



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 6 -- February 2014



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHS LI

From Our Religious Director

Dear Friends,

My purchase of a home in Brattleboro, Vermont, this past October, along with the reduction, due to finances, in my position with the Society from half time to something between a quarter and a third time, has led, not surprisingly, to speculation about the future. Consulting with Joan and Pat, your co-presidents, and with the Board, we decided to bring my time as EHS Religious Director to a close this June. I turn 65 then, and, as the Society moves into a summer schedule, there will be time to plan for the next chapter for EHS. As a part of this transition, we will be looking for people to assume some of the work that I now do.

I have been enjoying the positive energy at the Society this year, with great Sundays, engaging activities, new faces and new members! I want to continue to provide the best leadership and encouragement that I can. I have always understood my job as enabling you to be the best congregation you can be, as empowering you to turn the ideals and the ideas of Ethical Humanism into vibrant and vital community. So, we will continue that work in the months ahead.

Events with Calvin

Ethical Café

Monday, February 10: White Privilege: What It Means To Be White in America

Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society

Community Singing

Monday, February 16: Those who like to participate in the musical aspects of EHS are invited to come sing and plan music for Sunday mornings.

Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society

And on that note, for those who were unable to participate in the Small Group Ministry experience on January 12th, (or those who might like to learn more), I will conduct another session on Sunday, February 2nd, at 1:00 PM in the Board Room. Please let me know if you will attend.

Best,

Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director

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



Kitchen Donations Needed

The Ethical Society is requesting donations to the kitchen, we are very short of carving knives, serving spoons and forks, tongs, cake and pie servers, the kitchen does not need other items. Please give donations to Phyllis or leave in the kitchen drawer marked utensils.



Thank you
Pat Spencer
Co-president

President's Column



Joan Beder,
Society President

So I have a new sleep pattern. We usually have our lights out by 11:30 or so. Then a mid-night trip to the bathroom (if this is too much information, skip to the next paragraph) and by then I am often awake enough to think about all the things I have tried to push aside during the day. And of course, the Society comes to the front of the line. These are some of the late night Society meanderings.

Our finances.....While we are surely in a better place than we have been in quite some time, we have had to replace the boiler, do several cosmetic improvements to enhance the building and the parking lot needs work. We can absorb the costs for most of these things but our cushion will shrink. Then what? Okay, turn over.

Our membership.....We have had some growth over

the last few months even though several of our 'older' members have moved away. Now we need some younger members, families, etc. Are we doing all we can in terms of outreach to draw in new members? Turn over again.

Community.....Are we doing enough in the outside community; are we living up to our obligations to others as members of an ethical society, should we be doing more? Turn over again.

Then, I think about the Board members, each is doing their share and then some, to keep the Society healthy. We have a growing base for the religious education of our younger families. Our attendance on Sunday mornings is growing and we have a newly painted building. There is energy and enthusiasm when we gather on Sunday mornings. We have our annual Darwin Day meeting coming up on February 9th with Dr. Vic Schuster and the kick off, that afternoon, of our 10 week movie series with Locally Long Island and..... So, knock it off and get to sleep!!!

Huge Thank You from Pat!

To All Members,

Look around the building and see what unbelievable improvements have been made the past few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thanks to all those who helped to make the building so nice and clean the past week, they are:

Bill Larsen & Sylvia Silberger, Liz Segert, Kelly Tanza & son Philip, Deborah Strube, Steven Beder, Alice Sprintzen, Stacey Leon (if she could have gotten her car out of the snow in her driveway), Linda Joe, Lyn Dobrin, Dorcas Kiptoo & her three daughters, Sue & Ken Feifer, Reid, Alison Pratt, Robert Rudolf, Elissa Paulis*, Jamie Dreyer & Maribel Torres who have cleaned every nook and cranny.

*Elissa volunteered to clean all three bathrooms and made them sparkle.

-Chris Stanley and Jim Lo Presti installed new lighting in the board room. Over the past few weeks Jim has made the wood paneled walls look like new.

-Alcoholics Anonymous painted the banisters.

-Jim LoPresti paid for his painter Edgar to paint the auditorium, kitchen, side entrance, coffee area, foyer and board room.....THANK YOU JIM.

Members please take time to thank all these busy people for all their time and effort.

Thank you
Pat Spencer



Editor's Note: We also thank Pat, as well, for all of her help!



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

Darwin Day

Free Event: February 9th, 11 AM —4 PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Victor Schuster,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
"Climate Change & Your Health"
11:00 AM

Movie Series Launch:
"In Transition 1.0"

Guest Speaker: Melissa Boo, Locally Long
Island 1:30 PM

Kids' science activities & babysitting avail-
able all day

Dinner & Movie Series

Films explore sustainability, health, cli-
mate change, and community.

Each film followed by speakers address-
ing the film's issues on Long Island.

\$15 admission includes dinner, movie &
discussion
(\$12 for students and ages 55+)

Vegetarian, vegan & gluten-free friendly
dinners provided by Sweet to Lick Bakery

Speakers and Topics for Darwin Day and Movie Series

Sunday, Feb. 9, Darwin Day: "In Transition 1.0," Melissa Boo, Founder, Locally Long Island—Part of EHSLI's Darwin Day, a free event from 11 to 4 on Sunday, Feb. 9

Thursday, Feb. 13, "No Impact Man," Speaker TBA

Thursday, Feb. 20, "Plastic Planet," Chris Carter, Hempstead Lake State Park Alliance

Thursday, Feb. 27, "Mother Nature's Child," Jeannine Davis, Horticulture and Gardening Teacher, The Waldorf School

Thursday, March 6, "Food Stamped," Jon Stepanian, Long Island Food Not Bombs

Thursday, March 13, "Farming the Future: Farm Life on Long Island," Speaker TBA

Thursday, March 20, "Save Our Land, Save Our Towns," Eric Alexander, Vision Long Island

Thursday, March 27, "Gasland," Marielle Robinson, Power-UP Communities and the Long Island Progressive Coalition and Eric Weltman, Food and Water Watch New York

Thursday, April 3, "I AM," Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Thursday, April 10, "An Inconvenient Truth," Jeanne Brunson, Climate Reality Project

Thursday, April 17, "In Transition 2.0," Melissa Boo, Locally Long Island

All events hosted at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

38 Old Country Rd, Garden City NY 11530

Visit www.locallylongisland.com/winter-movie-series
for full event details and movie list

Brought to you by Locally Long Island and the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

YES!

On December 23rd, YES held their 20th annual Pasta Dinner. This year the event raised money for the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, and featured guest speaker Greta Guarton, who touched upon many challenges that face the homeless on Long Island in getting assistance, as well as the challenges that are faced in providing that assistance. Part of the proceeds are also going to YES to help fund the trip to New Orleans to help rebuilding efforts this April. In addition to a lot of delicious food, attendees were also treated to a night of entertainment provided by the YES group, along with their friends and advisers. YES had a blast setting the night up, and enjoyed the positive energy and enthusiasm in the room, and is looking forward to seeing this tradition continue through the years.



February Sunday Meeting Schedule

February 2: Calvin Dame, *Ethical Humanism, Embodied*

February 9: Darwin Day, speaker Victor Schuster, Baumritter Professor and University Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Einstein and at Montefiore Medical Center, returns for our annual Darwin Day Celebration *Climate Change and Your Health* (see page 3 for more detail)



February 16: Bond Street Theater
Theater of War? Actors for Peace!

For most of its 35 year history Bond Street Theatre has created theatre projects and productions in some of the world's most disadvantaged and politically perilous regions, including Afghanistan, Kosovo, Myanmar, Haiti, Columbia, Israel and Northern Ireland. Through an engaging presentation of videos and technique demonstration, actor and director Michael McGuigan will reveal the adventures, triumphs and tribulations shared between the artists of Bond Street Theatre and their many international collaborators.

February 23: TBA

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

Goings on at and Announcements from EHS LI

eBay SPICE Fundraiser

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

“Winter Blues” Vegetarian Dinner and Sing-Along Fundraiser: The EHS LI is holding a vegetarian supper fundraiser on February 1st, 2015, 5 PM — 9 PM. Join us for great food and terrific music. Eat healthily while you are having fun! Adults \$20, Kids \$10. Reserve with Phyllis at the EHS LI office or emailing her at ethicalsociety@optonline.net.



Darwin Day and Dinner & Movie Series: Join us for Darwin Day, which kicks off our dinner and movie series! Darwin Day is February 9th, 11 AM—4 PM. The dinner & movie series will continue for the next ten Thursdays and will focus on the connection between global green issues and your local community. Darwin Day is free admission, and each subsequent movie is \$15 (\$12 for students and 55+), which includes dinner, movie and discussion. For more information go to Page 3.

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, February 21st, Our Times Coffeehouse will be hosting [Liz Queler & Seth Farber](#). Nominated for an Independent Music Award, The Edna Project is an eclectic, sublimely musical melding of folk, bluegrass, rock and jazz, with great harmonies and rhythms. Singer/songwriter Liz Queler (mandolin/guitar) and Grammy nominated producer/pianist Seth Farber are joined by their fifteen-year-old son Joey on percussion and vocals.

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.



The 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, or talk with Liam Stephens or David Sprintzen. All are welcome.

Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class: Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the Ethical Humanist Society on Thursdays at 5:30 PM through the spring semester. If interested, contact Sylvia at matsbs@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

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.

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

Visit EHS LI Online!

EHS LI Website: <http://www.ehsli.org>

EHS LI on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

EHS LI on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

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

EHS LI 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 EHS LI meet up member.

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

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

January Board Meeting Minutes

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6th, 2014 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Sue Feifer, Mel Haber, Bill Larsen, Jim LoPresti, Heidi Mann, Linda Napoli, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, Mary Sherman, Pat Spencer, David Sprintzen, Liam Stephens

ABSENT: Delorie Cohan, Wayne Outten, Deb Strube

GUESTS: Calvin Dame

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

2. **President's report:**

Paint job: We thanked Jim for the excellent paint job that was done at our Society. Because of finances, we will hold off on painting the ceiling and replacing the light fixtures.

Pledges: Quite a few people have not yet pledged. Someone will follow up on this matter.

New members: We have two people who have recently applied for membership: Mark and Elissa Paulis. The Board approved of them as members. Linda will do a New Member Orientation in the future when we have a handful of new members.

Founders Day: Pat suggested that in June of this year we honor the founder and current leaders of the YES program: Eric Alexander, Tara Klein and Derek Smith. The Board approved. The date will be June 22, 2014. We will invite all past members of the YES group to attend.

New Boiler: We need to pay about \$8,000 for a new boiler

Social Justice Leaders' Award: We will holding a fund-raising award dinner for Wayne Outten, as well as Russell and Peter Neufeld at the end of April. We are moving ahead with the planning. We will charge \$225 per person for those who are not Ethical members. Judy Rosemarin will narrate a Power Point presentation that Liz is putting together about our Society.

3. **Financials:** Mary pointed out that we need more rentals and more pledges in order for our us to be more secure financially.

4. **Movie Series:** Alison showed us a newly designed flyer for the movie series. Tickets will be \$15 for adults; \$12 for students and 55+; and include a vegan dinner and a dessert. Rental of all the movies will cost us about \$1,500. We will pay half that cost, i.e., \$750. We will seek out sponsors and charge them a fee for ads.

Alison has already written a letter to potential sponsors. She suggested that we promote our Society at the movie series. Melissa Boo will set up each program. Our cost will be:

Movie rentals: \$1506 / \$753

Advertising in Natural Awakenings: \$802.50 / \$401.25

Flyers: \$158.68 / \$79.34

Window posters for movie series: \$70 estimated / \$35

Total estimated expenses are therefore: \$2378.50 total / EHS LI share will be \$1189.25. We need 17 attendees/night to break even.

5. **Chefs:** Lyn Dobrin came up with an idea for starting a monthly chef cooking demonstration series at our Society. We will do it the fourth Monday of each month. We have the first one planned in April, the second in May, and the third possibly in June.

6. **Vegetarian Dinner:** We will have a fund-raising vegetarian dinner at our Society on Saturday, February 1. The cost will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids.

7. **Grants:** Jim will look into getting grants for us.

8. **Refurbishing Our Building:** Jim arranged for the inside our building to be painted, for which we thanked him. We also thanked Pat for arranging to have members clean the inside of our building.

9. **The Religious Education Program:** There will be a group that will meet to discuss the RE program, given that we now have several kids who could benefit from it.

10. **Safety Outside Our Building:** Pat wrote letters asking Garden City and Nassau County to put No Parking stripes outside our building, as well as a traffic light.

11. **Garden City Water Towers:** Wayne got a letter from Garden City indicating that they don't know whether they will do work on the towers. If they do the work, they will pave out parking lot.

12. **Calvin's Report:** He spoke about his experience introducing small-group ministry at his Unitarian church in Augusta, Maine. The Board asked him to speak about small-group ministry at our Sunday meeting on January 12.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM
Minutes submitted by Mel Haber,
Board secretary



Note from the Editor

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHS LI 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>



*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