President’s Message

“Doesn’t she know it’s only an expression?”

A former colleague of mine walked into our faculty room and said to me “Doesn’t she know it’s only an expression?” He was in the copy room when a woman he knew walked in. “How are you?”, he said. She answered him truthfully, spending a good deal of time explaining how she was.

I think about how many times I may have said “How are you?” in passing. We expect (or we hope) the other person will say fine and move on. I’m not sure if this way of speaking is unique to the USA. People I know from Europe think this behavior is rude and were surprised by this behavior. It is odd to ask how someone is and not stop to listen.

I’d like to think at EHS that “How are you?” is not just an expression.

Thanks to Rosa Amatulli for this quote from Simone Weil: “Attention is the rarest and purist form of generosity.”

I look forward to your comments either in person, by email to jimlopr@gmail.com, subject line the word: Feedback, or a note marked: Feedback.

Jim LoPresti
Leader’s Message

Last month I took a two-week trip to Japan. I always wanted to visit Japan. It is, in so many ways, a sister country to our own. So many of our cultural and business icons are shared between our countries. For example, Sony is as American as it is Japanese. Four of the top ten most made-in-America automobiles are Hondas (according to car.com). Saturday morning cartoons are Japanese. (Crusader Rabbit, where did you go?) And, American and Western ways have so pervaded Japan as to render it an equal in every realm.

At the same time, Japan has a unique and ancient culture that invites rich exploration. I searched for that ancient Japan as I spoke with people and visited temples and shrines in cities and across the central mountains.

Japan has two principal religions - Buddhism and Shinto. Buddhism came to Japan from China in the 6th century and has been given a uniquely Japanese flavor. Shinto goes far back into the misty past and is considered an integral part of the national culture. More than a religion, it is a cultural identity and its practices are national customs.

Many people may consider themselves both Buddhist and Shinto without contradiction and the practices have merged and diverged across history. In many cases, a Buddhist temple will have a Shinto shrine on its property and both will welcome the same visitors.

A local guide proudly explained to us that Shinto is an animist religion that sees objects in nature - animals, flora, as well as inanimate features like boulders and mountains - to be alive with spirit. The word in Japanese is kami, which is often translated as deity but means something different, more like sanctified spirit. The idea is that in a place or in an object may reside kami, a living and vibrant spirit which is to be respected and honored. A special place invested with kami will be heralded with a “torii” which is that familiar tall gate, comprising two poles with a sweeping cross bar on top. The practice is to clap twice upon entering to announce your presence, and clap twice to mark your departure.
Aside from the formalism of practice and the strict orthodoxy in style, by which every shrine is nearly the same, I greatly appreciated the primary reverence shown towards nature and natural objects. In our Western culture, we have always been taught that animism was a primitive religion and that evolution towards monotheism was a modern advancement. However, the monotheist God supposedly gave man dominion over nature, a job he has handled more with arrogance than with wisdom. In contrast to our tradition, other philosophies recognize people as part of nature, as one with nature.

In Japan, I found that nature was revered both with a spiritual and an aesthetic emotion. The many gardens I visited were carefully crafted with a sensitivity to express both.

In the West, a new respect for nature and the natural order is growing as science reveals the complexity of our fellow living beings and their deep inter-relationships. In recent years we are becoming newly aware of the mind and consciousness of other creatures, and even that of the silent trees. We are coming to recognize our hubris in having assumed that we were the only intelligent beings and that we knew what was best.

A richer reverence for nature arises from the understanding that on this Earth, in this Island Garden in space, we are but one of its creatures and the other living things are invested with spirit, with kami, as are we. Only with such understanding can we grasp the urgency of this moment in Earth’s history and strive to achieve a sustainable presence among them.

Dr. Richard Koral

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.
First Sunday of the month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Nov. 3: Ryan Madden, People & Planet First.
Climate change, ecological collapse, biodiversity loss, and species extinction are a product of our prevailing economic system. To combat the intersecting crises of our time, we need a paradigm shift in how we relate to the economy, to one another, and to our world. We must push back against the extractive logic of a system that decimates the vital life support systems of earth and instead promote alternative modes of being based on reciprocity and mutual respect. We must transform a system based on endless growth to one based on regenerative practices, rooted in ecological justice: a state of balance between communities and ecosystems based on mutually beneficial relationships and participatory self-governance. This talk will explore the ideological trends that have led to our current crises and offer solutions for addressing these issues from a grassroots organizing perspective.
Ryan Madden is a climate activist and organizer with a BA in Political Science & Environmental Studies from SUNY Binghamton. He has experience working with civil society groups within United Nations climate change conferences, with non-profits on community-based energy efficiency programs, and with grassroots organizations on renewable energy advocacy and climate legislative campaigns. He currently serves as the Sustainability Organizer for the Long Island Progressive Coalition where he leads efforts for energy democracy and climate justice in New York State.

Nov. 10: Rosie Rinsler, Recovering & Growing from Mental Illness.
Mentally ill people are not criminals but decent ethical people. I suffered mood and thought disorder but medication, talk therapy, art, music and my partner of 22 yrs pulled me thru it all. I’ve published 3 art books and have a website with 90 greeting cards for sale.1000s of people have seen my work. I’ve been on tv, newspapers and hospitals. Mental illness is not a dead end street. There is always hope. Art is my best therapy. I am also an active networker for my art work and am in 20 venues presently.
Rosie Rinsler is a poet, musician and illustrator who is living successfully with her mental condition.
Nov. 24 : George Wallace.
George Wallace is Writer in Residence at the Walt Whitman Birthplace, first poet laureate of Suffolk County, LI, NY and author of 36 books and chapbooks of poetry, published in the US, UK, Italy, Macedonia and India. A prominent figure on the NYC poetry performance scene, he travels internationally to perform, lead writing workshops, and lecture on literary topics.

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.
Our Youth Programs:

**Kids Ethics Program Long Island**

Happy Fall! We are celebrating the Earth and all of its beauty and bounty in the Kids Program, and thinking about how we can help make others aware that kids can make a difference too!

As we head into the colder weather, we will also be talking about the upcoming holidays, and how different cultures celebrate them, and how our differences enrich us all. Gratitude is the word of the month!

As always, our classroom door is open to anyone who might like to join us Sunday mornings. If you have any ideas or any questions, please call the office and they will get a message to me. Don’t forget to look at and “Like” our Facebook page!

Thanks!

Christine Lamattina  
Director of Children’s Education  
ccl1311@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:

**SUNDAY NOV. 3**
The Fall Membership Meeting will be on Sunday, November 3 after the platform. Please make every effort to attend. **We will be reviewing and voting on the budget.**

**THURSDAY NOV. 14**

**MENS NIGHT OUT**
Thursday, November 14 @ 6:30 p.m.
Hunan Dynasty
2292 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554

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

**SUNDAY NOV. 17**
What would a Fall Festival be without a bit of sharing. Ask an old timer about our Stone Soup pageants and bring a little snack to contribute.

**THURSDAY NOV. 21**

**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., November 21 @ 12:00pm in Room 201. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Please inform Richard Koral if you are planning to attend.
leader@ehsli.org
SUNDAY NOV. 24 - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Join our small group discussion on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH at 12:15 P.M. on the topic:

THE JOYS AND VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP
(How It Gets Us Through)

A Sign Up Sheet and a copy of the Greek myth, Damon and Pythias will be provided prior to the discussion.

YOU'RE INVITED TO TAKE PART

If you are interested in reading the poem on a Sunday morning, please let Linda Napoli know. If you have a favorite (not too lengthy) poem and would like to read it, you are welcome to offer it as a possibility.

"POETRY IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART"

CHANGES TO OUR POTLUCK PLUS PROGRAM

A REQUEST FOR IDEAS AND HOSTS, FROM MEL HABER

This is to announce a change in our existing Potluck Plus programming. For the past two and a half years, we have held Potluck Plus events in members' homes. While the events have been successful, the fact is that we have been limited to having programs in people’s home and haven’t offered social events that were held anywhere else.

Therefore, as Co-Chair of the Potluck Plus Committee, I would like to expand upon the nature of what have really been social events. I want to continue having Potluck Plus events, but I also want us to have events that could be held either at the Ethical Society or outside of our building.

To continue having social events, I need people to be hosts of future events. You could be a host of a Potluck Plus at your home, or an event elsewhere. Also I need ideas for events. Some people have suggested trips or guided tours as a good activity. Would anyone be willing to coordinate such a trip?

Please contact me with your suggestions by phone (718) 279-3143, or email: melhaber@verizon.net. Thanks!
PHOTOS FROM 2019 WOMEN’S RETREAT

Cake for Lyn’s birthday

Monastery Gardens
Touring the monastery with Brother Andrew

Annual Beach Walk

Come back next year!
Our Affiliated Group:

Humanists of Long Island

I am sorry to say, that due to a family emergency, I will have to cancel the Oct. 28th, and the Nov.25th "Humanists of Long Island" meetings.

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 at 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
LOOk WHO'S TALKING ABOUT...

ETHICAL Societies

Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture

"This part of the city has a way to go with tolerance and understanding, but it's certainly at the growing edge of that."
— Jone Johnson Lewis, Leader

Westchester Ethical Culture Society of Westchester

"In White Plains, the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester is commemorating the 400th anniversary of the beginnings of the American slave trade with a special concert, 400 Years of African-American Music in America."
— White Plains Examiner

"The Ethical Society's been focusing on anti-racism work for a good number of years."
— Bart Worden, Leader

NYMetro Parents Ethical NYC

On the day of the Climate Strike, writer Jacqueline Neber interviewed Olivia Wohlegemuth, a student at Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, who organized a climate strike walkout of nearly 1,000 students at her school in March. Hearing that youngsters were meeting at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, Wohlegemuth joined them. Environmental Stewardship Committee co-chair Monica Weiss is quoted as saying, "It made perfect sense, when it came to my attention that the youngsters were organizing this massive undertaking, that we offer them space. And we did." The article also mentions the CHOOSE US event moderated by former Vice President Al Gore on September 23. Ethical NYC co-hosted this youth activist panel with other climate organizations including 350.org and Project Drawdown.

Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society

"One of our tenets is that we elicit the best from other people, then it makes us a better person."
— Rick Nye

Northern Virginia Ethical Society

"Ethical Humanism is reaching toward this future by educating our members about the climate crisis and climate justice, America's systemic racism, and the need for reparations."
— Randy Best, Leader
Alice Howe & Freebo

Friday, November 15th at 8:00

With her soulful, impeccably tuned voice, Alice Howe is “up there with the very best of Mary Chapin Carpenter, Gretchen Peters and Dar Williams” (Folking.com). Her song “Homeland Blues” debuted as #1 on the April 2017 Folk-DJ chart, and this past May she released her first full-length album, Visions, produced by Freebo.

From world renowned bassist to award-winning singer/songwriter, folk-rock Blues icon Freebo’s music touches your heart with songs of life, love, dogs, and the human condition. He is well-regarded for his high level of musicality coupled with his thoughtful and powerful use of words in song lyrics as well as in prose and narrative. He has also appeared on the classic TV shows Saturday Night Live, Midnight Special, The Tonight Show and in concert with the legendary Spinal Tap.

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](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.
Create a Caring World