



# The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 10 -- June 2014



## From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame  
Religious Director, EHSIJ

Dear Friends,

I recently affixed above my desk in Vermont words from a song adapted from a poem by Rumi (1207-1273). The words are:

*Come, come, whoever you are,  
Wanderer, wonderer, lover of leaving.  
Ours is no caravan of despair,  
Come, yet again come.*

This poem affirms all that I hold dear in religious community: the universal welcome, whoever you are; the affirmation of wonder of the world and its mysteries; and the recognition of impermanence. I'm not sure that I am a lover of leaving, but I understand that change is the constant in our lives.

But most of all, I see us in the third line: Ours is no caravan of despair. As Ethical Humanists we live in affirmation of the world and of our

place in it, and from that affirmation grows not only the warmth and one of our connections, but a fierce determination to make the world a better place.

Ours is no caravan of despair, ours is journey of hope and affirmation.

My last Sunday with the Society will be June 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope you can join me on this milestone of our journey.

Calvin O. Dame  
Religious Director

## Thank you, Calvin!

We would like to thank you, Calvin, for your years of dedication to the society and for your wonderful friendship. We hope you have a wonderful retirement!

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**HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR 2014 PLEDGE TO EHSIJ? OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOU!**

## President's Column



Joan Beder,  
Society President

At our Spring Membership Meeting we said thank you to four long-term Board members – Mel Haber, Jim LoPresti, Wayne Outten, and David Spritzen. Each of these Board Members has contributed significantly to the well-being of the Society and has worked diligently on our behalf. We welcomed three new Board members – Beverly Freestone, Richard Rapp, and Mary Sherman. (As an aside, all members are welcome to attend our Board meetings which are held at the Society at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month.)

At the meeting, the membership affirmed the Board's decision to pursue the listing of the land on our western boundary. The next steps will be to check with Garden City about zoning etc. and have a survey done and establish a relationship with a realtor. The membership will be informed every step of the way in this process.

This has been a busy year for the Society and we are on somewhat firmer financial ground than in the past. We

are saying farewell to Calvin Dame on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Calvin has served as our Religion Director for the past five years and we wish him well in his retirement in Brattleboro, Vermont. Calvin has brought new ideas to the Society and has been a stabilizing force during his time with us.

We hope to be able to revitalize our Religious Education program over the summer – special thanks to Alyssa Tortora and Jessica Rubenstein who have worked with our kids this year. As always, we seek new members to our Society. We have a speaking schedule for the Sundays during the summer with programs beginning on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Founders Day is this month on June 22nd. We are honoring the YES Group founder Eric Alexander and current co-leaders, Tara Klein and Derek Smith. Our Book Swap, which is for books for children and teens, is on Saturday June 14th. Hope you can attend both of these programs.

Joan Beder  
Society President

## That Place on Old Country Road

How many times have you heard this? "I always drove by this building but I never knew what went on in here." I've heard it a hundred times, and used to say it myself. Isn't it time we changed that?

The Children's and Teens' Book Drive and Swap is taking place on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 1, at our building. If you think this is a program only for our Kids In Deed students, please rethink it. Getting people to stop by is an opportunity to "do good," but also an opportunity to inform them of who we are. It's a chance to meet our neighbors. Your participation makes a difference! Here's a dozen ways you can help make this event a success:

1. Collect some children's or teens' book to donate to the drive. All remaining books after the swap will be donated to a local homeless shelter and to Reading Reflections. We can't have a successful book drive without books! Bring them in advance, if possible.
2. Bring some small sturdy boxes for the books and/or bags for the visitors.

3. Download the flyer below and put it on your community bulletin boards. Give some to your neighbors with kids.

4. Have a Facebook page? Upload this flyer and ask people to share it.

5. Bring a baked good or snack to give away to our visitors. We want people to come with kids, browse, and chat. Food is always appreciated!

6. Shop for napkins, paper plates, and cups for our food. You can get reimbursed.

7. Create a display board of our adult or youth programs at EHSLI. Give people something interesting to look at while the kids browse.

8. Come at 9 to help set up. Weather permitting, we'll set up on the patio or front lawn. We'll need several tables brought out for the books and snacks. We'll also need help bringing up the books from the classroom.

9. Meet & Greet! A big turnout shows we are a vibrant community. Talk to our visitors, hand out brochures. You might be on t.v! Verizon Fios Long Island will cover the event (thanks, Lyn!)

10. Organize a few outdoor games for the kids. Three-legged race? Croquet? Sack races? Badminton? Music under the trees?

11. Help break it all down. The remaining books need to be boxed and loaded into a car. Tables and chairs need to be returned inside.

12. Deliver the books. Assist Alyssa with getting the books to the homeless shelter in Hempstead or deliver the books to Reading Reflections in Woodbury on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

I firmly believe that these community events move us from obscurity to distinction. In short, the book drive gives our Kids In Deed students a social action project as they assist children without access to books, both locally and around the world. But is is also an opportunity for us to start to change the perception from "that mysterious place on Old Country Road" to "a community of caring hearts and thoughtful minds, working to create a better world." See you there!

—Alison Pratt



### A Letter from Stacy Leon

Dear wonderful, beloved, friends of Joe & Stacy Leon,

Joe passed away peacefully on Friday, April 4th at 3:24 PM after a very brief hospital stay. He had been battling renal disease for the past 14 years.

It is my wish to honor him with an Open House Celebration of his life at our home on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to eat, drink, sing, and remember his life with me. I hope to see, and talk to you all then, as we share our memories of Joe.

Our address and telephone numbers is:  
121-53 233<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
Laurelton, New York, 11422  
718-723-9449

My most sincere thanks for your friendship, kind wishes, and lovely thoughts.

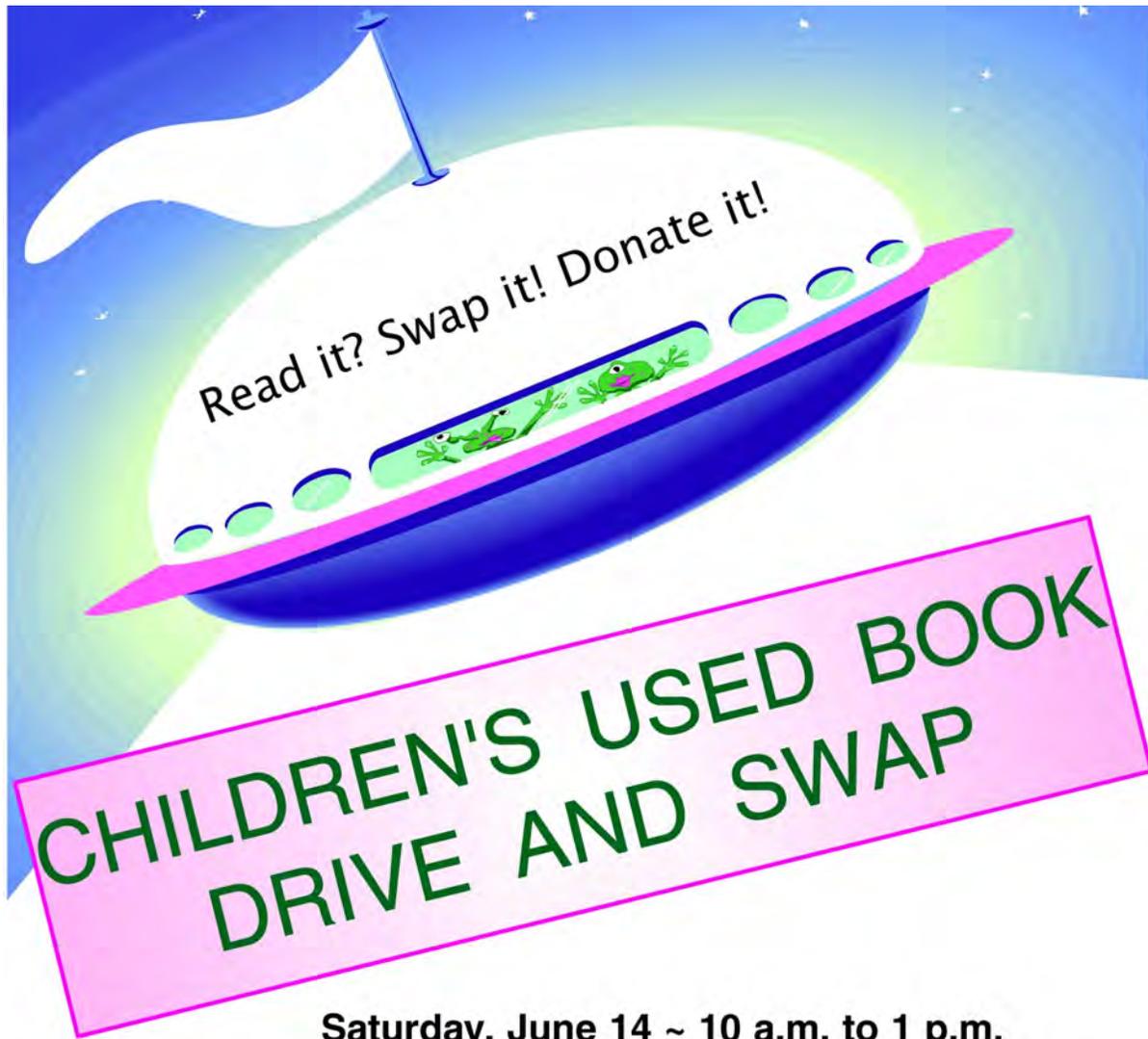
All my love,

Stacy Leon

P.S. If you wish to make a donation to honor Joe's memory:

SaveKitty Foundation  
P.O. Box 260096  
Bellerose, NY 11426

Native American Indian Scholarship Fund  
c/o Brian Sales  
333 Lagoon Drive So.  
Copiague, NY 11726



**Saturday, June 14 ~ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island**  
38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530

Bring your used books... browse and take one!

Free refreshments while you look!

All remaining books will be donated to local charities.

Books for children and teens only, please!



Create a Caring World

[www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org)

## 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](mailto: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](http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.12559)

**Our Times Coffee House:** On Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Our Times Coffeehouse will be hosting [Canvas Moon Band](#). Mark Whal returns after being very well received at the Our Times Coffeehouse for his performance at the Pete Seeger Tribute last February. This time, Mark is bringing his band JoAnne Sherwood and Denise Knight. Together they perform as the "Canvas Moon Band"; Their music is known for its compelling lyrics, tight harmonies and unique instrumentation. Mark's songs are a musical voyage filled with colorful lyrics and metaphors. His finger picking style flows so smoothly it carries you along with his words on a musical journey. JoAnne's words speak from the heart with lyrics that resonate, as if being your own. Denise rounds out the trio's sound with her vocals and the warm smooth sound of her flute. Don't miss their first time on all together on Long Island.



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](http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org).

**Volunteers Needed For Sunday Mornings:** EHSLI needs a group of members to set-up the coffee hour and clear up after. Please volunteer to be part of that group by contacting: Deborah Strube 516-938-6406, Joan Beder 516-997-8326 or Pat Spencer 516-433-5109

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class:** Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes at the EHSLI on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. If interested, contact Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto:matsbs@yahoo.com) to be put on her class confirmation email list.

**Diogenese 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](mailto:AnHonestManEHS@gmail.com), or talk with Liam Stephens or David Sprintzen. All are welcome

**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](mailto: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](http://www.twitter.com/ehsli)

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

K.I.D. on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed](http://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](http://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com)

Photos: [picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical](http://picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical)

## Goings on at and Announcements, Continued

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

**Patio Furniture Donations Needed:** We are looking for donations of yard furniture. Our current deteriorated benches will be removed for safety. Please contact Heidi Mann 516-250-0898 [sunnydayheidi@gmail.com](mailto:sunnydayheidi@gmail.com) (text a photo or email one) and see if it is suitable for our patio and garden and arrange delivery. Thank-you!

**Small Group Connection:** Small Group Connection will be meeting every other Thursday, beginning June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the board room. For further information call Maribel Torres at 516-859-2185 or email her at [maribel@furtherfitness.com](mailto:maribel@furtherfitness.com).

**Congratulations Arthur!** Congratulations to Arthur Dobrin on receiving the Muriel Neufeld Ethical Humanist Award.



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## June Sunday Meeting Schedule

**June 1:** Recognition Day

**June 8:** Calvin Dame

**June 15:** Heidi Mann and Sharon Stanley Reporting on the A.E.U. Annual Meeting

**June 22:** Transition Sunday & Founder's Day, Tawaun Weber, Assistant Director, Vision Long Island, *Recovery post-Sandy and community revitalization projects across our region.*  
(More information on page [5](#))

**June 29:** TBA



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

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## 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](mailto:Sylvia_silberger@yahoo.com). Submissions due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Founders Day 2014



The Ethical Humanist Society  
of Long Island  
would like to invite you  
to join us as we honor

*Eric Alexander, Tara Klein  
and Derek Smith*

Sunday, June 22nd, 2014  
1 - 4pm  
Ethical Humanist Society  
38 Old Country Road  
Garden City, NY 11530

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*Founders' Day Luncheon*



*Donation \$50 Adults, \$15 children  
Please reserve early as space is limited  
RSVP by May 10th  
office@ehsli.org*

## May Board Meeting Minutes

### ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND MINUTES OF THE MAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 BOARD MEETING

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

**ABSENT:** Delorie Cohan, Jim LoPresti, Heidi Mann, Wayne Outten, Deb Strube

**GUEST:** Calvin Dame, Ken Feifer

1. **Ken Feifer's Report:** Ken spoke to two financial advisers as to what we might do with the money we'd make if we chose to sell the land we own adjacent to the west of our building. Three options are possible: one would be to set aside the proceeds of the land sale for a long period of time and let the money grow. A second would be to invest most of the money to gain income. A final possibility would be to do a combination of both of the previous options. In addition, we could use some of the money for capital improvements; we already have a list of things we need to do in our building, as well as other projects that require money.

The Board voted to recommend to the membership that we put up for sale the parcel of land west of our building. The Board also voted to accept using a maximum of 20% of the money we get for selling our land for Society projects.

#### 2. **President's Report:**

- **Minute Approval:** The Board approved of the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, minutes.
- **Membership Meeting:** We will have a General Membership meeting on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 AM.
- **New Board Members:** In June, three members of our Society will become Board members: Richard Rapp, Mary Sherman, and Beverly Freestone.
- **Fundraising Dinner:** As to the fund-raising dinner for Wayne Outten and the Neufeld brothers, we made a profit of \$6,638.43. The fund-raising committee met soon after the dinner and discussed how we could improve fund-raising dinners in the future; we learned a lot from this first dinner, and so we should be able to do better in the future.
- **Alyssa's Contract:** We need to set up terms for renewing Alyssa's contract.
- **Kitchen Clean Up:** Armando and Amelia are no longer going to be doing work in the kitchen and cleaning up before our meetings and events. We hired Randy of the Warring Eagles to clean up the building prior to Sunday meetings for a \$150 fee per week.
- **New Members:** We have two new members who recently joined: Kelly Tanza and Peter Espy.

3. **Calvin's Report:** A group has formed to hold small-group ministry meetings. They have already had several meetings and call themselves "The Ethical Connection." They meet every three weeks after our Sunday meeting with four to five people in attendance. Calvin is setting up a summer schedule; there are still spaces open for speakers. Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, is Calvin's last day with the Society.

4. **Financial Report:** Mary reported that we are continuing to do better financially.

5. **Alison's Report:** As to the movie series, Alison said that we got an average of 30 people at each of the movies. Two-thirds were visitors and one-third were our members. We made almost \$1,200 profit on the series. Members expressed their thanks to Alison for her hard work in developing and running the series. In addition, Alison suggested we do a book collection of children's books. Parents of the KIDS program were in favor of the idea, and so on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a book drive from 10 AM to 1 PM.

6. **Kitchen Workers Needed:** Because Armando and Amelia are no longer working for us, we need several people to set up coffee service before the meeting and clean up afterwards. We used to pay them a \$25 fee for their services.

7. **Linda Napoli's Report:** Linda, Heidi Mann and Sharon Stanley recently went to the annual AEU Conference. Linda was elected to the AEU Board. On Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the three will present a summary of what they learned at that conference.

8. **Founder's Day:** Sue Feifer is coordinating Founder's Day which, this year, will honor Eric Alexander, Tara Klein and Derek Smith. We need a big turnout. We will have babysitters on that day. Sue is reaching out to parents of former YES group members.

9. **Pat's Report on Rentals:** The Volunteers of America has signed for an office rental upstairs. The Unity Church of Hempstead will probably rent the Boardroom on Sundays from 10 AM to 2 PM for a year. They also want to rent a space for Wednesday nights.

10. **David Spritzen's Report:** David attended a meeting of a group in Manhattan which, he found, was not worth attending in the future. It is merely just a clearinghouse for Humanist groups in New York City, and we have nothing to gain by attending their meetings.

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

## Opt-Out of Paper Newsletter Mailings

To save resources and postage costs, we encourage you to email Sylvia at [matsbs@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:Ethicalsociety@optonline.net)

<http://www.ehsl.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