



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 6

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

JUNE 2016

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### June 5 Steven Trombecky, "Forgiveness — Beyond Right & Wrong"

Steven will discuss his 38 year journey to forgive his father. His journey led him from Judaism, Transcendental Meditation, Buddhism and Christianity. He has spoken to various churches and high schools about what he has learned about himself and the effect of forgiveness on others.



Steven has worked as a carpenter for over 35 years. He's been married for 25 years to his wife Carmen and has a 16 year old son Joseph. Being a businessman, husband and father has had many challenges. Forgiveness and love he has found to be the greatest gifts.

### June 12 Richard Mullen, "Tai Chi Benefits and Practice"

Richard Mullen, who teaches a free Tai Chi class usually sited at Ethical but sometimes in local parks, will discuss the history and philosophy of this gentle but powerful martial art.

Richard began teaching a Tai Chi class at Ethical on Sunday mornings in 2014, will discuss its origins, philosophy, and method — explore the history of Tai Chi, uncover the different styles, and identify the benefits of Tai Chi for health, well-being and self defense.

Richard lives in Maplewood with his wife and children. When not out

having fun with his family or working, he is practicing and teaching Tai Chi Chuan. Currently a student and apprentice instructor for Grand Master William CC Chen in NYC, Richard came to Tai Chi for both its health benefits and its self defense techniques. He competes regularly in demonstrations of form as well as the two man martial competition, Push Hands.



Information and contact: [southmountaintaichi.com](http://southmountaintaichi.com), [www.facebook.com/southmountaintaichi](http://www.facebook.com/southmountaintaichi)

June 19 to be announced

### Can We Develop Evolutionary Citizenship in our Children?

Martha Gallabue

Last month, during the Program Sunday we talked about the development of our fledgling ethical education initiative, I raised the question as to whether it is possible to inspire children to approach the many changes in the world with initiative and creativity, optimism and hope. Could we find ways that would enable them to not only love themselves but to love living in the world where precedents no longer have much meaning. Could we even get them to imagine they could contribute and help shape evolutionary change as they become global citizens.

Could we build in them resilience and courage to come up with approaches that may never have been thought of before. Could we help them understand that they can both

be true to themselves and agents of change in the company of others who at first may seem different. We talked about the approach of Alfie Kohn who instead of punishing children believed in addressing conflict and mis-guided behavior through empathy. I used the example with one of my own grandchildren who had a melt down when she was four, because I hadn't prepared her mashed potatoes the way she liked them. Her father quietly said to her, "How do you think Tata (me) feels?" It was clearly a new thought that caused her to ponder. It also took the drama out of the event and allowed everyone to move on.



Can we both follow a curriculum and use an inquiry based approach. Yes, of course. Much of this year was spent figuring out how to succeed with this. What songs and books would help it all along... what focus should be taken with kids of different ages. And we have learned so much from the children who have joined us this year. This year was making sure that the children who joined us would have fun. We did lots of crafts while the children talked and pondered their issues of the day.

We now have plans to conduct a regular program every other week beginning in September and once a month Sunday programs focusing on topics of interest to parents. We have our own brochure with price lists, two freshly painted rooms, more parents showing up each month and our very

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

516 Prospect St.,  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973-763-1905

ecsec.nj@gmail.com  
www.essexethical.org



Martha Gallahue, *Member Leader*  
Jim White, *Leader Emeritus*

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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@gmail.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

own curriculum. We will have an outreach coordinator to follow up more closely with parents and keep track of volunteers who will step up to give individual attention to different age groups. We are rich with grand parents and plan to activate some of them as well. So, great thanks to Amy Blake who will know serve as consultant rather than director and we look forward to a great new season in the Fall. Please call the office if you are interested in signing up your child/children.

## LETTER

### Thanks to my Ethical Culture Family

Today, April 21 is the 90th Birthday celebration for England's Queen Elizabeth. I am equally fortunate, even more so, with a "kingdom" so democratically oriented, attentive and kind. I didn't necessarily inherit my role, I was given *opportunity*. How did I get so lucky? These are crown jewels that have no measure. Thank you, thank you, thank you for a party never to be forgotten.

Most important were the lay leadership efforts of our talented Jeanine Rosh. Her willingness to extend her creative efforts provided an exquisitely delicious afternoon of memories I'll always hold in my heart. Jeanine dear, you are not only as Ethical Culture member of special talents, but most vital, willing to extend yourself as a true lay leader in our unique Movement. How did we ALL get so lucky?

For me you are a role model to emulate as I attempt to make a serious effort to grow and deepen our Society. I send much gratitude. Of course, we all have our shortcomings — I didn't count 90 candles on the cake — nevertheless, many thanks on behalf of our Society's family.



Janet, Betty, Stephanie — three EC generations

I heard repeated comments, "Gee, we haven't had such a party in a long time!" What an innovator you are, to bring everyone such joy. As we break for summer, let's play more together with fresh resolve to "bring out the best in others and in ourselves." I appreciate belonging to a humanist family as noteworthy as our Ethical Culture Society.

In gratitude,

— E. Betty Levin

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 5 Social Action Committee, Sunday**, after program.

**June 8 Wednesday 7pm Transgender Topics** at the Society.

**June 10 Folk Friday 7:30 pm** Sing-along and 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! Inovemsky@comcast.net, (973) 763-8293.

**Paintings by Barbara Krales Cotler** — landscapes, seascapes and abstracts — exhibited at the Society through **Thursday June 30, 2016**.

Peace Site of Essex ECS Propelled to New Life. **Heads Up! Hold September 7, 2016 "Culture of Peace" trip to the United Nations**. Come join us to bring new vigor to our peace efforts and revitalize our Peace Site. Be part of the solution! [E. Betty Levin, 973-763-1033 for more information.]

## National Ethical Service

Martha Gallahue will be retiring from NES in June, after 19 years of service. Over the years she has served as Main Representative, President, Secretary, and Treasurer in addition to her clergy role. Martha stated:

"I have been honored and generously supported in my efforts to build the organization. NES is well received at the UN now in many sectors and the Rose L Walker Fund is off to a good start. My heart is full of appreciation for our much needed contributors. We could not exist without your support. Our gifts to

the Movement are many. I believe now that others can tell that story better.”

All of us in NES are very appreciative of Martha's tireless service and are glad that she agreed to continue on the Finance Committee. Thank you Martha.

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## SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

There was a discussion about Advocates for Children of New Jersey (recent program speaker Cecilia Zalkind) and what we can do to help. The group decided to put a link on the Ethical Culture Society webpage (and Facebook page) to the ACNJ webpage and to try to follow their calls for action (usually petitions and letters) in the same way we keep up with and support First Friends and the immigrant detainees.

Finally, Martha reported that Kate LaClair of the AEU social action office, has forwarded information about a pre-democratic convention action in Philadelphia in July that would act to

1. Ban Fracking Now
2. Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground
3. Stop Dirty Energy
4. Quickly and Justly Transition to 100% Renewable Energy

After some discussion, the committee voted in favor of the Social Action Committee of the Essex Ethical Culture Society signing on to this resolution. We will do this via email to Kate LaClair.

### **An Exchange on Fracking**

*Long time board member Marty Cotler, who was not present at the meeting, wrote the following in response:*

“You can take into account the fact that we get a check every month for the fracking done under our property in PA but read the following: <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=92&t=4>

In 2015, renewable energy sources accounted for about 10% of total U.S. energy consumption and about 13% of electricity generation. If you do

away with fracking natural gas – where do you get the energy to supply our electricity?

It used to be coal. Want to return to that until we have enough renewables? Suggest you adopt Obama's position of 'all of the above'.”

*Member leader Martha Gallahue wrote the following in response:*

“I appreciate the article sent by IMarty as it stimulates us all to think about current ethical choices in complex times.

My ethical choice to be arrested in front of the White House two years ago in an effort to prevent the Keystone Pipeline from being approved had to do with the issues of scale, proportion and spin. That project was the largest industrial project ever planned. It passed through valuable conserves of public and private land. It brought ranchers and indigenous folks together. There was a considerable amount of spin regarding jobs which amounted to a few hundred for 18 months. In some ways, looking back that was an easier choice to make in relation to fracking or so it seems.

But if you find it useful, to use the same criteria of scale, proportion and spin, perhaps we can bring up the same questions. Regarding scale, let us identify what are our most valuable natural resources that may be, in fact, ones that might be considered essential to life and are in limited supply. My list includes air, water, soil, forests. Energy for me is not on the primary list. While it is important for travel, our lifestyle, it is also a commodity that demands we rethink all that it provides us. So, today, we are learning about all that is coming up with regard to our carelessness about water as we recall how much of it is needed to frack. Slightly more than 1% of our water can be used in consumption and most of that is in our water tables below the earth. Our surface water has become dangerously polluted. As more information

comes up, we are learning how little public concern there has been for its care and we may need now to decide that we must make water our first priority regarding care.

There is an ethical principle called the precautionary principle which states that in choosing ways and means for securing goods such as energy, we must evaluate its impact before moving forward on any massive use of a technology. Fracking has been around for a long time, but never on this scale, never before so aggressively pursued by the free market, and not in ways that threatened our water tables. We can no longer ignore these realities.

It is a fact that the poorer rural folk are receiving good money for the use of their land. It is also a fact that they have been made poor by mono-farming, by other free market practices that have made it impossible for them to make decent livings. One of their most precious commodities, water is further being threatened. It may be time now to address the problems at their roots rather than to provide short-term solutions.

Let it also be said that only one of our precious families has been in the place of making a choice to participate in fracking. We need to ask ourselves honestly, what would we do if we were in their place. What would we do if the whole community chose to frack and would look at us as unneighborly if we stepped aside from that choice.

These choices are the ones our children will be called to make increasingly and it is why we must proceed with an Ethical Education program carefully and wisely, but forthrightly with regard to how we live. Can we help them become real contributors to evolutionary new models that work for all? Let us look ahead in our disagreement and turn to the future building of our world through our children before we turn upon one another. We have lived long enough together to appreciate we won't always agree, but that when we



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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 · JUNE 2016

stand for something, we know why we did. My own granddaughter (10) said to me the last time we visited 'It is your generation that ruined everything.'

I was one at the Social Action meeting who voted to support the anti-fracking demonstration being planned during the Democratic convention. I did that because I know the Hudson County congressman in my area is poorly educated when it comes to environmental concerns. I can't even make an appointment with him to talk it over. I know that the Democratic party doesn't prioritize the environment (except for conservation) in ways that address climate change. I know that we will never have sufficient alternative energy until oil companies feel the squeeze and put more resources into developing the technology. If they did, we would have free energy supplies by now. We will surely face hard times ahead and soon as we have

been so slow in addressing our energy needs consistent with the supplies that are safe and through other technologies sustainable.

Please read as well how since the early 1980s Exxon has suppressed information done by their own researchers that warned Exxon if they didn't begin working out better solutions then, there would be energy catastrophes up ahead. That time is really now. We have all been deceived. So long as we can get by, nothing will be done. It is sad but true, our energy crisis was self-made."

*With these last remarks by Marty:*

"There is no question that, barring a major worldwide recession, our need for energy will increase in the future. Currently, renewables account for 10% of our energy supply and it is estimated it will take another 35 years to reach a time when they

will account for close to 100%.

What happens if you stop fracking immediately? The supply of natural gas drops significantly, we lose our near energy independence and the cost and use of oil and coal increases. What will that do to the environment — and what will it do to people who are currently having problems paying to heat their home and using electricity, and those on the edge?

There is no question fracking needs to be better supervised and companies that have a history of 'events' need to be put out of business or brought to heel. In the meanwhile, companies are being formed to recycle waste water from fracking and others are working on fracking which does not require water at all.

I still maintain Obama had it right when he said 'all of the above' meaning we use fossil energy by using gas as a bridge from fossil to renewable."