President’s Message

“Our Journeys Continue”

Hello Everyone,

As we enter the new year, it looks like our Society, and society in general are taking two steps forward and one step back.

Our January Sundays will all be on Zoom, partly to iron out some lingering technical difficulties and partly because of speaker arrangements. The important thing is that we share in community on Sundays, which is uplifting to all our spirits.

Mel Haber is now our music liaison for Zoom Sundays due to his interest and talent in providing wonderfully enjoyable and meaningful music.

A note of thanks to our Teams (aka Committees) for their continued attention to the smooth operation of our Society.

Kudos to Lyn Dobrin for keeping our events up to date on Facebook and much gratitude to our wonderful Board for their dedication.

Finally, our appreciation to Linda Joe for wonderful monthly Newsletters.

Onward and upward! Keep wearing your mask!

Linda Napoli
Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune
without the words
and never stops at all.

And sweetest in the gale is heard
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
that kept so many warm.

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest sea
Yet, never in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Emily Dickinson

WINTER FESTIVAL FAKE NEWS
(correction to her 12/19/21 article provided by Linda Napoli)

Our planet is not closer to the sun in the Summer!

The Earth's orbit is an ellipse and at around the time of the Summer Solstice, our planet is farthest from the Sun, but leaning toward it! This means that the North Pole is facing our star, hence summer for the northern hemisphere.

Six months later, our orbit brings us closer to the Sun, but the North Pole is facing away from it so Winter begins.
Welcome to the New Year! What will it bring? Well, whatever happens, we will handle it. We’ve gotten used to the ground moving under our feet and our understanding of things having to change from week to week. Covid taught us a lot. It mostly taught us to expect change.

There is an old story from the Zen tradition by which a Zen master was asked for the meaning of it all in one sentence. The questioner wanted a succinct statement that captured the entire philosophy without wasting any more time, an elevator pitch. The Zen master said simply, “Things change.”

Our lives have seen some extraordinary disruptions, but have things changed? We are still seeking the same goals and using the same tools. The Zen story suggests that we cannot rely on things remaining stable and predictable. We have to expect change and know that we can meet it.

Some people are making New Year’s resolutions to undertake some changes of their own making. That is a worthy goal, but the odds are against them. I’ve heard that surveys reflect a near-100% failure rate for New Year’s resolutions. What is inevitable is not necessarily the change that you might seek, but the change that comes to you.

Things change - the circumstances of health and the climate are served up to us. We don’t ask for it - it happens. Then there are the myriad little circumstances that unfold over time, like cars that break down and living accommodations that no longer match your life, careers that do, or do not, get traction.

There is another Zen story that suggests that the route to a peaceful life is the skill of saying “yes.” For each path that ends before you, another will begin. To that new circumstance we have to say “yes.”
In this New Year, I hope you all can find the power to say “yes” to whatever it brings and to meet that new circumstance with curiosity, creativity and resolve.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy, fruitful and happy New Year.

Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI
Jan 02: **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. Our program will feature music performed by Anitra Pavlico and Chloe Agostino.

After the meeting, please join Pat Spencer for a letter-writing campaign in support of Amnesty International’s Write For Rights.

Jan 09: **Donald Cohen.**
**Author of The Privatization of Everything: How the Plunder of Public Goods Transformed America and How We Can Fight Back.**
Donald Cohen is the founder and executive director of In the Public Interest, an Oakland, California-based national research and policy center that studies public goods and services.

Jan 16: **Anne Klaeysen, Humanism on Campus.**
For over twenty years, I have served one or more university campuses in Humanist chaplaincies: assisting colleague Barbara Myerson at Columbia University; as chaplain at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY; and returning to Columbia, as well as adding New York University, where we are called religious life advisers and spiritual life advisers, respectively.

Although the Pew Research Center (https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/religion/) reports a significant increase in religiously unaffiliated people aka “nones” and young people who identify as SBNR or “spiritual but not religious,” there are only a handful of us serving their needs on campuses of higher education. This needs to change. I’ll share with you my experiences and hopes for the future.
Anne Klaeysen retired as clergy leader of the NY Society for Ethical Culture two years ago but continues to serve the campuses of Columbia University and New York University as chaplain. She is also co-chair of The Encampment for Citizenship and serves on the board of Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hebrew Union College and masters degrees in German from SUNY Albany and business administration from NYU.

**Jan 23: Ken Kurzweil, Social Justice Through Photography.**

The void created by retiring from a wonderful career as a teacher and social justice activist was filled beyond any expectations. I discovered the wonderful world of photography. Photography brought me to places that I only dreamed of ever visiting. I felt however that I needed to merge this new passion with that of Social Justice. I discovered Photographers Without Borders. I will give you a brief tour of some of my photography around the world, and then focus on two assignments that I had with Photographers Without Borders one in Jodhpur, India and the other in Kolkata, India.

After a very rewarding 35 year career as a Biology teacher and Computer Science teacher and 14 year President of the Bedford Teachers Association, Ken began exploring his undeveloped artistic side. His immersion into photography has become a tremendous passion for him. He has travelled to places such as Nicaragua, Cuba, Ethiopia, Bhutan, Myanmar and many trips to India to explore these varied cultures with his camera.

In 2015, Ken won the official New York State Arbor Day photography competition. Over 100,000 posters of his photograph of the over 500 year old “Bedford Oak” have been distributed internationally. Ken’s photography has also been featured in magazines and in a one person show in Toronto.

Ken has combined his love of photography with his involvement in social justice issues around the globe. Ken served as the Chairman of New York State United Teachers, Civil & Human Rights Committee for many years. After more than 50 years of Social Justice activism, Ken is also extremely proud to have had the annual “Ken Kurzweil Social
Justice Award” named after him by the over 600,000 member New York State Teachers Union - NYSUT.

Ken believes that photography can add a dimension to stories about the plights of others around the world that cannot be equaled in any other way. In recent years, he has been on assignment with Photographers Without Borders volunteering his photography skills to NGOs in India.

Jan 30: AEU All Society Meeting

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

By contributing to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, you are helping to maintain its mission and purposes and the many programs and services it offers to its members and the public.

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

Watch past Sunday Talks on our YouTube Channel

Audio is still on our website under "FeaturedTalks": www.ehsli.org
WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87199821900
Meeting ID: 871 9982 1900
Or phone in at: 1(929) 436-2866
THIS ZOOM LINK will be the same every week.
Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser.

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

TUESDAY MEDITATION GROUP AT 11 AM

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

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

THURSDAY DIGITAL DISCUSSIONS

On Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. we hold a digital discussion group with Leader Richard Koral on Zoom. The informal discussion will focus on the political, the social, life's practices, and the ethical choices we confront every day. People will have the opportunity to share.

https://zoom.us/j/377400022
Meeting ID: 377 400 022
Phone in: (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 the Ethical office or calling Arthur Dobrin at 516-997-8545.

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- JAN 6, 7 PM**

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

**Topic:** What is the Source of Your Values?
Why do You Value What You Value?

Currently our world seems to be on the verge of disintegration and possible self-destruction, with communities and societies tearing themselves apart in emotionally charged confrontations over values and practices, both present and past. Why is this? Where did we get these values from? And can we find ways to mitigate or ameliorate these conflicts?

Join us in discussing this pressing social issue

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

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

POETRY CIRCLE - JAN 24, 7 PM

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

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88493996121?
pwd=bWFCTkV2UWpqVWdwRWVQK2F4WHHvUT09
Meeting ID: 884 9399 6121
Passcode: 728459
Phone in: 1 -(929) 436-2866

BOOK DISCUSSION - JAN 25, 7 PM

Dear Miss Metropolitan. (Author, Carolyn Ferrell is the daughter of EHSLI member Elke Bluth) This is a MUST READ!


“[A] vivid maker of sentences with a flair for casual surrealisms …Ferrell is navigating American trauma writ large, as well as her characters’ own.” –Dwight Garner, New York Times

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

Zoom Diversity Friendship/Listening Circle
Jan. 6 Thurs. at 6:30PM
with James "Dr.Love" Banks facilitating
Organized by Multicultural Solidarity Long Island
To request free registration link
email multiculturalsolidarity@gmail.com
Also check the announcement section of the Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/multiculturalsolidarityLI

Mission Statement:
"Multicultural Solidarity is a 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."

We also participate in social justice advocacy, organize webinars for social justice and workshops on privilege, fragility, and more.

Speaker Planning Meeting-
For Members Only

The next speaker planning committee will meet on Sunday, January 9, 2022 after the Sunday meeting

All members are welcome to participate and offer suggestions and comments
An invitation from Leader Emeritus Arthur Dobrin

Last year I ran a successful book discussion on Zoom. I want to try another this year.

This time it will be my historical novel, Where We Started. The novel looks at two families, one Black and one white, from 1740 to the Civil War, set mainly in Delaware and New York.

Here is what one Amazon reviewer said: "Where We Started, so many images were alive in my head. Having taught U.S. History for 25 years, I enjoyed seeing history “from the inside out” - from the perspective of individual folks. Dobrin’s research into the historical details of life is impressive."

Where We Started is broken into four sections. So my plan is that we will meet on four consecutive Tuesday nights in Feb, at 7 PM NY time.

You can read some comments here: https://teachingsocialstudies.org/.../where-we-started.../
The book is available online, and, free as an ebook (https://www.amazon.com/Where-we-Started.../dp/B08X4YJDZH)

Please let me know if you would like to attend. Email arthurdobrin@gmail.com Thanks and hope to see you there.
Darwin Day 2022 - February 13, 2022

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island has had a long history of celebrating Darwin Day. We began this celebration in 2009 to commemorate his 200th birthday. It also was a celebration of science that was enjoyed by young and old alike!

We’ve never needed to celebrate science more than this year! And this year we have a great plan! At 11:00 a.m., Dr. John Teehan, Professor of Religion at Hofstra University, https://www.hofstra.edu/faculty/fac_profiles.cfm?id=1506 will once again be our extraordinary Sunday morning speaker. His talks are exceptional.

After our morning talk, from 12:00 to 1:30, all are invited to view our exhibits. We will have science demonstrations and games for all ages. Our ethical society will share membership and social action activities. “Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America/Long Island” will be sharing information on gun safety and safe gun storage. (IN PERSON IF SAFE, OTHERWISE VIA ZOOM. TBD!)

This is open to the public! The membership committee is also encouraging us to “bring a friend to the ethical society” on this day! Let’s all get together to celebrate science, whether on Zoom or In Person!

When: Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

Where: The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, 38 Old Country Road, Garden City NY 11530

Information: 516-741-7304 or email office@ehsli.org
What We Read
A new column, edited by Lyn Dobrin

We welcome 2022 with a new column—What We Read—on our Facebook page. Twice a month, on the 1st and 15th we will publish responses by our Ethical Society members telling us the role of literature and reading in their lives. Participants have been given a list of questions (filched from the NY Times column By the Book), asked to respond to any seven, always starting with my favorite question “What books are on your night table?”

Our first column features EHS president Linda Napoli (posted on January 1) and our second focuses on David Sprintzen, to be posted on January 15.

If you would like to participate in this adventure, send me an email: lyndobrin@gmail.com.

You will find the January 1 feature by Linda Napoli in the Society Members section of this month’s newsletter.
Social Action

2022 Weill Fund Social Action Projects

Last year, in the middle of a turbulent and isolating year EHSLI dedicated itself to service driven community projects that had been approved and funded by The Joseph and Rhoda Weill Social Fund Action.

The success of these initiatives was thru the combined efforts of members, volunteers and community partners who recognized the need to reach out to those struggling in our Long Island community.

For 2022 EHSLI presented these proposals again to The Joseph and Rhoda Weill Social Action Fund and all were awarded continued funding:

**New Hour**- awarded $2,000 to be used by EHSLI members to fill 75 self-care bags for incarcerated and newly released women.

**Community Solidarity**- awarded $2,000 to be used by EHSLI members to fill 200 bags with food and personal items for distribution at the Hempstead Food share. This project will also include a spring and fall coat and hat drive.

**Westbury Volunteer Corps**- awarded $1,500 to support supplies and fees used by volunteers to bring a diverse array of programs into the Westbury Union Free School District.

**Ethical Friends of Children**- was awarded $575 to be used to purchase diapers. Russell and Mary Weill, longtime champions of this project, personally contributed an additional $200.

Our work together on these projects will begin in January and we will be reaching out to everyone to join us. Your participation in these initiatives underscores our common commitment to social action and change. Looking forward to working together.

Susan Feifer

Ethical Friends of Children NEEDS YOUR HELP on a Wednesday from 10-1pm.

Please email Pat Spencer or call her at: 516-603-1940.
Or email Jim LoPresti at: efoc@ehsli.org
Currently across our country the Republican Party is now in the process of carrying out a slow moving coup d’etat to insure that they will win the Presidential election in 2024, and those thereafter, regardless of the vote of the American people. They are doing this by changing state election laws to authorize Republican legislatures to choose their Presidential electors, while also proceeding systematically to purge any election officials in key battleground states who will not both agree that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, and pledge complete loyalty to him.

Below is a link to the article in *The Atlantic Magazine* that details these efforts. Americans need to be alerted to the danger and what is at stake. Public knowledge is vital. To that end, the EHS Social Action Committee has developed the **Save Our Democracy Project**.

In the words of Ethical Leader Joe Chuman,

"The United States functionally has one party. The other is the vanguard of a mass movement, bewitched by a demagogic cult leader and sustained by lies, conspiracy theories and the threat of violence. This reality needs to be called out by the responsible press. We, who are not in states totally controlled by Republicans, need to urge our Congressional leaders to militantly speak out against this coup in the making. To repeat, it is not business as usual. As never before we need courageous voices, not evasion."

We will have more to say in the weeks to come about what we can do to stop this effort to destroy our representative institutions - but we do urge you to read the article in *The Atlantic Magazine* that details this destructive Trump-led campaign:

**TRUMP’S NEXT COUP HAS ALREADY BEGUN** by Barton Gellman
You can find it at:
https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/01/january-6-insurrection-trump-coup-2024-election/620843/
What We Read #1
January 1, 2022
Linda Napoli

Linda is a teacher and a writer and President of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Linda loves this quote from American aphorist Mason Cooley: "Reading gives us a place to go when we have to stay where we are."

--What books are on your nightstand?
   The Italian Wife by Kate Furnivall; The Untethered Soul by Michael Singer; e.e. cummings - Selected Poems.

--What's the last great book you've read?
   Plainsong by Kent Haruf. The next book I plan to read is the sequel Eventide.

--What moves you most in a work of literature?
   Meaningful dialogue that moves the story forward, then I know the author is on track. I prefer books that reach me emotionally.
   Those are the books I recommend to others or re-read myself.

--Which childhood books and authors stick with you most?
   I am an avid reader. At age 10 and 11, it was the Nancy Drew mysteries by Carolyn Keene. As a teenager, I discovered Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters. I also loved A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.

--What's a book you recommended to a member of your family?
   Crime and Punishment by Dostoevsky. (My son Peter wanted to read a classic)

--What's your favorite book no one else has heard of?
   Himself by Jess Kidd. It's a quest story with a magical element. I love the way it's written.

--Which genres do you especially enjoy reading?
   Historical fiction, both classics and contemporary. Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy from Pride and Prejudice are my favorite hero and heroine and Mr. Rochester from Jane Eyre is my favorite anti-hero. I do occasionally read non-fiction and I really like books by Malcolm Gladwell.
NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ELAYNE GERSTEN

Elayne’s history with The Society goes back to 1972 when she worked at a preschool program for children with disabilities that had been housed in our building.

Then, twenty years later, when she, a Jew, and Mika, a Christian, decided to marry, they called Arthur Dobrin, then leader, to officiate at their wedding. Since it was to be at 12 noon on a Sunday, he suggested we call David Harmon, the assistant leader. David accepted the role and carried it out with intelligence and humor.

Shortly after their wedding, they had another encounter with The Society. The war in Yugoslavia, Mika’s birthplace, was raging and in response to the crisis, they started a fund raising campaign to respond to the needs of Bosnian children and families forced to leave their homes. Needing to be under the auspices of a 501 C organization, they once again turned to the Ethical Society.

Having both been in helping professions, Mika a pediatrician and Elayne, a speech/language pathologist, they had always seen themselves as humanists in healing, regardless of affiliation to race, religion, class or gender.

Finally, in the midst of the corona virus and the polarization of our nation, Elayne responded to an invitation to play a weekly game over zoom with a few members she had known years ago. She enjoyed the participants and laughed out loud every Wednesday evening. Mika listened to that laughter and wanted to laugh too. Ergo, they are now fellow members of the Ethical Society of Long Island.
Lovely Winter Festival on Sunday 12/19! Thanks go to Linda Napoli for organizing and emceeing, Alice for the snowflakes, decorating and singing, Anitra for the piano music, techies Gabriel and Chris, and readers: Ryan, Judy and Lorraine. Photos by Judy.
Congratulations to EHSLI member Sylvia Silberger who recently received the “President’s Award of Appreciation” from the Hempstead Community Land Trust.

The Hempstead Community Land Trust is a 501©3 member-based organization with the mission to acquire, renovate, build and provide affordable home-ownership and economic opportunities to individuals and families of low-to-moderate income while preserving future affordability in perpetuity within the boundaries of the Village of Hempstead/
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.

Contacts

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Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304
www.ehsli.org

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Office Manager: Tina Keane
office@ehsli.org
Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe

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