



# ETHICAL CULTURE

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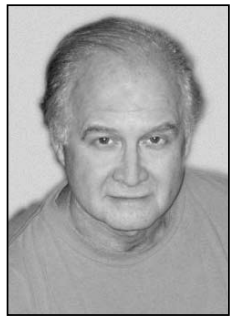
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OCTOBER 2010

## OCTOBER CALENDAR OF PLATFORMS & EVENTS

**Oct. 3 • William Lannigan, “Ethical Perspectives in Addiction Recovery and Treatment”**

Bill Lannigan, an alcohol and substance abuse counselor, will discuss addiction and the struggle to achieve that illusive form of peace resolving the war with oneself. He will explore various definitions of addiction, and then



look into the “first-person perspective” used by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, and professional perspectives on treatment, as well as faith and the addict, and “Redemption Tales.”

Bill Lannigan has an MA in Social Work and is a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor. He worked professionally in human service organizations from 1968 and since 1982 has been in the field of addiction treatment. He served as a counselor, unit supervisor and as Assistant Director of Alcoholism and Addiction Services for St. Vincent Medical Center of Richmond on Staten Island from 1982 to 2001 and maintained a small private practice. From 2001 until 2009 he was the Assistant Director of the New York State-operated Manhattan Addiction Treatment Center, and currently holds that position in the Kingsboro Addiction Treatment Center in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. He has resided in South Orange and Maplewood since 1991, and has been

a student of poetry under the tutelage of Michael Lally for several years. He is the proud father of Katie and Colm.

**Oct. 10 • Hilding Gus Lindquist, “Social Activism as a Creative Activity: My engagement with Valley Settlement House.”** Marcina “Jackie” Fox, Executive Director at VHS, will also participate in the platform and the following discussion.

For the past four years, Gus has been a volunteer coordinator of a summer science program at the Settlement



House in West Orange under the leadership of Dr. Knut Stamnes, Anja Moen’s husband, Physics professor and Director of the Light and Life Laboratory and Department of Physics and Engineering Physics at Stevens Institute of Technology, involving college students, faculty and postgraduates. The Settlement House programs in various places have provided educational and cultural development for generations of people, including a number of ECS members, and those who run them continue to seek volunteers to work on those programs.

From the Settlement House website ([www.valleysettlementhouse.org](http://www.valleysettlementhouse.org)): The Valley Settlement House is a non-profit social service agency serving West Orange, Orange, South Orange, and East Orange. Our service population has also extended into the neighboring cities of Newark, Maplewood and

Irvington, New Jersey. It is the oldest “Settlement” in New Jersey and the third oldest in the United States. Programs are housed in five picturesque buildings surrounded by three large play areas. Facilities include a gym and auditorium with a stage. Valley Settlement House is concerned with the family and each of its members. It aims to afford opportunities for each to find and develop his/her potentialities for a positive life in the home, neighborhood and community.

Gus, a longtime friend of ECS, worked most recently as a research data administrator for the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program of the Department of Energy, and before that for over twenty years developing administrative computer programs for the banking industry’s graduate-level program at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has also devoted many years to social activism. Since retiring a few years back, he has turned to creating cultural programs dealing with art, music, drama and poetry.

**Oct. 17 • Nancy Gagnier, “Integration and Strong Schools: Facing the Achievement Gap”**

Nancy Gagnier, Executive Director of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, says we are fortunate in Maplewood and South Orange to have a level of integration in our neighborhoods not seen in most communities in the nation. A positive outcome of that integration is



# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



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Howard Gilman, *editor/graphics*

#### Editor's note

The newsletter invites you to submit articles, announcements, commentary, etc. for publication. ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EIGHTH OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S EDITION. Items should be no more than 150 words, preferably submitted via email to the editor (gilman.howard@gmail.com). Items can also be delivered to: Editor, Ethical Society Newsletter, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040. Please call the office, 973-763-1905, and leave word 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.

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of Essex County,  
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as to elicit  
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that our elementary schools are diverse and classrooms are integrated. There is a growing body of evidence that shows that children who attend racially integrated schools are better equipped to succeed in college and the workplace than their peers who attend racially skewed schools. This is true for whites as well as students of color.

Yet, we find that our students of color are disproportionately represented in lower academic levels in the middle and high schools and that our students of color remain vulnerable to the minority academic achievement gap. One of the Coalition's goals is to build solutions to academic racial disparities to achieve success for all. This is why we try to keep the conversation going when it comes to finding ways to help all children excel and keep our schools strong.

Nancy Gagnier has been the Executive Director of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race since August, 2008. She brings non-profit development, conference planning, public relations and teaching experience to her role. Ms. Gagnier is a long-time resident of the two towns and has served on many volunteer boards and strategic planning initiatives. In 2001, she was elected to the South Orange/Maplewood School Board where she focused on policy development. She has three children currently attending schools in the district and has an on-going interest in public education.

**Oct. 24 • Martha Gallahue, "Is the UN Today a Way to Peace?"**



On the 65th birthday of the UN, we will explore how the UN continues to make a positive impact upon the perilous human journey to peace, both in the global and local community.

Martha Gallahue is an Ethical Culture leader who has worked at the United Nations as the main representative for the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union and for the global United Religions' Initiative. She has given platform talks at fifteen ethical culture societ-

ies throughout the country. She now resides in New Jersey with her spouse Elizabeth Alexander.

*Details to come on plans to conduct training sessions and informal philosophical discussions.*

**Oct. 30 • ECS and guests: "Scary Stories Sunday"**

Members and guests of all ages are invited to share their Halloween horror stories — true, or as fantastical as you wish. We'll delve out the dark, delicious memories of Halloweens you might have wanted to forget, and poke into what makes this the one date on the American calendar when we (or some of us) find the creepy, the ghoulish, and the downright disgusting so much fun!

To keep things Ethical, participants are invited to bring donations of candy or other sealed treats, which will be donated, along with our food contributions, to the Food Bank, or to needy local families. ■

### Ethics on the Air

Ethics on the Air is on the fourth Friday of most months from 11 to 11:55 a.m. on WBAI-99.5 FM. Hosts: Andra Miller, Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross and Dr. Terry Perlin. The show explores the ethical dimension of all our encounters. As family members and neighbors, as consumers and citizens, as stewards of the environment, we must make ethical choices. We discuss those choices in our conversations with experts-authors, professors, and activists. We hope to make the moral aspect of our lives explicit, so that we can pay it heed as we go about our affairs.  
— *New York Society for Ethical Culture.*

### Folk Fridays at Ethical

**Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.** Sing along with friends



Lucky, Dusty, Rusty & Tio Pepe at the Ethical Culture Society. Folk Fridays are the second Friday of the month when we meet and sing and play music. It is a fun time and

we also invite anybody who likes to do crafts to join us. We have planned to make a com-

munity quilt this year. If you want to sing or just listen or help with the quilt: Welcome! We meet at 7:30 p.m. *lnovemsky@comcast.net, 973-763-1905*

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**Memorial for Doris Rados on Saturday, October 16, 2–4 p.m.**

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**Third Saturday Arts Night**

Every third Saturday of the month, we have different artists tell about their work in a small salon setting with conversations that everybody is engaged in. It is an exciting way to meet an artist in a very personal way.

**Oct. 16 Sat. 7 p.m., Mira Stillman** discusses the memoir she has written covering her early years. Her working title is *Notes in a Lost Key*. She is readying the manuscript for publishing. — *Anja Moen*

**Oct. 23 Sat. The Meeting House Building Centennial** celebration of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. Keep your calendar open. Details to come. — *A. M.*

**We Are Collecting Food for the Needy!** Please bring your nonperishables to the box in the lobby of the Society building 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Popular items include: canned tuna, chili, vegetables, fruits, hearty soups with protein. Mira Stillman has arranged for a volunteer to pick up the food from our food box to be distributed to needy families in our immediate area.

**Please Bring Books for Children to the Society!** We are also collecting new and gently used books to be distributed to needy local families through the Parenting Center. Picture books are especially requested, but all books appropriate for children kindergarten through fifth grade welcomed. Leave them in the small room off the parlor.

We are seeking donation of a copy machine for the office.

— *Sue Willis / Social Action Comm.*

## FROM THE UN

### **UN Peacekeeping and Peace Building**

The United Nations was founded in 1945, after the horrors of World War II. One of the all important primary purposes of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security. Over the years the UN has helped end numerous conflicts, many in politically explosive situations, often through action of the UN security Council, the main body dealing with peace and security.

When diplomacy fails and conflict breaks out, the UN mediates. If a peace agreement or a ceasefire is arranged, the UN often organizes a peacekeeping force to monitor the agreement.

The UN is not a world government, does not have its own military force and depends on contributions from member states. The UN's Security Council creates and defines the details and clear rules of engagement of the peacekeeping mission. Peacekeeping troops, known as blue helmets, participate under terms carefully negotiated by their governments and remain under overall authority of these governments while serving under UN operational command.

The authority to deploy peacekeepers remains with the Security Council and the governments that volunteer them, as does responsibility for pay, discipline and personnel matters.

Because of the Cold War, in the first 40 years of the UN's history only 13 peacekeeping missions were organized. During the 1990's, after the end of the Cold War, the focus was more on internal civil wars rather than on interstate conflicts.

There has been a rapid increase in the demand for peacekeeping missions as well as a greater willingness to use them. For example, since 1995, 28 new peacekeeping missions were established. Since 1945 when the UN was founded there have been 63 opera-

tions, some still active. They do everything from patrolling areas of recent violence, clearing landmines, delivering aid, helping refugees and supporting free and fair elections. In 1988, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the UN Peacekeeper forces.

There have been successes and of course failures.

Many countries are today peaceful and stable because of peacekeeping efforts, including Namibia, El Salvador, Cambodia, Mozambique and many others. Notorious failures are the slaughter in Rwanda and Bosnia. These tragic failures have occurred mostly when the Security Council, which mandates these operations, cannot agree and the operations are underfunded or limited as in Rwanda and in Darfur.

### **Why Peacekeeping? The answer is that chaos is a travelling epidemic for crime, disease and general instability crossing borders.**

Currently there are more than 124,000 peacekeepers from 115 countries serving 15 missions around the world.

The UN is often effective as shown by a Rand Corporation study, a not particularly liberal think tank. They studied eight UN-led missions and found that seven brought sustained peace.

Peacekeeping is increasingly dangerous. The International Day of Peacekeepers is annually observed on May 29. This year's wreath-laying ceremony remembered the heavy loss of life of peacekeepers in the tragic earthquake in Haiti and attacks in Darfur and in Kabul, Afghanistan. In the course of 2009 and in the first few months of 2010, 218 peacekeepers lost their lives. Since 1948 the number of fatalities in peace operations was 2700.

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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## ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2010

**UN**, *continued from page 3*

### Some Observations and Comments

- There is increasing interest in the creation of a standing UN force that can respond quickly to an unfolding crisis. Currently, the time lag between deciding to send troops and deploying troops can take months, involving negotiations among UN member states, getting equipment and soldiers. Kofi Annan, the previous Secretary General, compared it to that of a fire chief who is forced to raise money, find volunteers and a fire truck for each new fire. Some member states, however, are suspicious that it may erode their sovereignty.
- In 2000, the UN Security Council passed a resolution promoting the use of women in peacekeeping operations. Since then there are an increasing number of women and they are often

more effective in working with local populations.

- The UN has a volunteer program (UNV). In 2009 more than 2500 people participated in peacekeeping missions.
- Why is the world interested in Peacekeeping? The answer is that chaos is a travelling epidemic for crime, disease and general instability crossing borders. Recent examples are Darfur and the Congo where the struggle between the Hutus and the Tutsis in Rwanda has spread, with disastrous results, to the Congo.
- Recently there have been allegations of abuse and sexual scandals among peacekeepers in the Congo and elsewhere. The UN is very concerned and is implementing serious zero-tolerance procedures to cope with this terrible situation.
- Sometimes, after a period of time,

a peace agreement or ceasefire agreement can fall apart. Then, there is no peace for the peacekeepers to monitor. To address this situation, the UN has established a Peace Building Commission to devise strategies for strengthening programs supporting the sometimes difficult transition from war to peace.

The world is a smaller place and more people are aware of conflicts and atrocities in previously unknown corners of the world and, increasingly, are less willing to accept them. This rise in consciousness is exciting and is to be nourished. The UN is the main institution that is ready and can mobilize the essential cooperation needed. ■

*Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, representative to the UN of the International Humanist and Ethical Union and the National Ethical Service of the American Ethical Union, and Temma Ehrenfeld, freelance writer based in New York City.*