



ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 5

Visit our website: www.essexethical.org

MAY 2019

Photo: Kevin R. Wealer, NorthJersey



SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

May 5 Solidarity Singers Celebrate Pete Seeger

The Solidarity Singers will give their Annual May Day Performance, with a special focus on Pete Seeger, marking his 100th birthday.

“We are a street chorus, not a concert choir. Our preferred venue is a picket line. We try to lift the spirits of people engaged in struggle and help them to carry on. Only a few of us know how to read music, but we all know which side we’re on.”

Over the past twenty years, the Solidarity Singers have appeared hun-

dreds of times on picket lines, at rallies for labor and other progressive causes, and in occasional concert settings, including the annual May Day celebrations at the Botto House/American Labor Museum, commemorations of the hundredth anniversary of Woody Guthrie’s birth, and many others.

The group is available for scheduling through its director, Bennet D. Zurofsky, at (973) 642-0885, or e-mail him at bzurofsky@zurofskiylaw.com.

Upcoming event: May Day Festival at the Botto House, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m., The American Labor Museum at the Botto House, 83 Norwood Street, Haledon, NJ 07508

May 12 Local Hero Award for 2019 Presentation to Cate Lazen

A couple of years ago, the Social Action Committee decided to begin to recognize the many acts and projects and behind-the-scenes work that take place every day to move us towards a more just world for ourselves and our children. We instituted a Local Hero Award to be presented yearly to someone who has enriched

the lives of our community and region with ethical values and actions. Through this award, the Committee gives recognition and publicity to the individual and to the work and organizations that the honoree values. Previous honorees have included Bennet Zurofsky, Ingrid S. Hill, Widney Brown, and Susan Barry.

This year’s award goes to Cate Lazen. The Committee deeply respects her twenty-five years of experience designing and facilitating educational and therapeutic experiences that empower people of all ages in schools, homes, communities and workplaces. We particularly want to honor her as the founder of Arts Unbound, which helps people of all ages living with disabilities to express themselves and earn money through the visual arts. And as the founder of the arts-based urban renewal movement called ValleyArts, which redefined the former hat factory area of Orange, NJ, as an arts destination, stimulated the local economy, activated community development, beautified blighted streets and provided after school programs for underserved youth.



Cate Lazen is an Educational Psychologist, School Social Worker and Clinician who partners with individuals, children and families who are dealing with academic, behavioral, developmental, social or emotional challenges at home or at school; divorce or marital/family conflict; trauma, crises, grief or loss.

She currently works in the South Orange/Maplewood, New Jersey
(Continued on page 2)



Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

516 Prospect St.,
Maplewood, NJ 07040
973-763-1905
ecsec.nj@gmail.com
www.essexethical.org

Zia Durrani, *President*
Jacqueline Herships, *Vice President*
Jeanine Rosh, *Treasurer*

Board of Trustees
Diane Beeny
Elaine Durbach-Norstein
Jill Farrer
William Graves
Shannon Kirk
Lisa Novemsky
Morris Silver

Leader Emeriti
Jim White
Martha Gallahue

EC Monthly Programs Editor
Elaine Durbach

Graphics: Howard Gilman
Office Manager: Liz Cunningham
Office hours

Monday–Friday 8:15 to 9:45 am
Sunday 9:30 am to 12 pm



The Ethical Culture Society

is a religious and educational fellowship that seeks to achieve the ethical life without dogma; to develop the highest values in human relationships in ourselves, our families, and our community; and to elicit the best in others, thereby eliciting the best in ourselves.

Ethical Culture is a humanist religion.
Come and visit!

Newsletter

Opinions offered in this publication are those of the authors.

Newsletter items must be received by the eighth of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition, preferably via email: gilman.howard@gmail.com.

Editor may edit for length, clarity and content. *Members submitting time-sensitive items for publication in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please also email or call Elaine Durbach or Howard Gilman.*

school district providing psychotherapy, social/emotional skills training, advocacy and parenting support.

May 19 Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of the membership of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County will be held on Sunday, May 19th at 10 AM. Notice the starting time is 10 AM. Please be prepared to begin promptly. Bagels /breads and hot drinks will be served before the meeting.



Please plan to attend. The meeting will set the Society's course of action for the coming fiscal year (September through August). Your input and vote are crucial to the decisions we make for policy and programs which affect our continued presence in the community. Officers and members of the Board of Trustees will be elected.

May 26 Rebecca Greene, "American Jews and Immigration Law: Myth and Reality, 1880 to the Present"

Rebecca Greene will discuss why Jews came to the United States, what they confronted, and how they responded.

Rebecca Greene was an attorney at Central Jersey Legal Services for many years and before that, taught history at NJIT, Lehman College, Colgate University, and the University of Maryland. She graduated from Barnard College in 1968 (B.A. History); Washington University in St. Louis 1970 (History); Co-



lumbia University 1977 (Ph.D. in history); and she has a J.D. from Rutgers Law School in Newark.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Folk Friday May 10

Sing-Along & Jam — Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments. Join in playing, singing or listening with us. Bring some refreshments to share. Everyone is invited! Folk Friday is 7:30-10:30 pm. lnovemsky@comcast.net, (973) 763-8293

Please note that there will not be a Folk Friday scheduled in June (NO JUNE 14), possibly a special session on another day in June, to be announced.

Social Action Committee Notes

From the Minutes for April 7, 2019, Social Action Committee, Ethical Culture Society of Essex County. Attending: Meredith Sue Willis, chair; Diane Beeny; Zia Durrani; Bill Graves; Jackie Herships; Lisa Novemsky; Bill Stoeber; and visitor Sandra Rock.

The chair reminded everyone to mark their calendars for our Local Hero Award to Cate Lazen of Arts Unbound on May 12, 2019. We also discussed the cards we were asked to send out in support of A314/S3261 Isolated Confinement Restriction Act. We plan to prepare a carding/emailing for one of the Sundays during the Week of Action, April 26 - May 2 (see <https://weekofaction.org/>), as reported by Zia Durrani.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on reporting and making decisions re: our immigration letter. It has been to the News Record & the Village Green— it apparently appeared in the West Orange Chronicle! It has received support from the AEU via Carolyn Parker

FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Family Ethical Education Program meets at 10 am on alternate Sundays. The mission of Ethical Education for Children at the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County is to enable children to discover who they are to themselves, the community and the world around them, as they become global citizens. Our program focuses on developing a robust moral compass in relation to the self and others and to the world at large. This helps the child on a spiritual journey, which includes religious and ethnic exploration. As part of a caring community, children will explore and develop relationships and humanist values.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Tai Chi Chuan with Rich Mullen 10am - Family Ethical Education Program: Pollinator Garden-World 11am - Tony Calabrese: Work Search in Today's World	29	30 11am - Chair Yoga	1 May 2019	2	3	4
5 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Solidarity Singers celebrate Pete Seeger 12pm - Social Action	6	7 11am - Chair Yoga	8 1pm - ECSEC Board Meeting 7:30pm - Grannie Nannies	9	10 7:30pm - Folk Friday	11
12 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Local Hero Award for 2019 presentation to Cate Lazen	13	14 11am - Chair Yoga	15	16	17	18
19 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 10am - Annual General Meeting at 10 AM. Notice the starting time is 10 AM.	20	21 11am - Chair Yoga	22	23	24	25
26 9am - Tai Chi Chuan 11am - Rebecca Greene, "American Jews and Immigration Law: Myth and Reality, 1880 to the Present"	27	28 11am - Chair Yoga	29	30	31	1

(Co-Chair, Ethical Action Committee, American Ethical Union). The Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society wants to be a signatory, stating, "Our membership stands in unity for the humane treatment of our immigrant brothers and sisters and for asylum seekers worldwide." Also, the Austin society is working on it, following their democratic process. They will discuss it 4/13 and if passed present it at their 4/21 membership meeting.

We also had an exchange with SOMA Justice, who said, "We would be able to have SOMA Action as a co-signer on this letter, but contingent on one suggested edit, if ok with you. We have been very careful not to use statements such as, 'the United States is a nation of immigrants.' This is because we believe that statements like these don't acknowledge all the peoples who have built this nation, specifically indigenous people and enslaved persons. Would it be possible to leave that sentence out of this letter?"

The Committee decided to take out the sentence: "As has been said many times before, the United States is a nation of immigrants." Sue will send the new version to SOMA Justice, the AEU Listserv, Susquehanna, and etc.

Finally we decided to send version of the letter to The

New York Times in light of the April 7 article about murders of women in Honduras.

- The next Social Action Committee meeting will be Sunday May 5, 2019. — *Meredith Sue Willis*

Solitary Confinement in Prison in NJ

Former member and April 7, 2019 speaker Tricia Idrobo sent follow-up information about solitary confinement in prison in NJ:

"Here is the video I mentioned, which I highly recommend. It's Micropolis Live: Surviving Solitary on January 23, 2019 at the Greene Space in NYC. It's 1:11, but I do recommend watching the whole thing. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPCA1NEG4m4>

"There is now a 2 minute compilation with highlights, but I do recommend the full version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihGWgdrzkSw&feature=youtu.be> Also, here is the website of NJCAIC (NJ Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement), which has a lot of resources: www.njcaic.org."

For more information, get in touch with Tricia Idrobo at pfressidrobo@hotmail.com

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

516 Prospect Street
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

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

Collections: Please remember to bring canned or boxed food items for the
Food Pantry box in our front hall. Donations go to the NJ Food Bank.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNION, NJ
PERMIT NO. 395

ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY NEWSLETTER · MAY 2019



May 5 Solidarity Singers celebrate Pete Seeger · The Solidarity Singers will give their Annual May Day Performance, with a special focus on Pete Seeger, marking his 100th birthday. Over the past twenty years, the Solidarity Singers have appeared hundreds of times on picket lines, at rallies for labor and other progressive causes, and in occasional concert settings. *(see page 1)*



May 12 Local Hero Award for 2019 presentation to Cate Lazen · To recognize the many acts and projects and behind-the-scenes work that take place every day to move us towards a more just world for ourselves and our children, we instituted a Local Hero Award to be presented yearly to someone who has enriched the lives of our community and region with ethical values and actions. This year's award goes to Cate Lazen. *(see page 1)*



May 19 Annual General Meeting · The annual meeting of the membership of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County will be held on Sunday, May 19th at 10 AM. Notice the starting time is 10 AM. Please be prepared to begin promptly. Please plan to attend. The meeting will set the Society's course of action for the coming fiscal year. Your input and vote are crucial to the decisions we make for policy and programs which affect our continued presence in the community. *(see page 2)*



May 26 Rebecca Greene, "American Jews and Immigration Law: Myth and Reality, 1880 to the Present" · Rebecca Greene will discuss why Jews came to the United States, what they confronted, and how they responded. Rebecca Greene was an attorney at Central Jersey Legal Services for many years and before that, taught history. She has a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School in Newark. *(see page 2)*