

The Ethical Humanist

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



President's Message

By Linda Napoli

Sunday Meetings

Begin at 11:00 am

Jan. 7: Commemoration Sunday.

Jan. 14: Julia Fenster, *The Accidental Activist in Post Trump America.*

Jan. 21: Ann E. Dibble, Esq., and Keiko Cervantes-Ospina, *Starting a New Nonprofit to Help Long Islanders.*

Jan. 28: Richard Koral, *The Good Life.*

Colloquy

Every Sunday at 9:30 am

"Faith in Ourselves, Faith in Each Other"

Happy New Year, everyone!

After a busy fall season of welcoming some new members, engaging in interesting Small Group Discussions, having two great seasonal festivals and increased numbers in the Kids Ethics Program and Youth group, we're already looking forward to a sensational spring season.



Informative community forums are being planned as well as more Small Group Discussions. Our annual Vegetarian Pot Luck Supper and a Winter Women's meeting will be held in February.

Of course, the most exciting next thing at our Society is welcoming Richard Koral as our new quarter time Leader. Richard has lots of plans of his own which you will hear about shortly. Don't forget the Pot Luck lunch for him after his talk on January 28th.

Look for further information on these upcoming events in the monthly newsletter, weekly emails and special sign up flyers. The need for community is never more important than during the cold, bleak days of winter.

We look forward to seeing you each week!

Presentations



Jan. 7: Commemoration Sunday, Richard Koral and Joan Beder officiating.

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.



Jan. 14: Julia Fenster, The Accidental Activist in Post Trump America.

A new wave of activism has spread throughout the U.S with many people getting involved for the first time. Why has the Trump election ignited this movement and what are some of the positive aspects of this wave and some of the challenges facing the movement? What are some of the ethical challenges that have been faced by new organizers and what can be learned from these developments. Hear from one of Long Island leading new grassroots organizers as she discusses her history, her motivation for social activism, her organizing work and what we can learn about the ethical questions facing this new movement.

Julia Fenster is the Co-Founder and Senior Strategist of Thought Engine Group, an award winning media, social advocacy and political consulting practice. She is a social equity advocate and activist and is the President of the National Organization for Women, Nassau County, Co-Founder of the Long Island Women's Diversity Summit and the newly formed Long Island Women's Rights Coalition. She is the Founder and Chief Organizer of Action Together Long Island (ATLI), the largest grassroots activist group in Long Island counting some 3600 members.



Jan. 21: Ann E. Dibble, Esq., and Keiko Cervantes-Ospina, *Starting a New Nonprofit to Help Long Islanders.*

Ann Dibble and Keiko Cervantes-Ospina will discuss why they decided to leave stable law jobs to create Community Legal Advocates of New York, a new nonprofit organization that is dedicated to closing the social justice gap by advancing the legal rights of low and moderate income clients.

Ann Dibble is a Founder and the Executive Director of CLA. She has more than 20 years of legal experience. Before founding CLA, she worked at the New York Legal Assistance Group representing thousands of clients on immigration, public benefits, Medicaid and Medicare, advance planning and elder law issues.

Keiko Cervantes-Ospina is a Founder and the Attorney-in-Charge of CLA. Before founding CLA, Keiko was a Supervising Attorney at the New York Legal Assistance Group, where she practiced in such areas as immigration, foreclosure defense, disaster relief, public benefits, advance planning, landlord-tenant, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits.



Jan. 28: Richard Koral, *The Good Life.*

We welcome Dr. Koral as 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 leadership 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.

Leader's Message



For my inaugural monthly greeting as Leader of EHSLI for the January newsletter, I am inspired to think of new beginnings. New Year is the time for new beginnings - for resolutions, for changes, for having that last drink...really, the last one. It's the time for turning the dial on the electronic calendar and getting that whole new digit. The sense of newness brings new opportunities, new prospects, and second chances. Oh, how we've earned it!

Then, of course, comes the Winter which is relieved only by Spring. Yes, in Spring it's the time of awakening and resurrection, of coming to life once more. Spring is the inspiration for new starts and bright mornings. Time to shake off the crusty scales and begin again!

Although, in the Summer, when the air is sweet with the fragrance of grass and warm from the sun, it is appropriate to take time off to pause and reflect, to undertake different things, things that are not of the same old routine, but adventuresome and bold. Travel. Expand. Search new horizons and find new elements to incorporate into your life and hopefully vault you to a new level.

But maybe it is really the Fall. After all, it's in the Autumn when we always began school, confronted new challenges and found new friends. Fall is the New Year in some traditions - Jewish, Hindu, Coptic. It's in Fall when we find that the new chill in the air is bracing and enlivening. That's when the squirrels get busy and the crickets realize they've been singing too long. It's time to gather your strength and get going. Yes, in the Fall it's a new beginning.

So, when is the right time to find a new beginning? Which metaphor inspires you the most? The answer must be that it is always time for a new beginning. We are the species that invents, discards and re-invents our whole lives long. Well, I am ready for a new beginning now, as always. And I hope you are, too.

Richard Koral

Announcements

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.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME - FEBRUARY 4th

A Newcomer's welcome will be held after our Sunday meeting on February 4th. This is an opportunity for visitors to ask questions and have an informal conversation about their interest in our Society. Information packets are also distributed. This is a great day for bringing friends.

FEBRUARY 4th - WOMEN'S WINTER MEETING

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

FEBRUARY 24th - VEGETARIAN POTLUCK AND SINGALONG

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

Our Affiliated Group:

Humanists of Long Island



Happy New Year from Humanists of Long Island

Our group did not meet in December, as the last Monday of the month was Christmas Day. We hope everyone had a wonderful winter holiday season.

The date of our next meeting is Monday, January 29 at 7:00 pm, on the second floor at the Ethical Society. Our following meetings will be Monday, Feb. 26, Monday, March 26, and Monday, April 30. The May meeting is cancelled. Please RSVP; lihumanist@gmail.com.



There will be another Woman's March in New York City on Saturday, January 20, 2018. Here is an informational web site and the chance to register. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-womens-march-on-nyc-tickets-39150171216>

Many members of Humanists of Long Island and the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island are planning to attend the march. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend due to a commitment for a virtual meeting as a member of the American Ethical Union's Board of Trustees. However, if someone steps up to take the lead, I'll ask Phyllis to put the information in the weekly email.

Our group had so much fun at our movie night, that we discussed the idea of planning another one. One movie suggested, was Julia Sweeney's "Letting Go of God." Another suggestion involved more science related movies. When we start up again on January 29, we'll be sure to keep everyone in the loop.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

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



Contact Jim LoPresti at efoc@ehsli.org for more information.

WINTER MITTEN DRIVE



The children in our Sunday School collected 75 items—new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for Ethical Friends of Children, our program that distributes such items and much more to children in need.

LETTER WRITING RESULTS

Our EHS-LI young women Rebecca (left) and Pauline had the opportunity to meet with Delroy Roberts recently. The girls, along with other members of the Ethical Society and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island, wrote letters on his behalf when he was unjustly imprisoned by ICE. The judge was impressed with the community’s support of Elroy and set him free.



Our Ethical Society Supports Students in Kenya

The Kenya Fund of our Ethical Society, in addition to supporting the Homeless Bee program, a youth and elderly bee-keeping economic project in southwestern Kenya, is financing the high school education of two children in Kenya, Hudson Mogaka and Brian Nyandika, through the Kenya Education Fund (KEF), a program run by a former Kenya Peace Corps Volunteer from Long Island. We have received thank you letters from our two students and here are some excerpts:



From Brian Nyandika:

I would like to bring to your attention that I have been fairing on well in school thanks to your effort. On issues concerning my academia, I'm trying my best and am promising you that next term, I'm going to get a grade higher.



From Hudson Mogaka:

I would like to thank you very much for the continued financial support in my education. It has been two years and a term since you started supporting me. I can say that it has not been easy all along but by God's grace I've managed to overcome the shortcomings that have been there. All in all, it has been a good journey.

Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

January Greetings from the Kids Ethics Program!

I've missed all the kids so much, I feel like it has been ages since our little group has been together for a class! It's time to get rolling again!

This month we will be talking about the principles of freedom, justice, dignity, and compassion as we learn about ethical heroes. We are beginning our study by learning about the life of Felix Adler and his role within the Ethical, or Humanist, movement.

I hope everyone has been well, and both Mina and I are looking forward to seeing everyone on January 7th!



Christine Lamattina
Director of Ethical Education
ccl1311@aol.com



Mina Sainbert,
Assistant Teacher

Please don't forget to like our [Facebook page](#)!!



[KIDS' ETHICS PROGRAM LONG ISLAND](#)

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



Long Island Y.E.S. is a group of humanist high school students who want to make a better world. We meet weekly from September to June and work on community service projects, have discussions, form new friendships, and have fun.

The YES group continues to grow in numbers while exploring new activities.



On Jan. 10, Human Rights Day, we visited the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove. Everyone “knows about” the Holocaust; it is quite a different experience to speak to a gentleman (a tour guide) who was born in a displaced persons camp just after the war, to see photos of families who lives were destroyed, or to read about the cruelty and injustice imposed upon people for political reasons. The tour ends on a hopeful note, with stories of modern heroes who fight for justice and human rights in today’s troubled world.

In front of Heroes of the Holocaust, 3-D art by Charles Fazzino, at the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center of Long Island in Glen Cove





We supported the Kids' Ethics Program of a drive for hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for Ethical Friends of Children by bringing in our own donations and creating a display as part of the Winter Solstice Celebration on Dec. 17. We hoped this display would remind people how simple acts of charity can make a difference in someone's life.

During the Solstice celebration, the girls from YES - Jessie, Aniyah, Erika, and Maggie- with Alison and Lorraine helping, sang "The Solstice Song" by Jan Barrett, with Kelly Tanza guiding us on the piano. A video of the song can be viewed on our Facebook page at [Long Island Y.E.S.](#) Click [HERE](#) to view the video.

One verse of "The Solstice Song" by Jan Garrett:
"Friendship will light the darkest hours
True love will hold the vision
Peace and good will on earth is ours
Let it be our decision."

Please join our Facebook group: [Long Island Y.E.S.!](#)



Lorraine Zeller-Agostino



Alison Pratt

Society News

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY



Members and friends started the new year at the Ethical Society with good food, good company and some games. free-for-all!



OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder to everyone that Phyllis, our office manager, is at the Society from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. The phone number is 741-7304. If you have questions or comments, please contact her during that time. She will be happy to help if she can or direct you to the right person.

COFFEE HOUR ASSISTANCE

Thank you to everyone who has been helping out during the coffee hour. To those who bring in contributions, please remember this year we are trying to make the offerings more healthful. Fruit or cut up veggies is always a good choice.

If you are able to help out, please remember assistance is most needed at the end of the coffee hour when all the items have to be brought back into the kitchen and things have to be washed and put neatly away. It would be most helpful if you ask Stacy or Ellen if there's a specific task they'd like done. Thank you!

MONTHLY QUOTE

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

MONTHLY QUESTION

How can you be a better listener?

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 EHSLI 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.



BILL STAINES



Friday, January 19, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

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



Contacts

38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

516-741-7304

www.ehsl.org

Office Manager:

Phyllis Herschlag

ethicalsociety@optonline.net

more at 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. 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. Join their Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/291283170893031/>

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/

www.facebook.com/groups/291283170893031/

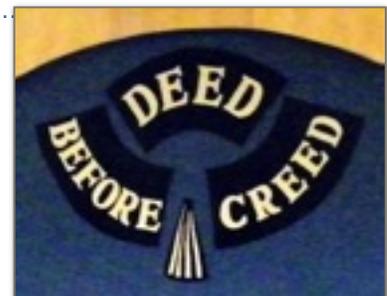
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

Meetup: www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/

This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSI 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.



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