

The Ethical Humanist

Newsletter of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Create a Caring World



President's Message

Summer Sundays

Begin at 11:00 am

July 7: Closed.

July 14: Linda Napoli,
Share a Poem You Love.

July 21: Al Zeiger, *Learnin' the Blues, with the Al Zeiger Quartet "Live".*

July 28: Arthur Dobrin/
Larry Bluth, *Poetry and Jazz.*

Aug 4: Kelly Schmidt, *A Personal Food Journey.*

Aug 11: Angelis Placer,
Puerto Rico.

Aug 18: David Sprintzen,
A Social Action topic.

Aug 25: Alicia Evans, *tbd.*

Sept 1: Closed.

Sept 8: Opening Sunday.

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Colloquy

Every Sunday at 9:30 am.

.....

"Life's not fair."



I was a teacher at Syosset High School for 34 years. We were required to grade students 4 times a year. I was a witness and participant to grading 136 times in my career. During those times I overheard conversations about grading between teacher and student that ended in this way:

Student: *"That's not fair".*

Teacher: *"Life's not fair".*

Anyone who has had dealings with a teenager, especially in a position of authority, can empathize with the teacher and their feelings of frustration. The problem with the teacher's truism is that it precludes the possibility of fairness. Life's not fair so I don't have to be. A student with a legitimate gripe might be thinking "Life's not fair but you're not doing anything to help the situation".

I have some questions for you to ponder. I welcome your feedback either in person, by email to jimlopr@gmail.com (put the word feedback in the subject line), or leave a note (signed or not) in an envelope marked feedback in our office.

(continues on page 2...)

- How have you experienced fairness or unfairness in your life either as a giver or receiver (perpetrator or victim)? If you were ever unfair and could return to that event, what would you do differently?
- Do you hire domestic help (cleaning, handyperson, landscaper, etc.)? Do you pay them a fair wage? Many workers do not ask for a fair wage because they feel vulnerable (eg. undocumented or they need the money and fear losing your business). Is it our responsibility to pay them a fair wage? If you can afford it, what stops you from paying fairly?
- What about reparations for oppressed people? Are the sins of the father the sins of the son? How have many of us benefited from the sins of our fathers? How might fairness be implemented here?

What other questions do you think should be part of this topic?

Thanks for reading this and giving me feedback.

Jim LoPresti, President

Colloquy will continue every Sunday at 9:30 am during the summer months

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.

Everyone is welcome to join us



Presentations

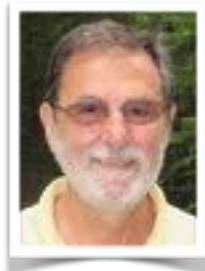
July 7: *Colloquy at 9:30 am, but No Meeting at 11 am*



July 14: Linda Napoli, *Share a Poem You Love.*



July 21: Al Zeiger, *Learnin' the Blues, with the Al Zeiger Quartet "Live".*



July 28: Arthur Dobrin/Larry Bluth, *Poetry and Jazz.*



Aug 4: Kelly Schmidt, *A Personal Food Journey.*



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Aug 18: David Sprintzen, *A Social Action topic.*



Aug 25: Alicia Evans, *topic tbd.*

Sep. 1: No 11 am meeting

Sep. 8: OPENING SUNDAY with President's opening remarks, presented by Leader Richard Koral & EHSLI President Jim LoPresti.

Leader's Message



The ancient world acknowledged that a traveler was vulnerable - at the mercy of the elements and the dangers of the road. One of the most basic rules of civilized life, therefore, was the law of hospitality which obligated one to extend a safe and sustaining sanctuary to a traveler until it was safe for them to continue on their way.

In ancient Greece, "xenia" was the word for the obligation of every person to show hospitality, generosity and courtesy to those far from home and who come to one's door. This rule was policed by the gods who would occasionally disguise themselves as humble travelers in need, only to later reveal themselves and reward those who were kind and punish those who shirked their duty.

In Arabic, the very word for meal "wajba" does not simply mean food. It implicates the idea of 'performing one's duty to a guest'. The word wajba has the same root as the Arabic word for duty, obligation, "waajib." It is meant to be offered to a stranger who comes to one's door. The expression

البيت بيتكم or al-bayt baytkum, means "Our house is your house."

In the modern world, we seem to have a fear of strangers so we will not accept a personal duty to offer a home for someone appearing at the door. But we will still deputize a governmental department to be the official hospitality arm of our society to welcome the strangers who come to our shores and show them hospitality, generosity, and courtesy while they work out what they need to do for themselves.

That is partly why so many of us are outraged and ashamed at the treatment accorded the current wave of asylum seekers who are escaping the failing states of northern Central America. Even presidential candidates agree that the abuse meted out to these vulnerable people upon their arrival at our door is a violation of decency and the obligations of civilized existence. Candidates have referred to the treatment of many immigrant children as "child abuse" and "kidnapping."

This treatment has been so cruel and harsh that it might be a human rights violation - a crime against humanity. The Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court defines "crimes against humanity" as serious, inhumane attacks on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of one or more human beings that are either part of a government policy or of a wide practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by a government.

These are acts being perpetrated in my name. It is personally horrifying to acknowledge that my government is committing these acts which may merit our leaders to be criminally prosecuted on the world stage, if there were legal jurisdiction to arrest them. As the strongest nation on earth we seem to have impunity to violate the most basic laws of civilization.

Some say that people are formed in the image of god, or clothed in, what we would call, human worth and dignity. They do not need to reveal themselves as gods having special grace to bestow on us gratitude for good that we do or punishment for our transgressions. We should know for ourselves when we are committing wrongs and stop it.

Dr. Richard Koral

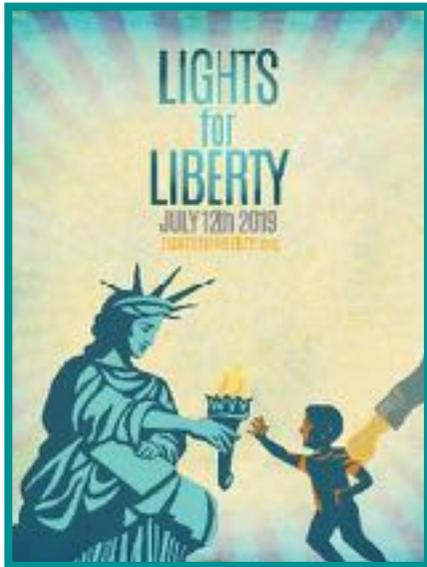
OFFICE HOURS:

Leader Richard Koral: By Appointment
516-741-7304 or leader@ehsli.org.

Office Manager Phyllis or assistant, Tina: 516-741-7304
Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.
First Sunday of the month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Announcements

LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY VIGIL: JULY 12, 8 pm



On Friday July 12th, 2019, Lights for Liberty: A Vigil to End Human Detention Camps, brought thousands of Americans to detention camps across the country, into the streets and into their own front yards, to protest the inhumane conditions faced by refugees.

Activists and impacted persons spoke on the issue of human detention camps in the United States. At 9 pm., around the country and around the world, participants lit candles in a silent vigil for all those held in US detention camps to bring light to the darkness of the Trump administration's horrific policies.

The local event was held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau at 223 Stewart Ave, Garden City, New York 11530 from 8:00-9:30 pm. * The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island was one of the cohosts along with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau, New York Immigration Coalition, Long Island Wins, Muslims For Progress.

OUR LEADER, Richard Koral was one of the speakers.



Lights for Liberty is a loose coalition of grassroots activists, with support from long-standing immigrants' rights organizations and other organizers.

More information can be found at <http://www.lightsforliberty.org>.



HELP FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Here are 5 powerful ways to help the children inside Border Patrol detention facilities who don't have access to things like hygiene supplies or beds, from an article by [Heather Marcoux](#) Jun 23, 2019.

1. Call your representatives. If you don't know what number to call, you can either call the US Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or punch your info into callmycongress.com and get the direct phone numbers.
2. Use digital tools and data to amplify this issue by tagging your representatives in a tweet or Facebook post.
3. Keep talking about this and encourage others to make their own calls.
4. Donate to organizations that will help migrant families. ([click here for a list](#)).
5. Teach our children kindness and compassion.

For more suggestions on how you can take action, contact Sharon Stanley!

Oppose Trump's attacks on Immigrant Families

If you want to take immediate action against such needless cruelty, **LI Jobs with Justice** invites you to reach out to a food pantry or outreach center or an organization to which you belong to support for one month an immigrant family who lost their breadwinner to an ICE arrest with food or clothing or monetary help. You can also contribute to the [LI JwJ Solidarity Fund](#).

Our Affiliated Group:

Humanists of Long Island



July Aug Newsletter (HoLI)

Summertime...and the living is easy. I hope your summertime is easy.

Usually, the American Humanist Association's annual conference takes place near Washington DC, or on the west coast. This year, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of attendees, they tried something different. The plan was to have the conference in 5 different cities over the weekend of June 7, 8 and 9, and have it available for simultaneous viewing on the web. As luck would have it, one location was Brooklyn, so on Saturday, June 9, Sylvia, Mark and I traveled to attend that part of the American Humanist Associations Conference that took place at Medgar Evers College.



Each speaker was more insightful and interesting than the one before. Our favorites included; Paul Golin, who is the executive director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, where, for nearly two decades, Paul has helped Jewish organizations and movements better understand the key trends affecting North American Jewry, including intermarriage, engagement, disaffiliation, and inclusion, Jay Wexler, author of [When God Isn't Green: A Journey to Places Where Religious Practice and Environmentalism Collide](#). It's a nonfiction book about the previously underappreciated fact that very often religious practices happen to harm the environment, and Donna Forsythe, who spoke about humanist celebrants and our secular life circle. She pointed out the need for humanist celebrants, to celebrate all of life's joys and sorrows, while keeping secular perspectives.

The host for this part of the conference was Matthew Bulger, who just spoke at EHSLI on May 19. We also met Emily Newman, communications director of the American Humanist Association and Liz Collier, who will be joining me on the board of the American Ethical Union, so it's great seeing familiar faces.



In addition, "Humanists International," the organization formally known as the "International Humanist and Ethical Union," will be meeting in Miami, Florida on the weekend of August 6-9, 2020. Usually this important group meets all over the world; last year they met in New Zealand and this year they met in Iceland.

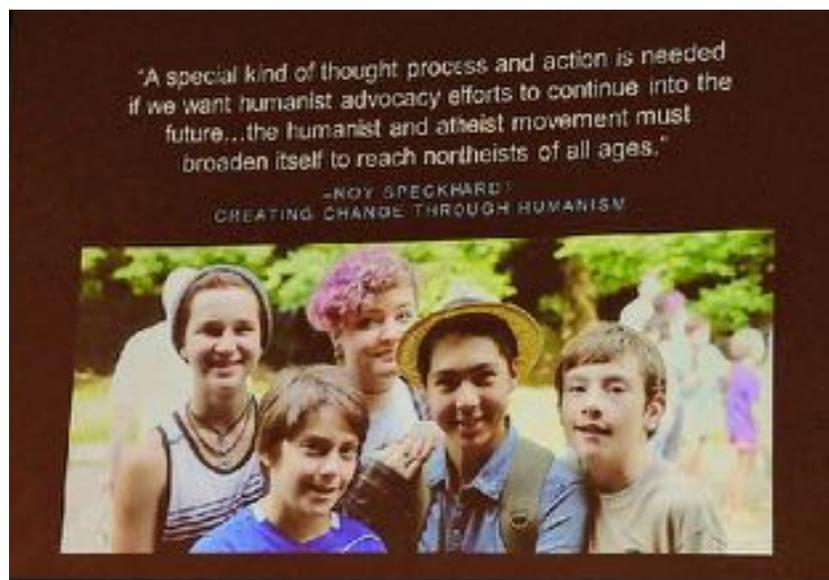
<https://humanists.international/>

This creates a great opportunity for us; it may be another 20 years before the group meets in the United States. The American Ethical Union voted to put a hold on next year's assembly plan, in order to allow their members, the ability to attend. I am hoping to be there, and I hope many of you will also choose to come.

Humanists of Long Island plans to meet all summer, at 7:00 pm, at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. www.ehsl.org . Our summer meetings are on July 29 and August 26. All are welcome to come and join us while we plan our next projects. After all, we are all humanists of Long Island.



Sharon Stanley



Our Youth Programs:

Kids Ethics Program Long Island

Have a great summer!
Kids Ethics will resume in September!



Christine Lamattina
Director of Children's Education

Please like us on Facebook:
[Kids' Ethics Program Long Island](#)



Bring Your Children - our free Kids' Ethics Program for children aged 6 to 12 is a fun way to learn to be an open-minded, honest and kind person. Classes are held in a spirit of inquiry by our experienced, dedicated teacher. Ethics are taught the easy way through discussion, role plays, games and projects.



YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18.

Look for us on Facebook: [LONG ISLAND Y.E.S.](#)



Angelique Lucien, Alison Pratt, Maggie Cullimore and Maggie's mom Noreen Cullimore,
Dorcas Kiptoo and daughter Deirdre Amokowa

Our Y.E.S. group ended its year by saying "goodbye" to our graduates, Maggie Cullimore and Didi Amukowa, with a ceremony and slide show during the June 23 platform. Didi and Maggie each received a copy of Michelle Obama's memoir "Becoming," in which she describes her childhood and young adult life filled with adults who believed in her and challenged her to become a better person. Mrs. Obama sounded so much like an Ethical Humanist as she remembered these individuals who brought out the best in her. She has made it her mission to bring out the best in others, particularly the next generation of girls and women. Lorraine, Angelique, and I hope that the book inspires Maggie and Didi to continue on their paths of discovering the best in themselves and in others. They are well on their way.

We had a busy year filled with community service. Our service projects this year included: The Walk to Prevent Suicide at Jones Beach, sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; the Queens Botanical Garden Clean-up Day; distributing food at the Community Solidarity Food Share in Hempstead, letter writing for Amnesty International, two volunteer days at the Book Fairies in Freeport, which collects and redistributes books to needy schools; a coat drive and more food sharing for Community Solidarity, and spending a rainy Saturday processing bikes for the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers bike and sewing machine collection for a country in need of basic transportation and micro-businesses.

I would like to add that Anitta Kottai and Aarti Devjani organized the coat drive at New Hyde Park Memorial High School. In addition to these service events, there was a field trip to the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove, attending platform addresses relating to criminal justice reform, watching documentaries and having discussions in our classroom, and new friendships formed.

I also want to thank David Geddam for teaching one of our classes and attending a service project. Ms. Gerri Cookler, New Hyde Park Memorial High School guidance counselor, was incredibly supportive of this program. Also, though it's a little late to be saying so, former Y.E.S. student Mackenzie Schroeder designed the logo for Y.E.S. which we have been using for several years now.

Lorraine, Angelique and I want to express our thanks to the students for their participation this year. They are: Yasim Abdelhamid, Deirdre Amukowa, Erika Avellone, Nasheed Choudury, Maggie Cullimore, Aarti Devjani, Megha Gopal, Katie Gray, Ryan Kay, Anitta Kottai, Sophia Lin, Saanvi Mirchandani, and Adam Romanelli. I like to think that Felix Adler would have been pleased at the realization of his dream with our Y.E.S. group. Our students came from varied religious backgrounds: Humanist, Catholic, Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish– but all came together for a “religion of ethics” in service to the community.

I personally want to thank Lorraine Agostino and Angelique Lucien for their dedication to the Y.E.S. group. It involved many long hours.. breakfast meetings at the diner...lunch meetings at the diner...dinners at the diner...phone calls, emails, planning and revising, to make this program a success. We are sure that we touched lives who touched lives, and that has made the work a worthwhile endeavor.

Alison Pratt, YES Advisor



Create a Caring World.

Saying goodbye to...



Deirdre Amukowa
Nassau Community College



Maggie Cullimore
Fordham University



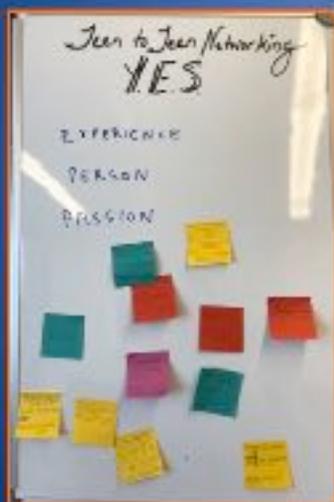
Angelique Lucien,
Asst. Youth Adviser

YES students 2018-2019



- Yasmin Abdelhamid
- Deirdre Amukowa
- Erika Avallone
- Nasheed Choudhury
- Maggie Cullimore
- Aarti Devjani
- Megha Gopal
- Katie Gray
- Ryan Kay
- Anitta Kottai
- Sophia Lin
- Saanvi Mirchandani
- Adam Romanelli

YES Networking Event: Welcome new students!



Lorraine Zeller-Agostino,
YES Adviser

Society News:



MEN'S NIGHT OUT - JULY 11, 6:30 pm

Please RSVP to Richard Koral at: leader@ehsli.org

When: Thursday evening, JULY 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Hunan Dynasty

2292 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554

LEADER'S LUNCH - JULY 18, 12 noon

RSVP Office @ ehsli.org



Join the EHS-LI Leader, Richard Koral, for a lunchtime gathering every month for a group discussion on a chosen topic or a featured article. We'll meet in room 201. Topic: Television really does make you dumber

Article: [https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/07/does-tv-](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/07/does-tv-makes-you-dumber-and-more-populist/593287/)

[makes-you-dumber-and-more-populist/593287/](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/07/does-tv-makes-you-dumber-and-more-populist/593287/) by Yasha Mounk

NEW MEMBER

The Ethical Humanist Society of LI would like to welcome new member Rita Holder to our family. Rita is a retired High School teacher. She enjoys theater and music. Rita likes interesting people and wants to widen her horizon. She has really chosen the right society to achieve those goals.



MONTHLY QUOTE

"Live So That When Your Children Think Of Fairness And Integrity, They Think Of You."

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



AEU ASSEMBLY REPORT

The 104th American Assembly was held in Tampa, Florida June 20-23, 2019. Its theme was Reclaiming Democracy. There were a number of interesting workshops, speakers and presentations. Here are some highlights reported by Linda Napoli:

Pat Spencer was awarded the Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award based on her years of service to our Society.



Sharon Stanley was designated as Secretary to the AEU Board.



Judy Rosemarin led an interesting and useful workshop about listening to others called Dare to Understand.

A panel of four remarkable Generation Z (born 1994-2012) individuals discussed “looking to Gen Z to provide a new contextual language and concept for reimagining the frontier of emerging humanism.” During their sharing, they reminded the audience that Felix Adler was in his 20’s when he founded the revolutionary Ethical Culture movement.

Carolyn Parker, of the Austin Texas Society and Chair of the AEU Ethical Action Committee, offered a workshop called Take a Stand: Using Ethical Action to promote Ethical Culture. She described how their work in a local organization helping refugees has led to an increase in membership.

The Felix Adler Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Ed Ericson who was an active Leader for 25 years serving both the Washington and New York Ethical Societies. He has been a social activist for most of his life focusing on separation of church and state, and civil rights for atheists and other minorities. He took part in the March on Selma with Martin Luther King. He is a prolific author who wrote “The Humanist Way” a manual for understanding Ethical Humanism.

The Elliot-Black Award was given to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School of Parkland, FL for their courage and commitment to raising America’s consciousness about gun violence through their “March for our Lives” movement and the “Never Again” MSD legislative lobbying group. The recipients were Lea Serrano, a student survivor who told us, “This trauma will not define me.”; Kim Krawczyk who saved her students lives that day and has become a heroic advocate against the policies of the representatives of power in Florida; and Dr. Jacob Abraham who joined the MSD staff after the tragedy. He said, “I felt a need to be part of the healing process for the students and teachers. These representatives gave emotional presentations in their acceptance speeches

bringing home their ongoing pain, grief and resilience. It was moving beyond measure for everyone. And it was a rallying cry for all of us.

For those who attend the Assembly, it is a golden opportunity to see the AEU in action and network with our fellow Ethical Humanists throughout the country. (A Tampa group is in the making and there was a representative from the newly formed group in Atlanta.) As Ed Ericson said, "It's not how small we are, it's what we all do."

Linda Napoli



CALL FOR POETRY READERS

If you are interested in reading a poem for the 2019-2020 season, please contact Linda Napoli in September.

SAD NEWS

After a long struggle with numerous ailments, Steven Beder died Thursday, July 11, surrounded by family. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 21, at 12:30 pm at the Ethical Society.

Other recent deaths include a loyal and longstanding member of the Colloquy, Perry Cohen, and Marsha Harmon, wife of David Harmon who served EHSLI for many years, as an Adjunct Leader, performing weddings and funerals. If you would like to make a donation in Marsha's memory, please send it to the Mark A. and Patricia Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund at the State University of Old Westbury.

ELECTION RESULTS - JUNE 2, 2019

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island was held on Sunday, June 2, 2019.

The proposed revisions to the By-Laws were explained and discussed. According to the new By Laws, each trustee will still serve a 3 year term and six consecutive years remains the limit of anyone's service. As a result of reducing the size of the board to 9 and simplifying the yearly process for filling the positions, each year 3 positions will come up for renewal.

There was a request for a secret ballot, but that has not been our practice, so a call for a motion to vote was made. Motion was made and seconded to accept the By-Law changes as rewritten.

24 voted to accept; 0 against; 1 abstention. Motion to accept the new By-Laws as modified carried.

The slate of Individuals nominated as new Board members was presented: Pat Spencer, Rosa Amatulli, Susan Feifer. Membership was asked to vote to accept the entire slate. The vote was unanimous to accept the new slate.

This year the outgoing Board members were Linda Napoli, Lois Blatt, Bill Larsen, Delorie Cohan.

According to the modified bylaws, the terms for the trustees are as follows:

Terms ending May 31, 2020: Mel Haber, Mary Sherman, David Sprintzen.

Terms ending May 31, 2021: Linda Joe, Jim LoPresti, Lorraine Zeller-Agostino.

Terms ending May 31, 2022: Rosa Amatulli, Susan Feifer, Pat Spencer.

Note: Terms end on May 31 of the third term year, or until a successor has been elected. If the membership meeting takes place after May 31, then the term is extended by that much.

The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a 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



Contacts

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516-741-7304

www.ehsli.org

Office Manager: Phyllis Herschlag

Asst. Ofc Mgr: Tina Keane

ethicalsociety@optonline.net

more at www.ehsli.org.

Newsletter Editor: Linda Joe

Programs

Sunday morning meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. for approximately one hour. A blend of music, poetry, meditation and an informative presentation, our Sunday mornings are the centerpiece of our week. Every talk is recorded... Go to <http://www.ehsli.org/resources/archives/talks/>

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. We often lunch together at a diner after the general meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Kids Ethics Program 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. Facebook: [Kids Ethics Program Long Island](#)

YES (Youth of Ethical Societies) is for teens aged 13 to 18. YES meets weekly. The YES group hosts a Sunday morning presentation each year. Join their Facebook group at [Long Island Y.E.S.](#)

Humanists of Long Island is the name of The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island's chapter of the American Humanist Association. We meet on the last Monday of each month. For questions email Sharon Stanley at lihumanist@gmail.com or leave a message at 516-741-7304. Find them on Facebook at [Humanists of Long Island](#).

Darwin Day is our annual celebration of science, held in early February in honor of Charles Darwin.

Commemoration Sunday is our first meeting of each new year when we renew our core values of freedom, justice, dignity and compassion.

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@ehsli.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, please contact Phyllis or Tina at ethicalsociety@optonline.net

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 or Tina 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. **Non-profit organizations only may apply.** 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. **Inquire through the office, 516-741-7304.**

Social Media:

Facebook: [Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island](#)
[Kids Ethics Program Long Island](#)
[Long Island Y.E.S.](#)

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

Community Action: www.communitiesandpolicetalk.org



The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island is a member society of the American Ethical Union and a Chapter of the American Humanist Association.



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