President’s Message

By Linda Napoli

“Be Kind, Be Useful.”

Hello Everyone,

I’m happy to report that some major improvements to our building will be taking place soon thanks to the generosity of some of our long term members.

You may have noticed a couple of outstanding new sculptures around the building. The work on the wall in the meeting room was created by Wayne Rudin and the marble carving at the front is a gift from Alice Sprintzen. Thanks to both of you.

November can be a somber month as most of the trees become bare and the days get shorter. This is a good time to be with friends and family as well as sticking close to our Ethical Humanist community where we can express our thoughts and be heard.

See you next Sunday!

Linda Napoli
Presentations

Nov. 4: Richard Koral, *Gratitude as a Life-Affirming Practice*. Can gratitude be practiced? Can you choose to focus on the part of the glass that is half full and find greater satisfaction in life? Research shows that experiencing gratitude plays a complex and important role in human happiness and can actually change one’s life.

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.

Nov. 11: Bob DiBenedetto, *Creating Our World via Empowered Food Choices*. Bob will outline the enormous impact of our food choices on our world’s life support system, food supply, resources, climate change, and the other creatures (human and nonhuman) with whom we share this planet. You’ll learn how simple it is to be part of a growing, positive movement that is making a huge difference in our world—and leave feeling more empowered, alive and connected!

Bob is a Founder, President & Executive Director of HealthyPlanet and a 28 year veteran of nonprofit health/environmental education. He is the long-time host of “The Healthy Planet” drive-time radio program on 90.1 WUSB, FM. and was founder of the LI Healthy School Lunch Program. Bob sits on the Suffolk County Cancer Prevention & Health Promotion Coalition, where he co-chairs the Prevention and Education Committee. He has worked with a wide variety of community coalitions focused on issues ranging from climate change to clean energy to safe alternatives to pesticides and more.

Bob graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Economics and Theology, has been researching personal growth and development for over 25 years, and is a 40 year vegetarian/vegan.
Nov. 18: Thanksgiving Festival – Kelly Tanza
This is an intergenerational morning of songs and readings, prepared by Musical Director, Kelly Tanza. It’s an enjoyable opportunity to share our gratitude for our blessings and greet the coming season. Don’t miss it.

It’s easy to be ethical about social issues. But when it comes to making decisions about our own lives, it is much more difficult. I’ll talk about some of the difficult decisions I’ve had to make and ask, What would you do?

Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of LI; Professor Emeritus, Hofstra University, where he taught applied ethics.
Leader’s Message

I originally thought that this month I would not write about current events but about more eternal subjects like ethics and growth. But, as I write this, I cannot focus on anything other than the eleven people murdered inside a synagogue in Pittsburgh by a vitriolic, obsessive, crazed, right-wing murderer, or the fourteen bombs mailed out by a vitriolic, obsessive, crazed, right-wing would-be assassin, and, the African-American couple that was murdered by a vitriolic, obsessive, crazed, right-wing racist looking to murder blacks - all in the space of about a week. These crimes are so unspeakable that one has to stop for a moment for a reality check and reassurance that we are still living in our own country. Are we? What caused this? Where have we gone?

These particular perpetrators are guilty of committing these crimes and the immediate fault is theirs, of course, absent any finding of diminished mental capacity that rendered one of them not responsible for his actions. Apparently, no one sent them off on a mission to wreak mayhem and, so far as is known, they had no confederates in these horrific crimes. The acts were their own; they will stand trial and they will receive some measure of punishment.

But is anyone ever alone in perpetrating acts so heinous? Isn’t there broader responsibility? Could it be the nature of our times? Something in the wind? Is there more to come?

This month marks the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the 1938 riots in Germany which resulted in torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses and nearly 100 deaths. That was an example of what happens when people are whipped into racist frenzy by political leaders who invest in hate speech and racist policies. That was not an isolated event. It was an illustration of a law of nature whereby hate speech begets violence.

The massacres of Rwanda were not spontaneous. They were preceded by months of hate speech by Hutu politicians among that denigrated, blamed and vilified their neighbors the Tutsis. There are many other examples in history where hatred was fomented for nothing more than political advantage only to end in the eruption of violence and destruction. Unfortunately, it only takes a few people to be swayed by the voices of vitriole for vandalism, civil disorder and violence to break out.
The clear and simple lesson is that we need community leaders who value tolerance and peace and who temper their speech with an appreciation of the power they wield. They need to respect the bounds of decency in order to preserve society from breaking the social bonds between us.

Where are our leaders? As we approached the elections on November 6, the president of the United States and his supporters have followed the old and worn path of seeking political advantage by demonizing convenient targets of hatred - defenseless refugees seeking safety, immigrants already living here, and Democrats, among others. Little heed is given to the evil and madness unleashed. No responsibility is taken for the copycats who parrot the president’s words and go on to do violence.

We are living in a moment in history where the rules of order are balanced on a turning point. Many people draw a clear vector between the Trump presidency and the resurgence of right-wing, white nationalism and exclusionism. Meanwhile, the forces of proto-fascism are rising in Brazil, Hungary, Poland, Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

The world needs the example and the guidance of humanistic values now more than ever. Here is our challenge - How can we engage in the global dialogue to invest our values to help calm roiling waters?

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

November 4th - Membership Meeting

The Fall Membership Meeting will be on Sunday, November 4. Please make every effort to attend. We will be reviewing and voting on the annual budget.

Grab your coffee and join us at 12:30 pm, after the Sunday meeting.

November 6th - Election Day

Don’t forget to vote. It’s never been more important!

November 11th - Veterans Day

Originally called Armistice Day to memorialize the end of World War I, also known as “the war to end all wars,” this day is set aside to honor our many veterans especially those who have come home from the battlefields of Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Supporting legislation and organizations that work for their rights is something we all can do.

November 11th - Book Discussion

Leader emeritus, Arthur Dobrin, moderates a book discussion of “THE SUNFLOWER: On the possibilities and limits of forgiveness” by Simon Wiesenthal, at the Interfaith Institute of the Islamic Center of Long Island where he is a member of the board. RSVP is requested. Contact 516-434-0313 or E-mail: faroquekhan@outlook.com.

November 17th - Annual Fine Craft Fair

Alice Sprintzen displays her jewelry at the LI Craft Guild’s Sixth Annual Fine Craft Fair held at the Society. Free admission. http://www.licg.org/. EHS members will be providing refreshments. Please volunteer if you can help!
In the name of Allah, The Compassionate, The Merciful

(IFI) The Interfaith Institute of the Islamic Center of Long Island
835 Brush Hollow Road, Westbury, NY 11590
Phone: (516) 333-3495 Fax: (516) 333-3703
Email: info@icliny.org Website: www.icliny.org

Presents:

“The Sunflower
On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness”
A Book Discussion
Sunday Nov 11th 2018 from 2pm to 4:30 pm

Moderator
Dr. Arthur Dobrin
Professor Emeritus,
Hofstra University,
Leader Emeritus,
Ethical Humanist Society
of Long Island

Respondent
Rev Tom Goodhue
Retired Executive Director
of Long Island Council of Churches

Respondent
Prof. Kunsook Bernstein
Secretary of the Ma-ha Zen Temple Board, in Old Westbury

Respondent
Joshua Greene
Bhakti-shastri Minister

Respondent
Prof. Faroque A Khan
Trustee Islamic Center of
Long Island

Respondent
Dr. Linda Henry Goodman
Rabbi Emerita,
Union Temple of Brooklyn

Refreshments & Networking
To ensure proper arrangements, please RSVP at your earliest convenience, but no later than October 31, 2018
Additional Info--Contact 516.434.0313 or E-mail: Faroquekhan@outlook.com

Oh mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah (God) is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah (God) is Knowing and Acquainted (Quran 49:13)
Long Island Craft Guild
Sixth Annual
FINE CRAFT FAIR
Original work in clay, fiber, glass, metal, paper and more
Saturday, November 17, 2018
10 AM to 4PM
Free admission
www.licg.org 516-350-8984
Ethical Humanist Society
38 Old Country Rd, Garden City, NY
Light refreshments available

Both LICG and Ethical Humanist Society are non-profit organizations.
Artists: Andy Quient, Nancy Yoshii, Alice Sprintzen, Odell Plantin
We’ve worked hard! We deserve a little fun! On October 22, we had our annual movie night. We watched “Letting Go of God,” “Equally comedic and insightful, Letting Go of God is [Julia] Sweeney’s brilliant one-woman show about her struggle with her faith. Grappling with the seeming contradictions in Adam and Eve, Noah, the Ten Commandments, and even the teachings of Jesus - and trying to understand the Bible’s messages about morality, family values, and human suffering while faced with door-knocking Mormons and wise-cracking priests - Sweeney takes listeners on her very personal journey from God to “not-God”.

For those who couldn’t come, you may watch the movie here:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inhgoaQtv5M

We spent a bit of time writing congratulatory notes to Bailey, who is the first middle schooler to start an Secular Student Association chapter in her middle school. She attends Salt Lake City’s Open Classroom. Her brother McKay started an SSA chapter at his HS, East High School, also in Salt Lake City. We commend these brave children for following their truth. Bailey will be speaking at next year’s “Freedom from Religion Foundation” conference.

Looking far ahead, we are happy to welcome Matthew Bulgar, Legislative Director from the American Humanist Association on Sunday, May 19, 2019. He will be speaking at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island at 11:00 a.m. His topic is: “A Beacon for Ethics on Long Island.” Speaking for myself, I know I need a beacon of hope. It is exciting to have someone from the American Humanist Association speak here on Long Island. It doesn’t happen often.

Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 26th, at EHS, and begins at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP lihumanist@gmail.com. Everyone from the Ethical Society and their friends are welcome.

I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving Day celebration.

Sharon Stanley
Oct. 22, 2018 Movie Night - “Letting Go of God”
Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

November Greetings from the Kids Ethics Program!

Last month we talked about friendship, and this month we will discuss thankfulness. I am truly thankful for the wonderful kids that come and spend time with me every Sunday! Every week we begin by talking about what's on our minds, and then we focus on our theme for the month by playing games, creating art projects, role playing and listening to stories. All children are welcome! If you know someone who might enjoy our program, please pass on my contact information, (ccl1311@aol.com) or ask them to call the office for more details.

November 18 is the Fall Festival! This is an intergenerational day, so there will be no separate children’s program, however children are invited to stay with their parents upstairs, or they may sit at a table that will be set up with crafts and quiet activities that I will be supervising.

The Kids Ethics Program will be collecting for our annual Hat and Mitten drive starting December 2nd. A box will be set up in the back for all donations! - Thank You.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education

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.

Led by the Y.E.S. group, 5 walkers from the Ethical Humanist Society participated in the American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide annual remembrance walk at Jones Beach. Our walkers were Angelique Lucien, Lorraine Agostino, David Geddam, Didi Amukowa, and Alison Pratt. Hundreds of people at the walk were testimony to how suicide touches so many individuals from all walks of life. We would like to thank our donors from EHSLI, including Richard Koral, Alice Sprintzen, Chris and Sharon Stanley, Linda Joe, Ben Mahler, Deborah Strube, Joan Beder, Lyn Dobrin, Linda Napoli, David Geddam, Lorraine Agostino, and Alison Pratt, as well as community supporters and friends Patricia Russo, Lauren Metzinger, Roberta Halpern, Sherry and Keven Sullivan, and Christopher Leaque and Art Jonqco. We raised $575 for this fine organization.
NEW INITIATIVE!
Thanks to all for remembering to bring in your own cup on Sundays to lessen the waste at the Coffee Hour.

MEN’S NIGHT OUT - Nov. 8th
Join the men of the EHS LI 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, November 8, 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

LEADER’S LUNCH - Nov. 15th
We’ll meet in the Leader’s office on Thursday, November 15 @ 12:00 noon.
Bring a brown bag lunch. The following articles will be discussed:

With No Laws To Guide It, Here’s How Orlando Is Using Amazon’s Facial Recognition Technology.


This Is What A 21st-Century Police State Really Looks Like.
Upcoming POTLUCK PLUS Event

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. Cold food would be welcomed, such as tuna or egg salad, cole slaw, etc. Please call the host, Muriel Schwartzman, to let her know what dish you would like to bring. During this event, you’ll get to have fun, eat some delicious food, and enjoy the company of fellow Ethical members.

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.

MONTHLY QUOTE

“Life isn’t about getting and having, it’s about giving and being.”
Kevin Kruse

MONTHLY QUESTION

How do you show your gratitude to others?
REQUEST FOR POTLUCK PLUS VOLUNTEERS

The Potluck Plus Committee is planning two events in the future and needs volunteers.

Specifically, we need the following:

• In connection with an event called, *A Favorite Scene from a Movie*, we need a volunteer who is willing to be a host who also has a DVD player so that people can show their favorite movie scenes. There needs to be a large viewing area to hold 20 or so people.

• In connection with a *Travelogue Evening*, we need three or four people who have traveled to interesting places and who have photos and stories to share with us. In addition to needing travelers, we will need a host with an apartment or house. That person does not necessarily need to be one of the presenting travelers.

Please contact me or Barbara, my co-chair of the Potluck Plus Committee:

Mel Haber
email: melhaber@verizon.net
phone: 718-279-314

Barbara Haber
email: haberbarbara@verizon.net
phone: 718-279-3143

Thank You

EHS LI member, Wayne Rudin, generously donated his latest work of art, a wooden wall sculpture called “The Dance.”
The Black Feathers

Friday, November 19 at 8 PM

The Black Feathers, made up of Ray Hughes and Sian Chandler, join us for our November concert. "The Black Feathers are acoustic, but with enough power and force to drive a sledgehammer," declared Roots Magazine. Americana, Folk, and Acoustic Indie Rock sensibilities coexist comfortably in their musical world, with Hughes’ guitar work buoying the kind of harmonies often only heard in family bands. Their debut album was met with critical acclaim and broke into the Top 10 in the iTunes Country chart and the Official UK Americana Chart. Tours in the UK, as well as an Irish tour supporting Eddi Reader, have kept Sian and Ray busy.

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.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

Create a Caring World