This is my last column as Co-President of the Board. Having served six years in a row, I must, according to our by-laws, step off the Board. Pat, my Co-President has one more year and she has declined the Presidency. Linda Napoli, long-time member and someone who has served both on the Board and in various roles in the Society, will be at the helm. Jim Lo-Presti will serve as Vice President and Mary Sherman will continue as Treasurer.

These two years as Co-President have been a challenge. Pat and I had never worked together in this way but it has been seamless and we have been able to define our respective roles and work collaboratively without a hitch. The members of the Board have been wonderful in taking on more and more responsibility and helping us get through a difficult few years to bring the Society to a financially stable level. We have had growth in all areas including membership.

Linda will have a very supportive Board with some newer members and some of our longer-term folks who will keep the momentum going. The Society continues to face challenges – membership growth, growth in our religious education program, and eventual hiring of a Leader. With continued support by the membership through pledging and doing, we will be fine.

Thanks for the memories........

Joan Beder
Co-President
I have yet to travel the major cities in the world, but being a native New Yorker predisposes me to believe that New York City is the greatest city in the world.

Having visited Boston a number of times in the past ten years, it has become a new-found favorite. People appear friendlier and assist you with a smile. There is a calm over the city that does not resemble New York’s hustle and bustle. I enjoy the historic prominence and landmarks of Boston. Having longtime friends who live there cements my positive feelings about Beantown.

On our last visit, however, we by-passed all of that to attend some wonderful college campus tours. Chris, Gabe and I have been going to see different universities so Gabe can have an idea of different locations and college possibilities. We were seeing five colleges in three days; MIT, Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern and Wentworth College. We chose to stay in Amherst to have the option to use public transportation and for a chance to visit The Humanist Hub.

Our second day itinerary included going to Boston College, then Boston University by train. We began our journey underground on the Red Line, then planned to transfer to the Green Line. Most subway systems outside of New York City are much easier to manage; however, while maneuvering the “Charlie” system of Boston’s “T” (Transportation) choices, we had several experiences that were so extraordinary, we were astounded. We realized that the situations I will describe may be unlikely to occur in the New York City transit system.

As we approached the ticket machine used to make transactions, we had many choices; Trains, Subways and/or Buses. We were confused about what our transportation needs were. We planned to travel to the end of the “Green line” to visit Boston College, then return on the train to visit Boston University halfway back to Amherst. We asked a female custodian, who was sweeping nearby, for assistance. She went over to the officer in the ticket booth. The officer left the booth and arrived to help us operate the machine and acquire our tickets. He calculated our fare, assisted with our credit card and pushed buttons. Remarkable event #1! The personal touch is always the more meaningful.

We purchased three round trip tickets to Boston College. I forgot that we had to visit Boston University on the return train trip. I was unclear about extra costs we might incur from this oversight. I approached the female conductor, while the train was moving and asked her if I might ask a quick question on the next stop and she acquiesced. At the next stop I told her about our round trip ticket and asked what we should do, or if we owe extra money. She told me to come back to her at the next train stop. Remarkable event #2!

When I returned, the conductor had written a small note for us, to accompany our train ticket; “Please let this family ride back to Boston.” She signed the note with her last name and badge number! Remarkable event #3! She wrote us a note! How thoughtful, basic and personal! I was awed by her consideration and kindness. Here is a photo of the train ticket and our note. I covered up the conductor’s badge number to protect her identity.

When we got back on the train after visiting BU, we approached a final train official who looked at us suspiciously when he saw the note. He asked me why we got off the train, and in my flustered state, I replied, “I think we got lost!” He shrugged, swiped his pass and gave us entry to the train; our 4th extraordinary event!

I find that people are very accommodating in New York. I have often needed help maneuvering the subway system. New Yorkers will stop and give you directions or assistance. Yet most are in a hurry in the Big Apple; always on the way to somewhere that is time sensitive. In Boston, whenever we asked for assistance, people greeted us with a smile and made the time. The significant example is the personal touch of our note; it’s a wonderful souvenir.

I’d be interested to hear how other cities exhibit such thoughtful, humanist tendencies. I’d like to visit as many of them that I can.

Sharon Stanley, Co-Chair
EHSLI Chapter of AHA
PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE!

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER
THURSDAY MAY 14, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
PRESENTED BY
THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND

HONORING
ROBERT KEELER, JOURNALIST
MICHELLE SCHIMEL, ASSEMBLYWOMAN
DAVID SPRINTZEN, ACTIVIST

TO BE HELD AT
THE NASSAU COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
15TH & WEST STREETS, MINEOLA, NY 11501

awardsdinner@ehsli.org
516-741-7304

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road
Garden City, NY 11530
Create a Caring World
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is honoring three Long Islanders for their commitment to the betterment of the world—activist David Sprintzen, journalist Bob Keeler and legislator Michelle Schimel.

On Thursday, May 14th, the three will receive the Ethical Society’s Social Justice Leadership Award at a dinner to be held at the Nassau County Bar Association, 15th and West Streets, Mineola at 6:30 PM.

The Social Justice Leadership Award was created by the Ethical Society, located in Garden City, to honor 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. Their work reflects the values that Ethical Humanists cherish, including the fervent desire for peace among nations, the recognition of the dignity and worth of each individual, and the obligation of each of us to work for societal change.

About the honorees:

David Sprintzen is both an activist and scholar. He is the founder and served as the co-chair of the Long Island Progressive Coalition, an organization that for 36 years has advocated for affordable housing and health care, decent and well-paying jobs, ecologically sustainable economic development, social and racial justice, and a more effective democracy. Dr. Sprintzen is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Long Island University. He is the author of four books, including *Critique of Western Philosophy and Social Theory* and *Camus: A critical Examination*. Sprintzen is a long-time member of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Dr. Sprintzen lives in Syosset, NY.

Bob Keeler is a consultant to the Hagedorn Foundation, which focuses on issues such as children and families, immigration, voting rights and civic engagement. Previously he worked for *Newsday* for nearly 42 years, including more than 11 years on the editorial board, specializing in editorials about politics and government in Suffolk County, the environment, immigration, religion, and regional transportation. The stories that won him the Pulitzer Prize were a series focusing on the life of a Catholic parish, which appeared in 1995 and was later published as a book. In 2013, *Newsday*’s editorials on the recovery from Hurricane Sandy—including his work—were among the finalists for an editorial-writing Pulitzer. Mr. Keeler lives in Stony Brook, NY.

Michelle Schimel is now serving her fifth term in the New York State Assembly for the 16th Assembly District. A full time legislator, she is recognized in her community for her passion on the issues that affect New York, particularly the prevention of gun violence and protecting the environment. For two decades, she served on the Board of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV), the largest citizens’ group in New York State dedicated to reducing gun-related violence. The Environmental Advocates of New York has recognized Schimel as a leader on the environment. She has also been outspoken in her opposition to hydrofracking. Assemblywoman Schimel lives in Great Neck, NY.

For information about this event, you can visit [http://www.ehsli.org](http://www.ehsli.org) or call 516-741-7304.
Other EHSLI Activity/Committee Reports

**LI AHA Chapter**

The Long Island Chapter of the American Humanist Society had an exciting April 27th meeting. Of the nine attendees, two were new. (Welcome Alex and Kevin!) They had heard of our organization through MeetUp.com.

Members have determined that it is important for the LI AHA to be involved with the Progressive Network, the purpose of which is to provide a networking conduit for all progressive organizations in Long Island. The Progressive Network is holding their first annual conference on November 7th, 2015, 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM. Several members of the Long Island chapter of AHA will attend this conference. The aim of the conference is to provide a vehicle that all the progressive organizations on Long Island can use to improve their organization’s effectiveness. There will be sessions on issues and sessions on developing organizational skills. There will be one speaker in opening session that will give an overview of problems we face. The speaker will likely be national director of Jobs for Justice, Sarita Gupta. Then there will be content workshops: every workshop will have the themes of race, class and local action options. There will be an interactive luncheon and then training in the afternoon (organizing 101, coalition building, messaging and media strategy, engaging youth and organizing). The location will be announced later.

Several members have been writing letters to the editors of local publications as LI AHA members. These letters will be posted in the EHSLI newsletter if the intended periodical does not publish them. In this newsletter you will find letters from Sharon Stanley to a number of periodicals on the media’s failure to cover huge education rallies and her letter, another from Sharon to the AARP Magazine about their article on Prayer, and a third from Elissa Paulis in support of Oregon’s new voter registration law.

The meeting ended with stimulating conversation about issues that are important to members and what we might do to begin work on these issues.

There will be no regular May meeting due to Memorial Day. The next regular LI AHA meeting will be on Monday, June 29th at 8 PM in the Board Room of the EHSLI building. For questions on the LI AHA, email Sharon at LIHumanist@gmail.com.

Submitted by
Sylvia Silberger,
LI AHA Member

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**More Kudos to the Neufelds!**

Check out who was quoted in this April 27, 2015 NY Times editorial, *Junk Science at the FBI*:

LI AHA Member Letters to the Editor

Letter to Newsday

On March 16th, 2015, Oregon Governor Kate Brown took a pioneering step and signed a bill that streamlines the voter registration process by automatically registering all eligible individuals to vote when they use the services of a state agency. Under this legislation, every Oregon citizen who has had business with the Department of Motor Vehicles since 2013 but has not registered to vote will receive a ballot in the mail at least 20 days before the next statewide election. Rather than having to register to vote, citizens will essentially have to register not to vote. This measure is expected to add about 300,000 voters to the rolls.

At this time, New York State has an “opt-in” system. Under current law, citizens are given the option to be registered to vote by filling out a voter registration form when they apply for a public benefit, service or license through the Department of Transportation or other state agencies authorized to assist with registering voters. It is time that New York follow Oregon’s lead and switch to an opt-out process.

The goal of Democracy is to encourage the involvement of as many citizens as possible. Increasing voter participation should not be a partisan issue. Instead of being a Republican issue or a Democratic issue, it needs to become an American issue.

Elissa Paulis
Long Island AHA Member


On March 28th, 2015, thousands of teachers from all over New York State rallied in New York to protest the inequalities of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s expected annual budget. On the days following the rally, there was no coverage of this event in the journalistic media, except for local publications. I was appalled to see that Long Island’s most prominent newspapers, such as Newsday, printed no coverage of this event.

Governor Cuomo’s recent reluctance to create a fair budget for New York’s public schools denied our schools the monies they needed in order to educate our children and function at peak levels. This is illegal and immoral; withholding of resources delegated our students as mandated by state law. The fact that he was tying the teacher evaluation process to such funds makes this incident no less abusive.

Our students depend on us to care for their academic and physical needs. Only a fair, appropriate, public education will remain as the fastest path towards democracy and career-ready, competent Americans.

I have cancelled my subscriptions to Newsday and the New York Times. I look forward to the day when our newspapers once again, provide fair and newsworthy coverage.

Sharon Stanley,
Co-Chapter Leader, American Humanist Association of Long Island,
Retired New York City Public School Special Education Teacher,
Parent of a Public School Child
Letter to AARP

On Attention: Robert Love, AARP Magazine Editor-in-Chief:

My husband and I have been members of AARP for over 5 years. We have enjoyed the discounts we've received for insurance and Defensive Driving classes.

However we are, more importantly, humanist readers. Humanism is our world view that is defined by occurrences in the natural world that can be explained by science.

The February/March 2015 issue of AARP magazine included an article entitled, "The Paradox of Prayer: A Pilgrimage," by Bill Newcott, which explored prayer across cultures and generations. Its inclusion in the magazine prompted you, as the Editor-in-Chief to comment in the same issue, "I learned that prayer is a primal human instinct that crosses faiths and cultures, and extends even to those who don't believe in a personal God." You also claimed, "We older Americans are a prayerful people."

Mr. Love, I respectfully must point out that you are mistaken. Prayer is not a primal instinct. Reliance on prayer is taught. Without learning religion, people naturally depend on themselves and each other instead of a higher power. Additionally, people who don't believe in a god also know that nothing fails like prayer. To insist that prayer extends to those who don't believe in a personal God is incorrect. It is disrespectful, if not absurd, to claim nonbelievers find meaning in prayer.

We do not pray and we found your prayer promotion insulting to the growing nonreligious population and to reason. Nothing fails like prayer. The number of unanswered prayers could fill the universe.

To balance its coverage of religious issues, AARP magazine should consider reporting on the growing number of people who, when asked their religious preference, answer "none." These "nones" make up 21% of Americans according to a 2014 General Social Survey, which is on the rise from previous years. There are almost as many "nones" as there are Catholics (24%) in the United States, which is something the editor-in-chief at AARP Magazine should consider when selecting content. In order for AARP to avoid disenfranchising other freethinkers, humanists, atheists and others in the "nones" category, I request that AARP write a fair and equal article devoted to older members like me. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Sharon Stanley

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHSLI 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.
May/June Sunday Meeting Schedule

**May 17:** Art Mones, *Kid’s World: Inside Out.*


**May 24:** Jan Witkowski, *Science on the Harbor.*

**Description:** The southwest shore of Cold Spring Harbor has been the home to science since 1890 with the founding of the Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Science. A second institute, the Station for Experimental Evolution, arrived in 1904 and the institutes survived the next 60 years, through trials and tribulations, until they merged to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 1964. Jan will give a brief history of the Laboratory and a description of some of the more important discoveries.

**Bio:** Jan Witkowski is currently Executive Director of the Banbury Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and a Professor in the Watson School of Biological Sciences, the graduate school program at Cold Spring Harbor. Prior to joining Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory he worked at the Institute for Molecular Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston where he ran a laboratory performing DNA-based diagnosis of human genetic diseases.

As director of the Banbury Center, he is responsible for the topics and organization of some 20 meetings each year. These cover molecular and cell biology; genetics; biotechnology; and societal issues of modern biology.

His special interests are human molecular genetics, the interaction of science and society, and the history of modern experimental biology. He was a coauthor with Dr. James D. Watson, co-discoverer of the DNA double helix, of the second and third editions of "Recombinant DNA". Most recently he was co-editor with Alex Gann of a new edition of Watson's classic book, *The Double Helix.* He has edited and contributed to ten other books.

He used to be a keen rock climber, leading severe grade (equivalent to American 5.8/5.9). This activity has been curtailed by the absence of rock on Long Island. Instead he devotes his energy to looking after his 1974 Jensen Interceptor, a classic English Grand Tourer.

**May 31:** Judy Rosemarin, *Choices, Change and Courage, the Possibilities and Pitfalls.*

**Description:** Exploring how we chose or are forced to change, the courage to choose while understanding the benefits and dangers from each decision.

**June 7:** Recognition Day — a Sunday school presentation and a Coming of age project by Kristin Morganstern.

**June 14:** Jason Neal with Nancy Mar

**Bios:** In addition to his work at the Boys and Girls Club, Jason Neal is on Suffolk's Youth Board, is a former vet who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and has set up a program where American and Afghani kids Skype with one another. Nancy Mar is a graduate of the Encampment for Citizenship.

**June 21:** Transition Sunday comprises of a discussion panel of Arthur, David S. and Liz on limits to free speech.

**Sunday Meetings begin at 11:00 AM**

**Sunday Colloquies begin at 9:30 AM**
Photos of the Kiptoo Housewarming Party!
Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

— 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. Come visit our Ebay sales site here: http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.l2559

AHA Meetings: The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island's chapter of the American Humanist Association, which previously met on the last Tuesday of the month, will now be meeting on the last Monday of each month. There will be no regular meeting this month due to Memorial day. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 29th, at 8:00 PM in the second floor meeting room.

For questions or information leave a message for Sharon or Heidi at 516-741-7304 or email Sharon at lihumanist@gmail.com.

Our Times Coffee House: Friday, May 15th is College Folk/Folk Rock Competition Night. Come to see and hear some of the best upcoming performers before they're famous, and help vote for who's the best. A reality show where you're judge this time. Contestants will be hand-picked from the music departments of local colleges and brought before you, the judges, to help send them on their way to stardom; or at least earn enough award money to buy lunch for the next week. Who will win? You be the judge. This is not an open mike but a curated show of the best young singer songwriters and performers.

For more information visit http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/.

   Doors open at 7:15 PM and the show starts at 8 PM.
   Tickets: Adults $15, Students (w/school ID) $10, Children (under 12) $6. (Very young children are free.)

Volunteer to do a Sunday Summer Platform: For several years we have had a Summer program, where our members are the speaker and presider. The talks have been wonderful and very appreciated by the members. This year is no different. We are planning a Summer program over a 9 - 10 week period. If you are interested in doing a Sunday meeting or need help coming up with ideas for doing such a meeting, please contact Pat Spencer (H 516-433-5019). The program runs from 6/28 - 8/30/15.

Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class: Join Sylvia on Tuesdays at 5:45 PM for a free vinyasa style yoga class. If interested in attending, contact Sylvia at matsbs@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

Continued on Page 11
Goings on at and Announcements, Continued

Continued from Page 10

Social Action Committee: Plans are afoot to organize an active and current committee that will involve the society and various voluntary members in Social Action activities. To keep abreast and/or join the committee, please read this newsletter and follow the announcements at Sunday platforms. For more immediate information and answers to your questions or to become a vital part of this committee call Richard Rapp at his home phone (718) 767-3610 or his cell phone (718) 314-8135. You can also email him at ny-donkey1@aol.com.

Board Meetings: The board of EHSLI meets on the third Monday of every month.

Ethical Friends of Children: Ethical Friends of Children is looking for volunteers to help man the free store on Wednesdays, 10 AM—1 PM. Contact the EHSLI office if interested.

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.

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 consideration 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 Phylis at ethicalsociety@optonline.net.

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 week-days at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com
Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical
EHSLI on Linked-In: Under the name “Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island”
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

Phone: 516-741-7304  Fax: 516-741-7305
Ethicalsociety@optonline.net  http://www.ehsli.org

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