



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 9

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Nov. 6 Morris Silver, "Islam"

(Postponed from Sept. 11)

At this time when there is so much in the news about Islam and its followers, we have a chance to learn more.

Dr. Morris Silver explains he became interested in Islam and focused on Muhammad: "Twenty years ago I had the chance to read the Quran, so I began to learn more about the history of Islam and how Muhammad was able to convert Arabia to Islam."

He continued, "In world history, once in a while a single individual comes along who, with his forward vision and stubborn determination and persistence against all odds, is determined to change history in a way that will affect the rest of the world forever. Such people were Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Socrates, Confucius, Hertzl — and Muhammad. It happens at certain turning times in history, when the world is waiting for such a change."

Dr. Silver is a longtime member of

the Ethical Culture Society. "I am a dentist as my profession but an ethical culturist as a full time job. I am married to Ruth and I have three adult children from a previous marriage. I travel a lot, I am a reader and love life."

Nov. 13 Bart Worden, "Bridging the Divide: Finding Ourselves in Others"

We live, so we often hear, in a highly connected age. Wherever we go, so go our tethers to the information age: our smart phones, tablets, notebooks and PCs. We now know many of our acquaintances' birthdays, can share our opinions about just about anything far and wide with exceptional ease. We can send money, advice, or encouragement at the press of a button. And yet, despite having the technology to connect, we seem to be living in a time of growing divisions between people. The usual suspects for division: race, wealth, religion and politics are, it seems, stronger than ever, and our capacity to influence those divisions appears to be diminishing rapidly. Bart Worden's talk, "Bridging the Divide: Finding Ourselves in Others" examines some ways we can ethically enhance our connections with others — and especially with people whose outlook differs greatly from one's own.

Bart Worden is the Executive Director for the American Ethical Union in New York City and the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester in White Plains, New York. Bart has, in addition, worked in human services as a Social Worker for over thirty years with a focus on serving individuals with psychiatric disabilities and has been an adminis-

trator for a variety of rehabilitative and recovery-oriented programs. Bart's recent social justice efforts have focused on addressing bias and discrimination in communities in Westchester County in New York and he is a member several civil rights organizations.

Nov. 20 Nichole Cropp, "An English Teacher's View of 21st Century China"

Nichole Cropp will present her observations and experience as a teacher of young people in China: what she has seen of her students' values and aspirations, and their view of the world. Topics to be discussed:

- Acclimating to Chinese Culture: Expectations of Foreigners in Education Settings
- Western and Eastern Cultural Exchange: Share Experiences, Don't Import Foreign Ideas/Beliefs
- The Three T's: Never Discuss Them with Chinese Citizens ... on or off the school campus
- Collective Education Mind set: Academic Success Translates into Building a Powerful China
- China's Century: Students' Expressed Sentiments on Issues of the Day (pollution, fast economic growth, increased political power, China's relations with neighboring countries, and China's large Muslim population in Xinjiang Province)

Nichole Cropp started her U.S. teaching career as a New York City Teaching Fellow over 15 years ago. Teaching Fellows devote themselves to the children of New York City's struggling public schools. Nichole selected an elementary school in the Bronx as the beneficiary of her commitment to

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov. 11 Folk Friday — Sing-along and jam with all the new folks that are adding their voices to the mix. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. 7:30 pm second Fridays of the month, through June. Everyone is invited! Inovemsky@com-cast.net, (973) 763-8293.

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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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
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and in
ourselves

addressing the inadequacies of urban education. She taught English as a Second Language (ESL). While doing so, she earned her master's degrees in elementary education and literacy from CUNY's City College of NY.

As she began work on her doctorate, she became fascinated by the sustained academic performance of the Asian community. In such communities, scholastic excellence was a common goal and students were driven to incredible levels of achievement. Nichole wanted to conduct real-time research in a classroom of Asian learners on their turf. She chose China as her destination because of her previous work with Chinese students in Queens, NY, communities. For four years, she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at a large private science and technology university in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China.

After her university stint, she taught SAT preparatory classes at a foreign language high school in Henan Province. The students' rigorous courses prepared them to earn high scores on the SAT exam and gain admittance into a prestigious American or UK university.

During her final years in Central China, she taught elementary (kindergarten and grade 1) and middle school ESL classes. Having taught at all education levels in China, Nichole obtained full insight into the phenomenon of Chinese excellence. China is indeed rising!

Nov. 27 Amy Blake, "What is Gratitude?"

Amy Blake's intergenerational family program for November is: What is gratitude? What does it mean to be thankful? What's behind "thank you"? We teach children to puppet thank you but do they really know what it means? Do *we* know what it means? This is a time of year where we explore those "big ideas." Come be part of our conversation and exploration. Through talk, art and music we will engage everyone of any age. Think, what does gratitude mean to you? Come let us know!

[See page 3 for photos of the September 25th Families Program.]

7 REASONS TO VOTE...

... *Even if it's not a close race:*

1. It is not just the president on the ballot. How much the next president can do depends on whether his or her party controls either the Senate or the House. Local elections are also where citizens decide on the issues that can most directly affect you, including reproductive rights, public school control and discrimination laws.

2. Higher turnout makes our democracy more representative. The consequences of ignoring congressional races can reverberate for years. In 2010, state legislatures were able to gerrymander congressional districts in a way that will likely keep the House under Republican control until after the next census in 2022.

3. To the voters go the spoils. Elected officials award a greater chunk of public resources to the people who bother to show up.

4. The margin of victory can be important. Even if a candidate you loathe is destined to win, you can make a dent in their margin of victory. That limits how much of a "mandate" they can claim, encouraging them to promote more moderate policies so as not to jeopardize their re-election. Conversely, even if you know your preferred candidate will win, adding to their margin of victory can only help advance their agenda in office.

5. Even a vote for a third party can have an impact. If you live in a state that is not a toss-up, you can make a third party choice without having to agonize over empowering someone you despise.

6. Voting is a right generations of Americans struggled to win and people in other countries are still fighting for. It wasn't that long ago when entire swaths of the population — like women — were denied that right. ... When minority voters get to the polls, the influence is undeniable.

7. Voting is your voice. Your grievances will carry more weight if you speak out as a voter trying to hold your candidates accountable for promises they made.

Excerpted from Aug. 11, 2016 Huffington Post (Daniel Marans, Kim Bellware, John Minchillo)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 11am - Chair Yoga	2	3	4	5 November 2016
6 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Morris Silver, "Islam" (Postponed from Sept. 11) 12pm - Social Action Committee Meeting	7	8 11am - Chair Yoga	9 3pm - ECSEC Board Meeting 7pm - Transgender Topics	10	11 Folk Friday 7:30pm	12
13 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Bart Worden, "Bridging the Divide: Finding Ourselves in Others"	14	15 11am - Chair Yoga	16	17	18	19
20 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Nichole Cropp, "An English Teacher's View of 21st Century China"	21	22 11am - Chair Yoga	23	24	25	26
27 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Amy Blake, "What is Gratitude?" family program	28	29 11am - Chair Yoga	30	1	2	3



ETHICAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Program Sundays are for Everyone

The Ethical Education Initiative Task Force wishes to encourage members and friends to join us on selected Sunday mornings for the intergenerational Families Programs scheduled for one Sunday a month. This programming is designed to focus upon our ethical society family growing together in congregational

life. Amy Blake, Curriculum Director is designing these programs to demonstrate how global citizenship may be nurtured in us all. While she uses simple words, her vast experience opens doors to expansive thinking and progressive learning.

On September 25, Amy showed us again that children's books are really works of art. We had a fine program with "Stone Soup" in many cultures.

The above pictures illustrate what it will look like on November 27th, December 11th and January 22nd. Help us to build the New Society in our family space. Families with small children are welcome to listen to the program via speaker connection in the parlor rooms.

[Far right in photo above: Maisie (left) and Danielle (right) are getting their feet wet as helpers for little children too young to join the actual programming.]

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street
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For information, call 973-763-1905; visit our web site:
www.essexethical.org; email: ecsec.nj@gmail.com

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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