



ETHICAL CULTURE

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VOLUME 33 NUMBER 5

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JANUARY 2014

Jan. 5 Phyllis Bernstein, “Israeli Bedouin — The Changing Landscape” As a member of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, Phyllis Bernstein has met representatives of Bedouin communities living in Israel’s Negev region. She has learned firsthand about the dilemmas facing this population, many of whom are still nomadic and many of whom live in settlements the Israeli government doesn’t recognize and therefore won’t provide with basic amenities. Some financial support is given, and there are attempts underway to improve the living conditions of the Bedouin communities, but in so many ways there are great gaps and conflicts between the treatment of them as compared to the Jewish Israelis.

Phyllis was a CPA/Personal Financial Specialist for many years and now makes art from her heart. She paints in oil, acrylic and mixed media, and makes jewelry. She serves on the board of the NJ Jewish News and the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, where she serves as co-chair of the Arab Citizens of Israel Study Group. Phyllis actively serves on the Inter-agency Task Force for Israeli Arab Issues and the Jewish Federation of North America’s Social Venture Fund for Jewish Arab Equality and Shared Society.

Jan. 12 Martha Gallahue, “Kosmos and Ethics” The term kosmos has several definitions some of which appear to be contradictory. Martha will use the term to explore how humanists might best be able to reconcile those differences. Focusing on how in periods of historical change, theological expressions can become less and less meaningful, she will discuss the impact

such loss of meaning can produce and how that works in American culture. Finally, she will argue for an alternative to the argument of a patternless universe without cause or purpose.

Martha Gallahue, Clergy Leader of Ethical Society of Essex County, was a former Dominican Sister and graduate student of Thomistic theology when she left her Order. She has a Master’s Degree in comparative religion from Columbia University and has continued a life long inquiry into the meaning of religion. She pursues this inquiry through private study and public inter-cooperation with a broad sweep of faith traditions such as United Religions Initiative and Order of the Mystic Heart.

Jan. 19 William Gaines, “African American Leadership: Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois” William E. Gaines has a long-standing interest in African-American leadership, both historical and for the future. His talk on W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington will include: background of the two leaders (early life, education and race relations); Booker T. Washington’s Atlanta Compromise Speech and W.E.B. Du Bois’s reaction to the speech; Technical Education vs. Higher Education; obstacles in achieving civil rights; lynching; Southern Democrats; and the impact of the two leaders on race relations in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Mr. Gaines did his undergraduate work at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and later earned Masters degrees in History and in Education Administration. He has taught at Union County College and Essex County College as well as for 26 years at Co-

lumbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey, where he teaches World History and African History. In 1989, as a German Marshall Fund Exchange Recipient, he traveled to Germany where he lectured on W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. A resident of Maplewood-South Orange communities for 30 years, he was a South Orange Villager of the Month in 1996. In 2002, he was honored with a NAACP Community Award and was profiled in the “Neat Things Done By Teachers” column in the New Jersey Education Association Review. He was chair of the Discipline Review Committee at Columbia High School that wrote the report resulting in a successful alternative high school program in South Orange-Maplewood, and he is the Coordinator for the Columbia High School African-American History Challenge Bowl team that has won 4 of 5 competitions at the state level.

Jan. 26 Iokepa Hanalei ‘Īmaikalani and Inette Miller ‘Īmaikalani, “The Return Voyage — Rediscovering the Ancient Wisdom of Hawaii”

Inette and Iokepa are on a mission to bring the teaching of the indigenous people of Hawaii to the world, and to revive respect for other age-old cultures of peace.

For 12,300 years, the indigenous people of our Islands embraced a culture that refused the possibility of war. *Return Voyage* awakens that ancient wisdom — ritual and practices that dissipate anger, prevent violence, foster harmony — and shares its profound implications for the 21st century.

Our ancestors were intrepid voyagers, building remarkably sophisticated canoes and travelling throughout the

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



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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

Pacific and to coastal America for thousands of years. On every voyage, then and now, there came a turning point: that moment was *Huliau*, the Return Voyage. These spiritual gatherings are the celebration of that moment, the dawn of our native claim, our aboriginal voice. These gatherings are our map for the Return Voyage to:

- Knowledge of what our ancestors represented (our unadulterated history)
- Confidence in who we genuinely are
- Personal freedom from the tyranny of others' explanation of us.

Together we will light the fire of authentic cultural identity and unity. The time is now.

"We carry in our DNA all that our ancestors lived. We underestimate our own importance. We see how huge the universe is, and we fail to appreciate the part we play. But when we strike the match..."

In 1997, at the age of 46, Iokepa Imaikalani gave up his successful life as a contractor in Washington State, left his family, friends and hobbies and went to live in his native Hawaii, to study, and to work for the revival of Hawaiian culture, inspired by the words of his deceased grandmothers: "My Grandmothers said: 'In every culture on Earth, God gave keys to survival. Hawaiians will return to theirs. It is about reminding every soul what they were given at the beginning of time.'" He returned home to Hawaii with one small duffel, \$100 in his pocket, "and the light of my Grandmothers' love inside me."

Iokepa met his wife, Inette Miller, ten years later. Inette had been a high-powered international journalist and author and was a single mother of teenage sons living in Portland, when on vacation in Hawaii she met Iokepa — and changed her entire life.

She writes: "When I left Portland, I left a trail of friends and family who feared I'd stepped off the deep edge of Middle Earth. I spent the next year fulfilling their worst fears. I went on vacation for a week and I stayed for a lifetime." She wrote the story of her overwhelming immersion into the authentic *kanaka maoli* culture in the book: *Grandmothers Whisper: Ancient Wisdom — Timeless Wisdom — A Modern Love Story*. The book won Book of the Year, Visionary Award 2011. Her new

book, *The Return Voyage: 95,000 Miles on the Paths of Our Ancestors*, continues the journey where the early book left off. Learn more at www.ReturnVoyage.com.

LEADER'S MESSAGE

The New new year

As we begin the second half of our ESEC season in our 69th year here in Maplewood, we find ourselves both enervated and revitalized by the holidays. No more Black Fridays, Green Saturdays and Cyber Mondays, no more let downs from unmet expectations or lurking guilt because of our relative privilege. Rather, we begin again in community to renew our determination to develop right relationship with ourselves, our families, our societies and world.

In Ethical Culture, right relation points to an essential mutuality that exists in and between all life, a striving toward harmony that both ensures personal authenticity and works to establish better practice for the sake of the common good.

Winter provides a metaphorical opportunity to sit before the fireplace of our own souls, to keep the fire bright, stir the flame and ponder upon our purpose.

Our Publicity Task Force just wrote a descriptive statement as to who we are: "We are a progressive non-theist religion dedicated to living ethically in a complex world. Founded in 1876 and established in Maplewood in 1945, Ethical Culture has been instrumental in launching Planned Parenthood, the NAACP, Visiting Nurses, New York Settlement House, Fieldston School, National Ethical Service at the UN, and most recently, Essex Time Exchange (a time bank facilitating the exchange of services). We are the first peace site in the country. Our motto is: Bring out the best in ourselves by bringing out the best in others. Contact information: 973-763-1905; www.essexethical.org. Join us for weekly Platforms, discussion and fellowship every Sunday at 11 a.m. All are welcome."

Clearly there is nothing new in the above statement, but it brings to mind the creative tendency as a religious institution to launch those projects and initiatives that represent

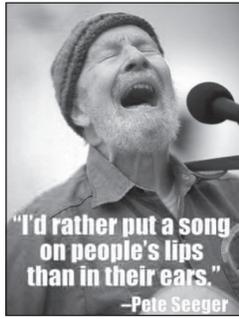
the wave of the future. It prods us to think about what is the greatest next idea for us to shoulder. Some of us think it is an ESEC Peace Center. If we do, we see this as a manifestation of all that ethical culture has always stood for — an ever-civilizing world based on reconciliation, affirmation and pragmatic solutions to human problems. That's a lot to think about.

But yes, there is another keynote and that is that we believe that our personal development of necessity takes place in community. Together we flourish. And so, I invite our guests and friends to join in fellowship with us as we continue always to seek a better world — as at the same time, we sit before our metaphorical fireplace.

— *Martha Gallahue*

Folk Friday Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Sing-along and jam with friends second Friday of each month through



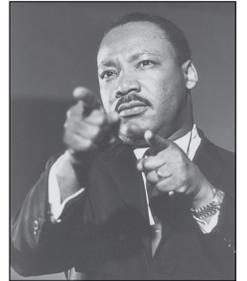
June, at Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening. Bring some refreshments to share. Folk Fridays have expanded to include crafts people to come and listen to music while doing crafts. Open to all comers,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

Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is a federal holiday observed every year on the third Monday of January.

Martin Luther King Jr.

1929 – 1968

“I’m concerned about a better world. I’m concerned about justice; I’m concerned about brotherhood; I’m concerned about truth. And when one is concerned about that, he can never advocate violence. For through violence you may murder a murderer, but you can’t murder murder. Through violence you may murder a liar, but you can’t establish truth. Through violence you may murder a hater, but you can’t murder hate through violence. Darkness cannot put out darkness; only light can do that.”



— Address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (8-16-1967)

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

1918 – 2013



“I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended.”

— *Long Walk to Freedom* (1994)

CARING COMMITTEE

We now have a Caring Committee of which I am the chairperson. Mira Stillman has volunteered to serve on the committee also and we are seeking additional individuals to serve.

Our role will be to respond to members, friends and their families in need, with telephone calls, visits as desired and notes — to bring cheer, express concern and good wishes and any other comfort as seems appropriate. As humanists, we will all intuitively know how to respond. Everyone in our Society is considered a “beacon of awareness” for alerting the chair and its members of need.

Additionally, I believe it would be desirable to take note of birthdays. I shall request our office administrator compile such a list with your cooperation! Please telephone the office with your information — no need to reveal the year if you don’t wish to do so. However, landmark birthdays are always a joyous event to note! Please telephone me if you wish to serve on the committee, 973-763-1033. — *E. Betty Levin*

P.S. This role is a privilege — I was so well “cared for” during my 2009 twin illnesses.



Betty and Lisa recently paid a belated birthday visit to Boe Meyerson, our leader emeritus. She continues to live at her home which is surrounded by an awe-inspiring lakeside view wreathed with autumn colors. Her longtime aide, Lavina, remains by her side. Folks can feel free to send cards and notes to her at 419 Skyline Lakes Dr., in Ringwood, NJ. — *Lisa*

We miss as well Charlotte German who reports she is making a good recovery from a fall; and Freda Fink-Armstrong who is caring for Seymour who can no longer attend the Society. Freda checks in as well, as time allows. — *Martha*

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 · JANUARY 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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