President’s Message

“Our Journeys Continue”

Hello Everyone,

As the weeks have passed, the Omicron surge seems to be waning so the Board is feeling more confident about having more frequent Hybrid meetings. In March, there will be two, the first on March 6th when our Leader, Richard Koral will be speaking and on March 20th when Patricia Shih, a social activist, wonderful musician and long time friend of the Society will be with us.

I know that having more Hybrid Sunday programs will please many of our members, including myself. There is a real psychological benefit to interacting in person with people we care about as well as the joy of listening to the beautiful music played by Anitra Pavlico on our grand piano. So yes, come to the Hybrid meetings if you feel comfortable. All safety protocols are still in place.

Zoom only is working for now and will continue to be used for a while, but at some point, we will switch to all Hybrids. Until then, let’s keep the words of Emily Dickinson in mind in this topsy-turvy world that we live in:

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul.”

Linda Napoli
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

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 "FeaturedTalks": www.ehsli.org

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
From the Department of:
The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same

We sometimes don’t realize how fortunate the world has been that Europe has not had a cross-border war in 76 years and 294 days. We can celebrate this because it was an unusually long stretch of peace, at least for Europe. We had actually gotten used to the idea of Europe having reinvented itself by devising a way to co-exist peacefully. We thought that Europe had buried the hatchets, stifled the resentments, re-channeled the blood thirsty ambitions and ego-driven bullying that had typified its internecine relations before. We believed that while pre-modern antagonisms and *bras-de-fer* might still flare up in Africa or Asia, Europe had elevated itself into a new plane of sophistication where public figures were cultivated and demure, and competition played out like a race at the Kiplingcotes Derby – which is to say, civilized.

This suspension of hostilities was based on one principal, commonly accepted premise: that all borders would be inviolable and unchanging and any populations finding themselves on the other side of the border from their brethren, will just stay there. For assurance, the country where they find themselves will have the obligation to respect minority rights.

Not so now. At this writing, Russian troops have just marched into eastern Ukraine while Russian President Vladimir Putin proclaimed the land to be a rightful part of Russia. He said that the people of Ukraine are oppressed for being torn from the Russian bosom where they belong. It is something like Russia’s Sudetenland.

Ironically, the people of Russia and Ukraine were able to freely go back and forth between the countries before hostilities began. And now that their rights are being vindicated, they cannot. And also ironically, before these hostilities unfolded, Ukraine and Russian cultures overlapped just like a down east Maine accent in Nova Scotia. Familiar and friendly. Not now. Now, Ukraine has suddenly rediscovered its distinctive culture and its separate national pride. Hostility can do that.
At last summer’s Assembly for the American Ethical Union, the national federation of the Ethical Culture Societies, our community made a public call for a “culture of peace” – peace as a goal and as a study. Peace is not merely a state of serene detachment - it is a philosophy and a practice. It takes discernment, engagement, creativity and work. In relationships – be they personal, professional or international, there should be an ongoing investment in relationships so that they acknowledge and respect the needs of all parties. When a threat to peace emerges, there should be a systemic process that’s ready to channel the underlying dispute into dialogue and mediation.

But what is to be done when the parties seem to hold utterly different values? When one side’s demand is anathema to the other? In today’s confrontation, Putin expresses a deep need for Ukraine – so close and so kindred - to shun democracy and to reject the EU. It would be a bitter outcome for Putin were Russians to copycat and demand fair elections of their own. That would surely end the kleptocratic and mafiosi regime that he constructed so skillfully.

So, what do you do? Do you settle on the amount of loot he may usurp? Say, we give him just the “Sudetenland” of today or promise that Ukraine will never seek entry into NATO or the EU.

I agreed with the tack taken by the negotiations so far, but they haven’t blunted the aggression or drawn it into more fruitful forms of dialogue. It still seems unimaginable for Europe to descend back into trench warfare and civilian - even military - carnage. It’s just not civilized anymore.

**Dr. Richard L. Koral, Leader EHSLI**

CONTACT Richard Koral: leader@ehsli.org or 516-741-7304
Sunday Presentations:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87199821900

Mar 06: Dr. Richard Koral, Practical Goodness.
Are people inherently good? Irredeemably bad? Hopelessly lacking guidelines? How do we strive for goodness in an adverse challenging world?
Richard Koral is Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture and the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. He attended The Humanist Institute and holds a Doctor of Ministry in Interfaith Pastoral Counseling as well as a J.D. degree. Richard is a long-time member of the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester and served as president of the American Ethical Union, the national federation of Ethical Societies, from 2012 to 2015.

Thom will show how Needs Awareness functions as a beacon for humans to live a constructive and ethical life. He will share how this awareness offers profound value in conflict resolution and the ability to engage in constructive disagreements.
Thom brings 35 years of human potential study and training experience to his work as a writer, speaker, and workshop leader. His passion and knowledge of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) combine to create a practical, understandable, humorous, and potentially profound approach for learning and integrating skills that help us experience more compassion and understanding. He is described as concise, inspiring, sincere and optimistic, applying transformational and spiritual perspectives to real-life situations. Many of his students become active facilitators, trainers, and practitioners.

Over the past fifteen years as a disciple of Marshall Rosenberg, Thom’s work has touched hundreds of thousands of clients, participants, readers, and listeners throughout the world. Thom is a founder and the Director of Education for NYCNVC, The New York Center for Nonviolent Communication (a United Nations Civil Society Organization), author of The Compassion Book, the founder of The Compassion Project, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations (CCCUN).

He is the author of “Shifting Toward Compassion” (theexercise.org), and “64 Days for Peace” an open source, online, self-led small-group curriculum. He is best known as the creator and leader of The Compassion Course, a comprehensive online training, based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg, Werner Erhard, and Albert Ellis.

Patricia Shih is a multiple national award-winning singer-songwriter based in Huntington, NY who performs with her accompanist/husband Stephen Fricker. Her uplifting "music with meaning" touches the hearts, minds and funny bones of her listeners and involves them directly with full audience participation.

Ms. Shih tours North America, delighting audiences of all ages for decades. One of the “early pioneers” in family music, she has been featured on numerous radio and TV shows including hosting Cablevision’s “Tell Me A Story” four times daily, at major music festivals, and in various clubs and concert halls with such luminaries as Pete Seeger, Bonnie Raitt, David Bromberg, Tom Chapin, Richie Havens, Janis Ian, Billy Bragg, Melanie, Odetta and Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. Her songs have been published in national magazines and songbooks such as Sing Out! and Broadside, and are recorded and performed by other artists throughout the world.

She was named a “Long Island Woman of Distinction” by *Distinction Magazine*, a “Fortune 52 Woman of Achievement” by the *Long Island Press*, and was awarded the “Social Justice Leadership Award” by the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Her first book, *Gigging: A Practical Guide for Musicians* is published by Sky Horse Press, NY. Her second book, *Gigs from Hell--Funny, Sad, Unbelievably Bad; True Tales from the Music Trenches* is published by Uncommon Publishing, NY. She has served on the board of directors of the International Children’s Music Network, and presently is on the education advisory board of the Long Island Music Hall of Fame. Ms Shih is also an award-winning painter, glass artist and filmmaker. Her first documentary “Undocumented” has won 16 awards and honors from 13 film festivals and competitions.

Mar 27: Dr. Joe Chuman.

Dr. Chuman had been the leader of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, NJ from 1974 to 2020, and since 2008 has served as a part-time leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

As an activist, Dr. Chuman has worked on behalf of human rights, civil liberties and in opposition to the death penalty, as well as many other progressive causes. He founded the Northern New Jersey group of Amnesty International in 1974 and currently serves as president of the Bergen County Sanctuary for Asylum Seekers, founded by the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County.

Dr Chuman teaches Human Rights at the graduate level at Columbia University, and has taught at the United Nations University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica. He has published numerous articles in the Record of Bergen County, New Jersey. He has also had articles published in The New York Times, The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Humanistic Judaism and other periodicals. He has had articles published on Ethical Culture and religion in several encyclopedias.
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 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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ETHICAL ISSUES IN OUR TIMES- MAR 3, 7 PM

"Ethical Issues in Our Times" is held every month on the First Thursday of each month

**Topic: What Sense Can We Make of Race in America?**
When many on the Right downplay or deny America’s racist history, and many on the Left deny the cultural role of Critical Race Theory while disingenuously promoting its popular expression in “The 1619 Project” can we go beyond these competing racialized partisan perspectives to a more accurate, culturally nuanced and socially constructive understanding of race in contemporary America?

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 - MAR 4, 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 - MAR 28, 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 - MAR 29, 7 PM**

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek,* by Kim Michele Richardson.

“Set in the hollers of Depression-era Kentucky, the novel serves as a testament to the power of the written word, arguing that words can traverse barriers between class, race and individual differences. Richardson’s descriptions throughout the novel breathe life into the mountains, the books and the lives of her characters. She captures both the beauty of the mountains and the ugliness of ignorance. It serves as a wonderful reminder that our similarities can overcome our differences—and a love of reading is one of those similarities. In a time of constant polarization, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* reminds us that all is not lost.” - *Deep South Magazine*

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

FABULOUS FUNdraiser:

Monday
March 21
7:30 pm

Take a Zoom tour through historic Morris-Jumel Mansion with docent Alan Cohen

Alan Cohen, who has wowed us with his tours of special places in NYC, brings us to The Morris-Jumel Mansion, the oldest surviving residence in Manhattan. The Mansion is one of 23 City-owned properties that comprise the Historic House Trust. It became a house museum in 1904. The exterior of the Mansion is landmarked by the City and, less commonly, most of the interior rooms also have landmarked status.

- Built in 1765 as a summer residence for a very wealthy woman and her British husband. (Mary Philips and Roger Morris)
- It was George Washington’s headquarters for five weeks in 1776
- The house was visited by Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and other members of the first cabinet when NYC was the capitol of the US
- In 1810 the house bought by a wealthy Frenchman and his American born wife; the couple restored and updated the house in French Empire style (Stephen and Eliza Jumel)
- Anne Northup (wife of Solomon Northup, whose memoir was published as “12 Years A Slave”), worked in the house during her husband’s captivity
- One of the last owners of the house is reputed to be the inventor of the first film
- The Mansion is said to be the most haunted house in Manhattan
Says Alan, “Most New Yorkers probably don’t know of, or ever visited the Mansion. This was true for me until we moved to Washington Heights and lived about a mile north of the Mansion. I ‘discovered’ it on one of my walks and became fascinated with its multi-layered history. I began to learn about the Mansion’s history and then wanted to support it and get more involved. Now I am a docent at the Mansion and give public and custom tours.”

Alan R. Cohen, a former psychologist and college professor, has been pursuing his passion for New York City history, art and its parks in his retirement. 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 and contributes occasional essays to www.takeawalknewyork.com. His book, Central Park People: A Photo Essay, is at the printers. 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.

This zoom event, which will be held on March 21, at 7:30 pm, is sponsored by the Ethical Humanist Society of LI. The suggested contribution amount is $20 per Zoom window. To sign up, email office@ehsli.org and instructions for registering will be sent. Or, send a check to EHSLI, to: 38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY 11530. Include email with the check. The Zoom link will be sent when the contribution is received.
CELEBRATING THE EARTH AND OUR GROUNDS – REPORT FROM THE GARDEN COMMITTEE OF EHSLI

The Garden Committee is excited to announce that the Board has signed a proposal with Spadefoot Design and Construction to restore the back and side areas of our property with sustainable landscaping using native, non-invasive plants, shrubs and trees. Our intent is to provide a beautiful outdoor space for our members to stroll, meditate, gather and enjoy nature as well as create a diversified habitat for the local fauna such as birds, bees and butterflies. With our rain garden, this will give our society an opportunity for showcasing our intentions to live in respectful harmony with our natural environment and all the living creatures of this earth. The project should be completed by early spring. Once done, all will be invited to stroll our grounds as the warm weather arrives.

Although the society has underwritten this major undertaking, we will also be reaching out to friends and members to contribute in any way they can towards our goal of adding benches, arbors, additional plantings and outdoor art and to create a portion of the backyard into a “Celebration Garden“ to commemorate the lives and achievements of loved ones. Stay tuned for further developments.

Thanks to the Garden Committee: Stacy Leon, Vinnie Drzewucki, Lorraine Zeller-Agostino (pictured here with Frank Piccininni of Spadefoot), Lyn Dobrin and Jim LoPresti.
The New Native “Celebration Garden” at EHSLI - Why Native Plants Matter

By Vinnie Drzewucki

At the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island (EHSLI) we proclaim to put “Deed Before Creed” and so it is with that in mind that the EHSLI Garden and Grounds committee have taken one of our key philosophies at EHSLI to heart in the challenge for a new design and concept for the “Celebration Garden” to follow one of our guiding shared principles, “Reverence for Life - We cultivate the spiritual dimension in life by acknowledging our interdependent connections to all humanity, to nature, and to our inner values.”

If you haven’t noticed, there is a transformation happening in our own backyard here behind the EHSLI building. Gone are the weeds, poison ivy and invasive plants that displaced many of the garden plants over time. What’s left are trees and shrubs that are well suited for what’s to come. The Garden Committee in collaboration with Spadefoot Design and Construction, LLC have come up with a plan for a new garden featuring native plants, as a way to restore what urbanization and urban sprawl has taken away by the use of lawns and exotic and alien ornamental plants and ecosystem harming invasive non-native plants over time. With recent EHSLI Board of Director’s approval, plans are to begin planting in the next few weeks in time for spring!

Why native plants?

Native plants provide a multitude of benefits to people and all kinds of wildlife while sustaining and protecting our environment, cleaning the air, providing oxygen and cooling shade, mitigating climate change, keeping our groundwater resources, streams bays and oceans clean, healthy and abundant with food and natural resources we, and wildlife depend on living on Long Island. Over time the New Native Celebration Garden at EHSLI native plants will begin to attract and provide food, shelter and nesting sites for pollinators like hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, moths, and bats. Nesting sites and food sources for wild birds and mammals. Native plants will provide nuts, fruits, seeds, small insects for nestlings and other essential food for all kinds of wildlife. It is the goal of the Garden Committee for the New Native Celebration Garden at EHSLI to improve the aesthetics and increase the value of the EHSLI grounds and provide EHSLI members and the Long Island community with an educational demonstration garden that connects us directly to our guiding principle of a “Reverence for Life.”
Dear Friends and Members of Ethical Culture,

The AEU Stands for Peaceful Solutions to the Ukraine Crisis

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine under the autocratic rule of President Vladimir Putin is a violation of international law, a threat to world peace and stability, and is endangering innocent lives. This act of aggression violates the values of the United Nations and ethical standards of decency.

As a result, the American Ethical Union (AEU) stands with Ukraine, a democracy, against this aggression by an authoritarian Russia. The AEU calls on all parties to work toward de-escalation and diplomatic solutions to the present violence. We condemn Russia’s invasion and encourage Ethical Culturists to contact their representatives in the US House and Senate to call for diplomacy.

We support sanctions, which hopefully will bring Russia back to the negotiating table. We urge members of Ethical Societies to support refugee organizations that will be severely tested during this time of conflict.
The AEU also calls for the protection of Ukrainian journalists and international reporters covering the conflict and implores all media outlets to seek the truth and report on it ethically in ways that minimize harm and illuminate facts. We are concerned about the impact this conflict will have on humanists and other freethinkers given Putin’s stance on the separation of church and state.

In the long run, the best path forward is a commitment to creating a Culture of Peace. We strongly suggest actions offered in a 2021 Resolution passed by the Assembly of the AEU that promote “a culture of peace in our personal relationships, in our homes, in our local communities, in the work of our Ethical Societies, and in our nation, including how our work against economic injustice, systemic racism, and climate change promotes such a culture of peace.”

About the AEU
The American Ethical Union creates, nurtures, and inspires ethical humanist communities to foster a world that is democratic, compassionate, just, and sustainable. Learn more at aeu.org.

EHSLI is a member society of the AEU
It's a great feeling when everything comes together!!

All the generous donations have been received and we are ready to pack up the self-care bags for NEW HOUR. Please join us after the Sunday Meeting on 3/20 to assemble 75 bags and get them ready to be delivered.

Susan Feifer

The NYS Community Equity Agenda applauds Governor Hochul’s proposed plan to partner with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to deliver more than $150 million to small businesses in communities hardest-hit by the pandemic. Our coalition has been at the forefront of statewide efforts to strengthen New York’s CDFIs - mission-driven credit unions and loan funds that build wealth in Black, brown, immigrant, and low-income neighborhoods.

Coalition members were instrumental in securing the first-ever allocation to New York’s CDFI Fund in 2020, and we celebrate this second momentous victory. Funding New York’s CDFIs is the most direct way to support community-controlled finance, address longstanding inequities in our financial system, and spur an equitable recovery.

The NYS Community Equity Agenda urges the Governor to target new funding to worker-owned businesses (including cannabis-related enterprises), and expand support for CDFIs beyond small business lending to those that provide affordable banking services and loans for affordable housing in historically-redlined neighborhoods. We continue to call for the passage of the NY Public Banking Act, paving the way for local governments to leverage billions of public dollars in partnership with CDFIs to invest in community needs. Today’s announcement is a great step forward for New York communities. We must continue to transform our unjust financial system, as we fight for racial and economic justice.

EHSLI is an active member of the NYS Community Equity Agenda
Sonia Arora, our Social Action Coordinator, co-wrote this article published in Newsday.

**Fewer Police for Mental Health Crises**

By Sonia Arora and Rebecca Bonanno

Nine years ago, police responded to a Suffolk County group home after a 29-year-old Black man on the autism spectrum was reported to be behaving aggressively. Dainell Simmons had calmed down by the time Suffolk police officers arrived, according to a 2018 lawsuit and a Newsday report, but officers insisted on taking Simmons to a psychiatric hospital immediately. When Simmons resisted, officers used pepper spray and a Taser on him and forced him, facedown, onto the floor. Simmons died of asphyxiation.

**Click on the link to read MORE:**
[https://www.newsday.com/opinion/commentary/mental-health-police-reform-1.50514760?utm_source=appshare&fbclid=IwAR32Ra0kaxjeeLyU6av_o1Ne1L2VzminWS5H5UyXcuaXNQuT Bz24-3xJhS4](https://www.newsday.com/opinion/commentary/mental-health-police-reform-1.50514760?utm_source=appshare&fbclid=IwAR32Ra0kaxjeeLyU6av_o1Ne1L2VzminWS5H5UyXcuaXNQuT Bz24-3xJhS4)

**SOCIAL ACTION**

To send letters that will help save political prisoners through Amnesty International, go to [www.UUCSR.org/write](http://www.UUCSR.org/write)

This is a Unitarian social action website that is easily navigated.
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!**
A Dialogue
by Al Zeiger

Why are you holding me so tight? You have to relax to get the best out of me. You know that don’t you?

I know that well, but at this point in life I don’t want to drop you, because it would cause all kinds of problems.

Yes I understand that. Why don’t you tell me how we met?

O.K. In 1953 when I was in the Army band at Aberdeen, Maryland, we had a warrant officer who was in charge of our outfit. He allowed us to gamble and I lost eighty dollars in a poker game. Knowing that I was going to buy a new saxophone, I paid my debt with selling my old saxophone. When we were allowed to go home for the weekend, I went to Sam Ash on West Forty-Eighth Street and purchased you. I asked for the best horn he had, and then I met you.

Boy, that’s some story.

You were beautiful. I knew that the Selmer name was at the top of the line. What I didn’t know was that you were a Mark VI, which turned out to be the best model they ever made. That is true today, sixty-five years later. I paid three hundred dollars for you, and today you are insured for fourteen thousand dollars! You and your sound were so beautiful and you have aged very well.

How come my body is not as beautiful as it was then?

Along with everybody else you have aged. If I put lacquer on you, it will affect the tone you produce. Even though you will look 100% better, the sound that you produce will suffer. Isn’t this true of human beings? When they age and have plastic surgery, they very often lose their natural beauty.

Yes, I understand.
We have had a wonderful life together but it always has not been smooth. But then again, many wonderful relationships have had problems.

What do you mean?

I don’t know if you remember this, but after a number of years we were together, I went into New York City to study with a top teacher named Lou Arfew. He was the teacher of Buzz Brauner who inspired me to play the saxophone when he played in the Lafayette High School Swing Band. I was ready to impress the teacher with my playing. To my dismay, he told me that I was playing all wrong. I came there to study the alto saxophone, but I was playing it like a tenor saxophone which is a deeper voice and emphasizes the low notes. I was listening to tenor sax players and imitating their lower voices while playing the alto saxophone which emphasizes the higher voices. My teacher said, “If you want to study with me, you have to relearn and change your way of playing. Why don’t you go into the waiting room and let me know your decision?”

What happened then? What did you do?

I went into the waiting room and had a good cry. I was so unhappy that I was thinking of giving you up. Yes, you may think of it as getting a divorce. I could not do it because I loved you too much. I went back into his studio and said, “I’m ready to work with you!” It was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Well, thank God for that.

We have been together for 78 years and you have given me so much pleasure. In San Miguel, Mexico I was able to devote myself to you full time for fifteen years! I could practice as much as I wanted to. I played with terrific musicians who inspired me to do things I did not think I was capable of. You brought out the best in me.

I’m so happy for that.

We played club dates together for over forty years, weddings, bar mitzvahs and all kinds of functions which provided the money that helped us travel. I always took my mouthpiece and played on saxophones from Yugoslavia to Russia. It was a wonderful way to meet musicians. Above all, you have given me a way to express myself and helped me grow musically. Even though I just hit ninety-three, you are still an important part of my life. You are one of the few real loves of my life. I thank you for our relationship.
Skins
by Deirdre Amukowa

This skin is made from the stories we forgot.
Spoken in aged whispers from the ancient Elders,
Bellowed atop tin rooftops from the lively youngsters,
Whispered in hushed tones from a mother’s lips.
It is skins made of rebellious rumbles
At the back of the throat.
Skins that will talk back, talk strong, and survive
While dripping with tales of the past into the future.
Skins that once danced around fire
Praising the gods, the land, and the soil.
Skins that knew when to bow down to Nature’s wrath
And celebrate the gods for rain and good harvests.
Skins that had been uprooted from its land
Taken advantage of by cowards with guns.
Skins that slowly started to forget their stories
As time wore away their pride and splendor.
They glistened, these skins, under cold moonlit nights
And scorching midday suns. Terrifying was their treatment, but they never lost hope.
Even as the midday sweat dripped from their blackened necks
And scarred bodies, their melanin proved strong.
They became legends, these skins.
Legends that took the form of
Our forgotten history.
Swirling in white-washed scenes of the Lone Ranger,
Pushed to the side by Americas fragile system
Of hiding and washing away these truths.
But still their stories thrive, you see,
Built within museums showcasing such greatness
Such pride, such beauty.
Flowing between you and I.
We, the future storytellers.

EHSLI members Alicia Evans and Deirdre Amukowa participated in Black History Month celebrations in Westbury, with Alicia serving as emcee and displaying her fiber art and Deirdre reading her original poem.
What We Read
A new column, 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 this newsletter.

Column#1 by Linda Napoli : January
Column#2 by David Sprintzen : February
Column#3 by Sylvia Silberger : February
Column#4 by Ben Bortin : February
What We Read #5
February 2, 2022
Dorcas Kiptoo

A Nilotic African of Kalenjin (Tugen) heritage by birth, a lover of the world—with all its challenges and grace, an optimist and a liberal progressive. A mother of three daughters and an Ethical Humanist.

- What books are on your nightstand?
  The books on my nightstand are How Beautiful We Were by Imbolo Mbue; Poems from Black Africa by Wole Soyinka; Where We Started by Arthur Dobrin; Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid; and Homeland Elegies by Ayad Akhtar

- What book might people be surprised to find on your shelves?
  The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

- What’s the best book you’ve ever received as a gift?
  Father bought us--me, my two sisters and my brother Alfu Lela Ulela, the Swahili translation of The Thousand and one Nights.

- What kind of reader were you as a child? Which childhood books and authors stick with you most?
  As far as I can recall, Father was an avid reader of Taifa Leo and Taifa Jumapili—Swahili newspapers. He always sat us down and read to us the national, current and international news and events. The best part was the short stories and the poems within the newspapers.
  As we grew older, Father would bundle us on his bicycle, my three siblings in the back, And me sitting in the front on the top tube wrapped with a towel. Off to the town we went to the only bookshop we had. We would browse and father would buy us school textbooks and some story books. The books that have stayed with me the most are: Mashimo ya Mfalme Sulemani—Swahili Translation of King Solomon’s Mines; Kisima cha Giningi by Muhamed Said Abdulla—roughly translated The Well of Giningi; Mine Boy by Peter Abrahams; and Grace Ogot’s The River and the Source.

- What’s the last great book you read?
  Well, The Goldfinch by Donna Tart had held this position for a while until I read A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles and Deacon King Kong by James McBride.

- Which genres do you especially enjoy reading? And which do you avoid?
  I immensely enjoy mystery, thrillers and suspense, science fiction, history and historical fiction, memoir and biographies. There are two that I will NOT touch regardless of high reviews and recommendations: horror and romance. No sir!

- Do you prefer books that reach you emotionally, or intellectually?
  Both. Emotionally so I can empathize, cheer on or get so mad at the characters. Intellectually so I can be in their minds seeing why they chose the choices they made. This also helps in my rewriting the narrative in my mind and have a different outcome.
Successful writers in my opinion are those whose works stays with you long after you closed the last page.

• Which writers – novelists, playwrights, critics, journalists, poets – working today do you admire most?
  Writers I admire most include Ishmael Beah, Kazuo Ishiguro, Alka Joshi, Lori Gottlieb, Amor Towles and Alex Michaelides. Poet and short story writer Souvankham Thammavongsa. Journalists are Rachel Maddow, Karine Jean-Pierre, Louis Gates Jr, W. Kamau Bell, Holli Williams, David Begnaud and Bill Whitaker

• What do you plan to read next?
  Colson Whitehead’s Harlem Shuffle.

What We Read #6
February 9, 2022
Sharon Stanley

Sharon Stanley is a retired New York City teacher and children’s librarian. Her family has been members of EHSLI since 1995.

• What books are on your nightstand?
  My first instinct was to quickly say, “I have all my books on my Kindle! Not many are on my nightstand!” But currently, resting on my nightstand, is How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, Midnight in Washington by Adam Schiff, Get Back by Peter Jackson and Signing Their Lives Away by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D’Agnese.

• What moves you most in a work of literature?
  I enjoy reading about flawed protagonists and women through history.

• Do you prefer books that reach you emotionally, or intellectually?
  I enjoy reading both types of books.

• Which genres do you especially enjoy reading? And which do you avoid?
  I love mysteries, historical fiction, and nonfiction. I avoid romance novels and most other types of fiction.

• What kind of reader were you as a child? Which childhood books and authors stick with you most?
  I was a voracious reader as a child. I enjoyed reading children’s mystery series, like the Nancy Drew mysteries and The Happy Hollisters. I was also a nonfiction fan then; I also loved reading about history, dinosaurs, astronomy and biographies.
  It’s not a "childhood" book, but the very first book I had to read for school that I loved was To Kill A Mockingbird. It is my favorite book; that was also my favorite movie and is now my favorite Broadway show.

• How have your reading tastes changed over time?
Once I became a parent, I found that between work and family, time didn’t allow me to read a novel. That is when I began to read nonfiction. These books are easier to put down and pick up without needing to recall where you last left off.

- What’s a book you recommended to a member of your family?
  How Not To Cook For The Rest of Your Life by Marilyn Michaels and Mark Wilk.
- What’s your favorite book no one else has heard of?
  Remembering Hypatia; A Novel of Ancient Egypt by Brian Trent.

What We Read #7
February 16, 2022
Ginger Hendler

Ginger is a former teacher at The Progressive School of Long Island where she taught Humanities. For the past fifteen years she has been creating mixed media visual artwork. Two years ago, she was commissioned to do a large painting by a musician acquaintance and the painting, called The Adventures of Hanuman, now lives permanently in Australia.

- What books are on your nightstand?
  On the table by my bed is an array of books I have not read, but intend to read one day. A few of them I have started to read, but never finished, not because they were unworthy, but because I left midway and never “resumed”. The pandemic has left me in a serious daze. Here is the list of books I haven’t finished: Awakening the Buddha Within by Lama Surya Das, Spiritual Timber by Arthur Dobrin, Chinatown Pretty Late Migrations by Margaret Renkl, Franny & Zooey by J.D. Salinger.
- What’s the last great book you read?
  The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
- What moves you most in a work of literature?
  I am moved by the lessons of life the author share that encourage, inspire and connect me to others.
- Do you prefer books that reach you emotionally or intellectually?
  I prefer books that reach me in any way.
- Which genres do you especially enjoy reading? And which do you avoid?
  I especially enjoy memoirs, mysteries, satires & parodies. I avoid Text books, cook books and books about right wing conspiracy theories.
- What kind of reader were you as a child?
  As a child, I was an avid reader and loved going to the Brooklyn Children’s Library in my hometown of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. My favorites were Mary Poppins(the series), The Oz Books, Nancy Drew, Bobsey Twins, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle, Horton Hears a Who, and Miss
What We Read #8
February 23, 2022
Ken Feifer

Ken and his wife Susan and have been members of the Ethical Society for over 40 years. Both of their children attended the Sunday School. Ken has had a long career in health care and hospital administration serving as the Associate Dean and Chief Operating Officer for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s medical staff at Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Centers. Late last year he decided to semi-retire and now works part time as Associate Dean Emeritus. Ken is also an Adjunct Faculty at three colleges and universities teaching Health Care Administration and Public Policy.

• What books are on your nightstand?
  There are always books on my nightstand. The current stack includes:

• What’s the last great book you read?
  The Restless Wave—John McCain.

• What moves you most in a work of literature?
  The emotional experience of the character as he/she navigates through the life experiences.

• Do you prefer books that reach you emotionally, or intellectually?
  I have books in my collection that do both.

• Which genres do you especially enjoy reading? And which do you avoid?
  I prefer dramas and I always avoid Fantasies or Science Fiction.

• What’s the best book you’ve ever received as a gift?
  Henderson The Rain King—Saul Bellow.

• What kind of reader were you as a child? Which childhood books and authors stick with you most?

Flora Mc Flimsy, my most favorite because it was about a small doll named Flora who lived with the girl with the red topped shoes. It was the smallest book on the shelf and I could easily grasp it in my little hands. I spent hours sitting on the floor in back of my grandfather’s bookstore reading comic books.
I was an English major in college and read many Shakespeare plays. I also have read many of Arthur Miller’s plays multiple times.

- How have your reading tastes changed over time?
  I read more textbook material and health policy books in my adulthood. The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America’s Hospital System—Charles Rosenberg is my favorite.

- What’s a book you recommended to a member of your family?
  Democracy In Chains.

- What do you plan to read next?
  The Things We Cannot Say—Kelly Rimmer.

- Which writers — novelists, playwrights, critics, journalists, poets — working today do you admire most?
  Annie Baker and Tim Lord.

- Has a book ever brought you closer to another person, or come between you?
  My son and I both read at the same time James Comey’s book A Higher Loyalty and had nightly discussions.

- Who is your favorite fictional hero or heroine? Your favorite antihero or villain?
  Robin Hood and Harry Bosch.

- What book might people be surprised to find on your shelves?
  The History of Jazz.

- What kind of reader were you as a child? Which childhood books and authors stick with you most?
  I was an English major in college and read many Shakespeare plays. I also have read many of Arthur Miller’s plays multiple times.

- How have your reading tastes changed over time?
  I read more textbook material and health policy books in my adulthood. The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America’s Hospital System—Charles Rosenberg is my favorite.

- What’s a book you recommended to a member of your family?
  Democracy In Chains.

- What do you plan to read next?
  The Things We Cannot Say—Kelly Rimmer.

- Which writers — novelists, playwrights, critics, journalists, poets — working today do you admire most?
  Annie Baker and Tim Lord.

- Has a book ever brought you closer to another person, or come between you?
  My son and I both read at the same time James Comey’s book A Higher Loyalty and had nightly discussions.

- Who is your favorite fictional hero or heroine? Your favorite antihero or villain?
  Robin Hood and Harry Bosch.

- What book might people be surprised to find on your shelves?
  The History of Jazz.
Sending warm wishes for a speedy recovery to:

Member Ginger Hendler who had to return to rehab

Member Annie Tiss who is recovering at home in Florida from a foot injury.

If you or a member of our community is sick, experiencing loss, or celebrating a milestone, a birthday, let us know. You can email us at caringconnection@ehsli.org Or call 516-741-7304. One of our members will get back to you.

Let's stay connected!!
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.
Create a Caring World