Leader’s Message

As I write this, it is a beautiful Sunday morning in April and the rain is coming down. April showers, to be sure. We generally hate the rain, but we love April showers for the promise they offer. They promise May flowers, of course. What matches my mood is this season of high expectations. We've come through a rainstorm and it is time for the sky to brighten.

I've got the urge to hum the melody from “West Side Story” - “Could be, who knows? Something's comin’…” It's gotta be good. We've earned it. And, there are so many good things that we are ready to receive.

For one, it can be herd immunity. Many of us have been getting vaccinated and it is only a matter of time before we reach the tipping point of herd immunity. That will be like a door unlocking, so long as too many people don’t undermine it with skittishness over the vaccines.

What’s more, climate related reforms are appearing on the political horizon. With the backing of the powers that be, we may actually see the societal transformations that are needed to help put the brakes on global warming.

Then, people are speaking seriously about police reforms. After yet another season of tragedies, we may see lessons being
learned and awareness spreading to new quarters leading to new attitudes about police violence.

More broadly, we may see the blooming of new racial awareness and new appreciation of the inequalities and barriers that have rent our American civilization for so long. I see the buds of new growth and a dawning of understanding among many more people.

For these transformations to happen is not as certain as the seasons. But we can do these things if we collectively engage to make them happen. These are mostly human-caused problems that people themselves can repair. We can do it. We can help tip the balance of decisions to be made, policies to be enforced.

For our country to achieve them - they require the country to pull for them. I know we stand ready in our Ethical Society to do our part.

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI

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

OFFICE MANAGER
Tina: 516-741-7304 or office@ehsli.org.
Contact us any time.
The office email and voicemail is checked daily.
Tina will be in the office:
on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00-2:00
Sunday Presentations

https://zoom.us/j/980426852

May 02: Donna Walker-Kuhne, Equity Diversity Inclusion in our Communities.

This presentation will discuss key issues in equity, diversity and inclusion in the arts and culture community. We will discuss trends in the field and the impact of Black Lives Matter. This talk will address the personal and professional actions that are currently being taken to disrupt racism.

Donna Walker-Kuhne is an award winning thought leader, writer and strategist for community engagement, audience development and social justice. She is President of Walker International Communications Group, a 30 year old boutique marketing, audience development, diversity training and social justice consulting agency. She provides consulting services to numerous arts organizations throughout the world and has generated over $23million in earned income. She is also Senior Advisor, Community Engagement, New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

She is a veteran of over 22 Broadway productions and her nonprofit clients include Lincoln Center, Seattle Theater Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and The Apollo Theater. She is co-founder of Impact Broadway a multicultural project that engages over 300 students as audience members for Broadway with the goal to empower this community to be economic drivers of new audiences for the Broadway Theater district. She is a lecturer and key note presenter for arts conferences in Moscow, Russia, Blomfontein, South Africa, University of Berlin, AMA Conference in Edinburgh and Australian Arts Conferences. She is an adjunct Professor at New York University, Columbia University and Bank Street College. She serves on several boards including Signature Theater, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Vice President of the Board for Newark Arts Council, HARLEM WEEK and The Harlem Arts Alliance. She is a member of The League of Professional Women in Theater and the National Theater Conference. Recipient of over 50 awards including the 2019 League of Professional Theatre Women Rachel Crothers Leadership Award and the 2019 SPAA Award for Community Service from Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration/Newark.

Her first book, Invitation to the Party: Building Bridges to Arts, Culture and Community, was published in 2005 and she just completed her second book, Champions for the Arts: Lessons and Successful Strategies for Engaging Diverse Audiences. She has a weekly blog, Arts and Culture Connections that explores cultural efforts to expand diverse audiences.

We sincerely thank Donna for waiving her speaker fee of $3,000 and donating same to EHSLI!
May 23: Thomas Roser, *Order from chaos: thoughts about the creation of the world.*

Most of the stories of creation describe how the elements of the world - earth, heavens, plants, animals and humans - are created from a chaotic primordial state. The stories often leave this up to a deity: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Modern science has answered many of the questions about galaxies and stars and evolution explains the many life forms on earth. It is less clear how order was created in the first place. In my talk I will discuss the question: why is it possible that in the middle of an ongoing cosmic explosion - the Big Bang - complex structures like galaxies, solar systems and DNA molecules can be created? This is particularly puzzling because of nature’s unrelenting push towards greater disorder, a fact we all know well from our own experience and that is also the second law of thermodynamics.

I grew up in Switzerland and obtained a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. In 1984 I came to the USA to work with the particle accelerators at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. Since its commissioning in 2000 I have been responsible for the operation of the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven - the atom smasher that explores the beginning of our universe and discovered the "Quark Gluon Plasma", a most perfect liquid that existed shortly after the Big Bang. I have always been interested in how scientists can contribute to society, not just to create new gadgets but to offer solutions that are based on facts.

My wife, Georgine Dominique, and I have been members of EHSLI for about 25 years.

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May 09: Richard Koral, *Founders’ Day: “The Community We Make.”*

Let’s remember that we comprise a unique community with a special legacy and a boundless future. We will reflect on what we build and what we have.

May 16: YES (Youth of Ethical Societies), *What happened at the YES conference in 2021.*

Representatives from the national YES group will talk about the YES annual conference; they will then talk about the YES conference they just had in March 2021.

Using an example Multicultural Diversity Listening Circle format, James “Dr. love” Banks and Joel Diamond - Co Presidents of Multicultural Solidarity of Long Island Inc. will facilitate a journey back for self-discovery and non-judged sharing on each participant’s first experience with a surprise topic.

Dr. James W. Banks has well over 30 years of teaching and over 30 years in private practice, as a Counselor, Psychotherapist and Hypnotist. He has both served the communities and people of Suffolk County and has positively represented Suffolk County Community College. As Associate Professor of Health Careers, “Dr. Love,” has taught such classes as, Principles of Interviewing, Introduction to Psychology, Group Dynamics, Sociology, and College Seminar. As an Adjunct Professor at Dowling College he’s taught Social Work, Introduction to Social Welfare, Social Work Colloquium, and Social Welfare Policy. Professor Banks is a major asset to Suffolk County Community College because of his expansive community involvement in presentations, workshops and community organizations focused on Social Justice, Social Action and Diversity.

Professor Banks, attended Fordham University, State University of New York Stony Brook, and the City University of Seattle, Washington. Professor Banks, is the Chair of Southampton Anti-bias Task Force, the Chair of the Suffolk County African American Advisory Board, Co-Chair of Multicultural Solidarity, Co-Chair of AAECF, Inc. member of 3 branches of the NAACP, member of Board Southampton African American Museum, Consultant to the Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding, Inc.

Joel Diamond, 77 years old, of East Setauket, is Co-president of Multicultural Solidarity Long Island. He grew up in the Bronx and attended the following schools: Queens, Hofstra, Stony Brook. He has had careers as: Elementary School Teacher in Merrick. Social worker mainly with child abuse and mental health advocacy. Probation officer mainly with sexual offenders and domestic violence. Supervised visitation practice (current).
President’s Column
by Jim LoPresti

May.
Some of what I believe about we, the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.

This is in part, a response to last Sunday’s talk and the AEU direction in general. I want to emphasize that I’m speaking only for myself. Feel free to agree or disagree with any or all of what I say. I welcome comments.

1. Our purpose is to make life better for everyone.
2. We believe in the dignity of all human beings.
3. Justice comes very slowly but it’s coming and we are part of the arc that curves in a positive direction toward Justice.
4. No one here is racist in thought, word, or deed. In fact, we are anti-racist.
5. We can all improve.

Jim LoPresti

Quotes for the month of May, all from Felix Adler:

“Act so as to elicit the best in others and thereby in thyself.”

“May the humanity that is within every human being be held precious. The vice that underlies all vices is that we are held cheap by others, and far worse, that in our innermost soul we think cheaply of ourselves.”

“To care for anyone else enough to make their problems one’s own, is ever the beginning of one’s real ethical development.”

For All Members:
Our Spring membership meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23 immediately following the Sunday meeting. Please plan on attending. We will be replacing and welcoming 3 new board members.
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.

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 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/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 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- MAY 6, 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: Coming to Terms With Our History
What do owe to our past? What, if anything, are we responsible for? What does it mean to be a member of the United States? Of the Western World? Of the human race? What attitudes, values, and actions should we undertake in the present to give expression to who we are and to who we seek to become?

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

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 - MAY 7, 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 and Delorie 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.

**Topic:** What is the best piece of advice you ever received, and the best example of your using the advice successfully.

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POETRY CIRCLE - MAY 24, 7 PM

You are invited to bring in your favorite poetry to share. This month’s topic is love poems.

Please contact Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com

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BOOK DISCUSSION: MAY 25, 7 PM

**What We Keep, by Elizabeth Berg**

What’s it About?
Two sisters who believe they were abandoned by their mother in the '50’s make a journey to California to see her for the first time in thirty-five years. The novel goes back and forth in time, showing one of the sister on the airplane headed west, juxtaposed with her memories of the summer before their mother left with the mysterious woman who moved in next door.

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.
Greetings Humanists!

Members of the EHSLI Social Action Committee met on Sunday April 18 to have lunch in person at the home of Alice and David Sprintzen. Aside from having lunch and seeing old friends, they discussed several items, including the Public Banking Bill, Police Reform, Moms Demand Action.

1. Members decided to send letters to their local State Senators saying they support the Public Banking Bill, something that David Sprintzen has been advocating for on behalf of EHSLI. A draft letter is below if you would like to also send a letter supporting the bill.

   Here is a link to find out who your state Senator is:
   https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator
   (see Sample letter below)

2. Sonia Arora, Social Action Coordinator, spoke about the work of police reform on Long Island. Though both counties voted to adopt their own plans, there were several amendments included in the plans that adopt some of the elements in The People’s Plan.
   The website of Long Island United to Transform Policing and Community Safety, includes the People’s Plan, if you have not read it so far. https://www.liunited.org/the-peoples-plan Let Sonia know if you’d like to get more involved. You can email her: sonia@meow.name.
3. Sharon Stanley shared that Moms Demand Action is going to be holding events across the country to show a unified message that gun violence needs to end. All you need to do to show your support is wear orange. EHSLI will be participating on June 6, 2021.

Members of the Social Action Committee meet once a month so please join us if you are interested.

Sample letter to support the Public Banking Bill:

Dear Legislator,
I am writing to ask you to support the Public Banking bill, #S1762. Public Banking is about using our public money to serve community needs in the period of time between when it’s collected as taxes, fines and fees, and when it’s spent on public services. As you probably know, by law, public funds need to be deposited in commercial banks before they’re spent. Generally, these are the big Wall St. banks like Chase and Wells Fargo, which are often invested in industries that undermine our public policy priorities, such as private prison companies, fossil fuels, and weapons manufacturers. In a county like Nassau, we’ve got billions of dollars on deposit with these institutions. Public banking offers a better way for us to manage those funds and put them to good use. We think that public banks in New York could be a very powerful tool for aligning the banking practices of our public institutions with our progressive values and for investing in the things our communities need as we start to recover from this COVID-19 economic crisis.
As a member of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, I support this bill and I hope you do too.
Best wishes…

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.
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America’s Wear Orange Campaign

“Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America” has an annual "Wear Orange" event in June to focus on "Gun Violence Awareness Month." The first weekend in June is Gun Violence Prevention Weekend.

The "ask" is simple. **On Sunday, June 6, 2021, during our Sunday morning program, everyone who wants to, is encouraged to wear orange to show their support for gun violence prevention legislation and other safety measures. Orange shirts are encouraged; any other "bling" like hats, scarves, etc. is welcomed. We should take a few photos of our Zoom screens and anyone who wants to photograph themselves at home in orange is also encouraged. These photos may end up in social media or local news.**

Pre pandemic, the "Wear Orange" campaign was a huge outreach event; to create awareness of the pandemic that is gun violence. Across the country, everyone wore orange shirts and other regalia, orange ribbons were handed out in various locations, including train stations. (I handed out a bunch of ribbons at the Westbury Train Station. The Mineola dome will be lit orange for the first weekend in June. Leaving painted rocks around the neighborhood and other craft projects were other ways of spotlighting and asking to put an end to this pandemic that is gun violence.

I am proud that EHSLI will be participating in this simple, yet vital crusade. It’s a crucial undertaking. Our photos will be included with other local community centers, individual projects, and places of worship. How wonderful it would be for the EHSLI to be involved in such a large community endeavor!

Here is a link for more information about the “Wear Orange” campaign. [https://wearorange.org/about/](https://wearorange.org/about/)

**Sharon Stanley**
Diversity Friendship & Listening Circles

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.

Register now for the dates and times that suit your schedule, but save up to 2 hours for each one. Each group gathers once monthly on Zoom. Register by emailing us at multiculturalsolidarity@gmail.com and please be sure to state WHICH EXACT DATES you are asking for.

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

May

7 Fri 7pm Gayle
13 Th 2pm Chip
14 Fri 7pm Josie
18 Tu 2pm Chip
19 W 2pm Chip
20 Th 7pm Nayab
22 Sat 2pm Jim

ALSO OFFERING SPECIALIZED CIRCLES

May 6 Thur. 5:30-6:45PM The Consequences of Covid 19 on Mental Health in Minority Communities (Jim Banks) Including depression, anxiety, or post-covid traumatic syndrome

For all of these it’s Your personal experience and feeling that makes the circle work (or that of someone close) along with hearing from the other participants.

NOTE: Just for the specialized circles, the Zoom Meeting ID is: 921 1354 5230 and the Zoom Passcode is: 9ZZZZZ
Announcements:

**A Fabulous FUNdraiser**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

400 Years of History in One Mile
A NYC Zoom Tour with Alan Cohen
May 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm

The fourth in our series of Fabulous FUNdraisers takes us on a virtual stroll with our own Alan Cohen through Lower Broadway, revealing the rich history of NYC from America’s Dutch past to the 21st century.

We’ll look at the history of New York City by “walking” a mile-long portion of Lower Broadway. In this area of Lower Manhattan, you can find examples of streets and structures that date from our Dutch past to the 21st century. Enjoy beautiful architecture, technological breakthroughs and stories about the famous and the infamous from all periods of the city’s history. Some of the specific highlights include:

- The first department store in the U.S.
- Emily Warren Roebling and her place in history
- The hidden City Hall Park
- The Great Fire of 1835
- St. Paul Chapel’s role from the colonial era to 9/11
- We’ll roughly follow the route protesters took July 9, 1776 to topple the statue of King George
- And, much more.

When Alan retired from his careers as a psychologist and college professor, he delved into his passion for New York City history, art and parks. He became an official Central Park tour guide, then a licensed sightseeing guide to share more stories about this fascinating city. His tours include NYC history, public art, Grand Central Terminal, Central Park and Fort Tryon Park. Alan was the lead writer for [www.centralparkinbronze](http://www.centralparkinbronze) and contributes occasional essays to [www.takeawalknewyork.com](http://www.takeawalknewyork.com). He is working on two books at the moment, *Central Park People: A photo essay* and *Exploring Central Park on Foot and Wheels: 135+ Attractions and 12 Tours*. Alan is a docent at the Museum of the City of New York and at the Morris-Jumel Mansion, the oldest house in Manhattan. Before moving into Manhattan in 1999, the Cohens were active members of the Long Island Ethical Society for about 25 years.

The contribution amount is **$20 per Zoom window**.

To sign up, click on the link to the google form: [https://forms.gle/V8FGHAVVUrQ0wuAT5](https://forms.gle/V8FGHAVVUrQ0wuAT5)

Then follow the link in the google form to donate by credit card or PayPal (or click here: [www.ehsli.org/social-action/give/](http://www.ehsli.org/social-action/give/))

OR mail a check to: Ethical Humanist Society of LI, 38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY. 11735

*The Zoom link will be sent when registration is complete.*
Ethical Friends of Children REALLY NEEDS YOUR HELP on a Wednesday from 10-1pm.

The way we take care of clients during covid is we take their orders by email or phone. We fill the orders and place them in the bins with the client’s name attached. The client is called when the order is ready for them to pick up.

Please volunteer even if only a few hours. Due to COVID we are down to two volunteers! We need to sort the clothes by size and swap out the winter clothes and prepare for the upcoming season.

EFOC volunteers do not interact with the general population but choose clothing for clients that they will pick up later in the day. In the future if you might be available to volunteer with EFOC, but not on a Wednesday morning, we could work with you to determine a good time. Feel free to tell your friends and family of our program and needs.

Thank you for helping. Please email Pat Spencer or call 516-603-1940.
A Nest of Wonder

In my backyard in Sarasota, Florida, a Cardinal family has chosen a palm frond to make their nest. By the time you read this, hopefully three lives will be added to our world as pure potential awaiting.

Take a look at the nest and see if you are as amazed as I with its geometry and engineering. Weavers, take a look see. Are you humbled? I am.

Did you know that birds lay eggs but don’t sit on them until they are all laid? Yes. Makes sense. Why have babies born on different days? Rough feeding schedule I would imagine.

Did you know that Cardinals sit on or incubate eggs for 10-13 days? I have photographed every day and today, April 21, 2021 is day 9! So by the time you read this, hopefully everyone is hatched healthy.

Then they are called hatchlings. Then fledglings. Then birds. So did you know that kicking fledglings out of the nest is not first to teach them to fly but to save them from harm. For predators love the vulnerable. Out of the nest changes the "sitting target" for snatching. Who knew?
Why am I writing this? Because the nest and the whole process caught my attention. I knew nothing about birds other than some names and colors. Now I know their songs, thanks to YouTube Bird Calls. Now, thanks to Google search, I know how they manage the birth cycle process, how they build nests, how long they sit, how they mate for life. So I ask and wonder...what catches your attention and how much fun could you have learning about something totally new?

Judy Rosemarin

Crocuses in our garden on a sunny March day, never fail to bring cheer to my heart.

Lorraine Zeller-Agostino
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/
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.

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Create a Caring World