



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 6

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

JUNE 2017

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

June 4 Michael Cotler: “Strangers in a Strange Land: History’s Last Pre-digital Generation”

Thomas Kuhn described “paradigm shift” as “a change from one way of thinking to another... a revolution, a transformation, a sort of metamorphosis. It just does not happen, but rather it is driven by agents of change.” Kuhn was referring to scientific research specifically, but the concept can clearly be applied to discussion of social issues. And the agent of change is frequently technological innovation. The Gutenberg press, the technology that led to the industrial revolution, and the harnessing of electricity all created social paradigm shift. The emergence of digital technology in the twentieth century has created profound paradigmatic change with unprecedented speed and has fundamentally changed the way people live — changed the way they interact with technology and changed the way they interact with each other. Those of us born roughly in the first three-quarters of the twentieth century, who came of age before these paradigmatic changes occurred, now behold a world utterly transformed.

Topics Of Discussion

1. History of Digital Technology
2. Interpersonal Communication
 - New concepts of community
 - New concepts of interpersonal relationships
 - New concepts of personal identity
3. Mass Media / Journalism / “Breitbartization” of America

- The disappearance of the Gatekeeper
 - The Echo Chamber
 - Fake News / The Epistemological Crisis: what is fact?
4. Information Management
 5. The Great Cultural / Generational Divide
 - Evolving Cultural Attitudes / Media depictions of computers
 - Language
 - How are the Pre-digitals coping?
 6. The Future:
 - Have-Techs vs. Have-Not-Techs: the disadvantaged, rather than the predigitals, become the Strangers in a Strange Land
 - 2016 Election and beyond
 - Preservation: Digitize it or lose it

A 25-year veteran of the broadcast television industry, Mike Cotler is an independent film producer and film and media historian. The son of longtime members Marty and Barbara Cotler, Mike was born and raised in Brooklyn, and is a 1969 graduate of the Brooklyn Ethical Culture Sunday School.

June 11 Family Education Open House

Please join us Sunday morning June 11th to learn about the Ethical Culture Society and the programs offered here in Maplewood. This program is designed for all ages with or without knowledge of Ethical Culture. Through games, arts and crafts and music you and your child/children will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of ethical thought in your daily lives. You will have an opportunity to meet our directors, Amy Blake who works with kindergarten age and above; and Shannon Kirk who does a

great job with our preschoolers. It will be a time to meet other members and get acquainted with who we are. Information on next year’s program will be available. Snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

June 18 Father’s Day Finale *(to be announced)*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 9, 7:30 p.m. Folk Friday

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

GUEST MESSAGE

Much Gratitude to Members & Friends

Several special events involved the need for volunteers, notably the Humanistic Passover Seder at our Society on Wednesday evening, April 19 and another, a request to me by the Millburn-Short Hills “Green Team,” to present an Ethical Culture Peace Table at their Environment Festival on Sunday, April 23 in Taylor Park.

Passover Seder was conducted by warm and knowledgeable member Rob Agree, Ceremonial Leader of Kahal Chaverim, the N.J. Center for Humanist Jews. He had rewritten the traditional Haggadah of slavery and freedom into contemporary language and including the experiences of Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr. Special thanks to Rob who is deeply committed, conducting numerous Seders during this Passover season. The pot luck supper was attended

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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Elaine Durbach
Editor/Graphics: Howard Gilman

Editor's Note

Newsletter articles, announcements, etc., not to exceed 150 words in length, must be received by the eighth 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 also email or call me 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**



Humanistic Passover Seder at our Society on Wednesday evening, April 19 was conducted by member Rob Agree, left.

by 18 members and friends who supplied the succulent food and symbolic ingredients for the Passover plate. Many participated in setting up the tables and cleaning up afterwards: Jeanine Rosh, Sylvia Kramer, Florence Weisz, Jackie Herships, Diane Beeny, Estelle Baumgarten (who was accompanied by her husband Elliott) and a welcome new steady participant, Irene Winicov. If I have omitted any other volunteers, please forgive me.

In the conclusion of the service, i.e., "May despair give way to hope — Next Year in Jerusalem," Rob added: "Next Year in Syria; West Bank/Gaza; Brussels/Paris; Flint/Every

U.S. City; Maplewood/South Orange." Rob, you're a treasure.

For the Peace Table at the Environment Festival, we contrasted information regarding pursuit of peace being dominated by the proposed escalation of the military budget while engaged in an unprecedented ravaging of our nation's environment programs. Chris Hedges, the keynote speaker at the N.J. Peace Action spring banquet on "Resisting American Fascism" inspired our bringing his anti-war books to the display which we obtained from our public library. Thanks to Collin Minert and Society President Zia Durrani who



Solidarity Singers, May 7, in their annual performance in honor of May Day.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan	29	30 11 am - Chair Yoga	31	June 2017 1	2	3
4 9 am Tai Chi Chuan 11:00 am Michael Cotler: "Strangers in a Strange Land: History's Last Pre-digital Generation" 12 pm Social Action	5	6 11 am - Chair Yoga	7	8	9 Folk Friday 7:30pm	10
11 9 am Tai Chi Chuan 11 am Family Education Open House	12	13 11 am - Chair Yoga	14 1 pm - ECSEC Board	15	16	17
18 9 am Tai Chi Chuan 11 am Father's Day Finale (to be announced)	19	20 11 am - Chair Yoga	21	22	23	24
25 9 am Tai Chi Chuan	26	27 11 am - Chair Yoga	28	29	30	1



“manned” the table during the long hours. Particular gratitude to Collin who loaded and toted all my many children’s peace books, anti-war books and literature, from my home to the park, after picking up extensive material from N.J. Peace Action. Appreciation also to Betsey Palumbo of Millburn of my “Huddler” Group (women energized by the Women’s March at Inauguration time of Pres. Trump) who inspired me regarding the environment. Thanks also to Board member Diane Beeny who designed and constructed an attractive sign for identifying the Ethical Culture table with our affirmations: “Trying to create a more humane world” and “Bringing out the best in others and thus in ourselves.” It was particularly delightful to observe several children absorbed in reading the peace books, flopped on the grass.

Our joining together in volunteering emphasizes our identity and cherished values that we share. Thanks to all of you, dear folks. Let’s do more of this good stuff together in the future!

— E. Betty Levin

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

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.

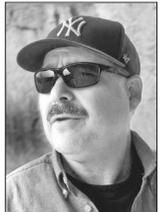
Children's Books to be donated to the Parenting Center for children of need.

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ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · JUNE 2017

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Have a great summer! See you again when programs resume in the fall.