



The Ethical Humanist

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



Sunday Talks

April 10: The Refugee Crisis on Long Island. Lauren Wren, Clinical Professor and Director of the Asylum Clinic, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University

April 17: Spring Festival

April 24: "Faith for our Faithless Times." Richard Kinery, Leader, Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia.

May 1: "So who was Felix Adler, anyway?" Dr. Richard Koral, Leader-in-Training and Leader Intern at NYSEC.

May 8: "Issues of Race, Policing, and Stigma: the need for Marijuana Policy Reform." Chris Alexander, Policy Coordinator of Drug Policy Alliance

One person can make a difference...

Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen for coffee hour; see Stacy Leon.

Some of our members need a ride to our Sunday meetings. Please contact Lois Blatt of the Caring Committee if you can provide a ride.

President's Message

from Linda Napoli

April is here and as the sun warms us and flowers bloom, we have a number of upcoming events in which to participate. Our Adult Ed and S.P.I.C.E. programs are going strong and more are being planned. There are a welcome variety of topics to hear about this coming month at our Sunday meetings and Amnesty International letter writing will take place during the coffee hours. Be sure to sign a petition.



On April 17th after the Spring Festival, there will be a bake sale to raise money for Heifer International, in place of the regular coffee hour. The memorial service for Ken Schwartzman will be at 1:00 p.m. that day. We hope you will be part of all three events.

Learning, discussing and socializing on Sunday mornings is a great way to start the week and helps us renew our commitment to our values.

Wayne Rudin has joined as a new member this month. Wayne comes to us with a great deal of background in Ethical Culture and we welcome him to our community.

Speaking of newcomers, our members' roles in increasing our numbers have always been of utmost importance. Even with the benefits of social media, sharing your dedication to an ethical humanist organization and its opportunities for community with your friends and family goes a long way to increasing interest in what we are. Please bring the like-minded people you know with you on a Sunday and help us grow.

Spring Festival

April 17th is our Spring Festival. The morning is being planned by Kelly Tanza, Ginger Hendler and Alice Sprintzen. On this day of art and music, we welcome the season and show appreciation for Mother Earth and her gifts. The theme of peace on earth runs throughout the festivities.

Our Youth Programs

Humanist Sunday School

April Greetings from the Sunday school!

Last month the children spent some time talking and reading about ethical heroes, and this month we will begin talking about different religions and how they compare to each other. We will look at Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, as well as Ethical Culture.

Now that Spring has arrived, the children hope to plant some flowers in the Society's garden. Last month we made some pine cone bird feeders, and we will hang them on the grounds in the next few weeks.

Starting in April, in addition to the Children's message each week, the children will also be delivering an environmental tip!

On Sunday, April 17th after the Spring Festival, the Sunday school will be holding a bake sale! The sale will be in place of the regular coffee hour. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to Heifer International. There will be no Sunday school class that week, the children will be joining their parents during the program.

As always, you are invited 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. Everyone is welcome to take Sunday school brochures and give them out to friends and family! If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to e-mail me at ccl1311@aol.com.

Christine Lamattina - Sunday School Educational Director



Our Humanist Sunday School teachers
Christine Lamattina and Jacqueline Bottenbly

Y.E.S. Youth of Ethical Societies

The YES group held its annual Sunday morning address on March 13, on the topic of role models. Who is your role model? Who is your idol? These questions were asked of random commuters at the train station. Most people easily identified role models as those who inspired them to have stronger characters, whereas idols were people we admired for unique talents. If you know a teen who wants to meet with other bright, outspoken students, please contact Mayra Fournier at MFournier12@hotmail.com or (631)624-3297, or John Waters: (516)366-7074, h2os82@hotmail.com



Social Action

Amnesty International, USA Group 74

A Renewed Effort



The AI group has a group of prisoners from The Gambia who were imprisoned because of their political opposition to the ruling party. We wrote letters on their behalf on March 27. You can get involved! 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.



Pill Bottle Collection

Matt Berman's pill bottle collection will end soon. Please bring in all bottles by April 24. Matt's drive has been very successful, with bottle collection sites at our building as well as local pharmacies. Check back next month when we will ask Matt for final tally.

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.

The AHA

Our affiliate chapter of the AHA is planning some social actions. Please see article on page 6.

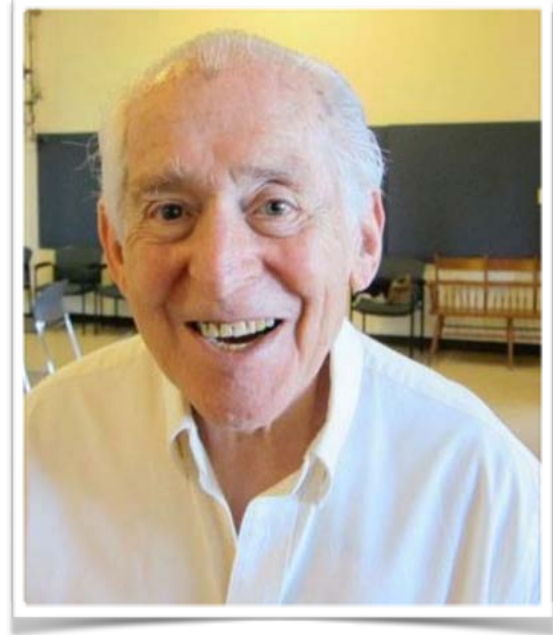
Remembering Ken Schwartzman

Our dear friend Ken Schwartzman died peacefully on March 16, 2016. Ken was a long-time and dedicated member of our Society, known for his wit and playful attitude toward life. He was especially known for being our resident director of plays, not only bringing the best in us as individuals, but the best in us as actors. If you were touched by Ken's talents, you will never forget him. Our condolences to his family and especially to his wife Muriel.

A Memorial Service for Ken will take place on Sunday, April 17, at 1 p.m. at our building.

Below is an additional tribute from Lois Blatt:

Ken made a very valuable and lengthy contribution to the Society, and particularly to the members who have been coming to the Sunday morning Colloquy. He assumed the responsibility, (after Arthur Dobrin had started and presided over the Colloquies while he was the Leader of the



(after Arthur Dobrin had started and presided over the Colloquies while he was the Leader of the Society), of conducting the Colloquies, and then of being in charge of the additional three people who would each lead one Colloquy a month. This arrangement continued for approximately fifteen years, with the unlimited attendance and assistance, when needed, of Muriel, who has been one of the three additional presiders, along with Jean Bobick and Lois Blatt.



Ken has been so passionate and devoted, especially within the past year, that every time he persevered and overcame an additional health crisis, he managed to once more return on a Sunday morning for another stint at leading a colloquy. Just a few weeks ago, he made his comeback again, and was warmly welcomed and appreciated. He will be missed.



Ken and Muriel, a life-long love story.

Social Justice Leadership Award Dinner



Congratulations to the 2016 Social Justice Leadership Award recipients: Eric Alexander, Esther Fortunoff, Patricia Shih & Stephen Fricker, and to our Young Activist Grant Award Winner, Matthew Berman.

What a wonderful evening! The dinner was held on March 31st at the Nassau County Bar Association. Longtime member Ken Feifer was the emcee and Kelly Schmidt provided the perfect instrumental ambience during cocktail hour and dinner.

After the awards, we were treated to a brief performance by Pat and

Stephen to round out the night. We thank all the honorees for their commitment to helping those less fortunate, to giving back to their community and to making the world a better place.

Thanks also to the attendees, sponsors, advertisers and hardworking staff at the Nassau County Bar Association.



That takes the cake!



What's Going On?

American Humanist Association, Long Island Affiliate

Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 7:00 p.m., EHSLI board room

Our American Humanist Association affiliate group has been very busy planning our next social action projects.

We will be planning a voter registration drive, date to be determined. Our plan is to set up a table at the Hempstead train station on a Sunday afternoon. We will invite our Sunday School and the "YES Group" to join us if they are available.

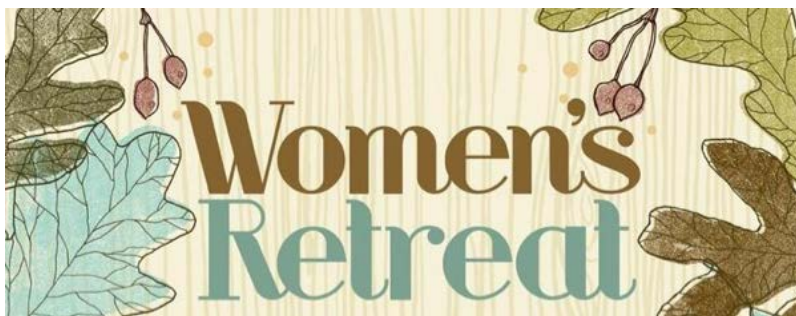
We have contacted and are discussing ways for our group to participate in interfaith dialogues when the emphasis is on common, community concerns. We hope to have a forum and outreach event discussing the issue of the separation of church and state.

This affiliate group of the American Humanist Association meets on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., upstairs at the Ethical Humanist Society. For information, call the Ethical Society office at 516-741-7304 and leave a message. We will return calls promptly.

Sharon Stanley and Joyce Wildermuth, co-chairs



Women's Retreat, Saturday, April 30, noon



Join our women members at Joan Beder's house on Saturday, April 30 at noon for lunch and conversation. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Joan Beder.

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.

SPICE**



**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.

Saturday Night at the Movies

Get together to watch "The Visitor," a provocative film about a relationship between a lonely academic and two Syrian refugees. The film explores our feelings and attitudes towards illegal immigrants and the ways in which our attitudes create problematic and painful scenarios. After the film, there will be a discussion, followed by coffee and dessert.

DATE:	Saturday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Steve and Joan Beder 30 Hicks Lane, Old Westbury, NY . 516-707-1430
FEE	\$16
PARTICIPANTS	No limit

MOTH Story-telling Workshop

If you are interested in participating in a very unique type of storytelling, contact Linda Napoli about our second MOTH Storytelling Workshop. The schedule will be planned based on the availability of the participants. No more than four can be accepted.

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, April 30, 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

From my Latest Novel: This Red Land

Arthur Dobrin will read one or two chapters from his latest novel, *This Red Land*. This novel follows the lives of three characters across two continents and five decades. After the reading of each chapter, a discussion will take place. Refreshments will be served.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 14, 2016, 2 p.m.
HOSTS: Arthur and Lyn Dobrin
LOCATION: 613 Dartmouth Street, Westbury
PARTICIPANTS: 10 people
FEE: \$16

Newsletter Designer & Editor Needed--Will Train!

EHSLI is looking for someone to head up the newsletter starting in September. Use this time to learn the software and the steps involved in creating our newsletter. What is required? Being organized, a little bit of writing, some creativity, and your favorite page layout software. Contact Alison Pratt at 516-488-1199 or apsychfp@optonline.net.



Let's Remember...

Earth Day: Friday, April 22



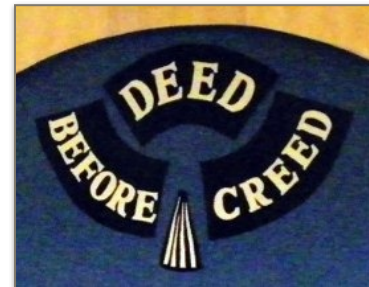
In 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson and activist John McConnell started the first Earth Day as a way for citizens to focus on environmental issues. The response throughout the country was astounding. That's 46 years ago! Some say we've come a long way since then and many say we haven't. The first World Climate Change Conference in Paris this year is a good sign, but individual lack of commitment throughout the world is a big drawback to progress.

In any case, as it says on the website, we must remember Earth Day is more than just a single day; it's every day. Let's each do our part through conservation in our own lives and election of officials who have an environmental conscience. National Arbor Day is April 29th—another opportunity to make the earth more green.

L.N.

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.ehsl.org.



Contacts

38 Old Country Road • Garden City, NY 11530

516-741-7304 • www.ehsl.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@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, 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.

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