



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island



Vol. 63, No. 07 -- March 2013

From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHSLI

March always seems like an in-between month to me. You can begin to feel the lengthening of the days, the deepest cold of winter is past. But, it is not really spring and the possibility of a late winter storm still hangs in air. Don't put your shovels away yet.

Luckily for us, we have a great March Sunday schedule ahead: The YES group on the 3rd, always a great program! I will be speaking on New Beginnings the 10th, Keith Foley will be our musician that day. On the 17th, long time member Ken Swartzman will speak on A Different Kind of Education. The 24th we will have Bart Worden, Ethical Leader and the new AEU Executive Director; on the 31st is David Harmon, always a pleasure!

Over the years there have been many concerns that have connected us at EHSLI together, concerns for justice, for peace, for fairness, for freedom, the concern to

Events with Calvin

Ethical Café
March 13: *The Mystery of Dreaming*
Join us for a lively discussion!

Ethical Cafés start at 6:30 PM

Community Singing
March 20: On For those who would like to help plan our Sunday Meeting Community Singing, or who would just like to do some singing!

Community Singing starts at 6:30 PM

help families in need through the Ethical Friends of Children or our support for the INN. And, the religious and philosophical perspective that we share connects us to other religious, Ethical and humanist groups through shared values, belief and aspirations, here and around the world.

But, you know, it is not actually our belief or our concerns it is our shared Sunday morning experience that makes us a community: the Colloquy, our Sunday Meeting, the YES group and the KIDS program! The strength and the resilience of our Society is sustained not by our ideas, but by our connections. The speakers, the discussion, the music, the opportunity to reflect, the coffee hour: these are at the heart of our community!

Hope to see you soon.

Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director

IN THIS ISSUE

- [From The Religious Director](#) 1
- [Events with Calvin](#) 1
- [Darwin Day](#) 2
- [KIDs Update](#) 3
- [Goings on at EHSLI](#) 4
- [Mar/Apr. Meeting Schedule](#) 5
- [Memory Corner](#) 5
- [YES Update](#) 6
- [From the Editor](#) 6
- [Feb. Board Meeting Minutes](#) 7

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

Sad News

It is with great sadness I inform you of the death of my mother, Henrietta Nessin on December 26th, 2012. She was 97. She and my father, Jack, were active members of the Society for decades starting in the 1950's, through the leadership of Sheldon Ackley and Arthur Dobrin. Throughout her life she continued to support progressive and humanist causes. She instilled these values in her children and grandchildren. After moving to New Jersey at age 83, she remained active and continued to travel, play bridge and volunteer until the last year of her life. She is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, two grandsons, and one great granddaughter.

Anita Nessin

Darwin Day!



Our Darwin Day "Celebration of Science" was held on February 10th, in conjunction with Charles Darwin's 204th birthday. I'd like to give a big THANK YOU to Kori Schroeder (Jordan's mom) for all she did in planning, creating, and teaching the event.

We started with a trip on the Beagle with Darwin to the Galapagos Islands (courtesy of the internet game on Brain Pop.) We learned about the finches there with their varied beaks perfectly suited for the available food, and came to understand that the bird traits evolved over thousands of years because those who were best able to eat the food survived to pass along their adaptive traits. We then went to the large classroom that was decorated for the event. Kori taught the kids more about the Islands and Darwin's discoveries there that led to his theory of natural selection. We learned what the word "random" means, for without random changes in genetics, natural selection could not have occurred. Spin Art was a fun way to explore random patterns, as it's impossible to predict what the art will look like given all the combination of motion and color. The kids played "Survival of the Fittest"-- discovering whether knives,

forks, spoons, or craft sticks were the most efficient tools in picking up beans from the floor.

Our Darwin Day at the Ethical Humanist Society event was started by Sharon Stanley in 2009. Other Darwin Day events across the country are science celebrations for adults. It was Sharon's vision that we should hold a day for children.

Why should we, as Ethical Humanists, care about promoting science and celebrating Darwin? There are still some places in the country that argue that a creationist interpretation of the universe, which is a religious interpretation, should be taught in science classrooms. As humanists, we uphold scientific discovery as the route for explaining our universe without mythology. As Ethical Humanists, we are concerned about creating a better world for all humankind, with responsible stewardship of the earth as one of responsibilities. The ability to engage in critical thinking – a scientific mind– is central to both endeavors.



Alison Pratt



Kori teaches us about the Galapagos Islands and Darwin's discoveries.



Making spin art



Making spin art



Palm print turtles



Spin art is a good example of a random process-- we can't predict the pattern, and new colors emerge with the combination of motion and three basic colors. Without random changes in genetics, evolution could not have occurred.



Which trait would survive... spoon, knife, fork, or craft stick?

KIDS Update

The Kids In Deed class had a great month of science (see Darwin Day article), the arts, lessons about ethics, and community service.

On January 20th, we began with a lesson on the role of bystanders in bullying situations. Bystanders play an important part in stopping bullies. By assisting the victim by assertively confronting the bully, bystanders can reduce incidents by about half. We talked about the courage, risk, and obligation required to help others who are being bullied.

If you saw kids jumping ropes at the coffee hour, it's because we were "jumping for justice" as a fundraiser for The Innocence Project whose founder, Peter Neufeld (son of member Muriel Neufeld) graduated from our Children's Ethics Program 50 years ago. We raised \$187. Thanks to everyone who donated.

On January 27th our children's message was, "People have experiences in art museums today that they used to have in church," by Bill Viola. On that note, we took a field trip to the Nassau County Museum of Art to view an exhibit of American Artists. In viewing the art, we did experience some awe, wonder and even mystery at the beauty of the paintings.

February 3rd let us focus on veterans. When might war be an appropriate action for a country to take, and what should leaders always do before going to war? What sacrifices do soldiers make, and how should we think about the people who have served in the armed forces? We then made small valentine posters that were sent to Garden City Councilman Ed Ambrosino for his Valentines for Veterans program. Each child who made valentines will receive a certificate of appreciation from the Councilman.

I am so pleased to announce that Dorcas Kiptoo has volunteered to teach a class for our youngest KID members and visitors, preschool through grade 1. Dorcas is an experienced teacher who brings much excitement and enthusiasm to the KID class. As for the older children, the teaching model is changing somewhat. We are moving to a participating parent model, continuing our social action projects and looking for adult guest volunteers. Do you have a lesson you'd like to share with our children? Please let us know-- our kids always benefit from learning from our adult members.

Alison Pratt,
KIDs Director



Go Jordan!



What are these guys crying about? "Sentimental Ballad" by Grant Wood, of homesick sailors, based on a John Ford movie, based on a Eugene O'Neill play, 1940.



Didi looks at a butterfly catcher in days of old.



Pauline and a wall of color



Valentines for Veterans posters sent to Councilman Ed Ambrosino for his program for veterans.



Becky drawn in by color and form.



Kris sees the painting appear to move, depending on where she stands.

Goings on at and Announcements from EHS LI

SPICE Event — **Tap Dancing for People with Two Left Feet:** This **SPICE** event promises to be a blast (maybe even from your past). Renowned (and super fun) tap teacher, Louise Rastu, of "The Red Hot Mamas" fame, will teach a beginners tap class. You don't have to have ever tapped before to enjoy this class. No pressure for perfection - just for the fun of it. There will be some tap shoes available in limited sizes but any soft shoes will do (no sneakers for they will stick to the floor). Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to have a tappin' good time. Water and healthy snacks will be available to keep energy high. Appropriate for men & women of all ages. For questions please contact Alice Sprintzen 516-576-9060

DATE: Friday Morning, April 19th.

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: Jan Martin Dance, 27 Adams Ct., Plainview (Exact directions will be furnished)

PHONE: 516 576 9060

LIMIT: 20 people

DONATION:\$18

eBay SPICE Fundraiser — The **SPICE** committee and Bill Larsen are organizing an EHS LI eBay account as a fundraiser for the EHS LI. Email Bill Larsen at EHSFundraising@gmail.com with descriptions and pictures (if possible) if you have something you think might be worth donating. See the insert in this newsletter for more detail. Our Ebay seller ID is EHS LI fundraising. Visit our sales at http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.12559

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, March 15th, [Our Times Coffeehouse](http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/) invites you to spend an evening with [ilyAIMY](http://www.ilyaimy.com/). ilyAIMY (i love you And I Miss You) is a percussive acoustic rock animal hailing from Baltimore, MD. Mixing genres from rock to folk to soul to bluegrass; flavours as varied as jazz and hip hop curl through what is undoubtedly one of the most exciting sounds in today's folk (ish) music scene. Recently hailed as an audience-voted "Most-Wanted Artist" at Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, ilyAIMY combines award-winning songwriting, tight male/female harmonies, signature intricate slap-style guitar work, ukelele, djembe. They are fearless writers and performers. Performance starts at 8:00 PM, doors open at 7:15 PM. Come early and enjoy refreshments before the show. Donations: Adults \$15, Seniors (65 & Up) & Students (w/school I.D.) \$12, Children (under 12) \$6 (very young children are free). For more information on Our Times Coffee House visit <http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/> and for more information on ilyAIMY visit <http://www.ilyaimy.com/>.



Exercise Classes for Seniors: Instructor Sue Salko will resume her popular Senior Exercise classes on Mondays and Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM. Classes are geared to the needs of the participants while addressing flexibility, balance, strength and endurance. Bring light weights, stretch bands (available from instructor), wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Suggested contribution: \$5 per class. More information from Sue at Sue.Salko@yahoo.com. More information on Sue at www.SueSalko.com.

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, to consider for next season, please send suggestions to the office to be forwarded to committee members.

Weekly Food Drive: Members of the EHS LI are collecting food items for INN (**Interfaith Nutrition Network**). Please leave non-perishable food items in the basket in the lobby.

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 EHS LI Online!

EHS LI Website: <http://www.ehsli.org>

EHS LI on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ehsli

EHS LI on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LIEthical

K.I.D. on Twitter: www.twitter.com/KidsInDeed

EHS LI 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 EHS LI meet up member.

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

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

(Continued on [Page 5](#))

Goings On (continued)

(Continued from [Page 4](#))

Free Dahn Yoga Classes: Jean Santoro will teach a Dahn yoga class on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at the EHSLI during spring 2013 while Sylvia is on Sabbatical. Dahn yoga is a very different form of yoga than the vinyasa style Sylvia teaches. I encourage you to try it out and see if you find this style is a good fit for you. Contact Jean at santoro404@aol.com with questions and to confirm the class each week.

FES Conference: Save the date! The 10th Annual FES Conference for young Ethical Humanists ages 18-28, taking place May 24-27, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. For registration and more info contact Tara - YES@ehsli.org.

Memory Corner

Carol Pincus has suggested a column called "Memory Corner" to reminisce about the wonderful personalities who've graced the halls of EHSLI and are gone. This would offer an opportunity for new members to understand their legacy and what the EHSLI has meant to so many people. If you are interested in writing a column for Memory Corner, please email it to me by the 15th of the preceding month. Submissions should be 400 words or less. Content may be subject to editorial modification and publication cannot be guaranteed due to space limitations.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Silberger, Editor
matsbs@yahoo.com

March & April Sunday Meeting Schedule

March 3: YES! YES (or no) to Gun Control

March 10: Calvin Dame, New Beginnings

March 17: Ken Schwartzman, A Different Kind of Education

March 24: Dr. Bart Worden, Leader and newly appointed American Ethical Union Executive Director

March 31: David Harmon

April 7: Calvin Dame, Religious Director

April 14: Improv -- If I could, I would: Looking at the past, present and future



April 21: Spring Festival

April 28: H. Jim Quigley, Jr., Ph.D, Lecturer and Director, Environmental Design, Policy and Planning Sustainability Studies Program, Stony Brook University, **Climate for Change: Obama, Post-Sandy America and Global 'Weirding'**

Newcomers' Orientations

March 3 (starting): On Sunday, March 3rd, Calvin will begin a four session Newcomers Orientation to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. We Ethical Culture/Ethical Humanist history, the philosophers and thinkers who shaped our movement, the ins and outs of our particular congregation and take a look at what being an Ethical Humanist might mean in practice. This is a great opportunity for newcomers, for those who have recently become members, and for those who might like a bit of review. Let me or Phyllis know if you would like to sign up for the sessions.

Orientations start at 1:00 PM

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

YES Update

The YES group has been very busy planning for our upcoming Sunday Meeting on March 3rd and fundraising for our New Orleans trip over Spring Break. Here's some more info on what we've been up to:

Our annual Sunday Meeting will take place on March 3rd. This year's topic is very timely, focusing on youth and gun violence. As always, you can look forward to a completely youth-led presentation that features cutting-edge technology and mature, thoughtful remarks by our Society's teen group.

We are going back to New Orleans over Spring Break! After a serious discussion about whether our efforts would be better spent cleaning up at home after Sandy, we decided it would still be worthwhile to make this trip. This will be our third year going down to volunteer with the St. Bernard Project on rebuilding homes that were destroyed back in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina. Long Island will have five teens, and we will be joined by teens

from the Brooklyn and Washington Ethical Societies. We will volunteer for a week, and in the evenings enjoy tours of different neighborhoods plus a bit of Cajun culture!

The teens are fundraising to help cover the cost of the New Orleans trip. We need to pay for our airfare, lodging at a volunteer camp, meals, and transportation for the week, and the costs add up. If members are able to help us out, you can drop off a check or cash to Phyllis (made out to Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island). Be sure to leave us your name and contact info. Every little bit helps—as little as \$10 will make a world of difference for us!

As always, for any questions about the YES group you can reach out to us at YES@ehsli.org.

Sincerely,
Derek and Tara



The teen volunteers in New Orleans last year

Note from the Editor

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please send suggestions for additions to future EHSLI newsletters and comments to

Sylvia Silberger
96 Vermont Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550
matsbs@yahoo.com



*Sylvia Silberger and Bill Larsen
Yosemite National Park*

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 Board Meeting Minutes

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6th, 2013 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Mel Haber, Don Morgenstern, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, David Sprintzen and Deborah Strube

ABSENT: Sue Feifer, Bill Larsen, Jim LoPresti Pat Spencer and Wayne Outten

GUESTS: Calvin Dame and Sharon Stanley

1. **Membership applications:** The Board approved membership for two people who recently applied for membership:

- i. Stacy Leon
- ii. Susan Belley

2. **Finances:** We are still struggling financially, but we are up to date with our bills. We should be getting \$38,000 from the estate of Louise Friedman later this month, say the lawyers involved. Pledges are running the same as last year.

3. **Liz's report:** We are holding steady on the number of people who visit our site. We are being followed by about 90 people on Twitter, and about 98 people are following us on meetup.com.

4. **Calvin's Report:** The Garden City Clergy group met at our Society during January. Several of our members deserve credit for providing food for those who attended. Calvin will hold a four-week New Members' Orientation, which will start on the first Sunday in March. Later this year, on Saturday, September 21st, there will be a whole-day secular parenting meeting here. Finally, the Board agreed to exchange links with longisland.com.

5. **David's report:** In connection with the Coffee House, some repairs are needed to the lights and electrical outlets at the side of the auditorium. Phyllis will call an electrician to do the repairs. Tara wrote an email to the Board asking that we cover expenses for five teens and her to go down to New Orleans again to help with rebuilding. The Board agreed to pay \$1,000 in expenses using money

from the Weill Fund. As to platform matters, in the future we'll ask presiders to make sure speakers don't allow questions and answers during the platform. Instead, questions and answers will take place after the platform. Liz suggested, and we agreed, that we make up a checklist for the presider to help ensure that the platform is conducted according the rules already set up.

6. **Joan's report:** David Harmon and Linda Napoli will be this year's recipients of the Muriel Neufeld award. David Harmon will be honored on Sunday, February 17th.

7. **Sharon's report:** The American Humanist Association sent Sharon an email requesting that two of their speakers be allowed to speak here this fall without any charge to us. We'll ask that they come for a Sunday platform. If they can't come on a Sunday, we'll have them come on a weekday evening

8. **Alison's report:** The Sunday School is going well. The kids raised \$170 for the Innocence Project. Dorcas Kiptoo volunteered to teach a class from now on for those under 8 years old. Jim LoPresti and Alison have put together a Spanish language brochure for Ethical Friends of Children. To possibly save money, Alison will check with Sue Feifer on the cost of printing brochures where Sue works. Moreover, Alison was contacted by WABC News, which is interested in doing a feature on a recent winner of a Weill grant. She asked that our Society be included in the TV spot because we funded the Weill grant winner. Finally, the Board agreed with Alison's request that we sponsor an event held by Malvern's Cross Roads Farm, where we can gain some publicity. The Board also agreed to use Weill funds for support of like-minded non-profits, but on a case-by-case basis. As to another matter, David will check to see if we can get a free exchange of ads between our Society and the LIPC.

**The meeting ended at 8:30 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 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>



*An Ethical Culture Society
Affiliated with
The American Ethical Union*

*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