President’s Message

“Be Kind, Be Useful.”

The beauty of May is upon us! It’s wonderful that Mother Nature never lets us down in providing a feast for the eyes.

Much progress has been made in improving the condition and appearance of our building including completion of the new ceiling in the meeting room. Special thanks to Jim LoPresti, Alice Sprintzen, and Chris Stanley, our dedicated House Committee.

Two lovely individuals have been approved as new members of the Society – Yolanda Miller and Harry Ramani. We are happy to have them join us, and thanks to all of our current members for being so welcoming.

Our annual Founder’s Day luncheon on the first Sunday in May honors Mel Haber, one of our most active members. Hope to see you there.

Spring is bringing us some terrific speakers including Bart Worden, Executive Director of the American Ethical Union.

See you on Sunday and Happy Mother’s Day!

Linda Napoli
Presentations

**May 05: Richard Koral, Founder’s Day 2019: Celebrating the Legacy and the Promise.**
Ethical Culture has had several new beginnings in the course of its history. What will the next one be?

Richard Koral was installed as leader at Ethical Humanist Society in January 2018. He is a longtime member of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester and has held positions in the American Ethical Union, the national federal of Ethical Societies. In addition to his position at the Ethical Humanist Society of LI, Richard also serves part-time as a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

**May 12: Bart Worden, Living Positively: How Ethical Humanism helps navigate troubled waters.**

When people are divided and in conflict it can be difficult to maintain a positive stance in living. This is especially true today when political, cultural, and economic strife are prevalent. Bart Worden, Executive Director for the American Ethical Union, will talk about how Ethical Humanism can help us address the challenges we face as we strive to live ethically and work to build a caring and just society for all.

Bart Worden has been the Executive Director of the American Ethical Union, the national federation of Ethical Culture and Ethical Humanist Societies, since June of 2012, and is also the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester in White Plains. Bart is, in addition, a Social Worker who has worked with programs that help people recover from psychiatric disability. In his role as executive director, Bart has been working to raise the public profile of the Ethical Movement and Ethical Societies, grow the movement through the formation of new Ethical Humanist groups, expand program and training services for Ethical Societies and their members, and develop avenues for fundraising to ensure a firm financial footing for the Ethical Movement.
May 19: Matthew Bulger, A Legislative Update from the American Humanist Association.

Matthew Bulger is the Legislative Director at the American Humanist Association, where he advocates for church-state separation and humanist values in public policy to government officials.

Bulger regularly contributes to TheHumanist.com and formerly served as the editor of the AHA’s quarterly membership publication Free Mind. He graduated with a B.A. in political science from American University in Washington D.C., and is the co-founder and former president of the American University Rationalists & Atheists.

May 26: Mary Dewar, My Personal Journey for Cultural Understanding and Justice.

Mary was born and grew up in East Orange New Jersey. She received her Bachelors Degree in 1943 from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and an MN (Master of Nursing) in 1946 from Western Reserve University (now Case WRU) Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio. Later in 1972 she received an MA in Public Health Nursing from NYU and did all but dissertation work on a doctorate.

Her first career was as a missionary nurse for the United Church of Christ starting in North China 1947-1951. In subsequent years she worked in Angola, Africa, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Ghana. She was assigned in 1968 to Geneva, Switzerland to the World Council of Churches to serve on a new Christian Medical Commission established to survey all church medical work in the third world, both Catholic and Protestant. She participated in surveys in Ghana, the Cameroon, and India.

In 1970 she returned to the USA and accepted a university teaching post at Adelphi University in the School of Nursing teaching Community Health Nursing and Family Dynamics and Epidemiology until she retired in 1992.

Her third career as a retired nurse led her to health policy, specifically working for universal health care (Medicare for All or Single Payer. She is currently on three boards; the LI Jobs with Justice that is doing terrific work with Daca and other immigration issues, the Board of the LI Council of Churches. where she chairs the Public Issues Committee, and she is now on the Board of Physicians for a National Health Plan, working for universal health care.
Leader’s Message

I’ve always enjoyed the old saying by Theodore Parker, and quoted by many orators since, that goes: “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” It is so full of hope and confidence. It assures us that the struggle for justice has an end point; that there will eventually be a good outcome, even if it takes longer than any one’s own lifetime. It says that our lives and our efforts have meaning in the grand sweep of history and that our contributions played a role. It is sometimes hard to reconcile that hopeful perspective with the news of the day, but saying it again can instill some optimism, if guarded and wary.

As I write this, I am struck by the contrary indications in today’s newspaper that sorely test my confidence in moral progress. On one spread of the New York Times there is the following:

1. In Egypt, eight years after the “Arab Spring” toppled a dictator, the new dictator Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is locking in a term to extend into the 2030’s while he quashes all dissenting voices and imprisons political challengers.
2. In Myanmar, after a Nobel Peace Prize winner assumed a de-facto presidency, two journalists were convicted of criminally defaming the government by having reported on its vicious and violent ethnic cleansing of the Moslem Rohingya population.
3. A month after a popular uprising overthrew the cruel dictator of Sudan, a military junta refuses to let go of the power it seized.
4. Saudi Arabia executed 37 “terrorists,” almost all of them members of the Shiite minority, who were tried under conditions that raised serious human rights concerns.

Turning the page leads to articles on ISIS’s claims of responsibility for horrific carnage in Sri Lanka, Britain turning its back on the world through Brexit, and Israel having voted against peace negotiations.

And where is the United States? Is our country exerting moral leadership? Is our country offering mediation, negotiations, diplomatic expertise or military persuasion? For the most part, we’re silent.
According to an interesting article in this month’s *Atlantic Magazine*, American leadership on the world stage is long past its prime. The American Century was the second half of the 20th century, from World War 2 until the invasion of Iraq, where it bogged down in a loss of purpose and of any moral authority. That was long before the present administration. However, the author explains that the trend of disengagement and disinterest has been accelerated by the current administration by leaving diplomatic posts vacant, contentious hot spots unchallenged, and the most heinous regimes befriended.

Who do courageous fighters for democracy look to for support today? It is no longer to the United States.

The moral universe never stretched its arc toward justice on its own. It is only through the work of committed and inspired individuals that a descent to authoritarian and kleptocratic rule can ever be resisted. We in the U.S. have the best platform from which to support democratic movements, if only we can save our own. The whole democratic world depends for its salvation on the restoration of democracy, scientific literacy, tolerance and compassion in our own country so we can, once again, lead.

In our Ethical Culture Society we can contribute by serving as a model - as a community, a forum and a sanctuary that preserves and promotes the values of democracy.

Dr. Richard Koral

**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.
First Sunday of the month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Community Event - Wed. May 1, 6:30 pm

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

at

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LI
38 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, GARDEN CITY, NY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 – 6:30 p.m.

“REINVENTING POWER”
A MESSAGE OF HOPE

(Over 50 minutes, viewers will hear directly from the people whose lives were changed because of the clean energy economy.)

Presented by the SIERRA CLUB-CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL (Nassau Chapter)
Volunteer! Sat. May 4th, 10 am

We are looking for people to help out on May 4 and we need donations of bicycles and sewing machines. For more information contact Lyn Dobrin at 516-997-8545.
Humanists of Long Island has sprung into action this spring! On March 5, 2019, Sylvia Silberger and I joined Vision Long Island and Eric Alexander, as part of the Long Island Lobby Coalition on lobby day to Albany. The Long Island Lobby Coalition is made up of a variety of local, activist groups concerned with making Long Island more affordable, cleaner and greener. The groups include advocates with concerns for the environment, transportation, and safety on Long Island. Another issue asked of congress, is to provide public PreK programs to all the school districts on Long Island. The LI Lobby Coalition reminds politicians that we are not at all like the city. Our concerns are different, as a result of the fact that we are an island, separated geographically, as well as socially, from New York State. We were proud to state that the humanists were in the house! Pun intended!

Long Island Transportation Alliance (LITA), the group formally known as “Carless LI” is networking with the American Heart Association. The bicycle parade is being planned for Saturday, September 24, 2019, so save the date!

Sylvia, representing LITA also returned to Albany on March 18 to advocate for the extension of the Empire State Bicycle Trail. By 2020, the trail will go all the way north to Canada from New York City, and all the way west to Buffalo from Albany. Long Island is the perfect place for a bicycle path, to increase safety and minimize carbon emissions. LITA is advocating that Long Island needs the extension to continue to the end of the Island. We will be working with Sylvia and LITA in order to help that happen.

The “Secular Week of Action” will be April 26-May 2. https://weekofaction.org/. This is a time that coincides with the “National Day of Prayer Reason”. This week, members from our sister associations under our bigger umbrella, The Secular Coalition of America, like the American Ethical Union and the American Humanist Association, will be highlighting social and political actions, based on a secular standpoint, reinforcing the notion that we are all good without needing to worship a God. At this writing, HoLI is working on getting meetings with local politicians to discuss elimination of the bail system as part of the Fair Elections Campaign.
Invite your friends! On May 19, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., **Matthew Bulgar, Legislative Director of the American Humanist Association (AHA)**, will be speaking at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. His topic is: “A Beacon for Ethics on Long Island.” Because “Humanists of Long Island” is an AHA Chapter, we are entitled to invite one speaker annually from the American Humanist Association. As with all our Sunday morning meetings, all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 29th. We will have a May meeting, but the date will be on Monday, May 20. We’ll continue meeting all summer, on June 24th and July 29. All of our meetings are at the Ethical Humanist Society of LI [www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org) and begin at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP lihumanist@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome because we are all humanists of Long Island.

Sharon Stanley
Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

Happy spring from the kids program!

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful season! As we near the end of our school year, I want to thank all of our children and families for spending Sunday mornings growing and learning with our group.

As we wind up the year, we will continue learning about humanist culture, and humanist history. We will further explore how we can make good choices, and how we can make our world better, cleaner, and more healthy for all people through art, music, games, and discussions.

Once again, if anyone knows anyone looking for a wonderful, fun program for kids, please have them contact the office, at 516-741-7304. I will get in touch ASAP and answer any questions!

Thank You

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education
ccl1311@aol.com

Please like us on Facebook:
Kids' Ethics Program Long Island

Bring Your Children - 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,
YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.

Look for us on Facebook: LONG ISLAND Y.E.S.

Our YES students conducted a coat drive with EHSLI members as well as with students at New Hyde Park Memorial High School. Several large bags of coats were collected and donated to Community Solidarity, where the students also spent an afternoon helping to distribute food and clothing to needy people in Hempstead.

Lorraine Agostino, Nasheed, Sophia, Yasmin, and Alison Pratt

Didi, Aarti, Saanvi, Sophia, and Katie

Angelique Lucien  Assistant Youth Advisor
Society News:

**FOUNDER’S DAY: May 5th**

2019 Founder’s Day is held annually on the first Sunday in May. This year we will honor and thank Mel Haber. He and his wife, Barbara, have been members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island since 1998. A few noteworthy facts about Mel’s contributions to the life of our community:

- Organized and run the Ethical Society Opera Group for 12 years, from 1999 to 2011.
- Offered 18 SPICE programs of popular music.
- Headed the Membership Committee for about 3-4 years.
- Has been co-chair of the Potluck Plus Committee since February 2017.
- Has been a Board Member for almost ten years.
- Has been a Presider at Sunday meetings for the past two years.

**MEN’S NIGHT OUT - May 9**

*Please RSVP to Richard Koral at: leader@ehsli.org*

When: Thursday evening, May 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Hunan Dynasty
2292 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554

**LEADER’S LUNCH - May 16**

*RSVP Office@ ehsli.org*

Join the EHS-LI Leader, Richard Koral, for a lunchtime gathering every month for a group discussion on a chosen topic or a featured article.
We’ll meet at 12:00 noon in room 201. Bring a brown bag lunch.
The article to be discussed will be announced in the weekly newsletter.
POTLUCK PLUS EVENT- May 18

**Title:** A Guided Tour of the Many Works of Art in Jean Bobick’s Home

**Description:**
Those who have been to Jean Bobick’s home come away awed by the quality and quantity of works of art that Jean has collected through the years. She has volunteered to guide us through her home while describing the magnificent works of art throughout her beautifully decorated apartment.

Unlike other Potluck Plus events, this will not be one in which a full meal will be shared. Rather, it will be an eclectic dessert event, that is, one in which people will bring a variety of desserts for everyone to enjoy. Please call the host, Jean Bobick, to let her know what you would like to bring.

During this event, you’ll get to have fun, eat some delicious desserts, and enjoy the company of fellow Ethical members.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

**Host:** Jean Bobick

**Maximum number of people:** 40

**Event Location:**
- Address: 549 Central Avenue, Apt. 28A, Cedarhurst, NY
- Phone: 516-295-5683

**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

“There is only one good and that is knowledge and only one evil and that is ignorance.”

Socrates

MONTHLY QUESTION

What lessons did your mother teach you?

(Mother’s Day is May 12!)
PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM OUR DEAR GOLDEN AGERS

Richard Rapp - If the police are on the scene when you arrive, don’t go there.

Lois Blatt - Listen to, and consider unsolicited advice and/or opinions of those who know you well and care about you.

Lois Walker - Never let go of your inner child’s passion for discovery.

Al Zeiger - Whether you’re 20 or 40 or 80, do what you love.

Jean Bobick - It’s the kindness of strangers that renews my faith in humanity.

Muriel Schwartzman - Know thyself.

BOARD ELECTION: June 2

Please plan to attend the Spring Membership meeting. We will review the budget and vote to replace 4 members of the Board of Trustees. Members in good standing for one year may volunteer to serve on the Board. If you are interested please speak to any Board member or to one of the committee members: Linda Napoli, Jim LoPresti, or Lorraine Zeller-Agostino.

BOOK TALK: June 30

Save the date - June 30th - Tentative Title: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.
WELCOME TINA, Assistant Office Manager!

Good news! Additional help in the EHS LI office.

We are happy to announce the hiring of Tina Keane as assistant office manager starting Wednesday, May 1st. Tina will assist the office manager Phyllis Herschlag in running the office five days a week Monday through Friday, 10 to 2:30pm. Tina will be working Wednesday, Friday and some Sunday’s, whereas Phyllis will be working Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Many of you will already know Tina, her husband Tom and their son Ryan; they have been members of EHS LI for a few years. Please join me and make Tina welcome.

Pat Spencer, Member of the Search committee

NEW MEMBERS

The Ethical Humanist Society of LI would like to welcome our newest members.

Harry Ramani is a business man who is interested in history, anthropology and hiking. He also likes to travel and maintains a healthy lifestyle with exercise and healthy eating.

Yolanda Miller is a High School assistant Principal. She is interested in earth protection, animal and human rights. Her attraction to us is "to make all things better using a critical mind."

We look forward to seeing them both at our society events.

SUMMER SUNDAYS

We are looking for members to speak on a Summer Sunday, 7/7 through 8/25, on a topic of interest to them. Contact Pat Spencer, program coordinator, if you would like to know more or for suggestions 304pms@gmail.com.
THANK YOU STEVE!

Artist Steve Hetzel stands in front of his portrait of Felix Adler, recently installed in our “Leaders’ Corner” of the auditorium. We are grateful to you for sharing your many musical and artistic talents with us!!

HONORING MURIEL NEUFELD

Muriel Neufeld, who died earlier this year, was honored posthumously by the Town of North Hempstead during Women’s History Month, one of 13 women to be named to the Town’s Women’s Roll of Honor. On hand to accept the award were six EHS-LI members whom Muriel had honored with her own award – the Muriel Neufeld Ethical Humanist Award. EHS-LI members pictured here with Town officials are, front row, Jim LoPresti (striped shirt), Lyn Dobrin (red jacket), Sharon Stanley (center) and Linda Napoli (with flowers); back row: Joan Beder (white hair), and Arthur Dobrin (white beard).
Matt Nakoa grew up on a small goat farm in Smyrna, NY and began composing music as a teenager. Following a formative stint as a classical pianist, Matt won scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston. There he studied alongside soon-to-be Grammy winners St. Vincent and Esperanza Spaulding, among others. After college, Matt toured with his band, The Fens, and eventually landed in New York City’s vibrant piano bar scene. Matt quickly became a star performer at Manhattan’s Brandy’s Piano Bar, with lines outside the door each Saturday night. Matt’s piano music has received favorable reviews in publications including The New York Times, and his film scoring has been featured in Disney. Matt now tours internationally, recently performing at The White House, throughout India, and regularly with folk music icon Tom Rush.

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

Create a Caring World