



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 9

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

NOVEMBER 2017

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### **Nov. 5 Lou Kimmel, “Empowering Workers”**

Louis Kimmel will outline the mission and methods of New Labor, the worker center created to empower workers to champion their own priorities. He is co-founder and current executive director of the organization in New Jersey. It has 3 locations and over 3,000 dues paying members. His first years at New Labor were spent as a “salt” in temporary employment agencies with the purpose of identifying the needs of workers in this industry in the community of New Brunswick. Based on the information and the relationships developed with him, the organization designed its program work. The worker center started with educational programs in English as a second language and computer classes. From there it evolved to health and safety in the work place and leadership development. He later became the organization’s Director of Operations and Membership and for the last 2 years has been the director of the organization.

Kimmel has developed participatory educational curriculum that utilizes the small group activity method for a variety of workplace health and safety trainings, and has trained hundreds of workers at different worker centers to be peer-to-peer trainers.

Kimmel has successfully advanced the mission of New Labor to “Empower workers to use their voices to make changes in their communities, in their workplaces and in politics.” Currently, Kimmel is working on

collaborations with the United Steel Workers and also serves as Co-Chair of the Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) worker center steering committee as well as the IWJ Board, and serves on the executive boards of New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice and New Jersey Work Environment Council.

*If you would like to support the work of New Labor, donations can be made to the organization, or (for tax purposes) Education & Training Institute, Inc. EIN 22-3665469. If you prefer to donate online, it can be done through PayPal — <https://goo.gl/VYjXVX>*

### **Nov. 12 Anne Klaeyen, “Ethics of Contemplation”**

“During my summer sabbatical, I visited a childhood friend who is a Sister of St. Joseph in the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, NY. She co-founded and operates Cobblestone Springs, an interdenominational retreat center in the Finger Lakes area, where I gave a workshop on ‘All-American Humanism.’ That evening I spent an hour in silence with her and the other residents and visitors. At breakfast the next morning, she asked whether Humanism had a contemplative practice. While my colleagues and I have addressed humanist spirituality, I had to concede that it hasn’t yet taken the form of a practice or discipline, perhaps because we are so focused on action. Upon reflection, however, I discovered that I do practice contemplation in various ways that have an ethical impact.”

Anne Klaeyen is a Leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Humanist Chaplain at New York University, and Ethical Humanist Religious Life Advisor at Columbia University. She holds a Doctor of Ministry

degree from Hebrew Union College in pastoral care and counseling, as well as masters degrees in business from NYU and German from SUNY at Albany. Anne serves as co-Dean of the Humanist Institute and co-chair of The Encampment for Citizenship.

### **Nov. 19 Abby Cotler, “Puerto Rico”**

In response to an invitation to speak at Ethical, Abby wrote: “My mom and dad are both from Puerto Rico. My mom is from a little mountain town called Adjuntas. My father is from the coastal city of Mayagüez. They both met here in the 1940s in New York and moved back to Caguas, Puerto Rico in 1975. There are 8 children. All the children were born and raised in New York except for my youngest brother David who moved to Caguas with my parents when he was 12. I am the 7th of the 8 children.

“I have always loved to hear my mom tell me stories about the island and have kept up with its history and culture while living in the U.S. I have also done some research on my own about its politics and status with the U.S. Puerto Rico has had a sad history of colonialism first with Spain and later with the United States. A lot of what has happened recently, economically and the lack of U.S. hurricane response in Puerto Rico, has to do with Puerto Rico’s economic and political relationship with the U.S.

“I was stuck in Puerto Rico after the hurricane and was surprised with the lack of response and the minimal help we received. We were abandoned and ignored for too long and help came too little, too late.”

Abby is Marty and Barbara Cotler  
*(continued on page 2)*

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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*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

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

Editor reserves right to edit for length, clarity and content. 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. *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 editor: gilman.howard@gmail.com.  
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The Family Education program September 24th explored “How do I fit in?” in aspects of our lives: families, friends, school and work. Our theme in every event is built upon ethical culture’s perspective that all persons have inherent worth and have a place in the global family.

ler’s daughter-in-law and lives in Maplewood where she has been active in the Community Coalition on Race and many other community endeavors, from being a recipient this January of the Beloved Community Award of the South Orange Civic Organization to currently serving as a co-chair of the SOMSD Parenting Center Toy Drive. Her first-hand account, “Reflections on Hurricane María,” appeared online in *The Village Green* ([www.villagegreennj.com](http://www.villagegreennj.com)) on October 7.

## Nov. 26 Amy Blake, Family Education

In November, the Educational Initiative will begin a series of ethical education programs to explore key concepts within this year’s theme of fitting in. The program will begin with a read aloud to introduce the theme. All

students will then leave the room to explore this theme, preschoolers with Shannon while school age children will do the same type of inquiry with Amy. After children leave the Platform room, Martha will show a short video from the ethics video library on the website of the American Ethical Union. The first video will be “Finding Your Element” to open the conversation about the importance of finding one’s purpose, a key to fitting into the world in a meaningful way. Martha, Amy and Shannon will use an inquiry-based approach to elicit ideas and to develop thoughtful conversation about ethical living in connection with one’s self-understanding. The videos are appropriate for youth, 6th grade and up, and adults. They are designed to illustrate how ethical education unfolds today.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Michael and Lindsey Minor, "Helping South Orange/Maplewood youngsters become ethical leaders"	30	31 11am - Chair Yoga	1 <b>November 2017</b>	2	3	4
5 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Lou Kimmel, "Empowering Workers"	6	7 11am - Chair Yoga	8 1pm - ECSEC Board	9	10 Folk Friday, 7:30 pm	11
12 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Anne Klaeysen, "Ethics of Contemplation"	13	14 11am - Chair Yoga	15	16	17	18
19 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Abby Cotler, "Puerto Rico"	20	21 11am - Chair Yoga	22	23	24	25
26 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Amy Blake, Family Education	27	28 11am - Chair Yoga	29	30	1	2

Amy and Shannon will continue to use crafts and music along with story-telling to reinforce learning while providing children with a playful experience.

Children will return to the main meeting room for a closing song.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Folk Friday, Nov. 10, 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!

## AEU Statement Against Rescinding DACA

*September 2017* — The American Ethical Union deplores the reversal of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program. The reversal of DACA violates the fundamental ethical principle that children ought not to be held responsible for the actions of their parents. Reprehensibly, it instills fear in 800,000 young immigrants who have found protection under DACA, many of whom know no home other than the United States. Further, it undercuts the economic and personal strength they bring to America, and opposes the deeply ingrained and proud tradition of welcoming immigrants to the United States.

We strongly urge Congress to pass legislation prior to March 2018 that

will encode into law the protections and opportunities provided by DACA. We also urge that no immigrant protected by DACA be deported, and that work authorization continue to be granted and other opportunities provided until protective legislation is enacted by Congress.

We encourage all people of conscience to continue to rise up and resist this latest attack on our immigrant siblings, and applaud the demonstrations of support shown from the full spectrum of ethical and religious traditions. We will continue to resist policy decisions that fail to respect the worth of all people, and will work with all committed partners to create a society where the dignity of every human being is realized.

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street  
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For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web  
site: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org); email: [ecsec.nj@gmail.com](mailto:ecsec.nj@gmail.com)

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**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 · NOVEMBER 2017



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