



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island



Vol. 63, No. 08 -- April 2013

From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHSIJ

I'll be away for part of April with the Garden City Clergy Fellowship Study Mission to Israel. We will meet with peace activists, Muslims, IDF Soldiers, Arab Christians, visit a Jewish Settlement, a Kibbutz, as well as Yad Vashem, the International Institute for Holocaust Research. We will visit the Dead Sea and splash through Hezekiah's Tunnel, built 2,700 years ago to secure the water supply of Jerusalem. As well as other meetings, museums and sights.

I will be speaking at the Society Sunday, April 7th (the talk title is *Spiritual, Not Religious*), and the clergy group departs later that evening. We return Friday, April 18th, and I will be a part of the Spring Festival on the 21st of April.

While this is a wonderful travel opportunity for participants, it is also a study tour, and the members of the Garden City Clergy expect

Events with Calvin

Ethical Café

There will be no Ethics Café in April as Calvin will be in Israel.

Community Singing

April 24: For those who would like to help plan our Sunday Meeting Community Singing, or who would just like to do some singing!

Community Singing starts at 6:30 PM

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HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR 2013 PLEDGE TO EHSIJ? OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU!

Pre-Israel Trip Events Schedule

Date: Friday, April 5th

Location:

Garden City Jewish Center
168 Nassau Blvd

7:00-8:00 PM

Potluck Dinner
(vegetarian with dairy, eggs and fish only, please)

8:00-9:15 PM

Shabbat Evening Services
The blessing for those of us who are traveling to Israel will be during the service.

9:15-10:00 PM

Oneg Shabbat (coffee hour)

that the experience and a deepened understanding of this historic, vibrant and troubled area will be of use to our congregations, our communities, our community. In that spirit, the Garden City Jewish Center has invited participants and members from participating congregations to join them Friday, April 5th, for a potluck and for the Shabbat Evening Service, during which there will be a blessing for those traveling to Israel.

If anyone wishes to take part in this event, let me know if you can so the Center has can get a sense of how many are coming. The schedule is to the right.

Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director

Correction: In the February 2013 newsletter the name "Weill" was misspelled in the headline "Weill Student Social Action Grant." As editor, I extend my apologies.

— Sylvia

Kids In Deed



The Kids In Deed class has been getting ready for spring! On April 6th, we are going to help with the Used Bike Drive sponsored by Pedals for Peace and our Society. The kids will be hosting a bake sale to help pay for shipping the bikes to developing nations. We'll also be handing out bike safety brochures and literature about our class.

In preparation for Easter, which so many of our friends celebrate, we spent a lesson learning about the life of Jesus and the Easter story. We read the Beatitudes ("Blessed are the peacemakers...") and talked about why these were new ideas in their day. We also read a parable about neighbors... you'll be seeing more about that in the Spring Festival.

Kori Schroeder taught the class on March 17th—St. Patrick's Day! Building on the Christianity lesson the previous week, she talked about the legend St. Patrick and why he's the patron saint of Ireland. Kori introduced the words "pagan" and "missionary." She then sent the kids home with real-life shamrocks. Maybe a four-leaf clover could lead to some good luck after all!



Alison Pratt
KIDs Director



YES Update

The YES Group held their annual Sunday Meeting presentation on March 3rd, called "YES (or no) to Gun Control." After the Sandy Hook tragedy, the teens wanted to explore gun violence in America a little more. The group held many discussions on the topic and watched the 2002 film "Bowling for Columbine." Then, the teens each picked a section and did some thorough research to create the Sunday Meeting presentation. The teens covered topics including statistics, violence in video games and their impact on kids, the movie and entertainment industry's use of desensitizing gun violence, mental health issues, the problem of illegal weapon possession, the ills of the NRA, an international comparison, and possible government solutions. While there was no consensus on exactly how to deal with the problem of gun violence in America, the teens agreed that change is not happening fast enough. The YES group also presented a short video they created, where they interviewed strangers at



Getting ready

the Mineola train station about their views on gun control. Musical selections for the morning included "Paper Planes" by M.I.A., "Man Down" by Rihanna, and of course a rap by Eric Morgenstern that summed up our presentation. The teens worked very hard to put together this presentation and their efforts really paid off!

Participating teens were: Chloe Agostino, Ryan Dobrin, Reid Hetzel, Maggie Mann, Eric Morgenstern, MacKenzie Schroeder, Gabriel Stanley, and Amanda Wylie.

As always, for any questions about the YES group you can reach out to us at YES@ehsli.org.

Sincerely,
Derek and Tara

More Pictures on [Page 3](#)



Chloe and Reid ready to start

More Pictures of the YES Sunday Meeting Presentation

Continued from [Page 2](#)



Gabe on statistics



The YES Group: Amanda, Gabe, MacKenzie, Maggie, Ryan, Chloe, Reid, Eric



MacKenzie introducing the topic



ABOVE: Amanda discussing the NRA and international solutions

LEFT: Maggie on guns and government

RIGHT: Eric and his gun rap (earlier on mental health issues)



Chloe on illegal possession



Reid talking about violent video games



Ryan explaining the entertainment industry

Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

SPICE Events

— See [page 5](#) for *SPICE* events and updates.

KIDS Used Bike (and Sewing Machine) Drive: On March 15th we got some great publicity from Verizon Fios t.v. that taped a promo spot for our bicycle drive on April 6th (11 - 2 PM). Kathy Williams from Pedals for Progress described how the donated bikes and sewing machines will help people in developing nations. Alison Pratt as the KID instructor and Kids In Deed student Kristen were interviewed about the Ethical Society's children's class being involved in the bike drive. We could use everyone's help in putting up flyers and spreading the word about the need for bikes and sewing machines. The t.v. spot should air about a week before the event; will post that when we know. Thanks to Lyn Dobrin and her friends for setting up the bike drive.

Women's Group Meeting: The EHS Women's Group Meeting will take place on April 27th at Joan Beder's house. The meeting will be at noon. Join us for a pizza lunch, dutch treat. — Delorie Cohan

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, April 19th, [Our Times Coffeehouse](#) invites you to spend an evening with [The Amigos Band](#) (formerly The Tres Amigos). The Amigos Band are a quintessential American folk band with a sound and style all their own. Careening back and forth between three-part harmony-singing and bursts of instrumental improvisation, The Amigos Band delivers daring takes on American standards and original songs that already sound like classics - all tightly arranged to suit the group's unique mix of alto saxophone, accordion, acoustic guitar, and hollerin' voices. The Amigos Band have appeared in recent performances with New Orleans' Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Pete Seeger, bluegrass legends Tony Rice and the Del McCoury band, and Grammy-award winning Americana singer/songwriter Jim Lauderdale. They recently gave a sold-out performance at New York City's Lincoln Center and completed a popular residency at famed Lower East Side club, the Living Room. Performance starts at 8:00 PM, doors open at 7:15 PM. Come early and enjoy refreshments before the show. Donations: Adults \$15, Seniors (65 & Up) & Students (w/ school I.D.) \$12, Children (under 12) \$6 (very young children are free). For more information on Our Times Coffee House visit <http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/> and for information on The Amigos Band visit <http://www.theamigosband.com/>.



Free Dahn Yoga Classes: Jean Santoro will teach a Dahn yoga class on Wednesday April 3rd and Wednesday April 10th at 5:30 PM at the EHSLI. Dahn yoga is a very different form of yoga than the vinyasa style Sylvia had been teaching. Contact Jean at santoro404@aol.com with questions and to confirm the class each week.

FES Conference: Save the date! The 10th Annual FES Conference for young Ethical Humanists ages 18-28, taking place May 24-27, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. For registration and more info contact Tara - YES@ehsli.org.

Exercise Classes for Seniors: Instructor Sue Salko will resume her popular Senior Exercise classes on Mondays and Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM. Classes are geared to the needs of the participants while addressing flexibility, balance, strength and endurance. Bring light weights, stretch bands (available from instructor), wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Suggested contribution: \$5 per class. More information from Sue at Sue.Salko@yahoo.com. More information on Sue at www.SueSalko.com.

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.

Weekly Food Drive: Members of the EHSLI are collecting food items for INN (**I**nter**f**aith **N**utrition **N**etwork). Please leave non-perishable food items in the basket in the lobby.

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.

Visit EHSLI Online!

EHSLI Website: <http://www.ehsli.org>

EHSLI on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

EHSLI on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

K.I.D. on Twitter: www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed

EHSLI 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 EHSLI meet up member.

Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging weekdays at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

SPICE EVENTS & UPDATES

SPICE Event — **Tap Dancing for People with Two Left Feet:** This **SPICE** event promises to be a blast (maybe even from your past). Renowned (and super fun) tap teacher, Louise Rastu, of "The Red Hot Mamas" fame, will teach a beginners tap class. You don't have to have ever tapped before to enjoy this class. No pressure for perfection - just for the fun of it. There will be some tap shoes available in limited sizes but any soft shoes will do (no sneakers for they will stick to the floor). Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to have a tappin' good time. Water and healthy snacks will be available to keep energy high. Appropriate for men & women of all ages. For questions please contact the Ethical Society at (516) 741-7304 or Alice Sprintzen at (516) 364-2178 or sprintz@optonline.net.

DATE: Friday, April 19th.

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: Jan Martin Dance, 27 Adams Ct., Plainview
(Exact directions will be furnished)

LIMIT: 20 people

DONATION:\$18



SPICE Event — **Cross Park Promenade:** Join Alan and Marianne Cohen for this Cross Park Promenade. You will see many surprises: a hidden bench that tells time, miniature boats powered by the wind, a magnificent sculpture celebrating fresh water, a tribute to peace and more. This tour will last about 90 minutes and features some of the most beautiful highlights of Central Park. There are a few hilly spots, but we can avoid all stairs. Meet at 11 AM at the statue of S. B. Morse, inside the Park, at East 72nd Street just off 5th Avenue. We will have choices for lunch, such as eating in the park at the *Le Pain Quotidien* or at one of the nearby Westside restaurants. You can sign up by calling Phyllis at (516) 741- 7304, emailing her at ethicalsociety@optonline.com, or stopping by the EHS LJ office.

HOSTS: Alan & Marianne Cohen

DATE: Saturday, April 20th (rain date May 4th)

TIME: 11:00 AM

PLACE: East 72 Street & 5 Avenue

LIMIT: 20 people, all ages welcome

WALKING LEVEL: easy/moderate

DONATION:\$12

SPICE Event — **Story Discussion with the Dobrins:** Please join Arthur as he once again will read two stories from his collection, *The Harder Right*. Arthur is a gifted writer and the stories will be, as always, interesting and well written. The discussions following the readings have always been lively and thought provoking. Lyn will provide us with delicious refreshments. To sign up call Phyllis at (516) 741- 7304, stop by the EHS LJ office or email her at ethicalsociety@optonline.net. When you sign up you will be provided with a copy of the stories.

DATE: Saturday, May 11th

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: 613 Dartmouth St., Westbury, NY

LIMIT: 10 people

DONATION:\$15

WOW! WOW! WOW! — **SPICE Ebay Fundraiser Update:** The ongoing **SPICE** Treasures project has made \$350.00 for EHS LJ. In late 2012 The **SPICE** committee embarked on a new mode of fundraising: members donated their no longer useful or needed "treasures" and Bill Larsen sold them on eBay. We have sold the following items for a grand total of **\$350.00**: Polk audio speakers, John Lennon print, computerized chess set, cameo pin and a Cloisonne vase. A big THANK YOU to Bill for all the work he has and continues to do to make this ongoing fundraising project a financial success. The **SPICE** committee hopes this list of sold items will inspire you to look carefully around your home & find additional items to donate to the Treasures Project. (See below)

eBay SPICE Fundraiser — The **SPICE** committee and Bill Larsen are organizing an EHS LJ eBay account as a fundraiser for the EHS LJ. Email Bill Larsen at 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 EHS LJ fundraising. Visit our sales at http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.12559

Announcements

The Abrams are Moving to Florida! Below is a letter from Lorraine.

Jerry and I want to inform you, that for many compelling reasons, we are moving, full time to Florida. We are moving to a huge retirement community called Kings Point in Delray Beach, near Boca Raton. We are excited as there is a huge club house, that has many varied activities and events. It is, however, a very overwhelming and difficult time for us. We are sad to leave our wonderful friends and activities. We want to thank you all for making the Society such a warm, welcoming place that we have enjoyed and gotten so much from. We will be members through April. We do plan to visit in N.Y. as our son and family are here. We will, therefore, visit from time to time. We will miss attending the Colloquies, the meetings and the events. Most of all, however, we'll miss you!



Lorraine & Jerry

I am certain I speak for all of us when I say, "Lorraine and Jerry: We'll miss you, too!" I hope your move goes smoothly. — Sylvia Silberger

Kudos to Long Time Member Harry Weiss! Harry Weiss is a long-time member of EHSLI who now lives in Maine. Our Society declared him a "living treasure"; you'll see why when you look at the interview linked to below. Name any kind of music and Harry can play it. An amazing guy. — Lyn Dobrin

[96-year-old piano prodigy still wowing crowds](http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/96-year-old-piano-prodigy-still-wowing-crowds/)
(<http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/96-year-old-piano-prodigy-still-wowing-crowds/>)

There was no March board meeting. The March board meeting was cancelled due to snow and never re-scheduled. Thus, there are no minutes for the March board meeting to include in this month's newsletter.

April & May Sunday Meeting Schedule

March 31: David Harmon

April 7: Calvin Dame, Religious Director — **Spiritual, Not Religious**

April 14: Improv Playback Theater -- **If I Could, I Would: Looking at the Past, Present and Future**

April 21: Spring Festival — **For this week's Coffee Hour, we will honor Jerry and Lorraine Abrams, who have announced their upcoming move to Florida. We will miss them!**

April 28: H. Jim Quigley, Jr., Ph.D, Lecturer and Director, Environmental Design, Policy and Planning Sustainability Studies Program, Stony Brook University — **Climate for Change: Obama, Post-Sandy America and Global 'Weirding'**

May 5: Founders Day

May 12: David Spritzen

May 19: Howard Radest, Leader



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

Memory Corner — Letter from Carol Pincus

Suddenly this afternoon, I thought about the main reason for my failure to come to the EHS Sunday programs recently. It isn't just the cold weather, snow, my own weekend laziness, my husband's illness; there is a deeper cause percolating here, and today I discussed this with two long-time EHSLI old friends, by telephone.

The major problem is, I am missing people. I go over to 38 Old Country Road, park my car, go inside, and guess what -- so many folks are missing; so many are no longer there to smile at me, give me a hug, or say "How are ya???? Haven't seen you for a while. Is everything okay?" Or some such thing, just for me. Some are gone permanently, in death, and of course I cannot find them. Some have just gone to other places because they needed more care than they could give themselves without some daily help. Some have left for reasons of their own, or become disaffected for one reason or another. Feelings of disaffection can arise, in life, of course; for myself, fortunately I found that love and forgiveness are two of the

most important things I have learned, by living more carefully, and studying my Buddhist precepts almost every day. (AND by being 82 years old)

Happily, a few of the good ole "long timers" are still here; and people like Rae Diamond are reachable by telephone (or visitation when I manage to get off my duff and take a drive). I think one thing I would like to do is to talk about some of these "missing in action" friends, courtesy of the newsletter, in the next few months. There are some new members who have come through our welcoming doors...they could read a wee bit about people no longer with us. AND, of course, I can make more of an effort, to get to know "new" people.

Naturally, a Memory Corner belongs to all of us. Join me here, if you feel the urge.



Love you
 Carol Pincus (516-365-8720)
caroladeline@earthlink.net



Although Puxsutawny Phil predicted an early spring, those of us living in the northeast have been enjoying (?) a chilly and snowy March. Here is a picture of some daffodils in bloom just to remind you that spring is indeed on its way.

Editor's Note on Submissions

If you are interested in writing a column for Memory Corner, please email it to me by the 15th of the preceding month. Submissions should be 400 words or less. Content may be subject to editorial modification and publication cannot be guaranteed due to space limitations.

Sincerely,
 Sylvia Silberger, Editor
matsbs@yahoo.com

Note from the Editor

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHSLI newsletters to me at Sylvia_silberger@yahoo.com.

Submissions due by the 15th 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 if you would be satisfied with an email-only version of this newsletter rather than a paper copy.



Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Phone: 516-741-7304

Fax: 516-741-7305

Ethicalsociety@optonline.net

<http://www.ehsli.org>

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



*An Ethical Culture Society
Affiliated with
The American Ethical Union*

*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