



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 4 -- December 2013



From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHSLI

There's an old gospel song that's been rolling around in my head for awhile. The refrain goes, "O Lord, you know, I have no friend like you; If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do?" It is a fabulous song, all except for the lyrics, which reflect a world view I do not share. But, as I have not been able to get it out of my head, I began to wonder how an Ethical Humanist version might go. I'll let you know what I've figured out on December 8th, when my topic is, "if Humanism's Not My Home".

December will be a busy month at the Society. On December 1st we'll be making sandwiches for the INN and there will be Membership Meeting, which members will want to attend. On the 8th, besides my talk, we will formally welcome new members from the last few months and there will be an Orientation to Ethical Humanism for new members, new friends and anyone who might want to brush up. Then, on the 15th we will hear from the Diogenes Roundtable! The 22nd is Winterfest, always a warm and invigorating seasonal celebration. We'll wrap up the month with our second annual play reading on December 29th. And that's just the Sunday morning activities!

Events with Calvin

Ethical Café

Monday, December 9: *No More Secrets: Government Snooping*

Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society

Community Singing

Monday, December 16: For anyone who would like to sing a bit and help to plan for the Sunday morning Community Singing.

Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society

I don't think I'm letting anything out of the bag by telling you that I'll conclude in my talk on the 8th that Humanism is my home. And that that Humanism is grounded and strengthened by my participation in our community, the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, which is, in turn, kept grounded and strong by our participation and support.

Hope to see you soon!
Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director



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HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR 2013 PLEDGE TO EHSLI? OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU!

EHSLI Architect Obituary

William W. Landsberg, a Bauhaus-influenced architect who designed more than a dozen homes and commercial buildings across Long Island, died Oct. 6th at his home in Port Washington. He was 98.

He graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1936 and received his Master in Architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1938, where he studied under Walter Gropius (1883-1954) and Marcel Breuer (1902-1981).

Two homes he designed are in Port Washington, and his New Canaan, CT, home is included in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Modern Homes Survey, a collection of architecturally and historically significant residences.

The Ethical Humanist Society is one of two remaining non-residential buildings of Landsberg on Long Island.

— Nicolas Spangler

President's Column



Joan Beder,
Society President

At our fall membership meeting on December 1st, we will speak about the Society and some of the financial concerns we are facing. As the economy in the US has sagged many not-for-profit organizations that rely on donations and grants have been struggling.

There is some comfort in knowing that other religious organizations face the same difficulties that we face, but the comfort is short lived. While I share concerns about other groups, I have the greatest concern for our Society. So, I want to encourage you to consider digging deeper as you finalize your contributions to the society this year -- that you up your pledge as much as possible.

On a related note, and also about money, please consider donations to the typhoon relief effort in the Philippines. As the headlines fade about the dreadful situation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan, we tend to forget the human devastation from the storm. If you can, please consider a donation to Oxfam America's Typhoon Haiyan Relief and Recovery Fund. Checks can be made out to Oxfam America and on the memo line add Typhoon Haiyan Relief and Recovery Fund. The check can be sent to: Oxfam America Haiyan Relief Fund, P.O. Box 1211, Albert Lea, MN 56007-1211.

Thank you all and best for the holiday season.

Joan Beder
President

Several members have requested that we post this list more often to remind ourselves who we are. Great idea!



Twelve Core Values of Ethical Humanism

1. Ethics is my religion.
2. Every person is important and unique.
3. Every person deserves to be treated fairly and kindly.
4. I can learn from everyone.
5. I am part of this earth, I cherish it, and all the life upon it.
6. I learn from the world around me by using senses, mind, and feelings.
7. I am a member of the world community, which depends on the cooperation of all people for peace and justice.
8. I can learn from the past to build for the future.
9. I am free to question.
10. I am free to choose what I believe.
11. I accept responsibility for my choices and actions.
12. I strive to live my values.

KIDS Update



KID Group Learns about Organic Farming:

In October, the KID group learned all about organic farming. We discussed what the word “organic” means, what the advantages and disadvantages of organic farming are, and why it’s better to buy organic products. We compared organic and non-organic apples, and learned about why supermarkets put wax on apples to make them shiny. We then taste-tested the two types of apples, and agreed that there was not much difference in the taste. We also compared two batches of carrots: the non-organic ones were bigger and plumper than the organic ones. They were also much less expensive! We discussed the differences between processed and natural foods by taste-testing figs vs. Fig Newton cookies. Most of us preferred the taste of the Fig Newtons even though we know the plain figs are healthier for us. We concluded that this is probably because we are so used to eating processed foods.

After our taste-testing, the KID group looked at a landscape model that showed mountains, a valley with a river flowing through it, and a clean freshwater lake. We imagined where in the landscape we might have a city or a farm. We then used colored gelatin powder to simulate pesticides and fertilizers that might be used by a farmer or by a home-owner taking care of their own lawn. A spray bottle was used to simulate rain, and we could see that the fertilizer and pesticides were washed into the river by the



rainwater, and eventually ended up polluting the lake. This demonstrated that the chemicals we use don’t stay where they are- they can cause pollution far away.

The next week, we visited Crossroad’s Farm at Grossman’s, an organic farm in Malverne. Our educator Kaiti gave us a lesson about what makes the farm organic and why this is healthier for us and for our environment. We then took a tour of the farm- we saw how using biointensive farming allows them to grow more crops using less space. We discussed how important aeration is to the soil, and we each got a chance to aerate the soil by jumping up and down on a manual tiller! We also visited the chickens and saw where they lay their eggs. We each carried an egg back to the shed where they are stored. Kaiti showed us the beehives and explained that the beekeepers only take a small amount so that the hive can survive.

At the end of our visit, we helped harvest some peppers and eggplants. We learned how to sort and weigh the foods we harvested and record it in the log book. The children and adults enjoyed this trip very much, and we are hoping to visit the farm again soon.

Joan Peterson



YES Update

November has been an exciting month for the YES group. In addition to continuing our explorations into ideas about Utopia, Reid Hetzel and Chloe Agostino (as well as co-advisers Derek Smith and Tara Klein) participated in the national YES conference in Washington DC. The conference ran from November 7th-10th, and was attended and run by YES members from many different societies. The group had the opportunity to bond over the weekend through a series of some very profound discussions, group exercises and games, and opportunities to see both Washington DC as well as the beautiful Camp Letts conference site in Edgewater, Maryland. This year Reid was voted in as treasurer, and Chloe as our Long Island representative. The group has also begun planning for the annual Pasta Dinner, coming up on December 21st.



Anyone who is interested in the YES group can contact me for more information, at sampreeni@gmail.com.

Derek Smith
YES Adviser

Request for Holiday Audio Essays

Sharon Stanley and the KIDS are sending descriptions of how each family celebrates the Winter Holidays. Adults are welcome to submit audio excerpts as well. Arnell Dowret spoke at our ethical society last year. See his request:

How do you deal with the Christmas holiday season? Do you love it, hate it, or just tolerate it? Do you celebrate the winter solstice, or “Humanlight”?

Equal Time for Freethought, the longest running on-air radio program for the free-thought community, is accepting audio submissions to be broadcast on our Naturalistic Christmas Special. Submissions should be no longer than 10 or 12 minutes. It can consist of an interview with friends, family, and /or workplace associates, or even a rant by its producer. Chanukah experiences are welcome as well.

Submissions must be received no later than December 15th, 2013.

For more information please send message toarnell7@juno.com with the words “Christmas Recording” in the subject line.

Thanks,
 Arnell Dowret, Producer Equal Time for Freethought
 Saturdays 3 - 4 PM 99.5 fm, WBAI, NY
www.equaltimeforfreethought.org

Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

SPICE Events — See page 6 for *SPICE* events and updates.

Vegetarian Dinner Fundraiser: Save the date! The EHSLI is holding a vegetarian supper fundraiser on February 1st, 2015, 4 PM—8 PM. Join us for great food and terrific music. Eat healthily while you are having fun! If you are interested in attending or bringing a dish, contact Phyllis at the EHSLI office or emailing her at ethicalsociety@optonline.net.

YES Annual Pasta Dinner Safari: Saturday, December 21st, 6 -- 10 PM, with guest speaker Greta Guarton, Executive Director of the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless. Tickets \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. All proceeds to benefit YES and the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless.

Ethical Friends of Children Holiday Toy Drive: Ethical Friends of Children is asking members and friends to donate new unwrapped holiday children's gifts, for babies through teenagers. A box for your donations will be out to receive your gifts on Sunday, November 24th and December 1st. EFOC wishes to thank members for their continuous support of this worthy organization. — Pat Spencer

Request for Holiday Audio Essay: Arnell Dowret, Producer of WBAI's Equal Time for Freethought is requesting audio holiday essays. Essays should be emailed to toarnell7@juno.com by December 15th. For more details see page 4.

Secular Movement Update: For those of you interested in how the secular movement is proceeding around the country, check out the latest news from The Secular Coalition for America:
<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9241bef44976519ab9f9dff94&id=8e5a4c78fc&e=bfc2c41e11>

The Diogenes Roundtable: Discuss your thoughts with us, as we probe the deeper questions of life and have a few laughs along the way. Every month we will explore a different topic in philosophy and learn from the ideas of great thinkers. For meeting times e-mail AnHonestManEHS@gmail.com, or talk with Liam Stephens or David Sprintzen. All are welcome.

Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class: Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. If interested, contact Sylvia at Sylvia_Silberger@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

Get your EHSLI tee shirts! We have new Ethical Humanist tee shirts for EHSLI fundraising! The new tees consist of an original design printed on super soft organic cotton fair trade tee shirts with ecologically friendly water-based ink. The shirts are natural color and the printing is in blue. Choose S, M, L, XL or XXL. Order from Sylvia by emailing matsbs@yahoo.com. There are two styles: unisex and fitted women's, each for \$20 + shipping, if applicable.



The Caring Connection: our commitment to taking care of those of us who are sick or in need. We encourage involvement from all. This is core to who we are as Ethical Humanists.

Suggestions for Sunday Speakers: If you have heard any speakers whom you would like to recommend to the Sunday Committee, based on their excellence and subject matter including ethical issues, for consider for next season, please send suggestions to the office to be forwarded to committee members.

Sponsor a Coffee Hour: \$15 and, with enough advanced notice, add your name and message to the Sunday Meeting bulletin! Contact Phyllis at ethicalsociety@optonline.net.

Weekly Food Drive: Members of the EHSLI are collecting food items for INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network). Please bring non-perishable food items to the basket in the lobby.

Visit EHSLI Online!

EHSLI Website: <http://www.ehsli.org>

EHSLI on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

EHSLI on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

K.I.D. on Twitter: www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed

EHSLI on Meet-up:
<http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/>. This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSLI meet up member.

Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

SPICE EVENTS & UPDATES

SPICE Event — **Make Your Own Home Aquarium:** Steven Beder has been setting up aquariums since he was eight years old and he has lots of tips to pass on to anyone who wants to try this beautiful hobby. Learn what you need to do to have success.. Detailed travel directions will be emailed to those who register. To sign up call the EHSIJ office at (516)741-7304.

DATE: to be decided at convenience of participant(s)
 PLACE: Steve and Joan's home in Old Westbury
 LIMIT: 8 people
 DONATION: \$15
 HOSTS: Steve and Joan Beder

SPICE Event — **Authentic Middle Eastern Food Demonstration:** Aida Nema will demonstrate the preparation of a healthy Middle Eastern vegetarian meal, which we will eat. You'll learn how to make hummus (chick pea and tahini appetizer), tabouleh salad, koshari (lentil, rice pilaf with tomato sauce). For dessert there will be basbousa semolina cake and mint tea. You may want to bring your aprons and chef caps and appetites to this exciting event. Aida will need some sous chefs. Definitely bring your appetite.

DATE: Saturday, December 14th at 5 PM
 PLACE: home of Arthur and Lyn Dobrin, 613 Dartmouth St, Westbury
 PHONE: (516) 997-854
 LIMIT: 15
 DONATION: \$30
 HOSTS: Aida Nema and Arthur and Lyn Dobrin

eBay SPICE Fundraiser

— The **SPICE** committee and Bill Larsen are organizing an EHSIJ eBay account as a fundraiser for the EHSIJ. Email Bill Larsen at EHSFundraising@gmail.com with descriptions and pictures (if possible) if you have something you think might be worth donating. Email Bill for more detail on item specs needed. Our eBay seller ID is EHSIJ fundraising. Visit our sales at http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.l2559

December Sunday Meeting Schedule

December 1: Joan Beder
 Social Action project for The INN- Membership Meeting to follow.

December 8: Calvin Dame
 "If Humanisim is my Home"



December 15: Liam Stephens and David Spritzen
 "Neuro-ethics of Cyborgs"

December 22: Calvin Dame
 Winter Festival

December 29: Calvin Dame
 Play Reading (coordinated by Calvin)

Sunday Meetings begin at 11:00 AM
Sunday Colloquies begin at 9:30 AM

November Board Meeting Minutes

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4th, 2013 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Sue Feifer, Mel Haber, Bill Larsen, Heidi Mann, Linda Napoli, Wayne Outten, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, Mary Sherman, Pat Spencer, David Sprintzen, Liam Stephens and Deborah Strube

ABSENT: Jim LoPresti

GUESTS: Calvin Dame

1. **Approval of minutes:** The October minutes were approved.

2. **President's report:**

The YES group went to a conference recently in Washington DC and a camp in Maryland with aid from our Society.

We are moving ahead with plans for a fundraising dinner.

Beverly Freestone and Linda Joe have volunteered to revitalize our Caring Committee.

As to the boiler repair, a plumber we hired a year and a half ago told us that we needed a second boiler. However, in spite of Joan's efforts, he still hasn't come, as promised, to replace the old boiler with two new residential ones. We have given up on him doing the work and don't intend to use him in the future. A different plumber recently came to our building and explained that the other plumber hasn't shown up because the two new boilers would cost him much more than the contract price he agreed to. Fortunately for us, the new plumber did some repair work on the heating system to enable us to heat the second floor rooms. We are looking into legal proceedings against the plumber with input from Wayne.

3. **Calvin's report:** Calvin has moved to Brattleboro, Vermont, but he will continue to be at our Society albeit on a limited basis. He will be meeting with several volunteers to plan the Fall Festival program. He has written to some people involved in the Parenting Workshop to discover where certain income from the event went.

4. **Financials:** Mary reported that we are now doing better financially due to pledge income we recently received. We now have a small cash cushion. However, in the near future, rental income will decrease and expenses will increase. We hope that the fundraising dinner might help us financially next year. On December 1st, the membership will have to approve of the 2014 budget Mary has prepared. The Board agreed to approve of this budget with the inclusion of a section showing anticipated income from rentals, new members, and fundraising events.

5. **Mel Haber's Report:** Mel attended a workshop sponsored by the Long Island Council of Churches. Its purpose was to present

information about a training program offered by New Partners for your Sacred Place designed to help congregations increase membership and raise revenue. To determine whether members of our Society should take this training, the Board agreed to Pat's suggestion that the Finance Committee review testimonials of churches that have been helped by this training.

6. **December 1st Membership Meeting:** We will make sandwiches for the INN for the first 45 minutes of the Sunday program on December 1st. Then at 11:45 AM, we will have a membership meeting for members only. Board members will arrive at the Society at 10:45 AM to set up.

7. **Conference Call with Members of the Chicago Ethical Society:** Heidi Mann, Pat Spencer, Sharon and Chris Stanley took part in a conference call with members of the Chicago Ethical Society. Our members learned that the Chicago Society is been experiencing growth and stability though they have been without a leader for 18 years, largely because of its many well-functioning committees. Committee heads delegate much of the work that needs done and they don't micromanage. We will implement one of their suggestions; our Society should have a once-a-month orientation.

8. **Sale of Lot:** Linda will go to the Building Department in Garden City to see what needs to be done to subdivide the lot to allow sale of part of it. The realtor and the surveyor she spoke with both said that having it subdivided now is sensible because the Garden City codes could be changed at some future time which might prevent the subdivision or sale of that piece of property.

9. **Welcome Packet for Visitors:** Linda and a committee are working on developing a welcoming packet for visitors. Their committee will present a report to the Board in the near future.

10. **Rental to Non-profits:** We are now clearer on what constitutes a for-profit rental vs. a non-profit rental. If we rent to a non-profit group, we can avoid paying real estate taxes.

11. **KIDS Update:** Alison said that Alyssa is doing a good job as a babysitter and a teacher of sorts for young kids. As to Darwin Day, Alison hopes to sell expensive ads to raise money. In addition, she will get more information regarding doing a film series which would be kicked off on Darwin Day.

The meeting ended at 9:25 PM
Minutes submitted by Mel Haber,
Board secretary



Note from the Editor

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHSIJ newsletters to me at Sylvia_silberger@yahoo.com. Submissions due by the 15th of the month for the next month's newsletter. All submissions are subject to editorial modifications and approval of tone and content. Printing is also limited by space constraints.



*Sylvia Silberger and Bill Larsen,
Yosemite National Park*

Opt-Out of Paper Newsletter Mailings

To save resources and postage costs, we encourage you to email Sylvia at matsbs@yahoo.com if you would be satisfied with an email-only version of this newsletter rather than a paper copy.



Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Phone: 516-741-7304

Fax: 516-741-7305

Ethicalsociety@optonline.net

<http://www.ehsl.org>

Meet- Up: <http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island>



*A Member Society of the
American Ethical Union and
a Chapter of the American
Humanist Association*

*Haven't heard of us? Come see what we are about some Sunday!
Sunday Colloquia start at 9.30 AM and Sunday Meetings at 11 AM.*

Create a Caring World

The Ethical Humanist

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

38 Old Country Rd. Garden City, NY 11530