



ETHICAL CULTURE

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April 6 Heath Brown, “Immigrants, Democracy and Elections”

Over the 20th century, immigrants arrived in the U.S. in large numbers, but faced large formal and informal barriers to full integration. This has been particularly the case for political integration: immigrants — even today — vote at much lower levels than other citizen groups. The talk places the recent struggles for immigrants to gain political representation into a century-long struggle for rights and recognition. Drawing on historic and quantitative research, the talk argues that civic and advocacy groups that represent immigrants have a major role to play during elections, but they too face new barriers in the form of voter suppression policies.

Dr. Heath Brown is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Seton Hall University where he studies American politics, public administration and interest group politics. Brown’s first book, *Lobbying the New President: Interests in Transition*, a study of how interest groups influence an incoming Presidential administration, was published in May, 2012 by Routledge. His current agenda focuses on the intersection of immigration, advocacy and the Presidency, and a new social media project called New Books in Political Science, www.newbooksinpolitical-science.com, and ways to integrate research into the undergraduate political science curriculum.

Apr 13 Collin Minert, “Conscientious Objection: Acting on Beliefs and Values ... in the Vietnam Era”

Just why and how does a quiet, fairly traditional, not particularly high achieving, non-trouble-causing,

rule- and behavior-conforming fellow decide to step outside the box and to take an action which is way outside his comfort zone. Collin will share his journey into the world of self discovery and examination of his beliefs — all resulting from his decision to seek legal status as a conscientious objector. Frankly, I had more questions than answers. On what basis could I, as one without a traditional religious background, expect his views to be validated? Did my beliefs flow from God or some other ultimate truth? Exactly how did my experiences shape what I came to believe? Was it ever justifiable to take another life? What about in self-defense? What about serving in a “good” war — like World War II? Bottom line, was this quest a self-serving whim, was it simply a way to avoid a particular war, or was it something deeply rooted in a personal code or belief? What were the pros and cons of commencing this process and of staying the course? If denied, was I willing to face the consequences of the course of action likely to follow — leaving the country or going to prison?

Montclair resident Collin Minert, who grew up in Milwaukee, WI, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in political science and landscape architecture. Subsequently, he received a masters degree in city and regional planning from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. During one college summer he worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in its Freedom Summer Project in Arkansas. In 1968, he began his alternative to military service as a caseworker for the NYC Department of Social Services. Subsequently, he worked for government in city plan-

ning, and eventually spent over twenty-five years as a consultant helping not-for-profit organizations generate charitable financial resources.

April 20 Martha Gallahue, Peace-making challenges every fundamental idea that we hold.

Why should we talk to the enemy? What happens if people are nasty and brutish and we want to retaliate? How do we find the capacity not to hit back, trapping ourselves in endless cycles of violence. Gabrielle Rifkind and Gianni Picco reveal how the negotiator can succeed where institutions will often fail and how getting into the mind of the enemy can be far more persuasive than the most fearsome weapons.

Giandomenico Picco led the task force which secured the end of war between Iran and Iraq in August 1988. From 1988 to 1992, he conducted the operation which led to the release of 11 western hostages from Lebanon. Gabrielle Rifkind is a group analyst, psychotherapist and specialist in conflict resolution, concerned with developing links between the psychological and the political worlds as a means of resolving conflict.

Martha will offer remarks based upon the new book, *The Fog of Peace*, written by Giandomenico Picco and Gabrielle Rifkind (published 2014, IBTauris, UK). She will draw parallels between the social structures of family, organizations and nations.

April 27 Sylvia Kramer, “The Power, Purpose, and Pleasure of Poetry”

Poetry carves a direct path from mind to heart to form. Sylvia will read original poems on a variety of themes and share her experiences as a teacher

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 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
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and in
ourselves

and lecturer with groups from age 3 to 103.

A published author, poet and lecturer, Sylvia is also a poetry therapist. For over 40 years she has conducted workshops and given lectures at colleges, high schools, nursery schools, nursing homes, retirement and rehab centers throughout the State and has been frequent guest lecturer for the Poetry Therapy Association in New York City.

The "Story of Ruth," the true account of a Holocaust victim, is not only in her book, *Velvet & Stone*, but is also included in *When Biology Was Destiny*. She led poetry workshops at Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center for 15 years and wrote "The First 75 Years," a history of the nursing home. She presently tutors private clients.

Folk Friday, Apr. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Sing-along and jam with friends second Friday of each month through June, at Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening. Bring some refreshments to share. Folk Fridays have expanded to include crafts people to come and listen to music while doing crafts. Open to all comers, all ages, everyone is invited! Email lnovemsky@comcast.net or call (973) 763-8293. — *Lisa*

FROM THE U.N.

Revisiting Climate Change Again

Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson warns that if current ecological trends continue, half of the earth's species could be extinct by 2100 at the rate they are disappearing right now. Among the hazards responsible are pollution, loss of habitat and deforestation. The rate at which humans use resources has put many species at risk. And climate change has made the situation far worse.

The ongoing rate of species extinction coupled with the loss of genetic diversity within species, threaten the interdependent ecosystems and the complex web of life of which we are a part and which is essential to our wellbeing.

In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is actively sawing off the limb on

which it is perched. The extinction of species is a warning that we have a serious problem and we are part of it.

Miners once brought canaries into their dank workplaces to test whether the air was safe to breathe; if the canary died, it was time to get out. Species extinction is our canary.

Nearly 1000 researchers around the world have contributed to a forthcoming report of the U.N. intergovernmental panel on climate change. They warn that another 15 years of failure to limit carbon emissions will escalate an already serious problem using the current technologies. It is very important to take steps now, because delaying is bound to be much more expensive. This report states that the world continues to spend more money subsidizing fossil fuels rather than shifting to clean energy.

While there is increasing investment in clean energy, there are rising emissions in fast-growing countries like China and India where cheap coal-powered energy is used to lift millions out of poverty. These countries are paying a heavy price in health consequences resulting from the enormous pollution. One possibility under consideration is planting bioenergy crops that take up carbon dioxide, burning the resulting fuel and injecting the emissions underground. Such efforts, if they work, would compete with food production.

There is a longstanding argument advanced by the coal industry and others that policies to curb carbon emissions are more economically harmful than the impact of climate change. The good news is that many economists and business leaders are not buying this argument anymore.

We have been experiencing more extreme weather, more droughts, more destructive storms and floods. These events have been costly and have seriously affected economic activity. There is an increasing awareness of the risks associated with climate change.

At the annual World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, climate change was high on the agenda for the first time. The event was attended by 30 heads of state or government and 1500 business leaders. World Bank president Jim Young Kim urged financial leaders and investors to take responsibility

to fight against climate change. As an example of business concerns Coca Cola has experienced increasing profit loss as global droughts dried up water needed to produce their soda. They also experienced disruption in their supply of sugar cane, sugar beets and fruit juices. The company has finally embraced the idea that climate change is a disruptive force. This is a growing view among business leaders.

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former treasury secretary Paulson with Robert Rubin and George Schultz, hardly radicals or environmentalists, recently announced a sweeping assessment study of the risks

climate change poses to the American economy. The report is expected by the end of the year.

A number of foundations have united to promote a divestiture campaign for pulling money out of companies and institutions that do business in fossil fuels. In addition to the foundations, 22 cities, 20 religious organizations, nine colleges and universities have already signed on to divest themselves of investments in fossil fuel companies.

Climate is one of many issues that cross national boundaries. Ultimately, what is needed is an international climate change treaty. The U.N. is trying

to foster such a treaty by 2015. The ever energetic U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has set a goal to become a lead broker for such a treaty. It will be a difficult negotiation as developing countries, which suffer most from climate change, claim correctly that the rich countries are most responsible and should help them in mitigating the effects. The rich countries have balked at spending the money. Hopefully, everybody will recognize the seriousness of the situation and make the legally binding commitments.

— Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, the IHEU and National Ethical Service representative to the UN, and Dr. Reba Goodman, member of ECSBC.

See the following article for details on how to sign up for a weekly share of vegetables from June through November, available for pick up at The Ethical Culture Society.

— Martha Gallahue

School Lunch Organic Farm & CSA

**100% Certified Organic
and GMO-Free Farm
69 Stephens State Park Road
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-451-0051
margaretmnoon@gmail.com**

School Lunch Farm & CSA is a 100% Certified Organic and GMO-Free Farm offering a weekly share of organic produce. We offer over 100 varieties of organic vegetables, fruit and herbs with 10-15 types of produce available on any given week. All of our produce is grown from seed on our farm; we do not purchase produce from other farms or food distributors.

Your share is harvested the day you pick it up — so your veggies are super fresh. Shareholders are welcome to volunteer at the farm, hike our woodlands and visit our four-acre pond.

Pick up will be Tuesday, 2-7 p.m. from June 24 through November 14, 2014.

Full shares are \$735 and half shares are \$400 for the 21 week season.

Shares can be purchased online at: <http://www.localharvest.org/school-lunch-organic-farm-csa-M61357>

Shares can also be purchased by check or cash. Please contact Farmer Margaret for more information at: 908-451-0051 or margaretmnoon@gmail.com

School Lunch Farm Goal:

Employing the best practices of organic agriculture, School Lunch Farm builds healthier soil and a healthier community by growing nutrient-dense, 100% Certified Organic and GMO-free vegetables and fruits including heirloom and specialty crops for children and families through a CSA (community supported agriculture) shareholders program.

Our goal is to provide our shareholders with the freshest, healthiest food we can grow. Our members can feel a sense of pride and ownership in School Lunch Farm and we welcome them to participate at the farm as much as their schedule permits.

Educating children about healthy food

School Lunch Farm serves as an educational center for school garden programs we have helped foster through Slow Food Northern NJ, a non-profit organization. Organic vegetable programs teach children to be stewards of the earth. An integrated curriculum fosters the core values of School Lunch Farm by nurturing children's understanding of where food comes from, how it's grown and the effect food production has on the environment. School Lunch Farm is also a popular destination for school field trips.

Feeding those in need

At School Lunch Farm we believe everyone has the right to good, wholesome food. In our first two years we have been able to donate a healthy supply of fresh vegetables to a soup kitchen in Plainfield, New Jersey, that feeds 150 hungry people lunch five days every month. We were also happy to provide fresh vegetables to the Mount Olive Food Pantry which serves local families in need of supplemental food.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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Phone: 973-763-1905
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Website: www.essexethical.org

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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 2014

SUNDAY 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



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