

WES Express

Monthly Newsletter of the Washington Ethical Society

October 2014

Upcoming Platforms – Join us at 11am

Sunday, October 5th "When I Die", Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. Death is a fact of human existence--something every culture grapples with, and every individual person, too. To begin our monthly theme of Death, Amanda will explore how traditional religions have dealt with death, dying, and what happens next, and what Ethical Culture has to say about it--including what comfort Ethical Culture offers us in times of grief. Music from the WES Chorus, led by Bailey Whiteman.

Sunday, October 12th "Captain, My Captain", Melissa Sinclair, Acting Director of Religious Education. With the recent death of Robin Williams, talk of his movies began to resurface—including the treasured Dead Poet's Society. Mr. Keating, the teacher played by Robin Williams, says in the movie to his students, "You must strive to find your own voice. The longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are to find it again." Melissa will speak on how that movie shaped her own view of how to teach versus what is taught, and how that resonates with Ethical Culture and its Sunday School programs. She will begin with an exploration of how our Sunday School students are learning this month about Death, and expand to share about her Sunday School philosophy in general. Music from folk/rock duo *Emma's Revolution*. There will be a new member ceremony during the platform.

Sunday, October 19th "Put It on My Headstone", Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. What would you want carved into your headstone? What kind of life must you live to be worthy of an epitaph? Amanda will explore how death enriches what we do in life. A special musical experience from Bailey Whiteman, vocals and Susan Alexander, piano.

Sunday, October 26th "Remembrance Day", Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. Our annual ceremony of remembrance - a moving and powerful time to be together and remember those we have lost. Music from Mairi Breen Rothman.

Sunday, November 7th "Be the Beholder", Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. As we begin our monthly theme of Beauty, Amanda will explore what we think is beautiful--and how it's connected to our personality, our class, our culture. How do we engage with the richness of beauty around us, while still being true to our own beholding eye? And what might that mean for our congregation? Music from the WES Chorus led by Bailey Whiteman.

Table of Contents

Upcoming Platforms	1
Theme Exploration	2
Board Column.....	3
Member News.....	4
Buy Congress?.....	6
Climate March NYC.....	7
Felix and Friends.....	8
Coming Up At WES.....	9

The Washington Ethical Society is a humanistic congregation that affirms the worth of every person.

We strive through our relationships to elicit the best in the human spirit.

With faith in human goodness, we appreciate each person's unique capacities. We joyfully celebrate together and support each other through life. We nurture a sense of reverence and responsibility for each other and the earth.

We invite you to join our community of children and adults as we work for a world where love and justice cross all borders.

ethicalsociety.org

October Theme: Death

Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader

I have been thinking about what it will mean for this community to explore the theme of Death in the month of October—especially since, in the last weeks and months, we have had a number of losses, some deeply traumatic. Is it too soon to talk as a community about what Death means to us, I have wondered? Will the pain be too raw?

The truth is, pain over a traumatic loss is always raw, always deep. We might be re-triggered in our loss years later. And in a community of our size, we feel these losses with each other—they aren't confined to the immediate family or even the friendship circle, but felt throughout the congregation.

To me, that's precisely why we are talking about Death in October, why it comes up in our cycle of themes. Your religious and ethical community is the place where you can, with the empathy that comes from shared experience, engage in some of the most challenging questions of life. How do we support each other in our grief? How do we live through the death of our loved ones? How do we face our own death?

I hope you will attend the platforms in October, including our special Remembrance Day ceremony on October 26, that will explore this theme in a rich and meaningful way. The moments when we are most aware of death are the moments when we need each other most. Please join us this month.

A Personal Reflection on Death and Dying – and Gratitude

My mom was not warm, but she tried to be kind and helpful. She was never mean. I was not close to her, but my life was enriched by her love of poetry and the ocean and astronomy, and her genius with plants.

I worked hard to repair my feelings of not having the mother I needed and deserved, and that made it possible for me to be with her for these last two months.

We had a lot of sweetness together during this time, and that felt healing. I'm cherishing the memories of tenderness and of her gratitude for the care I took of her.

I thank all my WES friends for their endless kindness and warm thoughts over the last months.

Lindsay Lucke



Amanda Poppei,
Senior Leader

*Ways to engage with the
October theme:*

All platforms this month,
including
Remembrance Day
on October 26

Theme story
"The 10th Good Thing
About Barney"
by Judith Viorst

Share the plate recipient
Hospice Caring

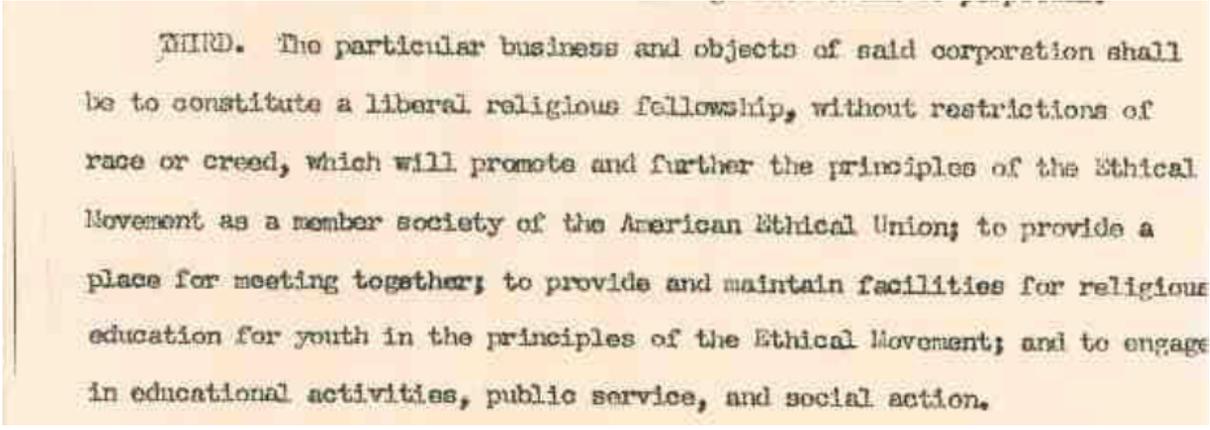
From Your Board of Trustees

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

– Our Dual Legacies

by John Mulligan, Board Member

When I joined the WES Board earlier this year, I learned that a scan of our [Certificate of Incorporation](#), dated "this 29th day of August, 1949" is on our website. Have you seen it? The third article reads:



THIRD. The particular business and objects of said corporation shall be to constitute a liberal religious fellowship, without restrictions of race or creed, which will promote and further the principles of the Ethical Movement as a member society of the American Ethical Union; to provide a place for meeting together; to provide and maintain facilities for religious education for youth in the principles of the Ethical Movement; and to engage in educational activities, public service, and social action.

I find these words inspiring. Reading on, I see the Certificate of Incorporation is signed by Dr. George K. Beauchamp (Leader), Leslie D. MacIntyre (President), and Gustav Auzenne, Jr. (Treasurer). Alice MacIntyre is the notary. Who were they? I start to Google.

A Florida newspaper article from 1958 tells me that Dr. Beauchamp "for many years leader of the Ethical Society in Washington" is president of a model retirement community in Kissimmee, Florida, and has just been employed as "part-time lay leader to perform the functions of a minister" by the Unitarian Society of Daytona Beach.

Leslie D. MacIntyre appears as author of "Clan MacIntyre: A journey to the past – January 1, 1977", with his wife Alice as co-author. He is also the author of "The Washington Ethical Society: 1943-1944 – 1963-1964, a Story of Its Beginnings and Its Development." I look forward to reading that. A nearby link tells me the story of Dr. Nancy Jenison, M.D., born in 1876 (the year Ethical Culture was founded), who bequeathed her estate to WES in 1960. We are beneficiaries of hers every time we walk into the WES building, which opened in 1964.

Gustav Auzenne, Jr. is found in "Howard University: the First Hundred Years, 1867-1967", as Head of the Department of Business Administration, and chair in 1953 of a conference on "Academic Freedom in the United States", a "most timely subject because it was given during the hysteria of McCarthyism."

As a picture of these founders starts to emerge, I start to realize that the details forming in front of me are not just from the past, but from the present as well. For example, I discover that WES member Carol MacIntyre is the daughter of Leslie and Alice MacIntyre. And that many other members have direct connections to these people I am only just learning about.

WES was created by individuals, each with a vision of bringing about a more fully ethical culture in the world. WES is the product of so much effort by so many people over the years. We have two legacies: the vision they had that may inspire us, and the resources they have provided to us. Let us recognize this dual legacy and continue to strive, guided by our own vision, using our combined resources together, to "promote and further the principles of the Ethical Movement", to build a brighter future for all.

Member News

People's Climate March

Twenty-two WES members and friends participated in the People's Climate March in New York City on September 21st, with about 400,000 others. Our WES participants coordinated with the American Ethical Union and other humanist groups, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, Interfaith Power and Light, League of Women Voters and Sierra Club to demonstrate for the political will to address climate change now.

Summer School, not for kids anymore

By Laura Steele

Remember the song, *Summer time, sum sum summer time*? That's what got stuck in my brain while winding my way down I-81 to Highlands NC. Only I was singing *summer school, sum sum summer school*.

What would it be like, I wondered. I'd heard intense, rigorous, unforgiving schedule, and exhilarating, life changing, life long friendships.

Turned out Lay Leadership Summer School – that every other year, AEU sponsored event at The Mountain Retreat Center in North Carolina – could be all of that. For me it was also a nostalgic trip back to my six summers at camp just outside of Asheville while growing up. Memories of all the places I'd been to while at High Valley Camp flooded back as I passed their names on signs along my way to "The Mountain", bringing tears of joy and tenderness.

Arriving late, Saturday afternoon July 12, I was greeted by a friendly, smiling Hugh Taft-Morales serendipitously coming up the road, who quickly oriented me to where to park my rental car, who I was rooming with and where, and what was next on the agenda before dinner. Turned out my roomie, Rachel from St. Louis, was also running late. I was then given a large white binder holding each day's schedule, handouts from each class, a "class" list and notepaper. It was heavy.

Our days began, if you chose to, with a yoga class and/or meditation at roughly 6.30 a.m. Breakfast at 7.15 was followed by a brief lull, which often included Bart Worden conducting a sing along then class beginning at 9. From then until about 9 pm we were soaking up ethical culture: history, philosophy, congregational development, organizational development, "caring communication" aka Non-Violent Communication or NVC, and practicing in large and small groups. One of these was called Journeys, not unlike the format of the Deepening Circle I'm in at WES. There was another group for organizational development where each day we were given a problem and less than an hour of time to find a solution, present it to the large group, and demonstrate our new skills in organization, running groups, group process etc.

Yes, there was free time to explore the Mountain, take walks along the many trails, visit the labyrinth, chat, read, or rest. We were doing what all groups do: forming, storming, norming etc. It was fun. It was intense, challenging and invigorating. While most of us were already expressing some level of leadership in our societies, we discovered there is much more we could learn about the care and nurturing of our societies and their volunteers. During this inspiring experience, we dealt with many topics: managing conflict, the anxiety that shows up when a congregation is on the verge of growing into its next size, ways of attracting new members and many other topics. Is it worth the week away from family and work? Yes, unequivocally. Want to hear more? Sure you do! Just ask next time you see me.

It's Harvest Time in the WES Garden!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A MEMBER OF CONGRESS?

By Susan Ogden

WES and the Maryland Committee to Amend will host a showing of the new 2014 release of the film "Koch Brothers Exposed" by Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films. In addition, Maryland State Senator Jamie Raskin will speak at this event on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. in the WES Main Hall. Mark your calendars!

The Koch brothers and their PAC, Americans for Prosperity, are dramatic examples of how the pernicious doctrines that "Corporations are People" and "Money is Speech" are affecting our democracy. *Citizens United*, *McCutcheon* and other recent Supreme Court rulings have unleashed mountains of corporate cash into elections by ruling that corporations are persons with the First Amendment right of free speech and can therefore spend unlimited amounts of money on election campaigns.

Hundreds of organizations like the Maryland Committee to Amend are promoting a Constitutional Amendment that will state that **corporations are not people and money is not speech.**

Our distinguished guest at WES, Senator Raskin, is a constitutional law professor at American University and author of *Overruling Democracy: the Supreme Court versus the American People*. Senator Raskin is a leading champion of campaign finance reform in Maryland and nationally. He testified in June before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the proposed constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United Supreme Court decision.

It's being termed the most critical issue of our time and will affect all other progressive issues: education, social justice, economic justice, environmental action, peace, gun control, and more.

How is corporate cash affecting our democracy? The agenda of Americans for Prosperity includes:

- disenfranchising voters through voter ID laws
- denying climate change to maintain the reign of fossil fuels
- fighting increases in minimum wage
- lowering taxes on the 1%
- dismantling financial and environmental regulations
- privatizing schools and prisons

COME LEARN ABOUT THE MOVEMENT SWEEPING THE COUNTRY TO REVIVE POPULAR DEMOCRACY IN OUR NATION AND TALK TO ONE OF ITS LEADERS.

Earth Ethics News – Climate March NYC

By Terry Smith

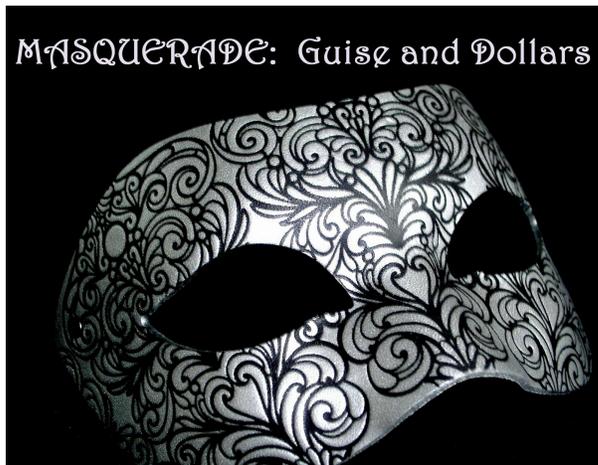
As a 67-year-old, I won't experience the main impact of climate change, but my grandchildren will. I marched mainly for them. On my way home, three different twenty-somethings who had not been able to march but who saw my sign, came over to thank me for having marched.

As members of a generation that will experience the climate disruption that is gathering force, they surely feel the urgency of the situation. Climate change has reached an alarming level, there are effective solutions, it is morally imperative that we adopt them now.

This was the message of the march. My three best moments were being thanked for delivering it.



WES Member Terry Smith in New York



The WES Auction is a major fundraising event and evening of celebration by the WES community and for the WES community.

Your tax-deductible contributions, and your attendance, will make the event even more of a success.

Invite your friends to donate and attend as well!

*It's not too late to donate!
Call Brigid to discuss. 301 445 5930*

MASQUERADE – The 8th Annual WES Auction
Saturday, November 1
doors open at 6pm

Felix and Friends

"Let the Stoics say what they will, so long as we remain human we shall always open our breasts to those warm loves that make the sweetness of existence, if also they make its bitterest pain."

Felix Adler – pg. 56 in "Life and Destiny", 1944.



Searching for the Life that Belonged to Dayani Cristal

This is the mystery explored by the *must see* movie of the year Saturday, Oct 25th. A one-time showing of **Who is Dayani Cristal** will take place at the city's former Tivoli movie theater, now the GALA Theatre restored to its full Art Deco glory, Saturday, Oct 25th.

Yet it's more than an evening of camaraderie and entertainment. It celebrates the launch of the **first** Greater Washington Immigration Film Festival. A \$25 ticket gets you in the door for a pre-film party with finger foods, wine and mineral water and includes the screening. An expert panel led by Ana Sol Gutierrez will engage with the audience.

It all started here at WES some 18 months ago when Judith Johnson, Patti Absher and Nancy Sorden reached out to UU congregations to organize and fund the festival. DC area communities will come together around the films that tell the immigrant stories over four days, Oct 23 – 26th.

Tickets are going fast. Act now to claim your *free* tickets to 12 different films and secure your pre-paid ticket for the Gala at the GALA Hispanic Theatre. More at www.ImFilmFest.eventbrite.com

Coming up at WES

Friday, October 3

First Friday Discussion Lunch,

12:30-2:00 pm, Social Hall. Have

you wondered how an author

chooses a setting, works out a plot,

develops some believable characters, and writes in her/his own unique style to produce a novel that will entertain and enrich the experience of the rest of us? Trish Weil will read a little from and talk a lot about her newly published novel, *A Circle of Earth*. Please bring a sandwich, any fruit or veggies or sweets you would like to share, and your curiosity, early enough so that we can begin our lunch and our go-round at 12:30. For questions, please contact Marty Brockway (ewbrocs@rcn.com)

Sidewalk Solidarity Action, WES, 5:30-6:30pm. Showing solidarity with Ferguson. Every Wednesday evening in front of WES. For more information, contact Sandra Bishop at saunderbishop@gmail.com.

Dancing in the Street

Dancing in the Street, 6pm and after, 1729 Overlook Drive, Silver Spring, MD. Put on your dancin' shoes. Then take 'em off again. On Friday, October 3, join your WES friends for a very casual night of fun, frolic and family. Outdoors, no floors. Just music, grass beneath our feet, and dancing in the street! Plenty of yard and parking, a sweet swing set, and lots of folks you enjoy! Bring your own: Food and beverages; Blankets and chairs; Enthusiasm and dance moves. Please let Brigid know if you'll be there bemonaghan@yahoo.com. Rain date Sunday, October 5

Sunday, October 5

Flourish! Class: Creating Authentic Relationships, 12:45-3pm, Social Hall. The second of a two-part series. Ethical Culture has been called a religion of relationships. No one is born knowing how to make good relationships, yet everyone can learn. Using tools from the fields of Non-Violent Communication (NVC), Focusing, Neurology, Psychology, Conflict Resolution, Liberation Theory, and other studies these workshops are practices that many have found profound and transformative. Instructors: Andrew Batcher and Danna Pope.

The Young and the Thirsty, 7pm, Olive Lounge in Takoma Park, MD. All young(ish) adults are welcome to join this casual get-together to talk about topics philosophical and otherwise!

Screening of "Koch Brothers Exposed" and Discussion, 7pm, Main Hall, This film is a powerful depiction of the ways our democracy can be bought, sold and corrupted. Join the screening and the conversation about a Constitutional Amendment. Maryland State Senator Jamie Raskin will speak and participate in the discussion. See the article "Would you like to buy a member of Congress" above.

New Member Dinner, Julie and John Campbell's Home. New Members will receive an invitation to this special welcoming event. WES members who would like to support the dinner, or help with our Membership Team in general, are encouraged to contact Julie at juliecampbell@aol.com.

Sunday, October 12

New Member Ceremony – during the platform.

Board Meeting, 1pm, Social Hall. All WES members are welcome to attend monthly Board meetings. Every other month, they are held on Sundays after platform to encourage guests! Agenda and materials may be found before the meeting in the Members' Access section of the website, www.ethicalsociety.org.

WES Book Group, 2pm, Tony Nam and Nora Ludden's Home. We kick off a new year of monthly conversations on books with *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. 'Rich in detail and epic in scope, Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.' If you'd like to learn more about the WES Bookgroup, to get the address for our meeting, or to receive a copy of the full 2014-2015 reading list, please contact Tony Nam tonyknam@yahoo.com.

Sunday, October 19

Earth Ethics Meeting with Breakfast, 8:45am, Panera. All are welcome, call or e-mail Linda Silversmith for further information (301-641-9508 or lindas@capaccess.org). Earth Ethics promotes ethical principles and actions within WES and beyond to improve our relationship to the Earth and all living beings. Check us out online: <http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article/109/act-for-justice/earth-ethics?search=earth+ethics+committee>

Schmoozapaloosa, after platform, Main Hall. WES continues our lunch on every 3rd Sunday for all who want to hang out after platform and gab with friends. Gather around tables in the Main Hall and keep on talking. Nosh on a great lunch, with vegetarian options always available. Requested donation \$5. Schmoozing with your friends and licking your fingers—what better way to keep on talking, parse the platform, and catch up!

Biology Discussion Group, 12:45-2pm, Library. On the third Sunday of every month there's a lively buzz in the WES library as members and friends gather for the Biology Discussion Group, facilitated by Barbara Searle. In October, November, and January they'll discuss "The Mystery of Metamorphosis" by Frank Ryan. All are welcome, whether or not you've done the reading! For more information contact Barbara: bsearle70@msn.com.

Neighborhood potlucks, 5:30pm. Join your neighborhood for one of our semi-annual potluck dinners--all welcome! You should hear from your neighborhood coordinator inviting you to this event. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Lucke at ldeflucke@gmail.com.

Wednesday, October 22

Forum for Attorney General and City Council At Large Candidates, 7:30pm, Tifereth Israel Congregation, 7701 16th Street, NW (16th and Juniper). WES joins co-sponsors Shepherd Park Citizens Association; Friends of the Juanita Thornton, Shepherd Park Library; Neighbors, Inc.; Ohev Shalom Congregation; Shepherd Park Elementary School LSAT; Takoma Neighborhood Association; and Tifereth Israel Congregation to host this candidates forum.

Thursday, October 23

Flourish! Class: Ethical Culture – A Historical Perspective, 7-9pm, Library. Ethical Culture is a religion centered on ethics, not theology, whose mission is to encourage respect for humanity and nature and to create a better world. We will be exploring the beginnings, legacies, and aspirations of Ethical Culture, and how it can put us in touch with the farther reaches of what it means to be human. Join us in this dynamic exploration of the interplay among beliefs and history and establish your personal foundation for additional learning and engagement. Instructor: Marty Kaufman. Childcare may be available; please request it at least one week in advance. Please register by e-mailing WES@EthicalSociety.org

Friday, October 24

FilmFest Kick-off. A Bridge Apart with film maker Virginia Wolf.

Main Hall - tickets FREE if reserved ahead or \$6.00 donation requested at door.
www.immigrationfilmfest.org

Saturday, October 25

FilmFest Gala Showing, GALA Theatre, Washington, DC, 7-10pm. Join us for appetizers, wine, and live entertainment. Then settle in for the Washington premiere screening of the film *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* by Gael Garcia Bernal, Mexican actor and activist, and Marc Silver. *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* tells the story of a migrant who found himself in the deadly stretch of desert known as "the corridor of death" and shows how one life becomes testimony to the tragic results of the U.S. immigration policy. As the real-life drama unfolds we see this John Doe, denied an identity at his point of death, become a living and breathing human being with an important life story. Winner of the Sundance 2013 Cinematography award and nominated in the World Documentary Competition, *Who is Dayani Cristal?* has been described by The Hollywood Reporter as "A deeply moving doc [which] finds a new way of making the immigration debate personal." \$25/ticket for this gala showing-- available at www.ImFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Sunday, October 26

More FilmFest Movies. Choose from several feature-length films showing in DC, MD & VA. See complete schedule at www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Saturday, November 1 - The 8th Annual WES Auction Join your friends and community at this always fun, always delicious, always exciting event--and support WES' mission while you're at it!

Thursday, November 6

The Young and the Thirsty, 7pm, Olive Lounge in Takoma Park, MD. All young(ish) adults are welcome to join this casual get-together to talk about topics philosophical and otherwise!

Friday, November 7-Saturday, November 8

Regional Racial Justice Conference - Inclusivity Through Joy and Creativity, UU Congregation of Sterling, VA.

Sunday, November 9

Earth Ethics Meeting with Potluck Supper, 5:45pm, Carol Rawie's Home. All are welcome, call or e-mail Carol for further information (301-649-4990 or kenrawie@erols.com). Earth Ethics promotes ethical principles and actions within WES and beyond to improve our relationship to the Earth and all living beings. Check us out online: <http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article/109/act-for-justice/earth-ethics?search=earth+ethics+committee>

Fall Membership Meeting, 6pm, Main Hall – Save the date!