



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 10

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JUNE-AUGUST 2010

JUNE-AUGUST CALENDAR OF PLATFORMS & EVENTS

Saturday, June 5 • Peace Site Rededication from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Ethical Culture Society. Join us as we re-dedicate the first Peace Site in the World! Learn about peace initiatives for Nuclear Disarmament, a Department of Peace Bill and how to end wars. Songs workshops and conflict resolution for children and adults.

Sunday, June 6 • Platform: Boe Meyerson, *“The Normandy Invasion (June 6, 1944) and the Liberation of Europe.”* Boe Meyerson is the Leader Emeritus of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County. She holds Masters Degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, in Literature and from Columbia University in Philosophy where she also taught Humanities.

Friday, June 11 • Folk Friday with friends Lucky, Dusty, Rusty & Tio Pete at the Ethical Culture Society at 7:30 p.m. Sing-along with friends and family. Call to confirm (973) 763-1905 or e-mail: lnovemsky@comcast.net. Come one, come all! No admission fee. Bring a song and/or a light snack. — *Lisa Novemsky*



Sunday, June 13 • Platform: Dr. Howard Radest, *“The New Atheists*



— Sense and Nonsense.” Several best-sellers have flown the banner of the “new” atheism in recent years. Our colleague, Greg Epstein, who is the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard, has just written a book,

Good Without God. In his inaugural, President Obama mentioned non-believers. So, in this platform talk, I want to reflect on what’s going on, and on our part — if anything — in these interesting and puzzling developments.

Dr. Howard B. Radest is dean emeritus of the Humanist Institute and a member of the National Council of Ethical Culture Leaders. He has been an author and consultant treating issues of religious and philosophic thought, moral education, ethics and bioethics. Dr. Radest received his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Columbia University.

Sunday, June 13 • Social Action Committee meeting after platform. We’ll be discussing plans for the coming academic year: issues for our cardings, the Peace Alliance Department of Peace Bill, environmental issues, and more. — *Sue Willis*

Sunday, June 20 • Platform: Father’s Day Celebration and Review of 2010 ECS Year. The highlights and the low points — it has not been an easy year

in our country and in our ethical society — but with the help of our community of friends, we have seen our way through.

Saturday, August 7 and Monday, August 9 • NJ Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Day Committee will host events at Ethical Culture Society. Please join us on those days. Mark your calendar. Save the dates.

— *Terri Seuss*



Pocket watch of a victim stopped at the time the atomic bomb named “Little Boy” was dropped on Hiroshima by the Enola Gay, a Boeing B-29 bomber, at 8:15 in the morning of August 6, 1945. Kengo

Futagawa (59 at the time) was crossing the Kannon Bridge (1,600 meters from the hypocenter) by bicycle on his way to do fire prevention work. He jumped into the river, terribly burned. He returned home, but died on August 22, 1945. From: “HIROSHIMA” by Hiromi Tsuchida — <http://legacy.lclark.edu/~history/HIROSHIMA/>

Platforms begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice. For information, call 973-763-1905.

Saturday, September 11 • Our Annual Day in the Country at Boe’s place. We can all look forward to Boe’s gracious hospitality, along with good food, great camaraderie and a chance to swim, paddle, hike and chat. Keep the date open for a wonderful afternoon. \$25 per person; no charge for children. Rain date is Sunday, September 12. Call the office or Nancy Bohn at (973) 762-0513 to reserve. — *Nancy Bohn*

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



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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 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.

Ethical Culture Society
of Essex County,
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973-763-1905

NEW! — info@essexethical.org

Our web site: www.essexethical.org

**...act so
as to elicit
the best
in others
and in
ourselves**

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

A Special Note

Fund Raising adds a good portion of our funds to keep the Society going.

Thanks to all who opened their homes for a dinner, sponsored a musical event, or gave precious time to work at any other fund-raising. — Nancy

Our New E-mail Address

Please note our e-mail address is now info@essexethical.org. Due to uncorrected disruptions in service over the past weeks, e-mail has not been, and will no longer be received at our old address, ethicalessex@netscape.com. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

— Fred Sebastian, 973-763-1905

“Inspire Peace” Study Group Report

Invited to present our Study Group to the National Council of Jewish Women, I provoked their interest to the extent that they invited me to return next month to present a more comprehensive report. Why do I report this information? Basically, to engage your interest and enthusiasm. Some suggestions:



familiarize yourself with the basic literature in the foyer of our building — the blue brochure “The Peace Alliance” with the designated website, www.ThePeaceAlliance.org; the fine Fact Sheet on the Department of Peace prepared by our Social Action Chair Sue Willis; and Walter Cronkite’s “A Department of Peace?” Engage your friends and neighbors for a brief gathering to discover what action they can take to give the bill traction (I am available to conduct such a group, pro bono, of course). Let’s make this bill part of our history! — E. Betty Levin, 973-763-1033

Board of Trustees

Please Note

We are continuing to collect children’s books, canned and boxed foods, and toys for distribution to poor families by the Parenting Center in Maplewood. — Thank you, Mira

We are seeking donation of a copy machine for the office. — Thanks, Lisa

Guest Editorial

“A HOUSE DIVIDED”

Virginia has a new Republican Governor who issued a proclamation endorsing the confederacy. This article was written in response to this unfortunate action.

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell explained that he signed a proclamation recognizing April as Confederate History Month “because the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) asked.” An SCV press release stated, “Governor McDonnell was spot on by using the proclamation to showcase the benefits to our state for both educating our children and promoting tourism.” The Governor later apologized for omitting any mention of slavery and amended the proclamation to condemn slavery.



The proclamation is divisive because it perpetuates a myth about the Confederates as heroic revolutionaries. It also perpetuates a bogus claim by the SCV that blames the “war between the states” on “the vindictive, intemperate anti-slavery movement that was at the bottom of all the troubles.” However, even Robert E. Lee knew the slave economy was to blame when he wrote, “I foresee that the country will have to pass through a terrible ordeal, a necessary expiation perhaps for our national sins.” Passing a proclamation that honors the Confederacy means that Virginia has yet to come to terms with its slave past. Repeal it.

— Marv Friedlander,
Assistant Organizer of Northern Virginia
Ethical Society

FROM THE UN

Community Health Care

Social Justice is a matter of life and death. It affects the way people live, their consequent chances of illness and their risk of premature death. A girl born today can expect to live for more than 80 years if she is born in

some countries, but less than 45 years if she is born in others.

About 90 percent of the world's health resources are spent on less than 20 per cent of the world population living mostly in wealthier countries. You can expect to live about the same number of years, until the age of 78, if you are born in Costa Rica or the United States today, even though Americans on average are four times as rich. If you are born in South Africa, your life expectancy drops by 27 years to 51, even though it is on average as rich as Costa Rica.

What's the difference? Social and health services and inequality. Poor Costa Ricans have more access to clinics and other social services. Once a country reaches a per capita income of about \$10,000 — currently true of Costa Rica — education, social services, preventive health care and local access to treatment when you are ill, is more valuable for the average citizen than a bigger economy.

In 1978 the World Health Organization (WHO) promoted the strategy of Primary Health Care (PHC) which stresses local participation in managing health services, the use of local clinics and the training of local people in performing basic treatments that do not require a doctor. It stresses health education and prevention. Complex cases are referred to the next level of care.

Some governments and international donors were unhappy with the concept of community control over health. It also didn't appeal to the medical establishment. Some communities associated quality care with big hospitals. PHC was often under-funded, reinforcing the idea that it was second-rate care.

Sadly, as countries became richer they tended to skew health spending toward big-city hospitals and specialist care and the chance to expand primary health care was lost. People in rural areas around the world often travel hours to get basic services. WHO estimates

that empowering communities could reduce disease globally by as much as 70 per cent.

WHO is again promoting primary health care. It is more important now than ever. Firstly, the cost of the current approach is not sustainable. Furthermore, there is an extreme shortage of doctors and health workers. The global shortage of health workers is about 4 million. The solution isn't to accept and train medical students from poor countries. Doctors and other health professionals naturally go to richer countries where working conditions and the pay is better, leaving poor countries in dire straits. There are more doctors of Ethiopian decent in Wash-

ington DC than all of Ethiopia.

In one study of 42 countries, accounting for about 90 per cent of child deaths world wide, 63 per cent of these deaths could have been prevented if good primary health care had been available. Government policy that focuses on medicine for the rich — enriching providers — is deadly for the majority of the world's population. The United Nations is fighting for their lives and needs all our support.

Equity and Social Justice is more important than ever.

Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld, International Humanist Ethical Union and the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union representative to the UN and Temma Ehrenfeld



Message from Boe

The news I have to share with you is that I have resumed writing poetry. Here is my latest poem which was just published in *Sensations Magazine*.

— Boe Meyerson

DUCK AT DUSK

The mallard — all its colors lost — swim/sits —
Silhouetted — a now darkened shape.
All quiet —
Outlined against bright water —
Water reflecting the last light.

Then breaking stillness,
The bill clips back — shaking —
Preening the now invisible feathers.
And shaking, shaking the still waters
Which circle round her
in concentric expanding rings.
— so perfectly framing my fluttering friend,
— so perfectly ending my day.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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Please Help Us Help Those in Need

Bring canned or boxed food items for
the food pantry box in our front hall.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · JUNE-AUGUST 2010

Family Day / Earth Festival

Several families joined us for the fun — and many families registering for summer camp that will be held at Ethical this summer also enjoyed the entertainers and refreshments. About five teen-aged boys who will be assisting with the summer camp helped set up video for the festival and watched the movie “Kilowatt Ours” — describing where our electricity comes from and at what huge human and environmental costs!

— *Terri Seuss*

**This is the last newsletter
until we see you again
in the Fall. Have a great
Summer!**



Louisa Lubiak and Julius Carallo as clowns Lilouise and Chips at Ethical Culture Society Family Day and Earth Festival on Saturday, May 1. An award-winning student documentary film, “Patchwork,” examined Carallo’s career as a clown and the influence his past had on this life choice. You can learn more about Julius “Clown Chips” Carallo from “Students Look Beyond the Mask,” (see: <http://www2.newpaltz.edu/little-rebellion/2010/03/students-look-beyond-the-mask-2/>).