**President’s Column**

Best to all for the holiday season. Have fun, be safe and let’s hope for a good new year ahead!!!

Joan Beder, co-President

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**Update on Members Maribel and Jaimie**

Bill and I had the opportunity to visit members Maribel Torres and Jaimie Dreyer at their new apartment in Kingston, NY. They made the move upstate in October, almost a year after they became part of our society.

Maribel and Jaimie have found a wonderful spacious apartment in the Rondout area of Kingston in a building that used to be an old school house. Indeed, their apartment still has a chalkboard on the foyer wall!

We met with them and their extended family for a late Thanksgiving day celebration.

Both Jaimie and Maribel indicated that although they are very happy with their new home and have met many exciting and friendly people there, they miss the friends they have made in the Society and wanted me to send you their love!
Faith in Humanism

As a science and geology buff, I collect shells, rocks, sand and feathers. I have two fossils in my rock collection; they have the imprint designs of clam-like shells embedded in the rock. I found them while hiking in the clay-like Vermont soil.

I was delighted when I purchased this beautiful ammonite at a flea market on a Maui beach in December 2008. It was merely $15. It seems like a true treasure to me. (Picture to the right.)

“Ammonites are perhaps the most widely known fossil, possessing the typically ribbed spiral-form shell. These creatures lived in the seas between 240-65 million years ago, when they became extinct along with the dinosaurs.” (http://www.discoveringfossils.co.uk/ammonites.htm)

This beautiful fossil is at least 65 million years old and it was around with the dinosaurs! It became my favorite necklace to wear to Darwin Day, our annual celebration at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, school events and now at my new job as a children’s librarian.

For some reason, these pieces are very expensive in New York at the gem and mineral shows I sometimes frequent. After shopping around on the internet, I found these two ammonites. I wanted earrings to go with my necklace. (Picture below: imagine them without the silver accents.)

I went to jewelry repair shops to see how and if they could be made into comfortable earrings. The shops at the mall wanted to charge me $100 each, and there was no guarantee that they wouldn’t damage in the process. They claimed they had to sand them to attach a clasp to them. I thought those quotes were outrageous. I could tell by my original pendant that there is no need to sand them down.

Next I went to my local flea market and met a woman whose kiosk “Bella’s Treasure” was a mixture of beaded, silver and stone jewelry. She assured me that she could make earrings for me using my fossils, but that I should give them to her in late June, when her busy season slowed down. She would only charge me $20 and there was no chance they would be broken. This was April 2013 and we had passed the last Darwin Day (February 2013) so I figured that I had plenty of time if I wanted them by Darwin Day 2014.

I called her in late June 2013 and met her at a local flea market and gave her my fossils. She said she would have them done within two weeks. She assured me it was a job that could be easily and inexpensively accomplished and that there was no fear of breakage.

Two months went by and I called “Bella’s Treasures” and she assured me they would be done in two more weeks, and that I could meet her at my local flea market.

Being a trusting person, all I had was a business card with a phone number. And up until now the phone was always answered. A few days before the flea market, I called to confirm that my jewelry was done. There was no answer, and no call back as before.

In September 2013, I went to the flea market and her kiosk was nowhere to be found. Other vendors said there were unfortunate circumstances; an emergency surgery for Bella, her son was in a car accident, etc. I still felt at some point she might have had the opportunity to touch base with me, even if only to put off the job for a long time. I searched the internet and Facebook to see if I could locate her and there was neither, surprising for any business in this day and age.

Darwin Day February 2014 came and went. I periodically called and left messages on Bella’s telephone, but none were returned. I had paid about $50 for both fossils and although that is not a fortune, I had not been contacted, or at very least, had the fossils returned to me. Family emergencies have to let up eventually. As much as I was sympathetic, I was also disappointed that my fossils had disappeared. Doing good business is crucial, particularly for a small business owner. But I was angry at myself for my trusting nature. If something seems too good to be true it probably is.

Every now and then, my husband and I would go to the local flea markets in search of Bella’s Treasures and each time I was informed that she was not there. Finally, in July 2014, more than a year since I had given her my original ammonite, we stopped by the Flea Market in Eisenhower Park and there she was! Bella’s Treasures! I stopped by the booth and as soon as I said, “Hi, I’m Sharon Stanley,” the woman said, “I have your earrings! I

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Faith in Humanism, Continued

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am so sorry that I did not return them faster. I lost your phone number!”

Let’s overlook that each time I called and left a message, I left my phone number.

The woman then told me, “Here are your earrings. I only want to charge you $20 as discussed. And here is a pendant I made for you, for making you wait so long.” She did not mention any family emergencies.

I was stunned and surprised! Not only had she made my earrings, but somehow she found another ammonite that was a perfect match and created a large pendant for me! All I could stammer was, “Thank you.” I was shocked and amazed! Over a year later, my fossils were returned and I received a fourth fossil as an added bonus!

I had been very irritated when I thought this lady was ripping me off. Now I was the recipient of additional treasures. The surprise and consideration of the vendor, albeit late, amazes me. Just when I had given up hope of ever getting my fossils returned, and was kicking myself for being so trusting, human nature turns out to be generous and kind. How wonderful to learn once again, that most people are inherently good; that a trusting person won’t always be punished.

Sharon Stanley
EHSLI Chapter of AHA
Co-Chair

Note from the AEU

The last week of October and the first half of November were marked by workshops and conferences, where participants from various societies met together to learn and to get perspectives from the points of view of other societies in the Ethical Movement.

On October 23rd-25th, 28 participants from 11 societies met for a Membership Growth and Development Workshop. This program marks the renewal of an earlier program of annual workshops run by the AEU Membership Committee designed to strengthen lay leadership skills in society management. The first program of the new series concentrated on strengthening pledge campaigns, but also included a workshop on greeting visitors to your society. We learned that the most effective method for increasing contributions to a society (or for recruiting volunteers or keeping members engaged) is personal face to face visits from other society members. Other strategies were ranked in order of effectiveness as personal face to face conversations with a small group (six or less), face to face conversations with a larger group (7-15 people), personal phone calls or emails, and personal presentations to a larger group. While newsletter articles and form letters should be part of the program, relying on such impersonal approaches as the main strategy for soliciting contributions is much less effective than personal approaches. Written materials should include a vision of what a society could do with increased contributions and a fair share contribution guide based on percentages of income for basic and generous contribution levels. Visits should start with short testimonial statements about the importance of the society to the visitor and soliciting such statements from the person being visited. The program evaluation forms from people who attended the workshop were unanimously enthusiastic.

On November 7th-9th, about 40 people from 8 societies attended the Ethical Education Conference. (The participant numbers included children who attended a special ethical education program while their parents were attending workshops.). The Conference started with a presentation by Dale Mc Gowan, author of “Parenting Beyond Belief” and “Raising Freethinkers”, on why he had chosen to become AEU Ethical Education Director and his vision for the future for growing ethical education programs. The program included workshops on starting an ethical education program from scratch, effective use of websites and social media in marketing ethical education programs, ethical action programs for children, adult ethical education programs, and a long-range proposal for developing an ethical education diploma program for teenagers.

On November 14th-16th, About 35 people from at least 6 societies attended the Youth of Ethical Societies (YES) Conference. The theme of this year’s conference was Ethics in Science and Medicine. The conference broke into sharing circles to discuss various topics related to the theme. Time was also available for some sightseeing in New York and sampling ethnic cuisines. I am told that the teens and youth advisors left feeling that it was a great ex-

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December Sunday Meeting Schedule

December 7: Dina Santorelli, Freelance Writer, *The Changing Face of News: Where Have All the Journalists Gone?*

Bio. Voted one of the best Long Island authors for two consecutive years, Dina Santorelli is the author of the award-winning debut novel, *Baby Grand*, a top-rated mystery/thriller and best-selling organized crime thriller on Amazon Kindle. She has been a freelance journalist and editor for over 16 years and has written frequently about travel, entertainment, lifestyle, bridal, and pop culture. Dina currently serves as the executive editor of Salute and Family magazines for which she has interviewed many celebrities, including Norman Reedus, James Gandolfini, Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, Angela Bassett, Mario Lopez, and Kevin Bacon, among others. She has collaborated on a variety of nonfiction book projects, including *Good Girls Don't Get Fat*, *The Brown Betty Cookbook*, and *Bully*, the companion book to the acclaimed documentary, and her book *Daft Punk: A Trip Inside the Pyramid* was published in January 2014. Dina also lectures about publishing, editing, and marketing for Hofstra University's Continuing Education Department. For more information about Dina, visit her website at dinasantorelli.com.

December 14: Thomas Roser, Department Chair, Collider-Accelerator Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, *Energy and Ethics.*

Description. Energy from the sun has enabled life on earth. Living organisms developed highly efficient ways to capture solar energy and use it to build ever more complex structures through natural evolution. The discovery and large scale exploitation of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas - the stored solar energy of eons of life on earth) that started about 200 years ago created a fundamental, although temporary change of this situation. In my presentation I will explore what the impact has been of the almost unlimited availability of this high quality fossil energy on human behavior and human society and what the consequences will be when we either run out of fossil energy or, more immediately, have to stop using fossil energy to prevent catastrophic global warming.

Bio. Dr. Roser grew up in Switzerland and obtained a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. In 1984 he came to the USA to work with the particle accelerators at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. Since its commissioning in 2000 he has been responsible for the operation of the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven - the atom smasher that explores the beginning of our universe and discovered the "Quark Gluon Plasma", the most perfect liquid in existence. He has a longtime interest in the questions of world energy production. He and his wife, Georgine Dominique, have been members of EHSLI for the last fifteen years.

December 21: Winter Festival

December 28: Informal gathering for breakfast, reflections of the past year by members, sing along to include youth and young adults.

January 4: Remembrance Day

Note from the AEU, Cont.

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experience that energized them for further action back home and with enthusiasm for returning next year.

Organizing these conferences has made this an exciting and busy period for the AEU. Members of various societies have gotten together, shared ideas, made friends, and learned how much we can learn from each other as our societies work to achieve common goals.

Submitted by:
Hank Gassner
AEU Board Member
Member of N. Virginia Ethical Society
Member of Wash. Ethical Society

Congratulations Spritzens!!!

Little Marcel arrived 4:10 AM on November 30th, 2014.
Way to go, Dan and Ann!
YES Conference

From Thursday, November 13th through Sunday, November 16th, the annual YES conference was held in New York. Every year, YES conference attendees meet at a certain Ethical Society. From there, the attendees travel together to a campground to hold the actual conference. Last year’s conference was held in Washington D.C; next year’s conference will be in St. Louis. The Societies in attendance were Long Island, St. Louis, Westchester, Brooklyn, Washington D.C., New York, Mid Rivers and Bergen County. From our Society, Deirdre Amukowa, advisor Derek Smith, and I attended.

This year, YES members met in the Manhattan Ethical Society on Thursday night. Many of us knew each other from previous conferences but there were also many new members. For the rest of the night, we just sat around and talked or played games. Friday morning we woke up (rather early), ate a simple breakfast of grocery store goods (provided by the advisors), and split up into groups. These groups were split up into where people wanted to go or do in the city. My group (which consisted mainly of a few St. Louis kids) decided to go to Chinatown. First everyone gathered in Central Park for some pictures, and then the groups split off and we did our own things. We met back at the Manhattan Ethical Society at around 3 in the afternoon, and then we loaded all of our stuff on to a coach bus. From there, we took a long drive to Frost Valley, upstate New York.

When we arrived it was pretty late, so we grabbed some dinner from the camp’s mess hall and went to our lodging (which were some pretty nice accommodations.) We relaxed for the rest of the night. The next day after breakfast at the mess hall, the conference officially began. Since I am one of the officers, I had to lead discussion groups. The way it worked is that groups were randomly made three times, and each time the officers led their own groups. Each one of us had our own topic. The theme for this year’s overall body of discussions was “Ethics in Science and Medicine.” Just to rattle off some of the smaller discussion topics, groups talked about illnesses, genetics, animal/human testing, vaccinations, stem cell research, healthcare, genetically modified food, and many other things. After a session of discussion, each group hung up a poster that we wrote on in a room and we all looked at what other people discussed.

Games, relaxing, an intense football game with all of the guys, and a campfire also accompanied Saturday’s conference. Sunday, everyone had to say goodbye. We had our little end-of-conference ceremony, had lunch, and then got on the bus and headed back for Manhattan. From there, everyone went home. In my opinion, this was the best conference that I’ve attended, and I’ve been to three before this one. The officers (teens) and the advisors did a great job of running things, too. I’m happy to say that everyone got along, and the discussions were very successfully executed.

Reid Hetzel
November 2014
I had learned of Long Island Food Not Bombs (FNB) two years ago when the director, Jon Stepanian, spoke at our movie series after the movie called “Dive.” He described the waste that goes on in retail America… perfectly healthy and usable food and other goods thrown out every day to make way for newer, fresher goods, while thousands of Americans go hungry or are in need. The mission of FNB is to intervene—collect that food from stores and share it with those in need at food share locations. Trader Joe's and other grocery stores, bakeries, and restaurants allow volunteers to pick up items that would otherwise be wasted. Jon's second mission is to create community. Recipients of the food often become volunteers themselves to help their neighbors. A third mission is to reduce the amount of waste and garbage in the trash heaps of the city.

According to their website (www.lifnb.com), "Long Island Food Not Bombs is about community members taking care of the community -- we are solidarity, not charity. We can do what we do because scarcity is a lie, FOOD DOES GROW ON TREES! People go hungry in our communities because of waste and greed; and we're here to help put a stop to that." The only restriction is that the food contain no animal products. This is to be more inclusive of people's diets or personal beliefs, to be cruelty-free for animals, and to reduce the environmental impact of the meat industry.

November 23rd was the Thanksgiving food share for Hempstead, held in the parking lot of the LIRR. (Other food shares take place in other locations, 6 days a week, year round.) A few of us (Chris and Sharon Stanley, Joyce Wildermuth, Steve Hetzel and Alison Pratt) decided to go and check it out for ourselves. We were just going "to observe." Yeah, right.

We arrived as they were still setting up. Large bags and boxes of food were coded by type and stacked in a large area, with tables set up around the perimeter. These tables were being set up to distribute grocery items. Other tables were being set up to serve hot vegan dishes cooked the day before by Jon and his friends.

Steve started to help with unloading a truck, and it wasn't long before we went from "investigating and observing" to feeling inspired to pitch in. Before we knew it, we were all helping to unload food from the trucks and out of cars, setting up the items on tables, and each of us assigned to tables to give out the grocery items. My particular assignment was to pass out granola bars and chocolate.

The lines of folks coming through took what they needed and, for the most part, cooperated with the spirit of the event. They carried their own bags and boxes, choosing what they liked.

FEMA could not have done this better. It was so organized that volunteers quickly knew what their jobs were. According to FNB, 65,000 pounds of food was distributed that day, as well as clothes, toys, and toiletries. The black bags in the photos contained pre-sorted grocery items, tagged with specific color or designed tape. They also marked out the tape on the ground, so that the organizers could just place the bags in the right spot, then marked the tables with the same tape so the items could get to the right table. Some people restocked tables; other people gave out the items. "Greeters" near the lines kept it all moving, discouraged "line cutters" and asked for cooperation.

How many people attended? It's hard to say, but at one point the orderly line stretched for 7 blocks. Starting approximately at 2 PM, we worked for 4 hours until all food was distributed. Each person was allowed to take one item per table, but they could get back in the line as often as they wanted. The FNB website estimated 6000 people were served approximately $80 worth of groceries per person.

We came home chilled, with achy backs, and so hungry ourselves that I felt I hadn't eaten in a week— a good reminder of what it would be like to have food insecurity or what it would be like to decide whether to buy groceries or pay the light bill. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I know that I was particularly grateful this year.

Alison Pratt

More Pictures Page 6
Photos of Long Island Food Not Bombs Hempstead
Thanksgiving Food Share, November 23rd

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Unloading cars

Above: presorted food that has been bagged and ready to share at color-coded tables

Right: clothing and toys

Joyce serving well past dark

fOLKS still waiting after the sun went down
Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

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**eBay SPICE Fundraiser** — The SPICE committee and Bill Larsen are organizing an EHSLI eBay account as a fundraiser for the EHSLI. 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 EHSLI fundraising. Visit our sales at [http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.l2559](http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.l2559)

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**AHA Meetings:** The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member society of the American Ethical Union and a chapter of the American Humanist Association.

We are currently planning our Darwin Day celebration for February 8th. Meetings will generally be held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, 38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY 11530. However, the December 30th meeting has been canceled for the school holiday. Our next official meeting will be January 27th, 2015. These meetings will consist of a mixture of discussion, social action and socialization.

Come out and join the group! Your participation will be a wonderful contribution in our efforts to make the world a better place.

For questions or information leave a message for Sharon or Heidi at 516-741-7304 or email Sharon at lihumanist@gmail.com.

**Darwin Day:** Save the date for Darwin Day, a Humanist Celebration, Sunday, February 8th, 2015 from 11 AM to 2 PM. Speaker: Dr. John Teehan, Hofstra University. Afternoon activities to inspire all Humanists! Keep up as plans finalize here: [http://darwinday.org/events/darwin-day-a-humanist-celebration/](http://darwinday.org/events/darwin-day-a-humanist-celebration/)

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**YES Pasta Dinner:** Our Save the date for Friday, December 19th from 7-10 PM when the YES Group presents the 21st Annual Pasta Dinner: "Y.E.S. - A Dystopia." Come for a twist on a classic Society event as our teens transport you to a world where hydrofracking is a reality, natural resources are depleted, and corporations rule the world.

You'll experience all the YES classics -- delicious pasta dishes, great teen-led entertainment, and a keynote speaker from New Yorkers Against Fracking -- while reflecting on the destructive reality that may await our future if we don't take action.

The cost is $15 for adults and $10 for students. Proceeds will be split between the YES group and New Yorkers Against Fracking. For more information email YES@ehsli.org.

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**Rebirth and Reorganization of the Social Action Committee:** Plans are afoot to organize an active and current committee that will involve the Society and various voluntary members in Social Action activities. To keep abreast and/or join the committee, please read this newsletter and follow the announcements at Sunday platforms. For more immediate information and answers to your questions or to become a vital part of this committee call Richard Rapp at his home phone (718) 767-3610 or his cell phone (718) 314-8135. You can also email him at nydonkey1@aol.com.

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**EHSLI New Years Day Potluck Party!** Join us on New Years Day from 4 to 8 PM. Ethical Society Members, their family members and friends are invited. There will be fun for the kids, sing-a-longs and an open mic for the talented. Bring your party mood, dish to share and drinks. Ethical Society will provide coffee, tea, paper good and festivities.

Location: Ethical Society Auditorium, 38 Old country Rd.

RSVP to Phyllis the number of adults and kids attending, dish being brought.

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Goings on at and Announcements, Continued

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**Board Meeting Minutes:** We will no longer be posting the board meeting minutes in the monthly newsletter. The minutes will be available to members upon request. Contact Phyllis in the main office if you’d like a copy of a particular month’s minutes. You may email her at office@ehsli.org or call her at (516) 741-7304.

**Ethical Friends of Children:** Ethical Friends of Children is looking for volunteers to help man the free store on Wednesdays, 10 AM—1 PM. Contact the EHSLI office if interested.

**Small Group Connections:** The Small Group Connections will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 PM in the Board room. The topics will be announced in the weekly emails. Please join us if you have not attended a meeting and would like to see what they are all about. We would love to have you. Contact Linda Napoli at vequa45@yahoo.com if you have questions.

**Discussion Group:** Arthur Dobrin is holding a discussion group meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 12:30 PM on Ethics and the USA Foreign Policy.

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

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class:** Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the EHSLI on Wednesdays at 5:45 PM. (Please note the change in time.) If interested, contact Sylvia at matsbs@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

**Diogenese 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, 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.

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Visit EHSLI Online!

EHSLI Website: [http://www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org)

EHSLI on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ehsl](http://www.twitter.com/ehsl)

EHSLI 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)


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

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

EHSLI on Linked-In: Under the name “Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island”
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.