



# ETHICAL CULTURE

M O N T H L Y

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2

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

OCTOBER 2014

## SUNDAY PLATFORMS

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

### **Oct. 5 Martha Gallahue, colloquy on birthdays, starting with the United Nations' anniversary, Oct. 24**

All participants of this colloquy are invited to bring in an inspirational quote regarding birthdays. We will then provide some birthday reflections based upon experience. Do we sometimes send harmful signals in the way we celebrate them? We will imagine together what an ideal birthday would look like. Will we continue to celebrate individual birthdays? What does it mean to celebrate an organization's birthday, in particular the birthday of the UN on October 24th? What is the difference between a birthday and an anniversary?

The purpose of this colloquy is to ponder upon the place of the individual in the larger world we live in. Ethical Culture states as one of its ethical premises that we agree to treat individuals as ends not means but can we always? And what outcome can we expect if we pursue this approach while ignoring the common good.

During September, Martha gave considerable attention to preparation of the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace convened by outgoing President of General Assembly John Ashe along with the celebration of International Peace Day, September 21st. The High Level Forum marked the 15th anniversary of the passage of UN Declaration on Culture of Peace and Programme of Action. Her starting point will be based upon her take-aways from these events. Everyone who comes will receive a birthday present.

### **Oct. 12 Dr. Joachim Messing, "Genetically altered foods: What do they mean to us?"**

Dr. Joachim Messing will start us off on a round table discussion on plants and genetic alteration. He will present some data based on a report of the European Academies, and then expand on that with background drawn from his own research, and his knowledge of the agriculture industry. He will then answer questions.

The winner of the 2014 Promega Biotechnology Research Award is Joachim Messing, Dr. rer. nat, Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Rutgers University, Piscataway, N. J., for his significant contributions to the start of the genomics revolution. Maynard Olson, University of Washington, describes Messing as "an under-recognized hero of the period during which recombinant-DNA applications spread explosively."

Messing received his doctorate degree from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. After studies at the Univ. of California at San Francisco and Davis, he quickly rose through the faculty ranks at the University of Minnesota. He currently teaches at Rutgers where he is Director of the Waksman Institute of Microbiology and the Waksman Chair in Molecular Genetics.

Conceptualizing and developing whole-genome shotgun DNA sequencing, suitable for contiguous chromosomal sequences, and the M13mp/pUC/JM cloning kits made him the most frequently cited scientist in the world during the 1980s. Messing made his innovations freely available, contributing to rapid advances throughout the life sciences. He applied these microbial tools to help create the field

of plant genomics with a focus on raising the nutritional quality of food. For his participation in sequencing the rice genome, he and his colleagues received the World Technology Award in Biotechnology and the USDA Secretary's Honor Award. In 2013, he won the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture. Messing, a Fellow of the American Association of the Advancement in Science, is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the oldest continuously existing science academy in the world. [[www.asm.org](http://www.asm.org)]

### **Oct. 19 Patrick Gallahue, "A New Approach to Drugs"**

The failed war on drugs is driving violence, health crises and mass incarceration around the world. However, models do exist in many parts of the world that increase access to treatment, reduce fatal overdose and drug-related HIV transmission and provide alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offenses. With drug policy reform now clearly on the political agenda, what might better drug policies look like? And more importantly, what can we do to promote alternative approaches?

Patrick Gallahue is a communications officer with the Global Drug Policy Program. Prior to joining Open Society Foundations, Patrick spent three years at Harm Reduction International, researching human rights abuses stemming from drug control. Patrick also worked for seven years as a journalist in New York City, where he wrote about crime, local development, politics, and transport. In addition, he has worked with the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, Child

# Ethical 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; preferably via email at: [gilman.howard@gmail.com](mailto:gilman.howard@gmail.com). Items can also be dropped off at 15 So. Pierson Rd., Maplewood; or, if you put something for the newsletter in the EC office's mail slot or in the mail, please give me a call at (973) 763-3914 to be sure I know about it, especially if your item is time-sensitive. — *Editor*

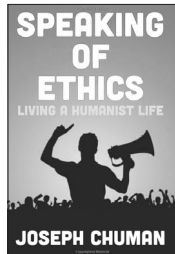
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...act so  
as to elicit  
the best  
in others  
and in  
ourselves

Workers in Nepal, and The Dome Project's Juvenile Justice Program.

He holds an LLM in human rights law from the National University of Ireland, Galway. Patrick is the son of ECS leader Martha Gallahue. [[www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)]

## Oct. 26 Zia Durrani "Part Two: Reviewing the Ethicists on Ethical Culture"



Zia Durrani will review Joseph Chuman's book, *Speaking of Ethics*, and discuss the topics he covers — from the global, to the local, to the deeply personal. "After reading the book

I felt I had some of my questions discussed, if not completely answered," she says, "questions such as what does it mean to 'bear witness,' or pursue happiness, or what values are worth preserving. Also towards the end of the book there are stories of people who lived several hundred years ago who were executed for their humanistic beliefs. I learned a lot of stuff I didn't know."

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Helping a detainee

As part of the Social Action Committee we have been working with First Friends in Newark to assist with alleviating problems and difficulties detainees face while they are in detention for lack of immigration status.

Sally Pillay is our contact person in the organization. I had the opportunity to work with Sally to help a detainee from Pakistan negotiate his travel from Rochester to Manhattan to Brooklyn. He speaks very little English, and I happen to speak his language. He also had to see an eye doctor in Newark, where he needed a translator. I spent three hours in the waiting room with him waiting to be seen. I had ample time to talk to him about his circumstances and how he happened to be in this situation. I had to be careful not to probe too deeply into his personal life, his finances and the reasons for his flight from Pakistan. He will have to deal with all of that when he goes to court.

He seemed grateful that he could talk to someone and be understood. — *Zia Durrani*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Folk Friday Resumes Oct. 10

Sing-along and jam with friends, 7:30 p.m. second Friday of each month October through June, at the Society Building. Bring acoustic string and rhythm instruments, join in playing, singing or listening. Bring some refreshments to share. Folk Fridays have expanded to include crafts people to come and listen to music while doing crafts. Open to all, all ages, everyone is invited! [[novemsky@comcast.net](mailto:novemsky@comcast.net), (973) 763-8293]

### Oct. 11 Ethical Society Meets Up with Families interested in Ethical Education, 4–6pm

### Travel Adventures — Oct. 25 reception 7 to 9 p.m.

Do you want to go to Africa, Australia and Europe without moving out of Maplewood? Then please come to our official "opening" of the current show of photographs from around the world on Saturday evening, October 25th from 7 to 9 p.m. The photographers, Richard and Jane Halperin, of South Orange, will be present and talking to us about their lives and the adventures, aesthetic and otherwise, they had during their travels which resulted in this beautiful exhibition. The show will be up until mid-January 2015. Refreshments will be served.



### Renewal of Human Faith Project in November in Lincroft, NJ

The Human Faith Project (HFP) that was developed at ECSEC with Calvin Chatlos is attempting to be renewed. The Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought, Lincroft, NJ, Monmouth County, of which Calvin is a Board member, is pursuing presentation of a workshop in November. Tentative dates are Saturdays Nov. 8, 15 and evening of Nov. 19 and an unscheduled additional evening.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October 2014</b>			1	2	3	4
5 11am Martha Gallahue: colloquy on birthdays, anniversaries. 12n Social Action Comm. meets after platform	6	7 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	8	9	10 Folk Friday Sing-along and jam with friends 7:30 p.m.	11 Ethical Society Meets Up with Families interested in Ethical Education, 4–6pm
12 11am Dr. Joachim Messing: “Genetically altered foods”	13	14 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	15	16	17	18
19 11am Patrick Gallahue: “A New Approach to Drugs”	20	21 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	22	23	24 <i>United Nations’ anniversary</i>	25 Reception for Richard and Jane Halperin’s photo exhibition, 7–9pm.
26 11am Zia Durrani: “Reviewing the Ethicists on Ethical Culture”	27	28 Chair Yoga 11am–12 noon	29	30	31	

The HFP explores the personal experience of our individual faith in people and through experiential sharing strengthens this faith. It explores and tests the limits of the body, mind, heart and soul of being ethical and demonstrates the power of human worth and dignity as reason, compassion, courage and the forces of truth, love and faith are explored. Further information can be obtained from [jc-chat@optonline.net](mailto:jc-chat@optonline.net) or by phone 732-547-7065 or speak with Betty Levin who was a prior participant.

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## AEU Views — Excerpts

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### **We Support a Democracy where Citizens Speak Louder than Money**

April 3, 2014 — “The decision of the United States Supreme Court in *McCutcheon vs. Federal Election Commission* both reflects and encourages a distressing trend in the American political process. While the right of free expression is the foundation of democracy and a free society, the domi-

nation of the public forum by big money drowns out those voices that reflect broad constituencies, but not big finances. Political decision-making must be based on the premise of one citizen/one vote, not on who can round up the richest backer. Reasonable, realistic, and balanced regulations that will limit the opportunity for a few wealthy individuals to overwhelm the election process will strengthen our democracy.”

### **Greece v. Galloway Case Dismantles the Separation of Church and State**

May 8, 2014 — “The prevailing Supreme Court decision in the *Greece v. Galloway* case, permitting prayer at legislative sessions, including municipal meetings, is another giant step toward the dismantling of the separation of church and state. ... The Supreme Court got it wrong. The prevailing decision in *Greece v. Galloway* is foolish, if not un-American. It’s part of a growing trend, now dominant, that is also very dangerous.”

### **We Stand with Ferguson, Missouri, in Peaceful Action Against Racism**

Sep. 5, 2014 — “The events of Ferguson have brought to light for the broader populace what has been so painfully evident for people on the receiving end of law enforcement: the line between protection and brutality is easily crossed when fear of the public is allowed to reign. We are better than that — or at least we have the potential to be better. But it is on us who stand for a just and caring society and the millions more like us who seek a peaceable world to bring the changes we seek to light in our own lives and to encourage others to do so, too.

“We believe systemic change will only come about through the concerted effort of many people. As the media spotlight moves to other matters we pledge to keep our attention fixed on the long-term goal of creating a more equal, peaceful, and just society, and a more ethical culture.” [[www.aeu.org](http://www.aeu.org)]

# ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY OF ESSEX COUNTY

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**We continue to collect children's books, canned and boxed foods, and toys for distribution by the Parenting Center in Maplewood.**



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