

The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Create a Caring World



President's Column



Hello Everyone,

It's been a great fall season with many interesting speakers and some important social action being done. But, the best is yet to come with lots of activities in the coming months.

First, we are planning a group of stimulating classes and discussions to run throughout the winter and spring. These will begin in January with a MOTH-type storytelling training. Brochures and sign up sheets will be available soon. If you have an idea to share, please let me know.

We will also be having a Membership Summit in early January.

In addition, we will have a number of community events on Sunday afternoons to inform and develop our and the public's understanding of important social issues of the day.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a peaceful heart.

Linda Napoli,

EHS LI Board President

OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS



Sunday School News

Christine Lamattina, Humanist Sunday School teacher

Sunday School greetings! As we move forward into December, the children are going to be talking about how holidays are celebrated around the world, and how we are the same and different from one another. We will be asking the questions, who am I? Who is my neighbor? This topic will be expanded upon in January as we begin to look at Practicing Ethics, and the six pillars of character.

Beginning in January we will be splitting the children into two groups. Miss Jacqueline will be working with our younger children and Miss Christine will be working with the older. We will both be teaching the same topics, but in an age appropriate way.

Our Sunday School children are also interested in starting a mitten/scarf/hat drive, and so we will begin collecting these items in December, and will continue throughout the winter. Please look for a collection box in the lobby!

Thank you so much for your continued support for the Sunday School program!



YES: Youth of Ethical Societies



YES kids from many Societies attended the National Conference in St. Louis.

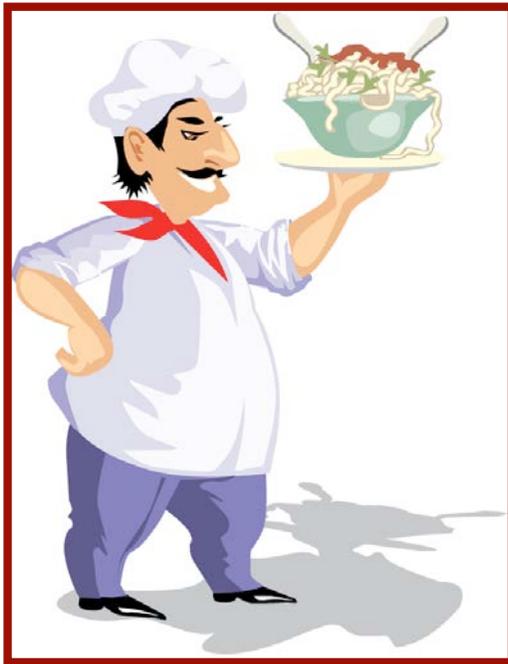
ANNOUNCEMENT

Tara Klein has announced that this is her last year as YES advisor. Thank you, Tara, for many years of service running the YES group! Meanwhile, John Waters, assisted by Mayra Fournier, will be leading the group. John, a high school librarian, is well-prepared for the task. Mayra is a graduate of our YES program. Good luck to you both, and thank you!

This year's annual YES conference was held in St. Louis on the weekend of Nov. 13. Our topic was focused on race in America and the "black lives matter" movement. Fellow Long Island YES members who attended the conference with me were Joselyn Harris, Jordan Schroeder, and Nadiya Sivin-Kachala. Our Long Island YES advisors were there too: Tara Klein and John Waters. Besides our Society's group, other YES groups that attended the conference included The Brooklyn Society, the Washington D.C. Society, the Bergen County Society, the Mid-Rivers Society, and the St. Louis society. A total of about 35 teens and several advisors and chaperones attended the conference. Although this year's attendance was slightly lower, there was still plenty of fun to be had. Thursday night was just reacquaintance night. Friday was mainly for exploring St. Louis, followed by moving to the campground where the actual conference was held. Saturday was the day of the discussion groups and official conference activities. The night was capped off with a warm bonfire and a full night of hanging out and talking. Not much sleep was obtained by anyone on Saturday night. On Sunday we said our goodbyes.

I would like to give a shout out to all of my fellow YES members that couldn't make it to this year's conference, whether they were from Long Island or from another Society in the country. I would also like to give a shout out to our Advisors Tara and John for accompanying us and for being such down to Earth, friendly, helpful people. A third shout out goes to the Ethical Board for hooking us all up with some scholarship money, reducing the costs of flying to Missouri and attending the conference. A special shout out goes to John Waters for having to sleep in the boy's room Friday night and having to hear the exchange of some really inappropriate jokes. My condolences go to him and his ears. It still hasn't hit me yet that I've been to five YES conferences, and that this last one I attended was actually my last one. It has been an honor being able to participate in these conferences and it has been an extreme honor helping to plan a few conferences as an elected officer. These conferences will be deeply missed in my future.

-Reid Hetzel, Secretary for the National YES group



The 22nd Annual YES Pasta Dinner
 SATURDAY DEC. 19, 2015
 6 TO 10 P.M. AT OUR BUILDING

\$15 adults, \$10 students

Our speaker is from *exalt*

"*exalt*" elevates expectations for youth ages 15-19 who've been involved in the criminal justice system. We inspire youth at a critical crossroads to believe in their worth, from the first steps in contemplation through the journey to create lasting behavioral change expectations of personal success. Learn about *exalt* at www.exaltyouth.org.

News & Notes from around Our Ethical Humanist Society



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO KEN SCHWARTZMAN!

Ken— teacher, actor, director, story-teller, and great human being—we love you. He has made the theatrical experience come alive for the members of the Ethical Society as no one else had or could -- and brings that same humane caring and passionate commitment to all that he does. And we all benefit greatly from his giving of himself to our community. We'll see you Sunday, Ken, as always!

Muriel and Ken celebrate his 90th birthday.

HAVE YOU NOTICED? Our parking lot as been repaved and we have new lights in the parking lot, as well as lights around other areas of the property. Our deepest gratitude goes to the anonymous donor who paid for these upgrades. Our parking lot was a hazard and pitch-black at night—now it's safe and well-lit.

MANY THANKS go to Sylvia Silberger for her tireless production of this newsletter for several years now. She has done a fantastic job getting all our news up and out! She's taking a well-deserved break from being newsletter editor as she focuses on her new project, Car-less Long Island, a not-for-profit she started to promote transportation alternatives. Thanks again, Sylvia!
The new newsletter editor is Alison Pratt, for now! If you have any interest in graphic arts and working for the newsletter, contact me! Send articles to me at dr.alison.pratt@gmail.com. Keep 'em coming.



SEVEN SOULFUL SINGERS met with Kelly Tanza for an evening of casual singing on Dec. 10. We sang old favorites from our "Ethical song book" and learned some new ones. Kelly hopes to have more community singing dates in the future, about every 6 weeks. Join us. You don't have to be able to read music or even carry a tune. It's the joy in singing and sharing that makes it fun.

BEST LINE I'VE HEARD IN RECENT SUNDAY MORNING ADDRESSES: From speaker Albert Jones of the Osborne Foundation, on "Transforming Lives, Communities, and the Criminal Justice System," after our toy drive resulted in many boxes of toys for the children of incarcerated people. He said, "The men will ask where the toys came from, and I'll tell them. Then they'll ask, 'why,' because they won't understand. And I'll tell them. People out there at the Ethical Society—strangers—care about you." Wow. Do we know what impact we have on people?

AFFORDABLE OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Old Country Road in Garden City. Non-profit organization has great office space available for long term leasing. Available are two individual offices (230+ sq ft each). Reasonable rates. Ample free parking and a short walk from the Nassau County Seat, Winthrop University Hospital and the Mineola LIRR train station.

Also on site and available for occasional rental are a conference room for meetings up to 50 people and a large auditorium that can be used for larger events.

Non-profit organization only may apply.

MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT MEETING

This is a brainstorming session for those with ideas about increasing membership. We will share what is already being done and discuss ways to improve. Bring your ideas! Look for the meeting in early January: new year; fresh start!



\$500 grant available

Students: Want to make a difference?

THE YOUNG ACTIVIST GRANT
OF THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF LONG ISLAND

*for middle school and high school student projects in peace,
humanitarian efforts, disaster relief, social reform,
or environmental programs.*

**Download an application and
learn more: www.ehsli.org**
Let us help you make a better world.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
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www.ehsli.org
516-741-7304



Create a Caring World

YOUNG ACTIVIST GRANT WINNER

We had seven worthy applicants for the Young Activist Grant which awards up to \$500 to a middle school or high school student in Nassau County who designs a social action project for the betterment of humankind. Our grant is "seed money" to get the project underway. The Young Activist Grant committee has chosen Matthew Berman, 10th grader from Roslyn High School, for his project called "M.E.D. Rx—Medication, Education and Disposal. Repurpose." Matthew will be working with the Town of North Hempstead STOP program to collect medicine bottles, have them professionally washed, and shipped to Malawi (via the Malawi Project) where they have few pill bottles. He will also be working with East Williston / Roslyn Community Coalition for Drug-Free Youth to have an educational component to the problem of expired meds and substance abuse. We were intrigued with Matthew's

project because it addresses multiple issues: substance abuse (kids getting into medicine cabinets), pollution (medicines and pill bottles in the waste stream), education about abuse, and helping an impoverished nation get a basic necessity in medicine containers. Matthew will attend the Social Justice Leadership Award Dinner to describe his work—but you can meet him at our Winter Festival on Dec. 20 when we award him his check. Come meet Matthew and enjoy the festival! Thanks to committee members Tina Keane, Sylvia Silberger, and Alison Pratt for making this difficult decision!

MEDIA INTERN NEEDED: The AEU Ethical Action Committee is Seeking a Social Media Intern for 2016. For more information go to: <http://aeu.org/2015/12/social-media-intern-for-ethical-action/> However, I might add, we need help here at home!



2ND ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY POT LUCK PARTY 4 p.m. on New Year's Day / EHSI Auditorium

Bring your family and friends to join with members of the Ethical Society to celebrate the New Year
Check the weekly email for more information as we get closer to the end of 2015!



Darwin Day! A Humanist Celebration! Sunday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dr. John Teehan, "In and Out Groups"

Co-hosted by The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, The Center for Inquiry, The American Humanist Association / Long Island Chapter, Long Island Atheists, and the Secular Students Society. Science demonstrations, lunch for sale, raffles!

The American Humanist Association began the International Darwin Day Foundation, which has celebrated Charles Darwin and "Darwin Day" for over 10 years. Other ethical societies in the movement have been celebrating this event for many years as well.

Since this is a time in America where the lines between the separation between church and state have slowly blurred and in some cases, whittled away, it's important to create celebrations that do not have a religious history and can also educate our children and provide moral examples without the use of superstition and false "truths." Children are fascinated by science and how our natural world works. Humanists can embrace this special day as our own. The debate between evolution and creation myth is still, after all these years, going on.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island began by celebrating Darwin's 200th birthday in 2009, and enjoyed this as an annual, intergenerational event. At our Ethical Society, we are awed by the mysteries of the natural world and support the use of science to reveal those mysteries. Ethics guides us to be mindful of our individual responsibility to preserve the earth's beauty and resources for future generation and that science and technology can help us achieve this goal.

Charles Darwin encompasses many of the values we embrace as ethical and secular humanists. He did not publish his famous book, The Origin of Species, for 20 years, because he feared religious faith would be shaken, as his had become from his insights. He finally decided the scientific truth was more important than anything else. His theory also negated common, racist thought of the time; that people of European descent were somehow superior to all other ethnic distinctions. I contend that he was a humanist and he didn't even know it!

It's time to start planning for our annual "Darwin Day! A Humanist Celebration! This year, our 8th annual "Darwin Day" will be celebrated on Sunday, February 7, 2016. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., our guest speaker will be Dr. John Teehan, on the topic of "In and Out Groups." Afterwards, a fun, intergenerational event will take place, which will include lunch for purchase. Other activities will

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include a graffiti wall, dramatic readings and various demonstrations. Our resident biologist, Dr. Joan Petersen, will lead some exciting, hands-on science activities. Our chapter of the American Humanist Association, Long Island Atheists, the Center for Inquiry, and the Secular Student Alliance are co-sponsoring this event and will be on hand to provide information and discussion. Our social action project for this year will be "Carless Long Island." We want to advocate for bicycle safety on Long Island and for better transportation alternatives.

Volunteers are needed to help out, run events, oversee the Welcome table and participants of all ages are encouraged to come out and enjoy this great day. "Darwin Day" is one of premier events where the Ethical Humanist Society does outreach to the general public in order to raise awareness of our organization and attract new members. It is very important that the congregation come out and support this event. To find out how you can help out and for further information, please speak to Sharon Stanley, or email her at lihumanist@gmail.com.

--- Sharon Stanley, Darwin Day chairperson

Sunday Morning Programs



- December 20: Winter Festival
- December 27: Current Ethical Issues, coffee & conversation
- January 3: Remembrance Sunday
- January 10: Christopher Agostino, master story-teller

What else?

Dec. 18: Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 28: AHA Chapter meeting, 7:00 p.m., second floor meeting room

Early January (TBD): Membership Summit following the Sunday morning program

Jan. 15: Our Times Coffeehouse presents Bill Staines, veteran folk singer / songwriter. Tickets (at the door, no pre-sales) are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, \$6 Children under 12.. and if you're really young—come to your first free concert! When we sing "Crossing the Water" on a Sunday morning, we are singing a Bill Staines song. Doors open at 7:15; show starts at 8.

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

10 to 1: Ethical Friends of Children shop is open! Your volunteerism is appreciated. Contact the office.

5:45: Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga class taught by Sylvia Silberger. Get your name on her email list at matsbs@yahoo.com.

EVERY WEEK: On-going food drive for the INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network).

Giving Time, Talent, & Treasure

Financial: Our Society exists due to the support of its members and friends. If you are a member, make your pledge for 2016, and please be generous.

Sponsor a coffee hour: for \$15 you can cover the cost of the coffee hour and have your name and a message put in our Sunday bulletin. See Phyllis Herschlag in the office.

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

Suggestions for Sunday Speakers: Have you heard a great speaker? Forward your suggestion to Phyllis at the office and she'll get it to the committee.

Kitchen help: We need assistance in the kitchen on Sundays for coffee hour. This is one of those "many hands makes light work" situations. Please volunteer to take a Sunday—or a month of Sundays! See Joyce Wildermuth.

Darwin Day: Welcome table, ambassador (greeter), decorator, raffle gifts, food... so many ways that you can help make this a great day. See Sharon Stanley and tell her how you can help.

Newsletter: A new editor will be needed in a few months. I'll be happy to train you! Meanwhile, someone to write up our events and provide photos is needed. See Alison Pratt.

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, visit our EHSLI page often, make comments and share. The comments and sharing boosts our visibility in the community. www.facebook.com/LIEthical

Bring a friend: Invite a friend to a Sunday morning; invite a child to Sunday school.

Find Us:

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www.ehsli.org • www.twitter.com/ehsli • www.facebook.com/LIEthical • www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island • Linked-In under Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island • Leader Emeritus Arthur Dobrin's blog: arthurdobrin.wordpress.com

EHSLI is a member of the American Ethical Union and a Chapter of the American Humanist Association.