



The Ethical Humanist

The Newsletter of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Vol. 64, No. 1 -- September 2013



From Our Religious Director



Calvin Dame
Religious Director, EHSLI

September is upon us, and it is time again to resume the familiar rhythms of Autumn. For the young, it is back to school; for gardeners it is the beginning of the harvest; for our Society, it is back to our regular Sunday Meetings and new programs!

The Sunday Morning Committee has assembled an illustrious and engaging roster of speakers through the fall, we have several important programs planned: with the Center for Inquiry we are presenting a Secular Parenting Forum; we'll present a forum on the Affordable Health Care Act (aka Obamacare), scheduled just as the first enrollments begin; and we will take part again in the "Light The Night Walk" in support of the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. Plus, we are offering The Diogenes Roundtable, The Ethics Café, Community Singing, The Movie Group, Yoga and more!

We invite you to be present. We invite your participation. As the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, we are a community firmly rooted in a religious and philosophical tradition that grounds our lives in a humanist world

Events with Calvin

Ethical Café

Weds. Sept. 11: The Mystery of Dreams

Ethical Café starts at 6:30 PM

Community Singing

Weds. Sept. 18: Come help us plan our musical repertoire!

Community Singing starts at 6:30 PM

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

view with ethics at its center. We are nearly unique in embodying humanist values and ethical engagement in a sustaining community. For over sixty years EHS has made a difference in people's lives and in the world. But, the lifeblood of a community is in the presence of its members and friends; I encourage your participation in the year ahead, your help in creating a strong, robust year.

Calvin O. Dame
Religious Director

President's Column

Greetings to all and welcome back from summer vacations, etc.

We have our Opening Sunday scheduled for September 8th. On that morning, and for each first Sunday meeting of the month, we are asking members to bring supplies for our Ethical Friends of Children (EFC) program. This program has been in our Society for close to 30 years. Headed by Jim Lo Presti, Ethical Friends offers clothing to hundreds of Long Island residents each year. Every Wednesday, Jim and his crew of volunteers collect, sort, and distribute children's clothing. Many of our recipients also need sup-

plies - diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, etc – as well and we are asking that our members help with these items. Please plan to help in this effort every month.

Other happenings: We have rented out meeting room to a church group who worship on Sunday afternoons. This is a small congregation who need space for their weekly service. As such, we need to start our program at exactly 11, and have our coffee hour as usual



Joan Beder,
Society President

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The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island once again will “Light The Night” (LTN)

<http://pages.lightthenight.org/li/Eisenhow13/EthicalHumanistSocietyOfLongIslandFBB>

[Join us and Register for the 2013 Walk!](#)

Eisenhower Park

Friday October 11, 2013 05:00 PM EDT in Eisenhower Park
1899 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554,
Questions? Call and leave a message for Sharon Stanley 516-741-7304

September Sunday Meeting Schedule

September 8: Calvin Dame, Religious Director,
“Head, Hands and Heart”

September 15: Massimo Pigliucc, Chair of Department of Philosophy, CUNY-Lehman College
“Science, Pseudoscience, and All That Jazz: What’s the difference, and why do we care?”

Bio: Massimo Pigliucci is chair of the Department of Philosophy at CUNY-Lehman College, editor in chief for the journal *Philosophy & Theory in Biology*. An advocate of science education, his books include *Answers for Aristotle: How Science Education and Philosophy Can Lead to a More Meaningful Life*, and *Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk*.

September 22: Arthur Dobrin, Emeritus Leader,
“What’s Wrong with Where You Sit?”

September 29: Heidi Mann and Sharon Stanley, EHSLI Members
“What is an AEU Assembly and Why Should I Care?”

Other Scheduled Fall Sunday Platforms

October 6: Calvin Dame, Religious Director
Risking Hope

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

October 13: TBA

October 20: Michaelle C. Solages, State Assemblyman
Bio: Hofstra graduate, Michaelle Solages represents the 22nd district in the New York State Assembly.

October 27: John P. Teehan, Professor of Religion at Hofstra
Bio: Dr. Teehan has published and lectured on the impact of evolutionary theories on moral philosophy. His recent book is *The Evolutionary Basis of Religious Ethics*.

November 3: Calvin Dame, Religious Director
“How to Make Yourself Really Unhappy”

November 10: Jeanne Brunson, EHSLI Member
“Climate Reality Project”

Bio: EHSLI member Jeanne Brunson trained with Al Gore to become a presenter for the Climate Reality Project. As a climate leader, she is set to present on the science, the challenges and the available solutions for climate change.

November 17: Mike D’Antonio, Newsday Journalist

Bio: As part of a team of journalists from Newsday, Michael D’Antonio won the Pulitzer Prize for reporting before writing many acclaimed books including *Atomic Harvest*, *Tin Cup Dreams*, *Mosquito*, and *Mortal Sins*. His upcoming book on the global Catholic sexual abuse scandal will be published in 2013.

November 24: Fall Festival

December 1: Bond Street Theater

The Bond Street Theater has initiated innovative theatre and theatre-based programs in over 40 countries worldwide that improve leadership skills, build self-confidence, stimulate the imagination and illustrate health and civic issues to audiences of all ages and genders.

Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

SPICE Events — See page 6 for **SPICE** events and updates.

“Light the Night” Walk: Once again, the KIDS program, and other members and friends of the Ethical Society of Long Island are invited to participate in the "Light the Night" Walk, to help raise money for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, as part of the Foundation Beyond Belief National Team. The event will be in Eisenhower Park, on Friday, Oct. 11th, 2013, at 6:30 PM. Registration begins at 5:30 PM. Our team page: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/li/Eisenhow13/EthicalHumanistSocietyOfLongIslandFBB>. More on page 2.

Raising Kids to be Good Grown-ups: The Long Island Secular Parenting Forum: The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island and the Center for Inquiry/Long Island are collaborating to host an all-day secular parenting forum on Saturday, September 21st, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at our building. We will have a full day of presentations about challenges that are faced by parents who wish to raise children outside of traditional religion. Presenters include Lenore Skensy, author of "Free Range Kids: How to Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)," Professor Chris McDougal, Suffolk Community College, Alison Pratt on the developmental psychology of children's moral development, Syd Leroy, the Executive Director of CFI- New York City, and Dale McGowan, the Executive Director of Foundation Beyond Belief, and author of "Parenting Beyond Belief" and "Atheism for Dummies." Babysitting will be provided by Babysitting Barter. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and a small fee for babysitting. The event is free to EHSLI and CFI members; however, please tell your friends about this amazing opportunity. This event is listed on Facebook under Secular Parenting Forum. We hope to sellout—so tell your friends today!

Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Seminar: On Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013; 7:30 PM at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island (38 Old Country Road, Garden City). Confused about the Affordable Care Act? You're not alone. An expert panel will discuss provisions of the law, its effect on public health, and provide details on health exchange enrollment - what to do, and how to do it. Come join us! This free seminar is open to the community -- Please RSVP to office@ehsli.org.

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, September 20th Our Times Coffeehouse will be presenting a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the release of Joni Mitchell's album *Blue* featuring a stellar cast of some of the New York City area's finest female singer/songwriters - plus Philadelphia percussionist CHERYL PRASHKER. The evening includes performances of ALL the songs from *Blue* plus original songs inspired by Joni Mitchell. Performers include: MEG BRAUN megbraun.com, ANNA DAGMAR annadagmar.com, HONOR FINNEGAN honorfinnegan.com, SHARON GOLDMAN sharongoldmanmusic.com, VICTORIA LAVINGTON cdbaby.com/VictoriaLavington, CATHERINE MILES weartheyayas.com, KARYN OLIVER karynoliver.com, ELISA PEIMER elisapeimer.com, CHERYL PRASHKER cherylprashker.com, ALLISON SCOLA allisonscola.com, CAROLANN SOLEBELLO carolannsolebello.com and ALLISON TARTALIA allisonsinvention.com.

Doors Open: 7:15 PM

Performance At: 8:00 PM

Suggested Donation: Adults \$15, Seniors (65 & up) \$12, Students (with school ID) \$12, Children (under 12) \$6 (very young children: \$0)

For more information on all upcoming performances go to www.ourtimescoffeehouse.org.

Help needed — Long Island Council of Churches Meeting Attendance: Members who would be interested in attending The Long Island Council of Churches workshop on the solutions to aging religious buildings with little money on Saturday, October 19th, 2013 from 9:30 - 3:00 PM in Riverhead need to contact Pat Spencer (516) 433-5019. October 19th is the weekend of the women's retreat, therefore it would be great to get a man to attend the workshop.

The Diogenes Roundtable: Discuss your thoughts with us, as we probe the deeper questions of life and have a few laughs along the way. Every month we will explore a different topic in philosophy and learn from the ideas of great thinkers. For meeting times e-mail AnHonestManEHS@gmail.com, or talk with Liam Stephens or David Sprintzen. All are welcome.

Women's Retreat: EHSLI's annual Women's Retreat will be on October 19 - October 20, 2013. More information will be announced shortly. If you have any questions call Delorie Cohan at (718) 459-1380 or email her at rodel48@aol.com.

Bed donations needed: Do you have a bed, sofa or sofa-bed to donate? please contact liccriverhead@optonline.net in Suffolk County and liccmurray@yahoo.com in Nassau County.

Goings on and Announcements, Continued

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We are now a regular chapter of the AHA: Previously an Affiliate Chapter, over the summer we filed for and became a regular Chapter of the American Humanist Association. Roy Speckhardt Executive Director of the AHA, and Maggie Ardiente, AHA Director of Development and Communications will be visiting EHS next April, but, if you are interested, you can meet them at the New York Society of Ethical Culture on Thursday, Aug 22nd at 6:00 PM. (2 West 64th Street, New York)

Baby Diaper Drive: Babies need diapers! We are starting a monthly drive for diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, and other infant needs to support our own charity, Ethical Friends of Children. Jim says that moms frequently request these items. Please bring items for our "Welcome Back Sunday" on September 8th. We will collect these items every first Sunday of the month. Let's see how much we can collect to add to the wonderful work done by our volunteers at Ethical Friends of Children, and help babies in Nassau County.

Furniture needed for Sunday KID class: We will be offering babysitting / a young child class on Sundays in the fall and need make it presentable to parents. Needed: Small, sturdy bookcase for the children's classroom on the lower level to enhance our space for very young children. Tot-sized furniture or toys. We could use a comfortable rocking chair, but not too worn.

Ethical Friends of Children needs help: Ethical Friends of Children could really need your help, switching it's Summer clothes to Winter clothes from 10 AM to 1 PM on Tuesday, September 3rd, no prior knowledge is required. Please reply to Pat Spencer (516) 433-5019.

Get your EHSLI tee shirts! We have new Ethical Humanist tee shirts for EHSLI fundraising! The new tees consist of an original design printed on super soft organic cotton fair trade tee shirts with ecologically friendly water-based ink. The shirts are natural color and the printing is in blue (but can be done in other colors by request or put on your own shirt). Choose S, M, L, XL or XXL. There are some tee shirts available for sell in the EHSLI office and you can order one from Sylvia by emailing matsbs@yahoo.com. There are two styles: unisex and fitted women's, each for \$20 + shipping, if applicable. We can print the design on your own cotton garment for \$12 if bring the tee shirt to Sylvia or Bill. Also, we can print the design on natural color organic cotton fair trade canvas shopping bags for \$12+shipping, if applicable. All profits from the sale of items with this design (\$10 per tee shirt, \$7 per bag) go to the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. Sample tee shirts of each style is displayed in the lobby. The tee shirt design is to the right.



Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class: Join Sylvia for a free vinyasa flow yoga classes on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. If interested, contact Sylvia at Sylvia_Silberger@yahoo.com to be put on her class confirmation email list.

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.

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.

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.



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 weekdays at arthurdobrin.wordpress.com

Photos: picasaweb.google.com/LIEthical

SPICE EVENTS & UPDATES

SPICE Event

— **Walking Tour of DUMBO in NYC:** Another terrific New York tour led by Alan and Marianne Cohen. From our meeting point, Jane's Carousel, we will take a short stroll through hip DUMBO (down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass) to the pedestrian path along the Brooklyn Bridge. If you like, we can stop at Jacques Torres for some hot chocolate or other confections. We will then walk the Bridge, stopping several times to take in the views, and exit the bridge near the Municipal Building. From there it is just a few blocks to Chinatown where we can enjoy dim sum at one of the large restaurants famous for these afternoon snacks. We don't have to hustle, but the selection of dim sum is greater the earlier we get seated in a restaurant (dim sum service often stops by 3 PM).

Note: Total walking distance is about 2.25 miles from the starting point in Brooklyn to Chinatown. Detailed travel directions will be emailed to those who register. To sign up call the EHSLI office at 516-741-7304.

DATE: Saturday, September 14th at 10:30 AM
 RAIN DATE: Saturday, September 28th at 10:30 AM
 (Please plan to arrive at the meeting point 10 to 15 minutes before the start time.)
 LIMIT: 15 people (children who like to walk are encouraged)
 DONATION: \$12 adults, food additional (about \$20 pp)
 HOSTS: Alan and Marianne Cohen (alan.r.cohen@verizon.net)

SPICE Event

— **Make Your Own Home Aquarium:** Steven Beder has been setting up aquariums since he was eight years old and he has lots of tips to pass on to anyone who wants to try this beautiful hobby. Learn what you need to do to have success.. Detailed travel directions will be emailed to those who register. To sign up call the EHSLI office at (516)741-7304.

DATE: to be decided at convenience of participant(s)
 PLACE: Steve and Joan's home in Old Westbury
 LIMIT: 8 people
 DONATION: \$15
 HOSTS: Steve and Joan Beder

SPICE Event

— **Funny Songs from Stage and Screen:** "Tragedy Tomorrow, Comedy Tonight" is the title of a song that captures what this SPICE is about. Mel Haber has put together videos of funny songs from shows and films for your entertainment. Included will be songs from "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Guys and Dolls," "Kiss Me Kate," Sweeny Todd," "Singing in the Rain," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "The Music Man." You will smile and laugh, as well as have a good time. Coffee, tea and dessert will be included.

DATE: Saturday, November 2nd, 2013, from 4-6 PM
 PLACE: auditorium of the Ethical Society
 LIMIT: unlimited
 DONATION: \$15

SPICE Event

— **Authentic Middle Eastern Food Demonstration:** Aida Nema will demonstrate the preparation of a healthy Middle Eastern vegetarian meal, which we will eat. You'll learn how to make hummus (chick pea and tahini appetizer), tabouleh salad, koshari (lentil, rice pilaf with tomato sauce). For dessert there will be basbousa semolina cake and mint tea. You may want to bring your aprons and chef caps and appetites to this exciting event. Aida will need some sous chefs. Definitely bring your appetite.

DATE: Saturday, December 14th at 5 PM
 PLACE: home of Arthur and Lyn Dobrin, 613 Dartmouth St, Westbury
 PHONE: (516) 997-854
 LIMIT: 15
 DONATION: \$30
 HOSTS: Aida Nema and Arthur and Lyn Dobrin

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=p2047675.12559

August Board Meeting Minutes

ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7th, 2013 BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Joan Beder, Lois Blatt, Sue Feifer, Mel Haber, Bill Larsen, Jim LoPresti, Heidi Mann, Linda Napoli, Alison Pratt, Liz Seegert, Mary Sherman, Pat Spencer, David Sprintzen, Liam Stephens and Deborah Strube

ABSENT: Delorie Cohan

GUESTS: Calvin Dame

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the July 7th, 2013 Board Meeting were approved.
2. **Calvin's report:** Calvin distributed a nearly completed schedule of Sunday programs for the 2013 year. He will do an August 25th Open House program, and he and Alison will do advertising for it. Phyllis will send out postcards announcing the event.
3. **Rental update:** We received our first rent check from the group that is now renting our auditorium on Sundays at 12:30 in the summer, and at 1 PM in the winter. Starting in September, our members will need to vacate the building by 12:45 so that the rental group can begin their program at 1 PM.
4. **Promoting brand identity:** After discussing Alison's belief that we align ourselves with Ethical Friends of Children

(EFC) to give us an identity or brand name, we decided that we should use a broader umbrella as our identity. That is, we agreed to identify ourselves as a group that cares for others. Liz agreed to head a committee to set up a marketing plan. Heidi and Bill will join the committee, and Liz will contact Sharon Stanley to see if she will join.

5. **Ethical Friends of Children:** Jim will tell Calvin what items he needs for EFC. Calvin will arrange to have people bring these items to Opening Sunday.

6. **Parenting seminar:** Alison said that the planning for the event is going well. She needs people to help with the event, and she passed out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Lyn Dobrin will do a press release for the seminar.

7. **New KIDS religious education teacher:** Joan has put the word out on Facebook and elsewhere to find a college-age KIDS teacher. So far no one has responded. In case children come to our Sunday meetings, we will have to have someone there who can talk about our KIDS program.

8. **Boiler update:** Joan spoke to a plumber who works for the company that is supposed to install a new boiler in our building. She got him to agree to install two new residential boilers. We would pay \$1,200 for two boilers instead of \$6,875, which we originally contracted for.

NEW BUSINESS

9. **Committee liaisons:** Presently some of the committee liaisons are not themselves members of the committees on which they are reporting. Pat suggested that the committee liaisons be members so that committees function more effectively.

10. **Dinner committee:** Nothing's happened yet regarding planning a major dinner for the Neufeld brothers and Wayne Outten.

11. **Health care forum:** Liz is planning a health care forum for Wednesday, October 2nd from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at our Society.

12. **Summer programs:** They have been very well-attended.

13. **Next board meeting:** Our next Board meeting is on Monday, September 9th at 7 PM. Our Opening Sunday meeting is on September 8th.

President's Column, Cont.

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but be ready to leave the main meeting room area by 12:45. For those who want to linger over coffee and chat, our conference room will always be open and folks can plan to spend time there.

One more thought: Part of membership means participating at the committee level to keep the Society healthy and strong. On Opening Sunday we will be asking members to consider joining a committee, think about it!!

See you all on September 8th

Joan Beder,
EHS LI President

The meeting ended at 9:25 PM
Minutes submitted by Mel Haber,
Board secretary



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.



Sylvia Silberger and Bill Larsen, Yosemite National Park

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>

Meet- Up: <http://www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanist-Society-of-Long-Island>



*A Member Society of the
American Ethical Union and
a Chapter of the American
Humanist Association*

*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