



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 8

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

APRIL 2007

## LEADER'S MESSAGE

By the time you read these lines, we will have already conducted our Memorial Service for our beloved Marion Josephson. This is for those who could not be with us then. Marion was one of the founding members of our Society. She was a fountain of optimism and a wise critic. She was smart without being academic. She was great hearted and not just warm hearted. In a myriad number of ways she taught us how to "break bread together" — literally and figuratively.



Below is a poem written for her on the occasion of one of her birthdays by Lisa Novemsky. It says in rhyme what prose can not accomplish. — *Boe Meyerson*

## OUR LADY OF BREAD

by *Lisa Novemsky*

Honor Lady  
Marion  
With pretzeled crown  
And cinnamon

With singing heart  
And smiling eye  
With flowing kaftan  
Overly

Neck decored  
With oyster shells  
All tucked around  
With cockle bells

Whole as wheat  
With sifted drifts  
Sy's the guy  
Whose soul she lifts

Lady, lady,  
Yeastd dove  
Kitchen's mistress  
Drink our love

Carrots and celery  
Roots that hoot  
Apples and cardamom  
Pay tribute



From body's bareness  
Shoulders, arms  
Hands shape loaves  
With finger's charms

From heart to bread  
In warm cuisine  
Curled seashells  
watching  
Kitchen's queen

Ginger, molasses  
Honey and lime  
Bread's a baking  
Patience time

Lady's Bread  
From woman birthed  
The sainted baker  
Bares her girth

The art of baking  
Peels of laughter  
Piece of cake  
For Mountain Crafter

Breads she bakes  
Encrusted souls  
From dough, from clay  
Artistic wholes

With chocolate's chip  
And sesame's seed  
From oiled pans  
To souls in need

Unlike the tale  
Of Henny Penny  
All who come  
And there are many

Are fed on dates  
And nuts galore  
On Swedish rye  
Scones, by the score

With peppered crunch  
Of wordcraft poet  
Speak to us  
That we may know it

Sesame sprinkles  
Wish you health!  
Poppy seed cookies  
Provide your wealth!

Yeast is risen  
Punch that dough  
Lady Marion  
Go, go, go!

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Have you noticed the stimulating Sunday morning programs we have presented this season? For example, the South Orange Sonnets, the Bronx Renaissance, a 16 Year Old Stands Up for Justice, the South Orange-Maplewood Coalition on Race, and so on.

Naturally, these programs have attracted many interesting individuals from the community. This past month, many of these newcomers to our Society were invited to an evening social in order for us to become more acquainted and to learn more about our unique Ethical Culture Society.



If you were not invited or were unable to attend our March event and would like to be invited to our next, please telephone our membership chair, Anja Moen, at (973) 763-2211, or our president, Betty Levin, at (973) 763-1033, and you shall receive an invitation to another such event. See you soon!

— *Betty Levin, President*

## FUND-RAISING EVENTS

### April 14th Concert Songs of Contemplation

On Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.  
soprano *Marjorie Berg* and  
pianist *John Pivarnik* will perform  
"Songs of Contemplation".

The program will feature the music of Samuel Barber and Johannes Brahms.

American composer Samuel Barber, (1910-1981) made an enduring con-  
*(continued on page 2)*

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Boe Meyerson, Leader  
Jim White, Leader Emeritus

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Editor's note

The newsletter invites you to submit articles, announcements, commentary, etc. for publication. ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE FIRST OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S EDITION. Items should be no more than 150 words, preferably submitted via email to the editor (howardgilman@netscape.net). Items can also be delivered to: Editor, Ethical Society Newsletter, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040. Please call the office, 973-763-1905, and leave word 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.

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of Essex County,  
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**...act so  
as to elicit  
the best  
in others  
and in  
ourselves**

*Attention members! Please submit your email addresses to [ethicalessex@netscape.com](mailto:ethicalessex@netscape.com) to receive newsletter and other special event notices.*

tribution to the cultural life of the United States and the world. Barber was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, to a musical family; his aunt was the prominent mezzo-soprano Louise Homer. He began composing at the age of seven and at fourteen became one of the first students of the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. Hermit Songs (1953), settings of Irish texts from the 13th to 18th centuries, premiered by the young and then-unknown Leontyne Price.

Born to a poor family in the slums of Hamburg, Germany in 1833, Johannes Brahms studied music as best he was able while supporting himself by playing piano at bars and brothels and by turning out arrangements of light music. His early compositions continued in the progressive direction of the waning romanticism. The "Four Serious Songs" were the last songs composed by Brahms, then 63 years of age. He died less than a year later on April 3, 1897. This song-cycle for voice and piano, which uses texts from the Old Testament and the famous words of Paul to the Corinthians, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal..." culminating in the exclamation, "But now abide faith, hope, and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity" has the character of a musical last will and testament by Brahms. The evening begins with crackers and conversation, then the concert, followed by dessert and discussion with the artists. What an evening of music and mingling! Suggested donation is \$20.00 Can you thank Marjorie and John for donating their time and talent, by committing to attend and bring a friend, or make a dona-

tion to the fund raiser? We need your help to fill the meeting room and enjoy the artists' gifts. Call now to reserve.

## The Merry Month of May

**May 6th 2 PM Soup and Strollers —  
The Maplewood Strollers present  
'The Violet Hour'**



*Jack Tiner's 84th birthday was celebrated, albeit belatedly, when Ethical Society members and friends gathered to honor Jack at a Luncheon held at Cryan's in South Orange on February 25th.*

It's that time, that wonderful New York hour when the evening is about to reward you for that day. Denis (Denny) McCleary is explaining the title for his colossus of a novel to his friend John Pace Seaver, and by extension, the title for Richard Greenberg's play about a fateful day in their lives. The greater the participation, the less it will cost.

Help bring up participation. Come to the platform and stay for lunch and the show. Mark the date on your calendar.

**Also coming in May, Betty Levin's amazing Azalea display.** More information to follow.

## June

### White Elephant Sale

**Meet us on Saturday June 2 from 9-3 p.m.,** at the society for our version of "Antiques Road Show". What great treasure will you buy (or sell)? Don't keep anything in your home that does not speak to you, say who you are, give it to Ethical, to find its rightful owner. We can't stress enough how important this sale is to our income. It's our most lucrative event — an opportunity for everyone to recycle and reclaim some space for yourselves. Spend a little time going through drawers and closets to make room and make

some money for the Society. We are collecting NOW, so get ready to create lots of extra space at home by passing along those unused treasures, to bring happiness to someone else (you know, just buying can make one happy) and bring funds to the society. Who knows what treasures you will uncover!

## Help needed

### **The fund-raising committee needs your help for the concert and for the sale.**

If you can donate a snack or a dessert for the concert, please call Jeanine (973-258-9395) or the office (973-763-1905).

We need people to work the sale, as well as set up and clean up. You know the routine. Let us know you'll help. Call the office or Jeanine.

—Jeanine Rosh

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## APRIL 20–21 HUMANISM CONFERENCE

### **The weekend event is open to all humanists and our own Boe Meyerson will be speaking there.**

Registration has begun for a once-in-a-generation event at Harvard University! If you have not done so already, please save the dates April 20–21, 2007 and register now at <http://thenewhumanism.org> for a celebration of the Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard, founded by Tom Ferrick 30 years ago. We will honor Tom and his historic vision by hosting a major Humanist conference featuring many of the most famous and important Humanists in the world, including: novelist Salman Rushdie; Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen; two-time Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson; Professor Steven Pinker (Time's "100 Most Influential People in the World," 2004); 2006 Democratic Candidate for US Senate from CT, Ned Lamont; Harvard Yenching Institute for Chinese Stud-

## APRIL PLATFORMS *(continued from page 4)*

gime. He was jailed twice, in 1994 and again in 2000. Two key issues he wants to highlight are the need for religious freedom, with a separation of church and state, and gender equality, to improve the lot of Sudanese women.

Taha, 43, was a longtime member of Amnesty International in Darfur, until — as he says — “the dictator came in 1989 and stopped it.” He came to the United States two-and-a-half years ago, and has established his own medical transportation business. He is an active member of the Newark-based Darfur Rehabilitation Project.

### **April 29 Martha**

**Gallahue:** *“Growing your Society: Creative Networking in the Maplewood Community”* Martha will discuss an American Ethical Union national plan designed to inspire cooperating initiatives among Societies throughout the country.

Martha will discuss three proposals: The Millennium Development Goals, The United Religious Initiative and

ies Director Professor Tu Weiming; critically acclaimed folk/rock star Dar Williams; Humanist rabbis Sherwin T. Wine and Robert Barr; America's leading secular Humanist philosopher Paul Kurtz; secular Congressional Lobbyist Lori Lipman Brown; the leaders of all the major US Humanist & related organizations; noted philanthropists such as Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., & Louis Appignani and many, many more.

### **Why “The New Humanism”?**

The title of our conference, “The New Humanism,” has generated a great deal

The Student World Assembly, to illustrate how they may inspire activism in the local community.

Martha Gallahue is President of The American Ethical Union's affiliate organization, The National Service Conference of The American Ethical Union and President of The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture.

The National Service Conference is accredited at the United Nations and part of several coalitions and non-governmental organization committees at the United Nations.

Martha served on the Board for the American Ethical Union from 2003–2006 and is on temporary leave

in the Leader-in-Training program in order to serve out her term as President of her local Society.

She is a certified psychoanalyst in private practice for 30 years and lives with her partner, Reverend Elizabeth Alexander, Pastor of a Presbyterian Church whose mission is prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families.

## QUOTATIONS

**“As local is global,  
so too global is local.”**

**“We cannot solve the  
problems of today with  
the same consciousness  
that inspired them.”**

— Albert Einstein

of curiosity. Why did we choose it, and what do we mean by it? You can begin to explore the answers to these questions in an article in the current issue of the Humanist, a leading magazine of critical inquiry and social concern. The article on Harvard Humanism, has been made specially available, free of charge, at the Humanist's website: <http://thehumanist.org>. Thanks so much for your interest, and we hope to see you at Harvard in April for a wonderful celebration of Humanism!

— Greg M. Epstein, *Humanist Chaplain of Harvard University*  
<http://harvardhumanist.org>

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 PROSPECT STREET  
MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040  
(973) 763-1905

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## ETHICAL CULTURE

### SUNDAY MORNING PLATFORMS

**April, 2007**

Platforms begin at 11 am. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice. Sunday School 11 am–12:15 pm. Youth of Ethical Societies (YES): contact Society office.

**April 1 Boe Meyerson, Leader,** *“The War on Drugs: Who is Winning?”* Boe will discuss the purpose, history and effects of the so-called ‘War on Drugs.’ Emphasis will be on the yawning gap between intention and accomplishment. However most of the discussion will focus on the disastrous unintended consequences of the effort. Alternatives will also be explored.

Boe Meyerson is Leader of the Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood and is the Ethical Humanist Chaplain at Columbia University. She previously worked in New Jersey’s criminal justice system supervising both juveniles and adult offenders. She holds a MA in Philosophy from Columbia University where she previously taught Humanities. She is also a Family Therapist.

**April 8 Rao Kolluru,** *“Profit with a Purpose”* Drawing on his new book,



*Spiritual Entrepreneurship: Pathway to Lasting Success*, Kolluru will be describing a new business model with ancient roots for doing well by doing good, or making profit with a purpose.

Educated in the East and the West in science, engineering, and business, Rao Kolluru has been consulting, teaching and writing for more than three decades. He has worked with

American Cyanamid and other major corporations, combining technical and business initiatives.

Rao obtained an MBA from New York University and a doctorate in health sciences from Columbia University. His lectures have taken him from Princeton to Peking. His handbooks, published by McGraw-Hill, serve as reference worldwide.

**April 15 Alice Robinson-Gilman and Meredith Sue Willis:** *an interactive platform.* Sue and Alice have been presenting this series of interactive platforms since 1995.

**Alice Robinson-Gilman** has gone through many transformative changes in the past 23 years since the birth of her daughter Molly. Most of these changes have been “grist for the mill” for these platforms.

She is a social worker who has staffed a hotline, been a therapist, done group work with male batterers among others. She became a gardener and is now

completing a Master Gardener’s course with Rutgers Cooperative Extension; she joined Maplewood’s community theatre group, The Strollers, and is fulfilling a life-long dream to act. Additionally she has worked behind stage in many positions, including Stage Manager, her favorite.

The most joyous and fulfilling part of her life has been as the mother of Molly Gilman, a talented singer/actor who is now appearing in *Pinkalicious*, an off-Broadway show for children.

**Meredith Sue Willis**, fiction writer and native of West Virginia, teaches novel writing at New York University. She is a past president of the Essex Ethical Culture Society and past chair of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. She was the featured writer in the fall 2006 issue of *Appalachian Heritage* and her children’s book *Billie of Fish House Lane* is one of the Two Towns One Book choices for 2007. She lives in South Orange with her husband Andy Weinberger, a rheumatologist in private practice and also a past president of Essex Ethical! Their son Joel is a senior at Brown University.



**April 22 Sabri Taha:** *A Darfurian’s personal account of the anguish in his home land.* Taha plans to discuss the causes of the conflict in Darfur, and his own experience with the oppressiveness of the re- (continued on page 3)