President’s Message

“Our Journeys Continue”

Hi Everyone,

We’re winding down our 2021-2022 season this month and I’m happy to say that our Sunday programs have mostly met our goals of being informative and inspirational. Most of the speakers this year have presented through Zoom, but that hasn’t stopped them from being engaging both in their talks and in their responses to members’ questions and comments.

Our three festivals – Fall, Winter and Spring have been most enjoyable due to the contributions of members like you. Social Action projects and programs have been more frequent than ever this past year through the dedication, planning and work of David Sprintzen, Pat Spencer, Jim LoPresti, Susan Feifer and others who have gotten involved to make things happen.

Finally, the beautification project of our back property has transformed the area into an ecologically appropriate and welcoming space for all of us to enjoy. There’s additional work that is being done to make it more lovely and accessible, but June 26th is the official “ribbon cutting.” Hopefully many of you will come to the Society that day and take part in the festivities. Thank you to the Committee team – Lorraine Agostino, Lyn Dobrin, Vinnie Drzewucki, Alice Sprintzen, Judy Rosemarin and Tina Keane.

Our 2022-2023 season will continue on this path as our journeys continue.
EHSLI Board of Trustees

Linda Napoli, President
Susan Feifer, Vice President
Judy Rosemarin, Secretary
Wayne Outten, Treasurer
Barbara Haber
Yolanda Miller
Anitra Pavlico
Helene Rudin
Pat Spencer

Please consider making a donation. 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.

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 Home (scroll down to) “FeaturedTalks”: www.ehsli.org
The events of the last few weeks have left many of us shocked and bereft. The mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, Texas by youngsters wielding legally purchased assault-type rifles leave many of us in wonderment - that there are people in our country who consider these tragedies to be no reason to restrict the sale and ownership such dangerous goods. I recently had the opportunity to speak with someone who supports gun rights and who defends the rights of citizens to own and carry guns. I think I had an important insight from this conversation.

I asked Bill what he thought about legislation that would restrict the ownership of AR-15 type weapons. He said, “You can’t do that! It is a Constitutional right to bear arms.”

“I know that you’re a responsible gun owner. But don’t you think,” I asked him, “that there are some people who really shouldn’t be allowed to own these weapons?”

“Well, sure,” he said, “but not if it limits my right to own them.”

“Can’t you accept a small accommodation, a limit on these weapons because they can come into the hands of people who are not responsible?”

“That would be a first step on a slippery slope that will undermine the right to own guns at all,” he replied. “Freedom depends on the right to bear arms.”

“What freedom, exactly?” I challenged. “Guns are not being used to engage in political speech. They’re just putting holes in people.”

“People need the right to defend themselves!” he said.

“Against who? Did you ever have to defend yourself in a gun battle?”

“In case. This is a dangerous world and gun owners have the right to defend themselves if they choose.”

But then I had a strange vision. I could see that Bill was surrounded by a vague aura. Then, it coalesced, and I could see it more clearly. Behind Bill and whispering hoarsely into his ear was the gun genie, the dybbuk of firearms, the spirit of weaponry past and present. I could hear it,
too. It was beseeching Bill by heatedly saying “Don’t let them take me away! You need me! I protect you! Don’t let them take me away!”

Bill repeated the spirit’s words. “You can’t take the guns away!” he declaimed. “They protect us! We need them! You can’t take them away!”

I suddenly realized that Bill was completely under its spell. For him, the guns are alive and mesmerizing. The arguments that Bill presents are those of the gun genie and are entirely in the service of the guns themselves. The only reasons Bill gives for guns are its reasons. The rights belong to the guns!

Dr. Richard Koral will set a date for another Orientation to Ethical Humanism for new members as well as returning members and potential members. If you would like to attend, please contact Richard or Tina. 516-741-7304 or office@ehsli.org

Caring Connection
“Create a caring world” begins with us

If you or a member of our community is sick, experiencing loss, or celebrating a milestone, a birthday, let us know. Please connect with Ginger Hendler at caringconnection@ehsli.org or email the office at: office@ehsli.org. Or call 516-741-7304 and leave a message.

Glad to hear that Judy Rosemarin, Stacy Leon, Rich DiCecio, and Wayne Outten are on the mend!
Let’s stay connected

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
Sunday Presentations:

**June 05: Dr. Richard Koral, *Is Raging Inequality Behind our Troubles Today?***

Wealth and income inequality is at an historic extreme in America today. Clearly that has an impact on the way we live and how American society is organizing itself. It may explain the resurgence of crime.

Dr. Richard Koral 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.

In addition to serving as the part-time Leader for the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, Dr. Koral has been a Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture since 2017. He is the Leader Consultant to the Social Service Board and numerous committees in their Society.

Active with the American Ethical Union, Richard served on its Board as president from 2012 to 2015.

**June 12: Bart Worden, *Our Personal Histories: How our Borrowed Ideas and Stories Affect our Ethics.***

Bart Worden is the Executive Director for the American Ethical Union in New York City and the Clergy Leader for the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester – a nontheistic humanist congregation in White Plains, New York. Bart has worked in human services as a Social Worker for over thirty years with a focus on serving individuals with psychiatric disabilities and has been an administrator for a variety of rehabilitative and recovery-oriented behavioral health programs.

Bart’s recent social justice efforts have focused on addressing bias and discrimination in criminal justice, housing, education and public health.
June 19: Alicia Evans, Makes Me Proud, a part of Intentional Root Conversations.

June 19th...just happens to be Juneteenth, a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture.

Alicia Evans is a professionally trained facilitator and storyteller who has inspired audiences nationwide for two decades. She has travelled widely creating conversations and marketing campaigns for corporations, celebrities, pharmaceuticals and communities.

Ms. Evans has earned formal facilitation training via the New York Council for the Humanities, garnered Distinguished Certification in art and inquiry facilitation from the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Her voice has also been instrumental in health care training physicians empathy nationally via VitalTalk Medical Communications.

Ms. Evans is a retired communications professor, a fiber artist advocating for trees, a professional storyteller sharing tales via her "Makes Me Proud" narration sessions, and a member of EHSLI.

June 26: Chuck Lavine, NY State Assemblymember.

Charles David Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District, which consists of portions of northeastern Nassau County. He serves as Chair of the Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Committees on Codes, Ethics and Guidance, Rules and Insurance.

As Chair of the Election Law Committee, Lavine spearheaded the effort to bring Early Voting to New York State. He also served as Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Guidance, co-Chair of the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission and as Chair of the Taskforce that produced the Assembly Speaker’s Policy on Sexual Harassment, Retaliation and Discrimination. As Judiciary Chair, Lavine ensured that the investigation into former Governor Andrew Cuomo was conducted in a fair and responsible manner.

Assemblymember Lavine is dedicated to fighting for laws that will make New York an even better place to live. His passion for more open and efficient government has motivated him to fight for legislation that strips corrupt public officials of their pensions. The Assemblymember is also a proponent of campaign finance reform and ethics legislation.
WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS AT 11 AM

SOME MEETINGS WILL BE IN-PERSON EVENTS OR HYBRID VIA ZOOM. CHECK THE WEEKLY EMAIL NOTICES!

Join us every Sunday for our Sunday Presentations
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.

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 AT 1 PM

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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- JUNE 2, 7 PM

"Ethical Issues in Our Times" is held every month

Topic: “Evaluating the Legacy of Western Civilization”

On being asked what he thought of Western Civilization, Mahatma Gandhi is said to have replied, “it would be a good idea.” Was he being ironic, or expressing a serious evaluation? How would you evaluate its successes and failures; Its contribution to human well being, and its degradations? And in comparison to what?

Join us in discussing this pressing social issue, in a discussion led by Dr. David Sprintzen, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Long Island University

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 - JUNE 3, 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 - JUNE 27, 7 PM

This meeting is open to all. For information, contact Linda Napoli lindanapoli819@gmail.com

Sign up for the weekly emails to receive reminders and the zoom link.

BOOK DISCUSSION - JUNE 28, 7 PM

Each book title is chosen by the group at the monthly meeting. Please join us and add your voice to the discussion.

Sign up for the weekly emails to receive reminders and the zoom link.
Announcements:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JUNE 5, 2022

Proposed slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees:
New three-year terms 2022 to 2025:
   Susan Feifer
   Patricia Spencer
   Yolanda Miller

Ratification of the appointment of the following Trustee to complete a term ending
2023:
   Helene Rudin (replaced Alicia Evans)
   Anitra Pavlico (replaced Harry Ramani)

The following Trustees are serving ongoing terms on the Board:
   Linda Napoli
   Judy Rosemarin
   Barbara Haber
   Wayne Outten

The foregoing submitted by the Nominating Committee consisting of:
   Linda Napoli (Chair)

→ If you cannot attend the meeting, please submit your vote by proxy. Email the office at: office@ehsli.org, and you will be sent a proxy vote form. Electronically Sign and submit the proxy form so that it is received no later than June 4, 2022

GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY, 6/18 FROM 10-1PM
Pat Spencer has organized a very unique garden tour in Port Washington: a Show and Tell of beautiful, low water, earth-friendly landscapes. Feast your eyes on biodiversity and sustainable gardens that feature pollinator-friendly native plants, no-mow lawns, composting, organic fruits and vegetables, smart sprinkler and more. Pick up ideas for your garden. You can have a great looking garden that uses less water and fewer chemicals, while saving time and money. Join the free tour by registering at pwwd.org/gardentour/, or come to the Dodge Homestead, 58 Harbor Rd, Port Washington between 10 and 1pm.
The Membership team would like to create a wider caring circle of members willing to make calls, send cards and e-mails to support our Ethical community. Let our team know if you would like to be part of this.

We need you.
Call or leave a message with Tina, Ginger Hendler, or Linda Joe.
PLANNING AHEAD PACKETS

Planning ahead packets are a service provided by our Ethical Society to our community. Over the years, it has proven to be a valuable informational reference to the families of members who have passed away. Some of the elements contained in the packet include family contact information regarding the member’s wishes for a funeral or memorial service as well as any desire regarding organ donations or bequests. Other valuable information may also be included.

Our members are invited to take advantage of this important offering. It has been found to be helpful to loved ones in making decisions at a difficult time in their lives.

If you are interested, please contact the office and Tina will put you in touch with Richard Koral, our Society Leader (who is an attorney) or Joan Beder, who is an Adjunct Leader. They will set up a meeting at your convenience either on Zoom or in person. It generally takes about a half hour.

All members are invited to a

Pot Luck Party and
Speaker Planning Meeting.

Sunday, 7/10/2019 at 2PM

Location: 16 Southwoods Rd. Syosset.
Home of David and Alice Sprintzen.
(GPS may say they are in Woodbury)
516-364-2178

RSVP to Tina 516-741-7304 plus dish you are bringing
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We want regular Social Action Announcements to be part of our Monthly Newsletter to enable more of our members to take part in making a difference. After the two recent mass shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX, it's not enough to wring our hands, we must actively take part in some way to stop the madness. We invite our members to submit information about actions that you are taking yourself or suggestions about projects that we can start or join in with other groups.

Please read Sharon Stanley's information from MOMS DEMAND ACTION about what you can do right now.

Outraged yet??????

Every day 100 people get killed or wounded by gun violence.

Sadly, we may feel helpless and hopeless. But we are not! We know how to stop this violence. We know how to keep children safe. Secure gun storage is a simple solution to this crisis that would have a substantial impact. It's not a partisan issue, and everyone should be behind it. That's why “Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America” is working to promote and normalize secure gun storage through programs like Be SMART. Research has shown it to be one of the most effective ways to prevent school shootings and protect children.

In addition, “Moms” has many kinds of social action activities. Some as easy as writing a letter or calling your senator. There are activities for everyone of every age.

Please! Join us!
To learn more about Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America:
https://momsdemandaction.org/

To join/volunteer with Moms Demand Action - Long Island:
Text “READY” to 64433

To contact the Long Island Public education team with questions or comments or information or to arrange a presentation:
BeSMART.longisland@gmail.com

To learn more about our Be Smart program and mission:
https://besmartforkids.org/

Or, call or contact your friend, Sharon Stanley, who is a Public Education Presenter for “Moms Demand for Gun Sense in America/Long Island”
Email: lihumanist@gmail.com  Phone Number: 516-578-6678

We don’t have to live like this.

Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles

S

Medel responsible behavior around guns

M

Ask about unsecured guns in other homes

A

Recognize the role of guns in suicide

R

Tell your peers to Be SMART

T
Sharon’s EASY SOCIAL ACTION #1
To hound, I mean, strongly encourage your Senators to pass sensible gun reform. Put this number for Congress in your cell phone (202) 224-3121. Use it often. You will be able to reach your two Senators and your member of Congress. Tell them to pass
1. Universal Background Checks.
2. To ban assault weapons (we did it before, we can do it again).
3. To pass Ethan’s Law (Safe Storage).

Sharon’s EASY SOCIAL ACTION #2
Here’s an easy social action. The process to get the NRA’s tax-exempt nonprofit status revoked has become simpler.
All you need to do is:
1. Copy and save this form NRA-taxExempt Complaint (It’s already filled out)
2. email it to eoclass@irs.gov
3. click & send

David And Alice Sprintzen and Jim LoPresti (in photo) in Albany representing the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island as part of the NY STATE Equity Agenda. James Sanders, the lead sponsor of the bill in the State Senate, speaking. We had meetings with 3 representatives. We were well received and we’re quite satisfied with the results.
From Sharon Stanley:

There will be a special opportunity for us to "lobby" virtually in order to ask our senators and congress peeps in WA DC to support The John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act (S.1848/H.R. 3488). This would greatly improve child welfare systems for those in need. This essential bill bars discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion (including atheism), and marital status against families or children in taxpayer-funded child welfare services.

This is a joint venture between the American Atheists and the American Humanist

Last month, Alaina Browning and her husband, a nonreligious couple living in Alabama, chose to adopt a sibling for their 5-year-old daughter. They went to Alabama Family Adoption Services, a private adoption agency licensed by the state. They were rejected for being nonreligious.

Despite being qualified as adoptive parents, atheists and nonreligious people, LGBTQ people, religious minorities, and single people can be turned away in many states by adoption and foster care agencies—even ones that are taxpayer-funded.

**No child should be denied a forever home because of the religious beliefs of the agency.**

On Wednesday, June 22, we are coming together with the American Humanist Association to hold a virtual national Lobby Day and promote the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act. Register today!

Register to Join us online, June 24-26, for the American Humanist Association’s 81st Annual Conference!

AHACON has long been where our community comes together not just to learn but to recharge. That’s why we’re making sure AHACON22 includes lots of opportunities to connect, make new friends, and refresh. This year, you’ll meet with and learn from humanists across the country, get one-on-one time with activists, leaders, and attendees, and boost your knowledge through vibrant and exciting sessions.
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT (from Linda Napoli)

“I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis is escalated or de-escalated, and a person is humanized or de-humanized. If we treat people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming.”

Goethe

DID YOU KNOW? (from Linda Napoli)

If you’re interested in knowing your Carbon Footprint on the Earth, there are a number of sites on line that will enable you to calculate it, including The Nature Conservancy.

What is a carbon footprint?
https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/
How I Remember Jean Bobick
by Al Zeiger

I knew Jean for many years as she was one of the three presenters at our Sunday morning colloquy. Her presentation was sharp, thoughtful and humorous.

I really got to know her at the Center for Adult Life Enrichment in Hewlett. She had been telling me about this group for a long time. After my wife died, I decided to check it out. It was a game changer for me. I was introduced to a creative writing program which I took part in for many years. Every Tuesday I would sit next to Jean, as the program began with a professional news expert. Jean was impressive with her up to date knowledge of the news, and her contribution to the discussions. When she entered the building she was warmly greeted by the group. She was also on the Board of Directors.

Jean was also a terrific hostess. We had a movie group in which people met in each other's houses. Her dining area was set impeccably.

Jean lived in England a number of years because her father had a business there. For her 90th birthday she made herself an English Tea Party. The living room was filled with many tables. There was a professional piano player performing. The women were asked to wear fancy flowered tea party hats that were sort of Kentucky Derby style. Since Jean was a lover of art, there were many magnificent paintings and art objects visible as Pippa her beloved cat surveyed the room. A good time was had by all.

Not only did Jean love art but she was a lover of music. She played the piano and told me that her favorite piece of music was the “Brahms Double Violin Concerto” which is quite a sophisticated work.

Jean loved designing things. She designed her own modern bathroom which was awesome. She always felt that she would outlive her sister who was 104 years old. Jean was 96 years old when she died. Jean had a wonderful life and the ability to enjoy it. I will miss her and so will all those who knew her.
Members: My Favorite Things from May 29 Program

Linda Napoli, She Walks in Beauty
BY LORD BYRON (GEORGE GORDON)

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that’s best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o’er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o’er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

Mel Haber, musical selections:

1. Judy Garland, "Swanee"
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YUYtijmPUCA

2. Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, "The Lady is a Tramp"
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaFBWQx

Rich DiCecio, joys of kayaking and canoeing

Duffy Spencer, original poem
Root Lessons: The Banyan Tree

Oh, Banyan
You drop your branches down to the Earth
Reaching for nurture
You find ground for support
to spread your roots
Far and wide
Under and above
Intermingling for strength
An intricate latticework
Builds your breadth
And shows us the way...
David Alexander, Tai Chi practice and free ebook
Escaping From Freedom: Healing Our Society

Rick Shaper, original poem
My Tsunami

My shoreline ebbs impulsively
sucked out by the looming tsunami
I stand and wait to feel it
flow over me, immerse me
with force and supremacy
Carry me away savagely, tsunami
Frighten me, envelope me, thrill me
reign over my psyche
tsunami of complete immersion
with angst and aspiration
when I'm not with you
joy when I am
Overwhelm me
so that I can't escape
your omnipotence
Do what you will
as you scare and palpitate me
When you retreat to ocean mystery
leave without concern for me
You'll have left me high on a hill
in the sun with a view
of grace that once was
and beauty that is
still
alive in a place in my heart
My tsunami

Rick Shaper, Explanation/Inspiration for My Tsunami

The actor and poet John Lithgow was asked in an interview to define poetry: He said, “Poetry is meaning, music and emotion.” I think of his definition as a mini-poem in itself. For me poetry is, in addition, a succinct way to express something deep, or emotional, or multifaceted, or all of them together. Most love relationships that end, end in tears and recriminations, and there are countless poems and literature for those life traumas. I wanted to write about a relationship that ends without the tears, only the recollection of the beauty of the experience. I tried to capture the excitement, danger, separation, reunion, and love after the relationship was over, using the metaphor of the tsunami.
Judy Rosemarin, original poem
"21 Dead Sit With It"
(C) 2022 Judy Rosemarin

Before you point blame fingers,
First sit with the sadness.
You will want to run
But the little children couldn't.
Before you take sides and try to deflect the anguish of little ones gone,
Sit with your tears, letting the salt sear your ripped heart.
Before you espouse dry theories to ease your pain,
Let the horror of gunned down teachers and a grandmother flow into your protected places.
Before you rally and cheer for your cause,
Pause and sit with imagining a surviving parent, a sibling tonight.
Don't try to wiggle away today
First feel it first.
We run too quickly away from our true selves.
For only when true universal pain is felt can you begin to truly know.
But first, no head turning.
Not time yet for yelling or righteous rheotic.
First sit with it and when you can truly feel it,
Then act.
Stand speak up and do the right thing.
But not before you first sit with it.
Those interested in making clothing contributions should call Ethical Friends of Children at 516-280-5526 or email efoc@ehsli.org. Ethical Friends of Children always needs volunteers Wednesdays from 10-1.

Please click to email Pat Spencer or call her at: 516-603-1940.

Or email Jim LoPresti at: efoc@ehsli.org

Thank you for helping with this need!
What We Read
A Facebook feature, edited by Lyn Dobrin

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

You can interact with our members on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/LIEthical

Or read the reprinted columns in issues of this newsletter.

January 2022: Column#1 by Linda Napoli
February 2022: Column#2 by David Sprintzen
Column#3 by Sylvia Silberger
Column#4 by Ben Bortin
March 2022: Column#5 by Dorcas Kiptoo
Column#6 by Sharon Stanley
Column#7 by Ginger Hendler
Column#8 by Ken Feifer
April 2022: Column#9 by Barbara Haber
Column#10 by Ryan Capone
Column#11 by Anitra Pavlico
Column#12 by Yolanda Miller
May 2022: Column#13 by Patricia Shih
Column#14 by Alicia Evans
Column#15 by Richard Koral
Column#16 by Rich DiCecio
What We Read #17
April 27, 2022
Francine DiCecio

Francine DiCecio, wife of Richard; she is mother of 2 daughters, a retired RN who worked in a hospital setting and as a school nurse. They lived in the same house for 30+ years and have lived in a 55+ community in East Setauket (near Port Jefferson) for the past 16 years. Fran is an avid and voracious reader and has been a member of her book club of six since they moved. Rich calls Fran a multi-positional, multi-dimensional reader – she can read sitting, leaning and lying down – as a passenger in a car or in the doctor’s waiting room --any time of day or night.

Fran and Richard chose to approach this contribution as an Interview - which Richard wrote up in the first person:

• What books are on your nightstand?
  Currently on my night table is a C-PAP machine - so picture Richard and me trying not to get entangled with our air supply hoses. But I also keep my kindle charger on it and I am currently reading Lynda Ratcliff’s West With Giraffes.

• Which writers working today do you admire most?
  My favorite authors are Thrity Umrigar, Andrew Gross and Elizabeth George. The book Honor, by Thrity Umrigar, is described on the internet as “…an evocative novel about love, hope, familial devotion, betrayal, and sacrifice.” Umrigar shows us two courageous women - one a reporter expatriate who has escaped the boundaries of traditional Indian culture and the other who has violated those limitations by choosing a husband of a different religion and is facing possibly dire consequences.

• Which genres do you especially enjoy reading?
  As in Honor, I am moved by books where the main character(s) are struggling with Identity, Ethnicity, Religious and Cultural, Social-Economic Stratification issues - overcoming conflicts or suffering the consequences of those restrictions. Similarly, I enjoy reading historical novels such as The Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray, where Belle, hired by J.P. Morgan, is encouraged by her mother to stay in the ‘white world’ and hide her African heritage. I cannot leave this genre without mentioning the Outlander series, by Diana Gabaldon, which my husband calls soft porn…. I have luxuriated in ALL the books in the series at least twice.

• Who is your favorite fictional hero or heroine?
  One of my favorite characters is Cyril Avery, created by John Boyne in The Hearts Invisible Furies. His pregnant mother is ostracized from her Irish village. He is put up for adoption and endures endless episodes of hiding his gay identity - eventually finding love, only to lose it all…and survive!!
Replacing grass has plenty of benefits

Earth Day, which took place Friday, is a time to consider that our lawns, which can give us so much pleasure, are killing us. The chemicals used to keep them lush poison Long Island’s underground water source. The equipment used to keep them trim pollute the air with noxious fumes. Leaf blowers’ noise is like living under a jetliner flight path to Kennedy Airport. A lawn doesn’t provide the habitat necessary to attract birds, bees and other useful insects to keep the environment in a healthy balance.

I have replaced my lawn completely, replacing most of the grass with myrtle, which stays green all year and needs no watering, mowing or fertilizing. In the spring, it displays hundreds of blue flowers for a month. I also have low-maintenance rose bushes, several different flowering plants, a butterfly bush, and a few tomato plants. All of this provides a pleasing picture that is also nature-friendly.

A bonus is that it requires less work and is cheaper to maintain. This isn’t just a win-win but a win-win-win-win.

— ARTHUR DOBRIN, WESTBURY

The writer is a professor emeritus of university studies at Hofstra University and leader emeritus of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.

Celebrate Earth Day for not just 24 hours

Let us celebrate Earth Day all year long. Recycle newspapers, magazines, glass, plastics, old medicines, paints and cleaning materials. Leave your car at home. For local trips in the neighborhood, walk or ride a bike. For longer travels, consider many public transportation alternatives already available such as trains and buses. They use less fuel and move far more people than individuals in cars.

Many employers allow employees to telecommute and work from home full or part-time. Others use alternative work schedules, which help staff avoid rush-hour gridlock. This

Our leader Richard Koral with the beautiful birdhouses he constructed for our garden.
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.

Contacts
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304
www.ehsli.org
Leader: Richard Koral
Office Manager: Tina Keane
office@ehsli.org
Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe

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

Create a Caring World