



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3

Visit our web site: www.essexethical.org

NOVEMBER 2003

Leader's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

How would you feel if someone called you up and said that after observing your behavior as a parent, it was time for you to be removed as head of household and replaced and that he was personally going to make sure that this occurred one way or another? And what would you think if that person had no legal standing to make such a demand and had no intention of proceeding through any government agency but was simply going to enforce this demand all by himself?

I don't know about you, but I would be on the line with the local police faster than it takes to say "George W. Bush." We are fortunate in having laws and agencies which will take care of such self-appointed policemen. Unfortunately the UN, the world's only authoritative organization, has not been able to exercise the limited authority it does have to stop nations which unilaterally decide that

"...our nation has had a long history of engaging in unilateral regime change."

they are going to unseat another nation's leader because they disapprove of that leader. This is most likely to be the case when the nation in question happens to be a permanent member of the Security Council and the greatest military power on the face of the earth. The structural and organizational limitation of the UN may soon be remedied if Kofi Annan's call for restructuring bears fruit. Unfortunately the challenge of containing the self-appointed police activities of the world's supreme military power when it is prepared to act unilaterally, or even against UN decisions, is altogether another problem.

I was never particularly fond of Saddam Hussein and quite frankly I am delighted to see him unseated and underground. I am equally pleased to see outrageously abusive parents deprived of their right to parent. However, I am a little fussy about how such good deeds are accomplished. I have an awfully strong preference for lawful methods and an irresistible preference for law enforcement within democratic governments committed to human rights. Unfortunately our nation has had a long history of engaging in unilateral regime change, especially in Latin America. Remember Allende? Old habits die hard. Unfortunately there appears to be no interest in extinguishing this one. Do you think Chirac should be concerned?

All the Best, Boe

Fundraiser Events

The members offering the following events are contributing their time, talents and treasure. You can show your appreciation and support for the Society by attending these events. Start marking your calendar and get ready for another banner year:

- Nov. 1** Fall Supper – Jim Quigley
- Dec. 13** Pot Luck/Auction/Sing-along
- Jan.** Trivial Pursuit – Jeanine Rosh
- Feb. 7** Sterling Duo – Concert
- Mar.** Theater Party: "Proof" – The Strollers
- Apr.** Dinner – Mira & Jerry Stillman
- May** White Elephant Sale
- Jul.** Gourmet Lunch – Boe Meyerson

Be sure to save December 13th There will be great comradery at the **POT LUCK** and **SING-ALONG**, as well as terrific bargains at the **SILENT AUCTION** — gift certificates from local merchants, jewelry, household items, etc.

For information regarding fundraising events, contact the committee: Nancy Bohn, Jill Fox, Louisa Lubiak, Jeanine Rosh.

Entertainment Books

Need a gift for someone out of town? These books can be ordered and shipped to anywhere in the country for their particular area. The 2004 Entertainment Books cost \$22 and can save you that and much, much more. The Entertainment Books contain discounts to many restaur-

(Continued on page 2)

A REMINDER

Marty Cotler's honoring dinner is going to be held at the building on November 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Boe Meyerson, *Leader*

Ted Seagull, *Assistant Leader*

Jim White, *Leader Emeritus*

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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). 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

Entertainment Books, *cont'd from pg.1*

rants, fast food places, car washes, hotels, car rentals, dry cleaners and other establishments. Most of our books are for Essex and Union Counties, but we also have or can order books for businesses in New York, South Jersey, Pennsylvania and almost anywhere you wish. They make great gifts so please purchase one for yourself and sell some to your friends and neighbors. This was a successful fund raiser last year and we hope to make even more this year with your help.

Books are available at the Society every Sunday this fall or contact Nancy Bohn, 973-762-0513, or Jill Fox, 973-762-1670.

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

From Around the AEU

Stan Wayne/AEU clipping service

RICHARD KINIRY, Philadelphia

“The traditional Golden Rule” that says “do unto others...” has many versions around the world. It is a convenient, capsulized guide to moral behavior...Its message is reciprocity. It assumes we all have similar needs, so you know what the other person wants....Which brings me to Felix Adler’s version of a Golden Rule, “Act so as to elicit the best in others thereby bringing out the best in yourself”. It is a statement about the human condition. He is saying we all live in a web of relationships and how we relate to the rest of that web determines the kind of person

Tributes

To **Ted Seagull** — my condolences on the death of your beloved son-in-law Pete Ronzo. It was only a short time ago that you officiated at his marriage to your daughter Judy.

Warmly, Betty

To **Jerry Kaplan** — my condolences on the death of your beloved older brother Larry.

Warmly, Betty

To **Virginia Branigan** on the loss of your dear husband Durward, a valued member of our Ethical Culture and United Nations communities.

Warmly, Betty

we are....Adler is saying, stop trying to make yourself good. Instead, bring out the unique best in the people and the world around you. In his way, Felix Adler was saying to all of us, “Get a life”. We don’t have to worry about fitting into some idea of good. We should be making life good.”

ALGERNON BLACK

“There is a hunger in people for more truth and more beauty and more goodness than the world has yet known. And we believe that it is in the relations of people with one another that human beings work out the most sacred things in life.

Where relationships are unsound and unfair, where people neglect, deprive, mistreat, exploit, and reject others, there is bound to be insecurity, distrust, fear, and hate. This means mental illness and emotional disturbance. It makes good family life, creative work and a just society difficult. It makes peace within and between nations impossible.

The more ethical life we achieve, the more healthy and productive and happy we can all be.

To strive for decency, fair play for every-

one, and to fight for the rights of others as for our own — this is an essential need today. It is part of the struggle to fulfill the human quality in the human individual and in human society.

If there is a purpose in the universe and in the evolution of the human species, we must try to find out what we mean by being true to ourselves, to our human nature. To commit ourselves to such a purpose is the heart of what we mean by religion.

It is a true expression of appreciation for the gift of life and a true sense of reverence for life and commitment to fulfilling life.”

FELIX ADLER

“**M**orality directs that we should seek to understand others. Every human being is precious. The experiences of others are not to be ignored or taken for granted or dismissed with a platitude. We are not to wash our hands of concern for others with some pretext or phrase. We ought to enter into their situation in order to help.”

“Religion of Duty”, pg173, Selections in A Book of Ethical Wisdom

Quotations

“**The belief** in the possibility of a short decisive war appears to be one of the most ancient and dangerous of human illusions.”

—*Robert Lynd (1879-1949), Anglo-Irish essayist, journalist*

“**If you want to make peace** with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

—*Nelson Mandela (1918-) in The Long Walk to Freedom*

Platforms/Presenters, *cont'd from pg.4*

array of services that support life in all of its forms, including production, maintenance, storage, cleansing and recycling. Without these vital functions, we could not exist.

“This talk will explore the relationship between public health and ecosystem health, and how our everyday actions and activities impact and affect the health of our living environment and ourselves. It will also focus on ways to convey to the public the need to consider environmental impacts and resultant health effects at the individual, community and global levels. Developing increased awareness of these concepts and interconnections, we can better incorporate them into our personal lives, and integrate them into our professional activities.

“The talk will focus the environment-health connection by considering some of the core components of our daily lives, including: The Air — Whatever we discharge into the air ultimately winds up in the water, on the ground, and in our bodies. Energy derived from fossil fuels emits vast amounts of contaminants into the air in the form of sulfur and nitrous oxides (major contributors to smog). By conserving energy, we help protect our health and environment. Vehicles consume enormous amounts of energy and emit massive amounts of contaminants and carbon dioxide, contributing to air pollution and global warming. By using more fuel-efficient vehicles and driving less we can further promote both our personal health and that of our planet.

“The Water — The condition of

our water is directly related to the condition of our land and our air. Clean water is an incredibly precious and limited resource, paramount to our survival. In order to ensure an adequate supply of clean water we need to understand and control sources of pollution. Whatever we flush down the toilet or pour onto our lawns ultimately winds up in our water supply. Therefore, it is important to reduce or eliminate use of toxic items, pesticides, fertilizers and other products that enter and degrade our waterways.

“The earth, our ultimate life support system, is finite in natural resources, while our wants and needs often seem endless. In order to offer next generations a sustainable future, and to allow other species a place to live, we need to limit our consumption of the earth’s precious bounty, taking only what we require. By making responsible, informed decisions and limiting our adverse impacts on the environment, we can help assure the present and future health and well being of our planet and ourselves.”

Nov. 23 — Bennet Zurovsky and the Solidarity Singers

Bennet D. Zurovsky is the legal counsel and musical director of the Industrial Union



Council as well as a law partner in the firm of Reitman and Parsonnet. He specializes in labor and employment law on behalf of unions and employees. The Solidarity Singers have appeared at over 50 demonstrations and picket lines in the four years since they were founded.

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040
(973) 763-1905

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ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

NOVEMBER 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.*

Nov. 2 Boe Meyerson — Un-American Activities of Our Federal Administration: Your Freedom on the Line

Nov. 9 Rev. Anthony P. Johnson — A Unitarian Universalist Perspective.
Live Music by the Stirling Duo

Nov. 16 Joel Coyne — The Environment and Public Health: Making the Connection

Nov. 23 Bennet Zurovsky and the Solidarity Singers

Nov. 2 Boe Meyerson — Un-American Activities of Our Federal Administration: Your Freedom on the Line. An exploration of the ways in which the sacred groundwork of our nation's moral heritage has been trampled.

Nov. 9 Rev. Anthony P. Johnson — A Unitarian Universalist Perspective Rev. Anthony P. Johnson, minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County, holds a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard University and a Master of Science in urban policy and management from the New School for Social Research. He has served congregations in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, and New Brunswick, has been executive director of a community housing organization in New York City, and an adjunct professor of sociology at Monmouth University. *[Live Music by the Stirling Duo!]*

Nov. 16 Joel Coyne — The Environment and Public Health: Making the Connection Joel Coyne is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with over 15 years experience in the field, currently working in the Bernards Township Health Department.

He says: "Public health professionals have been educated about the relationship between our living environment and our health. Although we are generally cognizant of the importance of protecting our natural surroundings, there is often a lack of conscious connection between public health, our daily activities, and the actual condition of our living environment.

"The health and integrity of our earth and its natural systems is of critical importance to our health and well being. Nature provides a vast *(continued on page 3)*

Family Night Nov. 7

7:30 pm every 1st Friday

Philosophy Group Nov. 9, 23

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

Folk Music Nov. 14

7:30pm every 2nd Friday

Public Affairs Forum Nov. 21

7:30 pm every 3rd Friday

Poetry Series Nov. 17

7:30 p.m. every 3rd Monday.
Contact: Tom Obrzut, (973) 275-0929.

Honoring dinner Nov. 29 for Marty Cotler

6:30 p.m. at the building

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Jan. Trivial Pursuit – Jeanine Rosh

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[For more information regarding Fundraiser Events — see pg. 1]