Hello Everyone,

Summer is still in the air and we’re enjoying warm, sunny days, but Opening Sunday is just a few weeks away. On September 13th, we begin our new season at 11:00 AM with a morning that will be full of activities, words and music to inspire us. It will be a great day to fully reconnect with our community. Our closing is a surprise, but something that, hopefully, will be enjoyed by all.

This year we have a theme of “Creating a Civil Society,” a term I’ve heard more and more in this time of turmoil and strife both within our nation and the world at large. It makes me feel optimistic that conditions can change if people work together. Think about what this theme means to you and bring in your thoughts on September 13th. A welcoming collation will be provided following our meeting.

Much gratitude to all our members who have given such wonderful talks these past two months. And thanks to those of you who came to support them. Our Summer Sundays were more successful than ever this year.

Parking Lot: By the time you get this newsletter, our new parking lot will be complete. A very generous donation by one of our members allowed us to go ahead with this long desired major improvement to our grounds. After weeks of inquiries and meetings handled by Jim LoPresti, we signed a contract with Quality Blacktop Services to repave the parking lot with a "green" method (an extra added bonus). Because there is some money left over, we will also be able to light up our beautiful parking lot some time in the near future.

Board Retreat: The Board had its annual retreat on August 23rd following our Board meeting. Many positive thoughts were expressed during our sharing of what we find good about our Society. However, the overall opinion was the new vibrancy and feeling of optimism that is present. Our working groups are functioning better and some individuals are showing super-dedication. Our financial situation has greatly improved, we have a number of enthusiastic new members and there is increased cooperation and respect among us in our undertakings. We all agreed that there are issues to be dealt with and improvements that must be made (like engaging more members to lend a hand), but all in all this wonderful humanist spirit says we are on the rise and will stay that way as long as we continue to recognize that we are a community which believes that our faith is in each other.

Linda Napoli
President
In Memoriam

A couple of weeks ago, Elsa Javkin, a long time member passed away suddenly at a fairly young age. After an absence of a number of years, Elsa had come back to participate in the Society again. In the time she came regularly, Elsa was an active participant in a variety of programs. She belonged to our Amnesty International chapter during its most active years. Singing in the chorus was a joy to her and she participated in some of the theater productions Ken Schwartzman directed.

Elsa was a teacher by trade and frequently took part in our Sunday School activities. She was always kind and loving to our children. When I think of Elsa, I will always remember her lively interest as we engaged in conversation after Sunday meetings and her willingness to pitch in when needed. But, most of all, I will always remember her warmth and smiling face. We will miss you, Elsa.

Linda Napoli

Below is a tribute to Elsa from her dear friend Brenda H.

Elsa, My Friend, My Family.....

She would light up a room with her smile!
A woman who had her struggles but was a true fighter.
Filled with generosity, respect, humor, kindness, sensitivity,
emotion and love. A Special Education Teacher, a great storyteller,
a literary, a poet, a thinker, savvy, outspoken, and filled with ideas and creativity.
A defender of animals, the environment and the injustices of people and human rights.
An activist in her own right. A bit of a rebel too! She cared for and loved her Sancho Panza
to the moon and back again. She had a great fascination with Elephants too.
She was my teacher, my confidante, my adviser, my challenger, my greatest supporter and defender.
Who touched, influenced and strengthened my life. She never hesitated to correct me in English and Spanish
or in anything that I fumbled on. For that I am grateful. I am grateful for having her in my life.
Elsa, My friend, My Family, forever in our hearts!

Beautiful Lady!
Announcing: The Young Activist Grant

Do you know any budding activists? We want to help them start their projects!

We are pleased to announce that The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island has created the Young Activist Grant for middle school and high school students. The grant is intended for students who are not EHSLI members as a way to spread our influence as humanists beyond our own doors. This grant will give a selected student seed money to create a project in areas of peace, humanitarian efforts, the environment, disaster relief, or disadvantaged groups. The project can be a fundraiser that connects to an existing organization (such as the Habitat for Humanity) or makes a direct change (such as a neighborhood clean-up.)

In addition, the student will present his or her project at our annual Social Justice Leadership Award Dinner held every spring. The SJLA goes to recipients who have made life-long contributions in the areas of peace and justice. We connect the past to the future by recognizing our newest generation of activists at this dinner.

Applicants must be Nassau County residents, aged 12 to 18, and enrolled in middle school or high school. Application deadline is November 15th, 2015, with the projects to be completed by April 30th. Applications will be made available on our website soon or contact Phyllis Herschlag in the office. The application is available at [http://www.ehsli.org/version2/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Grant-application.pdf](http://www.ehsli.org/version2/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Grant-application.pdf).

For the program to be a success, we have to get the word out. Please download the flier and distribute to your neighbors, local library, and local schools. We need all of you to make this happen!

Alison Pratt

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Help Us at the Covert Avenue Street Fair!

The Covert Avenue (Stewart Manor / Floral Park) Street Fair will be held on Saturday, September 26th, from 11 AM to 5 PM. EHSLI is going to have a table there to inform people of Ethical Humanism and our great programs, from Sunday morning speakers to our Humanist Sunday School and YES group, to Ethical Friends of Children and our latest project, the Young Activist Grant.

The Covert Avenue Street Fair has something for everyone—rides for kids, vendors, music, and food of all kinds. We could use your help! If you’re not afraid to chat about EHSLI and our great programs with fairgoers, please come and assist. It will be a lot of fun.
$500 grant available

Students: Want to make a difference?

The Young Activist Grant
of the Ethical Humanist Society
of Long Island

for middle school and high school student projects in peace, humanitarian efforts, disaster relief, social reform, or environmental programs.

Download an application and learn more: www.ehsli.org
Let us help you make a better world.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530
www.ehsli.org
516-741-7304

Create a Caring World
September/October Sunday Meeting Schedule
(Babysitting will be provided)

**August 30:** Sylvia Silberger, Mathematics Professor, Hofstra University, *Math-o-Magic — a demonstration of some surprising mathematical card tricks and the math behind them.*

**September 6:** Joan Beder, TBA.

**September 13:** Opening Sunday

**September 20:** Linda Napoli, EHS LI President, *Review of the AEU Assembly.*

**September 27:** Bernice Sims, Author, *The Civil Rights Movement through the Eyes of a Young African American Girl.*

Bernice Sims of Mineola will speak about her journey as a child growing up in Mississippi to a life devoted to civil liberties, social justice and art.

**Bio:** Ms. Sims is the author of a memoir, *Detour Before Midnight.* In Mississippi in the 1960s she was a member of the youth branch of the NAACP under Medgar Evers. She was among a group of youthful civil rights activists sent out to test the waters of non-violent protest in Mississippi. Subsequently, under the tutelage of Michael Schwerner, one of the three civil rights workers murdered in 1964, she joined CORE/COFO during Freedom Summer.

**October 4:** Arthur Dobrin, Leader Emeritus, *What I Learned at Cop Camp (Civilian Police Academy).*

Dr. Dobrin will bring his insights from his participation in this program, addressing the difficulties inherent in community-police relations and propose ways in which they can be improved.

**Bio:** Dr. Dobrin is emeritus professor of Ethics at Hofstra University and the author of 24 books of philosophy, literature and poetry.

**October 11:** Nelson Denis, *The War Against All Puerto Ricans (followed by Q&A)*

Through telling the history of Puerto Rico, Mr. Denis will throw light on the current crises of the island where unemployment rate is 12.6 percent and debt and cost of living are soaring. Based on his highly acclaimed book, *War Against All Puerto Ricans* tells the story of a revolution integral to Puerto Rican history, but virtually unknown to the American public: the Puerto Rican independence revolt of 1950. After over fifty years of military occupation and colonial rule, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico staged an unsuccessful armed insurrection against the United States. Violence swept through Puerto Rico: In order to suppress the uprising, the U.S. Army deployed thousands of troops and bombarded two towns, marking the first time in history that the U.S. bombed its own citizens.

**Bio:** Nelson Antonio Denis is an attorney, writer, film director and former New York State Assemblyman. From 1997 to 2000, he represented New York State’s 68th Assembly District, which includes East Harlem and Spanish Harlem. He was also an editorial writer at El Diario La Prensa. He is author of *The War Against All Puerto Ricans,* which received a tumultuous response in Puerto Rico, where Mr. Denis recently completed an eight-city tour.

**October 18:** Christopher Niedt, Academic Director of the National Center for Suburban Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Hofstra University, *Against the ‘New Normal’: Foreclosure, Homeownership, and Social Justice on Long Island.*

**Bio:** Christopher Niedt studies the effects of metropolitan growth and decline on race and class inequality, particularly as these relate to the history, politics, and redevelopment of inner-ring suburbs. His most recent research projects focus on suburban racial/ethnic diversity, suburban social movements, and the foreclosure crisis. He is co-author of *Foreclosed America* (with Isaac Martin, Stanford University Press, 2015), editor of *Social Justice in Diverse Suburbs* (Temple University Press, 2013), and co-editor of *Forging a New Housing Policy* (with Marc Silver, NCSS, 2011). He also serves as Clerk of the Uniondale Community Land Trust.

**October 25:** Janet Rudolph, *The Spiritual Life of an Ethical Humanist (I am Felix Adler’s Step-Child).*

**Sunday Meetings begin at 11:00 AM**
**Sunday Colloquies begin at 9:30 AM**
Meet the New Sunday School Director!

Hello! My name is Christine Lamattina, and I am the new director of the Sunday school program. I will be working with your children along with Jacqueline Bottenbley. Jacqueline will be primarily working with the younger children, and I will be with the older children. However, occasionally we will also be working on a few projects together.

One of the goals of our program this year will be teaching ethical education, while having fun! We will cover such things as friendship, understanding feelings, and the six pillars of character. We also hope to establish a social action program for the children.

Our Sunday school will begin on September 20th with an Opening breakfast for the families at 10:00 AM. I encourage you to spread the word about our Humanist Sunday school to any families you know. There are new Sunday school brochures that you are welcome to take and give to friends and family.

If you have any questions, or suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me at ccl1311@aol.com.

School Supplies Drive for Needy Children

EHSLI will be collecting school supplies for Bethany House on September 13th and 20th.

We need:

- 3x3 Post-It notes,
- pencil sharpeners,
- colored pencils,
- scissors,
- boxes of pencils,
- supply boxes for pens and pencils,
- folders,
- composition notebooks,
- green pens,
- red pens,
- blue or black pens,
- glue sticks,
- washable markers,
- boxes of crayons.

Bethany House will add supplies to individual backpacks for the children.

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.
News from the AEU

Laura Steele, Chair of the AEU Membership Committee:

Our 100th Anniversary Assembly was inspiring indeed. In response to speakers’ community organizing experience, the AEU Membership Committee put together an impromptu “listening tree” and invited attendees to share their thoughts on what their own Society needs in order to grow. On various colored post-it notes you wrote your thoughts and comments. The AEU Membership Committee extends huge appreciation and thanks to all of you who participated.

What we found after all the notes were collated was that an overwhelming number of you wrote about Outreach as being what was needed most, as well as attracting young adults.

Your timing couldn’t be better. Mark your calendars now for the annual Membership Growth Conference October 23-24 at the Ethical Society of Bergen County in Teaneck, New Jersey. We will focus on Outreach (including using social media and websites), address attracting young adults, and discuss best practices.

We hope those who attended Assembly this year are as enthused as we are and those who didn’t get there will hear about it from friends and colleagues around the country.

There will be more details about the conference by end of summer so check your e-mail and the AEU website. We’d love to see representation from each and every Society. “We are, each of us, the AEU!”

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Members’ Social Action Corner: Alternative Transportation

On August 19th and 20th I joined organizer Aaron Watkin-Lopez and a number of other members of the Long Island Bus Riders’ Union, a project of Long Island Jobs with Justice, on their annual Rate the Ride (RTR) bus tour. The RTR tour is a grueling two day trek via the public bus system around Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The purpose of the event is two fold: One is let Long Islanders know that it is theoretically possible to shed their individual automobiles and still visit almost any location in Long Island via the public transit system. The other, though, is to highlight serious issues inherent in our public transit system that need to be address before it can serve its purpose completely.

The goal of this year’s ride was to call attention to accessibility issues with the system. For example, many of the buses do not announce stops and many of the bus hubs do not have braille signage, both serious obstacles for the vision-impaired. Notably, even the location of the Nassau Inter County Express’ (NICE) public hearings is very difficult to get to by bus!

For the press conference on the 19th, Aaron led us from Roosevelt Field Mall, where most NICE public hearing attendees would disembark, on a scramble across the multi-lane mall beltway which lacks crosswalks, through the BJs parking lot, across Stewart Ave. on the side without a crosswalk, down a dirt path along the four lane Quentin Roosevelt Blvd. to the NICE headquarters, where NICE public hearings are held. This is a precarious trip for even the healthiest among

Aaron, Fredrick, John and Sylvia on NICE bus.

Continued on Page 8
us, but poses incredible risk for riders who are unable to scramble across multi-lane highways or traverse dirt pathways such as the elderly, vision-impaired or physically disabled.

This trek also illustrated the inherent ties between public transportation and pedestrian safety issues. One cannot use the bus system without also taking on the risks of pedestrianism. Long Island has significant problems with both.

I’ve heard story after story from my carless friends of buses passing their stop more than ten minutes early (before they arrive) or simply not showing up at all, of long waits exposed to the elements because of infrequent service and bus stops without shelter and of being stranded in the middle of nowhere because of missed connections, necessitating the expense of a cab ride. To add danger to inconvenience, a 2014 report by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign found Long Island’s roadways accounted for half of the 21 deadliest roads for pedestrians in the tri-state area.

Furthermore, adult Nassau County riders pay a minimum of $50 for 21 rides if they are able to buy it ahead of time. For riders who use the system five days per week, that amounts to just under $25 per week or $1,300 per year, a non-trivial sum for those who work minimum wage jobs, those who are most dependent on the buses. Of course, that cost excludes the necessary expense for the occasional cab ride because of scarcity of service and missed connections.

These issues are enough to discourage anyone with the means to own a car from using the system; even those who would really like to leave less of a carbon footprint. More importantly, they illustrate formidable obstacles facing those who are truly reliant on public transportation.

Bus companies often cite low ridership when considering expanded bus service. Politicians refer to low numbers of pedestrians and bicyclists when considering the expense and inconvenience to motorists caused by infrastructure changes necessary to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

This is the classic chicken and egg dilemma. As a humanist, I believe that the benefit to the greater good, with regards to both environmental and social inequality issues, requires that we find the funds, public funds if necessary, to make a truly effective public transportation system and build truly safe roadways for pedestrians and bicyclists. It is likely that we will discover a new breed of carless commuter emerges if we do so.

Aaron humbly referred to his work on public transit issues as “un-sexy.” I’d argue that it is one of the biggest issues facing Long Island now and I applaud him and the tireless members of the Long Island Bus Riders’ Union for trying to keep it in the limelight.

— Sylvia Silberger
Goings on at and Announcements from EHSLI

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 meet on the last Monday of each month. The next two regular meetings are scheduled for August 31st and September 28th, at 8:00 PM in the second floor meeting room. For questions or information email Sharon at lihumanist@gmail.com or leave a message for Sharon or Heidi at 516-741-7304.

Women's Retreat: The Women’s Retreat will be on October 17-18 at the Monastery in Glen Cove. For more information contact Delorie Cohan at 718-459-1380 or email Rodel48@aol.com.

Sail Away on the Great South Bay SPICE Event: Don Obers has offered to give a Spice event for 2 - a two hour sail on the Great South Bay. His sailboat is docked in Lindenhurst. Date to be arranged. $30 per person. (516) 946-9361

Our Times Coffee House: On Friday, September 18th, Our Times Coffee House welcomes the Nields. Their 17th album, The Nields - XVII, is both their most personal and their most community minded. Well into their third decade as a musical partners and judging by this sublime album at the very top of their game, the Nields turn to meditations on time, and turning points, their roots and community - both musical and personal - but they also express joy in the present, faith in the future, and a whole lot of hope and promise. The Nields’ albums are often an eclectic mix of ideas and music styles, but clear themes emerge. Love and China (2002) was about the fragility of love and relationships. The Full Catastrophe (2012) explored the messy experience of raising a family. XVII has the Nields looking out from midlife, focusing on themes of time, love and community. The primary inspiration behind XVII was Nerissa and Katryna's hero, Pete Seeger, who died in January of 2014. His love of sharing music and his passion for justice had been a part of their lives since before they were born (their parents fell in love at a Pete Seeger concert). His death affected them profoundly. Pete is clearly on the album in songs like "Joe Hill" and "Wasn’t That a Time," but the entire album is infused with his spirit. It’s there in the Nields’ delight in sharing music and in using it to build a community. And it’s there in the title XVII: when compared to a career and life like that of Pete Seeger, they’re not even out of their teens.

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 I.D.) $10, Children (under 12) $6. (Very young children are free.)

Progressive Vision For Long Island—Organizing For Success: On November 7th, 2015, The Long Island Progressive Network, (of which The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member) invites the staff and members of Network Organizations to join us for a day of education, training, and inspiration as we work together for a more progressive Long Island at our inaugural progressive conference. Questions? Contact Dan Fingas at dfingas@lipc.org or 516-541-1006 x17.

Annual Membership and Growth Conference: Save the Date! October 23rd-24th, 2015 is the Annual Membership and Growth Conference, Growing the Movement Together, at the Bergen Ethical Society. Stay tuned; more information to come.
Goings on at and Announcements, Continued

Continued from Page 9

**School Supply Drive:** EHSLI will be collecting school supplies for Bethany House on September 13th and 20th. We need 3x3 Post-It notes, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, scissors, boxes of pencils, supply boxes for pens and pencils, folders, composition notebooks, green pens, red pens, blue or black pens, glue sticks, washable markers, and boxes of crayons.

**Free Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class:** Join Sylvia on Wednesdays 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 in case she has to cancel for some reason.

**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 email Richard Rapp at nydonkey1@aol.com or call his home phone (718) 767-3610 or his cell phone (718) 314-8135.

**New Board Meeting Times:** The board meeting has been changed to the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, which will be September 17th.

**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.

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**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 weekdays at [arthurdobrin.wordpress.com](http://arthurdobrin.wordpress.com).

EHSLI on LinkedIn: 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