President’s Message
By Linda Napoli

The loveliness of May is all around us and is hopefully lifting our spirits as we work toward stemming the tide of irresponsibility in our government. However, things can’t be all bad if the lilacs are in bloom again! Taking the proverbial time to go outside and smell the flowers is not only pleasurable, but healing as well. Planting a garden is even better.

Our April Sunday programs were both informative and inspiring and it looks like what's planned for May will be too. Two of our most wonderful Leaders are paying us a visit. The Spring Festival is in a couple of weeks and of course, we’re celebrating Founder's Day with a luncheon honoring member Alison Pratt. See below for more information.

I hope you’ll join the community each Sunday and share in the camaraderie and intellectual stimulation. And for those women in our Society who mother their own or other's children, Happy Mother’s Day.

I’d like to share a timely quote from Barak Obama: “Mothers are the rocks of our families and a foundation in our communities. In gratitude for their generous love, patient counsel, and life support, let us pay respect to the women who carry out the hard work of motherhood with skill and grace, and let us remember those mothers who, though no longer with us, inspire us still.”
Presentations

May 7: Hugh Taft-Morales, Humanist Anti-Racist Activism.
Hugh Taft-Morales challenges himself and all humanists to deconstruct systemic racial privilege so we can all benefit from a more empowering multicultural perspective that honors the inherent worth of all. Hugh Taft-Morales is currently leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia and the Baltimore Ethical Society. He serves as Vice President of the National Leaders Council of the American Ethical Union (AEU) and is editor of the AEU’s Ethical Action Report. Hugh taught philosophy and history for twenty-five years in Washington, D.C., after which he transitioned into Ethical Culture Leadership.

May 14: Kelly Tanza, Spring Festival.
“Come join us at the Ethical Society of Long Island for our annual Spring Festival as we reflect upon and celebrate Earth, our homeland, and renew and discover together ways in which we can make it a better place for all, through care and respect for the planet, and justice and peace for everyone living here.

May 21: Bart Worden, Bridging the Divide: Finding Ourselves in Others. We live in a highly connected age. Wherever we go, so go our tethers to the information age: our smartphones, tablets, notebooks and PC’s. And yet, despite having the technology to connect, we seem to be living in a time of growing divisions between people. The usual suspects for division: race, wealth, religion and politics are, it seems, stronger than ever, and our capacity to influence those divisions appears to be diminishing rapidly. The talk examines some ways we can ethically enhance our connections with others - and especially with people whose outlook differs greatly from one’s own. Bart Worden is the Executive Director for the American Ethical Union in New York City and the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester in White Plains, New York.
May 28: Joan Beder, Commemoration Sunday. On this Sunday we gather to rededicate our lives to the enduring values of our Ethical Society: freedom, justice, dignity and compassion. These values guide our lives, give our lives meaning and direct us to living in a caring and respectful way. They form the basis of our Ethical creed. We explore the meaning of these values and light candles as reminders of our aspirations. Join us for this meaningful morning of remembrance.

June 4: Anju Malhotra, Equality for Women and Girls in the World: The Highs and the Lows. Dr. Anju Malhotra is Principal Adviser, Gender and Development at UNICEF. Her talk will focus on the role she plays as the head of gender equality at one of the largest UN agencies-UNICEF, and what are some of the positive and challenging global trends and strategies for giving a fair chance to girls across the world so that they are part of a generation of children who can shape a world where men and women are equal.
FOUNDER’S DAY LUNCH - MAY 7, 1 PM

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is honoring Floral Park resident Alison Pratt for her commitment to social justice at its Founders Day on Sunday, May 7.

Dr. Pratt, who has been a member for 10 years, coined the Ethical Society slogan “Create a Caring World,” which aptly describes her contributions to the Ethical Society and the larger community. She conceptualized and led the Student Social Action Grant, giving seed money to student social action projects that included a teen drunk driving education campaign and recycling of pill containers for a health program in Malawi. She created and, for five years, ran the Teen Art, Music and Poetry Festival. With Crossroads Farm, she hosted two dinner and movies series about the environment. Through her Book Swap several hundred books were donated to Reading Reflections, an organization which redistributed the books to local and international libraries in need. With Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island and Pedals for Progress, she helped organized two used bike and sewing machine collections, and, with the Center for Inquiry Ms. Pratt organized the all-day Secular Parenting Seminar.

Dr. Pratt served on the board of the Ethical Society for six years, taught Sunday School and has used her artistic ability to write and design full color brochures for the Ethical Society, its Sunday school, Membership Committee and Ethical Friends of Children, a program which supplies clothing, equipment and toys to children in need.

Founder’s Day celebrations are a long held tradition at Ethical Societies around the country. The first Sunday in May is designated because Felix Adler, founder of Ethical Culture gave his first public address in New York City on that day in 1876. In that speech, he introduced the idea of creating a “religion of the future,” based on deed not creed.

“Alison’s concern for the life and growth of the Ethical Society and its principles is why we hold her in such high esteem,” says Linda Napoli, the president of the Society. “We look forward to celebrating her accomplishments both as a member and as a person.”
Our Affiliated Group: Humanists of Long Island

Spring has continued the impetus to engage, resist and mobilize and the members of Humanists of Long Island were out among the fray. March was the month of letter writing, lobbying and visits to members of Congress. April was the month for marches and rallies. It was wonderful to see so many people from the Ethical Society at the April 15 Rally to “Demand that Donald Trump Should Show Us His Taxes!”

Members also participated in the April 22 March for Science in NYC and in the April 29 Car-less LI Bicycle Parade, a sister event to the April 29 climate march. Sylvia Silberger and Bill Larsen worked long and hard on this important event which was originally founded as a project of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. There were about 100 participants at the Bicycle to Work Parade and for some of us, walking instead of riding was a lovely way to spend the day. Kudos to Sylvia, Bill and the members of Car-less LI to plan such an important and entertaining event! I urge all Ethical Society members to participate more fully with this fantastic event next year. It is important for us to make a great showing to support our members and friends.

Every social action activity, whether done under the auspices of the Ethical Humanist Society or Humanists of Long Island is an open invitation for both groups to come together. In fact, your friends and relatives are always welcome to come as well. I announce our meetings and our social action activities almost every Sunday morning. I write about our activities in the newsletter every month. These are open invitations for everyone to join us. I wish more people would participate. You don’t have to attend our Monday evening meetings to be a part of our group. We are all “humanists of Long Island.”

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. Our May meeting is cancelled but we are having a “Twitter 102” Training Session on Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 pm at the Ethical Society. Please RSVP: lihumanist@gmail.com

Other projects we are looking forward to is an informational event about the Constitutional Convention and working on a Voter Registration Drive. Details TBA.

https://www.facebook.com/humanistsoflongisland/

Sharon Stanley
Social Action: Ethical Friends of Children

ETHICAL FRIENDS OF CHILDREN has a new logo, thanks to students at Adelphi in their graphic design class!

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.

Keeping up with our Members...

Car-less Long Island’s 2nd Annual Bike-to-Work Parade

Car-less Long Island held its second annual Bike-to-Work Parade on Saturday, April 29th. There were two options for participants in the parade, both loops beginning and ending at Hofstra University. We estimate that between the two marches, there were about 70 or 80 participants.

The parade was a sister march to the People’s Climate March on Washington. The purpose was to give some visibility to pedestrian, cyclist and public transportation issues.
The walking parade carried many environmentally themed signs and there were some cyclists who managed to affix signs to their bikes. Both processions received many honks of approval from massing motorists.

There was a bike-to-work festival afterwards, where the keynote speaker was Ted Wright, the bicycle director of the NYC DOT. He spoke about how NYC managed to become so much more bicycle friendly over the past decade. After which prizes were awarded for most creative outfits and bicycles.

A number of EHSLI members were in attendance. Of course, the founder and chairperson of Car-less LI, Sylvia Silberger was there and Bill Larsen worked as a volunteer. Sylvia was the marshal for the bike parade. Also, Sharon Stanley joined the pedestrian parade and Greg Robinson, Chris Stanley, Gabe Stanley, Steve Hetzel and Kelly Schmidt joined the bicycle parade.

Car-less Long Island was founded in September 2015 as a social action project of the Ethical Humanist Society. It is now its own non-profit organization. The mission of Car-less Long Island is to work for safer and more convenient and affordable means of alternative transportation in Long Island.
TAX RALLY

MARCH FOR SCIENCE

CAR-LESS LI: BIKE TO WORK
Society News

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Following the Sunday program on May 21st, we will have our annual Spring meeting. Please attend to hear the latest news and offer your questions and comments about your Ethical Society.

SOCIAL ACTION

Social action is alive and well at our Society with events and programs put together by our members or protests, rallies and meetings that many of us are attending. Not sure what to do?

Speak to others at the Society and listen to the announcements on Sundays. Also, go to www.indivisibleguide.com for a plethora of ideas and information. Be sure to look at the Progressive E-Blast that is being sent through our weekly email.

Twentieth Century philosopher, Mae West said, “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

NEVER MISS THE MORNING TALK!

On 1/15/2017 we instituted a new program that allows members to call in on their phones and listen to the entire Sunday morning program at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, so you never have to miss the morning’s message.

Here’s How To Dial-In:

- 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.

Remember that the listener must put their phone on MUTE by dialing *6. This prevents noises from their homes being heard.
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How do you show your gratitude to Mother Earth for her gifts?

HOLD THE DATE

Hold Sunday, July 9th for the Annual EHS pot luck party to which all EHS members are invited. It will be a celebration, and an exploration of potential speakers for next year's programs. The event will be held at the home of David and Alice Sprintzen in Syosset.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help in the kitchen on Sundays. Please sign up with Phyllis if you can help.

CALLING FOR SUMMER SPEAKERS!

EHSLI would like to offer a Summer program, where members are the speakers at the 11 AM meeting. Any member who would like to speak should contact Pat Spencer at 516-603-1940 or at 304pms@gmail.com ASAP. The program will start 7/2/17 through 9/4/17.
Spuyten Duyvil

Friday, May 19, 2017 at 8 pm

Seeing a Spuyten Duyvil (pronounced "SPITE-en DIE-vul") show for the first time is like "throwing a cherry bomb into a lake" (Rich Warren, WFMT). It wakes you up. Their brand of original and traditional American Roots music blends Olde Time, Blues, 2nd Line, Bluegrass, and Folk Rock with a pinch of Punk Rock energy to create a uniquely modern mix.

Lead by song-writing couple, Mark Miller and Beth Kaufman, this six piece powerhouse brings barn burning energy to venues throughout the East Coast and Midwest.

Adults: $20
Students (w/IDs): $15
Children under 12: $6 (very young children are free)
Tickets on sale at the door.
Our Youth Programs

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

May greetings from The Kids Ethics Program on Long Island!

This year has gone by so fast, it’s hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the year for our little classroom! I’d like to thank everyone who came by with ideas and suggestions, and a big thank you to Linda Napoli for her continued support and guidance.

As we look forward to Recognition day, the kids have been reviewing many of the lessons we learned this year. We really accomplished a great deal! We began with the Core Values and along the way learned about the Six Pillars of Character, held a bake sale for PAWS NY, helped out Bethany House with a school supply drive, and talked about what it means to be an Ethical Humanist.

Our last meeting is on June 4, and we will resume Sunday meetings in September. As always, please feel free to come downstairs and visit! If you know anyone who would like to attend our kids program, please invite them to spend a Sunday with us! -

Please feel free to contact me at ccl1311@aol.com if you have any questions or suggestions for the Kids Ethics program.

Christine Lamattina -
Director of Education for the Kids Ethics Program of LI.
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 House Our Youth Group Built

At their annual potluck dinner, our YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) collected $100 that was donated to the Homeless Bee Project in Kenya, which is providing income for elders and youth in Tabaka, a community in southwestern Kenya. Says Elkana Ongesa, the founder of the project, “The $100 enabled our trainer Daniel and our youths here to make two modern beehives, which are already colonized by happy bees. Our thanks to your generous youths.”
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.
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/

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

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 @YesLIehs

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.

Contacts

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516-741-7304
www.ehsli.org
Office Manager:
Phyllis Herschlag
ethicalsociety@optonline.net
more at www.ehsli.org.
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
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