A holiday season and winter are nearby. When I think of bad weather and traffic on Old Country Road, I can easily become grumpy and cheer for the Grinch. If these are my worst problems, I really have a good life. I’m also lifted up by little heroes. They inspire me throughout the year but they seem more visible during the holiday season.

“Little Heroes” is the title of a book by Arthur Dobrin. His words: “Salvation comes as each becomes a hero in her own right. Not a superhero of inhuman proportions. Rather a little hero of human dimensions. Little heroes whose names are forgotten in history. Little heroes who stuff envelopes, talk to neighbors, touch another, share a thought. The material of Little Heroes lies within each of us. And it is the Little Heroes who in the long run make the difference.”

In the late 60’s and early 70’s it seemed like anyone with a powerful voice talked about changing the world. I felt small in the enormity of that challenge. In that setting a speaker came to one of our curriculum days and said, “If you want to change the world then be a model of what you want the world to be.” That was something I could do. It’s why I do Ethical Friends of Children. I make a small difference. We make people’s lives a little easier.

In this holiday season and in your life, I hope you are fortunate enough to be touched by a little hero and that you all find the little hero in yourself.
Leader’s Message

It is remarkable how truly history repeats itself. We harbor expectations that society will grow, will learn, and we will avoid the same traps and pitfalls that we stumbled into before. We have always harkened to that hopeful view that “the arc of history bends towards justice” because we feel that wisdom is cumulative and that past mistakes and errors in judgment will be lessons to build on.

But then we find ourselves back where we were. When I say “we” I am referring to all humanity because, clearly, all our histories have merged. There is no separate national history anymore and the crimes of one nation are an open book for others to read. It is no excuse that the lessons of, say, Nazism of the 1930’s and 40’s was someone else’s history - it is all of our histories.

So, then it happens again. As dispatches coming out of China reveal, there is an extraordinarily vast program underway to imprison perhaps millions of its own citizens living in the northwest province of China, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They are being rounded up because of their ethnic identity and interned in “re-education camps to break their presumed attachment to a non-Chinese culture. Reports of this practice have been leaking out for about a year, but there was little direct confirmation of it from China itself - until now.

Recently, the New York Times obtained copies of official Chinese documents containing orders and directives, transcripts of internal speeches, and instructional materials that show that there is a concerted governmental program under way to suppress all Uyghur-denominated activities and identity.

Quotes for the month, from Arthur Dobrin in “Little Heroes”:

• “Whatever good there is in the world I inherit from the courage and work of those who went before me. I, in turn, have a responsibility to make things better for those who inherit the earth from me”

• “Each encounter, each experience, is potentially sacred if I use it to find the highest in life. All the gods and wonders of the world are within us, latent in each meeting”
These documents show that Chinese president Xi came to believe, after some local demonstrations and unrest, that the Moslem-majority province is inherently volatile and that the Moslems living there pose a threat to the state by the simple fact of their existence. Through this program, the Chinese government intends to enforce the dominance of the Han Chinese culture and to eradicate any resurgent Uyghur ethnic expression. Ordinary citizens, not just intellectuals and other cultural leaders, have been detained in compulsory “re-education” camps to “cure” them of their religious adherence and of their unique identity in a process that’s been called “cultural genocide.” Heavy police surveillance has been imposed. It is said that facial recognition applications are cataloging all the citizenry in order to assure that everyone is tracked.

It is remarkable how consistently those who lean toward authoritarian solutions will rely on repressive tactics of control, when they can get away with it. The impulse to suppress, to simply put everyone in jail, to believe in demonstrations of repressive force, re-emerges again and again.

This time, there are other authoritarian voices who are ready to stand by or even to support this model of muscular social control. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, comprising all Islamic nations, said it “commends the care with which the Chinese government treats Moslem people.” Turkey’s president Erdogan, who could speak for the Turkic ethnic peoples who include the Uyghurs, stated that “people of all ethnicities in Xinjiang are leading a happy life amid China’s development and prosperity.” It is clear that these authoritarian leaders are being paid off by promises of Chinese development money.

Only the Western countries are issuing statements of concern or objection. Once again, it is only the Western values of tolerance, respect for minorities and of human worth and dignity that stands as a bulwark against the forces of oppression.

China is a superpower now and can act with impunity to impose tyranny on its people. The next test of how brazen they can be will present itself in Hong Kong, where in local elections the people spoke out in strong support of democracy.

In the last century, there have been numerous tests of will between the forces of oppression and the open societies. There is no reason to think these challenges will abate. In his allegorical novel The Plague, Albert Camus expressed how tyranny will return like an infectious disease, and that we must be prepared to stand up to them again and again, writing:

“…he knew that the tale he had to tell could not be one of a final victory. It could be only the record of what had had to be done, and what assuredly would have to be done again in the never ending fight against terror and its relentless onslaughts, despite their personal afflictions, by all who, while unable to be saints but refusing to bow down to pestilences, strive their utmost to be healers.”

We have to be the healers.

Dr. Richard Koral
Presentations

Dec. 1: Frank J. Corigliano, Leveraging Technology to Address Clinical and Social issues.
Dr. Corigliano, PhD. is a clinical psychologist, social entrepreneur, Ethical Member and a strong and effective advocate for Mental Health and Social Justice initiatives.

Dr. Corigliano directs “Supportive Televisiting Services” – a family justice initiative connecting children with their incarcerated parents through Skype-like “Televisits.” Children come to the Social Service Board’s office at the New York Society for Ethical Culture and televisit with their mom or dad at Rikers Island or any of the NYC jails.

Dr. Corigliano is committed to using technology, such as live, interactive video to prioritize psychologists and mental health leadership in the interdisciplinary and integrated health care landscape.

Join a robust discussion on the most recent attacks on access to reproductive and sexual health care and the ways in which Planned Parenthood is mobilizing across the country and on Long Island to resist these injustices.

Louis Marzella has been with Planned Parenthood of Nassau County’s (PPNC) Public Affairs Department since January 2018. In his role at PPNC, Louis works to engage communities in advocating for justice on all fronts, with particular interest in reproductive and sexual health care, LGBTQ justice, and reforming the criminal justice system.

In addition to working full-time at Planned Parenthood, he is enrolled in Stony Brook University’s Master’s of Social Work (MSW) program and is set to graduate in 2021. He aspires to be a clinical social worker, but will always make social justice and community organizing a priority.
Stanislao Pugliese is Professor of History and the Queensboro Unico Distinguished Professor of Italian Studies at Hofstra University. He is the author or editor of fifteen books including Carlo Rosselli: Socialist Heretic and Antifascist Exile and Bitter Spring: A Life of Ignazio Silone. With Brenda Elsey he is co-editor of Football and the Boundaries of History: Critical Studies in Soccer; co-editor with William J. Connell of The Routledge History of Italian Americans; and, with Pellegrino D’Acierno, co-editor of Delirious Naples: A Cultural History of the City of the Sun. He is currently working on a new book, Dancing on a Volcano in Naples: Scenes from the Siren City.

Dec. 22: Winter Festival, led by Kelly


January 5, 2020:
Commemoration Sunday, led by Richard Koral
Ethical Society’s 2020
New Year’s Day Pot Luck Party

for members, their family and friends

January 1, 2020, 4-8 P.M.
(room set up and decorating at 3 P.M.)

Bring your party persona, singing voice, tapping feet
and if you play an instrument bring that too.

RSVP the number of people coming & what dish you
will be bringing to Phyllis or Tina 741-7304
or use the signup sheet.
Don’t forget to bring the drinks you want.
Our Youth Programs:  

**Kids Ethics Program Long Island**

Happy December, and winter greetings from the kids program! This month we are going to take a look at how the winter holidays are celebrated around the world. The kids will also hear about climate change, and how it touches all of our lives, and what we can do to help combat it.

As always, if you know of any children that you think might like to join our program, please ask their parents to call the office with any questions. We meet every Sunday in the downstairs classroom from 11:00-12:00, and all are welcome!

Happy Winter Solstice!

Christine Lamattina  
Director of Children’s Education  
cc1311@aol.com

Please like us on Facebook:  
**Kids’ Ethics Program Long Island**

Our free Kids’ Ethics Program for children aged 6 to 12 is a fun way to learn to be an open-minded, honest and kind person. Classes are held in a spirit of inquiry by our experienced, dedicated teacher. Ethics are taught the easy way through discussion, role plays, games and projects.
Announcements:

**LET’S TALK ABOUT IT**  
**EVERY SUNDAY AT 12:30 p.m.**
All are invited to participate in a moderated discussion about the Speaker’s topic. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion and enrich your experience at the Society!

**MEN’S GROUP - DECEMBER 12**

The Men’s Group will be held on December 12, 2019 at 6:30pm. It will meet at the Society, in the Leader’s Study. Please contact Richard Koral if you plan to attend.  
richardlkoral@optonline.net

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 19**

**LEADER’S LUNCH**
Join the EHSLI Leader, Richard Koral, at a lunchtime gathering every month for a group discussion on a chosen topic or a featured article. we will meet on Thurs., December 19 @ 12:00pm in Room 201.  
Bring a brown bag lunch.  
Please inform Richard Koral if you are planning to attend. 
leader@ehsli.org

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22**
Join us for our annual Winter Festival.  
Singers are always welcome!  
Let Kelly know you are interested.
WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR!

Annual Potluck New Year’s Day Party
Wednesday, January 1, 2020
4-8 pm.

Celebrate with Ethical friends and family on Wednesday, January 1, from 4-8 pm.
RSVP to Tina or Phyllis (516-741-7304) to let us know what food you will contribute and how many friends you are bringing. Any suggestions or assistance with games or activities are welcome, or just come and mingle. Any questions, email linda.joe@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH: JANUARY 5

Description: Join in the holiday spirit with a brunch at the Feifers' home. Our hosts will be providing wonderful food and drinks for us to enjoy. During this event, you’ll get to have fun, eat some delicious food, and enjoy the company of fellow Ethical members.

**Date/Time:** Sunday, January 5, 2020, from 1:00-7 p.m.
**Hosts:** Ken and Sue Feifer
**Event Location:** Address: 70 Bay Drive, Massapequa, NY 11758
Phone: 516-795-6290

**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.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

THE EHS book group will meet on January 12 to discuss The Breaking of Eggs by Jim Powell.

Linda Napoli

Review by Alex Clark, Guardian, 25 February 2011
“The Breaking of Eggs by Jim Powell piques the interest from the first page. Its narrator is a 61-year-old Pole who has lived in Paris for most of his life, devoting himself to updating a guidebook to the communist countries of Europe. The novel moves cleverly between the comic, the serious and the terribly painful.”

EHS OFFICE HOURS:

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

Office Manager Phyllis or assistant, Tina: 516-741-7304 Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.
Our Affiliated Group:
Humanists of Long Island

We will resume our regular "Humanists of Long Island" meetings in 2020, as follows:
Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 30 and April 27, at 7:00 pm

All our meetings are at EHS, begin at 7:00 pm and are free and open to the public.
www.ehsli.org.

If you would like more information, contact Sharon Stanley lihumanist@gmail.com.
All members inside and outside of the Ethical Humanist Society are welcome to attend because we are all humanists of Long Island!

Sharon Stanley
Ethical NYC
In the magazine’s “The Friendship Files,” Leader Anne Klaeysen and Ethical NYC President Liz Singer spoke extensively about Ethical Culture, its values, programs, membership, and issues they deal with in this “religion of ethics.”

The Record
Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County
An article entitled “What does it mean to be ethical in Donald Trump’s America?” described the Society as part of “a 142-year-old national organization that promotes social justice and ethical behavior,” and quoted Leader Joe Chuman as saying: “People are more alienated and isolated than they used to be…When people are isolated, they are not reinforced to act in ethical and moral ways. Hyper-individualism is not good for strengthening the ethical fiber of a society. If we suffer from radical individualism, ethics erodes. People need to be together.”

Ethical Culture Society of Northern Westchester
“Parents who come to the Ethical Society value this process of wanting their kids to learn, to question, to raise hypotheses, to think of alternatives, to think for themselves.”

— Bob Berson, Leader

WESTCHESTER
At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, the Ethical Humanist Society of Westchester welcomes artist Vinnie Bagwell as part of Westchester County’s 400 Years Project.”
Our Times Coffeehouse is pleased to present folk troubadour Bill Staines, who performs on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 8 PM. Join Bill and the friends of Our Times Coffeehouse welcoming in the New Year and the new decade. This year we are celebrating 30 years of his annual January visits! His wonderful songs, his warm, smooth baritone, his prowess on guitar, his charm and his gentle humor, make Bill Staines one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit today.

He is also a favorite of other folk singers and a significant influence on many. His songs have been recorded by other musicians, including Peter, Paul & Mary, Nanci Griffith, Makem & Clancy, Grandpa Jones, Priscilla Herdman and Jerry Jeff Walker. Over 80 of Staines’ songs have been published in three songbooks. His radio and television appearances have included A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, The Good Evening Show, and he has hosted local programs on PBS and network television.

Door open at 7:15pm and the show starts at 8:00pm.
Suggested Donations: Adults $20, Students (w/IDs) $15
Children under 12 $6 (very young children are free)
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 weekly. The YES group hosts a Sunday morning presentation each year. Join their Facebook group at [Long Island Y.E.S.](https://www.facebook.com/Long-Island-Y.E.S.-Youth-of-Ethical-Societies-1606974930788065/)

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/humanistslongisland/)

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, please contact Phyllis or Tina at ethicalsociety@optonline.net

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 or Tina at ethicalsociety@optonline.net

Affordable Office Space for Rent
We have great office space available for long term leasing. Available are two individual offices (230+ sq ft each). Reasonable rates. Ample free parking and a short walk from the Nassau County Seat, Winthrop University Hospital and the Mineola LIRR train station. Non-profit organizations only may apply. Also on site and available for occasional rental are a conference room for meetings up to 50 people and a large auditorium that can be used for larger events. Inquire through the office, 516-741-7304.

Social Media:
Facebook: Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
           Kids Ethics Program Long Island
           Long Island Y.E.S.
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli
Meetup: www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/
This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSLI meet-up member.
Blog: Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com
Community Action: www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member society of the American Ethical Union and a Chapter of the American Humanist Association.
Create a Caring World