President’s Message
from Linda Napoli

Our Society’s journey through the year is continuing, with the highlight this month being a visit from Bart Worden, the Executive Director of the American Ethical Union. Bart’s addresses are always interesting and informative.

We will begin Summer Sundays at the end of June. All the talks will be given by Society members. This is a great way to learn about the talents and interests of the people in our community. See the schedule included in this newsletter for the specifics. I hope to see you all there.

Special programs are being planned for the Fall based on the membership surveys and a membership growth meeting will be held some time this summer. Any ideas or suggestions are most welcome.

The Energy Audit report from NYSERDA has arrived and will be reviewed by the Board at their June meeting. We will share our conclusions some time after that.

A new movie screen has finally been purchased and installed as the first step in our AV upgrade. Thanks to our House team!

Enjoy the beautiful weather and bring your friends when you come on Sundays. It’s always great to meet new people.

"Humanism is a philosophy of joyous service for the greater good of all humanity, of application of new ideas of scientific progress for the benefit of all."

-- Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winning scientist
Our Youth Programs

Recognition Day

Our Recognition Day was held on June 5, a day for the Society to acknowledge our youth, graduating seniors, and members of the Society who have given their best to the Society this year. A special treat were the performances of duet Patricia Shih and Steven Fricker, winners of our 2016 Social Justice Leadership Award, with Kelly Tanza joining in on some songs.

The children presented some of their lessons for the year, including lessons from their Humanist Tree of Life, shown below under the watchful eye of Felix Adler.
Congratulations to Graduating Seniors
Gabriel Stanley and Reid Hetzel

Gabe Stanley (right), son of Christopher and Sharon Stanley, and Reid Hetzel, son of Steve Hetzel and Alison Pratt, are our graduating seniors for 2016. Gabe literally grew up in our Society, starting with his baby naming and being an active member of the Society for life. Reid joined the Children’s Ethics Program at age 9 and later became president of our YES group as well as holding officer positions in the national YES movement. Gabriel will be attending SUNY Stony Brook to major in computer science. Reid will be attending SUNY Buffalo to major in architecture. We hope that both boys take with them humanist values and fond memories of their years at EHSLI. Good luck!

Through the years…. Voter Registration drive in 2007 (with Eric Morgenstern); Teen Art, Music, and Poetry Festival, 2008; Darwin Day, 2009; heading to New Orleans to rebuild Katrina houses with our national YES members, 2014.
Social Action

Our Humanist Sunday School: From Cupcakes to Cattle

Our Humanist Sunday School held a bake sale this year and donated the proceeds of $50 to Heifer International for the purchase of a farm animal for another country. According to their website, “Heifer International’s mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.” This is just one more way that our kids make a difference across the globe.
Ethical Friends of Children

Ethical Friends of Children is partnering with St. Vincent de Paul Society. Have you noticed the clothing bin at the east end of the parking lot? It belongs to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They help us out if we don't have what a client may need. For example, a displaced mother and child had their new apartment furnished by SVP. In return, we let SVP keep a bin on our property which they service twice a week. We only collect clothing for children, so if a donor tries to donate adult clothing, we send them to the bin.

Our Affiliated Groups

The AHA (American Humanist Association)
Voter Registration Drive

Our AHA chapter is sponsoring a voter registration drive on Sunday, Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. till an end time TBD. We will be at the Stop and Shop at 132 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead. Due to this contentious election year, it has become essential to register as many people as possible. This is a nonpartisan event. We are not there to provide counseling on whom to vote for or debate politics. We are simply providing a essential, community service.

Registrars may come early or late. Please let Sharon know what time you want to come. We want to give people breaks and make sure there are at least two people there at all times. All children and adults are invited to participate. Please contact Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com for more information. Chapter meetings for AHA Long Island are now suspended for the season… meet us again in September!
What Happened at the Reason Rally?

by Sharon Stanley

On Thursday, June 2, Joyce Wildermuth and I headed to Washington DC for the Reason Rally. The purpose of the Reason Rally was to gather as many of the humanist, atheist, free thinking groups and unaffiliated folks. The number of “unaffiliated” persons, or “nones” has rapidly grown to 20% of the population. These are people who are either atheist, humanist or people not participating in or affiliated with any organized religion. The message this rally wanted sent to the politicians of America is that there are a huge number of people who are “nones;” that we are an important and viable voting block that should no longer be ignored. Past politics have shown that politicians do not want to speak of free thought and many consider it a very bad reflection on their campaign.

When we arrived at our hotel, we were delighted to see the “Amazing James Randi” waiting for a taxi. He was so sweet. James Randi, was a magician and psychic, who gave it up because he was upset about scamming people. Psychics take advantage of people who have recently lost loved ones, or who are down on their luck. He could no longer participate in such unethical behavior. Instead, he became a “debunker.” He has offered $1,000,000 to anyone who can show him a paranormal or supernatural incident. Many people have tried. So far, no one has won the money. His foundation visits all around the world, researching “miracles” and finding natural phenomena for each one.

Friday, June 3 Advocacy Day with the Secular Coalition of America

One of the most meaningful things I did this weekend was lobby with the Secular Coalition of America. It was a very long, but significant day. At 8:00 a.m., we were asked to meet at a nearby hotel, the Washington Court Hotel. There we met with the group who was lobbying today. It was wonderful to meet my friends there; Bart Worden, Executive Director of the American Ethical Union, Mark Gouch and Rachel Tobias from LI Atheists and our
AHA group. We were meeting many leaders of the various group that fall under the umbrella of the Secular Coalition of America. (For a listing of all the groups involved with the Secular Coalition of America, go to www.secular.org. You will be surprised how many of these groups you are already affiliated with!)

Here I am with Bart Worden, the executive director of the American Ethical Union, and a delegate from South Carolina.

The Secular Coalition lobbies for many human rights issues, including LGBTQ rights, women’s equality, women’s health issues, “right to die with dignity,” keeping public schools “public,” and issues surrounding the separation of church and state, to name a few. Our mission was to speak about the growing numbers of “none;” to impress upon politicians that we are a viable and educated voting block that should not be ignored. Our second task was to speak on behalf of the importance for public school to offer students a scientific, true and anatomically correct sex education curriculum, mandated and by federal law, (taking children’s age and developmental ability into account) without religious or fictional stories included. As a result of improper and inappropriate information being dispensed to the students, the teen pregnancy rate is up, incidences of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases were rising and women were dying as a result of poor medical advice and illegal abortions.

We enjoyed coffee and donuts while we learned more about the Secular Coalition and what our lobbying task would be. Our focus was to impress upon politicians, in a friendly and well-informed manner. After an insightful and vigorous training, we were divided by home towns and cities, to see our own representatives. Some people had multiple congress people to go see. My mission was to speak to Kathleen Rice.

It was disappointing to find out that none of the representatives were in their offices. Most were on vacation. Some decided to take a vacation when the secular events were finalized. However, we were able to speak to their interns and office assistants, who assured us that our messages would be delivered, that each representatives were interested in the issues we presented. Each office took detailed notes and accepted presentations of our folders which discussed the issues in more depth.

Mark, Rachel, myself and a few other people from Long Island decided to stay together, even though our representatives were different. It was fun to stay together, and even more fun to “tag
team” the messages. Rachel had been to lobby day on Thursday, as well as Friday. She had an understanding of the issues that Mark and I appreciated. Often, Mark and/or I would interject our thoughts about the importance of the issues. The three of us made a great, lobbying team. Longworth was the wing of the capitol where our representatives’ offices were. It was a huge wing and it was exhausting exploring the long corridors.

It was fun to see Amanda K. Metskas. Executive Director of Camp Quest, whom I had several years back at an AEU Religious Education Conference.

**Saturday, June 4**

The Reason Rally was a breathtaking, enormous festival of secular groups and secular speakers. Joyce Wildermuth grabbed seats for us in the front row of the VIP section. There was no better seat in the whole place. Look at our view in front of us, behind the stag: The Lincoln Memorial. Look at our view behind us; the Washington Memorial and the reflecting pool.

It was wonderful to see Roy Speckhardt and Maggie Ardiente again! They were the people who inspired us to start our AHA affiliate group at EHS, when we met them at the AEU Delegate Assembly in 2013.

Most of the leading humanists and atheists of the movement were here. It was exciting to meet some for the first time and say hello to friends.

This is me with Hemant Mehta, the man who write the informational and thoughtful “Friendly Atheist” blog.

For a full list of the speakers, speeches and celebrities, go to [www.reasonrally.org](http://www.reasonrally.org).

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At left, the “Amazing” James Randi. He spoke about the importance of rational thinking and how he discourages “magical thinking” through his important work.

At right is Penn Jilette, of the comedy team, Penn and Teller.

At left, Dr. Anne Klaeysen, Ethical Culture Leader, among other things!

At right, here I am with some of our friends from the LI Atheist group, the people who co-sponsored our Darwin Day event this past year.

It was so great to see Marivic and Jordi Lotito, former members of EHSLI.

At right, John de Lancie, the actor who plays the nefarious God-like character in “Star Trek/Next Generation” came in character. He began his speech speaking of the power of a God and then slowly unpacked the God concept, to come to the conclusion that there is no proof that gods exist, so the belief in them is highly misguided.

David Silverman, the president of American Atheists, had a lot to say about us “humanists, secular Jews, ethnic Christians, etc.” and other groups that call themselves anything but atheist. He said that by trying to “soften” the word and make it more “palatable” to our friends and family is actually diluting the movement. He feels that “if you don’t believe in god, you are an atheist and we should say it loud and proud.” He led us through a few rallying cries of “I am an atheist!” When it was done, he said, “Now don’t you feel better?” I have to admit, I really was inspired by all the speakers, but he was especially eloquent.

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I couldn’t get photos of all the speakers and describing all the speeches would be too enormous to write about. It was incredibly hot and it was a very long day. A lot was spoken about answers to questions like climate deniers and “you cannot prove that there isn’t a God!” The big takeaway, as repeated over and over by many speakers, but especially Bill Nye, is this. “If you don’t know something, ask a scientist. They will tell you the truth.”

The most heartfelt sentiment was given by Maryam Namazie, who is an Iranian-born secularist and human rights activist, commentator and broadcaster. She said that “secularism and living a secular life provides more human rights than any other religion or world view.” And that is the greatest “reason” of all.

What’s Going On?

The AEU ASSEMBLY: July 14 - 17

The AEU Assembly will be held in St. Louis this year from July 14-17. The theme this year is “Let Justice Roll Down.” There are wonderful workshops and presentations planned as well as social events where one meet other Ethical Humanists and learn about what’s going on throughout the movement. As of now, Linda Napoli, Sharon Stanley, and Alison Pratt are going. Why not you?

POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND PLANNING MEETING

A get-together will be held at the home of David and Alice Sprintzen on Sunday, July 10th at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to take this opportunity to socialize and help plan for the fall season. If you would like to attend, there will be a sign up sheet in the back of the meeting room on Sundays, or you can tell David or Alice directly (call Phyllis for contact info at 516-741-7304). New members are especially welcome.
SPICE**

**Splendid Parties In Congenial Environments**

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.

Frank Sinatra:  Duets, Trios, and a Quartet

Frank Sinatra is great singing solo, as good, or better, singing with others. In this SPICE, we’ll see videos of him singing duets with such singers as Ella Fitzgerald and Ethel Merman; trios with Judy Garland and Dean Martin, and a quartet with Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Johnny Carson. Coffee and dessert will be served.

DATE: Saturday, June 18, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
HOSTS: Mel and Barbara Haber, 718-279-3143
LOCATION: Ethical Humanist Society
FEE $16
PARTICIPANTS No limit

This-n-That

ANGEL DONOR NEEDED

The Society needs a new refrigerator. The one we have is old and is starting to act up. It is an essential part of our kitchen especially for our many rentals. If you would like to purchase a new one, contact the office.

Ever miss a Sunday morning meeting?

We encourage everyone to come every week! But if you can’t make it, you can at least catch up on our great speakers— or hear them for a second time. Every talk is recorded… catch via the link on our website. Go to http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/
EHSLI 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.ehsli.org.

Contacts
38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304 • www.ehsli.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 a 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. For questions or information email Sharon Stanley at 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@ehsli.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 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

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.

Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

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

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