



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Jan 6 Susan Williams, "Our Climate Resolutions"

Hotter summers and colder winters; more storms the size of Sandy; fires in southern California. We know our climate is in trouble, but it's all so overwhelming. What can we do as individuals? Can we make any difference at all? Is it even worth the effort? Susan Williams, a concerned citizen and beginner activist, wants to share what she learned at last year's Climate Reality Leaders training in Los Angeles with former Vice President Al Gore and have a conversation about how small changes in our lives and a small commitment to advocacy can truly make a big impact in the New Year on the future of our planet.

Susan Williams, a 20+-year resident of Maplewood, is a member of the Climate Reality Central NJ chapter. She is a middle school English teacher currently on hiatus to start her Master's in Creative Writing. Among her community volunteer efforts, she co-founded Maplewood Community Music and runs Maplewood Porch-fest.



CHS Improv

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By way of a thank you, a group of the students, led by senior Luke Dillon, will give us a taste of what they do. We'll get a chance to provide the prompts and see what these brave young minds come up with.

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Barbara Tracer, LCSW, will tell the myth of Persephone and her abduction by Hades, god of the underworld. Often told as explanation for the changing seasons, Barbara will go deeper to look at this story of loss and return as a reflection of psychological change. Using story telling, personal experience and imagery, we'll connect the archetypal world of mythology with personal dreams and the possibility of transformation.



Barbara is a recent transplant from San Diego, CA, where she raised her family and worked as a psychotherapist in private practice. She trained at the C.G. Jung Institute of Los Angeles and has presented lectures and workshops on dreams, the archetype of the divine child, and images from weaving and sand tray work with children. She currently consults with the US Navy and Marine Corps Reserves on issues of psychological health and reintegration after deployment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Folk Friday at Ethical — Sing-Along & Jam

Jan 11, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring refreshments to share. Second Fridays of the month through June. Everyone invited! — inovemsky@comcast.net / (973) 763-8293 (973) 763-1905 / essexethical.org



Susan Williams (seated, second from right) at Climate Reality Central NJ meeting

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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EC Monthly Programs Editor
Elaine Durbach
Graphics: Howard Gilman
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!

Newsletter

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, preferably via email: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

Editor may edit for length, clarity and content. *Members submitting time-sensitive items for publication in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call Elaine Durbach or Howard Gilman.*

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee continues to solicit names for our **Local Hero award 2019**, a program celebrating Local Heroes who have enriched the lives of our community and region. We believe that many people in our communities are doing important work in social service and social action, work that is sometimes taken for granted and under-appreciated.

Please email Msuewillis@aol.com

Winter Coat Collection continues through February 2019, bring clean coats and jackets for adults and children, excellent condition only; a collection box is in the small sunroom off the parlor.

The committee collected \$35 to purchase stamps for the First Friends **"Stamp Out Despair Campaign!"** to provide immigrant detainees with supplies for letter writing. We are also working on a second draft of a general letter on immigration policies. We will try to have this ready for editing and next steps at the next meeting on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

ETHICAL CULTURE BOOKS

Third in a series of AEU recommendations. For additional recommendations and ordering information, go to: <https://aeu.org/resources/books/>

The First Book of Ethics

by Algernon D. Black

Ethics, the study of how people treat other, is a hunt for truth as every person becomes a judge of right and wrong. It is also the way to become a free person, since it helps one know what the choices are in life. "The First Book of Ethics" is about how people have tried to find the answers, and how each person may find them.

Life and Destiny

by Felix Adler

First published in 1903, "Life and Destiny" contains quotations from Adler's lectures for the New York Society for Ethical Culture in its early years. It covers such things as the meaning of life, religion, immortality, moral ideas, the ethical outlook, and related topics.

The Reconstruction of the Spiritual Ideal

by Felix Adler

Considered by many to be one of the major influences on modern Humanistic Judaism, Felix Adler (1851-1933) was a professor of political and social ethics and a social reformer who founded the Ethical Culture Movement. Adler was also a popular, dynamic speaker and lecturer. "The Reconstruction of the Spiritual Ideal" is a compilation of lectures he gave at Manchester College at Oxford in 1923. Topics include the spiritual ideal, marriage, social reconstruction, the society of mankind and the attitude toward life.

The Religion of Duty

by Felix Adler

"The Religion of Duty" documents some of the best thoughts he presented over the years. Topics include the first step towards a religion, changes in the conception of God, teaching of Jesus in the modern world, standards of conduct based on the religion of duty, the ethical attitude toward pleasure and suffering, and the essential difference between ethical societies and the churches.

Without Burnt Offerings: Ceremonies of Humanism

by Algernon D. Black

"A ceremony cannot make the sun rise or stop an earthquake, even if people believe it will. It cannot cause some power outside of man to intervene in the laws of nature on behalf of an individual or group or nation, a particular race or religious set. It cannot assure favor to those who are more honest or just or loving than most. Nor can it save the human species if human beings persist in working destruction and death against each other and against life itself. "A ceremony can bring people together. It can bring them together at an important time to share responsibility and make common commitment. It can celebrate the joyous and challenging situations of life. It can commemorate and keep alive the memory and influence of persons and achievements. The ceremonies of Humanism can meet needs that lie at the heart of human experience. They can enrich and bring meaning to the spiritual lives of mankind. They can help human beings con-

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Annual Year-End Colloquy: What a Year This Was!	31	1 11 am - Chair Yoga JANUARY 2019	2	3	4	5
6 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Susan Williams, "Our Climate Resolutions" 12 pm - Social Action	7	8 11 am - Chair Yoga	9 1 pm - ECSEC Board 7:30 pm - Grannie	10	11 7:30 pm - Folk Friday	12
13 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - The CHS Improv group — "Improv Live!"	14	15 11 am - Chair Yoga	16	17	18	19
20 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - MLK Birthday Colloquy	21	22 11 am - Chair Yoga	23	24	25	26
27 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Barbara Tracer, "Lost and Found — How a Myth Mirrors Consciousness"	28	29 11 am - Chair Yoga	30	31	1	2

tinue the search for a faith to live by; a faith consistent with the best in human thought and feeling, a faith which will help the individual fulfill his potentialities for a creative life. They can help humankind find ways of meeting the challenges of nature and the most difficult problems of the world of human relationships." – *Algernon D. Black*

Felix Speaks: Adler's Ethical Culture

by *Marv Friedlander*

Every person possesses an intrinsic worth that needs nurturing. Felix Adler's emphasis on ethics, or the development of "right relationships," moved a whole generation of humanists who sought to live out such a philosophy. Now, those involved in ethical or humanist societies, as well as those who simply have an interest in learning more about humanism as a whole, can

study Adler's ideas in a language that is more accessible than ever. Beginning with a brief biography of the man behind the movement, Friedlander then introduces a series of short articles and essays based on the essential ideas of Adler's philosophy. Imagined conversations between Adler and his wife, or Adler and a fellow member of the Ethical Society, enliven the philosophic ideas in a way that make them easier to comprehend—and provide an ideal launching pad from which to generate conversation among those who seek to make a difference.

Spelling God with Two O's: Inspirational Notes

by *Arthur Dobrin*

Together we seek the highest, attempting to create again and again the holy ground that is always new and right here below our feet, from Commu-

nity. Our knowledge will always be partial and we can never be sure of the outcome. Yet there is no choice but to act, doing the best that we can within the limits that we have, from Conduct. When we value the worthy things, we become precious ourselves, from Appreciation. As surely as a fish must swim in water, we must live with other human beings. And just as a fish will suffer in polluted waters, our spirit will die in a land that is brutish and cruel, from Doing. When we acknowledge the blessings we already have, we are free to receive the blessings that are waiting to be born, from Blessings. To participate in the pleasures and sorrows of someone we love is to know one of life's great satisfactions. To feel the misfortunes of those we don't know personally is the basis of social justice, from Empathy...A timeless collection of inspiring words!

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.

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ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · JANUARY 2018



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