



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 1

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Sept. 13 Nkosi Anderson, "Ethical Dimensions of Christianity"

Nkosi Anderson, a PhD student in Christian Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, is our opening speaker for the 2015-2016 season, and the first speaker in our new series, "What Ethical Culture Can Learn from Other Religions, Philosophies and Traditions." He will be discussing what Christianity means to him and how its principles inspire his commitment to social justice and service to the community.



Nkosi Anderson's family has deep multigenerational roots in South Orange and Maplewood. He is the son of Drs. Herman and Adunni Anderson and brother to Anwar Anderson. A product of First Baptist Church of South Orange, Nkosi graduated from Columbia High School in 1997. He has worked in public education, government and academia, and with religious, nonprofit and community groups. Nkosi remains committed to a number of movements for social justice and is active in a variety of organizations including South Mountain Peace Action, YouthNet, The Poverty Initiative/Kairos Center, Mother's Kitchen and The Roots Project, Inc.

Nkosi holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in African-American Studies, both from Columbia University. He also received his MDiv from Union Theological Seminary, NY.

Sept. 20 Margaret Mikkelsen, "Giving wings to artists with disabilities"

Arts administrator Margaret Mikkelsen, the director of Arts Unbound, will discuss how careers in the arts can help break the link between disability and poverty. She will describe ways in which the organization supports the vocational aspirations of artists with disabilities through classes and individual counseling, enabling talented creators to overcome the barriers they might have faced dealing with the art market.



Margaret Mikkelsen brings over 17 years of non-profit experience to her work with Arts Unbound. She has a special interest in organizational effectiveness, financial sustainability, evaluation and program design. Margaret's previous work addressed social justice and human service issues including reproductive justice, sexual violence and maternity care. She holds a master's degree in public policy and administration from the University of York, a master's degree in political science from The John Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree from Amherst College. Margaret lives with her family in Montclair.

The Essex Ethical Culture Society Board voted unanimously on July 8 to hire Amy Blake, award-winning teacher at Hartshorn School, to be the Ethical Education Director. Come meet her on Sunday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m., for our first Ethical Education program.

Sept. 27 Amy Blake, "How We Live Our Lives"

Amy Blake, Ethical Education Director of ESCES, will present the opening program for our Ethical Education Initiative. Through song and sharing of her experiences teaching philosophy to young children, we will work together to hear your hopes for our initiative. This is a program with an opportunity to grow. Your voices are wanted, valued and needed. The program is designed for all ages and we especially invite those families who are eager to provide a dignity-based learning experience for their children. Amy Blake has used her love of music and songwriting at the Hartshorn School in Millburn, NJ as a method to deliver the curriculum for many years. She will be bringing a musician friend to better help you understand some of the work she does. Amy has just completed The Amistad Workshop run by the state of New Jersey and will be writing curriculum infusing the history of African Americans into our state social studies teaching. Reggie Harris (<http://www.kimandreggie.com/>), artist, educator and storyteller himself, described Amy as "literate, articulate and open to new ideas in ways that show an indefatigable thirst for knowledge, respect for skills and opinions of others and for the diversity that is present in this world. She is a tireless advocate for ethics and experiential learning." Her young students also recommend her. Reese wrote, "Ms. Blake is creative and kind...we always have learning parties." And Raymond wrote, "She



Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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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 mailed to Howard Gilman, 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

is funny...but at the same time making sure we're doing the correct thing."

Celebration of Gus Lindquist's Life

In past summers, we've met during the break for festive get-togethers — at Boe's, by the lake, or at Martha's, or in the ECS back garden for a barbecue. We came together this time, on Saturday, July 25, for a sadder reason — the passing of member and friend Gus Lindquist, but it was still a festive event. He made sure of that.

Gus died in St. Barnabas on June 18. He was suffering from renal failure, but the tim-



ing was of his own choosing. He had had enough, and chose to end dialysis.

We had asked his permission to celebrate his life at Ethical. He leapt at the idea and, propped up in his hospital bed, planned the whole program. The result was a joyful celebration of the causes he championed, with more than 60 people packed into the ECS meeting room, including his brother Walt who came in from Minnesota, members of the Moen Stamnes family, with whom he worked and lived for many years, and from Ethical, Rutgers and Valley Settlement House.

Social Action, Summer 2015

The Social Action Committee finally received more letters from our immigration detainee pen pals and wrote back to them. If you are interested in writing to immigration detainees, please let Committee Chair Sue Willis know.

We also made a delivery of art supplies to the Valley Settlement House in Orange, NJ for their summer children's programs. Each fall we collect coats for the Settlement House, and then art supplies in the spring. We further helped arrange a delivery of non-perishable food (thank you Marshall!) to the distribution center at Our Lady of Sorrows

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church. Finally, we presented our first ever Local Hero Award to Maplewood Middle School language arts teacher Susan Barry, who quietly but with great success organized a Model UN at her school that is accessible to all types of students.

Please join us at our first meeting of the coming year on Sunday, October 4, 2015 and on subsequent first Sundays, after the morning program.

"I Came to Accept an Award but Stayed to Learn Much..."

by E. Betty Levin

The 100th AEU Assembly in June 2015 was superb. Below, I share and summarize some of the highlights, perhaps useful to our Essex society:

1. "The Gifting Circle" was the most outstanding workshop. Fifteen attendees gathered and expressed what gifts we would want. Mine, "help with my computer", received an immediate response from a member of the Triangle Society in North Carolina. In our connection since, his program "takes over" my computer in a very helpful way. My 2nd wish, a blind date with a man, has not yet received a response. I believe this Circle has promise, already in use in the Bergen Society, an unusual and practical way for our members to connect. What do you think?

2. Another workshop, "Aging Ethical Culturists," was less successful. I believe we could all profit from guidelines how to relate to one another more sensitively as the aging process depletes some of our usual capabilities. In discussion with Leader Anne Klaeyesen, we plan to discuss it further along with the New York Society member who originated the idea.

3. An almost daily event of note: Colloquy, fundamentally a humanist spiritual practice, in which participants respond to a "reading" with reflections, comments and insights. It became a tool for building community as we learned more about our fellow Ethical Culturists sharing their lives. I left every one of these experiences energized and enriched.

4. FES, Future of Ethical Societies, brought a number of new generation Ethical Culturists to the Assembly. Among them was a young lady from the Garden City (L.I.) Society, who grew up there with my granddaughter, Stephanie (a 4th generation Ethical Culturist). Tara presently volunteers with teenagers at the Society and has expressed interest in sponsoring our "Imagine Peace" workshop there.

5. Our EC Songbook is complete and published! A two-year effort by Bart Worden, Hugh Morales-Taft and committee. We shall all raise our voices together in joy.

6. Kate LaClair has assumed an impressive role in the Movement. Interacting with her reminded me of "In God We Teach," the film documenting the courageous path her brother Matthew took, challenging the Kearny School System regarding their teaching religion in the classroom. This film would represent a superb contribution to our ongoing film series.

7. James Croft, leader in training at the St. Louis Ethical Culture Society, presented vivid photos of the Society members responding to the tragic killing in Ferguson, Missouri. I was captivated by their unity of conscience.

8. The optimism — expressed by the energy, conviction and fellowship at the Assembly — clearly marked a path of growth, asserts the sound leadership of our executive director, Bart Worden. His plan supporting that development, termed "100x100," is bold — to grow, to engage, to influence. "We want a Google map identifying areas in the country that can develop Societies for Ethical Culture," he exclaims. It involves a fund-raising plan for training able staff, especially through the Lay Leadership Summer School to develop these areas of growth. The AEU has educated almost 200 men and women for this purpose — in Ethical Culture history, Humanist philosophy and in important organizational skills.

The 100x100 program seeks one hundred supporters from the Move-

ment who will contribute \$100 each month for the next three years — \$1,200 per year for three years. This will make things happen: full-time salary for our executive director for three years, scholarships for ten students to the Lay Leadership Summer School, support for new initiatives by the Ethical Education Committee and a part-time leader trained for outreach and membership growth.

I can share other notable events. Just ask and I'll connect and respond.



In accepting my Anna Spencer Garlin Award, I offered these comments: "To have discovered the spiritual resources of the Ethical Culture Movement is a gift beyond measure. I seek to repay its wisdom granted me. Even if I'm not always successful, as a humanist, the attempt gives me great satisfaction."

Photo Exhibit, Sept. 13 – Dec. 31



Goldman, "Australia"



Rudolph, "Dancing Heron"

Reflections and Mirrors

Dr. Marc Goldman, of Livingston, started his life-long love of photographing at an early age. His first camera was a Brownie Kodak Instamatic, progressing into SLR cameras with multiple lenses and slides, and now he is in to the modern age of digital photography. At first he was reluctant to stop using film, but made the change to digital after being inspired by a photographer working for *National Geographic*. He says digital has given him great satisfaction, just snapping away and then selecting the best pictures to print, enlarge and frame.

Dr. Goldman's landscapes are espe-

cially inspired by the wonders of nature found in the National Parks out west.

Imbued with Magic

by Janet Rudolph

My photography is an outgrowth and extension of the spirit work I practice in daily life. It ties in with my passion for examining ancient wisdom teachings, especially the Bible. The following passage is from Job 12:7-10 (*First two lines from the King James Bible, the next two lines are my translation*): "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee . . . Who cannot appreciate divine mother/father's vitality throughout all creation? Spirit, as wholeness, creates a joyous feast for all."

When I photograph natural environments, I listen carefully and purposely to the beasts, the birds and the earth. And each one in their own manner does teach me. The path of a life of spirit travels through the mysteries of nature because nature is the "stuff" of we human beings. When I work in photography I seek to examine, enjoy, and grow closer to Mother Nature's essences because they are always imbued with magic. The images I have chosen for this show are ones which I feel particularly exhibit the "spirit of nature" in its beautiful, unique and varied facets.

As it says in Psalm 111:10 (*my translation*): "Awe of mother/father creator is the beginning of wisdom."

The purpose of this show is to exhibit images which stimulate the viewer to stop and look at the natural world with new eyes and in a manner to provoke AWE of all creation!

Mark your calendars:

Sat., Sept. 19, 7-9 p.m. Artists' Exhibit Reception at Ethical for Dr. Marc Goldman and Janet Rudolph. All are welcome.

Flash — **Sunday, Oct. 11, 4 p.m.,** Fundraiser "Peasant" Dinner honoring Betty Levin's stepmother.

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; email: ecsec.nj@gmail.com

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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ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9am Tai Chi Chuan	7	8 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	9 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30 pm - 9 pm	10	11	12
	Labor Day					
13 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Nkosi Anderson, "Ethical Dimensions of Christianity"	14	15 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	16	17	18	19 Dr. Marc Goldman and Janet Rudolph Artists' Reception 7-9 p.m.
20 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Margaret Mikkelsen, "Giving wings to artists with disabilities"	21	22 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	23	24	25	26
27 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Amy Blake, "How We Live Our Lives"	28	29 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	30			
						September 2015