President’s Message

Musings about November

We have a membership meeting on November 8th after our Sunday service. I will talk about all we’ve accomplished in 2020 before and during Covid-19…many important results thanks to our hard working board. A report on our financial status will also be discussed and how we move forward from here.

I think about Thanksgiving and how Covid-19 will affect that holiday. Families grieving, families unable to be together physically. Families where people have lost their jobs. How do they manage? How do they pay their bills? Just in my wife’s business, the theater, you have actors, directors, stage hands, set designers, carpenters, electricians all out of work.

I voted early on October 24. I got on a long line. Everyone was respectful of boundaries...keeping a safe distance, wearing a mask. There was pleasant conversation. People seemed to be in good spirits. I usually find long lines irritating but not that day. I just enjoyed being physically present with people who were being nice to each other.

I am thankful for the abundance in my life: My health, my family, my friends, the love I have in my life, no worries about money.

I’m just one person. What can I do to make things better for others? When I was a high school math teacher I realized that most people wouldn’t see the relevance of what I taught in their lives. When was the last time you had to factor a trinomial? I decided that the most important thing I could do was to help kids have a nice day. This did not preclude making demands on
them. It was a perspective I kept throughout my teaching career. I like to think it’s in other parts of my life as well. This is how I see Ethical Friends of Children. It’s a small gesture that takes some of the edge off of difficult times that families may be experiencing.

I think about this election and who will be hurting when their candidate loses. How do we help them heal? How do we help them have a nice day? During our last snowstorm, a neighbor whose politics is radically different from mine, shoveled my walk without my asking. I am perfectly capable of shoveling my own walk but the gesture touched my heart. At that moment our differences didn’t matter.

I hope in some way we can all touch each others heart. Happy Thanksgiving.

For this month, I borrowed quotes that are used by Arthur Dobrin at the end of his emails and the biblical quote from Ross Outten’s Sunday talk.

What do we live for if not to make life less difficult for one another?
George Eliot (Maryann Evans)

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the needs of afflicted souls, then your light will rise in darkness, and your night will be like noonday.
Isaiah 58:10

Thank you to members who have sent in donations in honor of RBG, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Linda Napoli.....Al Zeiger.....Lois Walker.....Harry Ramani
Muriel Schwartzman.....Martin Kornbluh.....Ginger Balizer-Hendler

The donations total is $375 so far.
Sunday Presentations
https://zoom.us/j/980426852

Nov. 1: FALL FESTIVAL Autumn Assets and Aspirations.
Wear a favorite autumn sweater or scarf and come with a favorite fall item to decorate your zoom "window" as we reflect on the opportunities autumn gives us to be mindful and thankful for the abundance of our assets, as well as aspiring to reach out to those around us to "elicit the best in them, thereby eliciting the best in ourselves."

Immediately following the Sunday meeting we will have a Newcomer’s Welcome. We invite all the new friends who have been joining in our weekly platforms and society events to stay on to learn more about us.

Nov. 8: Richard Koral, A Post-Election Discussion.
Come what may! The Trump Administration is Over.

Our Fall Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8th at 12:00 pm (immediately following the platform) on Zoom. This important meeting is for all members, please plan on attending.
Nov. 15: Alex Vitale, Understanding “Defunding the Police.”
You’ve likely heard the calls for defunding the police, during this summer’s demonstrations against police killings. You may agree and wonder how we could get there, or you may think that defunding goes too far, or you may just wonder what it means. Whatever your reaction, here’s a chance to find out more.

Alex S. Vitale will be our guest speaker on this morning. Professor Vitale, who teaches in the Department of Sociology at Brooklyn College and has researched and written about the future of policing for 30 years, will explain the “defund the police” movement and its relationship to the long struggle for racial and economic justice.

Nov. 22: Lane Filler, TBD.
Lane Filler joined the Newsday editorial board in 2010, and often covers state government, Nassau County, education, national politics, and whatever odd and quirky stuff he can get away with. The board mostly keeps him around because he is fluent in math. He previously covered the war in Iraq as an embedded reporter, has worked as a sports columnist, investigative reporter and feature writer. Filler received the Reason Foundation’s Bastiat Award in 2013.

Nov. 29: Ginger Balizer Hendler, Ramblings of an Elderly White Jewish Suburban Woman with Comorbidity and her Search to Belong.
Ginger is a retired teacher who has always been interested in writing, theater, journalism, fashion and art. Her passion for theater, art and mixed media led her to create a tapestry-like dreamscape, named The Adventures of Gingerella. She later published a book based on the dreamscape and in 2018 produced a musical, The Adventures of Gingerella (a Fable, an Opera) with our music director Kelly Schmidt as Associate Musical Director and Co-Composer and featuring as cast members other friends from EHSLI, Alicia Evans and David Geddam.
Leader’s Message

The Trump Administration is Over

Hello to November, 2020 – the most anticipated month in years. This is the month when the nation will finally pass its collective judgment on the novel presidency of Donald Trump. Trump was to be the avatar of unconventional and norm-breaking leadership and no one can say that he didn’t deliver. What some people may disagree over, is whether anything good came out of it. They say that democracy gives the people the government they deserve. This month, we’ll see if this is really the government anyone wanted.

The left announced the failure of this experiment on its first full day, January 21, 2017 when the Women’s March against Trump proved to be the largest demonstration in history. That was an early call. Since then, that verdict has proven pretty reliable as the Trump administration’s shortcomings piled up. There is no need to inventory all the lies, failures, crimes and blunders of this administration, although the litany can run for pages.

I shall be the first to declare here and now that the Trump administration is over. It is over. In fact, it couldn’t possibly last more than one term. The only question was whether the nation could last the one term. And now, that it is over and as recovery is on the near horizon, let us take stock of what needs to be done to right the ship of state, to mop up, and to reassemble the broken pieces. Something will be needed to recover from the outright disarray of our federal government and some of it will have to do with policy reversions to restore the progress that was interrupted. There is a lot of work to be done.

The right made a lot of headway during the last four years and they will have a fair amount of capital to stand on for the next several years. They can boast almost 300 new federal judges who were drawn from the ideological right, far right, and way far right. That will be a lasting legacy. All federal agencies worked overtime to untie the constraints of regulations in order to unleash corporate activity and enable them to rake in extraordinary profit. For example, the Republican-dominated National Labor Relations Board granted the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the leading conservative business lobby, all 10 wishes on its stated wish list for anti-union rules changes. Public lands were let out for mining and logging and natural preserves were shrunk. Dangerous chemicals once regulated have been let loose on the land. Political operatives replaced scientists and technocrats. Taxes on the wealthiest people and corporations were drastically lowered relieving them of much responsibility for building and maintaining America. Refugees were left out waiting for safe harbor. Relations with allies were shredded and treaties with others
thrown out or abandoned. That harsh legacy will have to be the subject of a major project of reconstruction and renovation.

That litany of artificial disasters was accompanied by a major set of natural disasters that scarred the land over the last three years - Hurricanes Maria and Harvey, the Camp and August Complex fires, the hottest temperatures on record, the continued drying out of the Western states, the deaths of 225,000 fellow Americans to Covid 19 - tragedies borne of, or exaggerated by, the relentless climate change that keeps rolling on to inevitability without a policy to contain it.

America will need a reconstruction policy to rival a post-war recovery. Now that the Trump administration is over and, what’s more, the Senate will shortly be out of the hands of Mitch McConnell who blocked all progressive legislation during his term as majority leader, the redevelopment of a just, equitable, healthful and sustainable America can now recommence. The world has been waiting and we’ve been holding our breath. Let’s go!

Dr. Richard Koral
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 MEDITATION GROUP AT 11 AM

Join member Judy Rosemarin every Tuesday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm for a weekly meditation on Zoom. Learn different ways to meditate and enjoy doing it with others.

All are welcome to join.

We will meet every Tuesday starting October 27th at 11:00 am. If you would like to join us, please register by calling the office at: 516-741-7304, or email office@ehsli.org and we will send you the Zoom link.

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 10 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."

If this is your first time attending please register by emailing jimlopr@gmail.com or calling Arthur Dobrin at 516-997-8545.

(See Al Zeiger’s article describing the Colloquy in the Members section of the 2020 October newsletter.)

MONTHLY MEETING

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES - NOV. 5

Join Dr. David Sprintzen for our monthly series of public discussions on "Ethical Issues in Our Times" via Zoom. (First Thursday of each month)

Topic: “After The Voting, Now What?!?”
Election Day has finally come and gone, but the profound distrust and divisions that are rending US society continue unabated. What sense do we make of what has happened, is happening, and will happen? Let us explore these issues together.

When: Thursday, November 5, 2020, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Let us know if you will attend.
To register, call the EHS office: 516-741-7304 or email: office@ehsli.org
To join Zoom Meeting click on the link or cut and paste to your web browser:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/896985586

Sign up for the weekly email notices to be informed of all of our activities and Zoom links. Email the office office@ehsli.org or call 516-741-7304.
I just started working for the Ethical Humanist Society and would love to share the following poem.

Love in the Time of Coronavirus
by Sonia Arora:

Bare branches stretch out against sky, tipping the moon
like a teacup, spilling fevers into dreams.

The waters of Venice are green, the skies over China, turquoise
Till we are released from quarantine.

Pietro, one night, sees cities without his kind.
Palazzos with only pigeons.

Ming dreams of Hong Kong, neon for nobody, decked
With empty edifices, once serving dim sum.

Zenia strolls alone, hips pendulum through a bazaar in Lahore,
no men holding her back from swaying her long braid with tassel to and fro.

Inside, here, the gnawing is gone, the yearn,
instead I have the heft of your arm upon my hip
the heat of your breath,
salt of your side, the hollow in your neck.
Pomegranates, sour and sweet
Satisfy.

Guilty as the guillotine, we stand.

Sonia Arora is the new Social Action Coordinator and is a published poet. She would love for you to stop feeling, "guilty as the guillotine" and fill out the following survey to gauge your interests so you can get involved in making changes toward creating a more just and humane world.

On the next page is a print copy of the survey that was emailed to members on October 14. Please complete it ASAP and send it to the office if you haven’t already done so. THANKS!!

Or use the online link here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAAG8dIlQQuYZ4Br8TKzcru0bDYg6GtI9GKn5RA7EW6rg6w/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7757
Ethical Humanist Society: Survey

What kinds of activism/change work have been involved in? *

Your answer

How would you like to change the world? Your local community? *

Your answer

What skills can you offer in making these changes? *

Your answer

Which of the following areas would you be interested in pursuing? Please check the project you are MOST interested in dedicating time and energy. In the following two questions, please check your second and third preference. *

- [ ] online tutoring
- [ ] police reform
- [ ] climate change
- [ ] New Hour for Women and Children
- [ ] Other:

Please check the box that is your SECOND preference.

- [ ] online tutoring
- [ ] police reform
- [ ] climate change
- [ ] New Hour for Women and Children
- [ ] NYS campaign to address income inequality
- [ ] Other

Please check your THIRD preference.

- [ ] online tutoring
- [ ] police reform
- [ ] climate change
- [ ] New Hour for Women and Children
- [ ] NYS campaign to address income inequality
- [ ] Other:

Is there anything else you’d like to share about community work/activism you’d like to participate in? Skills you’d like to develop? *

Your answer

Submit
Announcements:

The American Ethical Union’s Ethical Action Committee invites you to join special nationwide event Sun. 11/1, 7:30pm ET:

Protecting Our Democracy and the 2020 Presidential Election

Zoom event
Sunday, November 1, 7:30-9:30pm ET

What will Ethical Societies, as communities committed to democracy, do if the president refuses to honor the results of the election? How might we make our voices heard?

Ethical Culture Leader, James Croft, and the Ethical Society of St. Louis will be hosts. This meeting will include presentations on concerns about the 2020 Presidential Election and ways to become civically engaged. Join this event to learn how democracy is central to Ethical Humanism, and how you can act to protect our democracy should the worst occur.
ANOTHER EHS SOCIAL EVENT: NOV. 13

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DOO-WOP MUSIC: THE GREAT VOCAL GROUPS OF THE 1950’s: A Zoom Presentation By Mel Haber

Date and time: Friday, November 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
To register: Send me an email at melhaber@verizon.net to let me know that you’re coming, and I’ll send you the zoom link.

The Great Vocal Groups Of The 1950’s

Back in the mid-1950s when I was a teenager, I began hearing a new kind of music on the radio that excited me. It was to be called "doo-wop" music. I still maintain a great delight for the music of the many black vocal groups that recorded it. Perhaps you do, too.

Come to this zoom presentation and learn about the history of doo-wop. We’ll begin by seeing videos of music of the 1930s and 40s that preceded it, and then listen to such early examples as "Earth Angel" by The Penguins, and "Sincerely" by The Moonglows. Further examples will include, "Get a Job" by The Silhouettes and "A Teenager in Love" by Dion and the Belmonts. Moreover, we'll hear such classic songs as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love," from Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, "A Thousand Miles Away" by The Heartbeats, and "Only You" by The Platters. I know you’ll have fun enjoying great music and wonderful memories.

SAVE THE DATE: DEC. 8

Save the date for our next book discussion planned for Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm. We will be reading Have You Seen Luis Velez? Join us for a lively discussion! Email Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com to get the Zoom Link.

New York Times bestselling author Catherine Ryan Hyde brings heartwarming authenticity to the story of two strangers who find that kindness is a powerful antidote to fear. “Sixteen-year-old Raymond doesn’t have any friends, so no one really understands what a kind young man he is. At least, not until his neighbor Millie Gutermann asks him a very strange question: Do you know Luis Velez?”
Delorie Cohan and Barbara Haber are planning to re-launch the monthly Women’s Group Meeting. This will be for MEMBERS ONLY. We would like to know from all who are interested (we hope everyone!) what weekday evening is best (we used to meet on Friday evening.) We’ll pick the day that is most favored to have the meeting. We plan to meet from 7:30pm to 9pm.

Please email Barbara Haber (haberbarbara@verizon.net) your best weekday evening for this meeting as soon as you're able. We are actually hoping to start in November, if we can, December for sure. We are so excited to start because these ongoing meetings were terrific to attend and we hope we can pick it right up again!! We will use topics like the ones we use at the Retreat to stimulate sharing and listening to each other with empathy.

**100% CAMPAIGN**

**INVEST IN OUR FUTURE**

**The 100% Campaign!**

All of us have struggled in our own way during this global pandemic. No one individual or organization is immune from its impact and our Society is no different.

Our limited precious resources have been well managed by our Board of Trustees. We have reached a point however where we need to launch a special fundraising appeal to sustain our community and its commitment to our common goals.

The Fundraising Committee of dedicated members, Lorraine Agostino, Judy Rosemarin, Susan Feifer, Alice Sprintzen and Harry Ramani, will be unveiling their exciting plan and reaching out to you within the next few weeks. OUR goal is to achieve 100% participation of membership, or in other words, **The 100% Campaign!**

Our community can be sustained and strengthened by your contribution to our 100% Campaign!

Be on the lookout for a letter in the mail with details of the campaign and the various choices for how you can contribute.

Remember: Although we are currently still isolated, **We are in this together!**
Hi! My name is Saanvi and I am an executive board member of the YES group. Our current project is a children’s gently used book drive for Book Fairies. There will be a box at the front door at 573 North 2nd St., New Hyde Park, NY. Drop off the books every weekend in November up until Thanksgiving from 9 am - 6 pm. If there are any further questions, members can contact Gauri at (516) 474-4525. Thank you!

Sincerely, Saanvi Mirchandani
Memories of Women's Retreats

Memories of Women's retreats past; walking in the grounds of the monastery on Sunday, 10/25/2020.
IN MEMORIUM:

Carol A. Smith Pincus
July 5, 1930- September 6, 2020

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday October 18th at 2:00 pm online to honor the memory of long-time member Carol Pincus, who died in September from a stroke. Her many longtime friends and family members remembered her indomitable spirit and her strong commitment to health care reform. She will be missed.
Shared by Linda Joe - Covid Humor:

1. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

2. I never thought the comment, “I wouldn’t touch him/her with a 6-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!


4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.

6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

7. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & asking for money.

8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!

9. Appropriate analogy. “The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now” is like saying “The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now.”

10. The spread of COVID-19 is based on 2 things:
   • How dense the population is.
   • How dense the population is.

Suggested viewing from Alice Sprintzen:

I found this helpful with dealing with recent life.

Watch "7 Things To Do In Your Evenings (Stoicism Evening Routine)" on YouTube https://youtu.be/AFr4z1kvGBw
EFOC is still operating but not live. We have been filling orders and the customers come after hours and pick them up from a storage box outside the society front door, so that we do not come in contact. EFOC work load and organizing of our supplies is still more than Jim and Pat can do without some extra help.

Can you help us for a few weeks on a Wednesday morning? Please email Pat Spencer or call 516-603-1940.

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Garden City Rental Space Available

Do you need meeting rooms to accommodate up to 50 people for religious services, seminars, trainings or offsite events?

Non-profit organizations like ours often have a need to find affordable space to rent. The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island has great office space available for your long term leasing. Available are a conference room for meetings up to 50 people and a smaller room for up to 8-12 people in addition a large auditorium is available for occasional use. In addition we have ample free parking and we are a short walk from Winthrop University Hospital, the Nassau County Seat and the Mineola train station.

The rental spaces can be seen on our web site: https://www.ehsli.org/ceremonies-building-rentals/building-rental/

For further information about renting affordable space please call: 516 741-7304 or email ethicalsociety@optonline.net

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By contributing to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island you are helping to maintain its mission and purposes and the many programs and services it offers to its member and the public.

Click here to DONATE
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.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

Create a Caring World