



# The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 8 -- April 2014



Calvin Dame  
Religious Director, EHSLI

## From Our Religious Director

Dear Friends,

Many of you know that last year we (the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island) became an official Chapter of the American Humanist Society. And on April 13<sup>th</sup> this month we welcome American Humanist Executive Director Roy Speckhardt and Maggie Ardiente, the AHA Director of Development, as our Sunday morning speakers. This is an important occasion. Our roots, of course, reach back into Ethical Culture history, and when we talk about who we are, it is the story of Felix Adler and the development of the Ethical Culture movement that we tell. But that story is closely entwined with the emergence of humanism as distinct presence in our culture, and looking to the future, those who may find their way to our door will likely be people who identify as or with humanism.

### Events with Calvin

#### Ethical Café

Mon, Apr 14: Can Ethical Encompass Spiritual?

**Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society**

In my address March 9<sup>th</sup> on the tension between Religious Humanism and Secular Humanism, I spoke of contemporary Humanism as a big tent with deep roots and healthy diversity. The Meeting on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> will be an important opportunity for us to explore our place in that tent, and our understanding of who we are and where we are headed.

Calvin O. Dame  
Religious Director

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**HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR 2014 PLEDGE TO EHSLI? OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU!**

## President's Column



Joan Beder,  
Society President

### EHS Celebrations Abound

In March our YES (Youth of the Ethical Societies) group presented the weekly program. It was entitled "Social Constructs and Gender Identity." As I sat in the audience, I felt proud of who we are and what we stand for and so very pleased with our youth. The program was well crafted, each member of the group presented a perspective on gender identity and the music and videos were a strong addition to the program. Both Tara Klein and Derek Smith, current leaders of the group, are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to working with our kids and helping our youth realize and express their Ethical identity. Because of their work and the work of the previous group leader, Eric Alexander, we have chosen to honor the three of them for our annual Founders Day celebration scheduled for June.

Talking about celebrations, you probably all have received the invitation to the Social Justice Leadership Awards Dinner scheduled for late April. At this

event we will be honoring three people who have been affiliated with the LI Society and have been and are leading distinguished careers as attorneys. These men -- Wayne Outten, Peter Neufeld and Russell Neufeld -- exemplify the values of Ethical Humanism through their work and their lives. Members have been granted a courtesy admission price so please plan to join us on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Society has been going through a 'face lift' over these many months and the main meeting room, the upstairs conference room and halls, etc. have been repainted and cleaned. Thanks go to all the members who contributed to this effort through time and donation. We also have a new boiler that has been working overtime this winter.

Our Society has been an active place this season despite the weather: the movie series continues to be well attended, Sunday programs are doing well, finances are reasonably ok and we have many new people coming to our building. Let's hope that we have seen the last snowflake this winter and that the thermometers remember how to reach 60+ degrees.

Joan Beder  
Society President

### YES!

The Y.E.S. Group led the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Meeting on Social Constructs and Gender Identity. They did a great job with sections on systematic oppression, stereotypes, the media, sports, transgender issues, education, and more; plus a video of Society members talking on the topic, a rap by eQuality, and lots of Beyonce. Congrats to the teens!





**FROM DARWIN DAY TO EARTH DAY**  
**CONNECTING GLOBAL GREEN ISSUES WITH LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

## Thursday Dinner & Movie Series

Feb. 13 to April 24, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

A Networking Event Connecting Global Issues to Long Island Solutions

Co-Sponsored by Locally Long Island and EHS LI

Movie + Vegan Soup Supper provided by Sweet to Lick Bakery

\$15 donation (\$12 for students and 55+; multi-night discount available)



<b>Date</b>	<b>Movie / Speaker:</b>
Feb. 27:	Mother Nature's Child / Jeannine Davis, The Waldorf School
March 6:	Food Stamped / Jon Stepanian, Long Island Food Not Bombs
March 13:	Farming the Future; Farm Life on Long Island / Larry Foglia, Fox Hollow Farm and LI Community Agriculture Network
March 20:	Save Our Land; Save Our Towns / Eric Alexander, Vision LI
March 27:	Gasland / Marrielle Robinson, Long Island Progressive Coalition's Power-UP Communities and Eric Weltman, Food and Water Watch
April 3:	I Am / Dr. Arthur Dobrin, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
April 10:	An Inconvenient Truth / Jeanne Brunsen, Climate Reality Project
April 17:	In Transition 2.0 / Melissa Boo, Locally Long Island
April 24:	No Impact Man / Amy Peters, Sustainable Sea Cliff Co-op & Mary Callanan (Three Castle Farm) & Annetta Vitale (Reed Channel Farm)

**Tickets available at the door. Movies shown at:**

**The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island**  
**38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530**  
**516-741-7304 • [www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org)**

**Movie descriptions: go to [www.locallylongisland.com](http://www.locallylongisland.com)**

## April/May Sunday Meeting Schedule

### **April 6:** Vincent Schiraldi, NYC Commissioner of Probation

Commissioner Schiraldi is a national leader in the field of rehabilitation, with more than 25 years of experience and a record of reform and success. He most recently led Washington, DC's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, where he turned a troubled agency that was on the verge of being placed under court supervision into a national model. His reforms were recently recognized by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government "Innovations in American Government" awards program for being among the "Top 50" most innovative programs in the country. Commissioner Schiraldi founded the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice, a non-profit dedicated to reducing society's reliance on imprisonment as a solution to social problems. He has published more than 30 articles and has served on 10 boards and commissions in the field.

His professional experience includes work as Director of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Founder and Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, DC, Western Regional Director of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives in San Francisco, California, Case Developer at the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives in New York City, Houseparent/Recreation Coordinator at the New York State Division for Youth, Foster Parent at the San Francisco Department of Social Service and lecturer on juvenile justice reform at San Francisco State and Georgetown Universities.

### **April 13:** Roy Speckhardt & Maggie Ardiente, Executive Director & Director of Development of the American Humanist Association. *In It to Win: Building a Nontheist Rights Movement*

Humanists have experienced many legal successes historically, but recently our track record is mixed at best. It's time for a fresh approach to these issues, in and out of the courts. Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will explain how the Religious Right got the upper hand and what we can do about it. Armed with new strategy, we'll chart a new course together and discuss the next priorities for expanding nontheist rights in America.

Roy Speckhardt has served as executive director of the American Humanist Association since 2005. He is a frequent media commentator, having appeared on Good Morning America, CNN, Fox News, and NPR, among others. He also writes a regular column for The Huffington Post and Patheos, and has given speeches at colleges, conferences, and local humanist groups across the country.



Speckhardt holds an M.B.A. from George Mason University and B.A. in sociology from Mary Washington College. Speckhardt also serves on the boards of The Institute for Humanist Studies, the United Coalition of Reason, The Humanist Institute, and the Secular Coalition for America Education Fund. He served as deputy director of The Interfaith Alliance from 1995 to 2001.

Lunch will be served, and Mr. Speckhardt is willing to stay after lunch to further the discussion in our boardroom. Bring your questions and ideas! EHS LJ is a chapter of the AHA. The American Humanist Association is growing—what can we learn from them?

### **April 20:** Spring Festival.

**Sunday Meetings begin at 11:00 AM**  
**Sunday Colloquies begin at 9:30 AM**

### **April 27:** Joe Chuman

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

### **May 4:** Calvin Dame, Religious Director, *Looking at the Biggest Picture*

### **May 11:** Kelly Tanza: A Mother's Day Celebration

### **May 18:** Jim Edwards, *Evil and Human Nature: Reflections on 'the Problem of Evil'*



## Goings on at and Announcements from EHSIJ

### eBay SPICE Fundraiser

— The **SPICE** committee and Bill Larsen are organizing an EHSIJ eBay account as a fundraiser for the EHSIJ. Email Bill Larsen at [EHSFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:EHSFundraising@gmail.com) with descriptions and pictures (if possible) if you have something you think might be worth donating. Email Bill for more detail on item specs needed. Our eBay seller ID is EHSIJ fundraising. Visit our sales at [http://myworld.ebay.com/ehsijfundraising?\\_trksid=p2047675.12559](http://myworld.ebay.com/ehsijfundraising?_trksid=p2047675.12559)

**Our Times Coffee House:** On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Our Times Coffeehouse will be hosting internationally and nationally acclaimed, Toby Walker. He has been hailed as a roots music fingerstyle guitar virtuoso who has toured the U.S., England, Wales, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. Walker has been featured in the NY Times, the London Sunday Times, the London BBC, Sirius-XM radio and was the 1st place recipient of the international Blues Challenge Award - Solo division - given out by the Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN. Walker blends the styles of blues, ragtime, country, bluegrass, rock and old time jazz into his own unique style. Brought back by popular demand.

Doors Open: 7:15 PM

Performance At: 8:00 PM

Suggested Donation: Adults \$15, Seniors (65 & up) \$12, Students (with school ID) \$12, Children (under 12) \$6 (very young children: \$0)

For more information on all upcoming performances go to [www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org](http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org).



**EHSIJ Garden Day:** We need your help on May 18<sup>th</sup> to help beautify the EHSIJ garden. Heidi will be there by 9:30 AM for the early birds and after meeting for the rest. Bring gloves!

**Women's Retreat:** This year's women's retreat will be a Joan Beder's House on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April at 12:00 PM for Lunch and conversation. Please email Delorie Cohan at [Rodel48@aol.com](mailto:Rodel48@aol.com) or call (718) 459-1380 for more info

**Patio Furniture Donations Needed:** We are looking for donations of yard furniture. Our current deteriorated benches will be removed for safety. Please contact Heidi Mann 516-250-0898 [sunnydayheidi@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydayheidi@gmail.com) (text a photo or email one) and see if it is suitable for our patio and garden and arrange delivery. Thank-you!

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class:** Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the EHSIJ on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM through the spring semester. If interested, contact Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:matsbs@yahoo.com) to be put on her class confirmation email list.

**Diogenes Roundtable:** Discuss your thoughts with us, as we probe the deeper questions of life and have a few laughs along the way. Every month we will explore a different topic in philosophy and learn from the ideas of great thinkers. For meeting times e-mail [AnHonestManEHS@gmail.com](mailto:AnHonestManEHS@gmail.com), or talk with Liam Stephens or David Sprintzen. All are welcome

**Movie Group:** For info on the movie group contact Al Zeiger at 516-538-2687. Leave message and he'll get back to you.

**The Caring Connection:** our commitment to taking care of those of us who are sick or in need. We encourage involvement from all. This is core to who we are as Ethical Humanists.

**Suggestions for Sunday Speakers:** If you have heard any speakers whom you would like to recommend to the Sunday Committee, based on their excellence and subject matter including ethical issues, for consider for next season, please send suggestions to the office to be forwarded to committee members.

**Sponsor a Coffee Hour:** \$15 and, with enough advanced notice, add your name and message to the Sunday Meeting bulletin! Contact Phyllis at [ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net).

**Weekly Food Drive:** Members of the EHSIJ are collecting food items for INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network). Please bring non-perishable food items to the basket in the lobby.

### Visit EHSIJ Online!

EHSIJ Website: <http://www.ehsij.org>

EHSIJ on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ehsij](http://www.twitter.com/ehsij)

EHSIJ on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LIEthical](http://www.facebook.com/LIEthical)

K.I.D. on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed](http://www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed)

EHSIJ on Meet-up:

<http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/>. This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSIJ meet up member.

Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at [arthurdobrin.wordpress.com](http://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com)

Photos: [picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical](http://picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical)

## March Board Meeting Minutes

### ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 BOARD MEETING

**PRESENT:** Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Sue Feifer, Bill Larsen, Jim LoPresti, Heidi Mann, Linda Napoli, Wayne Outten, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, David Sprintzen, Liam Stephens, Deb Strube

**ABSENT:** Delorie Cohan, Mel Haber, Mary Sherman, Pat Spencer

1. **Approval of minutes:** The February minutes were approved.

2. **Discussion of Weill Fund and Best Uses:** In addition to the Student Social Action Grant, uses for the fund may include funding Ethical Friends of Children. Deb Strube suggested that the fund could be used to pay the Sunday School tuition for needy children in Kids In Deed. However, we have not charged tuition in Sunday School for at least 2 years. Joan will speak with Rhoda Weill.

3. **AEU Board:** EHS LI needs to have a member represent us on the AEU Board. Linda Napoli has been approached but did not agree to do it. We currently have no one on that board.

4. **Attendance at AEU Conference in Chicago:** Three members – Linda, Sharon and Heidi - have requested financial support to attend the AEU conference in Chicago in May. Members will be asked to submit an application to the board to see what funds might be available.

5. **Possible Temporary Replacement for Calvin:** A candidate currently in leadership training may be available for us for a possible internship. This would be particularly helpful after Calvin leaves to take over some of his duties. Joan Beder will follow up.

6. **AEU Workshop on Small Society Development:** Bart Worden of the AEU offered a plan for small society development, but says that the workshop would cost \$300, actually \$150 with a discount. The idea that our AEU dues would not cover any such assistance is confusing to us. We rejected the idea that we would pay for a workshop from the AEU. Linda Napoli has been learning about small group development and will be able to present such a workshop in the future.

7. **Financial Report:** Mary Sherman was absent from the meeting due to a death in her family. The February financial reports were not available. However, Joan reported that we have about \$22,000 in the bank..

8. **Sunday Morning Committee:** The Sunday morning committee has been asked to start finding speakers and ideas for next year. Calvin and Muriel have been the

committee heads so far. As Calvin is leaving, the need is all the more pressing. Joan has contacted all the other local Societies with a speaker request, but no one has responded. Linda Napoli will ask members to suggest speakers.

9. **Music Director:** The Board has agreed to hire Kelly Tanza as our music director beginning on September 1<sup>st</sup>. She will technically be an employee of EHS LI, not a member. Kelly was quite happy with the offer. Joan will speak with Kelly about arranging musical fundraisers, such as a sing-a-long open to the public, maybe twice a year.

10. **Social Justice Leadership Award:** The SJLA Dinner (Social Justice Leadership Award) will offer discount member-price tickets at \$100 per person. The organization of the event is going well.

11. **Dinner and a Movie Series:** The "Dinner and a Movie" series is going well. Attendance has been slowly growing. We have over \$2000 in sponsorships, which has covered our expenses, and have raised a few hundred in ticket sales so far.

12. **Roy Speckhardt:** Roy Speckhardt, the Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will be our speaker on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was of how to increase our attendance that day, and whether to offer an open house that afternoon. It was decided that it would be best if we can network with other humanist or like-minded groups, serve free lunch, and ask if he can stay for an extended discussion in the board room after lunch.

13. **Sale of Side Lot:** Linda Napoli has researched the sale of the side lot. Her report:

a. We have to pay \$1600 for a survey and subdivision of the land and pay an application fee. \$1100 is for the cost of the survey; \$500 is for the fee to Garden City. If we got this work done, it does not necessarily mean we would have to sell the land, but our paperwork would be done if we decided to do so. This process is required to make it ready to sell if we decided to.

b. Linda reviewed when we sold the first piece of property in 1995 (adjacent to the lot we are now discussing). At that time, the developer paid the fee, but that developer is no longer in business. The land was sold for \$100,000.

c. It might be possible for us to avoid paying the \$1600 fee by having the developer pay it. Realtor says we could market the land as a "buildable lot." The devel-

### March Board Meeting Minutes, Cont.

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

oper would become the contract vendors. We would negotiate directly with the developer to cover these fees.

An advantage of this strategy: we have no financial outlay as the developer would cover the fees. The realtor would advertise the lot to attract the developers

A disadvantage is that it takes more time and steps, and the developer will obviously expect to buy the land.

d. The realtor says that Garden City may make changes to their rules at any times about lots that may or may not be sold. If it is subdivided now, we would have our approval to sell whenever we wanted.

e. The value of the land is estimated between \$250,000 to \$300,000 for a 60 x 100 or 60 x 120 lot.

Discussion: Selling the land would enable us to make building upgrades, have a financial safety net, and get annual interest income. Most of the proceeds would be

invested, with a small percentage cashed out for capital improvements. Selling the land could alienate some members, and once we sell the land, we could never get it back. It would probably take at least a year to get the permits, survey, and sell the land. Holding on to the land would allow us to expand in the future, with a variety of ideas having been floated over the years: a house for the Leader, a day care or school building, a community garden, etc. However, we have never had the number of members or the financial ability to create these projects.

Joan asked to form a strategic planning committee to discuss a business plan of how the money could be invested (if we did decide to sell), and what we might use the money for. The committee will include Wayne Outten, Joan Beder, Ken Feifer, Mary Sherman, and Alison Pratt.

**The meeting ended at 9:30 PM  
Minutes submitted by Alison Pratt**

**Newsday Article!**

There was a great article on the "Dinner and a Movie" series in the March 10<sup>th</sup> issue of Newsday. You can find a shorter version of the article here  
<http://long-island.newsday.com/things-to-do/movies/li-farms-sustainability-in-film-series-1.7319067>

### Note from the Editor

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHS LJ newsletters to me at [Sylvia\\_silberger@yahoo.com](mailto:Sylvia_silberger@yahoo.com). Submissions due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's newsletter. All submissions are subject to editorial modifications and approval of tone and content. Printing is also limited by space constraints.



*Sylvia Silberger and Bill Larsen, Yosemite National Park*



## Opt-Out of Paper Newsletter Mailings

To save resources and postage costs, we encourage you to email Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:matsbs@yahoo.com) if you would be satisfied with an email-only version of this newsletter rather than a paper copy.



### Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

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[Ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:Ethicalsociety@optonline.net)

<http://www.ehsli.org>

Meet- Up: <http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island>



*A Member Society of the  
American Ethical Union and  
a Chapter of the American  
Humanist Association*

*Haven't heard of us? Come see what we are about some Sunday!  
Sunday Colloquia start at 9.30 AM and Sunday Meetings at 11 AM.*

**Create a Caring World**

## The Ethical Humanist

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

38 Old Country Rd. Garden City, NY 11530