President’s Message

By Linda Napoli

“Faith in Ourselves, Faith in Each Other”

As the holidays approach and we all get busier, the Society is going forward with its special programs as well as preparing to welcome Richard Koral as our new part time Leader beginning in January.

Our December meeting schedule includes a couple of interesting talks in the early part of the month as well as the Winter Festival on December 17th. On December 24th, our program will be an Introduction to the Colloquy. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, you’ll find the morning most interesting as you learn about and take part in this unique experience. There will be no 11:00 am program on December 31st.

The Small Group Discussion on “Gossip” will be held on Dec. 10th. Please come to what will surely be a fascinating conversation. And don’t forget our final media documentary of the year on Dec. 6th: Project Censored: The News that Didn’t Make the News.

December will be informative and inspiring. We look forward to seeing you. Bring your friends! Many people are looking for a community just like ours. We’ll have a Newcomer’s Welcome in January 2018.

See below for details of what’s planned.
Presentations

Steve Chassman serves as the Executive Director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). His talk will provide us with an overview of new trends in substance use, what’s changed and what hasn’t. He will also discuss techniques for engaging young people today and how culture influences adolescent perceptions and behaviors. Mr. Chassman’s greatest accomplishment has been increasing the number of clients serviced on Long Island from 300 to over 1,000 in just six short years. As the demand for services has increased, under his clinical direction, the clinical team met the demand by reaching out to numerous communities and agencies to fulfill that need.

Dec. 10: Steve Glassroth, Standing Up for One’s Beliefs…and for the Constitution.
There are times when we are confronted with actions that should not be ignored by people of conscience, even if those actions may be politically popular and challenging them may be fraught with risk. How should people of conscience respond when faced with actions repugnant to their beliefs and that undermine foundational principles to a just and inclusive society? The question is especially timely as we witness increasingly bold attacks on the institutions of our social order that have served to hold us together, but are now threatened.
First as a legal services lawyer and then in private practice, Steve focused on representing those accused of all types of crimes in state and federal courts, including defending those charged with death penalty offenses. Through all his work, Steve maintained his commitment to advancing the cause of justice for all. When the then Chief Justice (now U.S. Senate candidate) Roy Moore installed a two and a half ton “monument” to the 10 Commandments in the rotunda of the state judicial building, Steve sued the Chief Justice and sought to have the monument removed because it violated the Constitution’s separation of church and state. The case resulted in a federal court ordering Moore to remove the monument, an order he refused to obey. Steve then filed the complaint that ultimately resulted in the Chief Justice being stripped of his office and removed.
Dec. 17: Winter Festival.
Come join us as we journey through an arc of light to darkness, and back to light in contemplation of the winter solstice. Music, literature, food, and fine company! Winter solstice is an astronomical phenomenon which marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, the December Solstice is the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. In 2017, the December Solstice is on December 21.

Dec. 24: Introduction to the Colloquy.
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. It is a structured meeting, including reflection and self-expression in a nonjudgmental, confidential atmosphere.

Dec. 31: No 11 am Sunday talk, but Colloquy meets as usual at 9:30 am.
Hello to everyone, members and friends of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island!

I am both excited and delighted to start off the New Year as the new Leader of the EHS LI. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the EHS LI community and to participation in festivals, Sunday platform meetings, discussion groups, and ethical action together with you.

Let me introduce myself. I grew up in nearby East Meadow, although I spent my adult life in NYC and Westchester. I’ve been a part of the Ethical Culture Movement for a long time, having been a member since 1989 at the Westchester Society, located in White Plains, NY. There, I served as its president and as a board member for many years. I also became active with the national organization, the American Ethical Union, serving on its board and then as its president, too.

I worked as a lawyer in private practice for thirty terrific years but eventually felt that that career had run its course for me. Was it the natural next step that I would decide to pursue training as an Ethical Culture Leader? I found that Ethical Culture and the Humanism it expresses offered a language and a spirit to frame my own approach to life and living. I decided to contribute to the Movement and to invest my efforts to help make the Movement grow. By aspiring to Leadership, I felt I could reach out to people, support our communities and be a spokesperson for our unique and important perspective.

The Long Island Society has a long and rich history as a center for Humanist philosophy and social justice in Nassau County. So many special people have contributed over the last 70 years to build the Society and sustain it. Challenges never cease, but we know that together, as a community, we can be impactful and help move the world forward. In small but significant ways, creative ways, and inspiring ways, we can help infuse the world with an impulse towards fairness, compassion, sustainability and the ethical imperative. That is what Ethical Culture was meant to do.

I will be here the first Sunday each month. I’ll have office hours every Thursday and I can stay late for meetings or activities. I invite you to call me with any questions, concerns or news you may have. We’ll inaugurate some get-togethers and meetings as time goes on, so stay tuned. I will also be sharing my time with the NY Society where I’ll continue as a part-time Leader there, too.

Join me in welcoming the New Year with a renewed vitality and an open heart to build an ethical culture with EHS LI.

Richard Koral
Announcements

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Fall Membership Meeting will be held on December 3rd following our Sunday program. Members will be informed of the state of the Society and will be given the opportunity to approve the 2018 budget. There will be an opportunity for questions, comments, and suggestions. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

DOCUMENTARY – WEDNESDAY DEC. 6th

The last session of our gripping media documentary series this season will take place on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. Please join us for the media documentary “Project Censored: The Movie” which explores the “subtle yet constant and sophisticated manipulations of reality” and “junk food news” that dominate the mainstream media environment.

When “news” is used by giant commercial organizations to protect their economic, military and geopolitical interests, Democracy – which needs a well-informed citizenry to function – is the loser. Where are the reporters who will ask the hard questions and hold the powerful accountable? Not in the mainstream media, at least not in the United States.

“Project Censored: The Movie” takes an in-depth look at what is wrong with the news media in the US today, and highlights the work of 40-year media democracy organization Project Censored and its commitment to media literacy education as an antidote to top-down, managed news propaganda and censorship. Free/ $5 donation, followed by Q&A with the filmmaker.

For more info: www.limediataskforce.org or 516-741-7304.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Join us after the Sunday talk on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th - 12:30 p.m. for what we expect will be a lively discussion. Our topic is Gossip – What It Is and How It Hurts Us
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – DECEMBER 10th

This is the annual observation that commemorates the date in 1948, when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Go to the UN website for more information on this historic document.


Here is a link to the illustrated version:


WINTER FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

Our youth will be joining us for our inter-generational celebration of the season, exploring the traditions of the winter solstice.
Ethical Society

New Year’s Day Pot Luck Party

for members, their family and friends

January 1, 2018, 4-8 P.M.
(room set up and decorating at 3 P.M.)

Bring your party persona, singing voice, tapping feet and if you play an instrument bring that too.

RSVP the number of people coming & what dish you will be bringing to Phyllis 741-7304.
Don’t forget to bring the drinks you want.
On Monday, November 27, Humanists of Long Island, Ethical Society members and the Long Island Atheists were invited to participate in a special screening of the movie, “Leaving God: Why I Left God And Why So Many Others are Too.” The movie depicts the journey of the filmmaker, John Follis, from a religious Catholic background to becoming an atheist, while describing the historical moments and events in the 60s and 70s, that delineated his life’s journey. We had a wonderful time and a full house.

If you would like to see this movie, here is the link: [https://vimeo.com/208442766](https://vimeo.com/208442766)
We will be on hiatus for December. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 29 at 7:00 pm at the Ethical Society.

Many of us are planning to attend the "Woman’s March" in New York City, on Saturday, January 20. The march starts at 11:00 a.m. at Columbus Circle, NY, NY 10019. I haven’t heard if there will be a sister march here on LI. Please let me know if you want to join us!

On behalf of HoLI, I want to wish everyone a happy winter holiday season and we’ll return in January and pick up the gauntlet and continue our social action. You are all welcome to join us, because, as you know, we are all humanists of Long Island!

For questions, please contact Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com.
Social Action:

Ethical Friends of Children

Please continue to 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.

WINTER MITTEN DRIVE

The KIDS in the ETHICS PROGRAM are continuing to collect hats, scarves and mittens this year. Please look for the donation box in the lobby.

Contact Jim LoPresti at efoc@ehsli.org for more information.
Delroy Roberts is free!

We wrote letters on his behalf at EHS on Sunday, November 19 regarding his impending deportation. The judge granted him his freedom and he returned home to Westbury in time for Thanksgiving.

Here is the background:
Delroy Roberts was born in Jamaica and has lived in the US since he was 7. Many years ago he was charged with assault, did his time and was released.

Recently upon returning from an international trip, he was detained by ICE agents and is being held at Hudson Correctional Facility. His charge was not “felony assault” because there was no such category; however that is the charge they are using to deport him.

Delroy Roberts is what would be called “a pillar of his community.” He is married and has a daughter, stepson and god-children. He works for the sanitation department of Hempstead. He is a member of Westbury United Methodist Church where he serves as chair of the United Methodist Men. Under his leadership, the transportation committee was formed for those who are elderly and can no longer drive to church on Sunday.

Because of his experience in prison, Delroy shares his story with those who are on the wrong path to change their lives. He takes time to speak with those who are recently released from prison. He is a Sunday School teacher and mentor to the youth.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE A LETTER.
Our Youth Programs:

**Kids Ethics Program Long Island**

December Greetings from the Kids Ethics program!

We only have two weeks of classroom lessons this month. We will have class on December 3 and 10. The Winter Festival is intergenerational on December 17, so the kids will be attending upstairs. There is no program on December 24 and December 31. Program resumes on January 7, Commemoration Sunday.

The kids would like to thank the Society for helping us raise $100 for UNICEF through our bake sale!

We are currently accepting donations for our hat, mitten and scarf drive. There will be a collection box on the back table. We will be donating to the Ethical Friends of Children.

We have been talking about appreciation, thankfulness, kindness, and gratitude this past month, and will continue these themes throughout December.

Our new students have been an amazing addition to our already outstanding group, and we hope to see all of you throughout the New Year. -
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.
The Y.E.S. group is getting to know each other from our discussions and our community service. We completed our first project of recycling eyeglasses by collecting 125 pair of glasses which were then given to Theresa Whalen of the Floral Park Lions Club during our Fall Festival. The eyeglasses will be measured and sent to third world countries for people who have no access to eye doctors or eyeglasses providers.

Alison Pratt, Maggie Cullimore, Jessie Manuel, Aniyah Granger, Theresa Whalen.
Not pictured from the Y.E.S group: Nadiya Seven-Kachala and Erika Avallone

The Y.E.S. group will be participating in the Winter Solstice Festival.

Lorraine Zeller-Agostino

Alison Pratt
Society News

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Being a member of our Society is the gift that keeps on giving. Welcome to new members Jeanne Yglesias and Helene Rudin.

Jeanne Yglesias accepted into membership by President Linda Napoli

Helene Rudin attending a rally

ANNUAL NEW YEAR’S DAY PARTY

Our annual New Year’s Day party will take place in the main meeting room on 1/1/2018 from 4-8PM. Bring your family and friends to this potluck free-for-all! See the flyer for details.
THANK YOU CHRIS!

We caught the Ethical Society’s Mr. Fix-It hard at work, making the EHSLI building a better environment for all of our activities!

Thanks for everything you do, Chris Stanley, to keep things running smoothly.

SAVE THESE DATES!

JANUARY 7TH - COMMEMORATION SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of every year, we have an intergenerational candle lighting ceremony during which we celebrate four of our most important principles: freedom, justice, dignity and compassion. For the second part of this morning, after the children go to their class, the adults are invited to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. This is a lovely, meaningful experience different from our usual program.
January 28th - Welcome Richard Koral!

The Sunday talk will be given by Richard Koral and will be followed by a Welcome Luncheon for him. It will be a great morning to get to know our new Leader.

February 4th - Women’s Winter Meeting

The Winter Women’s Meeting will be held at 12:45.

February 24th - Vegetarian Potluck and Sing Along

Third Annual “Food Plus Five” Vegetarian Pot Luck Supper and Sing Along

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What are you doing to promote peace on earth?

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Love your neighbor as you love yourself”

There are variations of these words in every major world religion. The Humanist version is:

“Act so as to elicit the best in others and thereby yourself.”

USING THE CONFERENCE PHONE

On 1/15/2017 we instituted a new program whereby members can call in on their phones and listen to the entire Sunday morning program at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Here are the instructions on how to listen to the EHS LI Sunday morning talk over the conference phone if you are unable to attend a Sunday meeting.

-Between 10:50 and 10:55 AM Call:
1-515-739-1285.
-Access Code: 266123#
-Say your name when prompted
-The listener will hear music playing and then the Sunday Morning Program.

What is important is that the listener puts your phone on mute by dialing *6; this prevents noises from your homes being heard.
Our Times Coffeehouse is pleased to present folk troubadour Bill Staines, who performs on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 8 PM. His annual January visit – year number 27! – is a Coffeehouse tradition. Join Bill and the friends of the Our Times Coffeehouse welcoming in the New Year.

On stage, Staines is an intimate, compelling performer, out of the folk scene of the 1960s, encouraging his audience to sing with him on his chorus songs. He will mix in traditional tunes with his own contemporary folk ballads. His humorous tales of life on the road and observations of everyday people provide an entertaining blend of story and song.

Suggested Donations For This Performance: Adults: $20, Students (w/IDs): $15
Children under 12: $6 (very young children are free)
Tickets on sale at the door.
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.

Contact us:
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304
www.ehsli.org
Office Manager:
Phyllis Herschlag
ethicalsocieity@optonline.net
more at www.ehsli.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.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 at a diner 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. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Kids-Ethics-Program-Long-Island-139022706699890/

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

Humanists of Long Island is the name of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island’s chapter of the American Humanist Association. We meet on the last Monday of each month. For questions email Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com or leave a message 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/Kids-Ethics-Program-Long-Island-139022706699890/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli
www.twitter.com/YesLlhs

Meetup: 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.

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.
Create a Caring World