



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 7

Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

MARCH 2015

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

March 1 Martha Gallahue, "Sustainable Development Goals: Why They Matter"

In September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations is scheduled to complete its work and vote to approve a core document of the Rio Post-2015 Development Agenda called Sustainable Development Goals.

They represent the most inclusive commitment made by the UN since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Further, they are founded in the universal dignity of all people as they serve also to protect our biosphere. Martha will discuss and offer some critical assessment of their limitations and at the same time describe how they represent the most expansive level of environmental agreements ever made worldwide. These SDGs as they are now called build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals including lessons learned.

Martha serves as leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County and has been with National Ethical Service (an affiliate with the American Ethical Union, Ethical Culture's National Federation) since 1997 in the capacity of main representative at the UN, president, secretary and now treasurer. She will offer a thumbnail sketch of NES and remind all members of ethical culture they are also members of NES.

Martha has just completed a chapter "Let's Celebrate the Sustainable Peace Development Goals" in the book *Ethics, Spiritual Values and Sustainable Development*, edited by Rick Clugston and Marion Vilela of Earth Charter

Institute. The book is to be published in the Spring by New Frontiers Publishing Company.

March 8 Temma Ehrenfeld, "Women in Ethical Culture by Phyllis Ehrenfeld"

In observance of National Women's History month, Temma Ehrenfeld, daughter of Phyllis Ehrenfeld, will read Phyllis' program talk entitled "Women of Ethical Culture 100 Years and Plus" and will add a few tales of her own about her mother and their relationship.

Phyllis Ehrenfeld, former President of National Ethical Service, grew up in Quebec City and studied social work at McGill University School of Social Work in Montreal. She came to New York City with \$1,000 she borrowed from her aunt to pursue a PhD in the Department of Contemporary Literature at Columbia University. She wrote novels, poetry and plays, often with ties to current political events or social issues. She received the Arnold Gingrich Award for The Fellowship in Prose from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Five of her plays have been presented in Bergen County. For ten years she was the editor of the American Anorexia Bulimia Association Newsletter, after writing a novel about a bulimic heroine, and was a contributing editor to the Ethical Culture Review of Books. As representative to the UN from the AEU's National Service Conference, she reported, together with her husband Sylvain Ehrenfeld, on the UN in monthly articles which appeared in a number of newsletters and websites. She co-founded with Sylvain the Bergen County Chapter of UNA-USA, a group that informs Americans

about the work of the United Nations. She died in 2009, leaving behind her husband and two children.

Temma Ehrenfeld is an award-winning journalist on health, relationships, psychology and finance. She has published several short stories and other pieces. "I would hire her anytime for anything," wrote Jane Bryant Quinn of *Newsweek*. She has been from childhood a member of the Bergen Society.

March 15 Janet Rudolph, "The Spiritual Life of an Ethical Humanist: I am Felix Adler's step-child"

"My ethical education inspired me to go on a world tour to quest for spiritual richness and explore the mysteries of life. Now I am returning to my childhood 'home' to discuss what that journey has taught me about how to live a life of spiritual fullness from a specifically Ethical Culture point of view. The focus of my work is 'first knowledge' or ancient teachings that not only have living application today but are echoed in the work of our present day ethical religious philosophies."

Janet Rudolph, daughter of ECS member Betty Levin, grew up at our Essex Society. "I raised my own kids at the Long Island Society. I worked with Algernon Black when he was leader emeritus at the NY Society. I have spoken at all three societies (Essex, NY and Long Island). I was a participant at the first lay leadership 'camp' in 1996.

"Since then my journey is probably best described by the bio from my book: 'Janet Rudolph has traveled throughout the world to study, experience and learn first-hand how the mysteries of life are expressed, blessed,

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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Editor/Graphics: Howard Gilman

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, preferably via email at: gilman.howard@gmail.com. Items can also be dropped off at 15 So. Pierson Rd., Maplewood; or, if you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please give me a call at (973) 763-3914 to be sure I know about it, especially if your item is time-sensitive. — *Editor*

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

honored and lived in differing lands and traditions. Along the way she has danced on sandy beaches, climbed pyramids, experienced initiations, been ordained as shaman, stepped in the processional pathways of the ancients, felt standing stones against her skin, walked spirals and labyrinths, and hugged the earth in its oneness and many sacred facets. She has experienced Israeli and Egyptian deserts, lush Incan and Mayan rain-forests, wind-swept southern French castles, rain drenched Orkney stone temples, wildly rushing Pacific Northwest mountain streams, and ancient Grecian oracular shrines.”

March 22 Anisa Mehdi, “The Journey to Pilgrimage”

Anisa Mehdi will talk about how her own faith journey led her to an unexpected beat in broadcast news: covering Islam.

Emmy Award-winning journalist and filmmaker Anisa Mehdi is a pioneer whose work in mainstream American broadcast news spans three decades. Inspired by her pioneering father Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi's efforts to amplify the story of Palestine in the USA from the 1960s-1990s, and irked by media bias against that story, she determined to join the corps of reporters and contribute to the conversation on how to cover Arab and Muslim stories both at home and abroad. She has worked for CBS News New York, Eyewitness News Boston, PBS, ABC News “Nightline” and National Geographic Television & Film. During her career Anisa helped newsrooms expand their roster of contacts to include diverse American Muslim scholars of Islam and American Arab experts on the Middle East. Anisa's award-winning television stories on the arts forged new ground for minority beat reporters in the USA. She is the first American woman to cover the Hajj pilgrimage for broadcast. “Inside Mecca,” her acclaimed documentary film on the Hajj, is a staple in religious studies classes across the country. Her most recent film premiered on PBS nationwide in December 2014.

Anisa Mehdi was a 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar in Jordan. She consults to the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and teaches documentary film at Seton Hall University.

Anisa holds degrees from Wellesley College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a trustee of the Esalen Institute and vice chair of the Abraham Path Initiative. Currently an independent producer/director, educator and writer, Anisa is recognized by the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists for her insights: “Current events reporting often confuses faith, culture, and politics. Anisa Mehdi helps sort them out.”

March 29 Leena Khandwala, “The Global Action Project”

Global Action Project (GAP) is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 whose mission is to work with young people most affected by injustice to build the knowledge, tools and relationships needed to create media for community power, cultural expression and political change. With the country being fractured around issues of race, tolerance, immigration and civil liberties, GAP's young storytellers play an important role in diversifying the national conversation by offering perspectives not frequently covered in mass media.

Leena Khandwala is a South Orange resident and a board member. She is an associate with Claudia Slovinsky and Associates, PLLC, located in NYC, where she practices in many areas of immigration law, including deportation defense, family-based petitions, naturalization, asylum, self-petitions under the Violence Against Women Act, visas for victims of certain crimes, as well as employment-based visas.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rich Mullen's Tai Chi class, 9 a.m. Sundays at the Society building. All are welcome.

Dorian Carmeci is showing her art and speaking at ECS on Friday, March 6



Dorian Carmeci

Artist/poet/performer Dorian Carmeci will be exhibiting her works and discussing what inspired them at the Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood, Friday, March 6, 7-9 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Martha Gallahue, "Sustainable Development Goals: Why They Matter" Social Action Comm.	2	3 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	4	5	6 Dorian Carmeci is showing her art and speaking at ECS, 7-9 p.m.	7 March 2015
8 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Temma Ehrenfeld, "Women in Ethical Culture by Phyllis Ehrenfeld" Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	11	12	13 Folk Friday Sing-along and jam with friends 7:30 p.m.	14
15 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Janet Rudolph, "The Spiritual Life of an Ethical Humanist"	16	17 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	18	19	20	21
22 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Anisa Mehdi, "The Journey to Pilgrimage"	23	24 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	25	26	27	28
29 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Leena Khandwala, "The Global Action Project"	30	31 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon				

Consisting of works in wood, mixed media and ink, combining text and collage. Visitors walk through a labyrinth of visuals — an up-close, “in your face” perspective through an abused child’s eyes — of the tragic effects that occur when people turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the horror of sexual abuse, thus becoming “impotent bystanders.” Despite its raw emotion, the work also conveys a message of healing, survival and hope.

Ms. Carmeci’s talk will be followed by discussion. Refreshments will be served. Event is free and open to the community. *[Not advised for children]*

Folk Friday March 13

Sing-along and jam with friends, 7:30 p.m. second Friday of each month, October through June, at the Society building. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening. Bring some refreshments to share. Open to all, all ages, everyone is invited! (Inovemsky@comcast.net, (973) 763-8293)

Arts Unbound Exhibit at Ethical

The Ethical Culture Society of Essex County is exhibiting the work of artists associated with Arts Unbound, a local organization that mentors, teaches and exhibits the work of artists with disabilities and special needs. The show may be seen in the main room gallery until April 18th, 2015 and includes work in a variety of media: prints, oil and watercolor paintings, photographs and charcoal. The pictures are vibrant in color and expressive form, reflecting intense feeling and powerful creative ideas.

Arts Unbound, founded in 2000 by Cate Lazen, offers workshops for families and individuals, some of which are open to the general public resulting in mutual support to all those with an interest in art. The organization’s home, at 544 Freeman St., Orange, NJ, consists of a large gallery for exhibitions, offices, studios and classrooms, in a vibrant neighborhood of cafes, restaurants, theater and music venues. For more information, contact Arts Unbound at www.artsunbound.org.



Leo T. Jones, Untitled, 2014, linoleum cut

On exhibit are original works by Leo Jones of Randolph, Brad Friedman of Wayne, Amy Charmatz of Springfield, Gregory Smith of Livingston, Tom Wade of Springfield and more.

[Ethical Culture’s continuing program of exhibiting art by local artists was begun by Gus Lindquist in 2010.]

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

Phone: 973-763-1905

Email: ecsec.nj@gmail.com

Website: www.essexethical.org

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Ongoing Collections: **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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