The State of the Union (at EHS)  
(With apologies to President Obama, as I have used quotes from his State of the Union speech)

My fellow Society Members, Pat and I are nearing the end of our two year term as Presidents of the Society. They have been two years of rebuilding and strengthening. “Soon we turn the page. [. . .] For all that we’ve endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this,” the State of the Society is solid. This is thanks to the hard work of the Board and our devoted members.

We are financially sound (although never flush with money), much of our building has been painted, renovated and surely looks better (still more to be done), and our rentals are a continuing source of revenue (thanks to Pat’s strenuous efforts and the support of Phyllis). Membership has been growing (not leaps and bounds but slowly) and this year we hope to attract some younger families. Our Religious Education program surely needs an infusion of some new children and hopefully that can happen this year. Our Sunday programs have been rich and interesting with a variety of speakers and areas of thought.

“My fellow [Society members], we too are a strong, tight-knit family. We too have made it through hard times. We’ve laid a foundation. A brighter future is ours to write.” Pat and I “have no more campaigns to run.” Our only agenda is to make sure that the Society continues to grow and reflects the values of humanism. Let’s keep the momentum going!

Joan Beder  
Co-President

New EHSLI Symbol

Pat Spencer, Joan Beder, the Board and Members of EHSLI wish to thank Bill and Arlie Carr for the many, many hours it took them to make the Ethical Symbol and mount it on a new podium, it looks superb. They even had a quilted cover made for the podium in order to protect the resin symbol.
DARWIN DAY
A HUMANIST CELEBRATION

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Humanists Meet in Community
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Proclamation of Darwin Day
Garden City Mayor John J. Watras

Music, Poetry, Invited Speaker

Dr. John Teehan, Hofstra University:
"A Darwinian Approach to Religion: Humanistic Implications"
Appropriate for children ages 10 and up / Free babysitting

Afternoon Celebration of Humanism
Social Action • Humanist Celebrations • Art, Music, Games

HONORING JON STEPANIAN
LONG ISLAND FOOD NOT BOMBS
FOR HIS WORK IN CREATING A MORE CARING WORLD

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and
The American Humanist Association, Long Island Chapter
38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530
www.ehsli.org • 516-741-7304

Free Admission / Donations appreciated / Vegan Food Drive for LIFNB
Raffles • Vegan and non-vegan lunch for sale • Free Babysitting

Create a Caring World
What Are You Doing For Darwin Day?

Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity held on or around February 12, the anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth in 1809. Honoring the discoveries and life of Darwin—the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection—Darwin Day celebrates the enormous benefits that scientific knowledge has contributed to the advancement of humanity.

The International Darwin Day Foundation, a project of the American Humanist Association, has a newly designed website at darwinday.org, providing resources and how-to guides for Darwin Day events, in addition to listing all the celebratory events that take place on and around February 12.

The American Humanist Association encourages local and national organizations to participate in celebrating Darwin Day. Some local groups host social gatherings and speakers to celebrate Darwin’s birthday while others promote the importance of science and evolution through hands-on activities.

This year, several local chapters and affiliates of the American Humanist Association are making early plans for Darwin Day. The Secular Humanists of the Low Country, located in Charleston, South Carolina, will participate for the second year in a row in 2015 Piccolo Darwin Week, Charleston’s second annual celebration of evolutionary science for children and youth. Amy Monsky, president of Secular Humanists of the Low Country, will lead an educational activity for elementary-aged children entitled “Evolution of the Universe... in a Necklace?” As Monsky retells the origin of the universe, participants will add “a bead for the galaxies and a bead for our solar system” to the necklace.

The Central Colorado Humanists in Salida, Colorado, will show a film about epigenetic anomalies on February 12, followed by a “Happy Birthday Darwin” cake and ice cream.

On February 5, the Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky will host Dan Phelps, president of the Kentucky Paleontology Society. Phelps will present “The Geology of Antarctica and the Natural History of the Antarctic Peninsula,” based upon his recent trip to Antarctica and Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island will be hosting an all-day celebration of Darwin Day. John Watras, Mayor of Garden City, is declaring Feb. 12 as Darwin Day in Garden City with a Proclamation. Later, Dr. John Teehan of Hofstra University will present a talk entitled “A Darwinian Approach to Religion: Humanistic Implications.” Following Dr. Teehan’s presentation, the afternoon will be filled with poetry readings, musical performances, and games.

The Red Bank Humanists from Red Bank, New Jersey, will host Rob Richard, president of the Biology Teachers Association of New Jersey, who will speak on the methods and challenges of teaching evolution in schools on February 8.

How do you plan to celebrate Darwin Day? Here are some ideas:

1. Find or create a Darwin Day event at www.darwinday.org. Our goal this year is to have over 500 Darwin Day events held around the world! See how other groups are celebrating and generate a new idea for celebrating in 2015.

2. “Like” Darwin Day on Facebook. We’ll be posting daily updates on the Darwin Day Facebook page, such as breaking news on science or evolution issues, information on local Darwin Day events, sharable cover/profile images of Darwin and evolution, and more! You can also join our official Darwin Day 2015 Facebook event.

3. Encourage your local government to issue a Darwin Day Proclamation. Meet with your city council members or state legislators to show their support of evolution by recognizing February 12 as Darwin Day. If you or your group has already successfully lobbied your elected official to support Darwin Day, let us know, and we’ll share your success with others on the Darwin Day website.

Darwin Day is a fun, educational celebration for humanists, atheists, science advocates, and all who support evolution in our schools and greater knowledge of science in our society. Learn more at darwinday.org.

Also, Check at the AEU Announcement for the EHSLI Darwin Day Celebration:
http://aeu.org/2015/01/darwin-day-garden-city/
News from the AEU

In the summer of 1996, I attended the first lay Leadership Summer School organized for lay leaders in Ethical Societies by our national organization, the American Ethical Union. At that time, I had been a member of the Baltimore Ethical Society for about four years (and had served on its Board for that same number of years). I had minimal experience dealing with people on the national level. I had met Joy McConnell once or twice as I’d been active in the ethical education of our youth, and I may have attended one Ethical Education conference (at that time called “Religious Education”) before coming to LLSS. But there was a lot I did not know about the Ethical Union before, and even after, Summer School.

Beginning in 1997, I made a point to attend every AEU Assembly in part so that I could reconnect with people from Summer School (what an incredibly rich and transformative experience that was!) and each time I attended Assembly, I learned a little more about the national organization that supports our Societies as well as being made up of our Societies. I met people who were active with committees such as ethical education, ethical action, and even information technology (my own professional field). I learned about the amazing work that our “sister” organization, now called the National Ethical Service, does at the United Nations as a registered and well respected NGO (non-governmental organization). I heard people talk about how they had infused their lives with ethics – sometimes in simple, every-day things but also responding ethically with such bravery in the face of potential financial loss or even physical danger, that I left each Assembly newly inspired to do my best to live an ethical (as well as an Ethical) life.

Sometimes I was asked (as an individual or as part of a group) to consider working on the national level. Once or twice I agreed to, for specific short-term tasks, but mostly I said “no”. I was busy in Baltimore; raising a child as a single mother, supporting my “home” Society, doing additional work in my community that I felt was important and a meaningful part of my ethical life. I didn’t see how I could fit that much more time into an already jam-packed day to do any-
thing in my spare time other than try and catch up on my sleep or my time with family and friends or my writing life. But finally, 14 years after I attended Summer School in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, I said “yes” to national service with the AEU. I ran for and was elected to our Board of Directors for the first time four years ago and I’ve never looked back.

I am someone who mostly lives life without regrets or “what ifs” but as I write these words I wonder what wonderful experiences I might have missed out on by saying “no” for all of those years. As I learn more and more about the Ethical Movement – both its history and its people, past and present – I am continuously re-inspired and invigorated by the thoughts of what our Movement has helped to create in this world, and of what we can offer to it today. Our society is in need of ethical education for all ages – and in need of frequent reminders of the truth in Felix Adler’s adage that we “Act so as to bring out the best in each other” because in doing so we become so much more our own best – more compassionate, more focused on living our values, and more one of those people who contributes a positive presence in their daily lives as a benefit to the entire world.

As our world has developed the internet and other technologies to bring people together who physically are miles and cultures apart, the Ethical Movement’s emphasis on relationships and attribution of human worth to each individual can help to create a new world-wide community of people who together and individually are working to make our shared world a better place. Our Ethical Societies provide a place in which people can do that work. And our Union – the American Ethical Union – can provide the network and shared resources to help to create a new world-wide community of people who together and individually are working to make our shared world a better place. Our Ethical Societies provide a place in which people can do that work. And our Union – the American Ethical Union – can provide the network and shared resources to support more and more Societies in that important and fulfilling work of building a better, more ethical world.

Written by: Karen Elliott
AEU Board Member
Member, Baltimore Ethical Society

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.
February Sunday Meeting Schedule

**February 1:** Ashley Hunt-Martorano, Chapter Leader of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Long Island. *Strategies for Exercising Our Individual Political Power.*

*Description:* strategies for exercising our individual political power and the ways Citizens’ Climate Lobby is successfully building political will for climate action through letters to newspapers and our political representatives, and through face-to-face lobbying by our members.

**February 8:** (Darwin Day!) John Teehan, Professor of Religious Studies, Hofstra University, *Darwin’s Influence on Religion: What it Means for Humanism.*

*Description:* The influence of Darwin’s ideas on religion goes well beyond refuting a creationist reading of Genesis. Today, an evolution-based cognitive science is developing a robust naturalistic account of religious belief that poses a much deeper challenge to traditional religious faiths: religion itself may be another by-product of natural selection. However, this science also indicates that the religious impulse is a deeply embedded aspect of human nature, one that is intimately entwined with our moral intuitions. This talk will explore the implications of this Darwinian science for our understanding of the relation between religion and ethics, and discuss how this supports a humanistic approach to morality.

*Bio:* Dr. John Teehan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion at Hofstra University, holds a Masters degree in Psychology and a Doctorate in Philosophy. His research focus is on the cognitive/evolutionary study of morality and religion, with a special interest in religious morality and religion’s role in conflict. He has explored these topics in his book, *In the Name of God: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Ethics and Violence* (6454, Wiley-Blackwell) and in numerous articles. His work is also concerned with the interaction of cognitive-evolutionary theories and the philosophy of religion, particularly as this relates to the Problem of Evil and questions of religious belief. He lectures widely, both nationally and internationally, on these topics. Dr. Teehan is also on the editorial board of Evolutionary Psychological Science, and Associate Editor of Science, Religion and Culture.

**February 15:** Lisa Tyson, Long Island Progressive Coalition

**February 22:** Harold James Quigley, Jr., *The New Dr. Strangelove.*

*Description:* This title is a throwback to the bizarre Hollywood hit of 1964 that was subtitled "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." The new version of this view of life is, I believe, being foisted on the public in the form of "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Climate Change." It is delusional and it is dangerous. “So-called ecopragmatists say we can have a ‘good Anthropocene,’” writes Clive Hamilton, the Australian professor of public ethics at Charles Sturt University in Canberra. Hamilton’s *Earthmasters: The Dawn of the Age of Climate Engineering* (Yale University Press, 2013), is a scathing critique of what may be the greatest manifestation of hubris in human history: the belief that technical fixes will get us safely out of the predicament of global warming, rising seas, melting ice, violent storms, massive droughts, an agricultural crash and famine. The technical fix fixation thus becomes an apology for business as usual and an excuse for continued inaction. The general public is still largely ignorant of the rapidly expanding industries on board with "geoengineering" technologies that seek to alter ocean and atmospheric chemistry and, as their argument goes, make further loading of carbon into the ecosystem from fossil fuel combustion a non-issue. How should sane people respond? Should we embrace this mutation of Dr. Strangelove, or hang his effigy in the public square?

*Sunday Meetings begin at 11:00 AM*

*Sunday Colloquies begin at 9:30 AM*
Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

**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. Come visit our eBay sales site here: http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?trksid=p2047675.l2559

**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:
http://darwinday.org/events/darwin-day-a-humanist-celebration/

**Our Times Coffee House:** On February 20th, 2015, Our Times Coffee House welcomes Gathering Time’s WinterFolk (a program of special songs for the snow season). Voted best band runner-up (and top folk band) in the 2011 Long Island Press readers’ poll, Gathering Time is like a high-energy Peter, Paul & Mary or a co-ed Crosby, Stills & Nash, with various parts of The Byrds, Joni Mitchell, the Eagles and America; a head-turning folk-rock harmony trio described recently as “getting a whole beehive-full of buzz” on the northeast regional folk scene.

Founded in 2006 by Stuart Markus, Glen Roethel, and Hillary Foxsong, Gathering Time quickly became a fan favorite. The trio has strong roots in traditional folk as well as ’60s and ’70s folk-rock, and they’ve been known to sprinkle in some of those classics among their original sets.

For more information visit http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/.

Doors open at 7:15 PM and the show starts at 8 PM.

Tickets: Adults $15, Students (w/school I.D.) $10, Children (under 12) $6. (Very young children are free.)

**Diogenese Roundtable:** The Diogenese Roundtable discussion group has been cancelled until further notice.

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class:** Sylvia’s free yoga class will resume on Tuesdays at 5:45 PM. If interested in attending after that, contact Sylvia at matsbs@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

Continued on Page 7
Goings on at and Announcements, Continued

Continued from Page 6

**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.

**Board Meeting Time Change:** Starting in January, the board will be meeting on the third Monday of every month, rather than the second.

**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.

**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.

**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.

---

**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/

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

**Photos:** 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.

Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Phone: 516-741-7304 Fax: 516-741-7305
Ethicalsociety@optonline.net http://www.ehsli.org

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