To our Ethical Culture Family:

I join all of you in looking forward to not just a New Year, but an entirely New Year - a new era - one which will allow us to move past the hardships, fears and uncertainties of the tumultuous year just past. We enter 2021 buoyed with the keys to a recovery: the new vaccines that are coming out and the new administration being installed in Washington. They bring us a renewed hope that our lives, interrupted, will resume with the restoration of public health and the preservation of our fundamental values. May the vaccines reach us promptly and may the order in our public sphere be restored and the rancor stilled.

I certainly felt the constraints and the frustration of isolation, and I long for the resumption of normal interaction with many of you. Well, it will not happen right away, unfortunately, but its prospect is definitely in sight. I expect that by sometime in the Spring we will be able to start returning to our Society Meeting House, as people are vaccinated and gain the confidence to rejoin others in common activities.

2020 will be remembered as a “lost” year for so many of those who struggled to progress in school or who strove to hold onto their businesses. To remain in suspended animation is not really
possible in a living world. And we honor the many who did not survive the year. Yet the bravery and the tenacity that so many people summoned to get through the year gives us confirmation and confidence that people are capable of great acts of compassion, endurance and imagination.

I hope that we will all enter this new year and this new decade with the exhilaration of having reached the safety of the shore after a tempest-tossed journey. We will be able to reclaim a firm footing and confidence to resume our activities at the Ethical Society. There is so much to be done. Like the tide that washed out leaving the harbor bottom visible, the Pandemic brought into stark relief so many of the inequities, both the hidden and the obvious, that have long rent our country and the world.

I wish for everyone in our Ethical Culture family a healthy, safe and spiritually renewing New Year for 2021. May it mark the advent of a new era of hope and resolve. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI

OFFICE HOURS:  Leader Richard Koral: By Appointment; 516-741-7304 or leader@ehsli.org.
OFFICE MANAGER, Tina: 516-741-7304 or office@ehsli.org. TUES. AND THURS. 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. VOICEMAIL AND EMAIL: Mon., Wed, Fri.
Thank you for Supporting
The 100 % Campaign
We are at 76% participation

Together we have raised $12,415!
Your support helps keep the society alive & well. Our campaign is continuing.
If you have not yet donated please consider giving what you can, every bit helps.
Return your mailer or donate from our website: ehsli.org/give
Jan. 3: Commemoration Sunday, led by Richard Koral.

On this first Sunday of the New Year, we set aside time to honor the loved ones of the past. We immortalize them by bearing witness and by carrying on their spirit in our own lives. We face tomorrow with hope made stronger by the lessons we have learned and the love we have shared.

Jan. 10: Jim Morgo: An evolved view of an ethical and practical approach to local government and politics.

Jim Morgo is currently President of Morgo Private Public Strategies, a private-sector consulting business that specializes in municipal approvals and community acceptance. He also serves as Suffolk County Community College’s Board of Trustees’ Vice Chairman and as a member of Long Island’s Regional Economic Development Council and Stony Brook University’s Community Council.

Mr. Morgo was Suffolk County’s Chief Deputy County Executive from November, 2007 to April, 2009. He also served as Chair of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency until 2012. Mr. Morgo served as the Long Island Housing Partnership’s first President and Chief Executive Officer for nearly seventeen (17) years. He transformed the Housing Partnership from a start-up organization of two employees with an annual budget of $160,000, to the Long Island region’s preeminent housing organization and the most well-respected suburban housing group in the nation.

NEWS DAY named Jim Morgo as one of the ten Long Island Residential Real Estate “Movers and Shakers.” In 2005, he was named by the Long Island Business News as one of Long Island’s 100 most influential leaders. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 the Long Island Press named Jim Morgo one of Long Island’s 50 most powerful leaders. He has received many awards from civic, community and business organizations for his leadership in housing and business.
A group of longer poems will be presented by multiple voices with musical interludes.

Jan. 24: Elizabeth Palley, *US Child Care policy: Where we’ve been and where we are going (hopefully).*
A brief history of US child care policy as well as a discussion of recent federal proposals, the military model and what is happening at the state and city level in some places.

Elizabeth Palley graduated from law school in 1996 and completed her MSW in 1997 at the University of Maryland. She earned a Ph.D. in Social Policy at the Heller School at Brandeis University and began teaching at Adelphi University in New York 2002. Since that time, she has been on the faculty at Adelphi University. She is a full professor and teaches both at the Masters and Doctoral levels.

Her research areas are disability and family policy. Her teaching interests include social policy analysis, civil rights, education policy, disability policy and family policy. Her current research looks at the impact of pregnancy discrimination on women in the workplace.

Dr. Palley is the author, along with Dr. Corey Shdaimah, of the book *In Our Hands: The Struggle for US Child Care Policy* published by NYU Press in 2014. She is also a co-author of *Social Policy in a Changing World* (Sage, 2020). Dr. Palley is also the author of over 20 academic journal articles, has presented academic papers at more than 25 conferences in and outside the United States and has written several opinion articles for print and other media.

Jan. 31: Calvin Dame, *Notes from the humanist spiritual path.*
Following my four years as Religious Director with EHSLI, I retired to Brattleboro, Vermont. I preach at UU congregations from time to time, do some volunteer work. I met Mary Diane Baker; marriage ensued. We have spent considerable time rehabbing our two-family home, and, until Covid, welcomed Airbnb guests. My son Jan, his wife Ari and two grandkids live downstairs. Also, I am building a boat.
I’m at day 1000 of the year 2020 and I’m not sorry to see it go. These are some of what I’m looking forward to in 2021.

1. Hugging the people I love
2. Feeling safe.
3. Having a couple of glasses of wine at a live party filled with people...social distancing prohibited.
4. Having a barbecue with the YES kids and their families.
5. Staying healthy
6. Longer days
7. A renewed appreciation for what is sacred and what is important.
8. A better JET’s season (almost a sure thing)
9. To be able to grieve for people lost to covid and to celebrate being alive.

What are you looking forward to? May it all happen for you. Happy New Year!

Quote of the month is from Felix Adler:

“You are but a tiny estuary, but when the tides enter your being you will feel the pulse of the infinite sea.”
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 (page 17) of the 2020 October newsletter.)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- JAN. 7

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: "Our Hopes and Fears for the Forthcoming Administration"
What can the Biden Administration hope to accomplish?
And how should the nation deal with the past and present of Trumpism?

When: Thursday, January 7, 2020, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Let us know if you will attend or register via Meetup
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.
WOMEN’S GROUP - JAN. 8

EHSLI Women’s Group: 25 years old and back in business! Next meeting: Jan 8th at 7:30. The topic, suggested by Judy Rosemarin, is: YOUR HOPES AND FEARS: THEN AND NOW.

The women of EHSLI created and celebrated two wonderful milestones by resurrecting the Monthly Women’s Group, coincidentally marking the 25th Anniversary of EHSLI’s women meeting together. Open to all women members, the group is spearheaded by Barbara Haber and Delorie Cohan, who hosted the first zoom session on December 4th. We had a terrific meeting! With 23 members present, everyone had a chance to share thoughts and feelings on the topic: In this very scary time, what is the most significant thing you have learned about yourself?

The gathering was so meaningful and personal--and often poignant and moving--that spontaneous applause broke out as we ended, acknowledging and celebrating the warmth, the sense of connection and community, and the feelings of closeness we created together!

Meetings will be on the first Friday of every month on Zoom. Barbara will send emails to all women members of EHSLI with the topic and the Zoom link a week before every meeting.

RULES FOR ETHICAL WOMEN’S GROUP

1. Whatever is said in this zoom room stays in this room.
2. When you want to speak, click on “Participants” and then on “Raise Hand” box. I will see that you have raised your hand and I will recognize you by name. UNMUTE YOURSELF, and then you can speak. WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED SPEAKING, PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF AGAIN.
3. Please stay on Mute unless you are speaking. If you need to step away, please click “stop video.” When you return, click “stop video” again so we can see you.
4. No cross talk. That is, when a speaker has the floor, please do not interrupt, respond, or converse with the speaker or any other participant. Please do not use Chat at all.
5. Please talk about your own life and your own feelings.
6. Be respectful of others at all times.
7. You have a right to ‘pass’ and not speak.
8. This is not a therapy group, and we don’t try to solve people’s problems.
9. Please respect the time limits when you are speaking. Every speaker will have a maximum of 4 minutes to speak. If you finish what you want to say sooner than 4 minutes, that’s fine. If you want and need the 4 minutes, that’s fine, too. In that case, Judy Rosemarin will give a heads-up when you have one minute left. When everyone has spoken who wanted to speak, we will go around again until 8:45 when we will begin to close.
In 1992, when I was sitting in an English class at SUNY at Stony Brook, I remember discussing the LA riots that took place, as police officers responsible for beating Rodney King were acquitted.

When Amadou Diallo, a young man, was shot by a spray of bullets at his doorstep by police, I remember living in a nearby neighborhood. This was almost 20 years ago, a year before I got married.

In 2015, when my own son was in high school, I heard of Kalief Browder, who was accused of stealing a backpack, commit suicide after he was released from Rikers Island. He was declared innocent. He was only 22.

Where were you when Breonna Taylor was killed? Or when George Floyd was murdered?

Our lives are marked by such violence; our memories plagued with the anecdotes of a criminal justice system whose power has gone unchecked.

The Black Lives Matter Movement, catalyzed perhaps of our own confinement during COVID, has demanded that there be checks in place to make officers accountable and to reform a system that has taken violent measures to extremes.

Thanks to the support of David Sprintzen and the board members of the EHSLI, we have joined a coalition called Long Island United to Transform Policing and Community Safety. As I mentioned in my last column, there are many ways you can get involved to be part of coalition. Right now, they are focusing on providing Nassau County and Suffolk County with evidence-based research on how Long Island should move forward in addressing public safety in response to the Governor’s Executive Order. I have been working with a working group on researching mental health issues and how psychologists and social workers are better equipped to deal with mental health crises, rather than police.

In fact, I’m so proud of YES, the youth group at the Ethical Society led by Jim LoPresti. They are passionate about the issues and are getting engaged. In fact, Anitta Kottai spoke eloquently about the adverse consequence of having SRO’s (or police) in schools. She shared her thoughts with the Suffolk County Task Force Listening Session, a group charged with listening to the public and
determining the ways they can make change in their police departments. Anitta spoke about peer mediation and conflict resolution as alternatives to policing youth.

Even in Long Island the school to prison pipeline is problematic, particularly in schools with large immigrant and POC populations. This is a critical time to get engaged in this issue as a movement has made it possible to push systemic changes that can be less punitive. Contact me to find out how you can get involved:  

sonia@meow.name

Sonia Arora, Social Action Coordinator

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Write For Rights is Amnesty International’s largest annual human rights campaign. People like you around the world write letters on behalf of people who need urgent help. People like Nassima who has been locked up since 2018 for protesting against the ‘male guardianship’ system in Saudi Arabia. Through the power of collective action, your letters will help convince government officials to free Nassima and other people unjustly imprisoned or facing abuses.

Each year the UUCSR Social Justice Committee sponsors, in conjunction with the Ethical Humanist Society of LI participation in the Write4Rights Campaign organized by Amnesty International. This year we take the campaign on-line!

To participate, follow these easy steps:

Go to:  

https://write.amnestyusa.org/

• Choose a political prisoner(s). Study the individual’s case sheet to become familiar with his/her experience. Write a letter of your own composition or copy the letter provided in your own handwriting. You can also print the letter and sign it. Address an envelope using the information on the individual’s case sheet. For international addresses, add $1.15 in postage (three forever stamps). Add your return address to the envelope. You may get a response.

• Write a card of support to the individual and family member(s) listed on the case sheet. Sign your name and your country. Address the card using the information on the individual’s case sheet and add the appropriate postage. Add your return address. You may get a response from the individual and family members.

• Mail your letters by January 31, 2021.

• Notify Pat Spencer (304pms@gmail.com) that you did one or both of the above, that way she can alert Amnesty International how many letters/cards were sent.
Ethical Friends Of Children needs your help

EFOC is open but not as before. Clients are not allowed into the building but have to email or phone their orders in. We are only accepting specific items and they have to be left in the shed and labeled with name, phone number and date left, that way we can quarantine the items for the necessary time.

Can you help us find the items we are short of?

We are short of only two things: Girls clothing size 4 through 8 and Kids Winter hats.

If you would like to make kids hats and need suggestions for a pattern, contact Pat Spencer or Judy Rosemarin.

All donated clothing needs to be labeled with your name, phone number and the date left in the shed behind our main building.

Website: https://www.ehsli.org/social-action/ethical-friends-of-children/

Email: efoc@ehsli.org
Panel Discussion with Arthur Dobrin

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island Presents: "Competing Loyalties" a panel discussion moderated by Arthur Dobrin

**Tuesday, January 5th, 2021**

7:00 - 8:00 pm on Zoom

Some of the cultural, religious and ethical concerns to be addressed are: What do we owe our parents? What do we owe to our country? Is it right to kill? Do you act on a principle even though it may be contrary to your self-interest?

To register, call 516-434-0313 or email: Faroquekhan@outlook.com.

Zoom instructions will be sent to all registrants.
Joel Diamond writes on the origins of our affiliate organization, MultiCultural Solidarity

One Cold Night in January 2017 When Racism Was Surging in LI

(How Multicultural Solidarity Began)

Racism was surging in LI, along with misogyny, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and anti-Semitism. Doris Diamond went to bed worrying immensely that racists were boldly strengthening their movement. But she had just taken a leadership workshop in NYC challenging people to go home and come up with an actionable creative plan to help make this crazy world a bit better. Well, she awoke the next morning in a flash with a positive idea: Adapt the consciousness-raising style of communicating and organizing (from the women's movement of the 70's, the civil rights movement, and indigenous tradition such as talkingstick circles) and organize conversations of diverse multicultural anti-racist people looking for solidarity. Listen to each other share, entirely uninterrupted and solely from one's own direct personal experience, with 2 goals in mind: Build relationships across racial and other societal divides, and broaden one’s perspective on race-related matters, etc., leading to a local multicultural solidarity movement of impact.

It turned out research actually supported the idea! We are interrupting one of the root causes of how racism uses the social structure to automatically replicate itself. According to a 2013 study by the Public Religious Research Institute published in the Washington Post and the Atlantic Monthly in 2014, most white Americans are ignorant of the struggles of Black Americans because most whites just don’t know enough Black people. When whites talk about race in their personal lives it is by and large with people who are white. One reason for the racial divide is that white Americans tend to talk mostly to other white people. This widespread social separation is the root of divergent reactions along racial lines to interpreting almost any charged event. The isolationism actually applies broadly:

* 75% of white Americans don’t have a non-white friend.
* About 65% of black Americans have all black social networks.
* For Hispanics the figure is 46%.

This basic pattern of racial separation applies to people who are on a good path as well, so that it becomes difficult even for them to meet and build multicultural friendships. Racism affects everyone including non-racist people, so that even when they finally do meet, ingrained societal mindsets and cultural assumptions are often challenging and unwieldy. Societal structures such as white privilege become obstacles to true unity.
Multicultural Solidarity’s “Diversity Friendship Listening Circles” are a positive approach to the problem. Through community organizing and a love thy neighbor heart, we attract African and Caribbean Americans, whites, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, immigrants, the LGBTQIA communities and a dozen religions. Our circles meet regularly and create opportunities to engage in a deep level of personal communication and build relationships across society’s barriers. The method consists of confidentially expressing one’s direct personal experience with a given question and the associated feelings in a consciousness-raising style. The topics are all relatable and lead to getting to know each other better, broadening everyone’s perspectives, and building a multicultural solidarity. Some sample topics have been: How do you handle everyday bigotry on LI? When did you first notice a double standard of some kind?

We met in people’s living rooms by choice for the friendship atmosphere. Sixty-five houses were offered to host these meetings but we didn’t get to everyone before co-vid. At our pre-covid peak we had 3 circles a month in several houses throughout Suffolk. We had the good problem of fitting up to 32 people in a living room. Nowadays we meet on Zoom, just once a month so far. But even as you read this, “Multi-Solid.” (or MCS) is working to offer these Circles on many additional days and evenings each month. Facilitators are trained from amongst our participants and take turns.

We formed a board in January, now large, robust and vibrant with 15 people and an 80% ratio of non-white members, with diversity including Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Muslim, LGBTQ, and Jewish. Our board members are Akbar Fishman, Amani Hosein, David Sprintzen, Frances Brisbane, Lisa Roller, James Banks, Joan Rubenstein, Joel Diamond, Josie Bailey, Laureen Rusek, Maria Cecelia Torres, Premila Venkateswaran, Shirley Cobb, Tapti Palit, and Vivian Veloria Fisher. Carole Gambrell is our Editor in Chief and Database Maven. Our Interns are Katrina Gangji, Gayle Probe, Sierra Hiner, and Amanda Dulak. Karyn O’Beirne of LIAC’s SAF program has been very helpful to us. As of yet we have no staff, but we are seeking funding for it. We are a NYS not-for-profit corporation but we don’t yet have our federal 501 c3. Our Facebook group has over 260 people, and our newsletter is emailed to an additional 500 subscribers.

We’ve been taken under the wing for about a year now with a wonderful organization, as a project of theirs. Can you guess who that is? It’s the Ethical Humanist Society of LI !!! David Sprintzen is on both your board and ours, as Liaison and oft advisor. Both David and Linda Joe have checked out our Diversity Friendship Circle on Zoom. Our 2 orgs are very like minded, and will be finding more and more ways to work together.

My sense of our mission is to model multicultural unity on Long Island by creatively transcending racism’s social structures of separation with creative microcosm communities of multicultural diversity. Multicultural Solidarity is a true grassroots organization engaged in bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, and creating a space for them to engage
in deep interpersonal dialogue across racial and other cultural lines. Through these experiences, participants are empowered to challenge systemic and structural oppression, while fostering individual and collective organizational partnerships, to create transformative action and just social communities.

**But probably the main thing** is the actual solidarity network that has developed from this has led to many wonderful outcomes and a wider range of activities than solely diversity friendship circles, such as webinars, anti-racist comedy night, coalitions, workshops on fragility & privilege, social justice activism & advocacy. And then there’s the serendipitous outcomes that are the most beautiful. **But more on all that in future.**

If anyone would like to make a tax deductible donation thru EHS, a simple entry of "MCS" on the check’s memo line will benefit us greatly and will be appreciated greatly as well.

If you would like to access the MCS December Newsletter in your browser, use this link:

https://mailchi.mp/ae125390b4db/december-2020-multicultural-solidarity-newsletter?e=[UNIQID]

Maybe check out our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturalsolidarityli

Questions? Ask David Sprintzen or email me at Joel<multiculturalsolidarity@gmail.com>
Our Youth Programs:

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

The YES group remains active throughout covid... Book collections for book fairies, Working to become part of the Masks Now national movement for mask education. Some members are interested in police reform and have attended and spoken eloquently at forums. There is interest in crisis intervention and mental health reform. Sonia Arora, our social action director will be meeting with them to help them find pathways to help them get involved.

Announcements:

BOOK DISCUSSION: JAN. 26, 7 PM

Join our Zoom Book Discussion at 7 PM.
Meeting ID: 728 6606 0222

Email Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com to get the Zoom Passcode.

We would love to get more people involved in our book group. Please let Linda know what books you are reading and when you would be available to join in a discussion. Phil Klay, the author of this month's book.

One of President Obama’s Favorite Books of the Year
A New York Times Notable Book

“Mr. Klay’s bravura novel homes in on the ground-level consequences of American interference in Colombia’s ongoing civil war and tumultuous peace process. But the engrossing local conflict is only part of the book’s revelatory, panoramic portrayal of the remote yet interconnected ways that American-sponsored wars are waged across...”
SAVE THE DATE: FUNDRAISER FEB. 15

A ZOOM Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra

Musical maven Mel Haber will keep the romance going after Valentine's Day with a special Zoom presentation about the life and music of Frank Sinatra. On February 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm (doors will open at 7:15), Haber will trace Sinatra’s career from his early days with Harry James and his band until the early 1980s. Included will be not only some of Frank’s greatest recordings, but also his appearances in movies, television, and concerts.

In addition to the thematic “My Funny Valentine,” Zoomers will get to see him sing such songs as “One for My Baby,” “I Get a Kick out of You,” “That’s Life,” “Night and Day,” “Blues in the Night,” and “My Way.” As an extra added attraction, Sinatra will sing with Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Shore, Dean Martin, and Johnny Carson—yes, that Johnny Carson.

Dr. Mel Haber, a retired business writing teacher, is a devoted music lover, primarily of popular music and opera. His music programs at libraries, JCCs, adult education centers and Hutton House are sold-out events. Audiences have found him to be extremely knowledgeable, entertaining, and passionate in his presentations.

This event is sponsored by the Ethical Humanist Society of LI.
The contribution amount is $20 per Zoom window.
To sign up and make payment, click on the link to registration form:
https://forms.gle/W561rbfyJFtC8xir5
The Zoom link will be sent when payment is received.
Rita Baum Holder, wife of the late Lawrence J. Holder, beloved mother of Donald and Douglas Holder, grandmother to Joshua and Sarah Holder, and mother-in-law to Evan Yionoulis and Dianne Robitaille, passed away on Dec 30, 2020 due to complications from cancer. Holder was born in the Bronx, attended James Monroe High School, Brooklyn College and received her Master’s Degree in Education from New York University. She was a high school biology teacher in the New York City school system for over 20 years, and later, a volunteer cataloguing fossilized sea life at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Equally passionate about the arts—theatre, literature, opera, and film—she instilled this sensibility in her sons, and was an active member of the Arts Guild of Rockville Centre, receiving several awards for her contributions. Rita and her late husband Lawrence were

Memorial for Rita Holder
Time: Jan 10, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting: https://endicott.zoom.us/j/94496168790
Meeting ID: 944 9616 8790
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,94496168790# US (Washington D.C)
+13126266799,,94496168790# US (Chicago)
Dial by your location
2021 NEW YEAR’S DAY SOCIAL

We started the New Year right with an online version of our Annual New Year’s Day Party. It was a joyful occasion with members sharing songs, stories, quizzes and good cheer all around! Hearty thanks go to Judy Rosemarin for gently guiding us through the challenges that technology presents and to the Membership Committee (Linda Napoli, Alicia Evans, Ginger Hendler, Linda Joe, Lyn Dobrin, Judy Rosemarin, Kelly Schmidt, Patricia Spencer) for organizing the event.

Poem by Rainer Maria Rilke
Born in Prague, Czech Republic December 04, 1875
Died December 29, 1926
“Let everything happen to you
Beauty and terror
Just keep going
No feeling is final”
Read by Linda Napoli at the December Women’s Meeting

World Without End is a painting by Aidan Waters, age 14, the son of members Sarah and John Waters.
Lorraine Zeller-Agostino:

I decided to get out my watercolors to paint one-of-a-kind holiday cards this year (despite the fact that I’ve had only 2 beginner lessons in watercolor painting a couple of years ago!) This one went to my mom and step-dad. Every card I painted has a cardinal in the picture. The cardinals are with us year-round and they always add a brightness to my day. And I always get a thrill seeing their splash of bright crimson against the pure white snow.
Can I Help you with your Cell Phone?
by Al Zeiger

“Is there anyone else at home who can help you with your cell phone?”

This is the question asked of me after ninety aggravating minutes of trying to negotiate a simple procedure. Let me start with some background.

I bought a cellphone to try and stay in touch with the world around me. If I could learn to tape a tv program, program a dvd and play the saxophone, I could learn to email and zoom. I bought an apple phone so I could ask questions about problems I was having with the phone.

I bought a 5S and after a few years it had seen better days and wasn’t working well. I bought the latest phone in that series, an SE. I kept up the AT&T payments on both phones separately and figured after I learned to use the new phone, I would cancel the payments on the 5S. Simple enough?

I call the apple phone number and a recording tells me that I have to wait to talk to customer service. That sounds reasonable so I wait 15 minutes until someone gets on the phone.

Finally someone gets on with an accent from “Pachooch” which I can barely understand. I explain that I’m a senior senior have a hearing problem and please speak very slowly. I might as well have been talking to a person from Mars because I understand nothing. We go through “Can you repeat that slowly” or “I don’t understand what you’re asking me.” Many times.

I try to explain that I am making AT& T payments on two phones until I learn to use the new one. I have learned to use the new one so please remove one payment from my 5S phone. She says “I have to ask you a few questions first.” After a few questions and “Can’t understand you” and “Could you speak more slowly,” I realize I’m in trouble. It’s now forty minutes of struggling and getting nowhere, when I realize I have a choice, to continue this punishment and ask to speak to someone else, and start all over again, and take the chance of being disconnected. I decide that this situation is useless. I tell her “I am sorry, I can’t understand you, and can I speak to your supervisor.” “Hold on” she says, “it will be a short wait.” Another 15 minutes go by, wondering whether I will get to speak with the supervisor.

I am beside myself with frustration. I decide to use the techniques that Judy taught us in her meditation class. “Tighten your muscles and then loosen them, take deep breaths.” It’s helping like administering CPR to someone who is already dead of a heart attack. I feel like jumping out the window but no, I will not give up.

Finally a supervisor gets on. She also has an accent which is slightly better than the first person. “Sure I can help you but first I have to ask you a few questions.” The first few questions are easy: name, address and phone number. Then she asks for my pin number. I don’t remember ever using it. “Hold on” I say and run to a bunch of numbers I have in my notebook. Finally one is correct.

What is your mothers maiden name?
What is your favorite food?
How many miles to a gallon did you get on your first car?
Did your parents get along and if not explain why?

Finally I realize she has no idea what I want or what I’m talking about. The final question she asks “Is there anyone else at home who can help you?” I realize I’ve wasted 90 minutes and feel like I just climbed Mt. Everest.

I guess I’ll have to ask my friend Linda for help.
WAYS TO DONATE

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. It is easy to sign up, simply go to smile.amazon.com to start.

On your first visit, select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Search for Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. If you are currently using AmazonSmile, consider changing your charity to: Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Make sure that you make your purchases from the SMILE site, SMILE.AMAZON.COM.

CHEERFUL GIVING

Support the Ethical Humanist Society of LI by rounding up the spare change on everyday purchases. Just click on the link to sign up as a donor: https://app.cheerfulgiving.com/p/ethical-humanist-society-of-long-island

Follow the prompts, when you get a screen that says "where would you like to give," type in Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and click on our name when it appears. Then, click the button that says GIVE NOW, check the box that says "round up spare change on my purchases," and hit continue (you do not have to make a donation at this time). The next steps will take you through adding your bank account. You can set the limit that you want to send the society each month and you can stop at any time.

(be aware there are fees associated with the "Spare Change Donation" program)
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.

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
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.

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](http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/).

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](mailto: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.

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Create a Caring World