Spring is a busy time up here. There’s the vegetable garden to set up and the shrubs and trees to inspect, install, trim, and fertilize. What is satisfying about the plants is that they know exactly what they’re supposed to do. A zucchini has no identity confusion. It will fulfill its destiny as a zucchini or it will fail. There’s no middle ground. You can rely on its single-minded focus.

But the garden is not an Eden of placidity, either. It is a field of competition as fought over as a shelf in Walmart. Everybody is vying for space and attention. The competition is not fair nor is it limited to the usual contenders. There are the out-of-town bullies and the Philadelphia lawyers of the plant world that install themselves unbidden and unexpected.

A survey of my yard will reveal that much of it has been taken over by foreign competition, much like that shelf at Walmart. The forest floor is covered, as far as the eye can see, with barberry, a vagabond that shipped in from Japan. In the sunny places, intertwined among them, I had been admiring the wild roses - until I identified them as the sneakily similar Japanese multiflora rose, which the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation urges me to pull up and extirpate. In the shady places, the burning bush or winged euonymous, pops up here, there and everywhere. It is a pretty little tree that turns red in the
fall, and is a native of Korea and China, and is now widespread. The lawn, which is really more prairie than lawn and welcome to all genre of weeds, is dominated more and more by stiltgrass, an Asian import. The sunny roadsides are being taken over by Japanese knotweed, which can’t be deterred. The tall sugar maples are aging out, and are being replaced by fast-growing Norway maples, another target of the DEC. A list of culprits would be endless, from weeds to wildflowers, ailanthus trees to zebra clams.

What hasn’t been shouldered aside, it seems, can be under frontal assault. The Dutch elm disease cleared many town commons of that majestic centerpiece. The chestnut tree, once a dominant member of the northeastern forest, was wiped out by the cryphonectria parasitica, a fungus that sailed in from Asia in the 1930’s. I am sheltering three little ones, cuttings from a (hopefully) resistant survivor. But the crisis of today is over the ash trees, which are being wiped off the face of America by a borer beetle from Asia. I am desperately guarding my ash trees with heavy duty chemical injections and now they are the only survivors in the entire neighborhood.

Many of these plants were originally brought to “terraform” the continent so it would look like the Europe the colonists left behind. The very earth worms in the soil were brought here and utterly transformed the soil chemistry from its pre-Columbian condition. More recently, foreign-born plants are escapees originally imported as nursery stock for ornamentation.

Wanting to create an evergreen corner with native trees, I discovered that my local nurseries have trouble finding any. If I want Norway spruce or Chinese hanging pine, there’s no lack of supply. But ask for an eastern pine sapling, the vin ordinaire of our forests, or local northern white spruce - none available.

People may charge the imperious West with displacing native cultures around the world with the implantation of their own. People lament the loss of ancient cultures which may have been more authentic of location and rich in unique ways. But these distant lands have had their revenge. Cultivars from all over the world have taken root in North America, making our’s the most invaded ecosystem on earth. In the plant world, we are the ones that have been colonized.

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI
June 06: Joe Chuman, *Is it About Me or Is it About Us?*

We are often taught that as Americans individualism is a most important value. Our defense of rights is assuredly vested into the individual. Yet, I contend that individualism has gone too far in our society leading to both excessive privatization and eventually loneliness. Our humanism must no less value our responsibility to others and our commitment to the common good. I will discuss these dynamics in my address and their farther implications.

Joe has been leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County for 40 years, and part-time leader of the NY Society for seven. He is professor of human rights teaching in the graduate school of Columbia University and at Hunter College. He has taught at the University for Peace in Costa Rica and at other universities. He has been an activist focusing on civil liberties, human rights, and other causes committed to social justice.

Joe has been widely published in op-editorials, academic texts, journals of opinion and encyclopedias. A book "Speaking of Ethics" was published earlier last year.

**JUNE 6: Everyone is encouraged to wear ORANGE**

**to support National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

**at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.**

Orange shirts are encouraged; any other "bling" like hats, scarves, etc. is welcomed. We’ll be taking a few photos of our Zoom screens and anyone who wants to photograph themselves at home in orange is also encouraged.

Maggie Nowinski is an interdisciplinary artist and arts educator based in Western Massachusetts. She will be joining EHS to talk about her own practice as an artist, her choice to teach as an adjunct professor and to delve into what motivates her personally and socio-politically in both capacities. As part of her talk, Nowinski will share examples from her own body of work as well as works by students and will reflect upon how the notion of ethics informs her roles as both an educator and artist. Nowinski is an EHS Sunday School graduate, having attended until she moved away from Long Island at the age of 13 and she is grateful for how the foundational values instilled in her through EHS continue to inform and support her path today.

Maggie Nowinski is an interdisciplinary visual artist, arts educator and curator who lives and works in Easthampton Massachusetts. She received her BFA in painting from the State University of New York at New Paltz and her MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She is adjunct faculty at Westfield State University in Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Manchester Community College in CT and is often Artist-Mentor through the VCFA MFA program. She frequently exhibits throughout the Northeast though her work has been in numerous exhibitions nationally and has been collected internationally. Nowinski is the recipient of multiple awards and grants. Her current body of work is rooted in drawing and printmaking, though her artworks frequently take the format of installation, combine traditional, unusual media, audio, video and performative processes. Nowinski’s practice is embodied by an awareness of the conceptual and political inevitability of art making. She is also fond of collaborations.

To learn more about her and her work go to [www.maggienowinski.org](http://www.maggienowinski.org) or Instagram @maggienow.
June 20: Hugh Taft Morales, *Being Wrong: The Virtues of Humility and Doubt.*

We all like to be right, but should we get more comfortable being wrong? So often we make truth claims and proceed to stake so much on them: our ego, our reputation, our power. Given that every person’s knowledge is limited, shouldn’t we let go of certainty and embrace our painstaking collective construction of wisdom? After all, doubt is what launched the freethought movement. Hugh Taft-Morales explores the liberation that comes when one embraces intellectual humility and doubt.

Hugh serves as Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society and the Baltimore Ethical Society and is a member of the Ethical Action Committee of the American Ethical Union (AEU). Hugh taught philosophy and history for twenty-five years in Washington, D. C., after which he transitioned into Ethical Culture Leadership. In April of 2009 he graduated from the Humanist Institute and was certified as an Ethical Culture Leader by the AEU in 2010. Born and raised in Connecticut, Taft-Morales graduated with a B.A. cum laude in American History from Yale University, 1979, and an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, 1986. He lives in Takoma Park, Maryland, with his wife, Maureen, a Specialist in Latin America for the Congressional Research Service. They have three wonderful adult children – Sean, Maya, and Justin. Hugh’s hobbies include yoga, singing, and playing guitar.

June 27: Bart Worden, *When Words Fail Us: How language affects our ethical agency.*

Language has a tremendous impact upon our view of the world and our experience of it. That is especially true in relation to our efforts to understand and follow ethical ideals and principles. Language provides the possibility to communicate with other people and achieve a common understanding. Language also limits the range of our thinking and constrains avenues of communication. In this address Ethical Culture Leader, Bart Worden, will attempt to sift through some of the beneficial and challenging aspects of how our use of words can help us live ethical lives.

Bart Worden has been the Executive Director of the American Ethical Union, the national federation of Ethical Culture and Ethical Humanist Societies, since 2012. Bart is, in addition, the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, and is a Social Worker who has worked with programs that help people recover from psychiatric disability.
President’s Column
by Jim LoPresti

June 2021.
I leave this job with mixed feelings. In one way we accomplished a great deal. I went over that at the membership meeting so I won’t bore you by repeating it. What I did like is the discussion we had as a society over the student membership proposal. It felt messy for a while but I thought it was really worthwhile and with the help of some who are smarter than I, we came to a consensus. It is not perfect by any stretch but we now have student membership. I hope this will be refined and improved by other boards but we have it. Our board meeting about this was long and contentious. We actually tabled the idea until the next board meeting. Lorraine, being the good listener that she is, culled out the important points, and came up with a compromise that is the proposal we voted on. This is what working together is all about.

I will not miss the contentious board meetings but in retrospect they were necessary. President Obama said “Democracy is messy”. I saw that on a small scale although, in the thick of it, I didn’t appreciate it. I learned from the experience and I’m grateful for having had the opportunity to let my voice be heard.

It has not happened yet, but I would love to hear your comments. If they’re good, wonderful; if they’re bad, be gentle.

At the May membership meeting the following members were elected to join the EHSLI Board of Trustees:

Linda Napoli, Wayne Outten, Judy Rosemarin.

They join the current members: Rosa Amatulli, Alicia Evans, Sue Feifer, Barbara Haber, Harry Ramani, Pat Spencer to constitute a Board of 9 members.

Members retiring at this time: Linda Joe (Secretary), Jim LoPresti (President), Lorraine Zeller-Agostino (Treasurer).
**WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS**

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

[http://zoom.us/j/980426852](http://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 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](mailto: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:

[http://zoom.us/j/3774000022](http://zoom.us/j/3774000022)
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](mailto: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](mailto:)).

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- JUNE 3, 7 PM

Join Dr. David Sprintzen for our monthly "Ethical Issues in Our Times"
Now a joint product of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and the Humanists of Long Island (First Thursday of each month)

**Topic: Can US Democracy Survive? And How?**

It appears that those in control of one of the major parties in our essentially two-party electoral system believe that they have the right to overturn any electoral results they do not like, ruling out the peaceful transfer of power - a pre-condition of an electoral democracy. Is this true of the national Republican Party? If so, how are the populace and the Democratic Party to respond? And can US democracy survive such a reality?

To register, call the EHS office: 516-741-7304 or email: [office@ehsli.org](mailto:office@ehsli.org)
or register via [Meetup](https://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society/)
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)

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Sign up for the weekly email notices to be informed of all of our activities and Zoom links. Email the office [office@ehsli.org](mailto:office@ehsli.org) or call 516-741-7304.
**WOMEN'S GROUP - JUNE 4, 7:30 PM**

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

**Topic:** WHAT QUALITY OF YOURS HAS BEEN MOST IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?

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**POETRY CIRCLE - JUNE 28, 7 PM**

You are invited to bring in your favorite poetry to share. 

**Topic:** Contemporary Poets.

Please contact Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com

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**BOOK DISCUSSION: JUNE 29, 7 PM**

**Crossing to Safety** by Wallace Stegner  
Called a “magnificently crafted story...brimming with wisdom” by Howard Frank Mosher in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

Email Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com to get the Zoom Link. Please let us know what books you are reading and would like to discuss in the future.
Social Action Corner:

Members of the Social Action Committee meet once a month so please join

Our YES kids are working on mental health issues beginning with the organization of a place where kids can come to speak about their issues. Sonia, our Social Action Coordinator, is involved in the process and has offered to facilitate such a discussion.

EHSLI member Sharon Stanley (second row from bottom, center)
Sharon is the liaison between us and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

We couldn't go to Albany, so Albany came to us! Yesterday, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America met with many of our state assembly people, advocating for additional gun safety laws regarding making background checks mandatory and ghost guns fully illegal. It was so rewarding and completely exhausting. ❤️
NEWLY REVIVED IN-PERSON OUTDOOR Diversity Friendship Listening Circles and our continuing Zoom versions

Always Free. Uninterrupted turns on a given race-related/ human topic, and getting to know people across the artificial divisions, and then interaction modeling the Beloved Community. Listen until it's your turn to share uninterrupted on a given race-related question but Only From Direct Personal Experience. It's not a debate or a forum. It's getting to know each other across the artificial societal boundaries, broadening cross-cultural perspectives, and building solidarity.

Friday, June 11 5PM:
BBQ & Backyard diversity circle in Farmingville at Jim "Dr. Love" Banks' house. Host/Facilitator needs all of us to bring valid completed Covid vaccination cards and to wear masks.

Saturday, July 17 at 12Noon:
Potluck & Backyard diversity circle (Medford). Less stringent Covid requirements for this one.

Thursday, June 24 at 7PM:
ON ZOOM Jim "Dr. Love" Banks facilitating.

REGISTER SOON:
Email MulticulturalSolidarity@gmail.com and please specify the dates you want.

(For updates, occasionally check our Facebook group’s announcement section: https://www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturalsolidarityli)
Announcements:

The Interfaith Institute of Long Island (IFI)

Presents

Judging Another As Good or Bad

Key Points For Discussion:
How do we judge another when their actions are both heroic and horrific?

(PDF of the case study will be sent to all registrants)

Sunday, June 6th, 2021, at 2:00pm

ZOOM Meeting

Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum
Temple Israel of Lawrence, Lawrence, New York
President of North American Board of Rabbis and adjunct professor at Fordham University Law School

Hugh Taft-Macek
Clergy Leader of Philadelphia Ethical Society and the Baltimore Ethical Society

Reverend Tristan J. Salley
Senior Pastor, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rochester, NY

St. Zainab Bey
Ramad advocate. Vice-chair of the Interfaith Institute of Long Island Board

Arthur Dobrin
Moderator
Professor Emeritus of University Studies, Hofstra University
Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Member Interfaith Institute of Long Island Board

To register:
call/text to 551-234-1213
Email: faroqukhan@outlook.com

Zoom link and PDF of the case study will be sent to all registrants!
We all have a tune in our heart, so why not learn how to sing it in the best and most healthy way possible?

This workshop teaches participants how to harness their singing voices' true potential and then to expand on it. Chloe Agostino will teach a variety of warm-ups to exercise the singing voice every day. Participants will learn about the anatomy of their voice, how best to take care of it, and how to prepare for any singing rehearsal or performance or just for pleasure. People of all music skills are encouraged to participate and embrace their natural singing voices together in an open, friendly environment.

"After this program you will be singing your favorite songs loud and proud!," says Chloe.

This event is sponsored by
The Ethical Humanist Society of LI
The suggested contribution amount is $20 per Zoom window.

To sign up, first click on this link to the google form:
https://forms.gle/gSkcyHMs5rqbq8GA

The Zoom link will be sent when registration is complete.

While at ECU, Chloe was a part of the internationally renowned East Carolina University Chamber Singers and performed the title role of Gilbert and Sullivan’s "Iolanthe," St. Mathilde in Francis Poulenc's "The Dialogues of the Carmelites" and Charlotte in Stephen Sondheim’s "A Little Night Music."

During her last year at ECU, Chloe presented recitals featuring works by Ravel, Debussy, Messiaen, Schubert, Wolf, Bolcom, and Bernstein.

While at UW Madison, Chloe studied under Dr. Julia Rottmayer and worked with Opera director David Ronis, singing the roles of Hermia in Britten’s "A Midsummer Night’s Dream" and Dorabella in W.A. Mozart’s "Così fan tutte." Her Masters Recital program showcased all women composers.

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Sunday, 6/27/2021 at 2pm

Join your friends from the Ethical Society at a potluck and speaker planning meeting.

All welcome.

Bring your ideas for speakers and content

Location: David and Alice Sprintzen’s home:

16 Southwoods rd, Syosset 11791

RSVP to: EHSLI office, Alice or Pat Spencer by 6/22
Society Members:

A gift to the society from Joan Beder.
We are planning on a more permanent location for it outside.

https://vimeo.com/548017726...

Arthur Dobrin, EHSLI Leader Emeritus was recently interviewed by Eric Alexander for his show Long Island Main Street News.
EHSLI member, Sarah Finkelstein was featured in “RAISE THE ROOF: A Night to Inspire!”
Sarah was selected because of her desire to help abolish human trafficking, eradicate domestic violence, and support people to rise out of trauma.

SHEROES United is a unique organization that helps people rise from pain and trauma into victory and leadership! They highlight using difficulties in the past as a catalyst to greater things!

RAISE THE ROOF was livestreamed on Facebook. You can view the program using this link: https://fb.watch/5TsvQ64HBZ/
Congratulations, David!
That’s what friends are for!

Says David Geddam, "I wanted to attend a commencement ceremony at least once. I couldn’t attend commencement ceremonies for my first two degrees due to various reasons. This degree also looked like a loss due to Covid and last year’s commencement being postponed. I whined to my friends how I was feeling.

Alison (Pratt) and Steve (Hetzel) took it upon themselves to make this a memorable one for me. Alison went to Delaware a week prior to collect my cap and gown. On the day Steve and Alison drove me down to Delaware where my college is, dressed me up, took pictures of me, cheered me as I walked the stage, hosted me in a hotel for the night.

I want to thank Alison and Steve for making it such a memorable day. I want to thank all my Ethical friends who love and support me through my endeavors. This year has been especially hard on me due to Covid and other personal struggles but I am happy and grateful for my friends at the Ethical. They certainly make me feel that I have a family here."

FYI: David’s first degree is a Bachelor’s in Physical Therapy, from Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS), Andhra Pradesh, India; his second degree is a Masters in Education, Exercise Physiology from Wichita State University, Kansas, USA; and his third one is a Masters in Health Care Management from Goldey Beacom College, Delaware, USA.
Help spread the word

We have an office on the 2nd floor of our Society building that was recently vacated and is immediately available for lease.

It's a great space for business professionals and a great location--easily accessible by car, train or bus.

We are looking for a non-profit organization to rent the space. If you know of anyone, please send them our way. Call the office at: 516-741-7304 or email: office@ehsli.org.

The rental spaces can be seen on our web site: https://www.ehsli.org/ceremonies-building-rentals/building-rental/
Ethical Friends of Children NEEDS YOUR HELP on a Wednesday from 10-1pm.

Due to COVID some of the EFOC volunteers no longer participate in the program, leaving only Jim and Pat volunteering.

Are you free on a Wednesday morning to help sort and pull clothing? If Wednesdays don’t work, we could work with you to determine a good time. Feel free to tell your friends and family of our program and need. Perfect opportunity for teens looking to help their community. We do not interact with the general population but leave clothing for them to pick up later in the day.

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

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.