President’s Message

“Be Kind, Be Useful.”

Hello Everyone,

February is finally here and as the days get longer it’s a good time to remember that light will always overcome darkness (even in this terrible political climate).

Aside from our “Silence is Golden” meditation on February 24th, there are a couple of worthwhile events to be part of this month.

On February 3, there is the Member’s Forum, which is an opportunity to look at the state of the Society and share ideas you may have for its improvement.

And on Saturday, February 16, we have our annual Vegetarian Pot Luck Supper, which is always delicious and lots of fun. See below for details.

A timely thought from the Beatles to help us on our way this month: “All You Need is Love!”

See you Sunday. Bring a Friend!

Linda Napoli
Presentations

Feb. 03: Richard Koral, *Is there an Ethical Culture Spirituality?*

Many people consider themselves “spiritual” even if they would otherwise describe themselves as not being religious. Yet the definition of “spiritual” remains elusive. Everyone may have their own deeply personal and yet indescribable conception of what spirituality means and where they find it. Is there an Ethical Culture meaning for spirituality? Founder Felix Adler had an idea about it. Is there room for many meanings?

Feb. 10: Anne Klaeysen, *The Struggle to Forgive and Be Forgiven.*

We often describe Ethical Culture as a religion of relationships. Our mission is to create and nurture ethical communities within and outside our societies, attributing to every individual worth and dignity. That is our aspiration. The reality is that we make mistakes and hurt others, both intentionally and unintentionally. Therefore, forgiveness is essential to recognizing and healing wrongs. This morning we will highlight some aspects of forgiveness.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt said: “Without being forgiven, released from the consequences of what we have done, our capacity to act would, as it were, be confined to a single deed from which we could never recover; we would remain the victims of its consequences forever, not unlike the sorcerer’s apprentice, who lacked the magic formula to break the spell.” Anne Klaeysen is an Ethical Culture Leader serving the New York Society for Ethical Culture. She is also the Humanist Chaplain at New York University and Ethical Humanist Religious Life Adviser at Columbia University. Anne holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral care and counseling from Hebrew Union College and is on the faculty of the Center for Education of the American Humanist Association and Union Theological Seminary.

“Science” and “Faith” are often presented as conflicting approaches to belief: science is the objective search for truth about the natural world, while faith, as Nietzsche put it, is “not wanting to know the truth.” On the other hand, some post-modern thinkers argue that science is just another form of faith; a different kind of story-telling, but no more objective or “true” than religious stories. I believe both approaches get it wrong. Contemporary science reveals that, indeed, most of our thinking is not aimed at “objective truth” but rather at addressing our quite subjective needs and desires. Scientists, as people, are not immune to this, but science, as a method, is designed to push against subjective biases and move us toward objectivity. This does not mean, however, that science does not involve faith. I will argue that not only does the practice of science involve faith (properly understood) but that a scientific faith is not only key to doing good science but is essential to the public good.

John Teehan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion at Hofstra University, holds an M.A. in Psychology (Queens College, 1987) and a Doctorate in Philosophy (Graduate Center, CUNY, 1992). His main research is on the cognitive/evolutionary study of religion, with a particular focus on the connection between religion and morality and the implications of that connection for understanding religion’s role in the world today. Dr. Teehan is also on the editorial board of Evolutionary Psychological Science, and Associate Editor of Science, Religion and Culture.


Originally founded as the Nassau-Suffolk Partnership for the Homeless in 1985, the purpose of the coalition has expanded to include the coordination of homeless services provided by more than 125 agencies through the development of the Continuum of Care groups in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Since 1995, LICH has also coordinated applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for homeless funding. LICH’s successful coordination of the Continuum of Care applications have resulted in over $10 million in funding each year. LICH has also provided technical assistance to organizations in Nassau and Suffolk Counties whose services do not meet the criteria for HUD funding, but are essential for meeting the needs of the homeless.
YOU ARE INVITED

MEMBERS’ BRAINSTORMING FORUM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3
12:30 p.m.

Being a small Society, we are very dependent on our individual members to contribute their time and share their ideas and suggestions. We are an ethical community with a rich history of involvement and here’s an opportunity to share in this narrative.

WHAT YOU CAN OFFER:
IDEAS - SUGGESTIONS - DREAMS

COME AND BE PART OF OUR FUTURE!
ALL ARE WELCOME

Richard Koral, Leader Linda Napoli, President
Muriel Neufeld

who brought so much passion and activism to our Ethical Society and the world, has died at age 98. Her memorial service will be held at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 W. 64th Street on Feb. 13 at 5:30 pm.

Muriel Neufeld and her late husband Stanley joined the Ethical Culture Society in the mid-1950s. Stanley was the president of the Ethical Society in the mid-1960s and their sons Russell and Peter graduated from our Sunday School.

Muriel was active from the time she joined the society until her death. She headed many committees, organized three American Ethical Union (AEU) Assemblies on Long Island and for many, many years headed the Platform Committee, which arranged for our Sunday morning speakers.

In addition to her work at the Long Island society, she was the chair of the Leadership Committee of the AEU, the body that oversees the recruitment and certification of Ethical Leaders. Muriel also worked tirelessly for social action groups, such as the Nassau Civil Liberties Union, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, the Long Island Bail Bond Commission and groups advocating for stricter gun control.

Those of us who knew Muriel will miss her great spirit and love of life.

Link to Newsday obituary
Announcements

February 3rd - Members’ Brainstorming Forum

Looking Toward the Future: Bring Your Ideas As We Brainstorm Ways to Develop Society Growth on Sunday February 3 at 12:30 p.m. We need your IDEAS - SUGGESTIONS - DREAMS to guide us into the future.

February 10th at 12:30pm

There will be a Memorial Service for Wayne Rudin on Sunday, February 10 at 12:30pm at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Please join us as we remember him.

Saturday, February 16th - 5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL VEGETARIAN POT LUCK SUPPER
Family and friends are invited to partake in this casual community event.

February 24th - Silent Meditation

“SILENCE IS GOLDEN”

During this half hour meditation, following the Sunday meeting, we will put aside our cares and focus on calming our inner being. All are welcome.
Leader’s Message

It’s an old bit of folk wisdom that says “an ounce of protection is worth a pound of cure.” It is better and cheaper to anticipate trouble and do what it takes to avoid the worst, rather than have to clean up later. It is better to pick up the spill before someone slips, wash the lettuce before someone gets sick, install guard rails before you have to peel someone off a bridge abutment.

Investments in the future pose a dilemma which asks why should we devote effort and resources against a future eventuality that is only hypothetical. The chances are that someone will not slip or get sick or run off the road. And anyway, if someone does have those casualties, then their losses will be made up through some kind of claim against whoever was negligent and insurance will cover that claim.

Our society has always wrestled with this dilemma. On the one hand, some people argue for regulations that will restrict people’s actions before something happens, while others chafe under regulations and want the freedom to make their own choices. On the other hand, some people say it’s enough to hold people responsible after the fact, should they cause a problem and they will be sued for the damages they caused and be more careful in the future.

Well, what about big society-wide problems? We seem to have a dilemma whether to invest as a country in future infrastructure and would rather wait until some private company should need to fix it. As a result, our national leadership seems to be diffident and slow about preparing for the future and many people fear that our country will be impoverished because of that.

But what if we could sue before the fact? Can we bring a legal action to force the country to do the needed preparation against future troubles that are certain to be coming?

A group called Our Children’s Trust has actually brought a lawsuit on behalf of 21 youths and against the United States for a ruling that the federal government must affirmatively act to protect the environment and counter global warming. By not taking the steps that are within its power, they claim, the United States is depriving the next generation of life, liberty and property and relegating them to a certain future world of disastrous weather conditions, an unhealthy environment and a ravaged nature.

The United States has been opposing this lawsuit and it has gone up and down the appellate courts over motions for injunctions and dismissal. But the suit remains alive and is headed towards trial in Oregon. If Congress cannot agree to invest in climate security and enough people won’t elect legislators who will take action, will the courts step up and say that the solution is so obvious that the government can be ordered to clean up? Many of us in Ethical Culture have strong opinions about this matter and also urge the state and federal governments to step up and organize effective action while there is time. Hopefully, a single federal judge in Oregon can weigh in and also state that, as a matter of law and reason, anticipating slippage requires preparation before the fall.

Dr. Richard Koral
News from the American Ethical Union

Ask an Atheist
The U.S. is one of the most religious wealthy nations in the world. But the number of Americans who identify as an atheist is on the rise—at...

Celebrating Christmas in a secular, but profound way
Amanda Poppe, Senior Leader of Washington Ethical Society, was on Interfaith Stories. Listen here. About 90% of Americans celebrate...

Humanitas Film Premieres
February 23, 2019
FrequencyHouse Productions with American Ethical Union will premiere “Humanitas: A Conscious Coloring of Kindness” Saturday, February...

Ethical NYC Seeks New Leader
As the current Leader Dr. Anne Kleysen sets her sights on retirement next fall, the New York Society for Ethical Culture is seeking a Leader to...

American Ethical Union is now on Instagram!
@AmericanEthicalUnion @EthicalUnion @EthicalUnion /c/AeuOrgEthicalUnion
In December, several members of Humanists of Long Island and the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island attended an important meeting. ERASE Racism recently launched a new initiative called *How Do We Build a Just Long Island?* The launch consisted of five public forums in 12 days - November 29 to December 10 - in Nassau and Suffolk counties. More than 700 people attended the forums.

At each forum, four expert panelists explored drivers of structural racism including Scientific Racism, Historiography, Culture and Media, and Implicit Bias. Participants then had the chance to ask questions of the panelists, to network, and to offer feedback to ERASE Racism on how they would like to see the initiative evolve. There’s a lot of enthusiasm about enacting concrete changes in a variety of arenas to Build a Just Long Island.

There was a lot of media coverage concerning this important enterprise. There were 25 news reports, including a six-page cover story in Newsday’s “LI Life;” feature stories on WLIW21, THIRTEEN, and NJTV; a one-hour discussion on WSHU Public Radio’s “The Full Story,” a 40 minute segment on WNYC’s “The Brian Lehrer Show,” and an editorial in the Long Island Herald stating, “It’s good to see ERASE Racism starting the conversation.” It was great to be a part of such an important initiative.
Another initiative we are interested in working on involves the #FREEnewyork Campaign: Ending Mass Jailing & Pretrial System Transformation. Among other things, this campaign is working to:

1. Stop indiscriminate, coerced use of plea bargains that terminate defendants’ rights; expand funding for legal representation, in order to ensure fairness, dramatically reduce the number of people in jail and prison, stop jail expansion, end pre-trial detention in almost all cases, end poverty-based detention, and refrain from using risk assessment instruments or other approaches that claim to predict dangerousness and reinforce existing inequalities.
2. Overhaul the Bail System! End money bail, begin mandatory release of lower level charges and enforce the right to due process before any jailing, and protect and enforce the right to a speedy trial. We’ll be sending out information as soon as we get it.

On May 19, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., Matthew Bulgar, Legislative Director of the American Humanist Association will be speaking at EHS. His topic is: “A Beacon for Ethics on Long Island.” This program is free and open to the public. It isn’t often we get a speaker from the American Humanist Association’s Speakers Bureau. This should be an engaging talk.

Our next meeting is on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the ethical society.
Please RSVP Sharon at lihumanist@gmail.com. All are welcome because we are all humanists of Long Island!

Sharon Stanley

### Humanitas Film Premiere February 23, 2019 at 6 pm

All are invited to the premiere of Humanitas: A Conscious Coloring of Kindness, a film by AEU Mossler Fellow Jé Hooper, at the New York Society for Ethical Culture on Saturday, February 23, 2019, re-imagining the relationship between Ethical Culture founder Felix Adler and activist-scholar W.E.B. DuBois through poetry, music, and dance.

- **Facebook event is** [https://www.facebook.com/events/593675634424880](https://www.facebook.com/events/593675634424880).
Statement on **Ban on Transgender People Serving in the Military**

The American Ethical Union unequivocally opposes the Supreme Court decision to lift injunctions blocking a policy preventing transgender people serving in the military. This decision demeans trans people, sending the message that they are second class citizens, unworthy of the rights of civil participation others enjoy. There is no evidence that, as the White House claimed, allowing transgender people to serve openly poses "a risk to military effectiveness." This false argument recalls similar ones made to prevent people of color and lesbian, gay, and bisexual people serving in the military. For all these populations it was once claimed, without evidence, that integration would harm the military—but in each case the true reason was prejudice. The administration's current policy is based on prejudice also.

The experience of history—and the testimony of relevant military experts—demonstrates that an integrated military which accepts all qualified people without discrimination is more effective in the field of battle. This anti-trans policy is therefore not only discriminatory and unethical but harms the military itself—the very organization it is supposed to benefit. The US military functioned perfectly well for almost three years while following an inclusive policy, demonstrating that the arguments in support of this policy are mere fear-mongering.

The Ethical Humanist Movement has a long history of opposing militarism and the use of military force to solve conflicts. We yearn for a time when nations disarm themselves and collaborate peacefully. But while governments fund and staff armed forces, justice demands that those forces be open to all qualified people who wish to serve. Preventing trans people from serving in the military because they wish to transition is disgraceful, further marginalizing one of the most oppressed communities in the world. Trans people are already subject to horrifying levels of interpersonal violence: the state should not compound that violence by imposing discriminatory policies upon them.

**Take Action:** The American Ethical Union urges everyone to contact their Congressional Representatives to express opposition to this unjust policy.
Our Youth Programs:

**Kids Ethics Program Long Island**

February greetings!

The kids program will begin the month talking about courage. The lessons are based on the book Courage by Bernard Wabler, and asks the question, What is courage? The book describes various scenarios where courage is shown, such as deciding to learn something new, or standing up for what is right even when no one else will.

This will lead us to our learning theme for the next month or so, character education. We will begin learning about the six pillars of character; respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Each week as we discuss our topic, we will play a game, create an art project or complete a fun activity that helps us better understand each pillar.

Please feel free to visit the classroom anytime, our door is always open, and I am happy to receive any suggestions or ideas that anyone might want to offer.

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education

[Email]

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 is looking ahead to next year…and yikes! With Didi and Maggie slated to graduate in June, we need new members to continue.

On Jan. 27, we hosted a Teen-to-Teen Networking Event. We invited students from local high schools by reaching out to guidance counselors for recommendations. Judging by today’s turn-out, these kids absolutely follow our philosophy of “Create a Caring World.”

We are really looking forward to a great spring semester with new members and new energy. Thanks to Angelique Lucien, our Y.E.S. advisor, for running the program and making every student feel welcomed.

Angelique Lucien  Assistant Youth Advisor

Lorraine Zeller-Agostino

Alison Pratt
Society News:

POTLUCK PLUS EVENT- Feb. 2

My Most Memorable Trip - The Joys (or Sorrows) of Ethical Society Travelers, 1-5 pm. Come to hear your fellow Ethical members discuss their most memorable trip. Included will be Al Zeiger, Jean Bobick, Lyn Dobrin and David Geddam, as well as others who volunteer to speak. Contact Jean Bobick at 516-295-5683.

MEN’S NIGHT OUT - Feb. 14

The Men’s Night Out Thursday, February 14 @ 6:30 p.m.
NEW LOCATION!!!

When: Thursday evening, February 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Hunan Dynasty
2292 Hempstead Turnpike,
East Meadow, NY 11554

Please RSVP: To Richard at leader@ehsli.org so he will know how big a table to reserve.

LEADER’S LUNCH - Feb. 21

The Leader’s Lunch will be on Thurs., February 21 at 12:00 noon in room 201. Bring a brown bag lunch. RSVP to Office@ehsli.org

The article to be discussed:
The Tragedy of Mental Illness in America’s Prisons
from the Atlantic Magazine, November 2018

MONTHLY QUOTE

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

Abraham Lincoln

MONTHLY QUESTION

How important is honesty to you?

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for the Fall Women’s Retreat on Saturday-Oct. 19 - Sunday Oct. 20, 2019. Don’t say we didn’t give you enough notice!

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.
Internationally and nationally acclaimed Toby Walker has been hailed as an award winning, roots music fingerstyle guitar virtuoso and songwriter who has toured the US, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Blending the styles of blues, ragtime, country, bluegrass, old-time jazz and rock, Walker has his own style and as such received numerous awards, including being the 1st place recipient of the International Blues Challenge Award in Memphis and the NY Music Award for best instrumental CD. Walker has also been inducted into the NY Blues Hall Of Fame.

Walker is a nationally recognized guitar instructor, having taught at Jorma Kaukonen’s Fur Peace Ranch, Woody Mann’s Guitar Seminars, The Swanannoa Gathering, and the National Guitar Workshop. Walker also has eight instructional DVD’s on Happy Traum’s Homespun Music Instruction, and has produced hundreds of instructional videos on his own.

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](http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/)

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.](http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/)

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](http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/)

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.**

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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/LongIslandY.E.S.)

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

Community Action: [www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org](http://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