



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 5

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

JANUARY 2004

## Leader's Message

### Dear Members and Friends,

New Year Greetings to you all! May the coming year be fruitful, energizing, and fulfilling for each of you. May those who have endured hardship during the past year find some relief in the coming year and may those who have had much prosperity find creative ways to share their good fortune with others.



*“My best hope is that our troubles may give rise to reflection ...”*

... words penetrate their hearts and minds, who can, with better visions, inspire others to seek a better way of life, will be able to change more than all the rockets and cannons in the field. The role of ideal conceptions, the role of ideals and utopian thinking in our harsh world will be the topic of my next address on Jan. 4th. — *Till then, Boe*

I wish I could say that I was hopeful for our nation's moral progress during the coming year. Instead I confess that I have never been so alarmed over political developments. Our historical constitutional rights are at grave risk at home. Abroad we have won a victory in Iraq which tastes more and more like defeat every day. While claiming the motive of defense and security, we embarked on a war unilaterally without provocation. We achieved a victory which has strengthened our enemies and cost us the support of our friends. My best hope is that our troubles may give rise to reflection and thereby encourage a wiser course of action. The more vigorously all of us continue to keep our elected officials aware of our concerns, the greater the chance of change.

There is something else which can help us. That is the appeal to high ideals. Those who can capture the imagination of their fellows, who can with

## Fundraiser Events

Members offering these events contribute their time, talents and treasure. You can show your appreciation and support for the Society by attending these events. For information regarding fundraising events, contact the committee: Nancy Bohn, Jill Fox, Louisa Lubiak, Jeanine Rosh, or call the Society office.

**January 9 Trivial Pursuit – Jeanine Rosh.** Don't miss this delightful evening with friends. Test your knowledge while sampling delicious refreshments. Snow date Jan. 16.

**February 7 Sterling Duo – Concert.** Be sure to save Feb. 7 for another memorable evening when the Sterling Duo presents another wonderful Concert at the Society.

**March 13 Theater Party: “Proof” – The Strollers** (tentative date)

**April 17 Russian Dinner – Mira Stillman**

**May 8 White Elephant Sale.** We are accepting items for the sale from now until about a week before the sale. At this time, we CANNOT take clothing, books, furniture or large items. If you leave items at the Society building, please put a note on the items designating that they are for the White Elephant Sale.

**May 15 Mountain Azalea Display with Cocktails – Betty Levin**

**July Gourmet Lunch – Boe Meyerson ■**

## Ethical Culture Society Begins New Family Program

On Friday, January 2 at 7:30 pm the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County will be offering a Friday Family Night Program which will continue throughout the year, meeting on the 1st Friday of each month. The Program consists of three elements: Intergenerational recreational activities, followed by separate activities for parents and children. The parents will participate in an ongoing Course entitled “Things You Can Do to Raise

an Ethical Child.” The course is based on Prof. Arthur Dobrin's book, *Teaching Right from Wrong*. This is a practical program involving not only lectures and discussions but also actual parental implementation at home. While the parents participate in the course, the children will be involved in creative play.

Those interested can call the Society at 973-763-1905 or simply attend as scheduled. All are welcome. ■

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Boe Meyerson, *Leader*

Ted Seagull, *Assistant Leader*

Jim White, *Leader Emeritus*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Susan K. Kennedy, *President*

Bob Bender, *Vice President*

Pat Thompson, *Secretary*

Jim Quigley, *Treasurer*

Seymour Armstrong

Nancy Bohn

Richard Bohn

Bill Graves

Jack Tiner

•

Gigi Goldstein, *Office Manager*

•

*EC Monthly*

Alice Robinson-Gilman, *Copy Editor*

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 first of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition.** Items should be no more than 150 words, preferably submitted via e-mail to the editor ([howardgilman@netscape.net](mailto:howardgilman@netscape.net)). Items can also be delivered to: Editor, Ethical Culture 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.

For those interested in receiving their copy of Ethical Culture Monthly by First Class Mail for a charge of \$10/year or \$5/half year (beginning in January), call the office, 973-763-1905, and request our First Class Mail Special.

Ethical Culture Society  
of Essex County,  
516 Prospect St.,  
Maplewood, NJ 07040.

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

## Y.E.S. Conference in Frost Valley

As one of the advisors for our small, but enthusiastic youth group, I recently attended the annual Y.E.S. Conference with three teenagers, Anne Francois, Nora Proops and Jennifer Barthole. This conference is held each year in a rural campsite where the teenagers from ethical societies all over the United States gather to discuss an important issue, and conduct the business meeting of their group. This year there were about 50 young people and 13 chaperones and adult advisors. The theme discussed was "Creating Peace in our Society". During the entire weekend, the adults got a chance to get to know each other well since there was a lot of time to talk. The young people did all the work of organizing and executing the sessions and process for sharing ideas. They were a terrific group of young people and I found them inspirational. I have a renewed faith in the Ethical Societies' role in the raising of its young people. Giving them this opportunity has contributed to their growth. I saw a great deal of kindness and respect among the kids. In this day and age, it was very heart warming. The highlights of the weekend for me was seeing a

snowy owl fly by, and viewing the lunar eclipse, while huddled together for warmth, on a clear and very dark November night.

—Jill Fox

Our weekend at Frost Valley, New York with the other Y.E.S. members was truly unforgettable. We met 50 kids from St. Louis, Missouri, Riverdale, New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Illinois, and Bergen County, New Jersey. As a group, we identified and defined violence in American society. During our discussion, we came up with the word ECNELOIV (violence spelled backward). Ecneloiv means doing the opposite of violence and creating peace. Before we went to the conference, we were nervous and skeptical about what it would be like, but we found the people were very open and accepting. Afterwards, we see it was definitely worth going to because of all the memories and new friends that we will cherish forever. It was a lot of fun and we hope to return next year.

—Jennifer Barthole  
Anne Francois  
Nora Proops

## Voluntary Simplicity Course

*Introduction to discussion course offered through Garden State Earth Institute*

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 15, 7:30pm

**WHERE:** Ethical Culture Society building

**CONTACT:** Louisa Lubiak, 973-763-2311

Simplicity is a movement, a practice, and for many, a purposeful way of living in a complex, consumptive society. This 8-session course explores the practice of simplicity. As a practice, to simplify is to reduce to essentials, to streamline, and to clarify. This discussion course explores simplicity in all of these ways. It examines the view that each person can, at the same

time, improve the quality of life, reduce expenses, and reduce environmental impact.

Please come to the introduction to learn about the course and look over the textbook. The discussion course helps one to examine one's lifestyle and offers suggestions on how to live a more fulfilling life of intention thru simplification. The discussion format also helps to enhance personal speaking skills and to develop group facilitation skills. There is no cost for the introduction; light refreshments will be served. ■

## Quotations

from Stan Wayne/“Around the AEU”

### ALGERNON BLACK

Each of us seeks his own essence. Our realities are personal and unknown.

I am more than my beginning, but my beginning is a key.

I will look to my roots.

I will search out strength.

I will nourish the talents.

I will be of many dimensions.

Do I stand aloof and alone?

Or am I part of the forest?

I will reach out to all that is; the many-ness of the human family; the many forms of being all over this dear earth.

So when you look at me;

When you speak and touch me;

Be careful.

Be tender and gentle, if you love me.

Do not demand too much.

I am trying to learn to live.

### FELIX ADLER

There are two objectives to which the Ethical Society is consecrated. One is to help people do the good they already know. Every social relation needs the aid of ethical examination so that we carry our ideals into personal action, in marriage, in work, in politics, etc.

The other object is more important. To gain additional light about what is right. We need light on the great social problems of our times. We need to see far more distinctly than we do, what ought to be the relations between men and women; between what should citizens give and get from their community; how ought people to think about the larger community; what ought to be the relations between those with advan-

tages and those who are less advantaged. On these and a hundred other questions we need more light.

### HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.

### SENECA

We are members of one great body. Nature planted in us a mutual love, and fitted us for a social life. We must consider that we were born for the good of the whole.

### HENRY GOLDING

In a profounder sense than we had ever fathomed, we are members one of another. No one can attain their full stature alone. Their highest good is a common good, which is not lessened, but enriched by being shared. For it consists in the effort to liberate and exalt life in all. The person who has truly come home to himself or herself, has come home to humanity.

Ethical religion claims for all people freedom for growth. It challenges every authority that would fetter the human spirit; arraigns every form of power, ecclesiastical, political, social, economic or other that defaces people. The supreme task is to so transfigure human relations in the light of widening knowledge and deeper love of the right; that society shall no longer be the expression of conflicting egoisms, but shall be organized for unfolding the spiritual life of all its members. To lift people's eyes and turn their will toward that vision, is the purpose of the Ethical Movement. ■

### PLATFORMS (continued from page 4)

**January 25 Joe Gluck interviews TV news anchor Pat Battle.** Pat Battle, New Jersey Correspondent, WNBC, joined NewsChannel 4 in April 1996 as one of the station's two New Jersey correspondents. Assigned to NewsChannel 4's New Jersey Bureau in Moonachie, Battle's reports focus on issues affecting the Garden State, as well as breaking news of the day. Battle came to NewsChannel 4 from WCBS-TV, where for five years she was a general assignment reporter handling many breaking news stories in the tristate area. Prior to WCBS, she worked in the same capacity for NBC-owned WAU-TV in Philadelphia, where she covered the Delaware Valley and hosted a weekly public affairs program with an in-studio audience. Battle has also worked as a general assignment reporter, back-up anchor and host of a weekly public affairs program for the New Jersey Network News in Trenton. She began her career as a newspaper reporter for the *Asbury Park Press* in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Battle is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, and she attended the University of Maryland, School of Journalism. She is married and has two children. ■



### Notice to Members:

#### Volunteers Are Needed

There are vacancies on many committees and the Society needs the help of every member. If you feel there is anything you can do for our society, please call me at (973) 377-7172.

— Susan Kennedy

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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

[www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT N° 48  
MAPLEWOOD, NJ

# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

## JANUARY SUNDAY MORNING PLATFORMS

*Platforms begin 11 a.m. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice.  
Sunday School 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.*

**January 4 Leader Boe Meyerson: The Importance of the Utopian Imagination.**

**January 11 Mike Olender: Issues of Telephone Use for New Jersey Consumers.**

**January 18 Jim White: An Hour with Jim White**

**January 25 Joe Gluck interviews TV news anchor Pat Battle!**

**January 4 Leader Boe Meyerson: The Importance of the Utopian Imagination.**

This will be an exploration of the role played by ideals and ideal conceptions in the real world of politics and political history.

**January 11 Mike Olender: Issues of Telephone Use for New Jersey Con-**

**sumers.** Michael Olender is a Community Educator for New Jersey Citizen Action, the state's largest independent citizen watchdog organization. He has spoken to well over 300 community-based organizations since the year 2000 on the issues of utility deregulation and telephone consumer education and fraud prevention.

A graduate of Rutgers University, he served as Director of the RU Amnesty International chapter and

received national recognition. He has also worked with numerous organizations on various campaigns including media activism and international human rights.

Mr. Olender will be speaking on telephone issues relevant to New Jersey consumers. He will walk us through a basic telephone bill, discuss the basics on the various "calling plans" for which we see commercials, offer advice on how to deal with telemarketers and voice-menu systems, as well as outlining recourse steps to take should

you find yourself the victim of telephone fraud.

**January 18 Jim White: An Hour with Jim White.**

**Platform Committee meets January 11 after platform. Come and look over what is still open this season and also to begin to think about next year.**

*(continued on page 3)*

## At Essex Ethical:

### Family Night Jan. 2

7:30 pm every 1st Friday

### Folk Music Jan. 9

7:30pm every 2nd Friday

### Philosophy Group Jan. 11, 25

9:30–10:30 a.m. every 2nd and 4th Sunday

### Poetry Series Jan. 19

7:30 p.m. every 3rd Monday.

Contact: Tom Obrzut,  
(973) 275-0929.

### Public Affairs Forum Jan. 16

7:30 pm every 3rd Friday

## Fundraiser Events:

**Jan. 9** Trivial Pursuit – Jeanine Rosh

**Feb. 7** Sterling Duo – Concert

**Mar 13.** Theater Party: "Proof"

– The Strollers (tentative date)

**Apr.** Russian Dinner

– Mira Stillman

**May 8** White Elephant Sale

**May 15** Mountain Azalea Display  
with Cocktails – Betty Levin

**Jul.** Gourmet Lunch – Boe Meyerson

The members offering these events are contributing their time, talents and treasure. You can show your appreciation and support for the Society by attending these events.