President’s Message
By Linda Napoli

If 2016 has taught us anything, it is that life is full of joys and sorrows as well as unexpected events which can affect us in a major way.

Here at the Society, it is our connection with each other and the organization that helps us deal with these different aspects of existence. Coming in on Sundays and participating in the Society’s many activities allow us to partake in the gifts of friendship and community. Knowing that, let us greet the New Year in a spirit of hope.

We’re looking forward to some special programs in the next couple of months that will be both enjoyable and educational. Please see below for a listing of the various events to come.

Winter has come!
In case of inclement weather, check your email for cancellation announcements or call the office at 516-741-7304 that morning.
Jan. 8: Commemoration Day. presided over by Dr. Joan Beder, expressing our ideals of Freedom, Justice, Dignity and Compassion.

Music, poetry and readings to honor the contributions of African Americans to our culture. Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January.
Linda Napoli is a retired schoolteacher and served as our Director of Religious Education for 11 years. She has been a member of EHSLI for over 30 years and is currently the President of our Society.

Jan. 22: JoAnn D. Smith, A conversation with the President CEO of Planned Parenthood of Nassau County
In addition to her work at PPNC, JoAnn serves on the Board of Directors of the Family Planning Advocates of New York State, the Health & Welfare Council of Nassau County, and the New York State Affiliates of Planned Parenthood, the electoral arm of all the Planned Parenthood affiliates in New York State, as well as Affiliates Risk Management Services, Inc. (ARMS), an organization that manages clients’ insurance and risk and quality management needs.

The Executive Director of LITAC, the Long Island Transgender Advocacy Coalition, will talk openly about navigating in a world that is locked into the notion of only two genders. This fascinating tale of her life experiences will open your eyes to what gender really is, and what it takes to be successful in a society that does not easily accept any variation in gender roles. This fact-filled discussion will attempt to put an end to misinformation, confusion, fear and denial.
Our condolences to the family of Rhoda Weill who died on December 1, 2016. Rhoda and her late husband Joe were stalwart members of our Ethical Society for many years. Those of us who knew her will always remember the wonderful fundraising and pool parties at the Weill home as well as their generous support of the social welfare activities of our Society, including the YoungActivist Grant.

WEILL-Rhoda of Oyster Bay Cove LI, mother, grandmother, friend and philanthropist passed onward December 1, 2016. She is survived by her children Stanley (Grace), Jill and Russell (Mary), and 7 grand-children. She was a caring sister to Helen, Norma (dec.), Gloria (dec.) and Claire (dec.). Rhoda embraced the Humanist faith, warmly and openly touching the lives of all whom she met. With her husband Joe, they traveled the world, piloted together, enjoyed books and theater. As founding members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, they practiced the essential value that every life is precious and deserves to be lived with decency. She will always be remembered and lovingly missed.

Published in Newsday on Dec. 18, 2016
Social Action: Ethical Friends of Children

The need is great and your generosity is always appreciated. Please donate children’s clothing and baby items. Diapers, wipes, and new baby items such as bottles are always welcomed. Your donations are completely tax deductible. All of our items are given away at no cost to families. Contact Jim LoPresti at efoc@ehsli.org for more information.

Children’s Hat And Mitten Drive

The Sunday School is still collecting children’s hats, scarves and mittens to be donated to Bethany House. The drive will continue until the end of January.

Our Affiliated Group: Humanists of Long Island

Our next two meetings will be on Jan. 30 and Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ethical Society, in the second floor meeting room. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com for information.
Society News

End of Life Planning Packets – A Service of the Society

Thinking about the end of our lives is never a pleasing experience. However, with any death, there are numerous details that have to be considered - funeral service, burial, contact people, wills, etc. As such, the Society offers each member the option of meeting with Dr. Joan Beder to articulate what they wish for their funeral/memorial. We can get together at your convenience to create and document the needed plans. The Society keeps a copy of the files and when the time comes, will make them available. Please consider working on these plans as it is very helpful in preparing a service and can make things a lot easier for family and those who will ultimately be responsible for making the necessary arrangements. Contact the office to schedule an appointment...516-741-7304.

SAVE THESE DATES!

February 11th – 5:00 p.m.- VEGETARIAN POT LUCK SUPPER

Enjoy an evening of food and fun with music to go with it.

Sunday, February 12th – 12:30 p.m. - DARWIN DAY

This annual celebration of science is educational, fun, and attracts visitors as well. Help in planning this event will be most welcome!
May 7TH – 1:00 p.m. - FOUNDER’S DAY LUNCHEON

The honoree this year will be Alison Pratt for her many contributions to the life of the Society.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Saturday, January 28 is the start of the Spring Festival
2017 is the Year of the Rooster

The Colloquy by Muriel Schwartzman

I’ve been involved with the Colloquy for more than 20 years and regard it as a vital part of my life. It is an opportunity to reflect on questions that I might not normally find the time and space to consider, for example: what have you learned from hardship? or where do you find your greatest happiness?

It is especially rewarding to learn the various responses of the other participants to a topic and in the process get to understand each other more fully.

And we have fun!

[Editor’s Note: Muriel Schwartzman is one of the three members who currently take turns leading the Colloquy each Sunday morning, along with Lois Blatt and Jean Bobick.]

New Year’s Day Party 2017 – Many thanks to Pat Spencer!
Farewell to Heidi Mann - November 2016
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What gift have you given to another today?
Our Youth Programs

Kids Ethics Program (a.k.a. Humanist Sunday School)

Happy New Year wishes from the The Kids Ethics Program on Long Island! I hope everyone is ready for the winter season ahead! The kids have much to look forward to this year!

This January 15th we will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday with a lesson about how black history is American history. This will lead to continued lessons on the subject in February.

Thank you for all of your donations of hats, mittens and scarves for Bethany House. We will continue our drive for several more weeks.

As always, feel free to visit us in the classroom, and if you know any kids who you think would like to try us out, newcomers are welcome! If possible, please check out our Facebook page, like and share it if you can.

Christine Lamattina, Director of Ethical Education
E-mail me at ccl1311@aol.com.

Humanism is a belief in the worth and dignity of all people.
We teach children to do good for the sake of goodness alone.
Humanist values are taught through stories, play, and service projects.

Our Facebook page has been renamed. Like us! The Kids Ethics Program on Long Island!
YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.

EHS LI YOUTH

@YesLLehs
YES is a group of high school students determined to make the world a better place.

We had a successful Pasta Dinner Dec. 17. Thanks to all who participated. The pasta dinner raised funds for the youth group and for soapstone carvers in Kenya to become bee keepers in an effort to combat the effects of climate change, poor political planning, and other economic factors.

We will be accepting old bicycles on April 1 to ship to underprivileged countries.

JohnWaters, YES Adviser
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a welcoming home for people who think that nothing should be more important to people than people. If you value independent thought, stimulating presentations, a celebration of both science and the arts, the education of youth in the ideals of humanism, and a community of friends who work to create social change, you will find what you’re looking for with us.

Programs

Sunday morning meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. for approximately one hour. A blend of music, poetry, meditation and an informative presentation, our Sunday mornings are the centerpiece of our week. Every talk is recorded... Go to [http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/](http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/)

Colloquy is a time of shared reflection and nurturing. It's an opportunity for people to meet in a small group, examine a particular aspect of life, explore and practice self-reflection. Colloquy meets at 9:30 a.m. before our Sunday meeting. We often lunch together after the general meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Kids Ethics Program meets weekly at 11:00 a.m. for children ages 5 to 12 and covers topics of “what makes a good person?” Free babysitting is provided for younger children. [www.facebook.com/kidsethicsprogramLI](http://www.facebook.com/kidsethicsprogramLI)

YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18. YES meets approximately twice a month. The YES group hosts a Sunday morning presentation each year. Contact them on twitter [@YesLlehs](https://twitter.com/YesLlehs)

Humanists of Long Island Meetings. The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island's chapter of the American Humanist Association, now known as the Humanists of Long Island, will be meeting on the last Monday of each month. For questions or information email Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com or leave a message for Sharon at 516-741-7304.

Darwin Day is our annual celebration of science, held in early February in honor of Charles Darwin.
Commemoration Sunday is our first meeting of each new year when we renew our core values of freedom, justice, dignity and compassion.

Ethical Friends of Children assists more than 2,500 children each year by providing them with clothing and infant furniture at no cost. Our “store” – staffed entirely by volunteers – lets families pick out the things they need, at no cost to them. Please contact director Jim LoPresti at EFOC@ehsli.org if you’d like to help.

The Social Justice Leadership Award was created by the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island to honor those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of humankind, recognizing people who have made significant contributions in the areas of peace, justice, human rights, or humanitarian causes.

The Young Activist Grant was founded to encourage Nassau County middle and high school students to develop their own humanitarian skills. The annual grant, awarded in the fall, offers $500 as seed money for a worthy project. See our website for an application.

The Movie Group. For information about joining the movie group, contact Al Zeiger at 516-538-2687. Leave a message and he'll return your call.

Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour: For $15 you can sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour and, with advanced notice, have your name and message added to the Sunday Meeting bulletin! Please contact Phyllis at ethicalsociety@optonline.net

Affordable Office Space for Rent
We have great office space available for long term leasing. Available are two individual offices (230+ sq ft each). Reasonable rates. Ample free parking and a short walk from the Nassau County Seat, Winthrop University Hospital and the Mineola LIRR train station. Non-profit organizations only may apply. Also on site and available for occasional rental are a conference room for meetings up to 50 people and a large auditorium that can be used for larger events. Inquire through the office, 516-741-7304.

Social Media:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical
www.facebook.com/kidsethicsprogramLI/
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli
www.twitter.com/YesLlehs
This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSLI meet-up member.

Blog: Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com
Community Action: www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member society of the American Ethical Union and a Chapter of the American Humanist Association.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
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Create a Caring World