



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 4

www.essexethical.org

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

April 5 Virginia Cornue, "Ethics of Publishing Civil War Confederate Letters"

Dr. Cornue tells us "My students at Bloomfield College are largely African American. One class is Contemporary Social Inequality, which I argue is a lingering result of enslavement, the Civil War and post-war politics.



In 2004, while readying my family home in North Carolina, I discovered a cache of Confederate Civil War letters under my mother's bed!

In light of my students socioeconomic struggles with poverty and racism, I was faced with a dilemma: to publish or not to publish?

I'll raise some of the ethics surrounding my decision and the factors informing my ultimate decision."

Virginia Cornue is an author, award winning women's rights activist, cultural anthropologist, and part time anthropology and sociology professor at Bloomfield College.

Virginia earned her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Rutgers University (2001). Her book manuscript, based on her dissertation, is entitled *Sex, Tenderness and Discrimination: Chinese Women in the Great Global Market Revolution*. She holds a B.F.A. in Dramatic Arts from the Universi-

ty of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and did masters work at the NYC New School for Social Research. Virginia co-founded and/or directed a number of non-profit and women's rights organizations: The National Organization for Women-NYC Chapter; The Service Fund of NOW; the Women's Funding Coalition-NYC; and Newark Emergency Services for Families. She was the recipient of the 1998 Susan B. Anthony Award for Service and Advocacy for Women; the 1989 Newark (NJ) Humanitarian Service Award; and the 1996 award for Distinguished Leadership by Newark Emergency Services for Families. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey. Her daughter, Mei Ming teaches in Boston and is studying for her Masters in Special Ed.

She is the author of *The Dragon's Daughters Return* (2007), which chronicled the experiences of middle-school age daughters and their adoptive families returning to visit China; and *Draw on Culture: China* (2009), an educational activity book. She is the co-editor of *So Much Blood: The Civil War Letters of CSA Private William W. Beard, 1861-1865* (2015), and is researching another Civil War era non-fiction book, *A Secret Up-country*.

Born in Chillicothe, MO in 1945, Virginia grew up in North Carolina where she roamed the mountains and countryside reveling in the profusion of wildflowers.

April 12 Jamar Stewart, "Professional Wrestling: Art of Long Term Storytelling"

Jamar Stewart has been creating characters for a pro wrestling orga-

nization, and performing with a persona he wrote for himself.

This form of fighting employs a stylized form of combat based on cultural prototypes of good and evil. Engaging the audience takes creativity almost as elaborate as conventional theater.

Jamar developed his love of storytelling doing fan fiction. He is busy



with a multi-part script for an animated series, when not wrestling.

Jamar says "I am 26 years old and have been wrestling for around

5 years and teaching what I have learned and studied for 3 of those years. I've lived in the Maplewood / South Orange area for over a decade and I am currently a member of the Army Reserve.

I will talk about the fascinating world of wrestling and my experiences with it: how I got into it, what I have studied, what I enjoy about it and how I got to teach it. I will also demonstrate how we conduct promos and interviews as a wrestling character. The world of wrestling can be a fascinating outlet for storytelling where larger-than-life characters come to life."

April 19 Panel Discussion on the migration experience

Four people will lead a discussion on the dislocation, challenges and adaptation involved in moving to the United States from other countries. At the time when immigration — legal and illegal — is about to become a

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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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 for publication time-sensitive items in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call Elaine Durbach or Howard Gilman.

hot election issue yet again, the participants will put a personal face on the dreams and nightmares that motivate people to leave their homes.

April 26 Ina Rimpau, "Learning about the World through Books"

Ina Rimpau works for Maplewood Memorial Library where she has hosted a book group called Read Around the World. Participants



read recent (published since 2000) fiction by writers from outside the US. Many of the works focus on recent politics and wars (North African immigration in Israel; the Catholic church sex abuse scandal in Ireland; the Rwandan genocide) and offer insight into current US politics.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 10 Folk Friday at Ethical

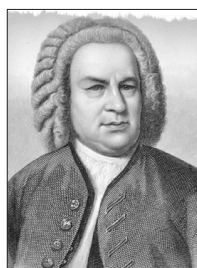
Sing-along & jam Second Fridays of the month (October to May) 7:30 to 9:30 pm, at Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040.

Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments — join in playing, singing, or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. Everyone is invited! (lnovemsky@comcast.net 973 763-8293)

April 24 Listening Journey through J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier Book I

This month's session of the Bach Journey will take place on the 4th Friday of the month, April 24, because the 3rd Friday is during school vacation! As usual, we will meet

from 7 to 8 pm, followed by refreshments. We will explore the preludes



and fugues No 15 in G-major and No 16 in G-minor. Suggested donation \$10, to benefit the Ethical Culture Society and Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County. Admission for students is free.

Check out the EC website for information about the latest news regarding this project.

— Birgit Matzerath

Sunday, April 26, 2020, 3 pm 43rd Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service Congregation Sharey-Tefilo Israel, 432 Scotland Road, South Orange

People of Maplewood and South Orange of all faiths are invited to gather to remember the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, to remember the horrors and remember that we are all God's children.

A holocaust survivor will give testimony to what she experienced during the holocaust and tell us of the people who saved her life.

As one people let us stand up and say no to hatred as the men and women did who saved so many lives.

At 2 pm, there will be a March of Remembrance beginning in front of Congregation Oheb Shalom, 170 Scotland Road, South Orange, to Congregation Sharey-Tefilo Israel, 432 Scotland Road, South Orange.

Sunday, May 3, we will have a special musical treat —

Edward Chu, violinist, and Janet Mangano, our long-time pianist, will play the pre-plat-form prelude and musical interlude. Ed and Janet will play pieces by Schubert and Bach/Gounod. He and Janet met while studying and performing Dvorak at *Summerfest*, held at and sponsored by the Curtis Institute of Music last May in Philadelphia. They are collaborating on violin and piano repertoire as well as other ensemble work.

Young people are especially welcome to attend, as it will also be a Family Education Day featuring the Pollinator Garden!

— Janet Mangano

Sunday, May 17, Annual Meeting

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Kerstin E. White, "How I Found Healing through Writing My Memoir"	30	31 11am - Chair Yoga	1	2	3	4 Human Faith Project 10am – 5:30pm
5 Palm Sunday 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Virginia Cornue, "Ethics of Publishing Civil War Confederate Letters"	6	7 11am - Chair Yoga	8 Passover	9	10 Good Friday Folk Friday 7:30 – 10:30pm	11
12 Easter 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Jamar Stewart, "Professional Wrestling: Art of Long Term Storytelling"	13	14 11am - Chair Yoga	15 Tax Day 1pm - ECSEC Board Meeting	16	17 Human Faith Project 6pm – 8:30pm	18
19 Orthodox Easter 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Panel Discussion on the migration experience	20	21 11am - Chair Yoga	22 Earth Day	23	24 Beginning of Ramadan Matzerath/Bach 7 – 8pm Well-Tempered Clavier No 15–16 BWV 860-861	25
26 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Ina Rimpau, "Learning about the World through Books"	27	28 11am - Chair Yoga	29	30	1 Bach Sessions Fridays 7–8 pm: 4/24/20 No 15–16 BWV 860-861 5/15/20 No 17–18 BWV 862-863 6/19/20 No 19–20 BWV 864-865 7/17/20 No 21–22 BWV 866-867 8/14/20 No 23–24 BWV 868-869	2

How is Ethical Humanism religious?

Ethical Societies serve as religious congregations in which members can build a community of friends, find inspiration and purpose, provide moral education for their children, celebrate seasons and life events, and clarify their world views. Professional Ethical Culture Leaders fill the roles of religious clergy, including meeting the pastoral needs of members, performing ceremonies, and serving as spokespeople for the congregation.

What are some principles of an Ethical Society?

The Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture were written in collaboration with Leaders and members of the American Ethical Union, coordinated by Lois Kathleen Kellerman, Leader Emeritus of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

1. **Ethics is Central:** The most central human issue in our lives is creating a more humane environment.

2. **Ethics Begins with Choice:** Creating a more humane environment begins by affirming the need to make significant choices in our lives.

3. **We Choose to Treat Each Other as Ends, not Means:** To enable us to be whole in a fragmented world, we choose to treat each other as unique individuals having intrinsic worth.

4. **We Seek to Act with Integrity:** Treating one another as ends requires that we learn to act with integrity. This includes keeping commitments, and being honest, open, caring and responsive.

5. **We are Committed to Educate Ourselves:** Personal progress is possible, both in wisdom and social life. Learning how to build ethical relationships and cultivate a humane community is a life-long endeavor.

6. **Self Reflection and Our So-**

cial Nature Require Us to Shape a More Humane World: Growth of the human spirit is rooted in self-reflection, but can only come to full flower in community. This is because people are social, needing both primary relationships and larger supportive groups to become fully human. Our social nature requires that we reach beyond ourselves to decrease suffering and increase creativity in the world.

7. **Democratic Process is Essential to Our Task:** The democratic process is essential to a humane social order because respect for the worth of persons requires democratic process, which elicits and allows a greater expression of human capacities.

8. **Life Itself Inspires a Natural "Religious" Response:** Although awareness of impending death intensifies the human quest, the mystery of life itself, and the need to belong, are the primary factors motivating human religious response.

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 NJ Food Bank.

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