



President's Message

Sunday Meetings

Begin at 11:00 am

Jan. 5: *Commemoration Sunday*, led by Richard Koral.

Jan. 12: Risco D. Mention-Lewis: *The Duality of Race and Colorblindness*.

Jan, 19: Arthur Dobrin: *What's In a Name?*

Jan. 26: Liz Seegert: *If health care is a right, how do we pay for it?*

Feb. 2: Anne Klaeyen: *The Ethical Humanism of the Future*.

Colloquy

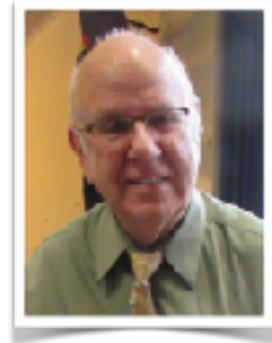
Every Sunday at 9:30 am

New year resolutions don't seem to work for me. Words are easy. What works for me is to make my commitments public. It's easy for me to delude myself privately but I choose my public pronouncements more carefully.

There are things I can do with the understanding that I'm not perfect and I will at times fail. I want to be kinder, especially with my honesty. To soften my honesty with kindness. I want to be a better president, confident yet open to doubts of others.

Whatever your aspirations may be, I hope they are more than new year resolutions.

Jim LoPresti



Quote of the month:

I would not exchange the laughter of my heart for the fortunes of the multitudes; nor would I be content with converting my tears, invited by my agonized self, into calm. It is my fervent hope that my whole life on this earth will ever be tears and laughter.

Kahlil Gibran

Presentations



Jan. 5: Commemoration Sunday, led by Richard Koral.

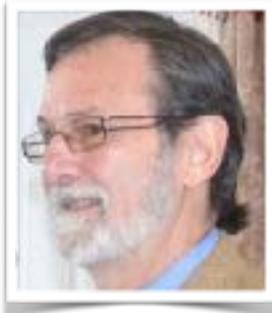
On this Sunday we gather to rededicate our lives to the enduring values of our Ethical Society. These values guide our lives, give our lives meaning and direct us to living in a caring and respectful way and form the basis of our Ethical creed. Join us for this meaningful morning of remembrance.



Jan. 12: Risco Mention-Lewis: *The Duality of Race and Colorblindness.*

A historical journey encompassing the laws that affected African Americans and the lasting struggle to find peace and health in the face of racial trauma...plus its impact on our emotional, spiritual and economic health.

Risco Mention-Lewis is Deputy Police Commissioner, Suffolk County and a former Nassau County District Attorney. In January 2013, Mention-Lewis was appointed by County Executive Steve Bellone to the position of Deputy Police Commissioner, making her not only the first female to hold the position, but also the first person of color. Her work entails building strong police and community partnerships, creating community leadership teams, instituting comprehensive programs to combat gang/group violence and recidivism.



Jan. 19: Arthur Dobrin: *What's In a Name?*

The talk , by Arthur Dobrin, our Leader Emeritus, looks at the significance of labels and names.

Arthur Dobrin has authored, co-authored and edited more than 20 books, including books in ethics and children's books including *Spelling God with Two O's*, *Ethics for Everyone: How to Improve Your Moral Intelligence*, and *Business Ethics: The Right Way to Riches*. He is also the author of more than 100 poems and articles that have appeared in journals, magazines and newspapers. He is has a weekly blog on Psychology today called *Am I Right* which explores thoughts and opinions on how to live an ethical life.



Jan. 26: Liz Seegert: *If health care is a right, how do we pay for it?*

We've been hearing a lot about "Medicare for All," "universal coverage," "public options," and the right to basic health care for all Americans. The challenge is figuring out a way to pay for care for 300 million people without plunging the U.S. into even further debt, avoiding tax increases on the working poor and middle class, and figuring out a system that will save money in the long run.

We'll take a look at some of the pros and cons of various proposals, how other countries manage to insure all their citizens, and whether there can be a fair, equitable solution for all of us.

New York-based journalist, Liz Seegert, has spent more than 30 years reporting and writing about health and general news topics for print, digital and broadcast media. Her primary beats currently include aging, boomers, social determinants of health and health policy. She is topic editor on aging for the Association of Health Care Journalists. Her work has appeared in numerous media outlets, including *Consumer Reports*, *AARP.com*, *Medical Economics*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Hartford Courant*. We happily claim her as a member in good standing of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.



Feb. 2: Anne Klaeyesen: *The Ethical Humanism of the Future.*

Dr. Anne Klaeyesen 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.

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.

Leader's Message



Democracy at Risk Abroad and at Home

It was 1848. Democracy movements sprang up all across Europe. They emerged out of economic desperation and a deepening indignation over the corrupt and sclerotic regimes smothering each country. Street demonstrations and rebellions, beginning in France, spread across Europe and then to South America. They were the revolutions of 1848, sometimes called the Peoples' Spring. The middle class and the educated allied with workers of the emerging industrial age to proclaim their outrage and to demand reforms. They sought responsive and democratic governance.

The results were mixed. The revolutions mostly petered out. Those reforms that were hastily instituted to placate the masses were soon withdrawn or ignored. Royalty held its grip and the democratically elected president of France declared himself Emperor Napoleon III to reign for twenty years.

The results of the Revolutions of 1848 may have been frustrating, but there were lessons to be learned - namely, that "the street" holds power that can rise up without much warning and that the people have a vote in matters, too.

Is it happening again today? Suddenly, there are uprisings in country after country around the world. All last year, mass demonstrations have erupted in Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Algeria and Afghanistan, as well as Hong Kong, Catalonia, Bolivia, and Chile. Who will be next?

The thread running through all these movements is a stagnating middle class, grinding economic inequality, stifled democracy and the hope and belief that things can be better.

There were some successes. In Sudan, the long-time dictator Omar Al-Bashir stepped down in response to street demonstrations that would not cease. Then, after the military balked at allowing a civilian government to take charge, the demonstrations resumed and a new government is taking shape. In Bolivia, president Morales, originally a reformer, engineered an avoidance of constitutional term limits. The street demonstrations forced him to resign.

In Hong Kong, the electoral sweep by the pro-democracy candidates in local elections proved that the months-long street demonstrations did accurately reflect the popular will. Now, the government can only continue to resist democratic reforms with the intercession of China.

The protests have generally been peaceful, although the governmental reaction has not always been so. In Iraq, about 400 demonstrators were killed when military forces used live ammunition to scatter them. But the prime minister did resign and it was hoped that everyone else in the government would follow. Iran also showed little restraint in an effort to suppress dissent roiling across their country, killing hundreds of demonstrators.

In some of the most undemocratic countries in the world, the people are demanding responsiveness to their needs as well as basic honesty in government. The old system by which a governing class cared only for those in its own stratum and left crumbs for the people, that system is under attack around the world.

Will these many social upheavals and street revolutions lead to real reforms? Or will they lead to mere dissimulation and a return to business as usual as soon as the tempers cool, as happened in 1848. Back then, the reactionary crackdown that followed caused many thousands to flee from Germany to the United States to seek political refuge in our country. Today, there are fewer avenues of escape, so conflicts will have to be resolved at home.

The United States has always served as a model of a functioning free and open political system. Our example has inspired struggling democratic movements the world over. We have a duty to freedom seekers everywhere to uphold our own democracy in order to show how a country can peacefully restore its balance when its democracy is threatened, rally around its core values, and support the rule of law. The world needs for us to invest in our own democratic institutions and to show by our example how to channel public disagreements into fair and judicious procedures for their resolution and then to move on.

If our democracy, the world's longest-standing, cannot function under stress and renew itself after a shock, then what hope is there for all those struggling in their streets? We can do it. This is a consequential election year for American democracy. If we can heal the divisions in our body politic and restore civility, then there will be hope for those abroad still struggling.

Dr. Richard Koral

Our Affiliated Group:

Humanists of Long Island



"Humanists of Long Island" will meet on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 7:00 pm upstairs in the board room at EHSLI. Please RSVP to Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.



AEU will join the 2020 World Humanist Congress Thu., August 6 - Sun., August 9 in Miami, Florida

The American Ethical Union will hold our 2020 conference in conjunction with the 2020 World Humanist Congress.

World Humanist Congress is convened by Humanists International (formerly International Humanists and Ethical Union or IHEU) every three years and in 2020 will be hosted by the American Humanist Association.

The American Ethical Union is a proud sponsor of the upcoming event.

LEARN MORE AT conference.americanhumanist.org

Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

January Greetings from the Kids Program!

Now that the cold and the grey of winter has finally arrived, the kids program will focus on warmer things, like the importance of kindness, giving, compassion, and education. We will also take a look at what kids around the world are doing to make our world a better place, what can we learn from them? What can we do right here, right now?

If you know a child who would benefit from attending this program, please get in touch with the office and they will forward any messages to me. We meet every Sunday from 11:00-12:00 in the downstairs classroom. We talk, read, watch videos, play, and use art to learn about Ethical Culture.

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:

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!

HOLIDAY BRUNCH: JANUARY 5

If you have registered, contact Ken or Sue for travel instructions: 516-795-6290.

MEN'S GROUP - JANUARY 9

The Men's Group will be held on January 9, 2019 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



THURSDAY JANUARY 16

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., January 16 @ 12:00pm in Room 201.

Bring a brown bag lunch.

Please inform Richard Koral if you are planning to attend.

Here's the link to the article we will be discussing from *The Atlantic Magazine*, titled **"Why won't he just say it?" about Joe Biden's stuttering handicap:**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/01/joe-biden-stutter-profile/602401/>

SUNDAY JANUARY 19

BOOK DISCUSSION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH - 12:30 P.M.
"THE BREAKING OF EGGS"
by JIM POWELL



READ A REVIEW:

Lesley Chamberlain, Times Literary Supplement, 19 March 2010

The Breaking of Eggs is a novel about middle age: not the strains on the body but on the inner life, the question of what it takes to survive. Feliks Zhukovski, who was born in Łódź, Poland, believes that his mother abandoned him when he was nine. He has made a competent life but never married; he lives for ideas and keeps people at arm's length. The crisis begins when he realizes how lonely his days and nights are. [[read more](#)]

PHOTOS FROM THE NEW YEAR PARTY





PLANTING THE RAIN GARDEN



Anyone who has come to our Ethical Society knows how our parking lot turns into a swimming pool after heavy rain or snow melt. To counter this in an organically sustainable and beautiful way we have worked with garden planners Nelson, Pope & Voorhis to establish a rain garden on our property.

A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rainwater runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns.

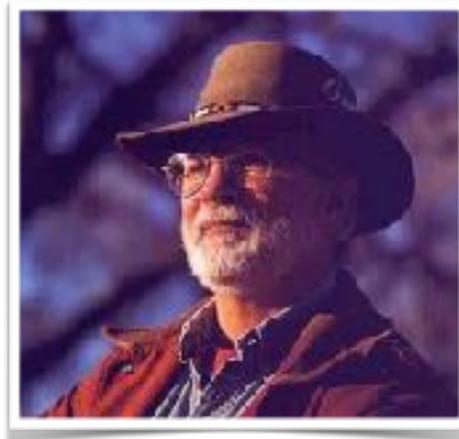
Last month, members of EHSLI, under the guidance of designer Cassandra, planted the garden at both ends of the parking lot, just off the sidewalk. We are happy to report that since then, it has rained and there has been no flooding.

We hope this can become a showplace and inspire others to find non-toxic solutions to their garden problems.





Bill Staines



Friday, January 17 at 8 PM

Our Times Coffeehouse is pleased to present folk troubadour Bill Staines, who performs on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 8 PM. Join Bill and the friends of Our Times Coffeehouse welcoming in the New Year and the new decade. This year we are celebrating **30 years** of his annual January visits! His wonderful songs, his warm, smooth baritone, his prowess on guitar, his charm and his gentle humor, make Bill Staines one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit today.

He is also a favorite of other folk singers and a significant influence on many. His songs have been recorded by other musicians, including **Peter, Paul & Mary, Nanci Griffith, Makem & Clancy, Grandpa Jones, Priscilla Herdman** and **Jerry Jeff Walker**. Over 80 of Staines' songs have been published in three songbooks. His radio and television appearances have included A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, The Good Evening Show, and he has hosted local programs on PBS and network television.

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



Contacts

38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

516-741-7304

www.ehsl.org

Office Manager: Phyllis Herschlag

Asst. Ofc Mgr: Tina Keane

ethicalsociety@optonline.net

more at www.ehsl.org.

Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe

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.ehsl.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.](#)

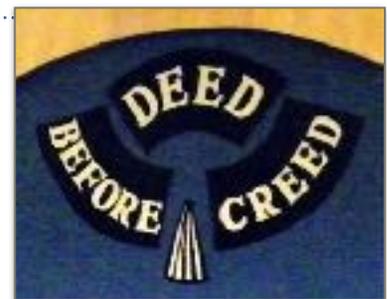
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

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.



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



Create a Caring World