



The Ethical Humanist

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



Sunday Talks

Jan. 10: Christopher Agostino, "What does Art take? What does it leave?"

Jan. 17: Eric Lane, "The Need for Civic Education to Maintain a Rigorous Democracy."

Jan. 24: The CHAT Project: How to Talk About the End of Life

Feb. 7: DARWIN DAY, 11 to 2. See page 4.

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.

RAFFLE ITEMS are needed for Darwin Day. Please donate gently used or new items. Give items to Heidi Mann, Sharon Stanley, or Alison Pratt by Jan. 24.

President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year!

I hope all of you have had a wonderful season and enjoyed your time with family and friends. We had a lovely Winter Solstice celebration planned by our musical director, Kelly Tanza. On December 28th Liz Seegert and David Sprintzen led an interesting discussion on important topics in the news. One of the most salient questions brought up was, "How can we as humanists contribute positively to the conversation?" I think we should all think about it and see what answer we come up with. January 3 was our Annual Remembrance Sunday, a morning when we renew our commitment to peace, love, hope and justice by readings and candle-lighting. We also take time to remember and honor those we've loved.



EHSI President Linda Napoli

In January, we are beginning a series of discussions on a variety of topics of interest. This is something that was requested when a survey was given out at last spring's membership meeting. All the classes are free. You can find the list on page 8. SPICE events are also starting up again, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Barbara and Mel Haber. This is a well-loved fund-raising approach that offers a great variety of fun for members. See page 6 for details, and thanks to all our volunteers.

Linda Napoli, President

Our Youth Programs

Humanist Sunday School



Christine Lamattina,
Sunday School Director



The poster above was made by our Sunday School kids about friendship. Who knew so many ideas were packed into “friendship”?

YES: Youth of Ethical Societies

The 22nd Annual YES Pasta Dinner was held on Dec. 19. The guest speaker, Justine Gonzalez (at right), is the Internship and Community Development Director of “exalt,” an agency that works with at-risk youth to provide counseling and job training, keeping young people away from a life of criminality and on the path of good citizenship.



YES is a group of high school students who want to make the world a better place. If you know a student who would like to participate, please let YES co-advisors John Waters (left) or or Mayra Fournier (lower right) know!



Social Action

Young Activist Grant

As we reported in last month’s newsletter, the winner of the Young Activist Grant is Roslyn High School 10th grader Matthew Berman. Matthew’s project, for which he received a \$500 grant from EHSLI, is called “Medication, Education, Disposal, Repurpose” (or MED Rx for short.) Matthew is going to work with the Town of North Hempstead’s Stop Pollution program to collect old medicines to keep them out of the wrong hands and out of the waste stream, work with a substance abuse group about the dangers of prescription drugs, and have the collected bottles professionally washed to be 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 and his family attended our Winter Festival to receive an award certificate and the check. Congratulations to Matthew!

Pill Bottles



Save your empty pill bottles! As you’ve read above, Matt Berman is going to recycle them to Malawi. And remember, don’t flush old medicines down the toilet, where they make their way into our waterways. Mix them with something unpleasant, like coffee grinds or cat litter, and place in the trash.

Glove, Scarf, and Mitten, and Hat and Food Drives

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.



Darwin Day: Sunday, February 7

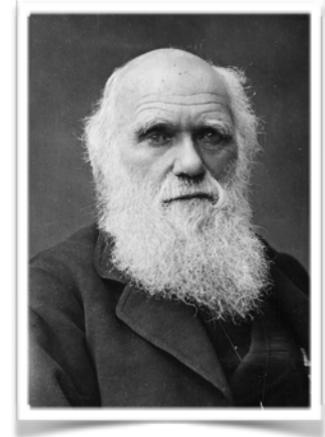
Sharon Stanley, Co-chair of AHA Long Island Affiliate



Since the lines between the separation of church and state are so easily blurred it is important to recognize the contributions of scientists who have educated us about life on earth. “Darwin Day” is a celebration around the world to serve this purpose. The American Humanist Association has been advocating for a national “Darwin Day” since the 1990’s. The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is proud to be part of this annual tradition.

Our 8th annual “Darwin Day” is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, 2016, from 11 am until 2 pm.

This year’s “Darwin Day” is an unprecedented event involving EHSLI’s co-partnership with four Long Island affiliates of the American Humanist Association; The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island’s AHA group, the Long Island Atheists, the Center for Inquiry/Long Island and the Secular Student Alliance of Ward Melville High School.



Our “Darwin Day” event guest speaker is Dr. John Teehan, chair of the Religion Department of Hofstra University. His talk, “The Empathetic Ape: How Evolution Shaped the Human Capacity to Love,” reminds us that our capacity to love and be loved is born into us as humans, shaped by genetics and our innate need for community.

Social action for the day will include advocating with “Car-less Long Island,” founded by our EHSLI member Sylvia Silberger. Car-less Long Island is an alternative transportation advocacy group founded in August, 2015. Their mission is to work for a Long Island on which it is easier and safer to live without relying on a car. The ultimate goal is to reduce the total number of individually driven automobiles on the road, thus significantly reducing our carbon footprint, alleviating traffic congestion and improving the overall quality of life on Long Island. (*Car-less Long Island* meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Ethical Humanist Society.)



Lunch of sandwiches and beverages will be offered for sale followed by science activities for children and presentations from the various sponsoring organizations. Finally, don’t forget to bring some money for raffles prizes!

See the article on the following page for descriptions of all the great Long Island secular groups who are partnering with us to make this the best Darwin Day yet!

Darwin Day Collaborators: A Milestone

Five Long Island Secular Groups Share the Day

In addition to members of EHSLI working on Darwin Day, thanks to the efforts of our AHA affiliate chapter's outreach to other secular groups, there are four other Long Island-based groups assisting in the planning of the day. Each group below has provided us with a description of their goals.

1. The Ethical Humanist Society's affiliate of the American Humanist Association

The Ethical Humanist Society's affiliate of the American Humanist Association follows the goals and mission of the AHA movement at large. We believe that humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism and other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity. Our projects include addressing income inequality, gun safety and maintenance of the separation between church and state.

The Ethical Humanist Society's affiliate group of the American Humanist Association meets regularly on the last Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Ethical Society on the 2nd floor.

2. Long Island Atheists

Long Island Atheists is a local meet-up group, associated with both the American Humanist Association and the American Atheists. Our meet-ups provide a safe and productive atmosphere for people to meet other, local atheists, agnostics, free-thinkers and other humanists. Events include social activism, movie nights, bowling and dinner.

The Long Island Atheists meet on the first Saturday of each month for dinner, and have various events throughout the year.

3. Center For Inquiry/Long Island

CFI Communities are groups of rationalists, skeptics, and humanists which sponsor local events, activism, lectures and educational programs. The Long Island, NY Community offers an opportunity to put your principles into practice by joining other rationalists to work for positive change in society and provide an ethical alternative to religious and paranormal worldviews. In this time of rising religiosity, anti-intellectualism and political turmoil on ethical issues, it is critical that rationalists and freethinkers join together to protect civil liberties, defend reason, and work toward increasing scientific literacy.

4. Ward Melville High School Secular Alliance

The Ward Melville High School Secular Alliance is the first High School Secular group on Long Island. We wish to maintain a space for Atheist students, promote an environment for those who wish to think freely, and become an engaging partner in the community through charitable work and public service. We educate students about church-state separation and emphasize the need for students to get involved in the Secular movement.

For information about any of these groups, email Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com, or call 516-741-7304 and leave a message for Sharon.

SPICE*

* Splendid Events 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 cover whatever ticket cost there may be plus an additional amount that goes 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.

January

Coney Island: Vision of an American Dreamland

Relive the wonders of Coney Island, one of America's first seaside resorts. Coney Island has undergone multiple transformations depicted in the work of numerous artists and photographers.

Join Pat Spencer at the Brooklyn Museum to see their new exhibit on "Coney Island: Vision of an American Dreamland, 1861-2008" followed by lunch at your own expense. Car pooling can be arranged.

DATE/TIME: 1/9/16, 11 a.m. (Snow date 1/16/16)
HOST: Pat Spencer
 Home phone: 516-433-5019
 Cell phone: 516-603-1940
LOCATION: Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY
 718-638-5000
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: Adults, 12; Kids, 3
FEE: \$16

(Events continued on next page)

SPICE Events, continued:**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: Sunday, 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

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



Watch this space for more events in coming months!

Classes for Enrichment

Open to everyone!



Slice of Life (Moth-Style)

Storytelling

Everyone's life is a story with some moments being more significant than others. Over a period of three to four sessions, using a writing prompt, participants will have the fun and power of sharing an important event verbally and in written form. After that, they will craft a moth-style story, which they will ultimately share with family and friends.

DATE/TIME: Jan. 19, 26, and Feb. 2; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
PRESENTER: Linda Napoli, 516-248-8382
LOCATION: Ethical Society, Room 201
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 4, no children
FEE: None

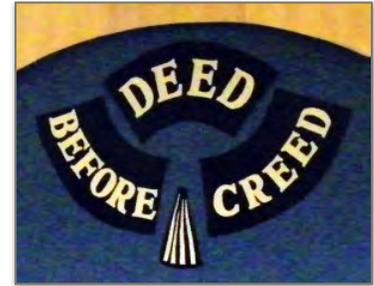
Innovative Social Programs; Building Democracy from the Bottom Up

Under the radar of public news, many innovative programs are being developed across the country, as well as on Long Island. These are creative responses to the increasing failure of established economic, social, and political policies to adequately address the quality of life of most Americans. We will take a survey of many of these programs, consider their strengths and weaknesses, and explore what is possible on Long Island, and what role the Ethical Society may possibly play.

DATE/TIME: January 31 and February 28; 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
PRESENTER: David Sprintzen
LOCATION: Ethical Society, Room 201
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: No limit
FEE: None

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.



Contacts

38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530 • 516-741-7304 • www.ehsl.org

Office Manager: Phyllis Herschlag: ethicalsociety@optonline.net

Programs

Sunday morning meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. for approximately one hour. A blend of music, poetry, mediation 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.

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

Ethical Friends of Children is an outreach program of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. We assist 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 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.

Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

Meetup: 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

Create a Caring World



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



The Ethical Humanist
EHSLI
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