President’s Message

“It looked like garbage until I got hold of it.”

A farmer purchased a farm near a small town. After a respectable amount of time the local minister paid the farmer a visit. After inspecting the farm the minister said to the farmer, “Isn’t God’s work wonderful?” The farmer replied, “It looked like garbage until I got hold of it.”

How we interact with nature has become one of the most important issues of our time. In the EHS parking lot we have a flooding problem any time we have a severe rain storm. This was not always the case. Our drywell capacity is approximately 750 gallons and the drywell has holes in it and a sand bottom, so the water seeps into the surrounding ground and below. Once, this was sufficient drainage. Now, with climate change, Garden City requires 3 such drywells.

We have consulted with an environmental architect who is convinced that rain gardens can solve our problem. We have contracted to create those rain gardens. Preliminary work has already begun. More on that in another column.

On Long Island our water supply is underground. All my neighbors water excessively (some every day). Their automatic sprinkler systems are on when it’s raining. They fertilize their lawns 4 times a year (Scott fertilizer recommendation). I wonder what that’s doing to the water supply.

I happen to be lucky. There are trees on my property and the shade saves the grass. I hardly water...maybe twice in a season.
if at all. There are patches of clover all around my lawn. I happen to like that look. As it turns out clover naturally releases nitrogen into the soil. Nitrogen is the chemical responsible for the deep green color of grass. If you inspect your lawn and see clover, you’ll notice that the surrounding grass is greener. So to paraphrase the saying, not only is the grass greener on the other side but it’s also green in my backyard.

There is, however, one section of my yard which has relentless sun. The previous owner planted Zoysia grass there. This a most amazing product. I have never watered that section. The hotter the weather, the happier Zoysia grass is. When my neighbors lawns are begging for water, Zoysia is choking out dandelions. The 2 drawbacks are that it requires full sun and in the winter it turns brown and looks like hay. It returns to vibrant color around middle to late spring. My point is that we can be better stewards of our land.

I have questions: What can you do to be a better steward of your land? What about cars and pollution? What about recycling? My community (TOBAY) no longer recycles glass. Why not? Certain boxes like pizza boxes are no longer recyclable. Why?

What questions would you add to this discussion?

I look forward to your comments either in person, by email to jimlopr@gmail.com, subject line the word: Feedback, or note marked: Feedback, signed or not, in our office.

Thanks for reading this. 

Jim LoPresti
Presentations

Sept 15: Judy Rosemarin, What Meditation Has Brought To Me: A Journey In The Discovery Of Mind.
Judy Rosemarin, a member of Ethical Humanist Society for 19 years, is CoAuthor of “Becoming An Exceptional Executive Coach”, and as a coach, and founder of www.sense-ablestrategies.com, Judy has been bringing out the best in others for over 36 years. She has a BS in Photography and Journalism, a Masters of Counseling and a Masters in Social Work. Judy was the original career columnist for the New York Post, has taught at New York University, Baruch College and is currently an instructor at Osher Life Long Learning, Ringling College in Sarasota, Florida. She has acted and directed in community theater for 10 years.

For the past eight years, Zen meditation has become an important part of her life, having studied with various teachers. Judy will be sharing her experiences in a talk called, “What Meditation Has Brought To Me: A Journey In The Discovery Of Mind.”

As the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO) at Hofstra University, Cornell Craig provides vision and leadership in promoting an institutional culture that values and supports diversity and inclusion. He guides the University’s overall diversity and inclusion agenda by developing and facilitating strategies and structures within campus units, in collaborations across campus, and through engagement of the surrounding communities. Prior to joining Hofstra in 2019, Mr. Craig served as the Director of Multicultural Affairs and International Student Counselor at Bellarmine University (KY), and as the Assistant Dean of Diversity & Inclusion at Pace University (NY).

Mr. Craig has a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Mass Communications from Southern Illinois University (SIU-Carbondale) and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Bellarmine University.
Sept 29: EHS members, From idea to reality - The creative process.

From idea to reality - The creative process


Ken has worked for Mount Sinai in New York for the last 22 years of his career. When he joined Mount Sinai, he was the Senior Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital's Solid Organ Transplant Programs. In 2003 he became the Associate Dean and Chief Operating Officer for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai's Affiliation with public hospitals, a position he continues to hold.

Ken is also an adjunct professor in health care administration at two area colleges, the College of Westchester and the New York Institute of Technology where he teaches in the Health Care Administration Programs and in addition develops curriculum. He also an Adjunct Professor at Ashford University's online program in Public Health.

Ken holds both a Master's Degree in Social Work and an MBA with a concentration in Health Care Administration.

Ken and his wife Susan are long term members of the Ethical Society having joined in 1981 shortly after they were married. Their two children are graduates of our Sunday School.
In matters of gun control, reason is elusive.

One recent evening, while driving in my car, I was stopped at a red light and I mused about how law abiding I am. There was absolutely no traffic. No cars came along the road where I was stopped, waiting respectfully for the light to turn. Clearly, the traffic regulation does not respect me enough to exercise good judgment. The red light rule is absolute and allows me no discretion. I am required to stop and wait, even if there is no one coming. I’ve been driving for decades and I can see when the coast is clear and it’s safe to go, thank you. Moreover, I have to sit and idle my engine, burning gasoline that I purchased with my own money without compensation, all for the public good. That is a tax or what is sometimes called an “unfunded mandate.”

So, my rights are clearly curtailed, I am taxed and infantilized by this regulation. But, at the same time, I know that I might not make it across town alive unless I do follow the red light rule and can rely on others, generally, to do so, too.

Functioning in a civilized society requires balancing rights. My 45 second inconvenience versus the orderly passage of traffic. Some trade-offs are easier to negotiate than others. But I have been puzzled by the difficulty many people have in balancing rights against safety in the matter of gun control. Many elected officials seem to speak a different language than I do when they explain that gun access needs to be open and unfettered. They and their constituents explain it as a matter of freedom versus oppression. I can’t seem to see it that way.

August was a particularly cruel month. There were 53 deaths from “mass shootings” and nearly three times as many people were injured. These include the events in Texas and Dayton, Ohio, the ones in the news. But there were as many as 16 mass shooting events in August as reported by those who keep track. Nevertheless, this is really a distraction. In fact, twice as many people as that have been killed, on average, each and every day by guns. There were almost 40,000 deaths from guns last year and some three times as many were injured. Coincidentally, the numbers of casualties from auto traffic is roughly the same. But cars have other uses. They transport you to work and school and they have radios. Guns, on the other hand, are just designed to put holes in people.
Some 350 years ago, Thomas Hobbes published his book *Leviathan* which explained his contract theory of law. In his telling, people once lived in a violent world of “all against all.” It was an awful existence where everyone lived in constant fear of predation by enemies and lives were brutish and short. So, to obtain safety and security, people granted a sovereign absolute power in exchange for order. Thus, people compromised freedom of action in exchange for the security in knowing that they would not be victims all the time. We know that Hobbes’s world was a philosophical exercise and that the situation he depicted was an abstract construct. But many people in the gun debate treat it as a reality and say the choices that we face are just that stark. They share stories of shoot-outs and explain the need to be armed and ready for mayhem at every moment. They say that their guns are their safeguard against oppression.

The challenge in reaching a broader consensus in the gun debate is to get the majority of gun owners, the normal, rational, mentally healthy and civically responsible gun owners, to finally agree that they should give up some of their rights to own certain kinds of firearms so that others who are not so responsible will not have them. Just as I stop at red lights when I don’t really need to, but I do so because the broader traffic order needs me to. They must see that society will benefit when they forego the crazy dangerous guns so that others who shouldn’t, won’t have them, either.

Until regular gun owners see the wisdom of this modest sacrifice and until they wrest the debate away from the loud Leviathans who see mythical predators everywhere, we will not progress. Instead we will descend further and deeper into a society of lock-downs, x-rays, security cameras, ubiquitous guards and active shooter drills - closer to the world that Hobbes dreamed of.

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.
LONGISLAND MOBILITY WEEK
SEPTEMBER 14-21, 2019

4TH ANNUAL L.I. BIKE PARADE
Denton Green Park
99 Nichols Ct, Hempstead, NY
Gather at 11:30, parade at noon

Join the NY Coalition for Transportation Safety, LI Transportation Alliance, Long Island Streets, the Ethical Humanist Society of LI and the Village of Hempstead for the 4th Annual LI Bike Parade on Sept 14, 2019. Participation is completely FREE. Parade follows a 2-mile loop with police escort. Cash prizes for the best “bike floats”. Those who prefer to walk can join the walking tour, which begins at 260 Clinton St. at noon. Visit our webpage http://litransportationalliance.org/parade2019 for a registration form and more information about the parade. Show your support for a more walk-able and bike-able Long Island!

CONTACT@LITRANSPORTATIONALLIANCE.ORG
HEMPSTEAD SENIOR SAFETY WALK

260 Clinton Ave, Hempstead, NY
Gather at 11:30, walk starts at noon

Join the NY Coalition for Transportation Safety, LI Transportation Alliance, Long Island Streets, the Ethical Humanist Society of LI and the Village of Hempstead for the Hempstead Senior Safety Walk on Sept 14, 2019. Participation is completely FREE. The walk follows a .7 mile route from 260 Clinton Ave, Hempstead, to Denton Green Park. There will be vans for the return trip to the senior center. Those of you who are more inclined to pedal, there will be a bike parade during that same time.

Visit our webpage http://litransportationalliance.org/parade2019 for a registration form and more information about the parade. Show your support for a more walk-able and bike-able Long Island!

CONTACT@LITRANSPORTATIONALLIANCE.ORG
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched Be SMART, a public education campaign to raise awareness that responsible gun storage – storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition – can save children’s lives.

JOIN A PRESENTATION TO LEARN ABOUT THE BE SMART CAMPAIGN.
THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Wednesday, September 18 at 7 P.M.

Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY 11590
516-741-7304

- Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles
- Model responsible behavior around guns
- Ask about unsecured guns in other homes
- Recognize the role of guns in suicide
- Tell all your peers to Be SMART

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA
Welcome back to everyone, from what I hope was a restful summer. Humanists of Long Island took a brief hiatus this summer. Summertime is easy, but hard to schedule meetings due to various vacations and special events. However, HoLI has returned, and we are eager to create a season of activism.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and Humanists of Long Island are proud to announce that members of the "Moms Demand Action" Nassau County group will be presenting the "Be SMART for Gun Safety" campaign on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 7:00 pm, at the Ethical Humanist Society. The "Be SMART" campaign was launched to raise awareness that responsible gun storage; storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition-can save children's lives. This program is free and open to the public. It is particularly important, now that a new school year has begun and the children will be making new friends, for parents to attend this important forum. Questions and discussion will follow the presentation. Voter registration materials will be available. For more information, email Sharon Stanley, Moms Demand Action, Red Flag Lead, at lihumanist@gmail.com.

Every year, the group “Humanists International,” (the organization formally known as the “International Humanists and Ethical Union”) holds its annual “World Humanist Congress”. Usually these meetings take place overseas; last year they met in Iceland, two years ago they met in New Zealand. Many of us are excitedly planning to attend the 2020 event in Miami, Florida!. The dates are Aug. 6-9, 2020. Here is a link for the current information https://americanhumanist.org/whc2020/ and as we get more, I'll share it with you.
Our next meetings are scheduled for September 30, October 28, November 25. Our December meeting is cancelled. All our meetings are at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island www.ehsli.org and begin at 7:00 p.m. All are free and open to the public. Join us and help us plan our coming actions and activities. Please RSVP to Sharon at lihumanist@gmail.com.

World Humanist Congress, August 6-9, in Miami!

Registration opens October 1, 2019.

Ethical Friend of Children needs specific school supplies.

Please donate: pencil sharpeners, pens, scissors, calculators, 3 & 5 compartment notebooks, backpacks, protractors, set squares etc.,

If you do not have time to go shopping then consider making a donation to EFOC.

Thank you in advance from the volunteers of EFOC
516-280-5526
News from the American Ethical Union

On September 20th, join a global climate strike near you to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. If you want to join the DC strike, email Emily at enewman@aeu.org.

Nearby: **NY-3 CLIMATE STRIKE**
Friday, September 20, 2019 • 3:00 PM
In front of our congressional office
1003 Park Boulevard
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

WANTED: Rep for Humanists International
As you probably know, the American Ethical Union is a member and co-founder of Humanists International (formerly the International Humanist and Ethical Union). The AEU is looking for a member to represent us at HI conferences for the next three years. APPLY HERE
Happy Fall, and welcome back to another year of the Kids Ethics Program of Long Island! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer!

This year our focus will be Our Beautiful Earth. We will be learning about our planet, and our environment in detail. We will be talking about what we can do to make it cleaner, safer, and a better place for all living things. We will also be doing many hands on activities, and learning a little science too!

Our meetings will continue to take place in the downstairs classroom, from 11:00 - 12:00 every Sunday. All are welcome!

The Kids program is also participating in the Ethical Society’s annual school supply drive, so if you can, please bring in donations of pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, rulers, backpacks, and anything else you think a child may need for school this year.

I hope to see you Sunday!!

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education

There will be a Kids Ethics Open House at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning 9/15. All families looking for an alternative to traditional religion are welcome.

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.
YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.

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

Y.E.S. is a group of high school students who want to make a better world. We meet weekly from September to May and work on community service projects, have discussions, form new friendships, and have fun. Our philosophical framework is humanism, but we welcome students from all faith backgrounds in our quest for a more humane and caring world.
Society News:

SEPTEMBER CANCELLATIONS

MEN’S NIGHT OUT (Thurs. 10/10) and LEADER’S LUNCH (Thurs. 10/17)
RETURN in OCTOBER

LONG ISLAND BIKE PARADE- SEPT. 14

EHSLI is a co-sponsor of the LI Bike Parade, Saturday, Sept 14, Denton Green Park, 99 James A Garner Way (Nichols Ct on GPS), in Hempstead, NY. Gather at 11:30, parade starts at noon. The parade is a two mile loop with police escort. There are prizes for the best “bike floats”, but one does not need to decorate his or her bike to attend. There is a “Citizen’s Safety Walking Tour” at the same time, starting from 260 Clinton St, Hempstead, NY, and ending at Denton Green Park. It is a .7 mile walk and there is a van that can take you back to 260 Clinton Street afterwards. Participation in either is free. More information at http://litransportationalliance.org/parade2019. Let’s meetup and march together!

CAR FREE DAY LONG ISLAND - SEPT. 20

Members are encouraged to pledge to go “car-free” or “car-lite” on Car-free Day Long Island, September 20. Car-free day is an internationally recognized day to explore green transportation options. You can pledge to go car-free (or car-lite) here: Car Free Day Long Island/

One way is to participate is to car pool: https://511nyrideshare.org
Make certain to note Ethical Humanist Society of LI as your affiliation so that EHSLI will get the kudos!

MONTHLY QUOTE

QUOTE: The good thing about science is that it’s true whether you believe in it or not.

--Neil deGrasse Tyson
SAVE THE DATE

The annual Women’s Retreat will be held on October 19-20 2019 at St. Josephat’s Retreat House in Glen Cove. You can come spend the day and or stay overnite. Meals will be included. Topics being discussed will include issues that women of Ethical face in society. An information and sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, 9/15. Please contact Delorie Cohan at rodel48@aol.com or call 718 459-1380. Do not hesitate to leave a message.

FELIX ADLER PORTRAIT ON DISPLAY

EHSLI has lent its portrait of Felix Adler to the Long Island Art Guild’s Portrait Exhibition. Our painting by Steve Hetzel is one of 60 paintings in this juried show. The Long Island Art Guild is open on the weekends from 1 to 5 p.m., with this exhibit running through Sept. 29. The Art Guild is located in Elderfields Preserve, at 200 Port Washington Blvd in Manhasset (next to St. Francis Hospital).

FAREWELL to DEB and RICH STRUBE

EHSLI • 38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530
We are thrilled to welcome Tom Chapin for the first concert of our 2019-20 season. The clear, gritty, tender poetry of Chapin’s storytelling rides on top of elegantly sparse musical arrangements. Tom accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, autoharp, and mandolin. In a career that spans five decades and three Grammy awards, the Hudson Valley troubadour has covered an incredible amount of creative ground.

In addition to his work as a recording artist and concert performer, Chapin has acted on Broadway, as well as working extensively in films, television and radio. As a music-maker, the multi-talented singer/songwriter/guitarist has maintained two long and productive parallel careers, both as a highly respected contemporary folk artist and as a pioneer in the field of children’s music. Chapin has established a reputation for insightful, heartfelt songcraft, masterful fingerpicking, and charismatic live performance.

Chapin is a board member of WhyHunger, the organization which Tom’s older brother, the late singer-songwriter/activist Harry Chapin, founded in 1975. He also remains active in a variety of environmental causes, as well as efforts on behalf of music and the arts in our public schools.

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/

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

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.

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.

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