Hello Everyone,

As we spring forward into March, the society is hopping. We’re having more visitors who are returning (don’t forget to say hello) and our recent speakers have especially been both informative and inspiring.

Richard Koral is busy making plans to provide valuable programs for us. March 11th is our first book discussion. If you didn’t sign up this time, you can attend the next one that is scheduled.

We’re celebrating Women’s History month with a dramatic poetry reading on March 4th and a Women’s Celebration on March 25th.

There are also two important community events coming up, to which I hope you will invite your friends and family.

Details about all of this are inside this newsletter, so read carefully.

Our community needs your involvement. This is how we thrive. Remember, nowhere else are you more welcome to express your opinion and learn from others.

See you next Sunday.
Mar. 4: Jeanne Brunson, **Resisting cynicism with effective political engagement.**
Can we help solve complicated global problems like climate change? Must we choose between attending to our immediate obligations and taking sufficient action to protect our future? We will examine the ethical implications of cynicism as well as pragmatic alternatives with the potential for global impact.

Jeanne Brunson is an elementary band teacher and an active composer. A trained presenter for the Climate Reality Project and a volunteer citizen lobbyist with Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Ms. Brunson advocates for a safe climate future for her students and her two young children.

Mar. 11: Paulo Ribeiro, **Can principles of video game design save democracy? Discussion on teaching ethics with games.**
Whether solving problems with ourselves, relationships with others, organizations, or our larger communities, ethics is about developing reasoned actions based on our core values. Can principles from game design like game mechanisms, level design, and user interfaces help us have more willpower, be kinder to others, and even save American democracy? Paulo Ribeiro will argue that they can and should.

Paulo Ribeiro is a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County. He holds a BA in Sociology from Montclair State University and is a graduate from the Humanist Institute. He is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Educational Game Design from Teachers College where he is working on developing gamified Web apps for children’s ethics education.
Mar. 18: Richard Kiniry, *Did God give us President Trump?*
Using God and President Trump as metaphors for the mindset that permeates our American culture, I will argue for the necessity of a change of our culture's underlying world view. A Humanist, especially an Ethical Humanist, perspective can take purpose and meaning out of the stars and put them into human hands.

Richard Kiniry served as Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1990-2010. He spent his college years in a Catholic seminary, raised chickens in India with Peace Corps for two years, and had his own Stained Glass business for many years.

An informative and inspiring experience of readings, music and poetry presented by the women of our Ethical Society in a program in which we honor some of the world's female pioneers in politics, science and the arts.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Leader Richard Koral: 516-741-7304
Thursday 10:30 am to 3:00 pm and other times by appt. Always call to confirm before coming.

Office Manager Phyllis: 516-741-7304
Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sundays. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Leader’s Message

Another month, another mass school shooting. After each incident, reasonable people tend to think that this one will be the one event to change the equation, to shake up the political deadlock, to loosen up the boa constrictor that has gun control in its smothering grip. That this will be the one that so shocks the conscience that our legislators will be shaken from the spell of the NRA and will awaken to their duty to protect people over weapons, rather than the other way around. And, each time we have been disappointed.

After Sandy Hook, when 20 babies died and a president cried, and still little changed…it seemed as if nothing at all, no outrage, no crime was great enough to propel the politicians towards rational gun control. Now, in 2018, with the latest school shooting in Parkland, Florida in which 17 were shot dead, we ask, is this finally enough? Or, can our society absorb this shock with the same dull torpor as it had with all the others before it.

The problem may be that the mass shootings that take place in schools, not to mention churches, malls and movie theaters, are relatively rare events. Each one is a media stand-out that dominates the cable news for a couple of cycles, but they are barely blips on the chart that tracks the vast number of gun deaths over all. So, yes, they can be ignored.

According to ballotpedia.org’s Encyclopedia of American Politics, there have been 185 school (K-12) shootings since 1990 which resulted in 176 deaths and 336 injuries in those 28 years. That is to be compared to the overall toll of some 96 gun deaths in the US every day. On average, there are 35,000 gun deaths per year, of which almost 13,000 are homicides and 21,000 are suicides. Last year alone, there were 285 unintentional shootings of children, that is to say, accidental shootings, non-culpable acts that were essentially caused by the guns themselves. [Statistics are from everytownresearch.org.]

So, while each school shooting is horrific and shocking, together they barely register on the chart tracing the overall impact of guns in our country. This tsunami of injury and death is some 25 times higher than what any other country experiences, excluding those actually at war (yes, Syria is worse at this time). In the face of this extraordinary reality, much of our country steadfastly resists simple, rational and reasonable measures to restrict the broad distribution of guns and their lethality. It’s never quite the right time to ban the sale of yet more military style assault rifles to your neighbors.

Well, sometimes a single outrage so captures the public imagination that it will, in fact, serve as the tipping point. Maybe this one will be it. Maybe an army of young people will break the spell.

What will it take to overcome the repeat-loop and introduce rationality into this story? Former Congressman Steve Israel said it plainly in a letter published in the NY Times on 2/22/18. He points out that those supporting gun legislation do not regard the issue as a litmus test for voting, while those who oppose it do. The day when legislators fear losing their seats for not supporting rational gun legislation is the day it will come to be. Therefore, those who support it must choose this year as the year that gun legislation will be the defining issue of the election. That will be easy for typical progressives for whom this issue ordinarily correlates well with other progressive issues. The challenge will be to encourage conservatives to also adopt this as their defining issue where the correlation with their other positions is less common. Gun regulation will have to be decoupled from other issues so as to be the sole criterion for voting. In other words, a broad coalition must be forged for gun control. Now is the time to speak across the political divide and gather allies. 

Dr. Richard Koral
Announcements

LEADER’S PROGRAM ON RACISM - MARCH 4

MARCH 4, 12:30 - 2:00pm, following the Sunday meeting, get your coffee and join us. Our new leader, Richard Koral, will hold a discussion group about racism.

Is racism a personal attitude or is it a systemic trait of our society? If you try to personally clear yourself of racial attitudes, is that enough? We will explore how racial distinctions permeate every aspect of American society and see how being white has special benefits that have traditionally been unavailable to non-whites.

DIAPER SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is the time to bring in disposable diapers for our Ethical Friends of Children Program. Larger size diapers are preferred, but all sizes are useful.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Now is the time to become more informed and act. The Ethical Culture Movement was founded on the premise of making the world a better place.

If you support expanded health care in New York State,
Go to www.nyhcampaign.org

If you want to protest the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act now in Congress (which allows individuals from gun states to bring their weapons across state lines),
Go to https://act.credoaction.com/sign/Senate_Concealed_Carry to sign the petition being sent to U. S. Senate Democrats.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island Welcomes You...

“TO YOUR HEALTH”
Featuring the first event of a two-part series:

ALZHEIMER'S AND YOU
Sunday, March 25th at 1:00 PM

What You Should Know: Health Forum
❑ Symptoms
❑ Caregiving
❑ Support Services & Assistance

Presented by Long Island Alzheimer’s Foundation Staff:
Lindsay Knudsen, Licensed Master Social Worker
Christine Rice, Community Outreach Coordinator

Reservations are not necessary.
Admission is free; a $5 donation is suggested.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island Welcomes You...

“TO YOUR HEALTH”
Featuring the second event of a two-part series:

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC
Sunday, April 8th at 1:00 PM

How It Touches All Our Lives: An Overview
❑ Substance Abuse & Addiction
❑ Prescription Drug Misuse/Diversion
❑ Intervention Strategies & Treatment Options

Presented by Steve Chassman, LCSW, CASAC, Executive Director
Long Island Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence

Reservations are not necessary.
Admission is free; a $5 donation is suggested.

Please help us publicize our educational Health and Wellness forums that are open to the general public. Post our flyers and invite your friends and neighbors to attend.
Our February 26th meeting was a busy one. We had three guest visitors. We met Bob Shanlin, who is running as a democrat against Kathleen Rice. His campaign is different from any other I’d heard of because he is insisting on running without asking for donations or money towards his campaign. He wants to prove that a candidate can run and win without money. “There’s your revolution!” he proclaims. He believes in supporting the NY Healthcare Act and that capitalism has no place in medicine. He has many other ideas.

Our second visitor was Andrew Grover, who is running as our state senator against Kemp Hannon. He believes that renewable energy will create jobs. He wants to invest in bike lanes, prioritize mass transit and fix our schools and neighborhoods with color. He is also a champion for the NY Healthcare Act.

Helen Krim, from the Indivisible Group from the Bronx, visited us and talked primarily about the New York Healthcare Act and why it is imperative that it passes. She explained that 66% of bankruptcies are due to medical expenses that get so out of hand. She reminded us that these bankruptcies involve people who already have health insurance! She said this act will provide better options for doctors, expand coverage to include everyone, and the uninsured, eliminate copays and deductibles and end the underpayment for Medicaid and Medicare services for starters. Our group agreed that information about this should be made available at the Ethical Society.

It was a very exciting meeting! I urge more people to join us at our next meeting on Monday, March 26 at 7:00.
On Saturday, April 7, 2018, there will be a Secular Social Justice conference in Washington DC. This event is being hosted by the American Humanist Association, but sponsors include the Secular Student Alliance, the American Ethical Union, The Washington Ethical Society, among others. The reason for this conference is “to emphasize the connection between secular humanist values and social justice activism. Secular Social Justice is a platform for activists of color to address the ravaging effects of systemic racism, sexism, heterosexism, transantagonism, colonialism, and white supremacy through workshops, discussions, and coalition-building.” Several of us from the HoLI group have signed on to attend.

“The Secular Social Justice was pioneered by feminist humanist activist Sikivu Hutchinson. According to Hutchinson, it was developed because "neither organized atheism nor organized humanism have ever addressed social, economic, gender, and racial justice from the perspective of communities of color." This all-day event is dedicated to connecting secular humanist values with strategies for transformational social justice through workshop training, discussion, networking, and coalition-building.”

The web link to this event, for anyone who wants more information is: http://www.ssj2018.com/

Our next Humanists of Long Island meeting will be on Monday, March 26 at 7:00 pm on the second floor. Everyone is welcome! Don’t forget; we are ALL Humanists of Long Island! Please RSVP: lihumanist@gmail.com.

Sharon Stanley

In conjunction with the Ethical Humanist Society, HoLI thought it would be useful to have New York State Voter Registration Forms available all year. They are in the lobby under the bulletin board. Please take some, to share with people you know who aren’t registered. Bring them back to EHS.

Here are links to download a PDF of the New York State Voter Registration Forms:

Our Youth Programs:

**Kids Ethics Program Long Island**

March greetings from the Kids Ethics Program!

During the month of February our theme was friendship, and making ethical choices. This coming month the kids are going to take a look at how people around the world live, and the different faiths that they follow. We will be talking about how these different belief systems compare to the Humanist view.

The kids like to show what we have been discussing and learning through art work, so please feel free to stop by our classroom and have a look!

Please look for us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! As always, our classroom door is always open for any children that would like to join us. If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to message the program through our Facebook page.

Christine Lamattina  
Director of Ethical Education

Mina Sainbert,  
Assistant Teacher-  
Social Media Manager

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.

The Y.E.S. group continues its community service. On Feb. 11, in the pouring rain rivaling Noah’s flood, our group assembled in a warehouse in Freeport to assist teachers who were selecting from donated books to take back to their classrooms. The Book Fairies, a not-for-profit dedicated to getting books into children’s hands, collects books, sorts them by type of book (picture books, chapter books, youth and young adult, nonfiction, and adult-level) and then invites teachers from impoverished schools to come pick out books. We were astounded by the number of teachers who raised their hands when asked if their schools did not have a library. A school without a library on Long Island? How is this possible? I spoke with another teacher who was loading a suitcase full of books. She said that her school did have a library, but that so many of the students were “migratory”– kids who moved around a lot due to family and social issues– that the books disappeared. Also astounding was the number of teachers who were willing to come out on a rainy Sunday morning to collect resources for their kids. The dedication of our teachers is impressive. And who did we run into? Alyssa Tortora, who used to teach our Sunday school when she was in grad school. She now teaches kindergarten in Roosevelt.

The Y.E.S. group wants to continue to support The Book Fairies, perhaps with a book drive of our own.

Lorraine Agostino, Erika Avallone, Ryan Kay, Didi Amukowa, Maggie Cullimore and Alison Pratt assist with The Book Fairies. Our job was to pull books by category off the back wall and restock the boxes for teachers to browse through.
Society News:

MEN’S NIGHT OUT - MARCH 8
Join the men of the EHSLI for a night out at a local diner for conversation, collegiality and dinner. One evening a month we’ll gather together to catch up on our news, share insights about world events and maybe even concoct a plan. Hey, the French Revolution was planned in a café!

When: Thursday evening, March 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Park City Diner, 101 Herricks Rd., New Hyde Park, 1/2 mile west of the Society
RSVP: To the Society office@ehsli.org so we will know how big a table to reserve
After that it will be the second Thursday of every month @ 6:30 p.m.

The locations of future Nights Out and other details will be subject to change by those present.

POTLUCK PLUS - March 10
Enjoy the afternoon of Bach, Chopin and Debussy in a mini concert played by our own Anitra Pavlico. Since this is a potluck plus event, everyone will bring a lunch dish for people to share. Please call the host, Pat Spencer, to let her know what dish you would like to bring.

Date/Time: Saturday, March 10, at 1pm
Host: Pat Spencer
Maximum number of people: 45
Address: 464 Main Street (Cross Street is 5th Avenue)
Port Washington, NY 11050
Phone: 516-603-1940
Email: 304pms@gmail.com

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.

MONTHLY QUESTION
How do you make each day of your life really matter?
MONTHLY QUOTE

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country. But he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of men and women.”

Thomas Paine

PHOTOS FROM VEGETARIAN DINNER

Lots of singing, good food, conversation and sort-of dancing at the pot luck vegetarian dinner.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 26

An important fundraiser we are planning is a flea market on Saturday, 5/26/2018 from 9-1PM. Pat Spencer is heading the team to organize this event and is asking members and their friends to help set up, sell, bag and cleanup on 5/26, in addition to two evenings, Thursday, 5/24 and Friday, 5/25 when we will be receiving donations and pricing items.

Please offer help in any way you can, sign up now or speak to Pat about the event.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 3

A Celebration Luncheon for Arthur Dobrin’s 50 Years as an Ethical Humanist Leader
Friday, March 16, 2018 at 8:00 PM

Hillary Foxsong, Martha Trachtenberg, & Judith Zweiman: three snarky, middle-aged women on a mission! Three of Long Island’s favorite singer-songwriters got together at a house concert in 2010. Since then, they have performed throughout the New York, Long Island, and New Jersey metropolitan areas, and spread their goddess-like wings into New England as well.

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/](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](https://www.facebook.com/KidsEthicsProgramLongIsland/)

**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.](https://www.facebook.com/LIY.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](https://www.facebook.com/humanistsoflongisland/)

**Darwin Day** is our annual celebration of science, held in early February in honor of Charles Darwin.

---

**Contacts**

38 Old Country Road  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516-741-7304  
[www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org)

Office Manager:  
Phyllis Herschlag  
[ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net)

more at [www.ehsli.org](http://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: 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.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

Create a Caring World