Hello Everyone,

As I started writing to you this month, I was thinking how the life of our community reflects life in general. Good days and bad days. Happy days and sad days.

We’re going forward with Hybrid meetings so we’re seeing each other in person more often. Progress is being made in smoothing out the difficulties. (There are expected challenges as well as unexpected ones.)

Two of our members have faced major health challenges and we’ve been as supportive as we can, both emotionally and physically.

Social Action has been more of a mainstay than it ever was through both individual and group efforts.

The dark days of winter are ahead so let us continue to turn to one another, lend an ear or lend a hand where needed. And keep the light on.

Linda Napoli
Well, it’s come down to this: It’s time to get me a gun.

As I write this, Kyle Rittenhouse was just exonerated from any wrongdoing for having shot two people to death while defending his gun. He said he feared that it would be taken by people who were angered by his having come to a demonstration with an assault rifle and who tried to take it away from the boy. He bore the semi-automatic weapon and he was protected by the law. Those who did not were dead and that was, on balance, OK. Clearly, it is better to be armed.

Also, this past week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a case seeking to overturn New York’s restrictions on gun possession outside one’s home. The majority of justices seemed to think that venturing outside the home was a frightening ordeal and that it was quite reasonable for anyone to feel more safe and secure by bearing a handgun. When running the gauntlet of shoppers in Piggly Wiggly or stuck in traffic on the LIE, there’s no telling who’s liable to turn violent and place your family in mortal danger.

I must have spent my entire lifetime living an illusion. I always felt generally secure just as I am. I’ve been confident that I could deal with people man to man without the need to bring along my “big brother” hidden in my pocket. I was seldom mugged (well, maybe a couple of times, to be sure), but I never felt so at risk that I would need to carry a firearm in my daily comings and goings. How blind I must have been! That I survived this long is my precious luck, which could run out at any moment. And, as the law is plainly encouraging everyone to be armed, now more than ever, people you meet will surely be carrying a gun. It is a veritable arms race! So, it’s high time I geared up and got me some heat, too.

The catch, however, is that statistics show that the likelihood of being injured by a gun is actually far greater when you have one. The other odd fact is that guns are so wildly imprecise. The percentage of times that police officers actually hit their target when they shoot at someone is shockingly low, about 25%. And, they are professionals who have experience with guns and training in hostile, chaotic and dangerous situations. Me, I’d shoot my leg off before the gun comes out of my pocket.

The law notwithstanding, I think I’ll be more effective using the weapons I always relied on. My calm nature and a ready tongue have gotten me through more rough patches than a gun ever
could. So, if I should find myself at the scene of a crime, I’ll let the police do the shooting and I’ll do the dialogue.

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHS LI

CONTACT Richard Koral:
leader@ehsli.org or 516-741-7304

EH SLI Board of Trustees

Linda Napoli, President  
Susan Feifer, Vice President  
Judy Rosemarin, Secretary  
Wayne Outten, Treasurer  
Barbara Haber  
Yolanda Miller (replaced Alicia Evans)  
Anitra Pavlico (replaced Harry Ramani)  
Helene Rudin (replaced Rosa Amatulli)  
Pat Spencer

Tina, our Office Manager will be in the Society office:

Monday’s: 10-2  
Tuesday’s & Thursday’s 10-3  
Phone & Email messages are checked daily.  
516-741-7304 or office@ehsli.org
Sunday Presentations

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87199821900

Dec 05: Dr. Gennifer Herley, Issues Facing The Transgender Non Conforming (TGNC) Community.

GENNIFER HERLEY PhD is a proud transgender woman who recently transitioned and earned her doctorate degree in 2014. She is the founder and Executive Director of TransNewYork. TransNewYork’s mission is to bring awareness to the issues facing the TGNC community and to give guidance and support to individuals and their loved ones within an open and safe environment.

Dr Herley works with allies of the transgender community. We provide an array of services to help maintain and expand diversity and inclusion within organizations. We have helped raise public awareness on transgender issues through hosting and sponsoring speaking engagements, featuring prominent transgender leaders and organizations.

Her career has taken two paths, corporate management roles and business and personal coaching, and both have merged into nonprofit organizational leadership. Her leadership experience includes managing all operational activities, such as finances, business development, sales, marketing, and fundraising.

In addition Dr. Herley is a Board member of I’m from Driftwood which aims to help LGBTQ people learn more about their community, straight people learn more about their neighbors and everyone learn more about themselves through the power of storytelling and story sharing. Dr. Herley is also an adjunct professor of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and has spoken at many Transgender Conference focusing on group dynamics.

Dr Herley organized the first transgender Conference in New York City, New York Coming Out in 2019. This 3-day conference had over 350 attendees, 100 workshops, a vendor room and hosted keynote speakers such as Sarah McBride from the Human Rights Campaign and Sam Britton from The Trevor Project, among others.
A discussion about the structures, personalities, and history that have made corruption and harassment so endemic to New York politics.

Mark Chiusano is an editorial writer and columnist for *Newsday.* His first short story collection, *Marine Park,* received an honorable mention for the PEN/Hemingway Award. His fiction and essays have appeared in places like *McSweeney’s,* *Guernica,* *Zyzzyva,* and *The Atlantic.*

Mark was born and raised in Brooklyn, spent some summers playing baseball in Switzerland, among other places sometimes more exotic than the Parade Grounds, worked at Alfred A. Knopf and Vintage Books, wrote a city column for *amNewYork,* and is now a columnist and editorial board member and sometime podcast maker for *Newsday.* He is a co-editor of the fiction substack *Works Progress,* and he lives in Brooklyn with his wife, journalist and writer Charlotte Alter.

Dec 19: WINTER FESTIVAL.
Hybrid meeting. A wonderful morning of music, poetry, story and song. Please attend either in person or via zoom.

Dec 26: Holiday Hangout Live!
(from 11:00 to 12:30) This meeting will be IN PERSON only. More details to come.
WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

NEW ZOOM LINK:
Join us every Sunday for our Sunday Presentations held via Zoom. Doors open at 10:30, meeting starts at 11:00.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87199821900
Meeting ID: 871 9982 1900
Or phone in at: 1(929) 436-2866
THIS UPDATED ZOOM LINK will be the same every week.
Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser.

SOME MEETINGS WILL BE IN-PERSON EVENTS. CHECK THE WEEKLY EMAIL NOTICES!

TUESDAY MEDITATION GROUP AT 11 AM

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

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 COLLOQUIY 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 the Ethical office or calling Arthur Dobrin at 516-997-8545. (See Al Zeiger’s article describing the Colloquy in the Members section (page 17) of the 2020 October newsletter.)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES - DEC 2, 7 PM

Join Dr. David Sprintzen for our "Ethical Issues in Our Times" (First Thursday of each month)

Topic: What Does America Mean To You?

At this time in which there is so much discussion from all sides on the issue of “Critical Race Theory,” it would seem increasingly important to think about, and try to come to terms with what it means to be an American? What can or should we be proud of? Hope for? Assume responsible for? Be guilty about? Let us explore these and related issues, and the light they shed on our sense of who we are.

Join us in discussing this pressing social issue

To register, call the EHS office: 516-741-7304 or email: office@ehsli.org or register via Meetup
To join Zoom Meeting click on the link or cut and paste to your web browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/896985586
WOMEN'S GROUP - DEC 3, 7:30 PM

Our Monthly Women’s Group (members of EHSLI only) meets on the first Friday of each month. The zoom site opens at 7:15 pm, and the group runs from 7:30 to 9 pm. Barbara Haber and Delorie Cohan will host the group. Email to all women members of EHSLI with the topic and the Zoom link will be sent a week before every meeting.

POETRY CIRCLE - DEC 27, 7 PM

The poetry circle meets every month and is open to all who love poetry. Please contact Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com December’s meeting will focus on the poems of Alberto Rios.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88493996121?pwd=bWFCTkV2UWpqVWdwRWVQK2F4WHJvUT09
Meeting ID: 884 9399 6121
Passcode: 728459
Phone in: 1 - (929) 436-2866

BOOK DISCUSSION - DEC 28, 7 PM

THE DICTIONARY OF LOST WORDS by Pip Williams

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185334557?pwd=ZC92UzRnS2ducYrVDFiVStVQmRpdz09
Meeting ID: 851 8533 4557
Passcode: 427688
Phone in: 1 (929) 436-2866
Email Linda Napoli for more info.
From David Sprintzen:
We are working with the NYS Equity Community Agenda Coalition in organizing a Long Island-focused Teach-In on the nature and potential benefits of public banking for Long Island.

Please consider registering and attending this Teach-In, so as to ensure that EHS will be very well represented at this event. It will only be for one hour, on Thurs, December 9th, 7-8pm. Below is the information, and link to the registration form. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me at dsprintz@gmail.com.

The NYS Community Equity Agenda coalition invites Long Island-based members of community, labor, and faith organizations to join a timely briefing on the growing movement for public banking in New York. The briefing will be held Thursday, December 9th, from 7-8 p.m. over Zoom. Click to Register Here.

At the briefing, participants will:

- Learn about grassroots campaigns and state legislative opportunities to move our public money out of Wall Street banks and into public banks rooted in racial and economic justice.
- Hear from organizers from across the state about how public banks would invest in affordable housing, local jobs, the green economy, and other community needs on Long Island.
- Share ideas and learn how your organization can get involved.

Co-sponsored by: The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, Long Island Progressive Coalition, and New Economy Project.
Ethical Friends of Children NEEDS YOUR HELP
on a Wednesday from 10-1pm.

Please click to email Pat Spencer or call her at:
516-603-1940.

Or click to email Jim LoPresti at: efoc@ehsli.org

Thank you for helping with this need.

Scheduled Diversity Friendship Circles

IN PERSON: on Saturdays
Dec.11 Shinnecock Land

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CIRCLES AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE

Register by emailing multiculturalsolidarity@gmail.com Also check the announcement section of the Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturalsolidarityLI
89-Second Video hint of what our Zoom diversity circle is like:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlLUl8Pv8c4

"The most radical thing I can do is introduce people to each other."
ANNUAL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
WRITE4RIGHTS
LETTER WRITING AND PETITION SIGNING
Saturday, 12/4/2021 1:30pm-3:30pm

Join Pat Spencer and members of the Ethical Humanist Society of Garden City and the Unitarian Universalist Communities in Garden City and Shelter Rock in a zoom presentation. We will review who are the 10 prisoners of conscience. Each member will choose one prisoner to communicate words of encouragement and write to the government official who can release them.

You need to register in advance for this meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrduGoqTgoEtHc1zqAfrWPKX1sHxHm_xTP
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and writing letters.

COAT DRIVE
the YES GROUP is collecting children's coats

From now until December 17th, our Youth of the Ethical Society group will be collecting coats in children’s sizes for Ethical Friends of Children.

Please bring your gently used coats to the Society at 38 Old Country Road, Garden City.

Coats should be placed in the marked boxes in the shed behind the building.
Announcements:

From Richard Koral:

The Puffin Cultural Forum is proud to present our “Puffin Interview Series with Dr. Joe Chuman.” On the first Sunday of every month Dr. Chuman will delve into and explore the work of renowned authors through meaningful dialogue in an intimate interview format. There will be an opportunity for audiences to ask their own questions during a Q&A session.

Dr. Chuman recently retired from his post as the leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County after forty-six years. He has taught at Columbia University, Hunter College, and the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. His works have been published in the New York Times, The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Humanistic Judaism, The Hill and many other periodicals.

Puffin Interview Series with Dr. Joe Chuman: Joshua M. Greene
Recorded on - November 7, 2021, 4pm
Direct link to the YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/E9U3sHaRqzQ
Website link with more info: https://www.puffinculturalforum.org/event/puffin-interview-series-with-dr-joe-chuman-joshua-greene

Puffin Interview Series with Dr. Joe Chuman: Dr. Barbara Katz Rothman
Upcoming - December 5, 2021, 4pm
Direct link to the YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/CBlRbr9sEY
Website link with more info: https://www.puffinculturalforum.org/event/puffin-interview-series-with-dr-joe-chuman-dr-barbara-katz-rothman
IN MEMORIUM

Khiron Anderson, 1997-2021

A former member of our Children’s Ethics Program, Khiron Anderson, age 24, died on September 30, 2021. Khiron was an active and integral member of our Sunday school, participating in our many events including Darwin Day, the Bayside Marina Clean-up, Sunday school plays, service projects, and the Coming of Age ceremony in 2011. Khiron was a kind boy with a warm smile, a mature presence, and was a friend to all the children in the program.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 9 at Frederick Funeral Home (Bayside), with Ethical Culture Leader Anne Klaeysen presiding. As friends came forward to share memories, one friend said, “I had dropped out of college, but Khiron was always encouraging me to go back. Eventually I did go back, and I just graduated. Khiron always encouraged me to be my best self.” There it is. As Felix Adler said, “Act so as to elicit the best in others and thereby thyself.” Khiron’s generous spirit touched the world around him, and the world is a better place for having had him in it.
Jerry Abrams
A remembrance by Al Zeiger

I recently lost a friend whose relationship with me lasted 81 years. We grew up together. Similar interests plus a close relationship with our spouses kept us together. We double dated 68 years ago. That is when I introduced Jerry to Lorraine. I was dating Toby at that time, who was a friend of Lorraine and still remains close friends with Lorraine. Jerry and Lorraine were married for 69 years. Do you know anyone who could beat that record?

When we were about 11 years old, I discovered Jerry loved classical and jazz music. He played the clarinet and I played the violin and consequently switched to saxophone a few years later. We went to all the jazz clubs in New York and classical concerts.

Jerry and Lorraine were members of our society before they moved to Florida about 9 years ago. They were very active in the society and made important contributions. Jerry was in charge of music and Lorraine was in charge of SPICE fundraising events where you paid twenty-five dollars and met at people’s houses to discuss a topic. Lorraine also ran the colloquy for awhile.

Besides music, Jerry loved chess, shooting pool, taking courses in Shakespeare and constantly improving himself. He was kind, thoughtful and considerate. I will miss him very much.
Following the Sunday platform at EHSLI, the Sunday Speaker Committee will be meeting via zoom, to plan the speaker schedule for the remainder of 2022. All members are invited to attend and bring suggestions for speakers and topics. For additional information contact Pat Spencer 516-603-1940 or 304pms@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, 2/13/2022 - Darwin Day!
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island has had a long history of celebrating Darwin Day. We began this celebration in 2009 to commemorate Charles Darwin’s 200th birthday. It also was a celebration of science that was enjoyed by young and old alike! This is an open house and open to the public. The membership committee is also encouraging us to “bring a friend to the ethical society” on this day! Let’s all get together to celebrate science.
Society Members:

NEW BOARD MEMBER: ANITRA PAVLICO

Anitra has been attending meetings at the Society since 2017. She lives in West Hempstead with her 10-year-old son Ethan and their cats Lulu and Chico. Her day job is attorney for a litigation firm in Manhattan, but luckily she can work from home in PJs and never has to go to court. Anitra also volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate for neglected and abused children. In her free time she enjoys reading, hiking, and playing piano.

We welcome two new members to the Society:

Lita Kelmenson
Rick Shaper
INTRODUCING BEN BORTIN:

It's a bit later than I intended, but here's a statement for the Society about my very happy experience as a recent member. (I think it's two years, by now - not that recent any more!)

Have you ever had the experience of looking for a place, in this case a spiritual community, locating one, and realizing instantly upon doing so, "I have arrived!" That's exactly the way I felt my first Sunday at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Two years later, that feeling has never disappeared.

I share and honor the values that inform the Ethical Humanist movement. The presentations on Sundays are consistently stimulating, enlightening, and inspiring. My only regret has been not bringing a bigger notebook certain Sundays, the better to take notes. I'm also grateful for the dynamic program of social action evident here, the collective resolve to make the community and world a better place.

The Society is a group of people I've come to respect and appreciate highly in a very short period of time. My thanks to all of you for your warm hospitality! I'm proud and happy to consider myself a member.
Watch past Sunday Talks on our new YouTube Channel

Some of our recent Sunday talks have been recorded and the videos are now up on our new Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island YouTube channel. Visit YouTube to view: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5MV2WveN0C0u9IyKXLPuQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5MV2WveN0C0u9IyKXLPuQ)

Or, search "Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island YouTube channel" Audio is still on our website under "Featured Talks": [www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org)

Please consider making a donation to The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

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 members and the public.

Visit the Give page on our website: [https://www.ehsli.org/social-action/give/](https://www.ehsli.org/social-action/give/)
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.

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

Humanists of Long Island is the name of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island's chapter of the American Humanist Association. Find them on Facebook at Humanists of Long Island.

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. Please contact director Jim LoPresti at EFOC@ehsli.org if you’d like to help.

Affordable Office Space for Rent:
We have great office space available for long term leasing by non-profit organizations. Reasonable rates. Ample free parking and a short walk from the Nassau County Seat and the Mineola LIRR train.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member society of the American Ethical Union and a Chapter of the American Humanist Association.

Contacts

38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304
www.ehsli.org

Leader: Richard Koral

Office Manager: Tina Keane
office@ehsli.org

Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe