



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 10

Visit our web site: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)

JUNE/SUMMER 2015

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### **June 7 Nomi Colton-Max, “I still believe in Zionism, Peace and a Two State Solution”**

Using Florence Weisz’ uplifting installation on display at the Ethical Cultural Society, “Stones of Resonance: Jerusalem,” Nomi will discuss how a small space shared by so many different people must still be resolved peacefully. Just as Florence



looks at the stones through different angles, Nomi will articulate why a two state solution remains the best and safest option for the State of Israel.

Trained as a foreign policy analyst specializing in the Arab World and the Persian Gulf, Nomi previously worked at the Council on Foreign Relations and a private energy consulting firm. She holds degrees from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and McGill University. She has lived, worked and traveled throughout the region and speaks Hebrew, Arabic and French.

Nomi is a proud Progressive Zionist. She grew up in Habonim Dror in Canada and both her professional and personal development has been centered on Israel and the Middle East. Nomi is currently president of Congregation Beth El in South Orange, New Jersey. She is a long time member of Ameinu, having served as an executive member for several years. She has been a member of the Metrowest Jewish Community Relations

Council; a member of the Habonim-Dror Na’aleh Camp Committee; and been involved in the American Zionist Movement. Nomi’s political and social advocacy started before her bat mitzvah and she is a proud parent of two boys that have inherited her desire to work to improve the world. Nomi lives in South Orange with her just-as-involved and politically engaged husband Harold and her two sons. Nomi and Harold are recent Star of Essex award recipients for their service to the Jewish community and contribution to the lives of Essex county residents.

### **Celebrating Local Heroes**

The Social Action Committee has instituted a program for celebrating Local Heroes. We believe that many people in our communities are doing important, under-appreciated work in social service and social action. Our first honoree will be Susan Barry, a long time language arts teacher at Maplewood Middle School who has organized a Model UN that is accessible to all types of students. After several successful years, she is now teaching a one semester elective in Model UN to a total of 60 students along with running the extra-curricular group. Her students commemorated Human Rights



Day by researching human rights violations throughout the world, and members wore placards that told the story of a human rights violation somewhere in the world. They also celebrated Red Hand Day in commemoration of child soldiers throughout the world

by researching specific stories of child soldiers and sharing that information with other classes in the building. Please join us at the Program Sunday, **June 7** to honor this local hero.

### **June 14 Lori Mirabal, “With Warmest Regards”**

Opera singer Lori Mirabal will present a personal journey in music and talk. She will describe how she became an artist, and discuss her life, her influences and the songs that inspired her.

Lori Brown Mirabal, a native of Tennessee and now a Maplewood resident, is a graduate of the University of Memphis with a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts. She also has a Master’s Degree in Voice Performance from



Manhattan School of Music where she received a scholarship from Oprah Winfrey.

She has sung many roles in many places, including Shenyang,

China where she was a featured soloist in an international New Year’s Eve Gala sponsored by the United States and China Foundation. She also appeared with Opera Ebony on a PBS “Great Performance” television documentary entitled *Aida’s Brothers and Sisters* which discusses the lives of African Americans in opera. Ms. Mirabal has sung a variety of roles in concert halls, opera houses and theatres throughout the United States and abroad including New York City Opera (as Carmen), L’Opera De Monte Carlo (*Lola/Cavalleria Rusticana*), Dicapo Opera Theatre (*Lucretia/The Rape of Lucretia*), State Repertory

# 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

Opera of New Jersey (Augusta/ *The Ballad of Baby Doe*), Central City Opera (Tituba/ *The Crucible*), Carnegie Hall (Soloist/ *West Side Story Suite*), and Broadway's Gershwin Theatre (Queenie/ *Showboat*).

She also created a series of children's programs called "Opera for the Very Young" which she performs throughout New York and New Jersey, and her own company for children, Opera Soup. She teaches music at Kent Place School.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Social Action Committee June 7. Don't forget: art supplies collection runs until the second week of June.**

The Social Action Committee invites you to join us every first Sunday immediately after the Sunday Morning Program. We do a variety of social service projects. Currently, arts and crafts supplies are needed for Valley Settlement House in Orange: paper, poster board, color markers, water colors, poster paint, white school glue, paper punches, mini pom-poms and lacing.

Please bring materials to the Society building and place in box in room off parlor. Learn more about our work from our minutes at <http://www.essexethical.org/socialaction.html#minutes>.

**June 7 Maplewood-South Orange Studio Tour, Karen Bokert Artwork Exhibited at The Woodland**

Karen Bokert, Board member, Hospitality Chairman, artist, and Ethical Art Show Curator, will be exhibiting her work in the Maplewood-South Orange Artist's Studio Tour taking place on Sunday, June 7th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Karen's work may be



seen at The Woodland, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood, in conjunction with 7 other artists' work. A map of all the venues, of which the Ethical building is one (where Florence Weisz's work is on exhibit, *see below*) is available at locations throughout the two towns and online at <http://www.studiotoursoma.org/tour-map>.

**Florence Weisz Art Exhibited at the Society through June and July**

Florence Weisz's "Stones of Resonance: China-Tibet-Jerusalem," are three series of collages that derive their imagery and inspiration from places that have resonated deeply with her: the exhilarating experience climbing the Great Wall of China, her fascination with the powerful, serene Buddhist architecture of Tibet and her complicated love of Jerusalem, as expressed through images of stone. For information visit [www.FlorenceWeisz.com](http://www.FlorenceWeisz.com).

**Betty Levin to Receive Award at AEU Assembly Luncheon June 26**

One of our members, Betty Levin, will receive the National Anna Garland Spencer Volunteer Award during the American Ethical Union 100th Assembly (June 25-28, 2015) in Stamford, Connecticut. The award is presented by the AEU Board on behalf of the AEU and the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County.

The Award Luncheon is Friday, June 26, 2015, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award recognizes a lay member of an AEU-affiliated ethical congregation in good standing for significant volunteer contributions to the success of that ethical congregation and, therefore, the success of the AEU, or volunteer contributions on behalf of the AEU itself.

The American Ethical Union and its congregations depend on the volunteer time and monetary commitment of its members. Many times, members work "behind the scenes" on programs and events and do not get the recognition they deserve. Members' ideas and proposals, and especially their hard work make their congregations a success, and can be used for programs at other Ethical Societies or even AEU programs. The recipients of this award were nominated by their Society in recognition for their many years of voluntary service to the Ethical Culture Movement.

All members, friends, and guests are invited to join AEU's 100th Assembly as we create a more sustainable future for our Movement and for the world. During each Assembly, we gather to experience and celebrate the Movement as we connect with and

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	3	4	5	6
7 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Nomi Colton-Max, "I still believe in Zionism, Peace and a Two State Solution" 12n Social Action	8	9 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	10 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30 pm - 9 pm	11	12	13
14 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Lori Mirabal, "With Warmest Regards"	15	16 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	17	18	19	20
21 9am Tai Chi Chuan	22	23 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	24	25	26	27
28 9am Tai Chi Chuan	29	30 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon				
						<b>June 2015</b>

learn from Ethical Culturists / Ethical Humanists throughout the country.

Ours is the first generation that can end poverty, and the last that can avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Our Assembly will include experts on social, environmental, and economic development to educate us on the many ways we can protect our world for the future.

View the Assembly website (<http://aeu.org/event/celebrate-aeu-100th-assembly/>) for more information.

**NES has awarded 4 scholarships for Future of Ethical Society Members to attend this luncheon including our own Lucy Schmitz. In addition, we voted to support two one-day registration fee on Saturday for anyone unemployed or financially challenged to participate in the day's events. — Martha**

**Gender Transitioning Group Meeting at ECS**

Are you worried about transitioning? You don't know where to begin? Who to tell? How to do it?

Join Seth Rainess and Dana Delgado as they offer wisdom from their own life in discussing the surprises, worries, joys and rewards of transitioning. These monthly meetings are designed to give the fundamental building blocks of gender transitioning and to be able to share confidential information among other group members. Learn from others how to gain strength and pride; learn to be you!

For dates and times, contact Seth Rainess at [sethjainson1@gmail.com](mailto:sethjainson1@gmail.com)

Seth Rainess ([www.sethrainess.com](http://www.sethrainess.com)) is a motivational speaker, author, Jersey Shore PFLAG (formerly known as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) facilitator, and WPATH (World Professional Association for Transgender Health) Member, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) volunteer. Seth, who holds many degrees including an M.S. in psychology and rehab counseling, has conducted seminars for trans youth and school assemblies and workshops on trans diversity in high schools and universities. Drawing on 30 years of experience, he offers trans teens a foundation for transitioning and a unique perspective on what it takes to be successful in today's world in his new book, *REAL TALK for Teens: A Jump-start Guide to Gender Transitioning and Beyond*.

**Ethical Insights Speakers Series**

Through our 2015-2016 season, the Program Committee will be offering an Ethical Insights program, focusing on what we can learn from other religions and cultural groups. Periodically, we will have speakers discussing ethical lessons and teachings from their traditions. In September, we have Nkosi Anderson, Columbia H.S. graduate and Ph.D. student in Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, on Christianity; in October, Barbara Velasquez, psychologist and organizer of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race's Cultural Heritage Festival, on Theosophy. Let us know if you have speakers to suggest, and watch the newsletter and website for dates.

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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**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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**Have a great summer and see you when Platforms resume in the fall!**