



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 8

Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

APRIL 2013

APRIL PLATFORMS

Platforms begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice. For information, call 973-763-1905. Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

April 7 Paulo Ribeiro *“Training to be an Ethical Culture leader”*

There are many paths to becoming an Ethical Culture leader, but the AEU’s Leadership Training is the most crucial part of the clergy in the Ethical



Culture movement. Paulo will discuss his experience with training, the relevance of trained leaders in the movement today, and how the training has adapted to life and challenges in the 21st century.

Paulo Ribeiro is a leader-in-training through the American Ethical Union and currently a student with the Humanist Institute. Paulo graduated from Montclair State University in 2011 with a BA in Sociology, and he has been a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County since 2010. Since joining the movement, Paulo has worked on expanding membership and participation in social justice issues both nationally and with individual societies.

April 14 Dana Delgado *“Gender Nonconformity: an Introduction and Life-Long Transition”*

Dana Delgado will discuss what “gender nonconformity” means, and what it has meant to her, from childhood awareness and teenager gender dysphoria, to college and her first sexual experience, young adulthood and coming-out to her mother, and her adulthood, with



work, military, family, and friends. She will also describe OutSpoken, the online forum she created “to provide a safe, healthy forum for discussion amongst parents of gender nonconforming youth and their families” (see box, page 2).

“I am very excited about this topic and hope to provide advocacy, education and awareness for the parents of GNCY children in the community. If I can help one child understand and navigate through their own personal gender variant journey, it would be worth it.”

“I am a Family Nurse Practitioner, and I am gender variant. I have grown up and lived my life as a gender nonconformist; my birth sex is female but my gender male. I am a parent of two, a nurse practitioner, a Captain in flight medicine in the US Air Force Reserve for over 22 years, and a resident of the community of South Orange/Maplewood in New Jersey. Having lived in this community since 2006, I take great pride in helping establish awareness and education on the topic of gender nonconforming in our youth (GNCY). It is because of my personal experience and my passion to educate that I have started OutSpoken, a webpage, group, and blog.”

“My short-term vision for OutSpoken is to provide a place for parents, family, friends of gender nonconforming LGTBQIA youth and their straight allies to meet and discuss the latest information pertaining to this topic. Long-term goal is to nurture the development of healthy and supportive relationships through mentorship for GNCY and their families within the community and the Garden State.”

April 21 Martha Gallahue To celebrate Earth Day, April 22, Martha will discuss a Humanist perspective on the present State of the Earth. She



will describe the most recent national efforts to reverse our persistent pursuit of fossil fuel usage despite the warning of scientists.

She will discuss the ethics of the precautionary principle and proportionality, and why religions need to take the lead on this issue. Martha has participated in three World Conferences on Climate Change in the last 10 years and continues to facilitate an e-list of civil society organizations at the UN, distributing updated news of intergovernmental meetings on the topic. If you would like your organization to be on this list, please let Martha know after the meeting and she will include you on the list.

[In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 International Mother Earth Day. Earth Day is planned for April 22 in all years at least through 2015.]

April 28 Mario Concilio *“GMO (genetically modified organisms) — what the world needs to know and some corporations would like to keep secret”*



Maria Concilio will discuss the implications for our health and the future food supply of what is being done to seeds and manufactured foods, and the lies and myths propagated by agribusiness giants and the food industry, to manipulate legislators and fool consumers.

Maria, who lives in South Orange with her husband and three children, is a beekeeper, and a very active cam-

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Martha Gallahue, *Interim Leader*
Boe Meyerson, *Leader Emerita*

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Elaine Durbach
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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 dropped off at 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.

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Our web site:
www.essexethical.org

...act so
as to elicit
the best
in others
and in
ourselves

OutSpoken (see *Delgado, page 1*) is an inclusive group established to:

Create a safe, healthy forum for information sharing and exchange through discussion amongst parents of gender nonconforming youth (GNCY), family, friends and their straight allies.

Encourage connection and exchange of current and relevant information concerning parents of GNCY with their community.

Mentor public awareness of GNCY through group discussions and to break barriers with education and resource exchange.

Connect parents of gender nonconforming youth, their families and with active organizations to share similar resources and mentorship.

Provide current and updated information through educational materials, blogs, forums, brochures, discussion groups.

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/outspoken/400105073407329?ref=hl>

Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/181189165338240/>

Maplewood Online Blog: <http://forum.maplewoodonline.com/discussion/91908/relevant-and-recent-issues-on-gncy-gender-nonconforming-youth.-friends-and-families>

paigner, on the Internet and in person, with groups seeking to protect our food supply and the environment.

FROM THE UN

What happened at Rio in 2012?

In June of 2012 a major UN conference, *Rio+20*, was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The agenda for this conference was designed to follow up the landmark *Earth Summit* of 1992. In 1992, the most pressing issue was how to raise world consciousness regarding the global stresses we face. Specifically, the development of affordable and sustainable methods designed to meet current needs without endangering the needs of future generations.

The 2012 Rio conference brought together 50,000 participants and 100 heads of state. It should be noted that U.S. President Obama, U.K. Prime Minister Cameron and German Chancellor Merkel did not attend. It is 'assumed' that these heads of state were preoccupied with domestic politics and financial turmoil in Europe.

What outcome in 20 years?

Disappointingly but not surprisingly, agreements were not kept. The rich countries neither financed nor transferred technologies to poorer countries as promised, thus affecting sustainable growth. The ecological and environmental hazards have become more devastating in the past twenty years. The outcome

of the central main meeting was disappointing because delegates could not agree on enforceable commitments on climate change or any other global challenge.

International representatives at the meeting attempted to tackle questions such as protecting forests and fisheries as well as bringing electricity to more than one billion people. Furthermore, specific issues were discussed for weaning the world off fossil fuels and encouraging farming and economic growth that does not destroy the natural environment. Such projections are daunting and expectations are discouragingly low. The final outcome was a very watered down document with few agreements. Most observers thought the conference a failure.

In spite of disappointment, the formal conference did agree to set up a task force to replace the *Millennium Development Goals* which ends in 2015 with a set of sustainable development goals. These are realistic targets that can be achieved and their success measured. It is hoped and even expected, that goals targeted at energy, water, oceans, resource efficiency, land and ecosystems will energize concerned (NGO) groups and perhaps even countries.

At the *Millennium Summit* in 2000, targets to be achieved by 2015 included eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, reducing child

mortality, improving maternal health, combating malaria and other diseases.

How well are we doing?

Worldwide attention has helped. The extreme poverty rate is expected to fall below 15% thus meeting the target. The rate in 1950 was an astounding 50%. Some of the poorest countries have made great strides in education. The number for child mortality under five from preventable diseases has declined. Nearly 2 billion people now have access to clean water. Sanitation and maternal health, however, are very bad. In summary, there has been some progress but poverty remains high, too many children die before age 5 and still too many mothers die unnecessarily during child birth.

Some good news

Activity outside the main negotiating sessions produced hundreds of side agreements not requiring ratification or direct financing by governments. They offer hope of incremental but real progress. For example, Microsoft will go carbon neutral by 2030 and oil giant ENI will reduce its flaring of natu-

ral gas. The most impressive agreement was from the eight largest development banks who committed \$200 billion to finance sustainable transportation systems in the worlds largest cities.

Dr. Chan, WHO Director-General, spoke at an important side event on “Energy, Health and Women’s Empowerment.” She pointed out the crucial importance of a reliable supply of electricity, without which vaccines, blood and medicines cannot be safely stored or equipment properly sterilized and surgical activity in operating rooms can be seriously affected detrimentally. Solar energy can provide cheap and reliable power for both households and clinics.

Action without the blessings of international agreements

Exposure to indoor pollution from coal cook stoves kills nearly two million people annually, mostly women and children. Cleaner energy could halve the number of childhood deaths from pneumonia and reduce the burden of more than one million who die each year from chronic lung disease caused by indoor air pollution. Clean cook-

ing stoves and electricity can be a very major project for Humanists. There is a growing capacity of grass-roots organizations and corporations to provide environmental action without the blessings of international agreements.

Over the last few years the US, Europe and China have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on clean energy research and deployment. The price of solar and wind power has fallen sharply. Governments often play a crucial role in financing many of the most important technological innovations of the past century. Some examples are semiconductors, radar, internet, radio, jet engines and medical advances in developing antibiotics

Where are we right now?

The world is grappling with economic stagnation and instability. We have both financial crises and ecological crises. The world’s leaders must summon cooperation and political will now. Tomorrow is too late.

Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, the IHEU and national ethical service representative to the UN, and Dr. Reba Goodman, member of BECS.

12 STEPS TO A CULTURE OF CARE OF EARTH

Care and Responsibility for Earth is the 7th Millennium Development Goal. [This reflection emanated from one of the inspiring programs held by the UN in Cancun. — *Martha*]

Step 1: Humbly acknowledge that the causes and effects of climate change are beyond any single individual’s, any group’s, any country’s control.

Step 2: Come to recognize that as we all share the same things, the air, land, water, etc., there is a powerful collective at work that represents humanity’s greatest opportunity to return to collaborative action and to restore our intrinsic connection with earth itself.

Step 3: To surrender to the ways of Mother Earth and thereby recover our true relation with nature as a part of it.

Step 4: To make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves, take our own inventory as to how we might promote out own sobriety through care of the earth.

Step 5: Admit to Mother Earth and to ourselves and to another human being, the exact nature of our wrongs.

Step 6: We’re entirely ready to release ourselves from all

these defects resulting from our limited choices particularly about our consumption patterns.

Step 7: Humbly work to release as we learn a different path to abundance.

Step 8: Make a list of all we have harmed thorough our denial about crises such as climate change and become willing to make amends to them.

Step 9: Make direct amends to such people and groups wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.

Step 10: Continue to take inventory and when we were wrong promptly admit it.

Step 11: Sought through reflection and authentic behavior change to improve our conscious connection to care of earth, seeking knowledge of the right choices and the power to carry them out.

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we carry this message to all who are addicted to disproportionate consumption of energy and exploitation of earth’s rights and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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We continue to collect children's books, canned and boxed foods, and toys for distribution by the Parenting Center in Maplewood.



ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · APRIL 2013

EXCITING NEW SOCIETY COOPERATIVE FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Ethical Culture Society will sponsor a “Trinkets to Treasures Tag Sale” with an opportunity for everyone to sell some of your treasures and make a few dollars for yourself, as well as donate a portion to the society. Members and individuals can reserve a space at the society (card table size) for a donation of \$10. You will bring your clean items (no clothes, no furniture, no “junk”), price them, sell them and donate 15% of your proceeds to Ethical. In other words, you set the price and negotiate if you wish.

We will not be pricing or selling your items. Individuals are also responsible for set up and clean up. We will supply as many tables as we have or you can bring your own table, just be sure to reserve space. We will be advertising in local publications. Reservations will close on April 15.

Of course, we are looking forward to seeing everyone attend the event, take home some bargains and support the Society! Spread the word to your friends. Reserve your table early: call the ECS office or Jeanine Rosh at 973-258-0305.

Mark Your Calendars for April

Martha will host two **adult education meetings on ethical culture**, 1 p.m. Sunday afternoons April 14 and 21 at the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County. This will be the first two of a series of four meetings to be completed in May. April 14 — *Significance of Ethical Culture from 1876 to 1976* — this round circle will begin with the “3 pains”, EC’s place in the larger society, EC’s organizational

development and becoming a Federation; and April 21 — *EC’s last 50 years: new incursions, new challenges.*

Folk Friday at Ethical Apr. 12. Sing-along and jam with friends 7:30 p.m. second Friday of each month, September through June at the Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening (*led by Lisa Novemsky*). Bring some refreshments

to share. Folk Fridays have expanded to invite all crafts people in the society to come and listen to music while doing crafts. Everyone is invited! Contact: lnovemsky@comcast.net or (973) 763-8293.

Please take the opportunity to visit the **Sandy Relief Fund Arts Show on display until June** in the Platform room, proceeds to benefit storm victims. Also, for **Film Series**, check website for dates.