



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 3

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Nov. 1 Martha Gallahue, "Spiritual Literacy: what it means and where it is trending in the US"

Martha will discuss how the embrace of spirituality has moved to include not only personal practice but also collective activism. She will include discussion of the growing interspirituality movement and stress the importance of ethical culture's stance of non-theism to our participation in it. She will use her experiences from the UN to give examples and tell stories. She has enjoyed a long collegial relationship with Dr. Kurt Johnson, one of the world's leading coordinators of interspirituality, also vice president of National Ethical Service. Martha has



Families for Education meets

Nov. 22nd at 11:00 am at the Society. Program: "Under One Sky," Amy Blake, Director, is the presenter. Members children and grandchildren with guests are free. Suggested donation \$20 for those families who are most welcome to join.



been in leadership positions in a variety of roles with National Ethical Service, the affiliate organization of The American Ethical Union, and which is in association with the United Nations Department of Public Information.

Martha presently is an ECOSOC representative at the United Nations with United Religions Initiative, a worldwide non-governmental organization with over 600,000 members. In

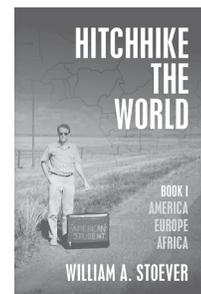
our local Society, she is promoting the growth of the ethical education initiative whose aim is to develop regular programming especially for children leading to global citizenship.

Nov. 8 William Stoever, "A Kid from Iowa Encounters the Religions of the World"

Bill Stoever will discuss how a world view shaped by a childhood in Iowa has been expanded over the years by encounters with Islam and other religions, through his travels around the U.S., and in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.



William (Bill) A. Stoever grew up in Iowa, and now lives in Maplewood. In between, he has broadened his vision by living in and visiting rural and urban sites around the world. The retired Seton Hall University business professor wrote *Hitchhike the World* about his travels through American, Europe and Africa, and is now working on his second book, *World Traveler*, on hitchhiking through the Middle East and Asia.



"What I did would not be for everyone," he said. "The travels were frequently uncomfortable and lonely... you have to be able to withstand the downsides."

Bill said writing *Hitchhike the World* brings him back to yesteryear. "I was a young man when I did those travels, and I find myself transported back to those years as I write," he said. "I think

In Memoriam

On the Mass Killings at Umqua Community College

Visitors and members at the Sunday program of October 4th drafted a spontaneous litany during our Tribute Lighting to the 10 dead in Roseburg, Oregon, Umqua Community College:

As we mourn this latest loss of life at Umqua Community College, we call for:

- A national plan that responds to our mental health needs in this country
- Renewal of ban on assault weapons
- Action on the part of our Congress to shift our present gun policies
- *For all the families, bystanders, police and emergency care givers in Roseburg, Oregon:* Comfort and solace in a national outpouring of sympathy for another senseless mass killing
- A cultural shift within all American communities that ends our addiction to guns and the illegitimate availability of them

Let love prevail, let love prevail.

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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Martha Gallahue, *Interim Leader*
Jim White, *Leader Emeritus*

William Graves, *President*
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EC Monthly Programs Editor
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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: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

If you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please email or call to be sure I know about it, 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.

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

I'm writing from a young man's perspective." He suspects young travelers of today will find his memoir inspiring, and perhaps even the "armchair travelers" who wish they could've done what Stoeber did.

While he admits he wouldn't be eager to put himself through the discomforts and uncertainties of his wilder days, he reflects on them fondly. He embarked on these journeys because he wanted to, and he encourages others to follow their hearts, too.

"Do what's right for you," he said. "I chose to go on the teaching program in Africa, and to hitch around Asia, even though I knew my parents wouldn't be happy about it. Save some money. Live within your budget so you can afford to travel – if you want to."



Nov. 15 Lucy Schmitz, "The UN and the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace"

Columbia University student and UN youth representative Lucy Schmitz will discuss the National Ethical Service and the global movement for the culture of peace at the UN, and how her concept of ethics has broadened as she has seen its implementability through those organizations.

Maplewood resident Lucy Schmitz first spoke at Ethical when she was a student at Columbia High School and was leading its

gay-straight alliance, Spectrum. Now, after studying in France for two years, she is enrolled at Columbia University, where she is studying international affairs and human rights. Also, for the past two years, Lucy has been the Youth Representative for The National Ethical Service, a UN-affiliated NGO which represents the interests of Ethical Culture Societies and promotes peace and global community in the United Nations.

Nov. 22 Hasan Shanawani, "Islam and Ethics"

Islam is a religion followed by nearly a quarter of the world's population. What are the textual sources for most mainstream Muslims around the world? How are good and evil designated? What are the controversies, both historic and current, among Muslim scholars and laypeople? Does Islam have a living spokesman for God or His messengers?

Hasan Shanawani, MPH MD, is a lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, a writer on Islam and Bioethics, and a member of the ethics council for the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA). He most recently spoke at the University of Florida on Islam and Bioethics, and has written several papers on Islam and ethics.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Nov. 1, Social Action Committee

First Sundays, after program

Nov. 6-8, National Ethical Education weekend in Stony Point, NY

Amy Blake, Director of Families for Ethical Education, and Martha Gallahue, Leader, will speak during the AEU National Ethical

Education weekend, held at Stony Point, NY, November 6-8th.

Folk Friday at Ethical, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Sing-along & jam second Fridays of the month, through June. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing, or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share — Everyone is invited! Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect St.,

Maplewood, NJ 07040
lnovemsky@comcast.net,
(973) 763-8293

Nov. 22 Families for Education program, "Under One Sky"

at 11:00 am, at the Society. Amy Blake, Director, is the presenter. Members children and grandchildren with guests are free. Suggested donation \$20 for those families who are most welcome to join.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11am Martha Gallahue, "Spiritual Literacy: what it means and where it is trending in the US" Social Action Committee Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon Election Day	4	5	6 NEE weekend*	7 NEE weekend*
8 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am William Stoever, "A Kid from Iowa Encounters the Religions of the World" NEE weekend*	9	10 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	11 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30 pm - 9 pm Veteran's Day	12	13 Folk Friday 7:30 p.m.	14
15 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Lucy Schmitz, "The UN and the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace"	16	17 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	18	19	20	21
22 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Hasan Shanawani, "Islam and Ethics" Families for Education meet	23	24 Chair Yoga 11am-12 noon	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Post-Thanksgiving Colloquy led by Elaine Durbach	30				*November 6-8, National Ethical Education weekend in Stony Point, NY	November 2015

Nov. 29 Post-Thanksgiving Colloquy led by Elaine Durbach: "The Good, the Bad, and the Not So Ugly After All"

In the season celebrating gratitude, we are going to take a look at those life events that, for all our diligent attempts to avoid them, often turn out to be the most beneficial. While we seek to be good and do good, can bad behavior sometimes prove productive? And so-called "bad luck" actually provide just what we need?

CULTURE OF PEACE:

UNDER ONE SKY Events Urge World Leaders to "Light the Way" to a Brighter Global Future

"Heed the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor." — Pope Francis

At this 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was passed by consensus. Ethical Culture member Diane Beeny participated in

events highlighting this accomplishment:

"On the eve of the September 25th vote by representatives of 193 countries at the United Nations on the next wave of Sustainable Development Goals — to eliminate extreme poverty; promote sustainability and address climate change — diverse coalitions held 'Light the Way' vigils in over 70 global locations, in villages and cities across continents, to put 'people power' behind these Global Goals.

"These events culminated in the 'Under One Sky' gathering at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza of New York City. Large light installations radiated colorful rays through the trees and participants beamed flashlights, candles and cell phones to send a powerful message of hope for the future. Meanwhile, a broad spectrum of global speakers, youth activists and performers repeated clarion calls for urgent action, concluding with the P.S. 22 Youth Choir singing 'Light One Candle'."



Light signs (top), photo by Marissa May Hatch
Musicians (bottom), photo by Susan Cagliuni Dufour



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For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web site:
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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. **Children's Books** — We accept children's books to be donated to the Parenting Center for children of need.

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