



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 8

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

Oct. 2 Brenda Comissiong and E. Betty Levin, “Our Revolution: The Future of the Bernie Sanders Movement”

On August 24, 2016, Bernie Sanders announced the creation of a new organization called “Our Revolution,” described as the continuation of Bernie’s 2016 campaign for President. The new organization plans to mobilize support for the issues that defined the campaign, especially: environmental, social and economic justice.

From the “Our Revolution” website [*About Our Revolution — Campaigns End. Revolutions Endure*]: “Our Revolution will reclaim democracy for the working people of our country by harnessing the transformative energy of the ‘political revolution.’ Through supporting a new generation of progressive leaders, empowering millions to fight for progressive change and elevating the political consciousness, Our Revolution will transform American politics to make our political and economic systems once again responsive to the needs of working families.”

Sanders wrote to supporters: “You should know that in the weeks since the last primary, both campaigns have worked together in good faith to bridge some of the policy issues that divided us during the election. Did we come to agreement on everything? Of course not. But we made important steps forward.”

On the progressive website, ourfuture.org, Robert Borosage [*Sanders: The Struggle Continues*], wrote obser-

vations from the Democratic convention’s first day: “The Glaring Omission: War, Peace and the World ... Remarkably, there was virtually no mention of our global policies outside of climate change and trade from Sanders or any of the first night’s speakers. The silence reflected stark differences, not consensus. Here the gulf between Clinton’s interventionist temper and the majority of Democrats is the greatest. Here the effort to gain progress in the platform had the least success.”

Will “Our Revolution” be able to sustain the mass movement for progressive change that arose during Bernie’s campaign? A new group has formed that is supportive of Bernie’s “Our Revolution” but critical of its omission of War and Peace issues.

The speakers will discuss how they were drawn to a commitment to Bernie Sanders because his philosophy, especially with regard to education and healthcare, was consistent with their own values.

A native of Grenada, West Indies, where she was a physics teacher, **Brenda Comissiong** has been in the US since 1984. Brenda lives in South Orange, has been tutoring in mathematics and physics at Columbia High School and elsewhere, and is also a tennis instructor and fitness coach. Brenda earned her MS in Computer Science from Steven’s Institute of Technology; BS in Theoretical Physics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

The program will be co-led by **E. Betty Levin** who has been a long-time Ethical Culture Society member, peace educator and psychotherapist. As a private practice psychotherapist

for over 40 years, Betty has a broad understanding of contemporary society and tradition-anchored humanistic values, vital for a meaningful human journey. An indefatigable member of the Ethical Culture Movement almost all her adult life, Betty is also currently active in the Peace Movement.

Oct 9 Zia Durrani, “Ethics as a Religion”

The book Zia Durrani will be reviewing, “picked out of several piles put in front of us,” she tells us, “because I was intrigued by the title, *Ethics as a Religion*. As I read the book it answered many questions I have had for a while, and couldn’t find the words to formulate an answer: What do I believe in? Is Ethics enough?”

Ethics as a Religion, by David Saville Muzzey, traces the history and heritage of the Ethical Culture Society, and emphasizes important elements of the Ethical fellowship. And it comes to the conclusion that Ethics is a religion for adults. Dr. Muzzey accepts that there are several widely recognized religions in which the ethical factor is prominent. His quest in this book is to find “faith in the reasonableness, the timeliness, the adequacy, and the eventual triumph of the Religion of Ethics.”

Since we consider the Ethical Culture movement to be a religion, it is incumbent upon us to explain the principles on which this claim rests. This is the main thrust of the argument in the book.

ECS Board Member Zia Durrani was born and raised in Kashmir, India, where she lived until 1963. Educated in India and England, she was

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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

a teacher of English in a women's college in Srinagar, her home town, until she married and left Kashmir to live briefly in Madras, and then moved to London. Zia came to the US in 1976, and lived in various places before coming to South Orange.

Oct 16 Laura Ingoglia, "Dancing at Jacob's Pillow"

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the country's only National Historic Landmark for dance, welcomes tens of thousands of visitors to experience dance each summer in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. Laura Ingoglia spent two pivotal summers at the Pillow as a young dancer on scholarship in the 1960s, and she now makes it possible for talented young people to follow in her footsteps. In this presentation, she shares fascinating film excerpts and speaks about her connections to this special place.

Laura has spoken at Jacob's Pillow donor events and luncheons and recently gave a presentation about the Pillow at the Lasalle Dance Lecture Series in Woods Hole, MA. A resident of North Caldwell, Laura spent her career in the arts. She was an editor of *Worral Community Newspapers' Arts & Entertainment* supplement and has been associated with The Arts Council of the Essex Area, Nicholas Rodriguez and Dance Compass, the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Oct 23 Martha Gallahue and Amy Blake, "Using our Voices"

Amy Blake and Martha Gallahue will offer a family program dedicated to the topic *Using our Voices*. We will promote an inter-generational conversation as to how children can use their voices and how it makes a difference, how grownups use their voices and then we will ask the children to comment on their parents' views. We will include using our voices to vote, using our voices to alert others to something that they may not know about such as helping parents to work on the computer. We will hear how grandparents use

their voices and why we need to listen. We have invited a few teens to engage us in this conversation. And we have some surprises as well to keep the younger children occupied.

Oct 30 Susan Rose, "Raising Ethical Children"

How do we raise ethical children and how do we keep them connected to Ethical Culture? Susan is uniquely poised to address this topic, having been a lifelong Ethical Culturist, growing up at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture and raising two children herself. Susan will help us reflect on what actions parents and an Ethical Society can take to make it more likely that our Ethical Education students remain connected to Ethical Culture even after they graduate from Sunday School.

Susan is a certified Ethical Culture leader and works for the American Ethical Union as dean of Leadership Training. Susan has served in many roles in the ethical movement, including two years as president of the Essex Society. She represented Essex on the American Ethical Union Board and has served on the national membership committee. Susan is pleased to be celebrating 58 years in Ethical Culture.

Come meet with Susan Rose Teshu. Susan will be welcoming members and newcomers to the Society and will be happy to have a group conversation on ethical parenting if there is interest.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct 14 Folk Friday resumes with a sing-along and jam in memory of Fred Hellerman of the Weavers. 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! lnovemsky@comcast.net, (973) 763-8293.

We are planning to have a social event on **Saturday, Oct. 29**, open to newcomers and parents too. For information, call the office, 973-763-1905.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Family	26	27 11 am - Chair Yoga	28 7:30pm - Busy	29	30	1 October 2016
2 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 12 pm - Social Action 11 am - Brenda Commission, Bernie's "Our Revolution"	3	4 11 am - Chair Yoga	5 7:30pm - Busy	6	7	8
9 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Zia Durani, "Ethics as a Religion"	10	11 11 am - Chair Yoga	12 3 pm - ECSEC Board 7 pm - Transgender 7:30 pm - Busy	13	14 Folk Friday 7:30 pm	15
16 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Laura Ingoglia, "Dancing at Jacob's Pillow"	17	18 11 am - Chair Yoga	19 7:30pm - Busy	20	21	22
23 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Amy Blake and Martha Gallahue, Family Program	24	25 11 am - Chair Yoga	26 7:30pm - Busy	27	28	29 Social event open to newcomers and parents too.
30 9 am - Tai Chi Chuan 11 am - Susan Rose, "Raising Ethical Children"	31	1 11 am - Chair Yoga	2 7:30pm - Busy	3	4	5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Quo Vadis

Our society is at a crossroads and our survival depends on us. As your new president I want to welcome you all to the new season of ethical programs on Sundays. A new beginning, a renewed try to improve the world by first improving ourselves. The medical credo urges "do no harm," but we have to do better: help your neighbor; be compassionate to others, not just your neighbor. We on the board want to work closely with all our members to discuss new ideas and face up to the future problems as they arise. Mostly we want to inspire so that we face the future together. We have to be careful not to be indifferent, not to let apathy control us. We cannot afford to just lay back and let things happen on their own.

We wish to attract more new members, so that we become a more vibrant society and not rest on our past laurels. We should schedule interesting programs and discuss daily issues. If it means spending more money for aesthet-

ics and a warm environment, so be it. Remember what Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." These are not just platitudes but meaningful statements. If we could make our society house a more exciting place to spend time, let us proceed. When we get new members, it will pay for itself.

We should discuss community issues, state issues, federal and global issues. We have to open our house for family educational programs, for children and their parents to join us. We have to survive in order to protect our values, communicate our value system to others and to educate. We have something to offer. We value peace, treating others with dignity, the survival of humanity, protecting our bill of rights and our constitution, choosing life not death, and giving all a chance to bring out their potential.

— Morris Silver

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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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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ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2016

OUR
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