



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 6

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

JUNE 2018

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Programs are subject to change without notice. All are welcome. Programs begin at 11 a.m. 973-763-1905

### June 3 David Harrison, "Protecting our fragile world"

David Harrison became interested in the environment about 25 years ago while living and working in the finance industry in a multitude of countries. Among cultural and policy differences he noted are consumption patterns, and how diverse people and societies deal with discards. He has served on numerous Environment Commissions and other focus groups, and regularly leads discussions to guide individuals and families on how to reduce their environmental impact — what we should or should not do or buy, and why. Most of the suggestions are also money saving! David has led over 100 such discussions for all age groups at houses of worship, schools, offices, and with boy scouts, girl scouts and other groups. Every discussion is different and everyone, including David, learns something valuable every time.

We will embrace why we feel compelled to reduce our environmental impact, whether spiritual, and/or a compelling drive to maintain/improve the world we are handing down to our children/grandchildren. As global population continues to grow, we need to increase our efforts to live sustainably, a key factor if we are to live peacefully. This includes consuming less; repurposing, reusing and recycling our discards; and embracing technology which can help reduce our impact on all aspects of the environment. Through our fami-



lies, schools, houses of worship and focus groups, we need to instill environmental values and good habits to the younger generation.

We will also discuss simple measures to green your gardening — in both senses of the word! Best practices in landscape and property maintenance result in reduced emissions, and the elimination of substances which are hazardous to all living things, including residents and their pets.

### Art Studio Tour June 3

The Ethical Society building is on the map of the Art Studio Tour (thank you to Florence Weisz). Elaine Durbach's marvellous nature photos from the neighborhood will be exhibited. As overlap/collaboration, Elaine's photos aptly harmonize with the theme of David Harrison's talk about gardening and the environment.

### June 10 Local Hero Award to be presented to Bennet Zurofsky

The Social Action Committee of the Ethical Culture Society is presenting its 2018 Local Hero award to Bennet Zurofsky.

Bennet Zurofsky has dedicated his life to advancing the causes of labor, peace and social justice as a lawyer, an activist, and as a musician and director of the Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council.

For thirty-five years, he has practiced law in Newark, devoting himself to unions, employees and the Constitution. Presently a solo practitioner, he was previously the Managing Partner of Reitman Parsonnet, PC, where

he entered the private practice of law under the tutelage of the late Sidney Reitman. Over the years, his primary practice has been the representation of many international and local unions. He has also helped hundreds of unrepresented employees in efforts to obtain justice from their employers.

When he is not in his office or in a court room, you can frequently find him on a picket line, supporting worker and community struggles, working for peace and responsible government, defending free speech rights, or raising fighting spirits as the Director of the Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council.

Mr. Zurofsky also regularly provides pro bono representation and advice in support of activists working for progressive change throughout New Jersey. He is particularly known for assisting demonstrators when they stand their ground and exercise their free speech rights in the face of police hostility. His current pro bono activity includes: serving as General Counsel to the New Jersey Poor Peoples Campaign and providing ongoing advice and representation to many groups that are part of the New Jersey Resistance to the Trump Administration.

As a litigator, some of his notable victories have included: defending the constitutionality of the New Jersey Community Right to Know Act against a challenge brought by the chemical and pharmaceutical industries; obtaining public deportation proceedings for a post 9/11 detainee who the Department of Justice had declared subject to a secret trial; and eliminating sexually discriminatory "obstacle course" testing for municipal police officers. He was also instrumental in ending unconstitutional condi-

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

516 Prospect St.,  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973-763-1905  
ecsec.nj@gmail.com  
www.essexethical.org

Jim White, *Leader Emeritus*  
Zia Durrani, *President*  
Jacqueline Herships, *Vice President*  
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Morris Silver  
*EC Monthly Programs Editor*  
Elaine Durbach  
*Editor/Graphics:* Howard Gilman  
*Office Manager:* Liz Cunningham  
*Office hours*  
Monday–Friday 8:15 to 9:45 am  
Sunday 9:30 am to 12 pm



## The Ethical Culture Society

is a religious and educational fellowship that seeks to achieve the ethical life without dogma; to develop the highest values in human relationships in ourselves, our families, and our community; and to elicit the best in others, thereby eliciting the best in ourselves.

Ethical Culture is a humanist religion — come and visit! Did you know that we perform weddings, baby namings and other humanist ceremonies? Call 973-763-1905

## Newsletter

Opinions offered in this publication are those of the authors. Newsletter items must be received by the eighth of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition. Editor reserves right to edit for length, clarity and content. *If you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call me, especially if time-sensitive.* — Howard Gilman, newsletter email: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

tions of confinement in the jails and the juvenile detention center of Newark and Essex County through his service as Special Master for the United States District Court. He has also been Chairman of The New Jersey Supreme Court's District Ethics Committee for Essex County.

Many also know him as a performing musician since the age of 15. He sings and plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle and various drums and percussion instruments. Since 1995, he has appeared almost exclusively with the Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, which he directs. For more than a decade, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Sing Out Corporation, which was founded by Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Paul Robeson and others in 1951, the same year that Zurofsky was born.

He has been honored to serve as the President of several non-profits, including Community Access Unlimited and the Folk Music Society of Northern New Jersey.

Bennet lives in Maplewood with his wife Susan J. Vercheak, who is Assistant General Counsel, Utility Affairs, for Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., and was formerly Chief Deputy Attorney General of the New Jersey Division of Law's Public Utilities Section. They are the parents of adult twins, Hannah and Sam.

Joining Bennet will be the **Solidarity Singers of New Jersey**. The Solidarity Singers are "a street chorus, not a concert choir. Our preferred venue is a picket line. We try to lift the spirits of people engaged in struggle and help them to carry on. Only a few of us know how to read music, but we all know which side we're on."

Over the past twenty years, the Solidarity Singers have appeared hundreds of times on picket lines, at rallies for labor and other progressive causes and in occasional concert settings, including the annual May Day celebrations at the Botto House/American Labor Museum, commemorations of the hundredth anniversary of Woody Guthrie's birth and many others.

Together, young and old, we'll lift our voices in harmony and song. There is no better way to end another year of exploration into who we are and how to live an ethical fulfill-



ing life. Come and sing along. All voices are important! Please join the Ethical Culture Society and the Educational Initiative in honoring labor lawyer, Bennet Zurofsky.

*[The Family Education program is going to be included in the sing along.]*

## June 17 Celebrating Fathers Day

Fathers and sons present will take center stage in a colloquy about our fathers and their impact in our lives, and how fathering has evolved. *[Final Day of the ECS season]*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Folk Friday, June 8, 7:30 pm

Sing along and jam. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening. Bring refreshments to share. 7:30 pm, second Fridays of the month through June. Everyone invited!

## PLEASE NOTE

### Ongoing Collection / Food Bank:

Please remember to bring canned or boxed food items for the food pantry box in our front hall. Donations go to the New Jersey Food Bank. (Please be careful not to donate expired items, which could cause adverse effects.)

We are no longer collecting batteries or children's books.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

We need help! Please call the office if you can aid with any of these endeavors:

- Occasionally provide local transportation to people who cannot get to events.
- Be part of a caring committee to identify/contact those who are ill or ailing.
- Lend your expertise to research/grant applications.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am – Memorial Day Colloquy – What We Honor and How We Honor It	28	29 11 am - Chair Yoga	30	31	JUNE 2018 1 2	
3 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am – David Harrison, "Protecting our fragile world" 12pm - Social Action	4	5 11 am - Chair Yoga	6	7	8 7:30 pm - Folk Friday	9
10 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Local Hero Award honoring labor lawyer, Bennet Zurofsky	11	12 11 am - Chair Yoga	13 1 pm - ECSEC Board	14	15	16
17 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am – Celebrating Fathers Day [Final day of the ECS season]	18	19 11 am - Chair Yoga	20	21	22	23
24 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan	25	26 11 am - Chair Yoga	27	28	29	30

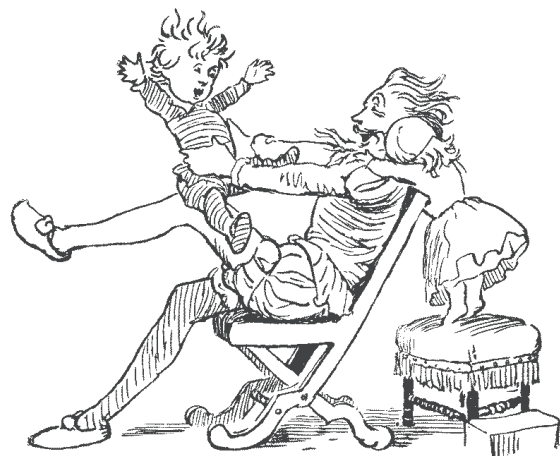
## Welcome To Spring

By Ringgold Wilmer "Ring" Lardner  
1885–1933

Spring, you are welcome, for you are the friend of  
Fathers of all little girlies and chaps.  
Spring, you are welcome, for you mean the end of  
Bundling them up in their cold-weather wraps.

Breathes there a parent of masculine gender,  
One whose young hopeful is seven or less,  
Who never has cursed the designer and vender  
Of juvenile-out-of-doors-winter-time dress?

Leggings and overcoat, rubbers that squeeze on,  
Mittens and sweater a trifle too small;  
Not in the lot is one thing you can ease on,  
One that's affixed with no trouble at all.



Spring, you are welcome, thrice welcome to father;  
Not for your flowers and birds, I'm afraid,  
As much as your promised relief from the bother  
Of bundling the kid for the daily parade.

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street  
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**Food Pantry** box in our front hall. Donations go to the NJ Food Bank.

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## ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · JUNE 2018



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