President’s Message

from Linda Napoli

It’s the “Merry Month of May.” Time to open the windows and breathe the sweetly scented air.

There’s a lot going on this month that will be interesting and meaningful. Joe Chuman and Hugh Taft-Morales, two of our best Ethical Cultural Leaders are coming to speak. Their talks are always profound and stimulating. Sunday mornings this month will be quite invigorating! Hope to see you there.

On May 15th, we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Ethical Culture movement by Felix Adler with a live streaming from the New York Society. Thanks to Liz Seegert for taking this on.

On that same day, we had our Spring Membership Meeting, an important opportunity to find out the “State of the Society.”

Thanks to Stacy Leon and Elke Bluth for working so hard to beautify our grounds. If you really look around, you’ll see the difference. John Waters and the YES group participated in the grounds cleanup on April 17th and another is being planned for this month.

Elke Bluth, one of our wonderful new members is initiating a renewed commitment to recycling in our building. A sign has been put on one of the kitchen trash cans and we will be buying a brightly colored one to be the dedicated receptacle. Thank you, Elke.

Please see the Member Meeting report on page 8.
Our Youth Programs

Humanist Sunday School

May greetings form the Sunday school!

In just a few short weeks the Society will be celebrating Recognition day! This month the Sunday school children will be busy working on a presentation that will demonstrate some of what we have been up to this year. We will also display some of the art work we have created.

Thank you to everyone who bought treats from our bake sale. The children raised fifty dollars that was sent to Heifer International. They decided to buy honeybees and baby chicks with the proceeds.

As always, you are invited to stop down into the Sunday School classroom anytime to see what we are up to. New children are always welcome, so members are always welcome to bring us visitors. I urge everyone to take home Sunday school brochures and give them out to friends and family!

—Christine Lamattina

my email: ccl1311@aol.com

Recognition Day is June 5

We will recognize members of our youth programs as well as members who have made a difference for our Society this year. Our music that morning will be provided by our Social Justice Leadership Award winners Patricia Shih, Steven Fricker, and our own Kelly Tanza. Don’t miss it!
This letter was sent to us from Amnesty International:

During Write for Rights 2015, Amnesty activists like yourself from all around the world came together with one voice. Together, you sent a record-breaking 3.7 million actions against injustice.

Because of you, our global movement was able to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people to speak out against human rights abuses—and our voices were heard.

- **Albert Woodfox** was released in February, 44 years after he was first placed in solitary confinement in Louisiana. He wanted to tell Amnesty activists: "Your messages from beyond the prison walls have become an enormous source of strength for me. I would like to thank all of the members of Amnesty International and its supporters for all of the wonderful work they are doing on our behalf." **You called for his release.**

- **Phyoe Phyoe Aung** is now free after being imprisoned in Myanmar for organizing a largely peaceful protest as a student leader. She told us: "Receiving letters gives me real inspiration for what we are doing. I have begun to notice that the world is watching and cheering us—we are not alone." **Your voice helped turn the eyes of the world to her case, pressuring the Myanmar government to release her.**

- **Burkina Faso’s government** announced in February that it is committed to eradicating early and forced marriage. Authorities stated that they felt compelled to act after "receiving letters, emails and correspondence from people all over the world." **You helped bring about this critical progress.**

What’s next? For real-time updates on the Write for Rights cases—and other cases that need your voice—take the next step in your activism by joining **Amnesty’s Urgent Action Network.**

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to human rights.

In hope,

Emily Walsh
Campaigner, Individuals at Risk
Amnesty International USA

Get involved! Our Society has recently sent 37 letters to prisoners of conscience. We are looking for people who are willing to write one letter a month on behalf of a prisoner of conscience whose cases are provided to us through Amnesty International USA. Group #74 will hold letter writing campaigns periodically on Sunday mornings.
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collects Pill Bottles for our Young Activist Grant Winner

The pill bottle drive, brain child of Student Activist Grant winner Matt Berman, has ended. He collected approximately 2000 bottles! Not only does this action keep bottles out of our landfills, the bottles are repurposed for people in Malawi who don’t have the “luxury” of plastic medicine bottles.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Linda Merola (center) decided to extend Matt’s project to her own community. In this photo, she hands over empty pill bottles to Susan Berman, Matthew’s mother, and leader emeritus Arthur Dobrin. When Linda heard that Matthew was collecting the bottles to be used in Malawi, she turned to the people in her community in Eastport, asking them to join. “We’re an ‘over 55’ community so I knew we’d get plenty of bottles,” she said. Linda, a retired teacher had served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines from 1967 to 1969, continues to participate in aid programs whenever she can. “My Peace Corps experience taught me that even small efforts such as donating these bottles can go a long way in helping people.” Linda is a member of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island.

Food Drive

We are always collecting food for needy people. Remember that people go hungry on Long Island every day. Bring nonperishable food items to the basket in the lobby.

Ethical Friends of Children

Ethical Friends of Children continues to make a real impact in the lives of families every week, with their distribution of clothing and baby needs, at no cost, to those that need it. Lately, special needs adult volunteers from several different human service agencies have been coming to sort clothing, hangers, make seasonal clothing swaps, and so on. Ethical Friends of Children is now helping others on two fronts: by providing baby needs to families that need them, and providing volunteer and job training opportunities to special needs adults who are learning basic job skills.
Our Affiliated Groups

The AHA (American Humanist Association)

The AHA Long Island affiliated begun by EHS LI is now suspended for season… meet us again in September! Thanks to all the members who made the years a success, particularly for their work on Darwin Day.

The American Humanist Association has published an amazing array of brochures about the intersection of humanist and various religious faiths. These brochures can deepen our understanding of other faith cultures, and perhaps increase their understanding of ours. Go to http://americanhumanist.org/paths

Congratulations, Sharon!

Congratulations go to Sharon Stanley whose story is being included in the first volume of “Personal Paths to Humanism” published by The Humanist Press. (See her name on the front cover!) The book will be released at this year’s American Humanist Association Conference in honor of their 75th anniversary. Pre-order your copy now from The Humanist Press!

Car-Less Long Island

The first annual “Bike to Work Fashion Parade” held in conjunction with Hofstra University’s Dutch Festival was a success, thanks to the visionary work of our member Sylvia Silberger and husband Bill Larsen. Car-Less LI seeks to promote a better biking and pedestrian safety on Long Island with improved bike lanes and laws. After a 6.5 mile ride, cyclists wrote letters to Long Island politicians to promote these issues. Go to www.car-lessLI.org to learn more! (Nurse Steve Hetzel won the grand prize for best bike-to-work clothes!)
What’s Going On?

Future of Ethical Societies, FESXIII: Gender Equality & Sexuality
Friday, May 27 to Monday, May 30, at the Brooklyn Ethical Society

Join young Humanists (ages 18-35) in NY this May for our 13th Future of Ethical Societies Conference! Conference fee of $55 covers meals, activities, and materials. Register by May 6th!

Future of Ethical Societies is created and run by the Ethical Culture Movement’s young adult members. We come together to discuss ethical issues, engage in service projects, and establish deep connections and friendships. With our theme of “Gender Equality & Sexuality,” we will explore LGBTQ rights, comprehensive sexual education, gender inequalities, and how we can be strong allies and activists.

Attendees need to be 18-35 years old. They do not need to be members of an Ethical Society or currently a FES member. Contact fesconference@gmail.com.

The Reason Rally, June 2 - 5

The Reason Rally 2016 is a celebration of fact-driven public policy, the value of critical thinking, and the voting power of secular Americans. The American Ethical Union will join tens of thousands at the Lincoln Memorial June 4 to show the world that reason, science, and freedom of belief are vital to Americans.

June 2-5: Advocacy Days, Parties, and Other Events
June 4, 10am–7pm, Free: Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC

Participants will be joined by top-level scientists, entertainers, activists, and atheists who share their concern about the lack of critical thinking in public policy — NASA planetary expert Carolyn Porco, comedian and activist Margaret Cho, renowned evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, and more.

Visit www.reasonrally.org for details and we’ll add info here for AEU members to join us in DC.
**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.

**A Brunch and a Walk Around Fort Tryon Park and The Cloisters**

Join the Cohens for a brunch at their home and then a walk around the grounds of Fort Tryon Park and The Cloisters museum. If you want to enter the Cloisters Museum, that is optional, and you will need to pay an admission charge and do so on your own.

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, May 21, 2016, noon  
**HOSTS:** Alan and Marianne Cohen, 212-717-8332  
**LOCATION:** 110 Bennett Avenue, Apt. 5G, New York, NY 10033  
**PARTICIPANTS:** 20 people  
**FEE:** $22

**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

Newsletter Designer & Editor Needed—
The Call was Answered!

Thank you to Linda Joe, who has agreed to be our new Editor-in-Chief for the newsletter starting in September. She is about to retire...did she really think we were going to let her rest?

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/

Report from the May, 2016 Membership Meeting:

The President thanked the many members whose contributions of time and effort help make the Society thrive. The entire Board was recognized for their dedication: Jim LoPresti, Pat Spencer, Lois Blatt, Liz Seegert, Joyce Wildemuth, Heidi Mann, Mel Haber, Delorie Cohan, Susan Feifer, Lyn Dobrin and especially our Treasurer, Mary Sherman.

Members were given a survey and sheet to offer their help in various areas as well as a financial report to refer to during the Treasurer’s report.

There are four new members this year: Larry and Elke Bluth, Wayne Rudin and Ellen Mihok. The new membership list is available in the office.

The grounds and our physical space are being improved and beautified by some of our members. In particular, our parking lot was paved and lighting was added.

Rentals are doing very well and bring in a lot of income. We have two office spaces that are available at this time.

Social Action is ongoing. There have been three successful events:

Darwin Day, the Car-less Initiative and the Social Justice Award dinner which was a fund raiser.

Amnesty International has been revived. Most notably, Arthur Dobrin and his team have almost completed the inter-active Community/Policing website to improve communication and relations with law enforcement.

Our local AHA chapter has met monthly, with our own members as well as non-EHSLI members participating in lively discussion and event planning, particularly Darwin Day.

The Youth Activist Grant was awarded to Matthew Berman for collecting empty pill bottles to be sent to Malawi where they are desperately needed.

Members were encouraged to do their share based on their passion since we are a small Society. The Society, in turn, is here to support them.

Mary Sherman, our Treasurer went over the two page financial report and answered questions.

Copies of the survey and the financial report are available in the office for anyone who was not able to attend the meeting.

Linda Napoli, President
You are cordially invited to

Bill and Sylvia’s Excellent

Join our celebration as we welcome their baby boy!

When: Sunday, June 12, 2016
Where: The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island,
38 Old Country Road, Garden City, NY 11530
Time: 1:30 p.m.

RSVP: Sharon Stanley, 516-333-1968, or lihumanist@gmail.com by Sunday May 29th.

*Sylvia and Bill are requesting your presence. “Presents” are not required or necessary. If you would like to give a gift, the happy couple suggest that you chip in with others on a larger gift, or visit second-hand stores for baby clothes. Hand-me-downs are welcome. They are also registered at Babies-R-Us, under the name Sylvia Silberger, #5795371. Sandwiches and cake will be served. BYOB.
The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island 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.ehslci.org.

Contacts
38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530
516-741-7304 • www.ehslci.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 an 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. The next meeting is scheduled for February 29 at 7:00pm in the 2nd floor meeting room. 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@ehslci.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
Meetup: 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.
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.