



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 5 -- January 2014



From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHSLI

As I write this, we are past the Winter Solstice and heading toward the new year. Looking back, it has been a good fall at the Society: good programs, a good spirit, a reassuring sense of community. Looking ahead, we have good programs coming up and I see us building on present strengths. I am looking forward to the next few months and would remind you once again that a community such as ours prospers inasmuch as we bring our best selves to it, and the furthering in the new year of our dreams and goals as Ethical Humanists will come as we share of ourselves.

As has been our custom, we will skip the Ethical Cafe so that participants can attend the Garden City Clergy Annual Study. This year we (the GC Clergy) will use last year's study trip to Israel to explore various aspects of religious and political life in present day Israel. Below are the study dates, times and locations. We will make specific topics for the evenings available as soon as possible.

Events with Calvin

Community Singing

Monday, January 16: For anyone who would like to sing a bit and help to plan for the Sunday morning Community Singing.

Starts at 6:30 PM at the Society

- Jan 7 - GC Presbyterian Church
- Jan 14 - GC Community Church
- Jan 21 - GC Jewish Center
- Jan 28 - Cathedral

Generally people gather for dessert at 7:15 PM and we begin the programs at 7:30 PM. We usually aim to end at 9:00 PM with some additional schmooze time assumed at the end.



Best,
Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director

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

Good News, and We Need Your Help

6 Much of the interior of the Ethical Society will be painted the week of December 16th, 2013, 7 thanks to the generous donation of Jim Lo Presti.

7 Pat Spencer and Alice Sprintzen are requesting that members join them Saturday, December 28th from 9—2 PM and Saturday, January 4th, 2014 from 9—1 PM to Spring Clean the Ethical Society interior. If those dates do not work for you, then you can come on your own, any day after January 4th, 2014 at a time agreeable to you and Phyllis. Please call the office, Pat or Alice to confirm you will be attending.

Volunteers need to bring: gloves, 2-rolls paper towels, 2 sponges, dusters, rags and a bucket. If you have a pole or long-handled mop to assist with high dusting please bring it. EHSLI will provide cleaning products. Feel free to bring your own cleaning products if you wish.

Thank you.
Pat Spencer

Helping Needy Kids All Year Long

(The article below was written by Lyn Dobrin and appeared in the Dec 25-31 issue of Anton News.)

Six years ago, when James LoPresti started as a volunteer with Ethical Friends of Children, delivering children's clothing and equipment to needy families on Long Island, it was an eye-opener.

"I had no idea how much poverty there was here," he said. Two years later, when the coordinator of this all-volunteer program retired, LoPresti took on the job.

Ethical Friends of Children is a project of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island in Garden City, founded in 1985 by two members of the Ethical Society who felt there was a need in Nassau County to supply poor children with clothing and equipment.

Today, Ethical Friends of Children assists more than 2,500 children each year, providing new and gently used clothing, as well as items such as strollers, cribs, mattress, blankets and diapers at no cost.

The families are referred to Ethical Friends of Children by social service organizations of Long Island that in-

clude Nassau County Department of Social Services and the Town of Hempstead Department of Health. Religious-affiliated social service agencies and private agencies funded by Nassau and Suffolk counties also provide support as well as donations. Cash donations are used to purchase items that are in high demand, such as diapers. Every penny is used to buy items for children. The "store" lets families come to pick out things they need, at no cost to them. It is open with limited hours.

LoPresti, who lives in Massapequa Park, is a long-time member of the Ethical Humanist Society. Until he retired 12 years ago, he taught math at Syosset High School. While teaching, he obtained a master's degree in counseling and opened a small private practice.

LoPresti hopes to expand the program with counseling and other services, but for the time being, providing clothing and equipment to families in need is a big job. "I feel we're just scratching the surface," he said, adding that volunteers and contributions are welcome. The phone number for Ethical Friends of Children is 516-280-5526. Volunteers and contributions are welcome.



James LoPresti with Ethical Friends of Children volunteers, from left: Linda Lindsey of Hempstead, Terry DePalo of Franklin Square, Martha Monontero of Uniondale and Pat Spencer of Hicksville.

At left: James LoPresti in front of one of the storage closets for donated children's clothes. (Photos by Lyn Dobrin)

KIDS Update



New KIDS Babysitter/Teacher:

We now have a full-time babysitter and "sometimes" teacher, Alyssa Tortora, who is available every week to watch young ones of any age. When needed, she has also stepped up to teach lessons our kids. Alyssa has a Masters degree in early childhood education and is a wonderful new addition to our children's programs. If you have not been coming to EHS because you need Sunday morning child care, Alyssa is available weekly at no cost to you.

Recently she did a lesson with the children on feeling lonely at the holidays. Our Kids In Deed made holiday cards, which Alyssa delivered to the nursing home.

Thanks, Alyssa, for going the extra mile.

Alison Pratt



Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

SPICE Events — See page 5 for *SPICE* events and updates.

“Winter Blues” Vegetarian Dinner and Sing-Along Fundraiser: The EHSLI 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 EHSLI office or emailing her at ethicalsociety@optonline.net. Payment due by January 26th.

“Winter Necessitates Drive” for Ethical Friends of Children: Bring in an item you know you would never want to do without - Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Socks and then another subtitle Help Keep Children Warm this Winter.

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. The will continue on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM through January 22nd (with the exception of January 8th). After that, we will continue 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.

Get your EHSLI tee shirts! We have new Ethical Humanist tee shirts for EHSLI fundraising! The new tees consist of an original design printed on super soft organic cotton fair trade tee shirts with ecologically friendly water-based ink. The shirts are natural color and the printing is in blue. Choose S, M, L, XL or XXL. Order from Sylvia by emailing matsbs@yahoo.com. There are two styles: unisex and fitted women's, each for \$20 + shipping, if applicable.



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 EHLI are collecting food items for INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network). Please bring non-perishable food items to the basket in the lobby.

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/>. This site lists a full schedule of our events. Support us by becoming an EHSLI meet up member.

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

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

SPICE EVENTS & UPDATES

SPICE Event — **Make Your Own Home Aquarium:** Steven Beder has been setting up aquariums since he was eight years old and he has lots of tips to pass on to anyone who wants to try this beautiful hobby. Learn what you need to do to have success.. Detailed travel directions will be emailed to those who register. To sign up call the EHSLI office at (516)741-7304.

DATE: to be decided at convenience of participant(s)
 PLACE: Steve and Joan's home in Old Westbury
 LIMIT: 8 people
 DONATION: \$15
 HOSTS: Steve and Joan Beder

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. Visit our sales at http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.12559

January Sunday Meeting Schedule

January 5: Remembrance Sunday, Calvin Dame



January 12: Intimacy and Ultimacy: Small Group Ministry, Calvin Dame

January 19: Madoff, Morality, Money...Turning a Blind Eye: the Legal vs. Moral Dilemma

Ron Stein is founder of the Good Harvest Financial Group, an independent registered investment advisory firm, and founder and of the Network for Investor Action and Protection, an investors' advocacy not-for-profit group which evolved out of the Madoff and Stanford frauds to protect investors as well as victims of fraud.

January 26: Living Out Loud: Writers Riff on Love, Sweat & Fears

Our speakers this morning are the experienced and diverse writers Claudia Gryvatz Copquin, Iyna Bort Caruso, Robin Eileen Bernstein, Paula Ganzi Licata. They have banded together to share their passion for the personal essay format with audiences throughout Long Island and the New York City metro area.

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

December Board Meeting Minutes

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2nd, 2013 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Sue Feifer, Mel Haber, Bill Larsen, Linda Napoli, Wayne Outten, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, Mary Sherman, David Sprintzen and Deborah Strube

ABSENT: Delorie Cohan, Jim LoPresti, Heidi Mann, Pat Spencer, Liam Stephens

GUESTS: Calvin Dame

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

2. **President's report:**

The General Membership Meeting on Sunday, December 1st went well. The budget was passed by those in the audience.

The Board approved membership for Maribel Torres and Jaimie Dreyer. Several visitors who have recently been coming to Sunday meetings may soon become members.

As to the boiler repairs, Wayne wrote a stern letter to the plumbing company that has not been responding to our requests to do contracted repair work, including Joan's telling the plumber that we were filing a complaint; Wayne has also not received a response to his letter.

As to pledges, we handed out pledge envelopes to members at our General Membership Meeting, and we will send out pledge letters to all those who weren't there.

Regarding the dinner we are planning for the Neufelds and Wayne Outten, we are thinking about delaying this event to get more contributors.

We have five kids in Sunday School, and we now have a list of activities from Sharon Stanley, Joan Morgenstern, and Kori Schroeder which can be used for the older kids.

Our commercial insurance on the building is going up \$1,200 a year. Joan will get more information from Phyllis about the reason for such a steep increase.

3. **Calvin's report:** Calvin spoke to Kelly who has agreed to organize our music for Sunday meetings. Calvin agreed to do a future Sunday meeting to introduce the concept of small-group ministry.

4. **Financials:** Our AEU debt, which has been verbally forgiven, was written off on the books in November. We are doing better financially, although finances remain a challenge. Miscellaneous (i.e. party) rentals went up considerably in November. Pledges went up. However, in January, we will lose \$1,100 per month from the loss of rental income from The Coalition for the Homeless. The Board discussed fixing up the second floor board room.

5. **The Lot Sale:** Linda spoke of our sub-dividing the land we own outside our building, which is 60 x 125 feet. It will cost us \$1,600 to get a survey and application to sub-divide our property. The Board discussed whether we should sub-divide and sell the land; we agreed to revisit filing for sub-division until the winter to see the extent of our expenses.

6. **The Orientation Package:** Linda Napoli wrote and Alison Pratt put together a new member orientation. On Sunday, December 8th, Linda will run a new-member orientation.

7. **The Caring Committee:** The Caring Committee is up and running.

8. **Darwin Day:** Alison told us that Darwin Day is set for February 9th in conjunction with a group named Locally Long Island. A winter movie series will be launched on the afternoon of Darwin Day. We will seek out sponsors for the movie series. The Board suggested to Alison that she redesign a flyer she passed out at our Board meeting to clarify the content for both the movie series and Darwin Day.

9. **Avoiding Car Accidents Leaving the Parking Lot:** Bill pointed out how dangerous it can be for cars pulling out of our parking lot into the street. Because of heavy traffic and limited visibility, accidents are very possible. He will look into getting a traffic light put up near our building, as well as investigate our putting traffic cones in parking spots in the street.

9. **Revamping Our Web Site:** Liz and Alison will work on revamping our Web site.

The meeting ended at 8:55 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 EHSIJ 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

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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