President’s Message


For the first time since covid-19 began, I’ve begun to wonder whether this way of life could become permanent. On four occasions since the beginning of covid-19, I’ve had in person visits with friends and family. During and after each of these visits I felt renewed. The anger, depression, and negative feelings that gathered seemed to dissipate within minutes...meetings I always enjoyed but assumed were a given.

Of necessity, I recognize and try to set aside my need for physical contact with family and friends. When I see them in the flesh I have a deeper appreciation for the connection. My son called me today and asked me to retell one of his favorite stories to my grandson. The story wasn’t important but the gesture touched my heart...appreciating the “little” things.

I understand that the world is bigger than me, yet I’ve occupied myself with me centered things...woodworking, reading, relearning my cooking skills, writing this column. Writing almost always starts out as a chore and then a shift happens. I find my center...my voice...how to use my voice.
I’m watching politics on TV and I realize that covid-19 isn’t my only form of angst...politicians who lie whenever their lips move....politicians who incite violence and racism...politicians who believe fairness, honesty and compromise are dirty words. It’s bad enough that our president is a sociopath. What’s worse is that politicians who know better are turning a blind eye.

I will fight the only way I know how...the vote. Lorraine Agostino gave me another way...to send postcards to the disenfranchised voter. Phone banking will begin soon. Lorraine will tell us about that as well.

Sixty years ago, if my father wanted to insult someone he would call them a politician. I think today he would find that word too harsh. Too bad. I believe politics if done right is a most noble profession. We have a lot of work to do.

Be well. Stay safe.

Jim

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**Quote:** "Worry is like a rocking chair: It gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere," __________________________ Erma Bombeck.

**Quote:** "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." __________________________ Marie Curie

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**Thank You Members**

The board wishes to thank the members of EHSLI for responding to President Jim Lopresti’s request for timely pledge payments. He also requested that the members consider increasing their pledges and donations in the light that our operating budget has been severely debilitated due to COVID and lack of rental income. Special thanks go out this month for the additional donations, above their pledges from Rosa Amatulli; Joan Beder, whose donation is to go towards the salary of our new Social Action Coordinator; and to Judy Rosemarin whose donation is to mark the anniversary of her brother Mark Filer Silberstein’s death 20 years ago, a loss that brought Judy to our bereavement support group and to membership at EHSLI. Thank you all for supporting EHSLI.

Pat Spencer
EHSLI Board Member

Judy’s talk explores how we can use the word "IF" to enhance or restrict our lives and how expanding our awareness of how we live each moment, can be viewed and reviewed with increased potential, understanding and gratitude.

Judy Rosemarin, MS, MSW, co-author of Becoming An Exceptional Executive Coach, has been a proud member of the Ethical Humanist Society for 20 years. She was the original CareerPlus weekly columnist for the New York Post where she wrote about effective career management. Judy was the first person to teach Executive Coaching in New York City, at NYU and has also taught at Baruch College. Currently a member of the faculty at Osher LifeLong Learning Ringling College Sarasota Florida, Judy teaches classes in Happiness and Effective Listening. She is also an actor, having her first role directed by the late Ken Schwartzman of the Ethical Humanist Society.


I will speak about the influence of my great grandmother, Elizabeth Carter Jones, who was born enslaved during the Civil War, helped raise my mother, and who was an activist with early black empowerment organizations - the National Association of Colored Women among them - that helped erect the scaffolding which allowed America’s black peasantry to climb into today’s middle class.

My 39-year career as a journalist began in 1981, when I began writing for the Baltimore Afro-American, an historic newspaper whose coverage was primarily focused on the impacts of white supremacy and efforts to overcome injustices endured by the Black community. I have since written for a number of newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun, where I covered City Hall, and The Orange County Register, where I primarily wrote about the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam, and about the rise of Pacific Rim economies.

I left Newsday in 2019 after a 23-year tenure during which I covered race and ethnicity on Long Island, Barack Obama’s 2008 primary campaign, and veterans issues flowing from war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I was the second of seven children born to a pair of New York City librarians who joined a community of mostly socially-active Jews who spent summers living together in rural Connecticut. I live in Forest Hills with an immigrant German wife and a bi-racial son, and typically spend several weeks each year in Europe.
Oct. 18: Mike Franch, Having Faith in Not Knowing.
Back when I was still a theist, I left a religious service when it struck me as impious to claim to know God's schedule. And wasn't it a little cheeky for anyone to claim to know what God wanted? In our own way, I find that my fellow humanists, agnostics, and atheists sometimes share this trait of claiming to know more than we can know. Whether there is a God or gods or not, I am convinced that neither you nor I are omniscient. Our challenge is to lead a committed life while affirming we don’t have and we don’t need all the answers.

Dr. Michael S. Franch is an Ethical Culture Leader and an active member of the National Leaders Council of the American Ethical Union. He served as Leader of the Baltimore Ethical Society from 1975-1984 and is currently affiliate minister at the First Unitarian Church, Baltimore. A historian by training, he has taught history at a number of colleges. Until his 2007 retirement, he worked in health policy at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Mike is also a storyteller, English country dancer, concertina player, and urban bicyclist.

Ross Outten is the Director of Development for The Friendship Center, a food pantry in Chicago. Previously, he spent two years abroad training in classical French cuisine and holds a culinary arts degree from Le Cordon Bleu - London. He has worked in the corporate world, though his more recent restaurant experience was with small, independent restaurants, including as a sole proprietor for five years of a European cafe near his home on Chicago's north side.

Ross, who is a graduate of our Sunday School will talk about the ethics of his profession as a chef and now as a fundraiser for a food pantry seeking funds to keep the place running and occasionally cooking for the guests. He is devoted to making sure that people who need food have something good to eat.

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."
Leader’s Message

It feels as though we are being drawn up into a whirlwind as we barrel towards an election that is so consequential for our country and for the planet. National elections have always been played as hardball, and this one is surely getting rough - the trick of calling the election illegitimate in advance is a new one on me. But the ramming through of a replacement for the late, great Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginzburg is even more of a headache.

Donald Trump made it a campaign pledge to appoint justices who can be counted on to reverse Roe v. Wade in fact or in effect, and the Republicans have never ceased their efforts to terminate the Affordable Care Act. With this nomination of a new justice for SCOTUS, we are promised a two-fer.

Now, I have a deep disappointment in the way both sides treat the Supreme Court as a super legislature and try to appoint, not judges who are to interpret and enforce the law, but representatives of their point of view to sit and to legislate.

But I have another problem with the current nominee, and that is philosophical. As Humanists, we’ve observed that the rules and procedures, morals and values that we share in society, have emerged out of our collective experience. We’ve learned how to survive, to live together, to cooperate and compete. We have customs that have been accepted by a broad consensus to help stitch together an orderly community. As circumstances change, we know we have it in our power to negotiate together and to allow our thinking, our practices, and our consensus to be debated and to evolve as well.

We appeal for justice from judges who are people, like us. They are people who live in our communities and have experience in life as we do. They are people who can understand us, for the most part, and with whom we can plead and negotiate. In general, we do not ask for supernatural powers to intervene and solve our problems. For one reason, we don’t know who is really speaking when an answer should come. We say that these questions of morality and ethics must be answered out of our own wisdom. It is for us to work them out.

As I understand it, based upon the accounts that I’ve heard, the nominee for the Supreme Court seat, Amy Coney Barrett, is a person who credits a great deal of her values, morals and attitudes to the guidance of her religion. And her religion does rely a great deal on divine guidance. Now, I have no problem at all, and I concede that I have no right to object, with any person who follows the dictates of their religious beliefs, no matter how different from my own they may be. My misgivings arise, though, when she is placed in the highest court in the land where law is being made - law that others will have to follow and she brings that reliance on divine guidance with her.
These represent fundamentally different world views. If the nominee finds her guidance in supernatural sources, these dictates of morals, duties, obligations and values are coming from an unquestionable source. How can they be argued with? If the values are fundamental, unchanging, immutable and inviolable, then they are beyond discussion. Where is there room for a Humanist or secular perspective? Can there be compromise? Is the true believer capable of changing her mind? How does one compromise and come to an agreement without offending or disobeying the supreme being? This is especially troublesome if it is dogma to propagate these values and bring them to the public sphere.

Here in New York, the multicultural city where we all come from somewhere and we always deal with folks who come from somewhere else, we are used to living side by side with people different from ourselves. Tolerance becomes second nature when we’re used to living together.

But there are some people who are more cloistered, more purist, more set and firm in their unique, and committed ways. As for Judge Barrett, she went to parochial school. She is a member of a small, charismatic religious communal movement called People of Praise, considered to be on the extreme edges of the Catholic faith. And, her personal experience has been cloistered. After law school she clerked for an appellate court judge (Antonin Scalia before SCOTUS) and then returned to academia to teach. She didn’t fight legal street battles for the ACLU like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She didn’t work as an assistant DA, or in private practice or as a trial judge like Sonia Sotomayor, who did all those things. She was not active in politics like Sandra Day O’Connor, who was in the Arizona state legislature for 6 years before becoming a judge. She was a celebrated teacher, but not at the pinnacle of her profession - not dean of the law school or a brief writer who was Solicitor General of the United States, like Elena Kagan. She really didn’t seem to do anything in her career to bring her into the rough and tumble or to the top. And we’re talking about the pinnacle job here.

She was appointed, apparently, because she has strong and fixed opinions, instilled in her by her religion, to do the things that a certain bloc of conservative voters and politicians want. She is a sure, reliable, predictable vote to change the law. I’m afraid she is a tool, not a judge. And the president wants to have her on the bench by November 10, when the Affordable Care Act case comes up for argument and before the presidential election gets thrown into the courts.

I don’t know what there is to be done to avoid this train wreck, because any Republican who votes against her appointment will be ex-communicated. But it is hoped that since this is to come to a head before the election, at least an airing of her extreme views before the public will have an impact on the decisions that the voters will make.

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.

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 this newsletter.)

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.
Social Action:

Sharon Stanley reports: On Wednesday, September 23, EHSLI hosted a zoom presentation by Dr. Sandra Steingraber on the topic: “When Science Can’t Speak: Acts of civil disobedience in the name of public health, from cholera to the climate crisis”.

Dr. Steingraber’s lecture was hugely inspiring and empowering to our group. Her description of the scientific concepts behind climate research were presented in an interesting and effective manner. We were energized by her example and we have redoubled our intention to pursue climate concerns. We had planned on hiring our own Social Action Coordinator and expect to use some of Dr. S’s suggestions to inspire us to lead or join actions here on Long Island.

Our ethical society has traditionally had a history of social action activities. Some of the events we have participated in the past include the Climate March in NYC, The Women’s March in NYC, shoreline cleanups along Jamaica Bay, and participation in hearings on Long Island to encourage the passage of the renewal energy bill in the state legislature. In addition, several members participated in upcoming actions regarding hearings in the Town of Brookhaven regarding a landfill that was supposed to be closed but which closure the town is now side stepping. Dr. Steingraber also made us aware of the Astoria power plant which is something we had not known about and will be interested in as some of our members reside in Queens, the borough...
where the plant is located. The project has not undergone adequate environmental and public health reviews and contradicts the state’s **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**, which requires New York to generate 70 percent of its electricity via renewable sources, like solar and wind power, by 2030.

This event helped us expand our outreach. More than half of the people in attendance were members of the surrounding Long Island community. Among the people who were not members of our society, one person had signed in from Ohio and it was a surprise reconnecting with former member and geologist Robert Alvey, who created the Garden City Bird Sanctuary and who continues to be very active with environmental movements and now lives in Florida.

We had an extensive Q&A after the talk. The amount on information she provided was extensive; from ways one could reduce use of fossil fuels in the home to local environmental actions and concerns. As a result, she provided attendees with concrete means of addressing environmental issues not only in their daily lives but in their communities and into the future. We will be sharing many of the resources suggested and listed below to everyone who joined our Zoom event.

Among the websites she suggested, we plan on checking out:

1. **Heat Smart NY**; a grassroots clean heating and cooling program where residents can learn about improved technologies for home or small business [https://www.heatsmartny.com/](https://www.heatsmartny.com/)

2. **Sane Energy Project**, which is committed to replacing fracked gas infrastructure with community-led, sustainable energy. [www.saneenergy.org](http://www.saneenergy.org)

3. **NRG**, a Philadelphia-based energy supply company, serving customers in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. They are part of NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company at the forefront of changing how people think about and use energy. NRG understands that families have different uses, wants, and needs for power. and allows customers to choose plans that fit their needs and gives them choices, without interruption in service. [https://www.nrghomepower.com/](https://www.nrghomepower.com/)

The board is happy to announce that our new Social Action Coordinator will start employment on 10/12/2020, her name is SONIA ARORA. Her experience as a community activist, writer, teacher, wife and mother makes her well qualified for this position plus she has many other attributes, too many to mention. I know that the members will embrace Sonia and make her quickly become part of this loving community we have.

Pat Spencer  
Member of the HR Committee and Board Member
Reclaim Our Vote Postcard Campaign

A BIG THANKS to our 13 EHS LI members and 6 YES teens who, along with more than 25 other friends and family members, hand wrote postcards to help Reclaim Our Vote ensure that disenfranchised voters in key states were empowered and educated with voting and registration information.

Thanks as well to Sharon Stanley for bringing this important action (co-sponsored by the AEU along with the NAACP and others in partnership with the Center for Common Ground) to our doorstep.

Four rounds of postcard writing over the months from June to September netted over 2,500 cards sent to North Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin and Texas. Our final round of cards are on their way as early voting begins in many states.

Although our postcard writing has ended, stay tuned for PHONE BANKING, a critical initiative as the election approaches. Contact Lorraine Zeller-Agostino if you are interested.
lorraine@agostinoarts.com
Why Phone Bank? Phone banking is one of the most effective tools we have to get out the vote at this time. Since we are unable to safely canvass door-to-door during this pandemic, phone banking is the next new cornerstone of our voter contact. This type of phone banking, sharing how and where to vote, is so well received by the recipient - not only do we see a significant increase in voter registrations and turn-out but we get so many people saying “thank you!” for our help. AND, it's a wonderful community effort where you can phone bank with friends!

VOTE EARLY IN NASSAU COUNTY
Early Voting Locations and Hours—2020 General Election

<table>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elmont</td>
<td>Public Library 700 Hempstead Tpke.</td>
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<td>Floral Park</td>
<td>Recreation Center 124 Stewart St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freeport</td>
<td>Freeport Recreation Center 130 E. Merrick Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden City</td>
<td>Rec. Complex St Paul's Field House 295 Stewart Ave.</td>
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<td>Hempstead</td>
<td>Brierley Park 65 Dartmouth St.</td>
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<td>Hicksville</td>
<td>Levittown Hall 201 Levittown Pkwy.</td>
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<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Lawrence Country Club 101 Causeway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massapequa</td>
<td>Town Hall South 977 Hicksville Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Merrick</td>
<td>Public Library 1691 Meadowbrook Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plainview</td>
<td>Mid-Island Y JCC 45 Manetto Hill Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roslyn Heights</td>
<td>Gayle Community Center 53 Orchard St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wantagh</td>
<td>St. Markella Greek Orthodox Church 1960 Jones Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Hempstead</td>
<td>West Hempstead Library 500 Hempstead Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westbury</td>
<td>Yes We Can Center-New Cassel 141 Garden St.</td>
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<td>Mineola</td>
<td>Nassau County Board of Elections 240 Old Country Rd.</td>
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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Oct 24</td>
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<td>Thurs, Oct 29</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 30</td>
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<td>Sat, Oct 31</td>
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<td>Sun, Nov 1</td>
<td>10am to 3pm</td>
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*General Election*
Tuesday November 3rd
6am to 9pm

Your Designated Polling Location
All BOE Hours Same As Above
EXCEPT Monday 10/26 and Wednesday 10/28 open until 8PM

Any eligible voter in Nassau County may vote at any of the above locations during the times listed EXCEPT on November 3rd.

On General Election Day, November 3rd, go to your designated polling place:
www.nassauvotes.org • Call 311 • VOTE first. Please note that if you vote during early voting, you will not be permitted to vote on the General Election Day or on a subsequent day of Early Voting.
Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

Is currently on hiatus.
See our Social media pages for recent programming.

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

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

Caption: Lorraine Agostino and YES teens Saanvi Mirchandani and Khushi Shah deliver school supplies to Community Solidarity’s Hempstead Food Share. The supplies were purchased with funds from the teens’ GoFundMe campaign that raised over $5,400. They purchased the supplies to donate to Ethical Friends of Children which is currently distributing the supplies to various agencies and non-profits in the surrounding communities.
Y.E.S. is a group of high school students who want to make a better world!
Reclaim Our Vote

We have sent over 300 postcards to citizens in states with low levels of voter turnout, encouraging them to register to vote. This is an ongoing project and we will be sending postcards every month until the election in November!

Graffiti Removal

Scrubbing away! As mentioned prior, many local businesses, organizations and even shelters are faced with vandalism of their property. Whether we like it or not, graffiti alters the perception of businesses in a bad light. This project was centered around the idea of respecting property and thereby allowing a community to flourish!

Book Fairies

What is life if not a collection of experiences? Books are the staple of a well-rounded education, and during the past year YES partnered with the organization Book Fairies. Currently we are doing a staggered book drive to collect books in a safe, physically distanced socially connected way.

Community Solidarity

The overflowing sense of unity over something everyone loves immensely: food! This initiative and its connection to our youth program has brought us back to the pillars of our youth group: understanding new perspectives. With each sorted item, box moved and food arranged it was a guaranteed that the YES group had displayed kindness beyond the material in front of them.

What is in store?

- MasksNow
- Reclaim Our Vote
- Individual Projects
  - Ethical Friends of Children
  - Femme Forces
- Book Fairies
- Establishing and Preserving the pillars of YES
  - Cultivation of Volunteerism
  - Cultivation of Passion and Self Actualization
  - Cultivation of Emotional Development through Empathy
Announcements:

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES - OCT. 1

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

**Topic:** *Where Can We Draw Strength In This Time Of Adversity?*
An invitation to share your experiences and hopes and your sources of resilience.

**When:** Thursday, October 1, 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/896985586)

WOMEN’S MINI-RETREAT - Oct. 17

A Meeting of the Women’s Group will be held on October 17, 2020 at 10:00 am, via Zoom.
Please contact Delorie Cohan for more information: 516 639-0070 or email: Rodel48@aol.com
We have witnessed an explosion of “fake news” in recent years. Coming at us from all sides, it is hard to know what to believe and act upon, and what to reject. But what exactly is “fake news”? Why is it important? Where does it come from? How and why is it created? Is there anything we can do to protect ourselves from it?

Please join the Long Island Media Task Force (https://limediataskforce.org), in cooperation with the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, for a live Zoom presentation on:

**DECONSTRUCTING FAKE NEWS**
Russell Myers, Long Island Media Task Force
Thursday, October 29, 2020
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87582320437?pwd=TFA3b1lRMVMzb3JwRVhhcnF3L2pmdz09
Meeting ID: 875 8232 0437
Passcode: 481717
One tap mobile
+16465588656,87582320437#,,,,,,0#,,481717# US (New York)
or
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Come Join The Colloquy!
by Al Zeiger

The reason for writing this article is to tell you how important the colloquy has been to me. It has helped me to think about my feelings regarding loss, friendship, love, healing and many other areas. And it has helped me to feel socially connected to other people. Out of all the zooming that I do, I look forward to the colloquy as the most valuable activity I am involved in at the society.

To give you an idea of how it works: Arthur picks a topic at random from his book “Spelling God with two O’s.” He talks briefly about the topic and then asks a question giving you time to think about it. Here are some examples:

- **Topic: Ability**
  - Question: What do you think are your greatest abilities?

- **Topic: Aging**
  - Question: What helps you to accept aging?

- **Topic: Blessing**
  - Question: What has been your greatest blessing?

- **Topic: Change**
  - Question: In what ways have you changed?

How you respond is up to you. It is important to realize there is no discussion permitted. You may not refer to anyone else’s response. What you say goes unanswered. You are not out to impress anybody with your response. You simply are thinking out loud and saying whatever occurs to you. You get two chances of doing that. You don’t have to say anything. Just say “I pass” and Arthur will come back to you later. You still don’t have to say anything. I know someone in the colloquy that did not say anything for a long time. You can also invite a friend who may not be a member.

We meet on Friday morning at 10 AM for one hour. In order to get started, you have to call Arthur who is our leader and tell him that you and maybe a friend are coming. Call Arthur at 516-997-8545. The next step is to contact Linda Joe at 516-775-2354 to send you the link.

Finally I want to pay tribute to Arthur Dobrin who originated the colloquy and wrote the wonderful book which has been our Bible for many, many years. Thanks for all your wonderful work.
A real sign Summer is coming to a close.
The last of my summer roses.
By Pat Spencer.

Sprintzen Grandkids- Back to School!
It is with such bittersweet emotions that I have moved on from City College of New York (CUNY) as a professor in the Media & Communication Arts department. My 13 year included teaching public relations writing and creating the school’s social media strategies course. I was a pioneer in developing one of the country’s first digital strategy classes enabling students to enhance their portfolios and competitive stance in the industry.

It has been an honor to share my lessons and mentoring to include ethical decision making skills, empathy and ways to optimize one’s behavior and thinking for respecting their fellow man whether at work, home or in their community. It is my hope that the hundreds of lives I have touched contributes to each one better equipped to proudly hold the baton until it is their turn to pass it on.

In the meantime, I thank each of you for your support over the years and for simply listening as I made it through the halls of higher ed. I leave my life as a professor but the teaching goes on. The next segment of my career journey involves professional facilitation using text-based conversation to help others engaged in better relationships with their co-workers and their selves. Translated that means I use books and short stories as a prompt for creating meaningful conversations for employees in corporations and organizations nationwide. My new role has me reading and creating conversations while training other facilitators--all professors--to do the same. I am honored to join the team at: [http://www.booksatwork.org/](http://www.booksatwork.org/)

Feel free to subscribe to their online newsletter. You can also join in on the conversation on Facebook and LinkedIn: Books at Work

I joyfully share with you my farewell accolade from the City College of New York.
Reflections
©2020 Judy Rosemarin

Before Covid19, after a Sunday platform, at coffee hour, we would customarily meet and greet friends to discuss the platform, catch up with each other and cement our friendships. But look again. We usually met with the same folks, week after week. For myself, I might have waved a warm “hello” to many but would find myself gravitating to my “group” my “clique” if you like, because, well, it’s familiar. It’s easy. It’s known. But with Covid19 all that has changed. Now we are isolated and for the moment, many moments, we are unable to hover around a donut or a cup of coffee. We are not able to go to our usual places with our usual friends. But, look at what we can do and are doing that was previously unimaginable.

For 5 months now, we have Zoomed together. We have stayed a community, and have become an even stronger one, from my view. What struck me on opening Sunday was not only the pure hearts that were shared but something even more profound.

We were all in the room where it happens, to shift a phrase from Hamilton. We were not sitting in rows, one behind the other, where we only see the backs of heads of people, in the rows before us. We were not limited to straining our necks to the sides or backwards to “see” who else was in the room.

No. Look again. Zoom in. On a laptop, ipad, smartphone, there we were facing each other. Face to face. Maybe some of us seeing others new, fresh or differently, maybe for the first time or with a renewed sense of caring. Really, look at it. While our customary habits have been broken, or at least suspended, suddenly we are more face to face with each other than ever before. We look to see who is there, who has just entered and we notice who is missing. We check each other out, help when someone asks, “Can you hear me?” and delight as the images show up on our screens, greeting each other by name as they “enter the room.” When did that happen in the building? Did we say hi to everyone each Sunday as we do now, so naturally so easily, so invitingly? And for those of us who forget last names, how marvelous is it that our names are displayed under our tiny images?

We are apart from and a part of each other. From Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, we come together because we believe in what we are all about and we are nimble enough to find ways to not only stay connected but to “be with” each other in brand new ways. Platforms, or hanging around for virtual coffee hours are experiences as they have ever been, perhaps even more so! And let’s not miss the fun of peeking into someone’s living room or keeping our eyes on someone we might admire!

Opening Sunday’s voices were beautiful, elegant and heartfelt. So is Ethical. Our eyes and ears and voices were all directed on what values we share and how we manifest them, all the while in the room where it happens. Together, not in cliques, but a “click” into a room filled with sunshine and love, each of us, facing each other and perhaps, as I, feeling so much more connected than ever before.

Covid19. You have nothing on us. We have each other. What a joy.
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/](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/](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](https://www.facebook.com/KidsEthicsProgramLongIsland/)

**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.](https://www.facebook.com/LongIslandYES/)

**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](https://www.facebook.com/humanistsoflongisland/).

**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.

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**Contacts**

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[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.
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Garden City, NY 11530

Create a Caring World