



# ETHICAL CULTURE

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FEBRUARY 2011

## FEBRUARY PLATFORMS

### February 6 Myron W. Kronisch

*"What Future for the United Nations?"*

Mike is a retired trial attorney, has been in private law practice as a senior partner and a member of the Board of Editors of the New Jersey Law Journal from 1976 to date.



He is Vice Chairman of the Center for War/Peace Studies, a think and action tank. Beginning in 2006 he and his colleagues have been received at the U.N. missions and then the foreign ministries of 39 "key players" in the Global South and Global North. Their goal has been to bring to the attention of these diplomats responses to Kofi Annan's September, 2003 call for "radical change in the core organs of the U.N." For the General Assembly the proposal is the "Binding Triad." For the Security Council the proposal is "Universal Regional Representation as a Basis for Security Council Reform," which proposes and illustrates a universally representative Security Council.

Since its inception, the United Nations Security Council has come to be increasingly regarded as unrepresentative of the peoples of the world and the allocation of power within that body is now widely regarded as both unrealistic and unfair. As a consequence, the legitimacy of many Council decisions is questioned. Those who can do so either circumvent such decisions or ignore them altogether. Thus, in the absence of generally accepted lawful means of settling disputes, nations that

possess great power will seek to coerce other nations to gain their ends. This perilous state of affairs should and can be corrected. Mike presents the case for a system of universal regional representation in the Security Council with realistically weighted, veto-free voting. (see [www.cwps.org](http://www.cwps.org) for copies of both monographs.)

Mike served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Federalist Association and as Counsel to the Board of Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund. He has spoken to audiences across USA and in Europe on the need for a more effective United Nations, his op-ed articles

have been published in the *New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune* and his letters have appeared in dozens of newspapers in the USA and around the world. He is a member of the UNA-USA National Council, and of the World Federalist Movement's World Council.

Mike has four children and eleven grandchildren all of whom can recite his mantra: "Peace is not merely the absence of war. Peace requires the institutions of government which are law, order and justice. World Peace requires a UN federation with those powers."

*(continued next page)*

## President's Report

We are facing big changes in the coming years that will effect our Society even longer into the future. The Board of Trustees has decided to take on the commitment and begin the process of finding a new leader for us. We have already met with Martha Gallahue, our interim leader, who is acting as our guide for this process.



Our bylaws have specific requirements for selecting a new leader. In seeking a new leader "a membership meeting shall be convened to select a three member nominating committee broadly representative of the membership to propose a search committee and to designate a date certain, time and place for a further special meeting to elect the members thereof." *(Article VII §1 of the Bylaws)*

We will be calling a Special Meet-

ing for 1 p.m. Sunday, February 20 after the Platform. All members will receive a formal notice in the mail at least ten days before this meeting.

We wish to engage as many members as possible in this process of choosing a new leader. We will meet from time to time to discuss this as well as the broader aspects of planning for the future. Certainly we should and can explore together what we want in a new leader.

I want to invite and encourage all of you to take an active part in our going forward now by participating in the process of choosing our new leader to the extent you can. We will be making announcements at our platforms, in our newsletter, and on our website regarding the steps along the way. You are always welcome to share your thoughts and ideas about this and any other aspect of our Society in these forums and with me personally. I hope you will, especially now as we chart the path forward. Please let me hear from you. — Anja Moen

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Martha Gallahue, *Interim Leader*  
Boe Meyerson, *Leader Emeritus*  
James White, *Leader Emeritus*

Anja Moen, *President*  
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*EC Monthly newsletter writers/contributors:*  
Elaine Durbach, *platforms*; Anja Moen.  
Howard Gilman, *editor/graphics*

#### Editor's note

The newsletter invites you to submit articles, announcements, commentary, etc. for publication. ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EIGHTH 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 (gilman.howard@gmail.com). 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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NEW! — info@essexethical.org

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



Attention members! Please submit your email addresses to NEW! — info@essexethical.org to receive newsletter and other special event notices.

**February 13 Gregory Sullivan** of I.R.A.T.E., “*Immigration and detention issues in New Jersey.*” Gregory Sullivan, the program director of IRATE & First Friends, will discuss what the organization does, and current issues involving immigration and detention in the state.



IRATE & First Friends ([www.irate-first-friends.org](http://www.irate-first-friends.org)) is a non-profit organization that upholds the inherent humanity and dignity of all immigrants. We provide visitors and non-legal assistance for immigrants held in detention and work for improved conditions.

We advocate for the end of arbitrary, mass detention believing detention is morally wrong, legally suspect and wasteful of taxpayer funds.

IRATE staff and volunteers visit non-criminal detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center (EDC), in the Hudson County Corrections Center (HCCC) and the Bergen County jail; provide training for those willing to visit detainees; speak to groups on detention or immigration reform; collaborate with partner organizations seeking humane treatment of all detainees, and the end of detainment for asylum seekers; work nationally on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform; organize demonstrations to keep the plight of detainees in the news; and invite you to join our efforts.

Gregory is a resident of Wyckoff New Jersey and a 1954 graduate of Brown University. He retired from commercial banking in 1997 and found his way to community service through the JustFaith Program of his parish in Wyckoff. The program teaches aspects of social justice and includes numerous “border crossings,” taking its students out of their familiar comfort zone and exposing them to the lives of those among us who are marginalized. One of the border crossings was to hear about immigrant detention and to visit detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center. Greg became a regular visitor and in 2007 became the Program Director of the First Friends Visitor Project, a service which has been active since 2001. In 2008,

the organization became a 501(c) (3) corporation and adopted the name IRATE & First Friends. IRATE stands for Interfaith Refugee Action Team-Elizabeth, a predecessor organization which advocated for immigrant rights. Together as one organization, advocacy and services for immigrants have been united. Reflecting the increased number of immigrants being detained, the First Friends visiting program was expanded to service detainees at the Hudson County Correctional Center in Kearny and the Bergen County Jail in Hackensack in 2009 and 2010. First Friends is currently seeking access to the Essex County Jail in Newark.

**February 20 Martha Gallahue**, “*Making Change the Better Way.*” From the personal to the political, many of us think change is difficult, but is it? This talk will discuss change



and how to accomplish it gracefully. Ultimately, all changes boil down to behaving in a new way. Why do we sometimes resist change and sometimes welcome it. Martha will discuss the topic from 35 years experience as a psychotherapist and a recent book, *Switch: How to Change When Change is Hard* by Dan Heath.

**February 27 Gail Levinson**, “*Outstanding Visual Artists Living with Disabilities; The Story of Arts Unbound.*” Gail Levinson is Executive Director of Arts Unbound, a studio and



gallery promoting emerging and established artists with mental, physical and developmental disabilities. She will review the organization’s mission, highlights of its 10 year history and some of the exciting and talented artists who are represented by the organization.

Gail Levinson has worked in the human services field in NJ for over 25 years. She became executive director of Arts Unbound in 2007. Since that time the organization has increased in size and scope, serving over 200 students monthly and providing exhibitions of fine art and craft throughout NJ. Arts

Unbound hosts a teaching studio and gallery in the Valley Arts District of Orange, NJ. In 2010, the agency opened a holiday gift shop in Maplewood Village that has provided additional opportunity for sales and promotion of artwork made by persons living with special needs.

### **Climate Change revisited at the Conference in Cancun, Mexico**

*Martha Gallahue Chairs the NGO Working Group on Climate Change within the Committee on Sustainable Development at the UN. She is an AEU Leader serving as Main Representative for the National Ethical Service of the AEU and is interim consulting Leader at Essex Society.*

The UN Climate Change Conference ended on December 10th with standing ovations and relief that the governments saved the negotiating process when they established a package of Cancun Agreements. To refresh our memories, a Conference of Governmental Parties gathered after the signing onto the United Nations Framework on the Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC), and began a protracted negotiating process which continues today. The Cancun Conference was the 16th (Conference of Parties, 16th year); hence this one is known

as COP16. Since the Kyoto Protocol was signed into force in 2005, there is a parallel negotiating track called Conference of Parties 6 or COP6.

Meanwhile, weather variability increases as the bureaucratic process grows more complex. Nevertheless, governments reaffirmed in Cancun that they would continue to work through UNFCCC. Unfortunately, after this Conference there is general recognition that even with implementation of all agreements, the temperature will still increase 3.6 to 4 degrees Celsius by 2020. This will create untold and unevenly distributed environmental disasters across the globe.

China, the United States and India — as the current biggest polluters and the locus for two and one-half billion people — constitute special problems. Each of these countries made special public efforts to demonstrate their willingness to engage in solutions. China, as the leader on wind production, the US, as the greatest purveyor of information, and India, as the most eager to address climate change, helped to set a positive tone to this year's negotiations. Lowered expectation, a warm climate, and a more supportive president — both in the Conference President, Patrice Espinoza of Mexico, and



NGO Observers Celine, Ann and Martha prepare to listen to Ban Ki Moon speak to NGO's in Cancun.

the Chief of the UNFCCC Christiania Figueres of Costa Rica — set a different tone from the Copenhagen Conference of 2009.

NGO's are encouraged to note a growing awareness that market-based solutions do not address the fundamental ideologies that have caused problems in the first place. Our Climate Change Working Group issued a Statement of Recommendations that described the need for us to become more earth centered to be effective at making ethical decisions needed to reverse climate change. At the same time, we were gratified that a Green Fund was established for developing countries.

*[For Statement of Recommendations issued by the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development/Working Group on Climate Change, go to: [www.nationalserviceaeu.org](http://www.nationalserviceaeu.org)]*

Further encouragement came from increased activism on the part of young people, including high school students from Minneapolis who were officially registered to participate. They seemed eager to learn more about the issue in all its complexity. Regional affiliations continue to proliferate especially around mutually shared water resources. Some countries such as those among the Alliance of Small Countries, Bolivia and Ireland called for a recast of our assumptions toward more holistic understandings. Irish Head of Delegation Ciaran Cuffe, TD, stated that it is time, "to move away from a narrow



At a Plenary Session with Governments in Cancun, Mexico 2010

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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## ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · FEBRUARY 2011

### **Climate**, *continued from page 3*

metric of GDP to another metric of prosperity that includes quality of life indicators.”

The US and Japan appeared defensive in their declarations. The US stated they would set aside 90 billion dollars for mitigation in our own country and 1.9 billion dollars to alleviate the problems of others. Japan asserted determination to pull out of the Kyoto Protocol citing it as too burdensome when so few countries have signed on. Germany and other EU countries, on the other hand, affirmed that switching to green industry had improved their economies.

Substantive change requires persevering determination to set aside one's old assumptions. Change occurs when trust is fostered and self-interest honestly exposed. We need to get behavioral, perceptual and institutional change to take place concurrently.

Finger pointing and passivity will accomplish little now. All of us will have to do more than our fair share to make a difference both in adaptation and mitigation.

The work ahead is to continue to educate and model responsible behavior on both local and global levels. The core change will come when we see ourselves collectively as a part of nature not distinct from it. As the pace of climate change increases, we have the opportunity to mobilize collective cooperation on a governmental level especially, according to our differentiated capacities to assume responsibility for solutions. The next Conference will take place in Durban, South Africa (COP17) November 28 to December 9, 2011, hopefully with more governmental readiness and capacity to establish binding agreements.

*For more information: check out [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int).*

### **Member Notes**

Congratulations to teacher **Jill Fox** (Clinton School) for achieving the status of National Board Certification. According to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet rigorous standards to improve their teaching and their students' learning. Since 1987, 74,000 teachers have achieved this goal.

Jill was one of six teachers from the School District of South Orange and Maplewood (out of the total of twelve in the State of New Jersey) who received that certification, having met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.

*The district now has nine National Board Certified Teachers and nine staff members are in the process of applying for this outstanding accomplishment.*