President’s Message

By Linda Napoli

“Be Kind, Be Useful.”

Hello Everyone,

Autumn’s vibrant colors should be coming out soon; a lovely antidote to the expected chill in the air.

The Society has started the year with some terrific speakers as well as a very interesting community event presented by Gender Equality NY. This month we will have another community event, a film and concert on Sunday, Oct. 28th as well as additional programs for members. See below for details. We invite everyone to take part.

Our Kids Ethics Program is off to a great start with some new children and their parents. Welcome to all. The YES group is planning an exciting year of social action and thoughtful discussions. Alison Pratt and Lorraine Agostino are joined by assistant advisor, Angelique Lucien.

Welcome to our many visitors who came this past month and during the summer. Feel free to ask any questions you may have about our Society and Ethical Humanism.

Linda Napoli
Presentations


In 35 years as a reporter, editorial writer, columnist and PBS host, Lawrence (Larry) Levy won many of journalism’s top awards, including Pulitzer Finalist, for in-depth works on suburban politics, education, taxation, housing and other key issues. As a journalist, he was known for blending national trends and local perspectives and has covered seven presidential campaigns and 15 national conventions. In his leadership role at the National Center for Suburban Studies (NCSS), which he created in 2007, Dean Levy has worked with Hofstra’s academic and local communities to shape an innovative, interdisciplinary agenda for interdisciplinary suburban study. Over the years he has forged research alliances with other academic institutions, as well as consulting relationships with not-for-profit groups, businesses and government agencies. One recent partnership of note, with the world-renowned Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, resulted in the heralded exhibition “Black Suburbia: From Levittown to Ferguson.”

Dean Levy was recently invited to lecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Harvard Medical School on the challenges of the changing suburbs and gives about 30 talks a year to academic, civic and business groups on a variety of topics.


The Trump Administration has systematically attacked the legal and procedural framework available to individuals seeking safety from harm in the United States. From family separation and detention at the border to changes to long-standing interpretations of asylum law and the erosion of due process for individuals in immigration court proceedings, these changes have devastating real-world consequences. The fundamental shift in asylum and refugee policy constitutes a marked departure from the values upon which this nation was founded.

Emily Torstveit Ngara directs the Deportation Defense Clinic (DDC) which provides direct representation for individuals at imminent risk of deportation as well as law reform advocacy and community education on Long Island. The DDC has represented clients from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, British Virgin Islands, Cote D’Ivoire, Brazil, and Peru.
Oct. 21: Charlene Obernauer, TBD
Charlene Obernauer became the executive director of the NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) in January 2014 bringing an innovative vision to NYCOSH that incorporates research, education, training, coalition building, and member development in order to create healthier jobs in New York State. She is the co-founder of the New York Healthy Nail Salons Coalition, a project founded by NYCOSH and Adhikaar, which successfully advocated with NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo for the passage of statewide legislation to combat wage theft and mitigate safety and health hazards in nail salons. Charlene was appointed to the Manhattan Borough President’s Construction Safety Task Force in 2015, created after a spike in NYC construction fatalities that same year. She also heralded the release of NYCOSH’s annual report on construction fatalities in New York, highlighting the disproportionate number of immigrant workers killed and the need to protect the NYS Scaffold Safety Law. Charlene sits on the advisory councils of the downstate occupational health clinics and is the co-chair of New Immigrant Community Empowerment.

Bob Gangi has been an activist, community organizer and public policy advocate in New York City for over 40 years. Before he founded the Police Reform Organizing Project in April 2011, he served as Executive Director of the Correctional Association for over 29 years. He is a recognized expert on criminal justice and law enforcement issues with a particular focus on police and prison concerns. He has cultivated ongoing relationships with members of the media and policymakers which have been critical to the CA and PROP’s advocacy and public education efforts. He has written or co-written numerous op-ed pieces for the New York Times, Newsday, and Albany Times Union. In 2012 Robert was the recipient of the American Ethical Union’s prestigious Elliott-Black Award, acknowledging his enduring dedication to the rights of vulnerable people caught up in the criminal justice system and his life’s work fighting for sweeping prison and police reform.
Leader’s Message

October brings Columbus Day which celebrates the forging of an historic connection between the Old World and the New World. These days, however, it is sometimes referred to as Indigenous Peoples’ Day or Native American Day, to rue the day when the floodgates opened and the New World was invaded by the Old. Clearly, the link between the hemispheres, forged by Columbus’s discovery, radically changed the map of the world and gave all those huddled masses yearning to breathe free a place to go.

Probably never in human history has there been such a zero sum game as there was in the opening of the “New World.” While there was opportunity and adventure for the Europeans, there was colonization and annihilation for the Native Americans. When Columbus settled into Cuba, it already had a population of perhaps 300,000 people. But virtually all of them were wiped out within a half century. Those who were not worked to death in the encomienda system of forced labor on the Spanish plantations were killed off by the smallpox and measles they introduced. Meanwhile, approximately 95% of the population of the great Aztec cities of Mexico died of European diseases against which there was no immunity.

There is a long standing debate over whether and why the Americas were invaded by European and Asian life forms, such as people, plants, insects, and disease, much more than the rest of the world was invaded by those originating in the Americas. We did get back at the Europeans to some degree by sending them the potato and syphilis. But the vast preponderance of the transfers seem to be from out there to in here.

Just this year, several weeds which are invasives from Asia seem to have taken over the uncultivated spaces. These include the Japanese knotweed with its big, heart shaped leaves and white flowers that suddenly line the parkways and stiltweed which has taken over many fields, including my lawn. So the invasion continues.
As a descendant of European imports myself, I find it somewhat hypocritical to raise too high a dudgeon over the defense of the homeland against invaders, refugees and cast-a-ways. But Native Americans do remain among us and they make a strong and earnest argument that while we Europeans have taken over the land, we have assumed the responsibility for its care and sustaining management.

This past summer, the American Ethical Union, the federation of the Ethical Culture Societies, held its annual Assembly in Albuquerque with the theme of environmental justice and how environmental mismanagement has impacted the lands of the poorest Americans, including Native American communities. Representatives of several Native American organizations participated. These included the American Indian Community House, which unites the many Native American groups in the New York metropolitan area. The Elliott-Black Award for courageous public service was given to Faith Spotted Eagle, a member of the Ihanktonwan tribe and a fluent speaker of the Dakota language. She has been active in leading resistance against Tar Sands Development and the KXL Pipeline. As the Chair of the Ihanktonwan Treaty Committee and Brave Heart Society Grandmother, she helped bring forth the International Treaty to Protect the Sacred against the KXL Pipeline and the Tar Sands. She also holds a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling.

The lesson of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day is that our futures hold histories from the many threads and streams of our pasts. Our many histories are merging and will lead to a day when what we share exceeds the things that divide us. But we must never forget that our pasts contain riches that must be held as sacred and respected. Only then will our future civilization have meaning.

Dr. Richard Koral

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.
Announcements

October 14th – Book Discussion

"Anatomy of a Scandal" by Sarah Vaughan. A handsome British politician—also the prime minister’s oldest, closest friend—finds himself on trial for rape. Former political correspondent Vaughan makes an impressive debut with this savvy, propulsive courtroom drama. (Kirkus Reviews).

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

October 21st – Informal Group Discussion

"Open mindedness - Is it Possible?" Stay after the meeting and join the discussion.

October 28th – Community Event

Film and Concert open to the public-DONATION Requested $20 (See below for details)

"Undocumented" shines a light on one of many inspiring and triumphant tales that deserve more attention. Desperate for an escape of the violent surroundings in Colombia, Dr. Harold Fernandez's parents risked it all to create a better life for their family. Their desperation carried the young boy and his brother across dangerous open waters through the Bermuda Triangle.

After arriving in America as a young teenager, Harold Fernandez and his family struggled to live quietly as undocumented immigrants, constantly in fear of deportation. The film explores the family's suffering through separation, loss and heart-wrenching hurdles that would ultimately lead to the fulfillment of impossible dreams.

“Like many immigrants before him, he went on to do great things because he was finally granted the opportunity to do so,” says Shih. “I am morally obligated to push back against those who now threaten to deny that same opportunity to others, based solely on their nationality, their race or their religion.”

Pat Shih, who has recorded nine albums and authored two books, has received a Woman of Distinction award, a Woman Making a Difference honor and a Social Justice Leadership Award.
UNDOCUMENTED
A documentary for our times by Patricia Shih

Dr. Harold Fernandez is a top cardiac surgeon living and working on beautiful Long Island, NY. But his story starts in Medellin, Colombia, once considered the drug and murder capital of the world.

Immediately after the screening there will be music by multiple national award-winning singer-songwriter Patricia Shih and her husband/accompanist Stephen Fricker; a talk and Q & A with filmmakers Patricia and Greg Blank, and Dr. Fernandez. Finally the event will conclude with refreshments at a meet-and-greet reception and book signing of Dr. Fernandez’s autobiography upon which the film is based.

Sunday, October 28, 1:00 pm
The Ethical Humanist Society
38 Old Country Rd., Garden City, NY
(516) 741-7304
Tickets - $20

For more information: (631) 549-2332  patshih9@gmail.com
September was an especially busy month for Humanists of Long Island. Thanks to members, friends and the board at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, our fund raiser for the American Humanist Association was very successful. We met at California Pizza Kitchen, had great food and great fun and raised $70! We may be small, but we are mighty.

Several of us attended the Climate Action Workshop, run by the Long Island Progressive Coalition and NY Renews. The workshop suggested ways for us all to help pass the Climate and Community Protection Act in NYS, which would make our state climate and pollution reduction commitments legally binding, setting a path to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050. Climate efforts can create environmental justice and clean energy jobs with binding labor standards and career ladders. The site of this workshop, at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood has 250 acres and they have created a huge array of solar panels; hundreds of them! They are used for the compound’s electrical needs and some local business. It is a great sight to see, all of those solar panels, and a great place to visit.

On Wednesday, September 26, Humanists of Long Island and GENY co-sponsored an important forum called “GENDA 2018” or “Everything You Want to Know About the Transgender Community but Was Afraid to Ask.” This forum was an invitation for the public to help inform and “normalize” the transgender experience and present information about the issues they face. It was an eye-opening experience. Learning about the horrifying and life-affirming experiences each person endured was eye-opening. Special thanks to Christopher Stanley, David Geddam, Bill Larsen, Ellen Mihok and Linda Napoli for attending this forum and helping. You may see live video of this event on our HoLI Facebook page: Part One; Part Two.

Our Next Meeting is on Monday, October 22 at 7:00 pm. We’ve worked hard; therefore, we decided to have a movie night. We’ll be showing Julia Sweeney’s one woman show called, “Letting Go of God.” It’s free, open to the public and a great movie! Everyone is welcome! BYOB and snacks to share. Please RSVP lhumanist@gmail.com

Sharon Stanley
In place of our Oct. 29 meeting we are having a movie night on Monday, Oct. 22, at 7:00 pm at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. We will be watching Julia Sweeney’s award winning, one woman show called, "Letting Go Of God." Julia details her journey from being a member of the Catholic church, to her current activist atheism. Julia is clever, funny and scientifically accurate! This event is free and open to the public. BYOB and snacks to share.
October greetings from the Kids Ethics Program!

We are off to a great start this year with the addition of some brand new faces! Welcome, we are so happy you have joined us!

This year we are starting off with a friendship theme. Last week we made Friendship Soup. It’s really a simple recipe that anyone could follow. Just get a large pot and add:

- 2 sticks kindness
- 1 pinch goofiness
- 3 cups fun
- 3 pints honesty
- 5 teaspoons respect
- 2 tablespoons safety
- 1 cup trust

And stir together with love!

In the coming weeks we will continue the friendship theme and also welcome the fall holidays starting with Halloween! Pumpkin decorating, games and role playing will be all part of our October fun!

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.

The Y.E.S. group welcomes our new youth advisor Angelique Lucien as well as all returning members from last year: Ryan Kay, Erika Avallone, Didi Amukowa, and Maggie Cullimore, who is also our representative to the national Y.E.S. conference planned for next spring in St. Louis. The Y.E.S. weekly format of discussion of social issues, personal development, and community service makes us unique in Long Island.

On October 28 we will be walking in the American Foundation to Prevent Suicide’s annual “Out of the Darkness” suicide prevention walk at Jones Beach. This walk helps raise money and awareness for a complicated issue that has affected many of us privately, and certainly all of us publicly, with the deaths of famous people such as Anthony Bourdain, Robin Williams, and Kate Spade. We walk to extend a hand to all who are suffering from depression.

You can donate to any of our team walkers at: https://afsp.donordrive.com/team/199255
After you reach the page, click the tab called “Roster” to find our walkers. Thank you!

Angelique Lucien  Assistant Youth Advisor

Lorraine Zeller-Agostino

Alison Pratt
Our thanks to EHS member, David Geddam, who led our discussion on racism. By comparing his experiences in India with our experiences in the US, we can see that this problem is inherent in human experience. Can we change it? How do we make the world more fair, more equitable, and more just? Conversations like this one are a start.
Society News:

NEW INITIATIVE

Bring in your own cup on Sundays to lessen the waste at the Coffee Hour.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

We are considering starting a bereavement group for members and possibly non members. If you are interested please contact Jim LoPresti at jimlopr@gmail.com. Please include your name, phone number, email, and best time availability for the meeting which would probably be about 2 hours. Jim will contact everyone when there is enough interest to form a group or when we conclude there is not enough interest. Thanks!

SUNDAY MORNING SPEAKERS FOR 2019

On Sunday, 10/7/2018 at 10 am there will be a meeting of the Sunday Morning Committee to discuss speakers for 2019, all members are welcome. We will meet in room 201 on the second floor. Contact Pat Spencer if you have any questions. 516-603-1940

MEN’S NIGHT OUT - Oct.11th

Join the men of the EHSLI for another night out at a local diner for conversation, collegiality and dinner.

When: Thursday evening, October 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Where:  The Park City Diner, 101 Herricks Rd., New Hyde Park

Please RSVP: To Richard at leader@ehsli.org so we will know how big a table to reserve
WOMEN’S RETREAT - Oct. 13-14

The time we’ve been waiting for, our annual retreat! Women members will meet in a beautiful setting to get to know one another better and strengthen our community.

Come for the day and share the experience, or come for the overnight.

Email Delorie at rodel48@aol.com with your questions or call her at 718-459-1380.

LEADER’S LUNCH - Oct 25th

We’ll meet in the Leader’s office at 12:00 noon on Thursday.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Link for the article, coming soon.

Some printed copies will also be available.

MONTHLY QUOTE

“Democracy is beautiful in theory. In practice, it’s a fallacy.”

Benito Mussolini

MONTHLY QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the monthly quote?
USING THE CONFERENCE PHONE

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.

- Leadeer-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 you, the listener, puts your phone on MUTE by dialing *6; this prevents noises from your homes being heard.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

NOV. 4th - Fall Membership Meeting

NOV. 6th - Election Day - Don’t forget to vote!

NOV. 11 - 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. RSVP no later than October 31, 2018. Contact 516.434.0313 or E-mail: faroquekhan@outlook.com.

The End of America

Friday, October 19 at 8 PM

The End of America is a band of friends, singers and travelers who blend three-part harmony with rock and Americana. The Philadelphia-based outfit masters a style that resonates with fans of Ryan Adams, CSNY and Dawes. All frontmen of previous bands, Brendon Thomas, James Downes and Trevor Leonard met on tour in 2005. They went on to form a trio that highlights their vocal chemistry and captures the raw honesty of their performances.

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/LongIslandYES/)

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/LongIslandHumanists/)

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.**

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**Social Media:**

Facebook: [Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island](https://www.facebook.com/ehsli)
[Kids Ethics Program Long Island](https://www.facebook.com/KidsEthicsProgramLongIsland)
[Long Island Y.E.S.](https://www.facebook.com/LongIslandYES)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ehsli](https://twitter.com/ehsli)


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](https://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com)

Community Action: [www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org](https://www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org)

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**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