



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 8

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

October 1 Audrey Winkler, “Jespy House”

Audrey Winkler, the Executive Director of Jespy House, will explain who JESPY serves; that we have been here for almost 40 years; JESPY’s presence in the community; that we are interconnected in every way from housing, to shopping and dining; our “buying power”; our success with the Work Readiness and Employment Engagement program and that so many of our clients are engaged in employment; what JESPY means to our clients; the Medicaid/DDD challenges to our clients and our sustainability.

Audrey Winkler serves as Jespy House’s Executive Director. She is the Principal of OMG! Organizational Management Group, a nonprofit consulting firm, and has more than 30 years of experience in the nonprofit sector specializing in organizational management and business operations.

Winkler is also the Director at Seton Hall University’s Nonprofit Sector Resource Institute and its Center for Community Research and Engagement, and serves as an adjunct professor in Seton Hall’s Department of Political Science and Public Administration where she teaches graduate courses in organizational and leadership management.

“Audrey’s deep experience in the nonprofit sector and real passion for helping nonprofits reach their full potential are unmatched,” said Elaine Katz, President of the JESPY House Board of Trustees. “We are confident she is the right person to lead JESPY into an even more dynamic and family-oriented future.”

Prior to starting her own company in 2002, Ms. Winkler was Vice President of Operations and Real Estate for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Director of Operations for the Liberty Science Center. She has a BS in Environmental Planning and Design from Cook College, Rutgers University and an MS in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

October 8 Dr. Mindy Fullilove, “Faith+Work”

Dr. Fullilove will describe “the Journey of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County from discouragement at a shrinking congregation, through discernment of a path forward, to an exciting new venture in urban ministry.”

The FUU congregation was facing similar challenges to those confronting our Ethical society with the struggle to attract new members. While the teachings and traditions are different, it shares our commitment to the greater good — and there is much we can learn from the ways it has found to continue to serve that vision.

Mindy Thompson Fullilove is a Professor of Urban Policy and Health at The New School. She is a board-certified psychiatrist. She has studied epidemics of poor communities, as well as ways to repair them. From her research she has published over 100 articles and as well as six books. She has received many awards for her work, including two honorary doctorates.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Poetry Workshop Fundraiser Saturday, October 7, 1 pm

Back by popular demand, distinguished poet Sylvia Kramer will lead a poetry workshop at the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County on Saturday, October 7th at 1 pm. Society member Sylvia Kramer, distinguished author, poet and lecturer, will lead us in this second workshop in what we hope will be a recurring activity here at the Society. Whether you love writing, or if you’ve never written a line and feel

you never will, come and discover your talents in a convivial, fun afternoon.

Requested donation is \$10, but everyone is welcome. Participation is limited to 20 people, so please RSVP to the office by phone (973-763-1905) or email (ecsec.nj@gmail.com).

Sylvia Kramer conducts poetry workshops at universities, nursing homes, and mental health centers in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. She also practices poetry therapy, presenting programs on many topics, but always centering on human

development and life enhancement. She led poetry workshops at Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center for 15 years and wrote “The First 75 Years,” a history of the nursing home. She presently tutors private clients.

Folk Friday, October 13, 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!

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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Office Manager: Liz Cunningham
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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October 15 Dr. Morris Silver: "Virtuous leaders; virtuous citizens"

Morris Silver will address the current crisis facing the United States by upholding examples of great leadership. His thesis is that virtuous leaders inspire virtue in the nation, and vice versa — that a virtuous citizenry demands moral clarity from its political leaders.

Among those he will portray are William Wilberforce, the British social reformer who fought for an end to slavery in British colonies; George Washington, who set the United States on the path of true democracy by refusing to take on the powers of an emperor or king and Mahatma Gandhi, who championed the cause of peaceful revolution and led India's fight for independence from Britain.

Dr. Silver is a longtime member of the Ethical Culture Society with a lifelong interest in history and politics around the world. By profession a dentist (retired), "I am an ethical culturist as a full time job. I travel a lot, I am a reader and love life."

October 22 Families for Ethical Education Initiative

Please join us for another inter-generational Educational Initiative event as we explore our place in the world this school year. We will begin all together as a multi-generational community, then the students will leave with Ms. Amy Blake to explore the week's idea through literature, art and music. (Our younger students will be supervised with crafts and movement activities while exploring.) The adults will stay and explore the topic with our first visiting guest, Sharon Goldman.

Growing up in an Orthodox Jewish community on Long Island, Sharon always struggled to fit in. Shy, yet outgoing, she wished she could lead songs and prayers in her synagogue, but girls weren't allowed according to tradition. Filled with doubts about the rigid structure of her religion and questions about her culture's history and identity, she often felt suffocated and discouraged. As a disconnected young adult, she eventually abandoned nearly all of the traditions she was raised with. But it was only decades later, as a secular singer-songwriter in an interfaith marriage, did she delve into the unaddressed issues of her youth with a deep artistic exploration. The result was "KOL ISHA

(A Woman's Voice)," an album that is by turns deeply feminist, conflicted, and yearning. The songs document her journey to find her voice as a passionate woman; a lifelong questioner and a constant seeker. Through this journey, she was able to discover a sense of reconnection to her past — on her own terms.

Youngsters and adults will come together at the end to share our explorations and enjoy a light snack. Hopefully you will be with us on the 22nd!

October 29 Michael and Lindsey Minor, "Helping South Orange/Maplewood youngsters become ethical leaders"

Michael Minor and his 12-year-old daughter Lindsey will speak about an educational program to help South Orange/Maplewood (SOMA) youngsters become ethical citizens and leaders.

South Orange/Maplewood School District students need tools necessary in counteracting the daily exposure to literally thousands of negative influences and messaging through the media and their peer engagement. Research on the subject reveals that schools that introduce character education have fewer incidences of disciplinary referrals, suspensions and truancy. Studies further reveal that character education creates a more positive learning environment, increased attendance and significantly improved academic performance.

The disturbing events of 2017 have uncovered an unprecedented need to provide our SOMA transitioning elementary, middle and high schoolers an opportunity to develop the tools, language and agency necessary as they make that transition to leaders, to citizens — to SOMA Citizens.

"SOMA Citizens" is a comprehensive 6-month program where a selected, prepared group of SOMS elementary, middle and high school students engage each other around social justice, community service, teamwork, character building, celebration of difference and positive peer pressure. The goals of the program are to create a "student to student" engagement that creates connectedness, empowerment, positive, healthy, engaged student leaders, equipped and ready for the social emotional transitions through their academic, social and life experience. (*continues next page*)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 2017 1 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Audrey Winkler, "Jespy House" 12 pm - Social Action	2	3 11 am - Chair Yoga	4	5	6	7 1 pm - Sylvia Kramer, Poetry Workshop fundraiser
8 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Dr. Mindy Fullilove, "Faith+Work"	9	10 11 am - Chair Yoga	11 1 pm - ECSEC Board	12	13 7:30 pm - Folk Friday	14
15 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Dr. Morris Silver, "Virtuous leaders; virtuous citizens"	16	17 11 am - Chair Yoga	18	19	20	21
22 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake and Sharon Goldman, Ethical Education Initiative, "How do I fit in?"	23	24 11 am - Chair Yoga	25	26	27	28
29 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Michael and Lindsey Minor, "Helping South Orange/Maplewood youngsters become ethical leaders"	30	31 11 am - Chair Yoga	1	2	3	4

Michael Minor tells us, "Our family has lived in South Orange for over 15 years, during which time we have had the privilege of raising 3 incredibly different children, Lindsey Josephine, 12, Maximilian, 9, and Marshall, 7.

"At a relatively young age, Lindsey began displaying a particular agency around justice, feminism and equality. After two unsuccessful campaigns, one for 5th grade school president, it became apparent that Lindsey's worldview would be defined by those ideals.

"She became aware in the 5th grade that some of her white colleagues appeared to have a better grasp of math than her black colleagues and decided to pull together a diverse group of girls to socialize while learning different math techniques from each other. The group was named the Determinants and the experiment was a success. Through this experience, Lindsey decided to use this core team to cre-

ate a second group, this group would advocate for issues affecting girls like bullying, social stigmatizing, preference, race and culture. RED, Ready to Empower Daughters was born. While Lindsey's social and emotional transition to middle school was uneventful, she was often concerned by the difficulties some girls experienced trying to "fit in", and was angered at how others, mainly girls but also boys treated each other. Saddened by this, one day she began a discussion about what she could do to help prepare girls for what to expect when making the transition from elementary to middle school. The final straw came when the incidents of racial hatred and bigotry began surfacing in our elementary and middle schools, she decided this was the moment to act. It was time for SOMA Citizens.

"Watching this, I was fascinated at the power of presence and commit-

ment to purpose one individual could possess at such a young age and experience level. It forced me to rethink and redirect my purpose toward embracing more directly the ambitions and passions of my children.

"My role: as father, community leader and volunteer for various town initiatives to include: Chair, SMS Unity Committee; President, SOMA Dems; Founding member, PARES; SO Community Relations Committee; SO District Leader; SO Democratic Committee; Board member, MSO Wrestling; Foundation Board, Essex County College; and Essex County Lead, Victory 2017 Gubernatorial Campaign.

"My role has been to pull together the community, administration, school and professional assets to move Lindsey's idea closer to a reality. In her words, 'Dad, you can help me but you can't join, you're not a girl.'"

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 · OCTOBER 2017

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