Leader’s Message

I recently decided to engage in a public service and to practice my beliefs. As a firm supporter of the democratic process, I always admired and expressed gratitude to those who serve as poll workers. Working a day that defies all labor law restrictions - it’s a 17 hour long day - they serve so that democracy may function. So, I answered the call from the Board of Elections and signed up to do the training and be available to work on election day.

As a voting citizen, I am aware of the complexity, the technology and the volatility of the process, but only with the training did I get a glimpse into the highly structured diplomacy that is embedded in the process. When we say that we have a two party system, we don’t realize how deeply that fine balance of two is built into the electoral system.

The election system in New York recognizes that the two parties have a great deal at stake in the outcome and, accordingly, they do not trust each other - they never have and presumably never will. So, how do you build a system that all can trust when trust is not at the base of it all? You build a system of rules and transparency and insure that the rules are strictly and faithfully followed. The lengths to
which one can go to insist on process may seem absurd, but when the stakes are high, the process needs to be firm. The official poll workers are party members – it is presumed that everyone has an interest in the outcome – and so they are required to work together and watch each other.

At every step of the procedure both a Democrat and a Republican poll worker must participate. It’s a four-handed process: opening the sealed ballot reader machine and checking that its counter is set at zero; opening the sealed packet of ballots and placing them on the table; checking the voter’s signature against the record; recording the ballot number; reading the tally and reporting it to the Board of Elections at the end of the day; closing and sealing up the machine. There is no need for faith and trust. It presumes there is none. What there is, though, is civility, the shared commitment to run a fair and balanced process whatever the outcome, and an aversion to breaking the rules.

It is very much like the Marquess of Queensbury Rules which govern the boxing ring. Boxing rules, named after John Douglas, the 9th Marquess of Queensbury, pictured here, give form to chaos, order to conflict. The rules do not avoid a fight - they recognize that there will be a fight. But they guide its conduct so that it is a fair fight. It is naïve to hope or believe that some day there will be no competition or that interested people won’t strive for an advantage. This system of mutual oversight balances natural, predictable and everlasting distrust with a form of ritual that both sides can participate in and rely on. They can then accept the results of the election.

After the 2020 election, it was so gratifying to hear Republican election officials defend the results against the barrage of attacks by Republicans unhappy with the outcome. That was an example of professionals fulfilling the ministerial task of conducting a fair count, the colorless and boring detail work it entails, and standing up for the rules on which the whole system is built.

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI
LEADER:
Richard Koral: leader@ehsli.org or 516-741-7304

Tina, our Office Manager will be in the Society office:
    Monday’s: 10-2
    Tuesday’s & Thursday’s 10-3

Phone & Email messages are checked daily.
516-741-7304 or office@ehsli.org

EHSLI Board of Trustees

    Linda Napoli, President
    Susan Feifer, Vice President
    Judy Rosemarin, Secretary
    Wayne Outten, Treasurer
    Alicia Evans
    Barbara Haber
    Anitra Pavlico
    Harry Ramani
    Patricia Spencer
Sunday Presentations

https://zoom.us/j/980426852

**Oct 03: Richard Koral.**
In addition to serving as our part-time Leader at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, Dr. Richard L. Koral has also been a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture since 2017. Richard holds degrees from New York University and New York Law School, and a Doctor of Ministry in interfaith pastoral counseling from the Hebrew Union College. He is the Leader Consultant to the Social Service Board and numerous committees in the NY Society. Also active with the American Ethical Union, Richard served on its Board as president from 2012 to 2015.

**Oct 10: Gershon Baskin, The Ethical Dilemma - Should Countries Negotiate with Terrorists.**
Dr. Baskin will be speaking to us from Israel via zoom on the issues of the Israeli Soldier Gilad Schalit and also Israel versus Hamas, the US and the Taliban, etc.

Dr. Baskin was the initiator and the person responsible for the secret direct back channel between Israel and the Hamas that successfully negotiated the release of abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit. His book on the secret negotiations was published in Hebrew in June 2013 (לשחרר את גיאד שוחט) and in English in October 2013 (The Negotiator - Freeing Gilad Schalit from Hamas -Toby Press). In November 2018, Baskin’s book In Pursuit of Peace in Israel and Palestine was published by Vanderbilt University Press. In November 2020 the book came out in Arabic in Jordan and will soon be published in Portuguese in Brazil and in Spanish in Mexico.

Dr. Baskin has been awarded the Histadrut Prize for Peace in 1996, the Turkish Foreign Policy Institute Peace Prize in 2004, the Tribute of Honor and Courage from the World Movement for Democracy in 2004 and the Search for Common Ground Journalist Award for Middle East Journalism in 2005 and 2007 as well as the Ordine Della Stella Della Solidarieta Italiana. Dr. Baskin speaks Hebrew, English and Arabic.
Arthur will look at the various ways in which Ethical Humanism has been defined and practiced. Can our practices be different?

After two years in Kenya as Peace Corps Volunteers, Arthur joined the Ethical Movement and became the Leader of the Long Island Society in April 1968. He retired in 2001. He began teaching at Hofstra University in 1989 and recently retired as Professor Emeritus of University Studies. He is the author of 25 books, the most recent, Spiritual Timber, which was published by the American Ethical Union last December.

Oct 24: Fall Festival, led by Alice Sprintzen.

Oct 31: AEU ALL SOCIETY MEETING, Future of Ethical Societies (FES), Hosted by Christian Hayden, FES group.
President’s Column
by Linda Napoli

“OUR JOURNEYS CONTINUE”

Hi Everyone,

As this tumultuous year for our nation and the world continues into Autumn, the Society is happily, but slowly opening its doors to periodic Sunday meetings in person. We will continue with a combination of Zoom and Hybrid programs for now. You will be kept up to date weekly regarding this system. Our protocols for meeting in person have been changed to make them safer and by now you will have received notice of what’s been put into place.

There is a great lineup of speakers for this Fall, both on Zoom and for our Hybrid meetings. A lot of people have been involved in making this happen. A special thank you to Pat Spencer, our Speaker Coordinator.

Our rentals have been increasing giving us some much needed income and after a number of improvements our building is looking better than ever.

This Monthly Newsletter gives updates on various Society activities and events so read it and participate where you can. And don’t forget to read the Weekly Email! It contains not only current information, but gives some of the Zoom links you need to participate in our programs. I’m happy to say we have gained several new members and a large number of regular visitors due to Zoom. Every cloud has a silver lining!

Enjoy the cool weather and the beautiful colors of the Fall.
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. Reminders are sent out in the weekly email notices.

TUESDAY MEDITATION GROUP AT 11 AM

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

If you would like to join us, please register by calling the office at: 516-741-7304, or email office@ehsli.org and we will send you the Zoom link.

THURSDAY DIGITAL DISCUSSIONS

On Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. we will hold a digital discussion group with Leader Richard Koral on Zoom. It will have a topic, but it will be wide ranging and people will have an opportunity to share. The topics will be announced in the weekly email, but the link to join will always be the same:

https://zoom.us/j/377400022
or phone in at (929) 436-2866
FRIDAY COLLOQUIY 10 AM

Colloquy is:
"a time of shared reflection and nurturing. It's an opportunity for people to meet in a small group, examine a particular aspect of life, explore and practice self-reflection. It is a structured meeting, including reflection and self-expression in a nonjudgmental, confidential atmosphere.”

If this is your first time attending please register by emailing the Ethical office or calling Arthur Dobrin at 516-997-8545.

(See Al Zeiger’s article describing the Colloquy in the Members section (page 17) of the 2020 October newsletter.)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- OCT 7, 7 PM

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

Topic: What are your current primary moral concerns? Can you explain?

Let us hear from you about which issues matter most to you. This is an invitation to join in an open discussion. To share your concerns and to hear from others about their most pressing moral issues. Join us in discussing these pressing social issues.

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 - OCT 1, 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 Haber and Delorie Cohan will host the group. Email to all women members of EHSLI with the topic and the Zoom link will be sent a week before every meeting.

POETRY CIRCLE - OCT 25, 7 PM

The poetry circle meets every month and is open to all who love poetry. Please contact Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com

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

BOOK DISCUSSION - OCT 26, 7 PM

The book club meets every month. Email Linda Napoli for more information.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185334557?
pwd=ZC92UzRnS2ducVYrVDFiVStVQmRpdz09
Meeting ID: 851 8533 4557
Passcode: 427688
Phone in: 1 (929) 436-2866
Social Action:

Weill Social Action Fund
Update from Lorraine Zeller-Agostino

The Weill Fund Committee is calling on members to submit their proposals for a social action project to be underwritten by a Weill Social Action Fund grant in 2022. All ideas are welcome!

Project should seek to:
• Improve moral and ethical human interaction and relationships and/or
• Improve race relations and/or
• Ameliorate economic hardships of individuals and families.

Grants ranging from $500 to $2,000 are available. In 2021 The Weill Social Action Fund has supported New Hour for Women & Children, Westbury Volunteer Corps, Community Solidarity and Ethical Friends of Children with a total of $6,000 in grants.

Deadline for submissions: October 20th.

For more information contact: Susan Feifer Susanfeifer@gmail.com or Lorraine Zeller-Agostino lorraine@agostinoarts.com or contact us via office@ehsli.org

Humanists of Long Island - October 2021
Sharon Stanley

Here are the coming Friday night dates for our HoLI meetings.
Oct. 29
Jan. 28
Feb. 25
March 25
April 29

We are not meeting in Nov., Dec. or May.
SAMPLE LETTER FROM EHSLI's SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS TO STAND UP TO BIG PHARMA

Do you want Medicare to have the power to negotiate lower drug prices with pharmaceutical companies? Do you think prescription costs are too high?

If you said yes, then please call Rep. Kathleen Rice (516) 739-3008 and ask why she voted NO on the Build Back Better Bill, which will not allow Medicare to negotiate for reasonable prices on drugs. Below is a call script:

Dear Rep. Rice,
I’m calling to urge you to vote YES on the “Build Back Better” Bill and be on the side of families, NOT pharmaceutical companies. I understand that you already voted no on the bill but you still have the chance to listen to your constituents and do the right thing and vote YES when the final bill goes to the House Floor. 9 out of 10 (90%) of NY-04 voters back reforms that give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug price. Once again, I urge you to listen to the families you represent and do the right thing.

For more information on this issue, check out the article in The Nation: https://www.thenation.com/.../aoc-kathleen-rice-drugs/

Our Affiliate Organization,

Scheduled Diversity Friendship Circles

ZOOMS
Oct.15 Fri 5:30PM Facilitator James Dr. Love Banks
Oct.17 Sun. 7:00 PM Facilitator Josie Bailey
Oct. 21 Th. 7:00PM Facilitator Chip Williford
Oct.30 Sat. 11:00AM Facilitator Pramila Venkateswaran
IN PERSON: on Saturdays
Oct.23 Southampton
Nov.13 Watermill
Dec.11 Shinnecock Land

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CIRCLES AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE
Register by emailing multiculturalsolidarity@gmail.com Also check the announcement section of our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturalsolidarityLI

89-Second Video hint of what our Zoom diversity circle is like: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hILUi8Pv8c4
"The most radical thing I can do is introduce people to each other."
ATTENTION: We are opening our doors to our community for Sunday Platform Meetings!

Please note that Sunday Platform Meetings will be offered in two different ways*:
1) in person/hybrid (live in person in our meeting room with combined Zoom access)
   and
2) Zoom only.
To stay informed about which meetings are Hybrid and which are Zoom only, please join our email list by contacting the office: office@ehsli.org. Meeting details will be sent to your inbox every week.

For those who wish to attend Sunday Morning Platforms onsite/in person, at 38 Old Country Road, please use the guidelines below to support our efforts to create an abundance of caution and for making those present feel safe:

   Those who wish to attend in person must provide either
   1) Proof of a completed Covid Vaccination series or
   2) Proof of a negative Covid test within past three days.

   Masks are required for all in person meetings. All chairs will be spaced apart for social distancing.

   We also ask that you please RSVP to: office@ehsli.org so we can get a head count.
As always, for those who wish to watch the platform at home, join us on Zoom.
The best way to stay informed is to join our email list below or contact the office at office@ehsli.org or call 516-741-7304
*All can use Zoom for all Sunday Platforms any time.
CARING CONNECTION

"Create a caring world" begins with us.

Members of our Caring Connection make calls, send cards, and check in on those who may be ill or haven’t been to the Society for a while. Members are working to make this happen, but cannot do it alone. Everyone’s help and involvement is needed. As Ethical Humanists, we all play a role - it’s a core part of who we are.

What can you do? Join in. Please connect with Ginger Hendler to learn more.

And if you or a member of our community is sick, experiencing loss, or celebrating a milestone, a birthday, let us know:

Email the office at: office@ehsli.org
or email: caringconnection@ehsli.org or call 516-741-7304 and leave a message.
Someone will get back to you.

Please call members you haven’t seen in awhile and introduce yourself to our newest members from 2021 and 2020:

Richard DiCecio
Elayne Gersten & Mika Petrovich
Sal Capone and his son Ryan
Sarah Finkelstein & John Waters (are back!)
Ben Bortin & Andrea Starr
Frank Miller-Small
Anne Tiss
Sad News From Arthur Dobrin:

Martin Kornbluh, 74, died on September 16, 2021. His family joined the Long Island Ethical Society in the late 1950s. His parents, Betty and Sol, were both presidents of our society at separate times.

Martin graduated from the Sunday School, was a member of the Youth Group and has been a member of our society throughout his life. His wife, Judy, died two years ago. He had been living in Port Washington in recent years. He is survived by his brother John, who lives in Cincinnati.

MARTY KORNBLUTH

KORNBLUH--Martin Scott. 74. Endlessly curious, ever buoyant, utterly kind, and thoughtful friend to all. Predeceased by beloved wife Judy. Survived by brother John (Andrea), niece Anna (Ezra), great-niece Mira, nephew Greg, many cousins, his cat Tabby and his dearest New York Mets. Son of Betty and Sol, graduate of the Lorge School, spent entire career at Admiral Craft Equipment. World traveler, mayor and town crier, and a wonderful man who’ll be greatly missed.
Ethical Friends of Children NEEDS YOUR HELP on a Wednesday from 10-1pm.

Please click to email Pat Spencer or call her at: 516-603-1940.
Or click to email Jim LoPresti at: efoc@ehsli.org

Thank you for helping with this need.

Watch past Sunday Talks on our new YouTube Channel

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

Or, search "Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island YouTube channel"

Audio is still on our website under "Featured Talks": www.ehsli.org
New member, Ryan Capone volunteered last weekend for the Center Island Beach Fall Cleanup sponsored by Friends of the Bay of Oyster Bay. It was a perfect day and he also learned a bit about our marine ecosystem.
Ethical Friends of Children: A Heartwarming Story

This past week on September 14 at its lunch meeting at Calogero’s Italian restaurant, Jim LoPresti, Director of Ethical Friends of Children, a nonprofit outreach program of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, provided a heartwarming story of the mission of the Friends of Children – to assist homeless and needy families through gifts of children’s clothing, baby needs and infant furniture.

Started in 1985 as an outreach program completely staffed by volunteers, Ethical Friends of Children serves more than 2,500 families each year. All gently used items are collected by donations from individual families or community groups. For more information or to donate, please call 516-280-5525 or efoc@ehslit.org.
A Letter to the County Executive
EHS members Alice and David Sprintzen and our Social Action Coordinator Sonia Arora delivered a letter of congratulations to the office of County Executive Laura Curran to Dear County Executive Curran, expressing appreciation for her courageous veto of the recent effort to modify the Human Rights Law. That proposed law would have given first responders the right to sue protesters who they feel were engaging in discriminatory actions toward them.

The letter read: “The adoption of such a law would have had a chilling effect on the right of citizens of Nassau County to exercise their moral and constitutional right to peacefully protest for the redress of grievances. And it would have served as a dangerous precedent for the rest of the United States. Your courageous action can serve as a model of moral leadership in this time if painful civic contestation. We thank you for it.”
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.

The rental spaces can be seen on our web site: https://www.ehsli.org/ceremonies-building-rentals/building-rental/

By contributing to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island you are helping to maintain its mission and purposes and the many programs and services it offers to its member and the public.
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.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530

Create a Caring World