



# The Ethical Humanist

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island  
Create a Caring World



## Sunday Talks

Begin at 11:00 am

November 6: David Sprintzen, Thinking About This Presidential Election.  
*and concurrently:*  
Raising Moral and Ethical Children: A Free Workshop for Parents.

November 13: Vinnie Drzewucki, The Healing Power of Gardening.  
*followed by:* Membership Meeting and Lunch.

November 20:  
Thanksgiving Festival.

November 27:  
Thanksgiving Memories and Sharing.

## Colloquy

Every Sunday at 9:30 am

## President's Message

By Linda Napoli

November is here and as the weather turns colder, we can be thankful for our warm homes and winter jackets.

In this season, part of our spirit of gratitude should be continuing to work toward erasing hunger and cold from the lives of people around us. This is a good time for us all to think about how we can help this happen.

The Society is in full swing with some very inspiring speakers recently who reminded us to think about where people who differ with us get their mindset.

Our Special Programs Initiative begins on Monday, November 7 with our Terrific Topics Series. Details are on page 4.

Clinical psychologist, Alison Pratt will be doing a parenting workshop on Sunday, Nov. 6th, concurrent with the Sunday meeting with the aim of bringing families in when the Sunday School class is going on. See the flyer on page 3.

Many more events are being planned for this coming year including pot luck suppers, musical evenings and a games night.



# November Speakers



## Nov. 6: "Thinking About This Presidential Election."

Dr. David Sprintzen is a long-time member of EHS and Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at LIU/Post, founder and officer of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, author of several books, including two on Albert Camus, the most recent being "Critique of Western Philosophy and Social Theory".



## Nov. 13: "The Healing Power of Gardening."

Did you know that gardening can provide known physical and psychological health and well-being benefits that can help us in our stressed out, high-tech world? Join EHSLI member Vinnie Drzewucki as he shares his life experiences and knowledge of gardening and nature.

With a career in horticulture spanning nearly 40 years, Vinnie is currently a Horticulture and Urban Forestry Resource Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County. Professional credentials include being an ISA Certified Arborist, a New York State Senior Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional and Commercial Pesticide Applicator.

Vinnie is the author of 2 books, "Gardening in Deer Country" and "Flowerbeds and Borders in Deer Country" and regularly writes article for several publications.

Nov. 20: Fall Festival of Thanksgiving, a celebration with music.  
Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Memories and Sharing. Instead of our regular program, the Society will be open for an informal sharing of leftovers and Thanksgiving memories by its members. All are welcome.



# Raising Moral and Ethical Children

## A Workshop for Parents in Today's Rapidly Changing Culture

### Consumerism~Pop culture~Hypercommunication

Parents, in this fast-paced world:  
Help your kids sort out the ethical challenges;  
Help them develop morals that will sustain them throughout life.

Learn some of the latest advice from psychological science, assess your own resilience, and brainstorm solutions.

Workshop will be run by clinical psychologist Dr. Alison Pratt  
Children's program for children ages 5 to 13 during workshop.

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**Sunday, November 6, 11:00 – 12:15**

Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island • 38 Old Country Road  
Garden City • 516-741-7304 • [www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org)

Free event; Please call to register



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS INITIATIVE:

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### Terrific Topics Series Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

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**November 7 - PEACE WARRIOR WORKSHOP**  
**(A Basic Understanding of the Language of Non-violent Communication)**  
- presented by Ginger Hendler

Certain words can push people's buttons. This is a great way of learning how to talk to others in a humane way.

**November 21 - THOUGHTS ON ETHNIC DIVERSITY**  
- presented by David Sprintzen

Ever wonder why there is so much discord amongst our citizens? This discussion will help explain one of the major reasons.

**December 5 - PATHS TO HUMANISM**  
- hosted by Sharon Stanley

Sharon will share her own experience and attendees will be invited to take part with their own stories of being a humanist and how they got there.

## VETERAN'S DAY - NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

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There are many women and men, young and old, who have served our nation in the past 75 years. Although many services are offered by the Veterans Administration, they haven't been enough. The rate of homelessness and suicide among young vets is an astounding statistic we can't ignore. As humanists, let us educate ourselves and help where we can.



# Upcoming Events

## FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

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At this meeting, we will discuss the state of the society and our vote on the budget. All members are asked to attend. There will be an enhanced lunch that day.

## NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE - THROUGH NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

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Please bring in non-perishable items, which can be donated to the INN. We will bring the food there on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Foods relating to a Thanksgiving meal will be especially welcome. Thank you for your generosity.



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## THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL - NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>

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Our annual Thanksgiving Festival is planned for Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an intergenerational day with music and fun activities.



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## FIRST ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SUNDAY - JANUARY 2017

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Freedom, Justice, Dignity and Compassion

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Our first meeting in January, formerly known as Remembrance Sunday, has been a solemn occasion in our Ethical community for over forty years. We have decided to update and rename this meeting to better identify its purpose.

Please join us on Sunday, January 8, 2017, for our first annual Commemoration Sunday.



We will commemorate the core values of freedom, justice, dignity and compassion, as we look back to learn from the past and look forward for ways to express our ideals into the New Year. During the program we light candles as reminders of how we want to live. The second half of the morning will be devoted to members sharing their thoughts about someone important to them who has passed away.

We hope you will come and participate in this meaningful occasion.

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## Our Times Coffeehouse

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### Miles to Dayton

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Friday, November 18th at 8 PM



*"David Dircks, the host of AcousticLongIsland.com, states, "Miles to Dayton has the ability to blend folk, rock and progressive rock into a distinct sound that, while intricate in its form, seems effortless in the execution of its parts. It is this trademark infusion of acoustic and electric instruments that keeps their music full of contrasts and energy."*

Come and meet the family you never knew you had. Miles to Dayton's music happens at a personal level, their message of love blending elements of folk, rock, classical, and funk into an irresistible invitation. The M2D recipe is simple: four-part vocal harmony, clever songwriting, improvisational violin and cello, and an infectious rhythm section that stirs up the creative stew. This group will have you dancing in your seats..

**Join us for an exhilarating evening of great music in the intimate setting of the  
Our Times Coffeehouse**

## Our Affiliated Group: **Humanists of Long Island**

Our next meetings will be on Nov. 28 and Dec. 26 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](mailto:lihumanist@gmail.com) for information.

# Our Youth Programs

## Humanist Sunday School

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Sunday School greetings, and happy November!

This month we will be talking about gratitude. Classes will be focused on how having an "attitude of gratitude" can increase the quality of our lives. In modern society we often forget the importance of being thankful, and our lessons will consist of gentle reminders of what we have to be grateful for. We are also going to create a gratitude bank, a collection of thoughts and quotes, to help remind us of the people and things we have to be grateful for.

As always, please feel free to stop in downstairs and see what the children have been doing. We have some wonderful things planned for the year, and would love a few visitors!

New children are very welcome, so members are always invited to bring us visitors. Everyone is encouraged to take Sunday School brochures and give them to friends and family!

My email address is [ccl1311@aol.com](mailto:ccl1311@aol.com). Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or suggestions.

Thank You!

Christine Lamattina, Director of Sunday School Education



Our Sunday School now has a Facebook page!  
The page name is  
**ETHICAL HUMANIST SUNDAY SCHOOL**



## **YES** (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.



John Waters, YES adviser

The YES group will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for the annual YES conference which takes place November 10 -13. The topic of the conference is ethics in education. The conference will cover several themes such as the pledge of allegiance, segregation, and standardized testing.

After that, we will be planning our annual pasta dinner which will be held on December 17. The annual pasta dinner is our big fundraising event. Please **SAVE THE DATE!** We would love to see you all then.

**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.**

## **Social Action: Ethical Friends of Children**

The need is great and your generosity is truly appreciated during the coming holiday season. 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](mailto:efoc@ehsli.org) for more information.



## Social Action: Community/Police Relations

The Social Action Committee's Project on Community/Police Relations has initiated a petition to repeal the New York law which seals the records of police who are under investigation for misconduct.

Below is a copy of that petition. Please go to the [Facebook page of Communities and Police Talk](#) or the website [communitiesandpolicetalk.org](http://communitiesandpolicetalk.org) and click on "**Change law to let taxpayers know about police discipline**" on the Home page to [SIGN THE PETITION](#).



Since the deadly confrontations between police and civilians, communities have much greater expectations for transparency from our police departments.

As a Newsday investigation revealed, at least 200 officers in Nassau and Suffolk counties alone have been linked to misconduct, often quite serious, but who frequently have faced no significant discipline. <http://data.newsday.com/crime/police-misconduct>

However, New York Civil Rights Law State law 50-a keeps personnel records of police officers secret, unless a judge approves their release. This law has been used to keep secret nearly every recording dealing with individual officers.

In New York, an officer's misconduct on the job is shielded from public view. In at least 27 other states, such as Florida, Washington and Ohio, police misconduct records are open to the public.

We believe that most police officers are fair, honest and hardworking. However, the people have a right to know when police officers are accused of serious transgressions, and what investigations find.

There is no good reason why New York should be amongst the minority of states that keep such records secret.

A law that keeps such information from the public is a unfair and inconsistent with the policies of greater police reform undertaken nationwide. We need greater trust between communities and police, and this can be done by building bridges of communication.

We call on the New York State Legislature to repeal 50 -a.

# Society News

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On Opening Sunday, Arthur Dobrin, our Leader Emeritus posed ten questions for us to consider. We will print one a month. Submit your answers and we will share them.

**QUESTION - What are you called upon to do as a humanist?**

## CONGRATULATIONS SHARON!



Congratulations to long time member Sharon Stanley for receiving the Muriel Neufeld Humanist Award for her years of dedicated service.

She certainly deserves it.

## A FRIENDLY SOCIETY

We often have newcomers visit. Please welcome them with respect and openness. Show them what a wonderful organization we are and they will be sure to return. Listening is the way to go, and don't forget to offer them one of our Society brochures.

## WIN-WIN CD SALE!

Over the last two years, Gabriel Stanley, a graduate of our Sunday School and YES group, painstakingly recorded all of the Stanley family music collection onto their computer's hard drive. Now, the Stanley family has donated hundreds of cd's to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. They are on sale in Phyllis' office for \$2.00 each. Proceeds will go into the general fund to help improve the society. Stop by the office to browse through this collection. ENJOY!

**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.



## Contacts

38 Old Country Road  
Garden City, NY 11530

516-741-7304

[www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org)

Office Manager:  
Phyllis Herschlag

[ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net)  
more at [www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org).

## 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.ehsl.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.

**Humanist Sunday School** 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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Classes.** Join Sylvia Silberger for free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the Ethical Humanist Society. The classes are on Wednesdays from 5:45 - 7:00 pm. If interested, contact Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:matsbs@yahoo.com) to be put on her class confirmation list.

**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](mailto: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.**

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## Social Media:

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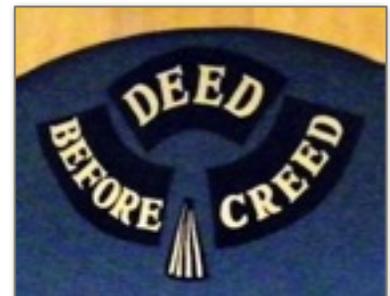
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LIEthical](http://www.facebook.com/LIEthical)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ehsli](http://www.twitter.com/ehsli)

Meetup: [www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/](http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/).  
This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHS LI meet-up member.

Blog: Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at [arthurdobrin.wordpress.com](http://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com)

Community action: [www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org](http://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.



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38 Old Country Road  
Garden City, NY 11530



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