President’s Message

By Linda Napoli

“Be Kind, Be Useful.”

Hello Everyone,

December is here and the season of giving is underway, so let’s take the opportunity to be giving of our time, giving of our expertise and giving of our understanding to our friends and family as well as those who may not be of like mind in their political views.

The Society continues to be a haven for sane conversations and honest sharing of viewpoints. The topics of our speakers this month will be especially timely and informative. Rounding up the month will be the Winter Festival on Dec. 23rd, always an enjoyable event.

Get to know us better by participating in our activities following the Sunday meetings. Grab your coffee and join us at 12:30 pm, for these December doings:

- Dec. 2: Richard Koral, Gratitude as a Life-Affirming Practice.
- Dec. 9: Sheila Waters, A Brief History of Mental Health Care Reform.
- Dec. 16: Susan Gottehrer, Re-imagining Incarceration…Lowering Recidivism, Raising Hope.
- Dec. 23: Winter Festival, led by Kelly Tanza.

See you next Sunday!
Bring a friend!

Linda Napoli

The winter solstice has been a seasonal phenomenon of deep significance throughout the northern hemisphere. Mythological explanations arose in the different cultures pitting light against the darkness. With Hanukkah beginning on December 2, we will explore the differences and similarities in cultural responses to the death and the rebirth of the sun.

Dr. Richard Koral is the Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Richard holds a B.A. from NYU, a J.D. from NY Law School, a Doctor of Ministry from Hebrew Union College and attended the Humanist Institute. He was a long-time member of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester and has held positions in the American Ethical Union, the national federal of Ethical Societies. Richard also serves part-time as a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

Dec. 9: Sheila Waters, *A Brief History of Mental Health Care Reform in the U.S.*

Sheila Waters shares part of her doctoral research as it pertains to the history of mental health care reform in the Western world emphasizing the Questionable Ethics of Underfunding Evidence-Based Mental Health Care Initiatives: Risking Return of Dangerous Pre-industrial Solutions to Brain Disorders.

Dr. Waters began her association with Ethical Culture at age fourteen when her parents joined the Philadelphia Ethical Society. After graduating from Sunday-school she served as local chapter president of the National Ethical Youth Organization (NEYO), the young people’s group that preceded Youth of Ethical Societies.

Dr. Waters was engaged in social justice activities from an early age including the civil rights, anti-war, women’s liberation, and LGBT movements. She first encountered challenges with depression and the co-occurring disorders of addiction, anxiety and PTSD as a young adult but with the help of loving family and effective treatment was able to manage them successfully and function well at school and work including a six-year stint in the U.S. Navy.
Continuing her education, Dr. Waters once had the privilege of studying Philosophy and Ethics at Long Island University with Professor Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus of the Long Island Ethical Society. She went on to earn a Social Psychology Bachelor’s degree from Washington Adventist University, a Social and Public Policy Master’s degree from Georgetown University, and most recently a Human Services PhD focused on Social Policy Analysis and Planning from Walden University.

Dr. Waters has been a member of the Washington Ethical Society (WES) for the past six years where she currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. She has been a Certified Mental Health Counselor since 1994 and a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor for over eighteen years. She hopes to become a stronger advocate for optimal mental health care in the U.S. by promoting more effective mental health care reform.

Dec. 16: Susan Gottehrer, Re-imagining Incarceration...Lowering Recidivism and Raising Hope.

Susan Gottehrer, member of the Nassau County Jail Advocates on DATE, will share the history of the Nassau County Jail, it’s current conditions, and discuss restorative justice and re-entry programs aimed at reducing recidivism and rates of incarceration.

Susan Gottehrer is the Director of the Nassau County New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York State affiliate of the ACLU, and has been a life-long activist and part of the New York Civil Liberties family since 2006. She has done extensive lobbying on federal, state and local legislation, has led advocacy efforts to improve public defense in New York State, clean up conditions at the Nassau County jail, and encourage police reform in Nassau County. She holds a Master’s degree in Education from Columbia University, a Master’s in Political Science from the New School for Social Research, and a Master’s in Public Administration/Policy Analysis from New York University. She teaches graduate courses in Government and Radical Social Movements at Pace University and Long Island University, has eight years of Public Relations experience, and has coached youth in creative problem solving competitions. Susan brings a perfect storm of strategic communications, public education, organizing, and policy experience to the civil liberties challenges of Nassau County.
Dec. 23: Winter Festival, led by Kelly Tanza, our music director.

Dec. 30: Group Reflections on the New Year 2019, led by David Sprintzen.
Members are invited to participate in a group discussion, led by Dr. David Sprintzen, Philosophy Professor Emeritus, LIU, founder and officer, LI Progressive Coalition.
Leader’s Message

One of the fundamental premises that underlie the Humanist project is optimism. It is that people are basically good and not only are they capable of doing good, but they will ultimately do good. As the 3rd Humanist Manifesto put it, Humanists hold the conviction that humanity has the ability to progress toward its highest ideals. The Humanist Manifesto III was written in an effort to clarify and unify the basic tenets of Humanism as a system of thought and most Ethical Culture Leaders active at that time, some fifteen years ago, signed on. It affirms that not only does humanity have the ability to progress towards the highest, but that we should definitely strive to make the world work better, serve people better, and function more sustainably.

It is realistic to pause once in a while for an assessment of how we’re doing in our project to improve the world. I know there are always about 40 wars going on at any one time and there are still many people who go hungry. But I am not thinking about all that. I am thinking of the grand experiment called Facebook.

Facebook is an environment that enables the creation of cyber community. People are empowered to link together families, friends (of course, friends) and affinity groups who can share thoughts and news. Through the interlinking of these groups, a whole population can be connected. But it works best when the people bring not only their photos, but also their good will. Enter the sinister forces and Facebook suddenly becomes a means of harassment, defamation and disinformation.

In this grand experiment, are the forces of good winning?…or the forces of darkness? The news has been overwhelming recently of youth using it to engage in bullying, Russians using it to subvert democratic elections, and scammers of all stripes using it to make money. People were encouraged to post their personal information on the application with the promise of security only to discover it was being sold to marketers and then stolen by fraudsters. People accused Facebook of being a prime example of a race to the bottom, where those with the worst intentions set the standard and all the good people are squeezed out.
Mark Zuckerberg initially defended Facebook by saying that it cannot serve as a monitor of what people say, rather it is a mere medium. The presumption is that an open and airy atmosphere is best and that the righteous, the good and the honest will naturally win the competition of ideas. This is the Humanist ideal.

The problem is that the liars and the surreptitious ones are relentless and, once unleashed, they will seem to overrun the forces of good. As Churchill once observed, a lie can travel around the world while the truth is just getting its boots on. So are we wrong to hold on to optimism about the human essence? Will this experiment shed light on what we’re capable of as a species?

I still meet people who do use Facebook and rely on it as a means for their own communities of friends and families. They haven’t been shunted aside all together. There is still room for regular folk to carry on, even if there are maelstroms of false facts and wild conspiracies swirling in the medium around them.

That world remains big enough for good people to coexist with the others and to define their own safe spaces where sane and wholesome practices will serve as the norm.

At least that may be true in Facebook. If only that were true for the single environment that we all must share. In the non-cyber world, there is only one atmosphere, one big ocean and one planet. Here on planet earth, the irresponsible ones cannot be walled off with password security. Given the assessment published last week by 13 federal government agencies on the prospects for climate change, we have little time to all get in line and stave off an environmental catastrophe.

I promise to be optimistic, but I do wish that the dark forces of pollution would relent a bit and let the rest of us catch up.

Dr. Richard Koral

OFFICE HOURS:

Leader Richard Koral: By Appointment 516-741-7304 or leader@ehsli.org.

Office Manager Phyllis: 516-741-7304
Monday to Thursday 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.
First Sunday of the month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Announcements

December 2nd - Leader’s Workshop

Richard Koral will lead a discussion after the platform from 1:00 - 2:30pm. The topic is: Seasonal traditions:
'Tis the season for traditions, customs, cheer and social gatherings, but also overbearing obligations, stale habits and cultural hegemony. What do you take from traditions? Are you a practitioner or a fugitive?

December 6th - Bereavement Group

Jim LoPresti will begin a 6 week session for any member or friend who has experienced a loss. Jim has an M.P.S. degree in counseling and for many years co-led a bereavement group at the L.I. Ethical Society with Dorothea Hayes, who has since moved away. In response to requests, he will begin a new group beginning on December 6, from 4-6 pm. A $30 donation for the 6 week session is requested. Please contact Jim with questions: jimlopr@gmail.com

December 9th - Newcomer’s Welcome

We invite newcomers to meet with Linda Napoli, President of the Society to learn more about us at 12:30 following the coffee hour.

December 16th - Silent Meditation

Join us for a little quiet time together following the coffee hour.
Ethical Society’s
2019
New Year’s Day
Pot Luck Party
for members, their family and friends

January 1, 2019, 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.
Our Affiliated Group:

Humanists of Long Island

Our December meeting is cancelled, because that date falls on New Year’s Eve. However, our group is not sitting still for a minute! Many of us have decided to attend the workshop entitled **ERASE Racism: How Do We Build a Just Long Island?** Many people from the Ethical Society are joining us as well. Since Long Island continues to be one of the most racially segregated regions in the country, isolation from one another has created fear and division. Our voice is needed in order to have a courageous conversation that moves us forward. If you want a more inclusive Long Island, we are all invited to work together to create change. A few of us are attending the upcoming forum at Hofstra on December 05, 2018 @ 06:00PM. You must be registered, so if you click on the link, the registration is easy, free and open to the public. This meeting is the one closest to the Ethical Society, but there are other locations in Suffolk County. **How Do We Build a Just Long Island? @ Nassau County - Hempstead**

We are proud to announce that On May 19, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., Matthew Bulgar, the Legislative Director, of the American Humanist Association, will be speaking at EHS. His topic is: “A Beacon for Ethics on Long Island.” It isn’t often that we have the opportunity to host someone from the American Humanist Association at our Ethical Society. I know that his talk will be interesting and informative.

For our final Humanists of Long Island meeting of 2018, we joined the Long Island Progressive Coalition at an Election Victory Happy Hour at Bar Louie at Sunrise Mall in Massapequa. Finally! We have a Democratic State Senate in NYS and 6 Democratic State Senators on Long Island! It’s certainly a cause for celebration.

Going forward, our 2019 meetings are scheduled for Feb. 25, March 25 and April 29.

All our meetings are at EHS [www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org) and begin at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Don’t forget; we are all Humanists of Long Island! Please RSVP [lihumanist@gmail.com](mailto:lihumanist@gmail.com). I hope your winter holiday season is filled with peace and love.

Sharon Stanley
Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

December greetings from the Kid’s Ethics Program!

It’s a very busy time for most of us, but if you have a moment, please try to think about the less fortunate. The kids are still supporting the hat, mitten, scarf drive so please drop off your donations soon, it’s starting to get cold! All donations will be given to the Ethical Friends of Children. A collection box will be in the lobby on Sunday.

This month many people from all over the world are celebrating! The kids will be looking at these celebrations and comparing them to their own family celebrations. We will be taking a closer look at cultures from all over the world.

If you haven’t been here for a class lately, this is the month to return, as we have many fun activities planned! I hope to see you soon! The Winter Festival is on Sunday, December 23, and the children will be invited to stay upstairs with their parents for the occasion. There will be no class that day.

As always, if you need to contact me for any reason, my email is ccl1311@aol.com, or you may call the office and your message will be forwarded to me.

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education
ccl1311@aol.com

Please like us on Facebook:
Kids' Ethics Program Long Island
YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.

Look for us on Facebook: LONG ISLAND Y.E.S.

Thank you to Y.E.S. student Maggie Cullimore who volunteered at the LI Craft Guild craft sale on Nov. 17. Maggie was there to offer information about our Sunday school and Y.E.S. group. Unfortunately, we didn’t get any takers… but we got $7 in donations!

Vegan Thanksgiving: On November 18, 2018 our YES youth group helped out at the Hempstead Food Share.

Click Here to See the Video!

The Hempstead Food Share, which happens every Sunday @ 2 pm, is located directly outside the Hempstead train station (on the north end of W Columbia St, one block east of Main St.). Every Sunday Community Solidarity shares tens of thousands of pounds of fresh organic produce and vegetarian groceries with hundreds of our fellow community members in Hempstead.
Society News:

**MEN’S NIGHT OUT - Dec. 13th**
Join the men of the EHSLI for another night out at a local diner for conversation, collegiality and dinner. Please NOTE: Men's Night Out has a NEW LOCATION!

When: **Thursday evening, December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**
Where: **Majestic Diner, 498 Old Country Rd, Westbury**

Please RSVP:
To Richard at leader@ehsli.org so we will know how big a table to reserve.

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**POTLUCK PLUS - Dec. 15**

**Title: Book Swap and Reading of a Favorite Passage**
**Description:**
Bring a book or books that you would like to swap, along with a memorable passage from a favorite book to read to others. In addition, since this is a Potluck Plus event, everyone will bring a lunch dish for people to share. Please call the host, Muriel Schwartzman, to let her know what dish you would like to bring.

**Date/Time: Saturday, December 15 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.**
Host: Muriel Schwartzman
Maximum number of people: 19
Event Location: Address: 170 West Broadway, Apt. 3A, Long Beach, NY
Phone: 516-608-2990

NOTE: There is no fee. To register, you can enter your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the auditorium. Or you can call the office at 516-741-7304.
LEADER’S LUNCH - Dec. 20th

We’ll meet in the Leader’s office on Thursday, December 20 @ 12:00 noon. Bring a brown bag lunch. The articles to be discussed will be announced in the weekly email.

MONTHLY QUOTE

“Imagine all the people living life in peace.”

John Lennon

MONTHLY QUESTION

The following are suggested by Arthur Dobrin for use in resolving ethical dilemmas in our lives.

“What would it be like if everyone did it?”
“Will this lead to more good than harm?”
“Am I proud of what I’ve done?”
“Can I be public about my reasons.”

SAVE THE DATE - JAN.1, 2019!

What better way to start the New Year than a party with your Ethical friends! Join us for a pot luck party from 4-8 pm. Please talk to Linda Joe about how you can help! As usual, we will need helpers to set up and clean up. Please volunteer. We will have so much fun together!

News from Around the Ethical Communities

Mom Enough Podcast:

In this interview, Leader Anne Klaeysen focused on how parents can engage their children in becoming active citizens, of course mentioning the Ethical NYC Ethics for Children program. The hosts identified Ethical NYC as a leading member of the American Ethical Union, providing some great background info about the AEU. Click here to hear Anne in the podcast: Engaging Children as Good Citizens
HoLI members at Election Victory Happy Hour

Arthur Dobrin on November 16, the International Day for Tolerance. Here’s what happened at the Islamic Center of LI when a Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Jew and Humanist all got together—they talk and discuss forgiveness.

Members celebrating our Fall Festival
Bill Staines

Friday, January 18 at 8 PM

Our Times Coffeehouse is pleased to present folk troubadour Bill Staines, who has become one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit today. His annual January visit — year number 28! — is a Coffeehouse tradition. Join Bill and the friends of the Our Times Coffeehouse welcoming in the New Year.

After touring and playing concerts for over 41 years, you would think that musician and songwriter Bill Staines might think about slowing down, but that’s just not the case. Bill continues to perform more than 175 shows a year and drives close to 70,000 miles getting to them. He is one of the most durable and beloved singers on the folk music scene today.

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.

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: Kids Ethics Program Long Island

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. Join their Facebook group at Long Island Y.E.S.

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. Find them on Facebook at Humanists of Long Island.

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: Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Kids Ethics Program Long Island
Long Island Y.E.S.
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli
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