ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS
AND A NOTE ON DUES AND PLEDGES

1. The Rain Garden: An attractive green solution to flooding in our parking lot has been installed.

2. We will host a dinner for the women who live and work at Belmont Racetrack, in partnership with the Racetrack Chaplaincy, the Women’s group of EHSLI, and the Weill Fund Board. It will be held at EHSLI on March 9, the day after Women’s International Day. More about that in weeks to come.

3. A YES adviser/Social Action Coordinator has been hired. Kimberly Cooley will create and/or direct social projects for our members and will motivate and guide teenagers toward social action projects as well.

4. I was introduced to “Momentum” the PR firm of the AEU. They have publicized the Rain Garden and arranged an interview for me with The Garden City News. “Momentum” will be covering significant events for EHSLI. Thanks to Sharon Stanley for the introduction to “Momentum” and to Lyn Dobrin for coordinating AEU publicity with EHSLI publicity.

5. EHSLI has sponsored the Coffee House successfully for 30 years. Kudos to David and Alice Sprintzen.

6. We have become the fiscal agent for Multicultural Solidarity (MCS). We will assume fiscal responsibility for and begin to promote MCS, especially in Nassau County. To quote
David Sprintzen, “that means organizing meetings that increase and deepen mutual understanding among peoples of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, life styles, and religions”. David Sprintzen, Richard Koral, and Mary Sherman have been working to make this happen. Great work!

7. We are beginning public discussions in public locations to build an EHSLI presence in the wider community. The first meeting will take place at Carle Place Diner, 151 Old Country Road, Carle Place (meeting in the rear - food choices optional) on Thursday, March 5 from 5 to 7:30 pm. The topic to explore is “The right to privacy - is it a thing of the past because of the internet; or, is it still important? And if so, how can we protect it?”

Subsequent meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 9:30 pm. For further information, check Meet Up site, or call 516-731-7304, or www.ehsli.org.

8. Thanks to Richard Koral for sorting out the Weill Fund rules. Working together with the Weill Fund Board (myself, Sue Feifer, Lorraine D'Agostino, Mary Weill and Russell Weill), EHSLI has received a Weill grant of approximately $5000 for the Racetrack dinner (see item 2) and for Ethical Friends of Children to buy more diapers. We look forward to more productive discussions in 2020.

9. The extension of our parking lot is expected to start in spring of 2020 sometime after the water tower is complete. Garden City Public Works has agreed to consult with us about the design and landscaping that will go with the extension.

10. Watch for signage for the interior and exterior of our building: signs for the Rain Garden, signs long missing, and signs revived.

All of our efforts point to a vibrant society, a place we can be proud of. We can make the world a better place. Our spirits are willing but we need funding, so a note on finances. EHSLI depends on your continuing generosity so we can continue this good work. Dues barely sustain us. Rentals are our largest source of income. FYI, dues which are a requirement for membership are $500/year for a single member and $750 for a couple with exceptions for hardship.

Your pledge which includes your dues is the amount you promise to give EHS. We hope and encourage you to pledge an amount greater than your dues. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

Thanks for reading this.

Jim LoPresti
Quotes for the month:

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” Albert Camus

“A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.” Buddha
February is Black History Month

Started in 1970 at Kent State University, Black History Month was designed to encourage us to reflect on the history and the accomplishments of Americans of African descent. Do we need a reminder? Maybe not, but probably yes. The prodding is good to be mindful of how past history built the present. History is evanescent. But long after the events are forgotten, its tracks and traces remain with us. They color or stain our attitudes down through the generations. It is important to understand history rather than be entrapped by it.

For much of American history, Black history was the subject of intentional and brutal suppression. Literacy was forbidden, people were separated with no regard for common language and origins, and traditional practices were suppressed in favor of Western Christianity. In *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, Topsy is a young girl who did not know her mother or how old she was because she was taken away at birth and raised for sale. Records to trace one’s personal lineage are haphazard and it takes a Henry Louis Gates to reconstruct it, if it can be done at all.

But even after the era of slavery, crimes against the African American community perpetrated by an indifferent and hostile white community still remain unspoken. The extent to which white society ostracized and brutalized those Americans of African descent remains to be told. Without a clear sense of the past, the present can remain blindly consistent. The Black Lives Matter movement reminds us that even today incipient racism dominates many of our interactions and decisions.

It is certainly important to celebrate the positive and heroic aspects of Black history and there is a deep and rich legacy to be celebrated. That is the better part of Black History Month. But to lance the boil, to air out that legacy of violence and exclusion is the reason Black history must be told and shared among all Americans. For many of us, for White America, it remains necessary to be reminded of the dark stories, the crimes against this sector of American citizenry in order to appreciate the unfathomable scale and depth of these tragedies.
Important contributions to this education include the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, honors the names of each of more than 4,000 African Americans lynched in the 12 states of the South from 1877 to 1950. The history of slavery and lynchings seamlessly translated into the high rate of death sentences meted out in the South, where it has been disproportionately applied to minorities. Richard Rothstein’s recent book The Color of Law explains how federal governmental policy in the post WWII period created the strict housing segregation we still experience today. The Warmth of Other Suns, by Isabel Wilkerson, describes the mass migration many of us haven’t thought about, but it brought millions of black refugees over a 50 year period from the Southern states to live here in the North and in the West.

We are often enjoined to remember the past or be condemned to repeat it. History never repeats itself in quite the same way. But without an appreciation of history, we will never see the moral of the story, the reason for our presence here on earth, our goal. Our aspiration is to build a just, free and sustainable society that serves all people. It can be done. It’s just that history shows us, over and over again, that intolerance and oppression only brought us dead ends.

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.
Feb. 2: Anne Klaeysen: The Ethical Humanism of the Future.
Dr. Anne Klaeysen is a Leader Emerita of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. She is also Humanist Chaplain at New York University (NYU) and Ethical Humanist Religious Life Adviser at Columbia University. Anne holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral care from Hebrew Union College, and Masters degrees in German from SUNY Albany and Business Administration from NYU. She is a graduate of the Humanist Studies Program and was co-dean of The Humanist Institute for several years.

Anne was the first Humanist Chaplain at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY when she was Leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island from 2002 to 2008. As a member of the American Humanist Association and the International Humanist and Ethical Union, Anne is working on a project to develop humanist chaplaincies in health care, academia, the military, and criminal justice system.

Charles Darwin’s 1859 publication of On the Origin of Species was a transformational event. Our understanding of the natural world and our place in it was changed, or at least challenged, in profound ways that are still being felt, and debated. Perhaps the most prominent challenge was to traditional religious understandings of the world. Far more damaging than simply refuting the Genesis account of creation, Darwin’s view of nature as an evolving dynamic process, which was neither guided nor designed, raised the specter of nihilism. In such a world the search for meaning was deemed absurd and faith, a desperate attempt to hide from an unbearably harsh reality. Darwin, however, saw “grandeur in this view of life.”

In my talk, I will argue that by fully embracing the lessons of Darwin’s view of life we will discover the resources for creating a meaningful, morally rich existence—and for a faith that may sustain us in these troubled times.
Feb. 16: Linda Napoli, A dramatized tribute to Harriet Tubman with music, poetry and her own words.

Storytelling offers a way to celebrate both the diversity and commonality of human experience. In our fast-paced, media-driven world, storied exchanges can be a nurturing way to remember that spoken words are powerful, that listening is important, and that clear communication between people is an art.

Heather Forest's unique minstrel style of storytelling blends original music, folk guitar, poetry, prose and the sung and spoken word. She has toured her repertoire of world folktales for the past thirty years to theatres, major storytelling festivals, and conferences throughout the United States and abroad.

Mar. 1: Martha Maffei, Executive director of SEPA Mujer.
SEPA Mujer, Inc. has been working to support immigrant women on Long Island since 1993 by bringing together community members and advocates to speak out against injustice, provide access to opportunities and services, take a stand against domestic violence and other abuses, and push for social change.

Martha Maffei has been the Executive Director of Services for the Advancement of Women since 2008 and has more than 20 years of experience in community development, nonprofit management, industry and health sector.
It’s interesting to note, that the American Ethical Union has been working in partnership with Humanists International since 1952.

History of the World Humanist Congress

Since 1952, Humanists International has convened a World Humanist Congress on a regular basis. The last one was held in Oxford, UK, in 2014 on the theme of ‘freedom of thought and expression’, resulting in the ‘2014 Oxford Declaration’ being adopted.

The aims of the World Humanist Congress are:

• To bring together Humanists International's members to discuss matters of concern, to learn and to draw inspiration from each other.
• Focusing global humanist attention on selected issues, so that the international humanist community can form a position on it.
• Showcasing the role and aims of Humanists International, promoting knowledge and understanding of humanism among other NGOs in the region.
• Creating increased visibility for Humanists International and humanism in the media - thereby achieving a generally raised profile for Humanism and humanist concerns in the region.
• Helping build a network of international contacts among Congress participants.

Humanists International (originally the International Humanist and Ethical Union) was founded by the American Ethical Union, American Humanist Association, British Ethical Union (now Humanists UK), Dutch Humanist League (now Humanistisch Verbond), and Vienna Ethical Society.

Humanists of Long Island will be meeting on Monday, February 24, at 7:00 pm at the Ethical Society. Please RSVP to Sharon only if you plan to attend.
ROLLBACKS
AN ASSAULT AGAINST LIFE ON EARTH

DATE: MONDAY, 2/24/20

AFTER THIS 30-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY, THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION CONCERNING HOW POLICIES ARE NEGATIVELY AFFECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES AND SNACKS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020
TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, 38 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, GARDEN CITY. PLEASE RSVP TO 516-741-7304, OR LIHUMAVIST@GMAIL.COM
Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

February Greetings from the Kids Program!
This month we are launching our new **Empathy** program. Every week for six weeks, we will focus on lessons that teach the concept of empathy. Our lessons will be fun and teach valuable skills and self empowerment through discussion, games, stories, videos, art, and role play.

- Week 1: Feelings - How do we put ourselves in the other persons place?
- Week 2: Family - Getting along with each other, helping out
- Week 3: School - Understanding differences in each other, being kind
- Week 4: Groups - Working together toward a common goal
- Week 5: Discovering Our Own Power - Self-confidence is a form of armor that protects you
- Week 6: Conclusion - We will assess what we have learned and how we will practice empathy.

**I am looking forward to this very special program!**

Christine Lamattina
Director of Children’s Education for the Long Island Ethical Society  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:

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

MEN’S GROUP - FEB. 13
The Men’s Group will be held on February 13 at 6:30pm. It will meet at the Society, in the Leader’s Study. Please contact Richard Koral if you plan to attend.
richardlkoral@optonline.net

RESERVATION REQUIRED! - FEB. 22

Title: AN INDIAN COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Description: Join us as we watch Anna Alexander, a friend of Pat Spencer, demonstrate how to cook some of your favorite Indian dishes. We'll then get a chance to taste her cooking. Drinks and nibbles will also be provided. Come and have fun, eat some delicious food, and enjoy the company of fellow Ethical members.

Date/Time: Saturday, February 22, 2020, from 1:00-4 p.m.

Host: Pat Spencer

Maximum number of people: 20

Event Location: Pat Spencer's home
464 Main Street (Corner of 5th Avenue)
Port Washington, NY 11050
516-603-1940

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.
MOVIE NIGHT: FEB. 24

The Trump administration has rolled back 95 environmental policies, putting at serious risk our natural resources and our health. Many people don’t know this. Our latest film, Rollbacks: An Assault Against Life on Earth, educates the viewer in no uncertain terms. The 30-minute documentary is meant to be used as a tool for discussion and a resource for knowledge and action. After this 30-minute documentary, there will be a discussion concerning how policies are negatively affecting our natural resources.

This event is free and open to the public.

BOOK DISCUSSION: MARCH 8

SUNDAY,
MARCH 8 - 12:30 P.M.
“THE TOPEKA SCHOOL A Novel”
by Ben Lerner

“A triumph of ventriloquism . . . [Lerner] has written a perfectly weighted, hugely intelligent, entirely entertaining novel that does more than simply mine his childhood or explore what it is to be an author; he has taken on American masculinity, group identity and marginalization, political messaging and generational exchange, and has done so not didactically but generously and with admirable sensitivity.”
--The Times Literary Supplement (UK)

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 29

The Ethical Society’s Women’s Group Meeting will be on Sunday March 29, 2020 at 12:30 after the morning meeting. Women of the society will come together to begin planning for our up coming retreat celebrating an exciting 25 years.
Our Times Coffee House Celebrates 30th Anniversary

When the coffee house began 30 years ago, folk singer Bill Staines was the star attraction. Here he is again, in center with hat, at his 30th appearance at the coffee house.

Coffee house volunteers with him are, from left, Bob Sostack, David Sprintzen, Marty Stone, Brendan Hanna, Alice Sprintzen, and Barbara Karyo. (We regret that Nancy Yoshi is hidden behind Marty’s left shoulder!)

NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY EQUITY AGENDA

The EHS Board has approved our joining this statewide coalition. If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Board member, David Sprintzen.

The NYS Community Equity Agenda calls for policies and actions that transform our fundamentally unjust social, political and economic systems. It puts racial and economic justice front and center and addresses long-standing inequities that play out at neighborhood and regional levels. It requires decision-making led by people and communities typically left out of, and harmed by, status quo economic development. Tackling our most existential crises – from climate devastation to persistent wealth inequality - requires transformational change. In the face of federal attacks on low-income people, immigrants, women, and people of color, the need for bold, local action has never been greater.

The Agenda is driven by a broad-based coalition of community, labor, civil rights, and legal services groups, cooperative organizations, and community development financial institutions. It sets forth an affirmative, solutions-oriented platform to transform how New York approaches economic development policy, by putting people before profit and communities before corporations.
2020 marks the 25th anniversary of *River of Fallen Stars*, the album that launched the career of *The Kennedys*. Pete and Maura wrote the songs while touring Ireland and England as members of Nanci Griffith's Blue Moon Orchestra, and the misty sonic quality of 12-string guitars, combined with lyrics that were poetically and mystically uplifting, gave the record a unique and evocative sound that touched listeners across the US and Europe.

**This year, the duo will be playing the entire album in sequence at selected theaters and festivals**, with the original arrangements and guitar sounds. It will be the first time many of the songs have ever been heard live on stage. Their hope is that this reboot of *River of Fallen Stars* will not only evoke happy memories for those who took the album to heart two and a half decades ago, but it might also spark a new cycle of creative inspiration and optimism for kindred jangle poets around the world.

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.

Contacts

38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304
[www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org)

Office Manager: Phyllis Herschlag
Asst. Ofc Mgr: Tina Keane
[ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net)
more at [www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org).

Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe
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