



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 9

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

NOVEMBER 2019

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### **Nov. 3 Erin Scherzer and Kasia Piekarz, “Maplewood Community Board on Police: What We Do and Why It Matters”**

Maplewood Community Board on Police Co-chairs Erin Scherzer and Kasia Piekarz will host a discussion on the Maplewood Community Board on Police, including:

- Why it was created
- What the objectives are
- Current areas of focus
- How the community can get involved

Erin Scherzer holds the appointed seat on the Board for the Community Coalition on Race. A 5+-year resident of Maplewood, she is also PTA President for Tuscan Elementary School. Professionally, Erin practiced as a corporate lawyer before working for 8 years in career development at a higher education institution. Now she works on the business and Human Resources arm of a civil rights law firm.

Kasia Piekarz holds the appointed seat on the Board for SOMA Justice. She has lived in Maplewood for 8 years.



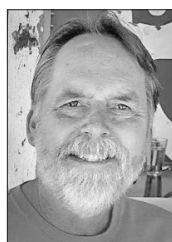
Erin Scherzer



Kasia Piekarz

### **Nov. 10 Bart Worden, “Ethical Humanism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”**

The first Ethical Society was founded over 140 years ago which may be a long time compared to our personal lives but is a blink of the eye for the larger historical context. Our movement has waxed and waned and has continued to have somewhere in the



order of 2000 members nationwide for the past 30 years. Meanwhile, the landscape for humanism in the United States has changed dramatically in the past two decades. How will the Ethical Culture Movement best relate to this new reality where there are many other humanist groups who often share some but not all of the Ethical Movement’s values and interests?

Bart Worden has been the Executive Director of the American Ethical Union, the national federation of Ethical Culture and Ethical Humanist Societies, since 2012. Bart is, in addition, the clergy leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, and is a Social Worker who has worked with programs that help people recover from psychiatric disability.

### **Nov. 17 Donna Baier Stein, “Turning Images into Tales: Writing Ekphrastic Fiction & Poetry”** (postponed from Sept.)

Award-winning author Donna Baier Stein discusses the role of visual art in literature and her use of lithographs by famed painter Thomas Hart Benton in the creation of her latest book, *Scenes from the Heartland*.

Benton was one of the most popular modern artists and arguably the best Regionalist painter of the 20th century. He was the first American artist to appear on the cover of Time magazine and his art illustrated the cover of John Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath*. He gained artistic fame portraying the people and culture of the American Midwest, particularly in his home state of Missouri. Through his art, he made bold statements about politics, society, and culture and he broadened both the scope of what was considered artistic subject matter and who might appreciate it. His portrayal of ordinary Americans — steelworkers, dance hall girls, preachers, farmers, and more — provided rich inspiration for Baier Stein’s stories. Her new collection, consisting of nine tales inspired by the lithographs of Benton, bring to vivid life the early decades of the 20th century. While his lithographs depict the past, the real-life people he portrayed face issues that are front and center today: corruption, women’s rights, racial inequality.



In addition to *Scenes from the Heartland*, Donna is the author of *The Silver Baron’s Wife*, *Sympathetic People*, *Sometimes You Sense the Difference*, and *Letting Rain Have Its Say* and her writing has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. [donnabaierstein.com]

[**Ekphrasis**, according to Wikipedia: “The word **ekphrasis**, or ecphrasis, comes from the Greek for the description of a work of art produced as a rhetorical exercise, often

(Continued on page 2)

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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#### 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!

#### 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, preferably via email: [gilman.howard@gmail.com](mailto:gilman.howard@gmail.com).

Editor may edit for length, clarity and content. Members submitting for publication time-sensitive items in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call Elaine Durbach or Howard Gilman.

used in the adjectival form ekphrastic. It is a vivid, often dramatic, verbal description of a visual work of art, either real or imagined. ... A descriptive work of prose or poetry, a film, or even a photograph may thus highlight through its rhetorical vividness what is happening, or what is shown in, say, any of the visual arts, and in doing so, may enhance the original art and so take on a life of its own through its brilliant description."]

#### Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Colloquy

Planning to do our traditional Thanksgiving Colloquy, with a look at the growing practise of "daily gratitudes", done to counteract sadness or negativity with a focus on what's right in our lives.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### Folk Friday Nov. 8

Sing-Along & Jam — Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. Everyone is invited! Folk Friday is second Friday of the month, October to May, 7:30-10:30 pm. [lnovemsky@comcast.net](mailto:lnovemsky@comcast.net), (973) 763-8293



**Jim White to Present Workshop Saturday Nov. 9, 10 am to 2 pm at the Society.**

*Be sure to email your*

*suggestions to the office and to RSVP.*

In continuing our explorations into this year's theme, "Living Ethical Culture in Our World," Jim White, former leader at the Essex Society will return to moderate a workshop here on November 9. The Focus will be "Helping Each Other Change, for a World of Justice and Peace". We will explore how we are personally connected to what we experience globally. **Jim would like ideas and suggestions from participants, well beforehand, to help frame the substance of the workshop.** Please RSVP and offer any discussion ideas to the Society by phone (973-763-1905) or email ([ecsec.nj@gmail.com](mailto:ecsec.nj@gmail.com)). The workshop will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Society. There is no charge to attend. Bring your lunch and beverages will be supplied.

Jim was born and raised on a farm in Virginia. He attended Harvard, earned a master's at Teacher's College in New York and spent five years teaching emotionally disturbed children in Manhattan and the Bronx before studying law at New York Law School. As a lawyer, Jim espoused social justice and civil liberties. He started a mental health practice in Manhattan that handles cases for psychiatric patients. In 1989, he was certified as an Ethical Leader, and he led the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County in New Jersey for eight years (now *Leader Emeritus* at the Society) before going to the Bronx Riverdale Society in 2010 as Leader, now retired. Currently, in addition to co-chairing the Congregations for Justice in Harlem, Jim is co-founder of Bronx Climate Justice North. — *Jeanine Rosh*

#### Friday Nov. 15 Birgit Matzerath, "J.S. Bach, 'The Well-Tempered Clavier,' A Listening Journey"

Join us on Friday, November 15 from 7 to 8 pm to explore the preludes and fugues No 5 in D-major and No 6 in D-minor. Suggested donation \$10, to benefit the Ethical Culture Society and Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County. Admission for students is free.

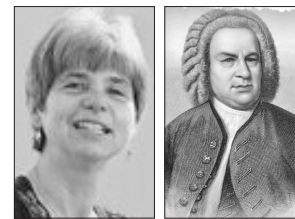
Check out the EC website for information about recordings of the Well-Tempered Clavier and books about related topics.

#### *A Listening Journey*

Experience the joy of listening to music together, discover balance in your life through music and share your experience with others. Join Birgit Matzerath on a listening journey through *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1* by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The Bach piano series is part of this year's theme, "Living Ethical Culture in Our World".

The struggle for justice, human rights and preservation of the environment has become more urgent than ever, requiring even more of our energy. In this situation, the journey through Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier 1* is meant to create a space (*Continues on page 3*)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan with Rich Mullen	28	29 11 am - Chair Yoga	30	31 Halloween	November 2019	
3 Daylight Sav. Time Ends 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Erin Scherzer and Kasia Piekarz, "Maplewood Community Board on Police: What We Do and Why It Matters" 12 pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	4	5 Election Day 11 am - Chair Yoga	6 1 pm - ECSEC Board Meeting 7:30 pm - Grannie Nannies	7	8 Folk Friday 7:30-10:30 pm	9 10 am to 2 pm - Jim White workshop
10 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Bart Worden, "Ethical Humanism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"	11 Veteran's Day	12 11 am - Chair Yoga	13	14	15 Matzerath/Bach 7 - 8 pm Well-Tempered Clavier No 5-6 BWV 850-851	16
17 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Donna Baier Stein, "Turning Images into Tales: Writing Ekphrastic Fiction & Poetry"	18	19 11 am - Chair Yoga	20	21	22	23
24 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Thanksgiving Colloquy	25	26 11 am - Chair Yoga	27	28 Thanksgiving	<b>Bach Sessions Fridays 7-8 pm:</b> 9/20/19 No 1-2 BWV 846-847      3/20/20 No 13-14 BWV 858-859 10/18/19 No 3-4 BWV 848-849      4/24/20 No 15-16 BWV 860-861 11/15/19 No 5-6 BWV 850-851      5/15/20 No 17-18 BWV 862-863 12/20/19 No 7-8 BWV 852-853      6/19/20 No 19-20 BWV 864-865 1/17/20 No 9-10 BWV 854-855      7/17/20 No 21-22 BWV 866-867 2/21/20 No 11-12 BWV 856-857      8/14/20 No 23-24 BWV 868-869	

where people can come together, listen to the music, take a break, refuel and be inspired. The Preludes and Fugues are particularly appropriate, because the contrapuntal style of Bach's compositions represents in music what we encounter in life: a network where ev-

erything hangs together. What happens in one voice has an impact on the entire system of independent, but not self-sufficient voices that share responsibilities in a common task.

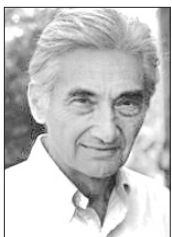
The monthly sessions are Fridays at 7-8 pm (see calendar for schedule).

The series culminates with a complete performance on Friday 9/11/20 at 7:30 pm. Suggested donations: \$10 per session; final concert \$25. Admission for students is free. Proceeds to benefit the Ethical Culture Society and Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County.

## QUOTABLE QUOTE

“TO BE HOPEFUL in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.



And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.” — *Howard Zinn, 1922-2010*

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Howard Zinn was a historian, playwright, and social activist. He was a shipyard worker and a bombardier with the U.S. Army Air Force in Europe during the Second World War before he went to college under the GI Bill and received his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Zinn taught at Spelman College and Boston University, and was a visiting professor at the University of Paris and the University of Bologna. He received the Thomas Merton Award, the Eugene V. Debs Award, the Upton Sinclair Award, and the Lannan Literary Award. He lived in Auburndale, Massachusetts. [<http://howardzinn.org>]

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web  
site: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org); email: [ecsec.nj@gmail.com](mailto:ecsec.nj@gmail.com)

**Collections:** Please remember to bring canned or boxed food items for the  
**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 · NOVEMBER 2019

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