jason DeBriere moved to Maplewood nine years ago in search of a little more space, an easy commute and a community with like-minded people. The Ethical Culture Society has definitely helped to fulfill the latter part of that goal and they are excited to be new members of this amazing community.

Shortly after moving to Maplewood, Shannon transitioned from a career in the perform-



ing arts to one in community organizing and also returned to graduate school to earn a Masters in Education. She currently combines those skills as a full-time parent to their children, Coralie and Maisie, and is excited to be working with the young children in the Family Ethical Education program.

Jason DeBriere is the executive chef and culinary director of a restaurant group based in NYC, where he practices a deep dedication to sustainable farming and ethically sourced products.

Shannon and Jason stumbled in the doors of the Ethical Culture Society last year on the day after the Women's March in DC. It felt like the right time to make a family commitment to focusing on, practicing, developing and cultivating each of their own ethical belief systems and practices. The Society's commitment to “eliciting the best in others, thereby eliciting the best in oneself” resonated deeply with Shannon and Jason and the whole family has felt warmly embraced by the members. They feel very enriched by the inclusion of the Society in their life and look forward to learning and sharing even more in the future.

It is a great pleasure to have the Kirk-DeBriere Family join our Ethical Culture community.

— Barbara Cotler and E. Betty Levin,
Membership Co-chairs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan with Rich Mullen	1 January 2018	2 11 am - Chair Yoga	3	4	5	6
7 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Suzanne Gilbert, "Loss, Love and Redemption: the Literature of Search and Reunion" 12 pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	8	9 11 am - Chair Yoga	10 1 pm - ECSEC Board Meeting	11	12 Folk Friday, 7:30 pm	13
14 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Nkosi Anderson, "Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Philosophy of Love and Lessons for Today"	15 2-5pm - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. SO/Ma Community Coalition on Race. Columbia High School, 17 Parker Ave, Maplewood; volunteer fair	16 11 am - Chair Yoga	17	18	19	20
21 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake and Moki Kokoris, Family Ethical Education Program	22	23 11 am - Chair Yoga	24	25	26	27
28 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Inette and 'Ilokepa Hanalei 'Imaikalani, "The Return Voyage: On the Path of the Ancestors"	29	30 11 am - Chair Yoga	31	1	2	3

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Dec 3: Meredith Sue Willis, chair; Diane Beeny; Zia Durrani; Bill Graves; E. Betty Levin; and Jackie Herships. We also welcomed visitor Jane Freinberg.

The chair reported that we had cardings on four Sundays over October and November in support of refunding the **Children's Health Insurance Program**. The second set of cards went to NJ Senators Booker & Menendez asking them to support legislation that funds CHIP – but not by “robbing Peter to pay Paul” as the House version did. In other words, we need this program to be funded, but we also need our other social programs.

There was general agreement to write cards asking Congress to pass

a “clean” **Dream Act Bill** welcoming young immigrants to our country without tying the bill to other issues. We will do the carding on December 10 in hopes of having some impact before the government funding bill is passed. We will also provide email for phoning and emailing, in case the funding bill in which the Dream Act is now included has not been extended.

Sue will send a draft of the post card to the committee for vetting then bring cards and supplies next week.

Next we discussed potential candidates for **Local Hero 2018**. Committee members, please give this some thought, and we'll try to make a decision in January and February and then reach out to our honoree.

Sue then shared Jackie Herships's report on **Green Faith**. In Janu-

ary, the Committee will decide if we want to recommend proceeding with Green Faith to the Ethical Board and how involved we want the social action committee to be. Try to look at information about Green Faith online at <http://www.greenfaith.org>.

This year's **coat collection** is underway. Please bring clean coats, sweaters, hats, etc. for adults and children in a bag in the small sun room off the parlor that will go to Valley Settlement House.

Finally, Bill suggested that we explore possible speakers from **SOMA Justice and its committees**, perhaps moving toward some interaction with that new but large and active organization.

The next meeting is **Jan 7**.

— Meredith Sue Willis

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

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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ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · JANUARY 2018



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