



# The Ethical Humanist

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island  
 Create a Caring World



## Sunday Talks

Feb. 14: "Love, Ethical Culture Style;" Jim White, practicing attorney at Ward's Island, former Leader at the Riverdale/Yonkers Society and the Essex Ethical Culture Society.

Feb. 21: "Ethics in Sports: An Oxymoron?" George Vecsey, sports writer from the NY Times from 1982 to 2011.

Feb. 28: "A Life in Civil Liberties," Howard Simon, Executive Director of the ACLU in Florida

## One person can make a difference...

Please send any outstanding dues payments for 2015 and your pledge for 2016. Our Society depends on the generosity of our members.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help in the kitchen for coffee hour; see Joyce Wildermuth.

Some of our members need a ride to our Sunday meetings. Please contact Lois Blatt of the Caring Committee if you can provide a ride.

## President's Message

from Linda Napoli

We've had some wonderful speakers this past month culminating in a wonderful Darwin Day presentation followed by an enjoyable celebration of science. Thank you to Sharon Stanley and her team for a terrific job.

Our second annual vegetarian pot luck supper will be held on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. See page 8 for details.

A lot of newcomers came this past month, and a number of them have returned for a second visit. Let us all be ambassadors for our community by being as welcoming as possible.

February's celebrations remind us of the importance of love in our lives. Love of ourselves by leading a healthy life, love of country by working to improve social conditions and love of others by bringing out the best in all those we meet.

Welcome to our new members, Larry and Elke Bluth! Larry and Elke are former members of the Riverdale Ethical Society. He is a musician and she is a nurse. We are happy to have you join us.

## Notes from the Board

Our January Board meeting was quite fruitful. We are beginning to look at improving our AV capabilities especially for Sunday mornings. Liz Seegert brought in a detailed proposal of equipment we need and will be getting estimates.

We will look at our budget and see what's possible after we get this information. It was agreed that an energy audit of the building is needed. Sue Feifer is looking into this. Invitations for the Social Justice dinner have been mailed. Let Phyllis know if you haven't received yours. Thank you to Jim LoPresti, Bill Larsen and Chris Stanley for their continued efforts to keep the various aspects of our building in good working order.



# Our Youth Programs

## Humanist Sunday School



Our Humanist Sunday School teachers Jacqueline Bottenbley and Christine Lamattina worked with the children to create Darwin Day exhibits.

## Y.E.S. Youth of Ethical Societies

### A Message from Tara Klein

This past December 2015, I participated in my last official YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) meeting as advisor. I am so excited to pass leadership along to Mayra Fournier, a former YES teen who graduated from the group in 2011. Mayra will work alongside John Waters, a Society member who has been helping lead the group this year.

I've always loved leading YES have and have felt very rewarded by it, most notably in the 2014 Founders Day celebration for me, Eric Alexander, and Derek Smith; and in the awesome young adults the graduates are now becoming. But the YES advisor has always been a volunteer position, and in any volunteer group it is so important to keep the leadership cycling to bring in new passion and ideas.

Though I won't be around most Sundays anymore, I promise not to disappear. You can always reach me by email at [kleintara@gmail.com](mailto:kleintara@gmail.com). Thank you to the Society and the parents for their invaluable support over the years.



# Darwin Day 2016:

## A Collaboration of Secularists



Our most recent Darwin Day was another success, thanks to lead organizer Sharon Stanley and a troupe of people from EHSLI, the American Humanist Association (Long Island Affiliate), the Center for Inquiry / Long Island, the Long Island Atheists, and the Ward Melville High School Secular Student Alliance. We had folks from every secular group on Long Island not only attend, but collaborate. Welcome and thanks go to all these people who actively planned activities and events that made our Darwin Day the most diverse yet (would Darwin have been proud of our diversity?)



Our Sunday morning speaker, Dr. John Teehan, spoke of the biological basis of empathy. Yes, we may have selfish genes, as Dawkins proposed. But we also have altruistic genes that form the basis of our moral codes—fairness, self-sacrifice, and love. We are not doomed to selfish behavior by selfish genes, because our altruistic genes provide us with empathy. As we teach in our Sunday school, empathy is at the heart of morality and ethics.



Afternoon activities included food, raffles, a "name the scientist" game, demonstrations of science by the Sunday school and our resident biologist, Dr. Joan Petersen. Our collaborative groups had the chance to introduce themselves and their missions. Kids (and adults) were able to see how they would look as the great Charles Darwin himself or a blue-footed booby. Thanks to Rachel Tobais for her great cut-out paintings. Quite fun was the Reader's Theatre that performed an overview of the Scopes (Monkey) Trial



in 1925 that addressed the teaching of evolution and the separation of church and state. The event ended with a tape of comedian Steve Martin performing "Atheists Ain't Got No Songs." If that sounds funny— it was. See it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wogta8alHiU>

Joyce, we missed you.

## Social Action

### M.E.D. Rx (Medication • Education • Disposal • Repurpose)



Bring in those empty pill bottles! Matthew Berman, our Young Activist Grant winner, is having the bottles professionally washed and then donated to the Malawi Project. There are few, if any, medical resources for medications in Malawi, where medicines are simply wrapped in scrap paper to give to patients. Matthew will be at the Social Justice Leadership Award dinner on March 31 to describe his project to us in person.

### Glove, Scarf, and Mitten, and Hat Drive

It took a long time for winter to arrive, but it did. Please bring in hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for people of all ages. Make someone's winter a little warmer.

Also, we are always collecting food for the INN. Remember that people go hungry on Long Island every day.



### Food Drive

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## Social Justice Leadership Award Dinner

### March 31 at the Nassau Bar Association



You should have received your invitation to the Social Justice Leadership Award Dinner on March 31. This year we are honoring member Eric Alexander, Smart-Growth Planner, Esther Fortunoff, Businesswoman and Philanthropist, Patricia Shih and Stephen Fricker, Musicians and Humanitarians, and Matthew Berman, Young Activist Grant Winner. Journal sponsorships are available. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible. It is an inspirational evening that reminds us of our core values of respect, justice, and love.

# Why Darwin Day Matters: One Last Look

We just celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Darwin Day, and I was reminded again of why this event matters to us as humanists.

First, it is a fact of human nature, perhaps a basic need, to celebrate special events and days. Whether you attend a parade on Independence Day, celebrate Thanksgiving, or blow out candles on a birthday cake, you are participating in a celebration, an honor, or marking a significant day. Celebrations and special days bind us as family members, community members, and/or citizens. And while most of us celebrate some form of December religious holiday as a continuation of the traditions of our families of origin, Darwin Day is uniquely our own. Darwin Day celebrates science and the very human traits of curiosity, innovation, and respect for nature. These in-born traits reveal the human spirit. In that vein, we honor all scientists who have worked to discover basic scientific principles (Galileo, Pasteur, Darwin, Pavlov, Einstein, Turing, and Hawking, among many others), or those who, using scientific discoveries, have made the world a better place through technological advances or medicine. The only "higher power" involved was brain power, curiosity, and grit. Darwin Day is a total "fit" for us as humanists—and is a "fit" for people of any faith who celebrate science. That the holiday can be extended to other people outside our humanist philosophy proves just how great it is.

Second, Darwin Day shines a light on ignorance, lifting up our principles and taking a stand against bigotry. While states such as Tennessee and Louisiana actively teach creationism in public schools, the national Darwin Day movement forces a recognition that ignorance is not bliss. When our Darwin Day guest Thomas Sheedy, a student at Ward Melville High School, wanted to start a Secular Student Alliance club at his school, his flyers were routinely vandalized. The school administration has dragged its feet in getting to the bottom of the problem. By having a place to celebrate secular values, young people like Thomas can know they're not alone in identifying as a secularist.

The point of a holiday is to bring people together. If you attended our Darwin Day last Sunday, that's what you saw. Let's keep the tradition alive. Darwin Day greeting cards, anyone?



Ira Stern, Secular Student Alliance Club Advisor, Natalie Lynde, Thomas Sheedy, Mark Nie, Nick Giannico, and Ben Orland of Ward Melville High School.

# SPICE\*

## \* Splendid Parties In Congenial Environments



SPICE has been rebooted! SPICE is a fundraising tool that allows members to get together for fun outings or get-togethers for a small fee. All proceeds are donated to EHSLI. Not only does EHSLI earn a little money, but members have the opportunity to deepen their friendships with other members. Sorry, folks, it's a "member only" activity. Missing out? Consider joining EHSLI! Thanks to Mel and Barbara Haber for getting this together. Stay tuned to this space for all of our upcoming SPICE events.

## February

### Cook and Eat with Stacy

Join us for a fun afternoon learning to make spanakopitas (Greek spinach cheese puffs), baklava (sweet pastry made up of filo dough filled with nuts and held together with syrup or honey), and Stacy's own Greek salad dressing. Enjoy a glass of wine, as well as eat salad and the spinach pies we make together fresh from the oven. Finally, take home a jar of salad dressing and a box of baklava decorated with a beautiful bow that you will learn to make.

- NOTE:** Feel free to give this SPICE as a gift.  
**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, February 13, 2016, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**HOSTS:** Stacy Leon and Heidi Mann  
**LOCATION:** Home of Joyce Wildermuth, 175 St. Paul's Road North, Hempstead, NY 11550
- NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 20, including children 14 years and older  
**FEE:** \$25 per person

**(Events continued on next page)**

**SPICE Events, continued:****A Valentine's Day Brunch**

Come be spoiled for Valentine's Day with a wonderful brunch surrounded by friends and good company.

**DATE/TIME:** February 14, 2016, 1 p.m.  
**HOSTS:** Sue and Ken Feifer, 516-795-6290  
**LOCATION:** 70 Bay Drive, Massapequa  
**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 10  
**FEE:** \$22

**March****Board Game Afternoon**

Join us for an afternoon of board games - We'll play Scrabble, Monopoly, Life and other classic board games in a friendly, only-a-little competitive atmosphere! We can host 12 at our home in Glen Cove. Bring along a dip and we'll provide the chips and a few starter dips.

**DATE:** March, March 19 - 3 - 5:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Sarah and John Waters  
 8 Park Ave.  
 Glen Cove, NY 11542  
 516-707-1430  
**FEE** \$16  
**PARTICIPANTS** 12



**SPICE Events, continued:**

**The 1960 Presidential Election (Kennedy versus Nixon)**

Join Richard Rapp as he discusses events leading up to the 1960 election, events during the campaign, and events leading to the final results. In addition, Richard will discuss certain things that happened after the election was over.

- DATE/TIME:** Monday, March 21, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
- HOST:** Richard Rapp
- LOCATION:** Ethical Humanist Society
- PARTICIPANTS:** any
- FEE:** \$16



**Classes for  
Enrichment  
Open to everyone!**



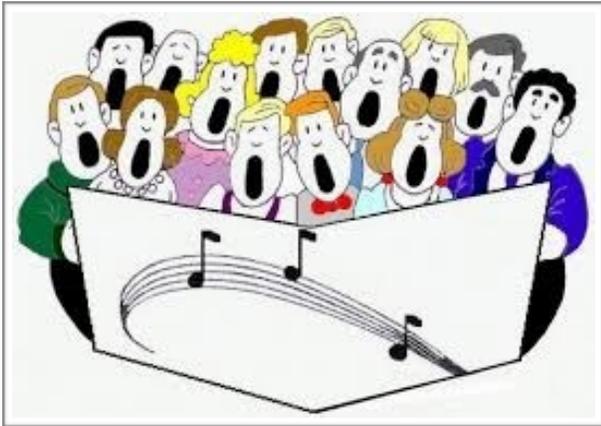
**Ten Stress Management Techniques**

This class will present ten stress management techniques. The format will include teaching the techniques and how to practice them, discussing the experience of the in-class practice, and answering questions about using the techniques so as to strengthen participants' ability to modulate their stress and gain more control over it.



- DATE/TIME:** March 6, 2016, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- PRESENTER:** Barbara Haber, 718-279-4940
- LOCATION:** Ethical Society, Room 201
- PARTICIPANTS:** 10, no children
- FEE:** None

# The Cure for the Winter Blues.... Community singing / Community Supper:



## COMMUNITY SINGING

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 at 7:30**  
at our building.  
Kelly Tanza will lead us in our favorites.  
Everyone is invited!



## FOOD PLUS FIVE\*

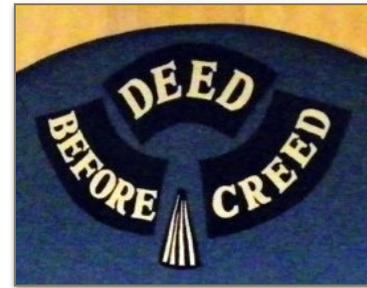
**VEGETARIAN POT LUCK SUPPER AND SING ALONG**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th**  
**5:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Sign up in the office**

\*\$5.00 donations will go to Long Island Food Not Bombs  
**EVERYONE IS INVITED**

# The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

is welcoming home for people who think that nothing should be more important to people than people. If you value independent thought, stimulating presentations, a celebration of both science and the arts, the education of youth in the ideals of humanism, and a community of friends who work to create social change, you will find what you're looking for with us. Learn more at [www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org).



## Contacts

38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530

516-741-7304 • [www.ehsl.org](http://www.ehsl.org)

Office Manager: Phyllis Herschlag: [ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net)

## Programs

**Sunday morning meetings** begin at 11:00 a.m. for approximately one hour. A blend of music, poetry, meditation and an informative presentation, our Sunday mornings are the centerpiece of our week.

**Colloquy** is a time of shared reflection and nurturing. It's an opportunity for people to meet in a small group, examine a particular aspect of life, explore and practice self-reflection. Colloquy meets at 9:30 a.m. before our Sunday meeting.

**Humanist Sunday School** meets weekly at 11:00 a.m. for children ages 5 to 12 and covers topics of "what makes a good person?" Free babysitting is provided for younger children.

**YES (Youth of Ethical Societies)** is for teens aged 13 to 18. YES meets approximately twice a month. The YES group hosts a Sunday morning presentation each year.

**AHA Meetings.** The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island's chapter of the American Humanist Association will be meeting on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 29 at 7:00pm in the 2nd floor meeting room. For questions or information email Sharon Stanley at [lihumanist@gmail.com](mailto:lihumanist@gmail.com) or leave a message for Sharon or Heidi Mann at 516-741-7304.

**Darwin Day** is our annual celebration of science, held in early February in honor of Charles Darwin.

**Ethical Friends of Children** assists more than 2,500 children each year by providing them with clothing and infant furniture at no cost. Our "store" – staffed entirely by volunteers – lets families pick out the things they need, at no cost to them. Please contact director Jim LoPresti at [EFOC@ehsl.org](mailto:EFOC@ehsl.org) if you'd like to help.

**The Social Justice Leadership Award** was created by the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island to honor those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of humankind, recognizing people who have made significant contributions in the areas of peace, justice, human rights, or humanitarian causes.

**The Young Activist Grant** was founded to encourage Nassau County middle and high school students to develop their own humanitarian skills. The annual grant, awarded in the fall, offers \$500 as seed money for a worthy project. See our website for an application.

**The Movie Group.** For information about joining the movie group, contact Al Zeigler at 516-538-2687. Leave a message and he'll return your call.

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Classes.** Join Sylvia Silberger for free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the Ethical Humanist Society. The classes are on Wednesdays from 5:45 - 7:00 pm. If interested, contact Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:matsbs@yahoo.com) to be put on her class confirmation list.

**Sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour:** For \$15 you can sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour and, with advanced notice, have your name and message added to the Sunday Meeting bulletin! Please contact Phyllis at [ethicalsociety@optonline.net](mailto:ethicalsociety@optonline.net)

### **Affordable Office Space for rent**

We have 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 to apply. Inquire through the office, 516-741-7304.**

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## **Social Media:**

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

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ehsli](http://www.twitter.com/ehsli)

Meetup: [www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island/](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.

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



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



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