

The Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

Minutes of Board Meeting 1/13/21

Present: Tom Cunningham, Elaine Durbach, Zia Durrani, Jill Farrer, Peggy Toy, Terri Suess, Jeanine Rosh

The meeting was called to order by Tom Cunningham, President, at 11:10AM. A quorum was present.

Agenda

- Tribute to Rosalie Sussman
- Pledge update
- Update on Ethical Education Family Program
- Board opportunities with Bart Worden
- Upcoming Platforms
- Outreach to members
- Upcoming Events emails

Tribute to Rosalie Sussman

On Sunday, January 17th at 6pm, a family and community tribute will be held via zoom for Rosalie Sussman, long time ECSEC member who died in December. Tom and Jeanine will speak about Rosalie as a member of Ethical Culture. An announcement and zoom link will be sent out to members. Sue Willis will post a notice of the event and Rosalie's obituary on the ECS website.

Pledge Update

Jeanine reported that pledges were received from 23 out of 42 members for a total of \$6300. All but about \$500 had been received. Jeanine anticipates \$2200 more in pledge money will be coming in for a total of about \$8500, which is near the budget amount.

Update on Ethical Education Family Program

Tom reported on the family program. Aidan continues to work on organizing events for the families in the program during this time. The group recently held a baking activity followed by an online family gathering. Families chose their own items to bake and then "joined" together virtually to socialize and to share their results and recipes. They are planning future events that will include watching short ecological videos followed by group discussions.

A suggestion was made to send an email to families in the Ethical Ed program to stay connected with them during the pandemic while we are unable to meet in the building and

physically get together. Tom will send a message. Terri will send a link to the “Yes We Can” video and suggested we could also send links for activities for the children.

Board Opportunities with Bart Worden

Tom will be meeting with Bart to discuss/schedule workshops for the ECS board. Jeanine will send a list of Lay Leadership Training Modules that have been developed or are in the process of being developed by AEU to members to decide which would be of interest to them. Jone Johnson Lewis has also been involved in creating these materials and might be available for training.

Upcoming Platforms

--Jill will contact local artist/quilter Bisa Butler and Mary Sue Sweeney Price about doing platforms.

--On Saturday, January 16th at 3pm, Terri Suess will hold a special discussion event on MLK’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” An announcement, link to the reading and zoom link will be sent out.

-- On Sunday, January 17th at 6 pm there will be a memorial tribute to long time ECS member, Rosalie Sussman. Invitation and zoom links will go out to members.

--On January 31st at 11am there will be a jointly sponsored AEU event. Provisional speaker is U.S. House Rep Jamie Raskin. Information will be sent out.

--On February 14th at 11 am Tom will present a platform. Topic to be announced.

--Esther and Zia will continue with Part 2 of their discussion on “Why is the Quality of Life Failing in the United States?” Date to be determined.

Outreach to Members

Members discussed ways to reach out to members unable to participate in ECS events due to technological challenges. An announcement will be sent out to those who may need technical support. Members can send an email and they will be connected with someone who can help them connect. Some members will be reached by phone.

Upcoming Events Emails

Upcoming events will be sent to Liz to be included in a weekly What’s Happening at Ethical Culture Society? email.

