



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 5

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

MAY 2016

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### May 1 Martha Gallahue, "How Does a Parent Grow an Ethical Kid Today?"

Martha Gallahue will share the unfolding curriculum of the Ethical Education Program under development at ESCEC. She will discuss spiritual development of kids at different ages. She will share how religious and ethnic tolerance can grow in a child. Amy Blake and Martha have chosen to focus upon developing confidence in children as global citizens — kids who are comfortable in the place of diversity. Both Martha and Amy are fans of Alfie Kohn, author of *Unconditional Parenting*, and how his approach can be used in the ethical education curriculum. She will show how some books promote systemic racism in subtle ways. This program will be discussion based and all are invited to contribute their thoughts and experiences. We welcome volunteer sign up for the coming year and are especially eager to receive ideas that promote an intergenerational community.

Martha is grandmother to three, all of whom are bilingual. She has witnessed their own spiritual and moral growth offered by parents who are not formally practicing traditional religions but are learning how Japanese, Spanish and Irish Catholic traditions are kept alive.



### May 8 Sarbmeet Kanwal, "Sikhism: A Faith for Our Times"

*The May installment of our series on what Ethicalists can learn from other faith traditions*



Sikhism is a relatively young religion (about 300 years old) founded in the midst of religious and political unrest that is not unlike some of the problems being faced by the world today. This talk will cover the history, beliefs, practices and teachings of the Sikh religion. It will dwell on the relevance of Sikhism to some of our modern dilemmas. It will also mention some of the challenges faced by Sikhs in the U.S. today.

Sarbmeet Kanwal resides in Monmouth County in the town of Holmdel, NJ. He is an active board member of the Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought where he leads a youth focused interfaith leadership program called Garden State MOSAIC (Mobilizing Our Students for Action to build Interfaith Community).

Sarbmeet retired a few years ago from a position as Director of Marketing at Bell Laboratories at Alcatel-Lucent (a global telecommunications company) and has since been teaching physics and astronomy at Brookdale Community College.

Sarbmeet received his MSc in physics from The Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, and a PhD in theoretical particle physics from Caltech, Pasadena, CA.

### May 15 Annual General Meeting of the Ethical Culture Society Membership

Meeting will be held promptly at 10 a.m. at the Society and all members are invited to attend. We hope you will join us for coffee and bagels served at the start. There will be reports from the Leader and the lay leadership as well as elections and several procedural matters to vote on. Updates and progress on the Family Education program will be presented. All attendees can take home books from the collection of Boe Meyerson which will be spread out before the meeting.

### May 22 Solidarity Singers Annual American Labor Celebration at Ethical

*The program will begin with a short presentation to honor the Society's Local Hero (see next item).*

The Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council will perform as the platform in honor of May Day and Labor History month, celebrating the Workers' Holiday with songs of labor and the continuing struggle for justice. There will be familiar songs and/or songs with easy to learn choruses to sing along.

A number of our members, including Lisa Novemsky, Rosalie Sussman, Barbara Cotler and Diane Beeny are long-time members and hopefully will be singing with them.

In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (which later became the American Federation of Labor), proclaimed that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." On May 1,

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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Martha Gallahue, Member Leader  
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Elaine Durbach  
Editor/Graphics: Howard Gilman

#### 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: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

If you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please email or call to be sure I know about it, especially if your item is time-sensitive.

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



*Group photo from a past Solidarity Singers' performance at the Society. A number of our members, including Lisa Novemsky, Rosalie Sussman, Barbara Cotler and Diane Beeny are long-time members and hopefully will be singing with them. This photo includes Christiana Shyllon (standing, fifth from left) sadly one of three Solidarity Singers' members who passed away in the past year; the others were Francis Ladson and Dottie Gutenkauf. They will be missed.*

1886, more than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses across the United States walked off their jobs in the first May Day celebration in history.

The Solidarity Singers of the NJ State Industrial Union Council are "a street chorus, not a concert choir. Our preferred venue is a picket line. We try to lift the spirits of people engaged in struggle and help them to carry on. Only a few of us know how to read music, but we all know which side we're on."

Over the years, the Solidarity Singers have appeared hundreds of times on picket lines, at rallies for labor and other progressive causes, and in occasional concert settings. Its director, Bennet D. Zurofsky, can be reached at (973) 642-0885 0885 or bzurofsky@zurofskylaw.com.

For further information, call (973) 763-1905 or e-mail ecsec.nj@gmail.com

## Local Heroes Project, Sunday, May 22

Widney Brown is our Local Hero Honoree for 2016 — To honor her leadership at Physicians for Human Rights; her support of our Essex Ethical Culture Society; and her efforts to spread good will and respect for gender differences in her neighborhood. She will be accepting the honor on Sunday,

May 22 in a brief presentation before the Solidarity Singers concert.

Widney Brown is the Director of Programs, New York, for Physicians for Human Rights. She oversees PHR's research, investigations, monitoring and evaluation, documentation, advocacy, and capacity-building projects. Prior to joining PHR, she served as the senior director for international law and policy at Amnesty International's Secretariat in London. She was responsible for Amnesty International's strategic litigation program, standard-setting initiatives, international justice program, advocacy in global and regional intergovernmental settings, and policy development. Before Amnesty International, she worked at Human Rights Watch for nine years during which time she served in a variety of roles, including as deputy program director, where she was responsible for overseeing the work of both regional and thematic programs.

Locally, she has spoken for us at the Ethical Culture Society. She also has, in her own backyard in Maplewood, quietly supported



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Martha Gallahue, "How Does a Parent Grow an Ethical Kid Today?" Social Action Comm. meeting 12 – 1pm	2	3 Chair Yoga 11am–12noon	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Sarbmeet Kanwal, "Sikhism: A Faith for Our Times" Mothers Day	9	10 Chair Yoga 11am–12noon	11 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30–9pm Transgender Topics: monthly meeting 7–8pm	12	13 Folk Friday 7:30pm	14
15 9am Tai Chi Chuan 10am Annual General Meeting of the Ethical Culture Society Membership	16	17 Chair Yoga 11am–12noon	18	19	20	21
22 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Solidarity Singers Annual American Labor Celebration Local Hero, Widney Brown	23	24 Chair Yoga 11am–12noon	25	26	27	28
29 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Colloquy on Memorial Day	30 Memorial Day	31 Chair Yoga 11am–12noon				<b>May 2016</b>

and eased the coming out of young people, and has spread good will to the children who attend a Jewish Day Care Center near her home, explaining gender issues in a way they can understand. We honor her both for her engaged, neighborly presence in our community, and for her work for all of us at the national and international level.

### May 29 Memorial Day Colloquy

On whom we cherish in memory, and how, and what kind of immortality-in-memory we would like for ourselves.

### SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

A delivery has been made of detergent, cleaning supplies, oil and olive oil for Syrian refugee families in Elizabeth. Everyone is reminded to bring more of these supplies to the society.

We bought a \$25 ad for the NJ Peace Action journal, as we have been empowered to do by the Board, with the thought that we will both support

organizations who share our values and get some visibility for our Society. The group then voted to take a \$25 donor ad for the journal of the First Friends of New Jersey and New York, the support group for immigrant detainees in New Jersey, with whom we've been working for several years.

We have also made phone calls to NJ Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi, Republican of Westwood, Bergen County. Ms. Schepisi is a new member of the Assembly appropriations committee, and she supported the bill to lower phone rates for all incarcerated persons earlier this year. This bill passed both the NJ Assembly and the NJ Senate in February only to get a pocket veto from Governor Christie. We were asked to call Ms. Schepisi and thank her for her previous support and ask her to support A1419 again.

Finally, we discussed our Local Heroes Project: Widney Brown is our honoree for 2016, and we agreed to have the event on May 22, 2016 (see item for May 22 program). — MSW

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 1 Social Action Committee, Sunday, after program.**

**May 4–28 Eva Bouzard-Hui** artwork exhibited at the West Caldwell Library. The opening reception is scheduled for **Saturday, May 14** from 2–4 p.m. Pianist Steven Wu will again perform Randy Edelman's compositions based on Eva's poems.

**May 11 Wednesday 7pm Transgender Topics** at the Society

**May 13 Folk Friday 7:30 pm** Sing-along and jam second Fridays of the month, through June. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. Everyone is invited! [Inovemsky@comcast.net](mailto:Inovemsky@comcast.net), (973) 763-8293

**Paintings by Barbara Krales Cotler** — landscapes, seascapes and abstracts — exhibited at the Society through **Thursday June 30, 2016.**

# 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

**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 · MAY 2016



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**May 29 Colloquy on Memorial Day.** *(see page 2)*