



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 2

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

OCTOBER 2015

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

### **Oct. 4 Nadia Lvov, "Russia: Between Asia and Europe"**

Professor Nadia Lvov will "set the stage" for the cultural struggle unfolding in Russia today.



Russian culture has developed under Byzantine influence, much of which was introduced by the Eastern Orthodox Church, and with the conversion of Slavs to Christianity. As a result of Peter the Great's reforms at the beginning of the 18th century, Russia made a sharp turn towards western European culture. The mixture of Byzantine and Catholic traditions produced unique works of art, literature and music. It also influenced politics. Heated debates between slavophiles and pro-westerners brought instability to Russian political life in the beginning of the 20th century, and still divide Russian society. The western European way was chosen by Mikhail Gorbachev when he came to power in 1985; the Byzantine way of a strong Orthodox Church and absolute power was chosen by Vladimir Putin. Future development of Russia will depend on which tradition will win in society.

Nadia Lvov, who came into contact with our Ethical Society through her friendship with Gus Lindquist, was born in Moscow, Russia, the former USSR. In 1996 she immigrated to the US and in 1997 was admitted to NYU Graduate School, Department of Physics. After she obtained her MS in physics she joined the faculty at Es-

sex County College in Newark, NJ, where she is currently teaching physics and astronomy. Nadia Lvov is married and has three daughters. She lives in Congers, NY.

### **Oct. 11 Dr. Morris Silver, "China Explained"**

Through his decades of fascination with China, Dr. Morris Silver has educated himself about its various facets. He has offered to provide us with a concise introduction to its complex and compelling history, its rich and equally complex culture, and its ever-evolving, often mystifying (to the West) politics.



"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."

### **Oct. 18 Barbara Velazquez, "Theosophy"**

As part of our new series introducing Ethical Culturalists to the philosophical and spiritual gifts of other religious paths, Barbara Velazquez will speak about Theosophy.



Dr. Velazquez will discuss the history of the Theosophist Society and its purpose. She will present an overview of its teachings, philosophy and practice including: the three objects, Truth, Spiritual Practice, Universal Laws, 7 Principles and Spiritual Evolution.

Barbara Velazquez is an active Theosophist. The Theosophist Society is composed of students belonging to any religion or to none. Its members are united by their approval of the Society's Three Objects, by their wish to remove religious antagonisms and to draw together people of good will whatsoever their religious opinions, and by their desire to study religious truths and to share the results of their studies with others. Their bond of union is not the profession of a common belief, but a common search and aspiration for Truth. In accordance with the Theosophical spirit, most Theosophists regard Truth as a prize to be striven for, not as a dogma to be imposed by authority. They hold that belief should be the result of individual understanding and intuition rather than mere acceptance of traditional ideas, and that it should rest on knowledge and experience, not on assertion. Truth should therefore be sought by study, reflection, meditation, service, purity of life, and devotion to high ideals. For more information, see <http://www.theosophical.org>.

Dr. Barbara Velazquez earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Seton Hall University in 1999 and is in private practice in Maplewood NJ. She is a founder of several non-profit organizations and programs including the Spiritual Unity Network, the Taskforce for Humanity Coalition and the NJ Kindness Campaign. She is a trustee on the SOMA Community Coalition on Race and serves on the Executive Committee. She was also chair of the committee that organized the Cultural Heritage Festivals held in Maplewood in 2014 and 2015. She has been a student of Metaphysics

# 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 the best in others and in ourselves**

for nearly 40 years and has been a member of the Theosophical Society for 18. She currently serves as Vice President of the Surya Theosophical Study Group which meets in Maplewood.



## Oct. 25 Alice Robinson-Gilman interviews Elaine Durbach, "A Personal Take on the New South Africa"

Alice will interview fellow ECS member Elaine Durbach about her home country, South Africa. Elaine, who still has family living there, has visited the country periodically since moving to the United States in 1981, and has witnessed — as she puts it — a “stop-action” version of its progress from apartheid rogue state to a shaky but evolving democracy, dogged by ills like frequent power outages, and blessed with extraordinary cultural vitality.

Journalist Elaine Durbach was born in Zimbabwe, grew up in Zambia and Lesotho, and was educated in South Africa. She immigrated to the USA in 1981. Currently, she is working on a novel about life in both countries, and is developing a new communications service, based on her 40 years of interviewing people from all walks of life. She lives in Maplewood with her husband Marshall Norstein, the building manager of ECS, and their son Gabriel.

Alice is a longtime member of ECS. She was instrumental in starting a series of interactive membership programs on issues of concern to families as their children grew up. She also has co-presented programs with Sue Willis on books concerning the environment and worldwide issues.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

## Welcome back to Folk Friday at Ethical, October 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Sing-along & jam second Fridays of the month, October to 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

## Sunday, Oct. 11, 4 p.m., Dinner

Fundraiser “Peasant” Dinner honoring Betty Levin’s stepmother.

## Photography Exhibit through Dec. 31

Betty Levin (below right), longtime Ethical member and champion of Ethical Education, welcomes her daughter Janet Rudolph (left), who was brought up in the movement, to the ECS building in Maplewood.



Photographs by Janet (“*Imbued with Magic*”) and Dr. Marc Goldman (“*Reflections and Mirrors*”) are on display through Dec. 31.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Nadia Lvov, "Russia: Between Asia and Europe" 12pm Social Action Committee	5	6 Chair Yoga 11am-12noon	7 ECSEC Board meeting 7:30pm - 9pm	8	9 Folk Friday 7:30pm	10
11 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Dr. Morris Silver, "China Explained" 4pm Fundraiser Dinner, Betty Levin	12	13 Chair Yoga 11am-12noon	14	15	16	17
18 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Barbara Velazquez, "Theosophy"	19	20 Chair Yoga 11am-12noon	21	22	23	24
25 9am Tai Chi Chuan 11am Alice Robinson-Gilman interviews Elaine Durbach, "A Personal Take on the New South Africa"	26	27 Chair Yoga 11am-12noon	28	29	30	31 <b>October 2015</b>

## Anja Moen

Anja Moen passed away on September 3 of cancer, after being ill for a few months. It's a great loss to the community and The Ethical Culture Society, of which she was a long standing member and a past president.



ed Women for Afghan Women. They have a Community Center in Queens where they teach Afghan women English and life skills, opportunities they have been denied in their own country. More than once we traveled to Queens to check out this Community

Center, which Anja also supported with generous donations. When they marked their ten years with a gala in Manhattan, Anja accompanied me to the event.

With Anja's initiative, The Ethical Culture Society sponsored a woman from the organization Women for Women International, which we continue to do.

Anja took me to the Hillside Food Pantry to volunteer, an experience I would not have had without her.

We often met at the Maple Leaf Diner to have breakfast and talk things over. She spoke of her family with

great pride and joy, her son Snorre and her daughter Kaja. She also had great affection for her daughter-in-law and her son-in-law. She admired Knut, her husband, for his dedication to his work at the Steven's Institute of Technology in Hoboken. And her friendship with Gus, whom we also lost recently, was extraordinary.

Anja was a friend of mine and I will miss her terribly."

Lisa wrote:

"Anja had a deep sense of ethics and social justice which she turned into action. Her bi-cultural understanding also informed her dedication to social action.

She took on the presidency with great commitment and vigor, engaging in a wide range of activities spanning the world of global woman's issues, local labor concerns, and issues of décor and cleanliness.

She had strong convictions that guided her presidency and her life."

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street  
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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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