President’s Message

As I’m writing this my calendar says April 23rd but it feels like April 97th. This has been a difficult month for most and those are the healthy ones who have a roof over their head and not worried about finances. My heart goes out to anyone who has contracted the virus or lost someone because of it. I feel for anyone who can’t pay the rent or is worried about how to feed their family.

So what can we do? Our social action director, Kimberly Cooley, is searching for ways to help. Many of you have sent suggestions. We all can help. If you have ideas send them to me and I will forward them to Kim. We are in the process of helping the backstretch community of the racetrack. Thanks to the Weill fund we will be able to provide food for those who have tested positive for covid 19 in that community. Also because of the Weill Fund, Ethical Friends of Children will be able to purchase diapers and toiletries for that community.

Onto some questions:
A long time ago in a galaxy far far away we had opening Sunday in September 2019. I presented a list of questions which I thought significant for anyone who embraces Ethical Culture. I’m listing them below. I wonder how many answers changed since covid 19 became part of our existence?

1. What do you value most in life?
2. Do you live your life consistent with those values and principles?
3. If your children could know you fully, would they be pleased with what they found?
4. What have you done today that adds to the common good?
5. Would the world be a better place if others acted as you do?
6. What place do people play in your life, what place objects and things?
7. How important is success and what success is important?
8. When people let you down how do you respond to that disappointment?
9. Are you dependable reliable and responsible?
10. Do you put your hands where your heart is?

Quote:
“What do we live for if not to make life less difficult for one another.”

George Eliot (Maryann Evans)

I’m sure many of you have seen this.
Thanks to Arthur Dobrin.

Sunday Presentations
https://zoom.us/j/980426852

May 3: Massimo Pigliucci, Stoic exercises to thrive in a world out of your control.

It has suddenly become painfully clear that we control much less about the world than we think or would like. This notion of limited control also happens to be at the very center of the ancient Greco-Roman philosophy of Stoicism. The Stoics developed an ethics and a practice around it, both of which are very much relevant to the 21st century.

This talk will also be streamed to NY Ethical Culture in Manhattan

Prof. Pigliucci has a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut and a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Tennessee. He currently is the K.D. Irani Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York. His research interests include the philosophy of science, the relationship between science and philosophy, the nature of pseudoscience, and the practical philosophy of Stoicism.
May 10: Bart Worden, Living Positively: How Ethical Humanism helps navigate troubled waters.
Bart Worden is the Executive Director for the American Ethical Union and the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester. Bart also works with The Ethical Community Charter Schools (TECCS) with a study group to support the schools’ ethical education programs. Bart’s recent social justice efforts have focused on addressing bias and discrimination in communities in Westchester County, and he is a member of several civil rights organizations. He previously served on the boards of The Humanist Institute (now the American Humanist Association Center for Education) and the Institute for Humanist Studies.

May 17: Martha Maffei, Starting Over, I didn’t have an American Dream.
Martha Maffei is an immigrant from Peru that came to the United States 15 years ago. She came with the idea to just stay for one year but destiny changed it all. Martha will share her story, her struggles, challenges and resistance to social, economic and political injustice. “An immigrant person has to work double to succeed in a foreign country. Many of us need to start from zero and leave behind not only our family, but all that we have built over the years. We abandon everything that we have and everything that we know”.
Martha built her new family in this country and a family that not only is composed of a husband and son, but her extended family, the family and sisterhood that she found in SEPA Mujer, the organization that she has run for over 10 years. She found healing by advocating for immigrants and empowering immigrant women to advocate for themselves, their families
May 24: Calvin Dame, *Hope in the time of Cholera.*
I chose this title last fall when I thought that in an era of misrule it would benefit us all to consider the possibility and the practice of hope. The facts on the ground, as they say, have changed, but the questions of hope have only deepened.

Following my four years as Religious Director with EHSLI, I retired to Brattleboro, Vermont. I preach at UU congregations from time to time, do some volunteer work. I met Mary Diane Baker; marriage ensued. We have spent considerable time rehabbing our two-family home, and, until recently, welcomed Airbnb guests. My son Jan, his wife Ari and two grandkids live downstairs. Also, I am building a boat.

May 31: Robert Zimmerman, *Beyond Identifying as Democrat or Republican.*
The challenges America faces are bigger than identifying as a Democrat or a Republican. It’s about facts, not partisanship.
Robert P. Zimmerman is the Founder and Partner of ZE Creative Communications, a marketing, public relations and advertising firm. A resident of Long Island, New York since childhood, Robert Zimmerman has compiled an extensive background in government and community service. Robert was nominated by President Obama to serve as a member of the National Council on the Humanities. He was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the New York State SAGE Commission, charged with the most extensive restructuring of state government since the 1920’s. In 1995, Robert was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Presidential Commission on the Arts.
Zimmerman has also been an advocate on network television over the years and appears regularly on CNN, Fox News Channel, Fox Business News and MSNBC discussing a wide range of international and national issues, including LGBT equality. In 2013, Robert was the recipient of the lifetime achievement award by the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island. He was also honored by the LGBT Network of Long Island and Queens in May of 2017 and the Long Island Progressive Coalition in 2019 as a “Long Islander Who Has Made a Difference.”
Leader’s Message

One of the mysteries in life that always confounded me was that mistakes happen. That people screw up. That there are misjudgments and oversights and that even the best-laid plans go awry. The question is whether lessons can be learned and if wisdom can ever, really, be won.

The human race emerged in nature with one truly revolutionary attribute that was only hinted at in the highest forms of life that preceded it. Humans have the capacity to share knowledge and experience. Not only can people share information across a team, but across generations. People can pass their hard-earned wisdom and experience as cultural tropes and skills. But what is even more extraordinary, about 8,000 years ago, people created systems of writing which enabled them to preserve their knowledge in a form accessible to others who don’t even know them or live in their same space and time.

So, why do people keep forgetting lessons of the past and continue making mistakes when the answers are all written down? We should have logged and catalogued every remedy, every process and procedure, every precaution and every cure. Of course, as science progressed we replaced old pages with new pages and kept the book of knowledge up-to-date, as it were. It’s all there.

A big government like that of the USA, with lots of money and a rich heritage of advanced science and research, should have every reasonably expectable eventuality pretty well figured out and planned for. Not that every possible happenstance can be anticipated, naturally, but we can reasonably expect to see an expanding range of accidents and occurrences to confront our world.

So why do we seem to keep making such bush-league errors of judgment in responding to big challenges? Clearly, Covid19, Katrina and Sandy have been outsized challenges at the very edge of our experience, but they were not beyond the range of expectation.

Some people say that inefficiency and chaos are simply the natural traits and charms of a rough and tumble capitalistic free market democracy. America will never be the precisely greased gear system that an authoritarian centralized system is purported to be and, moreover, they always seem to fail under strain, too. Their structural corruption leaves them rotten at the core.

But what must we do to enable the smart and informed folks to be heard at the level of decision making? Because clearly, they were not being heard in January and February when the coronavirus stalked the world. And clearly, they are not being heard at the EPA where climate
policy needs to be made. Donald Trump ushered in an era of antagonism against knowledge and expertise and in favor of gut-based, fact-free, error prone, corruption friendly decision making.

Wikipedia defines anti-intellectualism as being epitomized by people who present themselves as champions of “common folk” – those who are populists vying against political and academic elitism; those who tend to see educated people as a status class that is detached from the concerns of ordinary people. Town/gown hostility is not new. But America’s habit of electing officials - - from presidents to school boards - with anti-science biases is causing real damage. Every child who must learn creationism in biology class sets our progress back a step. Every year we defer the change needed to slow global warming makes extreme weather unavoidable.

Can’t science be humanized, idealized and made heroic to the outer hustings of the electorate? Maybe we need less shaming and more science fashionistas. Maybe we need less Sam Harris and more Neil deGrasse Tyson. Less Kardashian and more Natalie Portman. **Hedy Lamarr**, where are you now?

---

**MAY 17 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

There will be a membership meeting on Sunday, May 17th after our regular Sunday Meeting. This meeting will be via Zoom. We will discuss:

1. The financial state of the society
2. Past, present and future projects
3. Approval of 3 board nominees:
   - Harry Ramani
   - Alicia Evans
   - Barbara Haber
WEEKLY ZOOM MEETINGS

SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

Join us every Sunday for our Sunday Presentations held via Zoom. Doors open at 10:30, meeting starts at 11:00.

https://zoom.us/j/980426852
Or phone in at: (929) 436-2866

The Zoom link will be the same every week. Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser.

TUESDAY “LIVING ROOM”

Date and time has changed! Every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. there will be an open “Living Room” on Zoom for chatting, sharing and just hanging out. Join us!

Drop in at any time between 7:00 and 9:00 to see who among the EHSLI community is around and leave when you want. There is no program, just an opportunity for folks to visit, chat, listen, share the latest or find out how others are faring. The link will always be the following – click or copy and paste it on your web browser:

https://zoom.us/j/180167274
or phone in at (929) 436-2866

THURSDAY DIGITAL DISCUSSIONS

On Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. we will hold a digital discussion group with Leader Richard Koral on Zoom. It will have a topic, but it will be wide ranging and people will have an opportunity to share. The topics will be announced in the weekly email, but the link to join will always be the same:

https://zoom.us/j/377400022
or phone in at (929) 436-2866
FRIDAY COLLOQUY UNPAUSED

Colloquy meetings have resumed at a new time and date. The meetings will be run by Arthur Dobrin every Friday morning at 10:00 am.

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. It is a structured meeting, including reflection and self-expression in a nonjudgmental, confidential atmosphere."

1. There will be a maximum of 15 people per meeting.
2. Newcomers will need to register in advance, first come first served.
   If this is your first time attending please register by emailing jimlopr@gmail.com
   Put COLLOQUY in the subject.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Judy Rosemarin’s weekly Stress Management workshop continues on Wednesdays at 4 pm. Doors open at 3:30, Meeting starts at 4:00. These one-hour workshops will offer you tips and techniques for effective stress management. Judy will conclude each hour with a 20 minute guided meditation.

If you would like to join, please RSVP to judyrosemarin@gmail.com, type "Stress Workshop" in the subject line and let her know you will be participating.

ARTHUR DOBRIN’S READING DISCUSSION

Leader Emeritus Arthur Dobrin’s discussions, will continue on Zoom. He will send you a pdf. of a short story from his book "The Harder Right" (used in his classes and in adult discussion groups already). He will then send you instructions on how to join the Zoom group.

If you are interested, please email him at: arthurdobrin@gmail.com
STAYING CONNECTED

MAY 6 - Game Night!

AN ETHICAL SOCIETY SOCIAL EVENT VIA ZOOM
Come one, Come all

Let's play Scattergories Categories! This simple word game is fun and competitive in a nice way. All you need is paper, pencil and a brain that can still think.

Host: Lyn Dobrin
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Sign up no later than Tuesday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m. by sending an email to the office - office@ehsli.org - and you will receive instructions and a zoom invitation.

MAY 7 - Topical Discussions

Ethical Issues in Our Times

This month’s public discussion hosted by David Sprintzen will take place on Thursday, May 7th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom. It is recommended that people sign up in advance by emailing the EHS office at office@ehsli.org or call 516-741-7304.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/896985586
Meeting ID: 896 985 586
Or phone in at: 1 929 436 2866

MAY 14 & 28 - Men’s Group on Zoom

The Men’s Group will be held on Thursday, May 14 and May 28 at 6:30pm. RSVP to Jim LoPresti for the connection link.
WEEKLY EMAIL NOTICES

Please read our weekly email notices to get the most up-to-date information of Zoom meetings. If you are not on our email list or need to receive phone calls, please call 516-741-7304.

New type of social distancing at Ethical Humanist Society

By Gary Simeone

In this new age of social distancing, many people are looking to connect with one another while abiding by the new six feet of space rule. The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island has developed a new program to allow people to experience the joys of group gatherings in a virtual setting. Dr. Richard Koral, the leader of the EHSLI, came up with the idea of the Open Living Room program, to help recreate social gatherings amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

“It is part of the Zoom platform discussion group, and we were able to transition smoothly to the online forum thanks to extra help from our members,” said Dr. Koral. He said that he was trying to use new tools to recreate the community spirit, which is such a big part of the Ethical Humanist Society family.

“Getting together and supporting each other

Ethical Humanist Society celebrates International Women’s Day

By Gary Simeone

Leader Richard Koral with Karen Chaves, cake donated by Sweet Addiction Bakery in Plainview

Read the article...  Read the article...
LINDA NAPOLI offers a poem for MOTHER’S DAY on May 10:

“TO HOLD” (excerpt)

Before I left for camp, my mother sewed my name
with a firm stitch into everything I owned.
She even looped a string of name tapes
through the scissors I keep to this day on my desk.

She wanted to be sure, when she sent me into the woods,
She’d get the right child back at summer’s end,
That I’d not be left in the laundry drum
Like an unmarked sock.

That’s why she sewed my name so tight
On all four sides, double-knotted the knots.
So I wouldn’t forget when she sent me off
into the wet, the dark, the wild: I was hers.

by Jean Nordhaus

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME! And to everyone else born in MAY!
If you would like to have your birthday acknowledged in future newsletters, please contact the office. Month and Day is all we need!

If you would like to share how you want to or will be celebrating, we would love to hear about your special day!

LINDA JOE

Calvin Dame, our former Religious Director:
With my son’s circus family living downstairs, our backyard has a tight wire rig, so I decided I’m not too old to pick up a new skill. It is three steps and out for me, but it is fun and nothing I’d ever imagined I’d try.
David Sprintzen recommends a wonderful series entitled "The Good Place" available to binge-watch on Netflix. It’s about philosophy, done in an interesting and memorable way. Funny, irreverent and clever, it seems to be a show that would be of interest to most of us. It’s worth watching from the beginning; there are numerous twists and turns and cliff hangers.

Lyn Dobrin also loves this series and suggests:
And, if you are already hooked on "The Good Place," there is an interesting article on the website PHILOSOPHYTALK.ORG that will help you to gain some insight into the creation of this series: https://www.philosophytalk.org/blog/moral-philosophy-and-good-place/ (BEWARE OF SPOILERS).
It is not necessary to read about it to understand what is going on but it provides information about the theories that have gone into the writing.

Richard Koral recommends for your viewing:
This is a really nice short film from Austin, Texas about solidarity in these times.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyiAm6xqoss&feature=youtu.be
Join in our coronavirus series: Finding Joy: Pictures from Home. (posted on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/LIEthical/) Is there something in or around your home that makes you happy? We want to post a photo of that object (not people or pets) and encourage you to tell us something about it. Send a message to the office -office@ehsli.org -and we'll send you instructions on what to do.

Finding Joy: Pictures from Home #11
photo and story from Larry Bluth

I would love to have the engineer’s job. The countryside is really beautiful and it gets me "out" for a while. Change of scenery is always good. 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqEUmyX0hjU&feature=youtu.be

Finding Joy: Pictures from Home #28
photos and story from Pat Spencer

Cherry blossoms remind me that Spring is special and will reoccur every year no matter what, I can depend on reliving the joy that the blossoms bring me.
Finding Joy: Pictures from Home #8  
photo and story from Rosa Amatulli

Here is what I've been doing to lift my spirit these past weeks. I made a number of focaccias (a type of homemade economic pizza) for my nephews. I wanted to take a break from the daily heart-breaking news of the thousands of people dying in my native country, Italy, and in the country I chose to live in, the USA, because of Covid-19. I wanted to do something to distract myself from thinking about getting sick and dying. I decided to do something that was nourishing, tasteful, and pleasing to look at for my nephews so they could suspend for one day, their fear of getting Covid-19, and think about some of the joys of life: food. More specifically, good looking food, so that they could laugh a bit and fill their faces with a smile and their mouths with flowery and tasteful focaccia. By the way, Blue Moon beer goes very well with focaccia; forget about Corona (just joking).

I learned to make focaccia from scratch (flour, warm water, yeast, salt and olive oil) very young; my mother and grandmothers taught me. When I was a child focaccia was a special Sunday treat; not everyone could afford to eat it every day as olive oil, one of the main ingredients, was then, and still is now, very expensive. So eating focaccia was always a festive occasion. Still today, when we get together for special occasions, focaccia is always there: focaccia with rosemary, or with sage leaves, or with tomatoes, oregano and olives, or with sautéed onion and abundant largely grated cheese. This time I decided to season my focaccias with red and yellow tomatoes, long green scallions, and black olives; all arranged in the shape of flowers. On Palm Sunday I made one with everything in the shape of a Palm, because in Christianity it symbolizes Peace. Once I arrange everything, I sprinkle some salt, and of course a generous amount of olive oil all over them.
MILESTONES

NOTES FROM PROUD MOM, ELKE BLUTH: Carolyn wanted to write stories since she was six years old. She actually wrote a play in high school, but the teacher lost it! (Amityville School system is ranked one of the worst in the state). Nonetheless she graduated top of the class and won a full scholarship to Sarah Lawrence College. There her Don was Grace Paley, then the Poet Laureate of NY State who became a second mother to Carolyn. With Grace’s help Carolyn published her first story while still a freshman. She now is tenured professor at SLC, has published many short stories, many are taught at universities. This novel is actually her second, over the first one she did not agree with the editor and put the book aside. She is currently writing her third novel.

PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY: Holt Gets ‘Metropolitan’ with Ferrell

Holt’s Retha Powers preempted North American rights, for mid-six figures, to the debut novel Dear Miss Metropolitan. Author Carolyn Ferrell based the book on the kidnapping of three young women by Ariel Castro in Cleveland in the early 2000s, though the novel is set in Queens, N.Y. Lisa Bankoff at Bankoff Collaborative, who represented Ferrell, said the novel spins on a mystery, namely “the disappearance of one of these girls after they’re liberated.” She added that it also “examines the intersections of grief and rage, race and sexuality, personal and communal strength, crime and punishment, and healing.”


DAVID SPRINTZEN SHARES:

My article on “Sartre and Camus: a much misunderstood relation” was recently published in "Brill’s Companion to Camus: Camus among the philosophers". In it I present an original interpretation of their relationship which, among other things, challenges the official interpretation of Sartre’s left-wing credentials.

Since the book is priced in excess of $100, I would be glad to freely share the article with any who might be interested. Simply contact me at dsprintz@me.com.
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