



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 9

Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

MAY 2013

MAY PLATFORMS

Platforms begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice. For information, call 973-763-1905. Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

May 5 Solidarity Singers, *Annual (almost) May Day concert at the Ethical Culture Society*

The Solidarity Singers will be honoring us with a post-May Day concert of songs celebrating labor, progressive causes and the continuing struggle for justice. There will be familiar songs and/or songs with easy to learn choruses.

Past concerts highlighted the effects of the financial crises on workers and non-upper-class people in general. The Solidarity Singers have sung at rallies and protests in front of banks who are "reluctant to lend but eager to foreclose on peoples' homes." We will share some of those songs and some great songs of labor history past, some of which are unfortunately quite relevant today.

May 12 Fraidy Reiss, *"Breaking Free from an Arranged Marriage"*

Our Mother's Day speaker will tell the story of her own arranged marriage at 19 to a man she barely knew who turned out to be violent. With two children and no job training, and pressured to accept her fate by her family and the insular Orthodox Jewish community where she lived in Lakewood, she had few options. Reiss will discuss the broader picture of arranged/forced marriage in the US and how people can help those caught in them against their will. The phenom-



enon, she says, is far greater than most people realize, and many of the women trapped in such relationships lack the financial or legal means or viable alternatives to break free, especially if they have children.

Fraidy Reiss grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Brooklyn. She is divorced, and lives now with her two daughters in Westfield, and works as a private investigator. Last year she established Unchained At Last, the only nonprofit in the US dedicated to helping women leave arranged and forced marriages.

Her website is UnchainedAtLast.org. [Elaine Durbach also wrote about Reiss for the NJ Jewish News: <http://www.njjewishnews.com/article/9783/helping-wives-when-religious-tradition-is-a-trap>]

May 19 *"Challenging us all to draw closer,"* Martha Gallahue will attempt to close the gap between the realities of living in the quest



for the Supreme Ideal as proposed by founder Felix Adler and the practical reality of a pragmatic working strategic plan appropriate to the needs and aim of our Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood. Martha's experience in questing for the Supreme Ideal far exceeds her skill in the nuts and bolts of a good strategic plan. She is, however, raising the flag of the need for one here and challenging us all to draw closer in cooperation to bring such a plan about.

May 26 *Annual Memorial Day Colloquy.* As we do each year, we will take this chance to revel in the memory of those we've loved and lost, and to explore how memory sifts and selects those parts of our relationships that serve our purposes, for better or worse.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY:

3rd Saturday Arts Program

We will have an expanded display of Eva Bouzard-Hui's art work for May 18th. Betty Levin will discuss her memoir writing. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. Call 973-738-2496. — Hilding "Gus" Lindquist

Folk Friday at Ethical May 10

Sing-along and jam with friends 7:30 p.m. second Friday of each month, September through June at the Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening (led by Lisa Novemsky). Bring some refreshments to share. Folk Fridays have expanded to invite

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Martha Gallahue, *Interim Leader*
Boe Meyerson, *Leader Emerita*

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Zia Durrani, *Vice President*
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EC Monthly Platforms Editor
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 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.

Ethical Culture Society
of Essex County,
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Our web site:
www.essexethical.org

**...act so
as to elicit
the best
in others
and in
ourselves**

all crafts people in the society to come and listen to music while doing crafts. Everyone is invited! Contact: lnovemsky@comcast.net or (973) 763-8293.

Essex Time Exchange Spring Potluck

When: **Sunday, May 19, 2013, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Where: 67 Church Street, Montclair, NJ
(UU Congregation Building)

Join us for a potluck and an evening of fun! Meet other Essex Time Exchange members and swap services. Non-members are welcome, too! Come and find out about the new popular movement of Time Banking and how you can be part of it. For more on time banks see www.EssexTimeExchange.org.

As an attraction, we will have some entertainment by time bank members Danny Weiss and Mary Olive Smith, a husband-wife team, who will perform some of their great tunes, hot picking, dynamic vocals and a mix of rockin' Honky Tonk, Roots Country, Western Swing and Bluegrass.

The event is FREE. You are welcome to bring a dish or something to drink for 6 people. If you cannot possibly bring something to share, we'd still love to see you, but we are asking for a small donation.

Please RSVP by May 1, 2013: info@EssexTimeExchange.org or go to <http://www.EssexTimeExchange.org/> for more information also) and click on "RSVP."

HUMANIST SEDER AT ETHICAL

Essex Ethical hosted a Humanist Seder Saturday, March 9, a celebration of the history of the human struggle against oppression and for freedom, liberty, and dignity for all peoples, suitable for people of all ages and cultures.

An excerpt follows — "Most of the text comes from Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism." — Rob Agree

The Fourth Cup

Tonight let us remember as we have been taught throughout our history — that more than once the wicked have risen to destroy us.

Let us drink our final toast tonight, in honor of the men and women who gave their lives in the Warsaw Ghetto and other resistance movements.

All: To Resistance!

Hope and Courage

Hope is an act of will, affirming in the presence of evil, that good things will happen, preferring, in the face of failure, self-esteem to pity.

*All: Hope is a choice,
never found,
never given,
always taken.*

Life is filled with danger. It lingers everywhere and will not go away.

There are so many things to fear: poverty and disease, storms and earthquakes, violence and war. They intrude on human history. Some people dream of utopia and imagine that some day there will be no fear. Other people speak of heaven and promise another world where danger will vanish.

But worlds without danger are fantasies. Death is real. Pain persists. To live life honestly, with no attempt to deny the darker side of its reality, is hard. To face the truth, with no effort to hide from the facts of human nature and human existence, is frightening. Yet what else is the life of courage?

Courage begins with honesty, the willingness to confront the world as it is and not merely as we want it to be.

All: I believe in people who are brave enough to stand face to face with reality.



My sister's Seder plate. "It was vegan: instead of the meat we used a beet and instead of the egg, an avocado pit." [HG]

Sandy Relief Fund Arts Show

Please visit the **Sandy Relief Fund Arts Show on display until June** in the Platform room, proceeds to benefit storm victims.

FROM THE UN WORLD MALARIA DAY, April 25

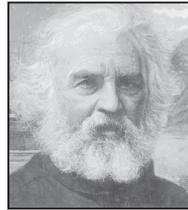
Malaria has been a human scourge for thousands of years. The United Nations as one of their current major health goals is determined to control the spread of this disease. Malaria is a disease caused by an adaptable and wily parasite that is transmitted into the bloodstream by way of mosquito bites. Mosquitoes breed in brackish water and marshy swampland. Of particular interest is the fact that malaria is largely preventable and treatable and has been eliminated from most developed countries; a good example is the elimination of malaria in the US in 1951. Yet, malaria still kills nearly a million people a year much of it in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria is a disease of the poor who live in areas where living conditions encourage the disease and where medicines are expensive and the population has little or no access to treatment or health care.

After World War I, there was an upsurge of malaria in the 1920s. As a result the League of Nations health organization investigated the new epidemic using two approaches referred to as Horizontal and Vertical. The horizontal approach emphasizes public health measures that focus on the specific environmental conditions that lead to disease in general. The League concluded that Malaria is closely

My Cathedral

from *Ultima Thule* (1880)

Like two cathedral towers these stately pines
Uplift their fretted summits tipped with cones;
The arch beneath them is not built with stones,
Not Art but Nature traced these lovely lines,
And carved this graceful arabesque of vines;
No organ but the wind here sighs and moans,
No sepulchre conceals a martyr's bones.
No marble bishop on his tomb reclines.
Enter! the pavement, carpeted with leaves,
Gives back a softened echo to thy tread!
Listen! the choir is singing; all the birds,
In leafy galleries beneath the eaves,
Are singing! listen, ere the sound be fled,
And learn there may be worship with out words.



— *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

(27 February 1807
– 24 March 1882
Portland, Maine)

linked to social, political and economic conditions and recommended public health measures such as draining of swamps, better housing, economic development, education, health care, water management and the use of quinine which was then still effective. The horizontal approach is important and has had many successes; e.g., providing decent sanitation and clean water both of which were shown to reduce infectious diseases in Europe and the US. (In 1700 the average male lived to around 30 years. By 1970 the expected life span reached 75 years. More than half of the achievement occurred before 1900.)

An additional example is the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in the US which brought tremendous improvements to this poverty-stricken region in the US between

1930 and 1950. The TVA attacked mosquito breeding sites, controlled water levels and introduced insecticide application.

Another important example is the building of the Panama Canal when the US took control in 1904 after the French departed. The US started a major sanitation program, draining and filling wetlands around the Canal Zone. Hospitals were built and good medical care was provided. To our national disgrace and shame housing was not provided for black workers, many of whom had to live in tents and tenements outside the mosquito controlled zone. As a result black workers died in far greater numbers than white workers.

The Horizontal approach of the League was not accepted by the Rockefeller Foundation which had funded much of the League of Nations health foundation. Scientists of the foundation promoted the Vertical approach which emphasizes vaccines, antibiotics and powerful insecticides like DDT. This magic bullet approach, it was argued, can fight disease without addressing the difficult and messy realities which fuel the disease in the first place. This top-down approach can sometimes be very effective with the development of vaccines for polio and smallpox. On the other hand, the Gates Foundation has poured billions of dollars into developing a malaria vaccine using a useless and dangerous microwave treatment (for details of the disgraceful politics involved please refer to the August 22, 2011, *New York Times* Health Section) The development of a vaccine must also include, at the same time, public health measures

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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We continue to collect children's books, canned and boxed foods, and toys for distribution by the Parenting Center in Maplewood.



ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · MAY 2013

MALARIA (from page 3)

for cleaning swamps, distributing insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying.

One serious problem with the use of malaria drugs has been that the parasites develop resistance just as they did with DDT, quinine and Chloroquine. A more recent effective drug is Artemisinin. The development of this drug is very interesting: Mao Zedong was alarmed that more Vietcong soldiers died from malaria along the Ho Chi Min trail than from US bombs during the Vietnam war. He assembled scientists who found, in an ancient medical text, a fourth-century cure for recurrent fevers. The remedy was a tea made from the sweet wormwood plant. The crucial ingredient turned out to be Artemisinin. The Chinese government licensed this procedure to a Swiss company, but (not surpris-



ingly), although it is very effective it is also very expensive so (as usual) poor people cannot afford it.

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) is distributing treated bed nets and Artemisinin-based combined therapy (ACT) in an effort to reduce drug resistance. An intensive rapid diagnostic test is also available at the community level to limit over-prescribing ACT in an effort to prevent drug resistance. This requires local health facilities.

What is most needed at this time is a combination of both the horizon-

tal and vertical strategies. A vaccine would be a major achievement but access to cheap safe and effective drugs is also required. No approach will be sufficiently successful without improving world-wide basic living conditions, public health measures and a robust primary health care system for people throughout the world, regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, IHEU and National Ethical Service representative to the UN and Dr. Reba Goodman, member of Ethical Culture and Department of Pathology at Columbia University, NYC, NY