I am newly returned from the Garden City Clergy Israel Tour. Our trip was arranged by Keshet, a company that describes itself as The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel. The itinerary that they arranged for us included familiar and iconic names: The Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, The Mount of Olives, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also included were archaeological sites such as the City of Dan, first occupied in 4500 BCE, the City of David connected to the biblical King David of the 9th Century BCE and Hezekiah’s Water Tunnel, built 2,700 years ago to protect Jerusalem’s water supply. We visited places of spiritual significance such as the River Jordan, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Dome of the Rock.

But as significant and important, Keshet arranged for us to meet with individuals from an array institutions, groups and interests that make up present day Israel. We sat down with an Imam from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Haifa, the Rabbi of the first Reform congregation in Israel, Kehilat Har El. Also, we visited a Peace Education Center, Giv’at Haviva, that has been fostering Jewish/Arab coexistence programs for decades. We met with Arab Christians, IDF soldiers, Bassm Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Watch, an Ethiopian Jewish family and Rachel Korazim, the principal educational consultant for the new museum at the Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem.

On the first day, our Keshet tour educator described Israel as sitting at the crossroads of three great religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. And our itinerary expanded on those claims for us. But just as important, Israel also sits at a crossroads of human hopes, human aspirations, political struggle and human shortcomings. We encountered wonderful people and gripping drama, as well as hopes deferred and bitter divisions. The human story.

We encountered so much in such a short time; I will be assimilating my experience for some time to come, and, I hope, sharing with you what I have learned in ways that expand our knowledge of the world and deepen our human connections.

Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director
Part of our educational curriculum in Kids In Deed is to become active in our democracy by working for positive change in laws and important issues. We believe in John Kennedy’s quote, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." After the Newtown, Ct. shootings, we wrote to several politicians urging them to fight for stricter gun laws. This week we received a special letter – from Barack Obama! His letter thanked us for our concern and urged us to continue to work for better gun laws to prevent tragedies that occur on a daily basis in our country, ending with a link to www.WhiteHouse.gov/NowIsTheTime.

On April 6th, we participated in the Pedals for Progress bike drive held at the Society in conjunction with the Returned LI Peace Corps volunteers. Our parents made baked goods, and I'm so proud of how the kids grabbed wrenches to help process the bikes for shipping. We had spent a lesson talking about life in developing nations without modern transportation; indeed, Dorcas told us how her father in Kenya would maintain the two family bicycles every Friday night for his and her brother's travel to work the coming week. We hope that we made a difference for the people of Ghana who will be receiving these bikes.

A big Thank You to Joan Petersen, who recently taught the class on endangered animals and what we can do to help them.

On April 14th Jordan, his father Dan, and I represented the Kids In Deed class at our annual Bayside Marina Clean-up. Derek Smith and Reid Hetzel from the YES group also participated. This annual event is sponsored by the Bayside Anglers' Fishing Group. We met alongside the Cross Island Parkway / Little Neck Bay and cleaned up trash from the roadway and waterfront.

Alison Pratt
KIDs Director

Reid and Derek take a break from picking up trash.

Dan and Jordan used grabber claws to fill bags with litter.

Rebecca and Alison and Tara were interviewed by My LITV, a cable program for the bike recycling drive.
Our last winners for the Weill Student Social Action Grant were the National Honor Society Students at Westhampton Beach High School who made spring gift baskets for children and teens living in two homeless shelters in Riverhead and Hampton Bays. We were not able to meet the students in person due to the distance between Garden City and Westhampton Beach High School. However, a photo below shows the students with their finished baskets. In addition, we received the following letter from Amy Demchak, the faculty advisor:

"The students did a phenomenal job putting together the baskets! I spoke with the directors at both shelters. The kids were THRILLED with the baskets and they had a fantastic time on their egg hunts. The teachers at my school are actually taking up a collection right now to purchase a basketball hoop and soccer net for the Riverhead Shelter since the children have no outside toys at that shelter (we purchased outdoor toys for the children at the Hampton Bays Shelter with our funding last year).

Thank you again for your help.
Amy Demchak"

It is wonderful to note that our two grants to the NHS students in the last year have not only made a lasting impact for children in the homeless shelters, but have inspired the teachers to continue the charitable work with their own fundraising. Our thanks go to former EHS LI member Joe Weill, who died in 1993, who left a legacy of caring that we have not forgotten.

Alison Pratt

---

After returning from a successful, fun, and exhausting New Orleans Spring Break rebuilding trip, the teens spent April getting involved in volunteer activities. We participated in the Pedals for Progress bicycle drive, helped clean up the Bayside Marina, attended the spring festival, and helped our garden director Heidi clean up the Society’s side and front yard. We plan to spend the rest of the year doing similar special activities! Stay tuned for Recognition Day when we say farewell to our two graduating seniors, MacKenzie and Maggie.

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

Sincerely,
Derek and Tara
YES New Orleans Trip March 24—30, 2013

- 21 teens and 5 adults from the Long Island, Brooklyn, and Washington Ethical Societies volunteered with the St. Bernard Project. Long Island attendees were Amanda Wylie, Chloe Agostino, Eric Morgenstern, Reid Hetzel, Ryan Dobrin, and Tara Klein with Lorraine and Christopher Agostino joining part-time.
- We all worked on Ms. Deborah Williams’ home, a huge house in the Violet neighborhood that used to serve as an informal community center where kids would go to play. The home had 2 floors with 8 bedrooms.
- We worked on installing insulation, hanging drywall, and spackling, with the help of our Americorps site supervisor Brittany. We made a lot of progress!
- We went on a driving tour of the areas most impacted by Hurricane Katrina, including the Lower Ninth Ward and the levees. It was unbelievable to see how much the 2005 storm still affects the city and its residents, especially in the city’s low-income neighborhoods.
- St. Bernard Project invited us to a welcome home party for Ms. Sande Grantz. Hundreds of volunteers were there to celebrate her move from a trailer to her home.
- It was great to see what a completed house looked like!
- We participated in a special anti-racism training where we discussed systemic racism in New Orleans and in our own communities.
- We had some fun exploring, including the French Quarter with beignets at Café du Monde, a free music festival downtown, and food and local culture on Frenchman Street.
- Thanks to our fundraising efforts, our group donated a total of $1500 to St. Bernard Project, with $500 coming from Long Island. This money will help with SBP’s ongoing work in New Orleans as well as their efforts in the New York region.

We hope to go back next year!

Sincerely,
Derek and Tara

---

The YES group had a tremendous experience in NOLA over spring break

The house we worked on

The group at St. Bernard Project Headquarters

Ryan donating our check to SBP co-founder and CEO Zach

Amanda gets eaten by a gator

Continued on Page 5
YES NOLA Trip Pictures, Cont.

Continued from Page 4

Hard at work:

Amanda hangs a ceiling
Reid drywalls a bathroom
Ryan screws in a wall
Chloe and Eric check screws

ABOVE: Ms. Sande at her welcome home party – moving from the trailer on the right into her home

group hangs after the free music festival

NY group in the French Quarter

ABOVE: Before the week

After the week
Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, May 17th Our Times Coffeehouse is proud to feature Toby Walker. Internationally and nationally acclaimed Toby Walker has been hailed as a roots music fingerstyle guitar virtuoso who has toured the US, England, Wales, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. Walker has been featured in the New York Times, the London Sunday Times, the London BBC, Sirius-XM radio and was the 1st place recipient of the International Blues Challenge Award given out by the Blues Foundation in Memphis TN. Walker combines the styles of blues, ragtime, country, bluegrass, rock and old time jazz into his own unique style. Jorma Kaukonen of Hot Tuna and the Jefferson Airplane says "Flat out... you have to hear this great musician... I'm blown away" and has employed Walker to teach at his famous Fur Peace Ranch Guitar Camp for 5 consecutive years. In 2010 Walker won the NY Music Award for 'Best Instrumental CD,' sharing the honors with Mariah Carey, Rufus Wainwright and Judy Collins among many others. 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/](http://www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org/) and for information on Toby Walker visit [http://www.littletobywalker.com/](http://www.littletobywalker.com/).

Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class Returning: Sylvia Silberger is resuming her free vinyasa flow yoga classes on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM starting on May 8th. Contact Sylvia at [Sylvia_Silberger@yahoo.com](mailto:Sylvia_Silberger@yahoo.com) with questions and for class confirmation.

Free Energy Meditation Class: Jean Santoro will teach an energy meditation class on Tuesdays at 5:30 at the EHSLI starting on May 7th. Contact Jean at [santor0404@aol.com](mailto:santor0404@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](mailto:YES@ehsli.org).

Exercise Classes for Seniors canceled until further notice: Unfortunately, Sue Salko had to cancel her exercise classes for seniors until further notice.

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.

Weekly Food Drive: Members of the EHSLI 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 [ethical@optonline.net](mailto:ethical@optonline.net).

---

Visit EHSLI Online!

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

Leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin is blogging week-days at [arthurdobrin.wordpress.com](http://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com)
Photos: [picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical](http://picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical)
The **SPICE** Committee wishes to thank members Alice and Alan for holding **SPICE** events. On Friday, April 19th, Alice Sprintzen held an introduction to tap dancing workshop. After a group breakfast, participants spent a delightful hour learning to tap dance. All twelve participants were able to tap out a routine at the end of the hour. A video of the performance is [here](#). On Saturday, April 20th, Alan Cohen took eighteen members for a tour of Central Park. Alan is known for his informative and interesting guided tours of the park, this was another hit. Thank you Alice and Alan, from the **SPICE** committee.

---

**SPICE Events & Updates**

**A message from the **SPICE** committee**

---

**SPICE Events**

---

**Story Discussion with the Dobrins:** Please join Arthur as he once again will read two stories from his collection, *The Harder Right*. Arthur is a gifted writer and the stories will be, as always, interesting and well written. The discussions following the readings have always been lively and thought provoking. Lyn will provide us with delicious refreshments. To sign up call Phyllis at (516) 741-7304, stop by the EHSLI office or email her at ethicalsociety@optonline.net. When you sign up you will be provided with a copy of the stories.

- **DATE:** Saturday, May 11th
- **TIME:** 2:00 PM
- **PLACE:** 613 Dartmouth St., Westbury, NY
- **LIMIT:** 10 people
- **DONATION:** $15

---

**EBay **SPICE** Fundraiser Update**

---

In Late 2012 The **SPICE** committee embarked on a new mode of fundraising: members donated their no longer useful or needed “treasures” and Bill Larsen sold them on eBay. In the month of March we made $50.00 for a grand total of $400.00 for the year. A big thank you to Bill for all the work he has and continues to do to make this ongoing fundraising project a financial success. The **SPICE** committee hopes this information will inspire you to look carefully around your home & find additional items to donate to the Treasures Project. (See below)

---

**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.l2559](http://myworld.ebay.com/ehslifundraising?_trksid=p2047675.l2559)

---

**Announcements**

---

**Welcome New Member Stacy Leon!** Stacey joined EHSLI in January 2013. A resident of Laurelton, Stacey works in the field of horticulture. Her interests are: gardening, politics, art, movies and discussions. How did Stacey hear about EHSLI? She knows Lyn Dobrin and Vinnie Drezewski.
A Successful Bicycle Recycling Event

Sixty-two bicycles are on their way to Ghana to help people get to school and work thanks to the support of our Ethical Society and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island. The two organizations joined forces for Returned Peace Crops Volunteers’ 9th annual collection of donations of used bikes for Pedals for Progress, a program that rescues unwanted American bicycles and sends them to communities overseas.

Two of our EHS kids, Gabriel of YES and Jordan of Kids in Deed worked as a team to break down the bikes so they could fit in the shipping container. Said Gabriel, “The jobs you can help out with at the bike collection are really simple and easy. Even doing the smallest amount of work is still helping people who don’t have reliable forms of transportation. Also, helping out at events like these let you contribute to your community, which feels better than sitting at home watching TV.” Jordan agreed. “It felt good to help rebuild the bikes for people in other countries who don’t make as much as us.” Maggie, Didi, Becky, and Pauline also helped.

In recent years Pedals for Progress has shipped 25,450 bikes to Nicaragua and 5,833 to Ghana, as well as thousands of bikes to Guatemala, Uganda and El Salvador. In many countries, having a bicycle can have a critical effect on whether or not you are able to get to a job or school; it has been found that income goes up 14 percent when a family has a bicycle.

Long-time EHS members Arthur and Lyn Dobrin who were Peace Corps Volunteers in Kenya in the 60s made the connection between RPCV of LI and the Ethical Society. Bette Bass, co-coordinator of the Long Island collection, served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia in the 60s when traveling just a few dozen miles could sometimes be an all-day effort. When she returned to Ethiopia last September, she discovered that while there were many changes, owning a car was still out of the reach of most people. “I am pleased to think about all of the places that our bikes were making a difference in people's lives,” she says.

Pedals for Progress also promotes bicycle repair businesses in the developing world. A community owned non-profit bike store will get its first containerized cargo shipment for free (about 450 bicycles); that repair store then has to earn enough money selling the repaired bikes to pay for the next shipment.

Sincerely,
Lyn Dobrin

Continued on Page 9
Bicycle Recycling Event Photos, Cont.

Continued from Page 8

Alison and Tara getting interviewed by My LITV

Dori and Didi checking out a bike.

Volunteers and bikes

Bikes winking at us — happy to go to a new home.
May and June Sunday Meeting Schedule

**May 5:** Calvin Dame, "A Good Narrative"
Founder’s Day Honoree: Patricia Spencer

**May 12:** David Spritzen

**May 19:** Howard Radest, Leader

**May 26:** Judy Rosemarin, “Mindfulness and Superstorm Sandy: was it mini tsunami or was it just an event?”

**June 2:** Recognition Day

**June 9:** Calvin Dame, "Enchantments & Complications: My Trip To Israel"
Annual Member Meeting after the Sunday Meeting

**June 16:** Vincent Wright, Photojournalist and Professor at CW Post, LIU.
He will exhibit his photography on the walls of our meeting room and give talk

**June 23:** TBA

**June 30:** Transition Sunday

---

The “Happy Tappers” of EHS LI

Thanks to Alice Spritzen and teacher Louise Rastu, twelve EHS LI members successfully learned all of the steps to a tap routine to the song “Just Haven’t Met You, Yet” in an hour long class. You can see their routine here. When can we expect them to go on tour?

![Happy Tappers](image)

Linda, Sharon, Alice, Sylvia, Joan, Bill, Deborah, Pat, Irma, Muriel and Lorraine
AKA: The Happy Tappers of the EHS LI

---

**Note from the Editor**

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Silberger

Please email comments and suggestions for additions to future EHS LI 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.
4. Vacant space: Nothing has happened recently regarding prospects of renting space in our building. Don has advertised on Craigslist to attract non-profits who want to rent space. We will have an ad to attract rentals coming out in Eric Alexander’s Web site on April 5.

5. SPICE committee: The committee now has five members.

6. The YES group: The group had an excellent trip to New Orleans. They want to invite Brooklyn and Washington, DC teens to New York City to help with Sandy relief.

7. Editorial submissions: A recent unsolicited submission to the newsletter from a member sparked discussion about whether we need a formal editorial policy for the newsletter and website. David, Liz, and Jim will work together to present a policy to the Board at the May meeting, including submission criteria and editorial guidelines.

8. Recruiting committee members: Since many of our committees lack members, at our next General Membership meeting, we’ll ask for members to join committees.

9. Parking lot and water tower: Nothing has happened yet. Because of potholes in our parking lot, we will buy blacktop and recruit several volunteers to do patchwork.

10. Miscellaneous tasks to do at society: First, we have paid a firm half of its invoice to do electrical work for us. Unfortunately, they haven't completed the work. Phyllis and Don will talk to Wayne to have him get the firm to complete the work. Next, Phyllis will hire someone to be at parties to make sure the renters end on time; she will develop a checklist for the person to follow. Finally, we will pay $200 to a firm to power wash the floor in the men’s room in the basement.

11. Vandalized sign: We’ve received no money to date from the person who vandalized our sign. Since it would be too difficult to recover any money from him, we decided to drop the matter.

12. Dobrin’s mentoring program suggestion: Don’s sense is that there is not sufficient interest from members to warrant implementing Arthur’s idea to set up a mentoring program for new members. Therefore, he will write a letter to Arthur and send it to Board members for their approval.

13. Newcomers’ orientation: We had five people come to Calvin’s recent Newcomers’ Orientation meetings, and it is likely that several will continue coming to our Society.

The meeting ended at 9:00 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

Phone: 516-741-7304
Email: Ethicalsociety@optonline.net

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