



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 1

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

## SEPTEMBER PLATFORMS

Platforms begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Platforms are subject to change without notice. For information, call 973-763-1905. Visit our web site: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)

**Sunday, Sept. 11** *Opening Day and 9/11 Commemoration.* Our president, Anja Moen, and interim leader, Martha Gallahue, will lead the program, welcoming everyone back for the new season and leading a colloquy.



Given the significance of the date, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the focus will be on what has been learned since then and what it takes to forge understanding and peaceful coexistence when there is a clash of ideologies.

To set the tone for the year ahead, we will have a chance to write our hopes and ideals on fresh leaves to affix to our Peace Tree.

### **Sept. 18** Martha Gallahue *“Positive Peace: Our Way Through to the Good”*

Martha defines peace according to The Earth Charter, “Peace is the wholeness created by right relationship with ourselves, others, other cultures, all life, Earth and the greater whole of which we are all a part.”



On the Sunday before the International Day of Peace (Sept. 21), she will share some of those experiences from The National Peace Academy that can transform our perspective from despair due to climate change, political fragmentation and growing economic inequity to hope in the human ability to make necessary adaptations toward resilient community. She said, “We may no

longer be able to fix the damage caused by war and earth’s depredation but we can transform to loving approach moving forward. Earth has the right to benefit from human presence and we will become better for it when that happens.”

### **Sept. 25** David Brancaccio *“Fixing the Future: Making the Economy Work for More of Us”*

*[If David Brancaccio is called away, we will have a circle discussion on the same topic]*

Journalist David Brancaccio will discuss with us the topic he explored at the Rededication Ceremony of the New York Ethical Culture Society last October, examining the problems dogging the American and the world economy, and his idea on how it could be steered in a direction that would provide greater benefit for a greater number of people.



David Brancaccio specializes in stories important to democracy and our economy through the eyes of real people. His accessible yet authoritative approach to investigative reporting and in-depth interviewing earned his work honors in broadcast journalism, including Peabody, Columbia-duPont, Emmy, and Walter Cronkite awards. As host and senior editor of public television’s NOW on PBS, David brought his engaging, probing style to business and finance, the environment, national security and human rights. His book, *Squandering Aimlessly*, is a nationwide odyssey to speak to Americans about money and values. David Brancaccio and his wife Mary and those of their children not away in college have been living in Maplewood.

## SAVE THE DATES

### **Yoga course resumes Sept. 12**

I had the pleasure of being in an inspiring “ChairYoga” class with Karen Bokert and her yoga partner, Kathleen Goode. I can’t recommend this course more ardently. They are well-trained, gentle, easy to understand. The course is very relaxing and opens body consciousness at an entire new level. It meets at St. George’s Church in Maplewood and resumes September 12, the first Monday after Labor Day, at 10 a.m. for one hour, reasonably priced. For more information, call Karen at 973-762-6036. — E. Betty Levin

### **Discussion group, Sept. 13**

Please join us for a new lay led discussion group which will meet the **second Tuesday of the month**, beginning September 13, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Society. Please bring your lunch. The idea for this group arose out of a need to better understand our adult children, grandchildren and the innovations of technology and communication that inform the world in which we live. We are open to discussing other topics — caregiver concerns, losses, life transitions, etc.. The purpose is to provide an exchange of ideas and common concerns which will strengthen our friendships with each other and provide perspective in navigating challenges in our personal lives. If you have any questions or concerns, call the office or email [info@essexethical.org](mailto:info@essexethical.org).

### **3rd Saturday Arts, Sept. 17**

**Dr. Eva Bouzard-Hui** will discuss her life as an artist and art teacher with us in the first 3rd Saturday Arts evening  
*(continued next page)*

# Ethical Culture Society of Essex County



Martha Gallahue, *Interim Leader*  
Boe Meyerson, *Leader Emeritus*  
James White, *Leader Emeritus*

Anja Moen, *President*  
Lisa Novemsky, *Vice President*  
Martin Cotler, *Treasurer*  
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Trustees:  
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Zia Durrani

Betty Levin, *Honorary Board Member*

EC Monthly newsletter writers/contributors:  
Elaine Durbach, *platforms*; Anja Moen,  
Howard Gilman, *editor/graphics*

#### Editor's note

The newsletter invites you to submit articles, announcements, commentary, etc. for publication. ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EIGHTH OF THE MONTH FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S EDITION. Items should be no more than 150 words, preferably submitted via email to the editor (gilman.howard@gmail.com). Items can also be delivered to: Editor, Ethical Society Newsletter, 516 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ 07040. Please call the office, 973-763-1905, and leave word 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.

Ethical Culture Society  
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516 Prospect St.,  
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973-763-1905

NEW! — [info@essexethical.org](mailto:info@essexethical.org)

Our web site: [www.essexethical.org](http://www.essexethical.org)



Attention members! Please submit your email addresses to NEW! — [info@essexethical.org](mailto:info@essexethical.org) to receive newsletter and other special event notices.

salon of this program year, Saturday, Sept. 17, 7-9 p.m. This is a reprise of the canceled event in June.

Eva is a friend of Ethical Culture Society of Essex County and teaches an art class to inmates of a New Jersey prison as well as participating in numerous community activities. She retired from teaching in Caldwell's public schools in 1994. Her website is [www.bouzardhuiart.com](http://www.bouzardhuiart.com) and you can access her "Events, Bio, & Contact Info" there by clicking on her "ABOUT EVA" tab. A set of her tiles is on loan to the Society and hangs on the west wall of the main meeting room.

3rd Saturday Arts evening salon is meant to be an informal conversation with and about the artist of the evening and her work. Refreshments are served throughout to help create a convivial ambiance. The event is free and open to the public. — *Hilding "Gus" Lindquist*

## Pianist Matzerath Concert, Sept. 24

Birgit Matzerath, gifted classical pianist, will perform the works of Bach, Schumann, Liszt and Chopin, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m at an Ethical Culture Society fundraiser. Tickets are \$15 (973-763-1905 or [info@essexethical.org](mailto:info@essexethical.org)).

Birgit Matzerath has maintained a private piano studio in Maplewood, NJ, since 2009. She holds a degree in Piano and a teaching degree in Music and English from Hochschule für Musik, Cologne, and the University of Cologne in Germany. In addition to teaching and performing, she is a composer and writer. Her blog, "Music, Life, and Other Challenges," can be found at <http://musiclifeandotherchallenges.blogspot.com>.

## Humanist problem-solving, Sept. 25

We are starting a study group, "**How do you handle it: Solving problems the Humanist Way.**" While we study the book, *The Humanist Way: An Introduction to Ethical Humanist Religion*," we will discuss the dilemmas and problems we encounter in our lives. The first meeting will be 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 at which time we can decide on time and format for the study group through the fall. If you are interested, just show up for the first meeting or contact Anja by at 973-763-2211 or [anjamoen@gmail.com](mailto:anjamoen@gmail.com).

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Welcome back to the Ethical Culture Society

As usual, my family and I visited Norway this summer. We had a good visit in 40 to 50°F weather while New Jersey was scorching. Summer is mostly about family for us, and doing things we have no time to do together the rest of the year. I stayed in Norway a bit longer than the others, always having mixed feelings about leaving. But when I felt the hot summer air outside Newark Liberty Airport, I knew I was home — really home.

This year I came home just days before the attack in Norway on the Government and the Labor Party on Friday, July 22nd. One man blew up parts of our central government building — where the Prime Minister's office is located — and killed one of the PM's advisers, as well as six others. The attacker then went onto an island, Utoeya [Utøya], ½ hour southwest of Oslo, where he shot and killed at least 65 youth who were attending a summer camp run by the Labor youth organization. Within a few afternoon hours everything changed in Norway. It will be their "before and after" in which Norwegians remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg seems to understand what has to be done in the aftermath, embracing all Norwegians and the need for an open and inclusive society. If anything has changed after this horrible tragedy, it is that many more people in Norway have engaged in building bridges between Norwegians with different backgrounds and embraced the new face of Norway.

I was traveling with my Japanese-Canadian girlfriend, Naomi, for part of my stay in Norway this year. At an airline desk we had to show ID and Naomi said something about me being the Norwegian and, of course, she was not. The young woman at the desk looked at us and asked, "Why couldn't you [Naomi] be the Norwegian?" We both felt a little foolish.

Our 2011-12 program year starts on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. I can't believe it was 10 years ago because it still plays as if it

were yesterday in my mind and, as everybody, I remember where I was and what I was doing when the news came over NPR about the first airplane. Our world changed forever.

We will use this Sunday to talk about our experience on that day, 10 years ago, and how it influences us today. It is a somber way to start the new season but I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you and sharing my time with you through the year in social, fun and interesting activities. We have a quilt to finish, books to study and social activities to engage us! To counter all “bads,” let’s build our community together where everyone is included.

See you at Platform! — *Anja Moen*

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## LEADER’S MESSAGE

### From Martha Gallahue

I returned home on July 24th from a week long intensive with the National Peace Academy in Burlington, Vt., convinced all of us can make a difference in the world one project at a time. At the Academy, peace is defined as “the wholeness created by right relationship, with ourselves, others, other cultures, Earth, all life and the greater whole of which we are all a part.” This definition comes from The Earth Charter, a document created with input from over 10,000 people throughout the world.

Over 50 participants from 15 U.S. states including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and 6 countries in Africa and Asia — including war-torn Afghanistan and Pakistan — convened on Champlain College campus in Burlington, Vermont, for the National Peace Academy’s 2011 Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive. Led by 15 faculty, speakers and facilitators including me, the week-long program helped participants develop programs for safe, healthy, and sustainable communities free from violence. Each participant returned home with a proposal for a

community based project.

While I was there, I thought a lot about our ethical culture message of commitment to right relationships through ethics — the kind of ever evolving ethical behavior that brings out our potential. I thought about the turbulent times ahead, with erratic changes coming from an atmosphere that is now enduring over 380 ppm of carbon dioxide, along with the political calamities orchestrated by an uncompromising Congress. As Chicago suffered nearly 130 degrees heat, I wondered will we maintain our dignity as food scarcity grows? Will we find ways to share when some of us close at home suffer more than we do? Will we be able to build resilient communities as weather catastrophes increase? Will we resist the temptation to play the “blame game” as political divisiveness grows and economic inequity increases? It will take more than intention and good will to take the high ground that may include non-violent direct action when needed. But if peace is to prevail, we are all needed to be peacemakers who act not in anger but in love with what the world can be.

Essex is a peace site, something we are proud of. I wonder if it is time for us to become a peace center where all the great programs we have are tagged as peace building programs that welcome our larger community to participate in art, music and theater programs, where peace learning initiatives such as Be Peace are taught? Many people still think the peace movement is synonymous with the anti-war movement. However, positive peace is multifaceted. It is a way of life, inner to outer, personal to global. Peace learning occupies not only the personal sphere, but the social, political, institutional and ecological ones.

Let us begin this year both proud and humbled by the largeness of our task to shape an ethical culture not only within the Societies walls but in

Maplewood, our peace home. Welcome new members. Welcome old members. Welcome friends. Welcome guests and visitors.

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## GUEST COMMENT

### Weighted Voting at the UN Security Council

*First of two articles by Myron W. Kronisch, member of the Board of Editors of the NJ Law Journal and Vice Chairman of the Center for War Peace Studies.*

As upheaval in Egypt and other nations in the region presented great risks and equally important opportunities, one wondered what the United States could do in this decade to help advance the rule of law.

In his 1984 State of the Union Address, President Reagan asserted “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought... The only value in our two nations possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used. But then, would it not be better to do away with them entirely?” When President Obama spoke in Prague on April 5, 2009 of an eventual end to nuclear weapons, he addressed the need for enforceable international law. “Some countries will break the rules. That’s why we need a structure in place that ensures when any nation does [so] they will face consequences... Rules must be binding.” The most logical place for that structure is at the United Nations.

The Security Council (SC) with 5 seats for the permanent members (P5) and 10 two-year seats, is the most powerful organ of the United Nations. The 1945 Charter has given it primary responsibility for the maintenance of global peace and security and its decisions are binding for all member states. But the Council’s design is out of date: three of the five (the UK, France and Russia) are surpassed in economic power by India and Japan. Its limited geographical balance combined with veto power makes the Security Council less rep- *(continued next page)*

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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the needy and books for children.

## ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · SEPTEMBER 2011

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representative than many member states desire. No component of the UN system has been the subject of more ideas for reform than the SC. The period 2003–2005 alone witnessed dozens of such proposals.

In 2003, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan flatly told the General Assembly (GA), “In the eyes of your peoples the difficulty of reaching agreement does not excuse your failure to do so. If you want the Council’s decisions to command greater respect, particularly in the developing world, you need to address the issue of its composition with greater urgency.”

Professor Emeritus Joseph E. Schwartzberg at the University of Minnesota has drafted the only plan that would not increase the number of seats. His plan would reduce the number to twelve. Each region would have a weighted vote based on sovereignties, population and contributions. It is the

only plan that gives each of the 192 member states direct or indirect representation on the Council: “Universal Regional Representation as a Basis for Security Council Reform.” Selection of six of the twelve regional representatives would take place every year.

The paper proposes a universally representative Security Council with twelve “regional” seats: four for individual nations (USA, China, India, and Japan) and eight for multi-national groupings (e.g., Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean). Each multi-national region would nominate several individual candidates to represent it and from such slates the GA would choose one. Regions would cast weighted votes (W) based on the formula,  $W=P+C+8.33\%$ , wherein P and C represents their total population and contributions to the UN budget respectively as percentages of world totals, while the constant, 8.33% would signify the equal worth

of each regional perspective. Weights would range from Europe’s 16.2% down to 4.3% for the “Westminster League” (Canada, Australia, New Zealand). See [cwps.org](http://cwps.org) for the full text.

Charter amendment requires a GA majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting and ratification by two thirds of the member states including the P5: U.S., U.K., France, Russia and China. Charter amendments have occurred only to enlarge the SC and The Economic and Social Council in 1965 and 1973. The Global South called for these enlargements but they were opposed by the P5. Despite their threats to veto, all five ratified the amendments after an overwhelming majority in the GA had passed them.

This proposal has been presented at the State Department and 38 other key foreign ministries since 2004. Of all the ideas for SC reform, this is the only one that is both visionary and pragmatic. ■