



# Ethical Society of Saint Louis

*Being human, together.*

Get Involved at  
the Ethical Society  
2019-2020



# Opportunities for Involvement at the Ethical Society of Saint Louis 2019-2020

The Ethical Society of Saint Louis provides a vast array of opportunities for involvement by the Society's members. These include committees, teams, and activity groups.

- **Committees:** Committees are established by Board policy and are typically active continuously. Committees report directly to the Board of the Ethical Society.
- **Teams:** A team is a group of volunteers and/or staff implementing specific tasks and/or projects needed to accomplish one or more goals of the Society. Teams are responsible for the bulk of the work that makes the Society function. All teams are under the supervision of the Leader or a designated staff person. They are created and disbanded by the Leader or staff and have defined roles and often defined durations.
- **Activity Groups:** An activity group is a collection of members coming together for social interaction or to focus collectively on a particular issue of importance to them. Activity groups are typically grassroots in origin, rather than being assembled by the Leader or the staff, but they must have the approval of the Leader, and they report to a designated staff person on their activities.

This booklet describes most of the groups that are active at the Ethical Society. They are organized into six categories:

1. Serve the Ethical Society;
2. Serve the community outside the Ethical Society;
3. Focus on discussion and education;
4. Focus on health and wellness;
5. Have a social mission;
6. Provide programs with a focus on youth.

Not surprisingly, many groups fit into more than one category so you will see them listed more than once.

Within this booklet, those groups that were not able to be present at the 2019 Activity Fair are marked with an asterisk (\*).

## Serving the Ethical Society

**\*1. Accessibility:** The Accessibility Team meets monthly to discuss and propose ways the Ethical Society can be more inclusive and accessible to people of all abilities and participation needs. Large print programs, accessible modifications of restrooms, auditorium seating options for people with limited mobility and other needs, stage railings, and plans for an additional family/accessible/gender neutral bathroom on the upper level are some of the tasks the team has worked on and implemented. The team works with Facility Coordinator, Terri Arscott. We are eager to have more people join our team.

**Contact:** Jim Jordan: jajordan725@sbcglobal.net; 314-781-7982  
Terri Arscott: tarscott@ethicalstl.org; 314-991-0955 x211

**2. Aesthetics:** The goal of the Aesthetics Team is to bring our physical facilities up to the highest possible aesthetic level. We (1) strive to achieve a tasteful diversity within overall aesthetics unity; (2) urge project initiators to seek our input at an early stage; and (3) approach each project with understanding and flexibility, seeking "both/and" solutions. We often collaborate with building and grounds.

**Contact:** Dean and Juliette Smith: juliettesmith2015@gmail.com

**\*3. Ambassadors:** If you'd like to help welcome new members to the Ethical Society, this is a group for you! Ambassadors host gatherings inviting a mix of new and old members so that folks can get to know each other in a casual setting. The dinners started out being hosted by a member who would provide all the food and drink, but now we are trying something more flexible. Hosts can determine the size and type of gathering: dinner, potluck, cocktails, coffee, meet at a dog park or cafe, include kids or not, or be creative. Ambassadors are called on to host about once a year.

**Contact:** Allison Hile: Allison.Hile@gmail.com

**\*4. Art Exhibits:** The Art Exhibits Team finds artists who want to exhibit their work at the Society and arranges for them to exhibit. We find artists at art fairs and art galleries, and from referrals. Some artists contact us. We look for minority artists and artists whose work addresses social issues. Art must be two dimensional. Exhibits are six to eight weeks long. We host an artist's reception for each artist, where we provide refreshments. We encourage Ethical Society members to suggest artists for our exhibits, to attend artist receptions, to help hang art, and to consider purchasing art. The art exhibits decorate our hallways and bring new people to the Society.

**Contact:** Jane Schaefer: janeschaefer79@gmail.com; 314-727-6263; 314-580-3972

**\*5. AV Team:** The A/V Team consists of member volunteers trained to use the light, sound, and projection equipment in the auditorium. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers work in teams of two and sign up for one Sunday a month to run A/V for Platform, 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**Contact:** Kate Lovelady: klovelady@ethicalstl.org

**6. Book Cart:** Kent and Jo-Ellen Forrest have been selling books, CDs, DVDs and potato mashers every Sunday morning during coffee hour for several years. In addition to the books on the carts, there are books on shelves in the hall near the name tags. These books have been donated by Society member and friends. We have books for all ages including wonderful children's books. Most of the adult books are \$1 unless otherwise marked. Children's books are 25¢, 50¢, or \$1 as marked. There is a drop box on the end of the cart to pay for the books or you can pay Kent or Jo-Ellen. All profits go to benefit the programs of the Ethical Society. We are no longer accepting new book donations.

**Contact:** Jo-Ellen Forrest: joellen4st@gmail.com  
Kent Forrest: mcfriendly@gmail.com

**7. Building and Grounds:** Share your handy-around-the-house, gardening, or building industry knowledge to help plan and guide projects at the Ethical Society. The Building & Grounds Team assists the Facility Coordinator, Terri Arscott, with planning maintenance and enhancement projects. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm and expertise the second Tuesday of each month! We meet from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Terri Arscott: tarscott@ethicalstl.org; 314-991-0955 x211

**8. Committee of Concern:** The Committee of Concern includes a small group of members who send cards and notes to members, and occasionally make personal visits to members, to extend the Society's "interest and concern." The card may be for a birthday, if you are over 75, to acknowledge a loss, celebrate a new addition or an accomplishment or just to offer a friendly hello. We meet once a month before Platform. We host an ice cream social in August to promote good times among friends.

**Contact:** Jeanette Langton: jeanettelangton@gmail.com

**9. Communications Team:** The Communications Team works with our Outreach Director and Social Media Manager to help shape the communications strategy of the Ethical Society. They are responsible for developing and updating an annual communications plan that helps determine which populations we target, how we craft our message, and how resources are used to spread the word about the Ethical Society.

**Contact:** James Croft: jcroft@ethicalstl.org; 617.543.8769

**\*10. Disaster Preparedness:** The Disaster Preparedness Team has written a Disaster Plan for the Society and updates the plan as needed. The plan is in a notebook in the office. We encourage the Society to have periodic fire and tornado drills, and we develop a schedule for these drills. We attend Cert Training classes and various seminars to understand current information about disaster planning. We coordinate with the Ladue Police Department to help in planning for various disasters. We encourage the Society to have a working AED device and fresh first aid supplies. The prevalence of cell phones and other devices makes it easier for us to anticipate the arrival of a bad storm and other potential disasters, but we still need to be vigilant and prepared. We provide Red Cross brochures about the flu, home disaster preparation, fires, and more to members.

**Contact:** Jane Schaefer: janeschaefer79@gmail.com; 314-580-3972; 314-727-6263

**11. Diversity and Inclusion:** The purpose of this Committee is to oversee the Society's efforts to attain a membership more consistent with the ethnic/racial and age diversity of the St. Louis community. Responsibilities include: (1) Recommend to the Board strategies and resources that encourage diversity and inclusion in the Society's programming and operations, (2) Monitor the Society's progress toward achieving greater diversity and inclusion in membership, programming, outreach, participation, and leadership, and (3) Evaluate the Society's leadership's efforts in prioritizing diversity and inclusion.

**Contact:** Scott Wright: s.wright.0626@gmail.com

**12. Ethical Voices:** Come and share the love of singing with Music Director JD Brooks and the Society Chorus: Ethical Voices. The chorus is a friendly, supportive, learning environment; no audition is necessary. We always have fun preparing special music to present during Platform and for Society Festivals such as the Thanksgiving Festival, Good Cheer, and Earth Day. We also promote and lead community singing. We meet each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Hanke Room. We look forward to hearing your voice soon. Platform Music: If you are interested in music and would like to help plan and find musicians for Platform, please see JD Brooks, Music Director. He is always looking for a few good people who are willing to find, schedule, and contract Platform Musicians of various styles.

**Contact:** JD Brooks: jdbrooks@ethicalstl.org

**13. Fun(d)raising:** The Fun(d)raising Team has a dual purpose: to sponsor activities that encourage a sense of community and enjoyment among Society members and to simultaneously generate additional revenue to support the Ethical Society. In 2018-19, the team's first year in existence, we sponsored three activities: a Fourth of July party; a game night; and a trivia night. Together they raised nearly \$5,000. The team typically meets once a month on Sunday, either before or after Platform.

**Contact:** Maxine Stone: VeryMaxine@aol.com; 314-420-4980  
Carole Beere: Beere1ca@cmich.edu; 859-912-2044

**14. Greeters:** On Sunday mornings, greeters provide a welcoming presence, especially for visitors, by giving directions, answering questions, and mostly by being approachable, friendly people. Each greeting team consists of five greeters who serve one Sunday each month. There is a coordinator for each team who sends out a reminder to team members and helps to set up the "greeting table" in the foyer. Greeting team members are asked to come from 10:20 to 11:00 a.m. The greeting year is twelve months from September through August. There is also a "sub list" and greeters are asked to trade Sundays or find a sub if they are going to be away. "We were all new once." Being a greeter is a great way to help people feel welcome in our community.

**Contact:** Judy Kulczycki: judyk503@sbcglobal.net; 314-721-1946

**15. Lay Leadership Development Committee:** The LLDC is designed to help the volunteer leaders of the Ethical Society (team members, team leaders and committee chairs) acquire useful skills and confidence in managing their activities and goals. In addition, the committee will foster and encourage leadership participation in service to the Society.

**Contact:** Stephanie Sigala: Stephanie.Sigala@sbcglobal.net

**16. Legacy Committee:** The Legacy Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting charitable giving to the Ethical Society. Such giving can be either through donations in a will or trust, by special gifts to the Ethical Society, or by investment in a Charitable Gift Annuity. The Ethical Society has greatly benefitted from the generosity of members who give more than their annual pledge, and the committee is here to facilitate this giving in whatever way best fits the needs and financial ability of the donor. The Charitable Gift Annuity program currently has 21 donors/annuitants who receive quarterly interest payments at very favorable rates with tax savings. The committee meets quarterly and reports to the Finance Committee.

**Contact:** Jim Rhodes: jarhodes@sbcglobal.net

**17. Membership:** The Membership Team's purpose is to befriend visitors to the Ethical Society and encourage them to become involved members. We seek to retain members and foster recognition that each person is an important and unique part of our community. We meet monthly to discuss ways to make visitors feel more welcome and to encourage new members to form lasting friendships and connections within the Society. We also seek to personally engage each new visitor during coffee hour and through email.

**Contact:** Travis Williams: twdougan@gmail.com; 660-528-1381

**\*18. Memorial Receptions Baker or Volunteer:** We provide a reception after a memorial service for our members, providing light refreshments and a time for friends and family to visit.

**Contact:** Ann Eggebrecht: ann.eggebrecht@att.net; 314-725-1560

**19. Platform Speakers:** The Platform Speakers Team provides Sunday platforms that are stimulating and well presented with particular emphasis on ethical issues. The specific goals are (1) To invite approximately 19 speakers from outside and within the Society to speak at platforms on those Sundays when Kate Lovelady and James Croft are not speaking; (2) To provide members to serve as platform chairs and members to give Opening Words; and (3) To establish platform procedures. We invite feedback from Society members regarding ideas for platform subjects, suggested platform speakers, and the format of our platforms.

**Contact:** Andie Jackson: andreajackson568@gmail.com

**\*20. Ushers:** Each Sunday, a team of four individuals stand in the foyer and offer friendly, welcoming faces for current members and visitors. Before Platform, the team members hand out programs, help with the assisted listening devices, answer questions, encourage people to move into the assembly hall, and make sure that visitors truly feel that the Ethical Society is the welcoming home for humanists that we advertise it to be. In addition to providing friendly faces, ushers manage the weekly collection. There are five ushering teams assigned to specific Sundays and each shift begins at 10:40 and ends after Platform.

**Contact:** Samantha White: snwhite2011@gmail.com  
Stephanie Sigala: stephanie.sigala@sbcglobal.net

**21. Visitors' Open House:** The purpose of the Visitors' Open House Team is to welcome interested visitors and answer their questions about the Ethical Society, during weekly half-hour meetings after Sunday Platform. We inform people of the philosophy of the Ethical Society and also the many activities one can participate in, thereby creating a friendly Welcoming Home for Humanists, with the hopes of increasing membership.

**Contact:** Maxine Stone: VeryMaxine@aol.com; 314-420-4980

## **Serving the Community Outside the Ethical Society**

**\*22. Blood Drive:** The Blood Drive Team schedules and coordinates two Red Cross Blood Drives at the Society every year. In 2019, at the request of the Red Cross, we scheduled three drives due to a severe shortage of blood. We may or may not have a third drive in future years. The Red Cross provides posters and signs to help us promote the drive. They also promote our drives and encourage donors to sign up for the drive, so we attract new people to the Society. We coordinate with the staff to set dates for drives and to be sure the temperature in the Becker Room, where the drives are held, is reduced sufficiently.

**Contact:** Jane Schaefer: janeschaefer79@gmail.com; 314-580-3972; 314-727-6263  
Gayle Rose: justgayle@gmail.com

**\*23. Community Food Donations:** We help fight food insecurity in our community by collecting food for non-profit Operation Food Search. A blue collection barrel in the downstairs hallway near the elevator is where you can drop your donations. Non-glass, non-perishable, healthy food items are welcome, as are toiletries and gift cards for food stores.

**Contact:** Gayle Rose: justgayle@gmail.com

**24. Earth Matters:** We are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. (Abridged version: Part of the UN Earth Charter Preamble). Earth Matters encourages, supports, and promotes communication and programs at the Ethical Society on topics of sustainability and climate change emotional resiliency. We connect and network with local and state environmental groups, including the Missouri Clean Energy Coalition of which the Ethical Society is a voting member, and we work for change of the governance of political systems towards a more sustainable global society.

**Contact:** Toni Wirts: toniwirts@hotmail.com

**\*25. Highway Cleanup:** Our team meets quarterly at a half mile stretch of Lindbergh Blvd near Olive to pick up roadside garbage. The cleanup is usually scheduled about a month in advance on a Saturday morning between 8 and 10 a.m. depending on weather and time of year. There is always a back-up date for inclement weather. Usually 7 to 15 people show up and it typically takes about 1 - 1.5 hours. We have a great group and have fun seeing who picks up the most interesting trash.

**Contact:** Gena Gardiner: gena@gardineronline.org; 314-570-8265

**26. International Institute:** The International Institute helps immigrants become productive Americans and champions ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength. Volunteers from the Ethical Society support the Institute as a group and as individuals. As a group, Ethical Society members have provided lunch, delivered furniture, set up an apartment, and “adopted” two families: a young single man from Ethiopia and four siblings from the Congo. We continue to advise them on getting driver’s licenses, passing GED tests, and applying for green cards. Individual opportunities include setting up apartments, babysitting for children whose parents are in classes, assisting in English classes, driving people to appointments, and teaching about American life and how to use the public transit system.

**Contact:** David Brown: david@theBrownGreens.com; 314-703-6945

**\*27. Uganda Humanist Schools:** The Uganda Humanist Schools Trust promotes education and encourages the development of ethical values in Uganda by providing scholarships to students, primarily girls, in humanist secondary schools. Additional funds meet general needs of the schools and students.

**Contact:** Kate Lovelady: KLovelady@ethicalstl.org

**SEE ALSO:** End Racism (#29)

## **Discussion and Education**

**28. Divorce Support Group:** The Divorce Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month. It is a safe environment to share your experiences with separation and divorce with others who have been through, or are going through, similar circumstances. It is open to all Ethical Society members and to non-members, alike.

**Contact:** Rich Feldenberg: Irichard.feldenberg@health.slu.edu

**29. End Racism:** The End Racism Team seeks to promote greater understanding of racism within our society and within ourselves, for the purpose of working to dismantle systemic racism. We organize Forum series, monthly Black Lives Matter vigils, and discussions on topics related to race and racism. We use books and videos as starting points for our discussions and hope to strengthen relationships between participants who are looking for anti-racist community. Past activities include hosting Witnessing Whiteness groups, organizing "One Book, One Ethical Society," and partnering with other organizations in regard to policing, disenfranchisement, and the school to prison pipeline.

**Contact:** Nathan Schrenk: nathan@schrenk.org

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ethicalstl-end-racism>

**30. Ethical Edge:** Do you want to discuss hot current affairs topics in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere? If so, Ethical Edge is for you! We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in a private room at Café Ventana for a guided discussion of the ethical questions behind topics in the news. Past topics include: “Should we punch Nazis?” and “Should we take down Confederate monuments?” Discussions are impassioned but civil – it’s a great way to get to know new people while exercising your brain!

**Contact:** James Croft: jcroft@ethicalstl.org; 617-543-8769

**31. Great Books Discussion Group:** Group members read and discuss original texts that raise topics significant to Western Civilization. For its reading material, the group selects anthologies published by the Great Books Foundation. The Foundation describes its mission as: "Through Shared Inquiry™ discussions of enduring literature, we advance social and civic engagement and help people of all ages think critically about their own lives and the world we share." In 2019-20, our discussion group will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., September through May. Attendance at our discussions is typically about eight people, including Society members and non-members.

**Contact:** Alan Easton, facilitator: ameast89@yahoo.com; 314-941-8768

**32. Just Write:** Calling all creative writers, passionate for self-expression. You have stories to tell, whether you write books, essays, memoirs, humor or poetry. Just Write can help you. Our goals are to improve our writing, to support and encourage fellow writers, and to immerse ourselves in the writing life. We meet from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Board Room on the first Monday of each month. Many of our meetings are chaired by Bobbie Linkemer, a writing coach, ghostwriter, and editor, as well as the author of twenty-five books. We look forward to welcoming new members.

**Contact:** Bobbi Linkemer: bobbi@writeanonfictionbook.com or linkemberbobbi@gmail.com;  
314-495-8589

**33. Men's Forum:** The Men's Forum is both an educational and social group. The group meets in the Hanke Room every Tuesday, September through June, from 10 a.m. to noon. The Forum is usually attended by retired men but is open to everyone, members and non-members. Between 10 and 20 participants attend a meeting, with the number varying based on the speakers and topics. The first hour of the meeting is generally a presentation by an outside speaker or a participant on various prepared topics, such as personal growth, ethical issues, current affairs, and historical events. The second hour is normally devoted to social interaction allowing participants to speak of personal concerns, current issues or programming comments. Some participants remain for a "brown bag" lunch for additional camaraderie.

**Contact:** Andy Stanton: aystanton@gmail.com; 571-278-3098  
Ron Williams: rwillia@att.net; 314-521-8415

**34. Photo-Ops:** Photo-Ops is a special interest group dedicated to developing photography skills, sharing photographs we have taken, and exploring the artistry of photography. No special expertise or expensive equipment is required. Cell phone photography is just fine! We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hanke Room. The topics discussed at each meeting vary and may include technical aspects of photography, video presentations, or presentations by members on topics they choose. Our special focus for this year is portrait photography. We use a digital projector to share our photos at each meeting, and we also have a bulletin board for members to display their printed photographs. Members are also sometimes asked to take photos of special events at the Society.

**Contacts:** Jim Rhodes: jarhodes@sbcglobal.net

**35. Science Enthusiasts:** The Science Enthusiast's Club promotes science and nature by having a monthly discussion on a selected science topic. It is open to all Ethical Society Members and no formal background in science is necessary to be part of the group. We love learning about science and the natural world and want to share our enthusiasm. The group meets every third Tuesday at 7pm in the Hanke room.

**Contact:** Rich Feldenberg: lrichard.feldenberg@health.slu.edu

**36. Science Fiction Book Club:** The Science Fiction Book Club is a member-driven discussion group focused on science fiction novels and short stories. We read one book per month, chosen by a member of the book club who also volunteers to facilitate that month's discussion. We meet the 4th Monday of most months, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Leader's office at the Society. This is a drop-in/drop-out club, with no attendance or hosting requirements. You are welcome to come once a year, or every month, as your schedule allows. We organize throughout the month using a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/433042893742818/>.

**Contact:** Cy Henningsen: [augiecy@yahoo.com](mailto:augiecy@yahoo.com); 815-790-8921

**37. Tuesday Women's Association (TWA):** TWA meets on Tuesdays from August through June in the Becker Room. Gatherings begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and socializing. Programs begin at 10:30 followed by a brown bag lunch. Some members remain after to play Mah Jongg. Our purpose is to work for the general good of the Ethical Society, to foster fellowship among our members, to provide programs of interest to members, to support selected social causes, and to have fun and foster friendship. We are proud of our many contributions to the Ethical Society, our recent growth in membership, and our increasing cultural diversity. Come out on Tuesdays and see us.

**Contact:** Sharon Poe, President: [maspstl@att.net](mailto:maspstl@att.net)

Ann Eggebrecht, Vice-President: [ann.eggebrecht@att.net](mailto:ann.eggebrecht@att.net)

Jo-Ellen Forrest, Treasurer: [joellen4st@gmail.com](mailto:joellen4st@gmail.com)

**38. "We Thinks Good" Philosophy Discussion Group:** The "We Thinks Good" Philosophy Discussion Group meets twice a month to discuss important philosophical topics. Possible topics for this year include autonomy, animal ethics, abortion, sexual orientation, capitalism, cyborgs, existentialism, racial liberalism, and misogyny. Each participant will receive a handout with excerpts from relevant readings or key concepts at the start of each meeting. No prior reading is needed. The group was created by Jason Chen and will be hosted in 2019-20 by Michelle Ciurria.

**Contact:** Michelle Ciurria: [mich.ciurria@gmail.com](mailto:mich.ciurria@gmail.com); 314-224-9604

**SEE ALSO:** Ethical Voices (#12); Earth Matters (#24); Virtual Travel Club (#47)

## **Health and Wellness**

**39. Colloquy:** Colloquy is designed to provide an opportunity for participants to reflect, meditate and share, if so desired, on a topic provided by a facilitator. Through music and readings, the facilitator will guide participants through a somewhat strict format that creates a protected space for feelings and thoughts without judgement, for exercising balance between thoughts and emotion, and for exercising intimacy without risk. The group meets each Sunday, September through May, at 9:45 a.m. in the Board Room. All are welcome. No membership required.

**Contact:** Melissa Triplett: [triplettmelissa@ymail.com](mailto:triplettmelissa@ymail.com)

**40. Mindfulness Meditation:** Mindfulness is a powerful tool that helps us deal with stress, promotes physical and mental well-being, and awakens the senses to living ethically in the present moment. Our meetings include silent meditation practice, as well as weekly topics related to mindful and ethical living. We draw from the works of Thich Nhat Hahn, Jon Kabat-Zinn, Ethical Society founder Felix Adler and others. There are two different groups, one that meets Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. in the Foyer, the other that meets Tuesday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Leader's office. All are welcome to join us, on either a regular or drop-in basis.

**Contact:** Sharon Biegen: [biegens8@gmail.com](mailto:biegens8@gmail.com)

**41. Tai Chi:** Tai Chi is a gentle, low-impact series of movements that bring body, mind and breath together. It was developed centuries ago in China and looks like swimming slowly in the air. Research has begun to substantiate its many health benefits. People of all ages and physical conditions can do this exercise. It can be done as meditation, relaxation, self-discovery, exercise, health improvement, and body awareness. Don Beere teaches the class on Tuesdays, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Hanke room. He has been learning, doing and teaching tai chi for over 45 years. We ask for, at most, a \$5 donation with all donations contributed to the Ethical Society. Everyone, including non-members, is welcome.

**Contact:** Don Beere: beere1db@cmich.edu; 859-912-0012

**42. Yoga:** Relax, renew and breathe with yoga on Mondays, 5:00-6:15 pm, in the Hanke room. It is a fairly gentle class with a bit of challenge. Modifications are encouraged. The teacher, Jane House, has the equivalent of a 500 RYT and has done teacher training with Rod Stryker and has studied with Saul David Raye, Tias Little, Timothy McCall, MD and the Himalayan Institute in Pennsylvania. She really enjoys sharing the many benefits of yoga. The emphasis is on moving with the breath and making yoga a meditative practice. Suggested donation is \$10. All are welcome.

**Contact:** Jane House: Janehouse3@gmail.com; 314-965-3486

**SEE ALSO:** Divorce Support Group (#28); Ethicyclists (#44)

## **Social Emphasis**

**43. Ethicurean Dinners:** The Ethicurean Dinners are potluck dinners in members' homes, held four times yearly, usually on the second weekend of October, January, April and July. They are a way for Society members to get to know each other in a relaxed, informal setting. You may sign up individually or as a couple. You might or might not be dining with some of the same people from one dinner to the next. Typically, the host provides the home and table setting, main dish, and non-alcoholic drinks. Each guest or guest couple provides one of the other components of the meal. You are encouraged to sign up to host one of the dinners if possible.

**Contact:** Andie Jackson: andreajackson568@gmail.com

**44. Ethicyclists:** The Ethicyclist group has been in existence for about 9 years. We have monthly bike rides scheduled on Saturdays from April through October. These rides provide Ethical Society members and guests with safe exercise and fellowship. There have been six rides so far in 2019, and the final ride in October will be on the Great River Road through scenic country to Elsah. We will return for lunch in Alton at the Old Bakery Beer Company. Joe Corrigan and David Brown both lead group rides and recruit other ride facilitators. The rides range from about 8-12 riders and 17-25 miles.

**Contact:** Joe Corrigan: japplecorr@att.net; (314) 753-5538

David Brown: david@theBrownGreens.com; 314-703-6945

**45. Second Sunday Dinner Theater Group:** Second Sunday Dinner Theater is a long-running group that meets on the Second Sunday night of each month from 5:30 to 9:30 to actively read and enjoy listening to a wide range of plays. Over a 30 year period the group has read plays by both well-known and local playwrights, even some members. No experience required. Three course meal before, in between, and after the performances. Members bring their favorite dishes to share. After three visits we ask you to join and contribute a dish and if you desire begin to participate in the plays. You will not find a more supportive and fun group to spend an evening with. Never any obligation to attend. An annual \$15 fee covers your contribution to the Ethical Society for use of its facilities. See you at the Theatre.

**Contact:** Sue Williams: sjwillia43@att.net

**46. Veggie Potluck:** The Good Eatin' Veggie Potluck group meets on the first Friday of each month at one another's residences or at the Ethical Society to share vegetarian and vegan food, scintillating conversation, and plenty of laughter and smiles.

**Contact:** Bob Saigh: razorsharpcomm@charter.net; 314-781-4731

**47. Virtual Travel Club:** Have you ever wanted to travel somewhere exciting, but perhaps it is too far, too expensive, or the timing isn't right? Maybe you're ready to travel, and learning about someone else's experience can help you decide where to go. Maybe you're an armchair traveler or maybe you just enjoy getting together with fellow Society members. Regardless of what you are seeking, the Virtual Travel Club might be for you. Five meetings are scheduled during the year, with one presentation per meeting. You'll see videos and slides of the traveler's experience and get a chance to ask questions. The 2019-20 season includes Egypt (9/20), South Korea (11/8), India (1/10), United Kingdom (3/6), and Antarctica (5/8). Join the email list to receive updates and reminders about the season's programs.

**Contact:** Carole Beere: beere1ca@cmich.edu; 859-912-2044

**48. Young Ethical Ladies (YELs):** The Young Ethical Ladies group aims to develop relationships and build community around female or feminine experiences in the context of ethical humanism. We have social events each month that can vary from brunch to coloring nights to happy hours. We're always open to new ideas on ways to come together as well! We use an inclusive definition of "ladies," and we welcome trans women and non-binary people who are female-identified. We hope to see you at our events! **Contact:** Michelle Simkins: simkinm2@gmail.com; 314-295-4545

Beth Correnti: beth.correnti@gmail.com; 314-452-6950

Facebook Group: Young Ethical Ladies

**49. Young Ethicals:** The Young Ethicals is a group for 20 to 40-ish year-old Ethical Society members and visitors. We provide a wide variety of scheduled activities with the goal of having several gatherings each month. We have monthly happy hours, Sunday lunches, volunteer opportunities, game and movie nights, and local First Friday events at the Art Museum and Science Center. Join the Young Ethicals group on Facebook to learn about our next event.

**Contact:** Cy Henningsen: augiecy@yahoo.com; 815-790-8921

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/85728995921/>

**SEE ALSO:** Ambassadors (#3); Men's Forum (#33); Tuesday Women's Association (#37)

## **Focus on Youth**

**50. Coming of Age:** Like almost every religious tradition and culture, Ethical Humanism marks the passage of young people from childhood into adulthood. We call it "Coming of Age." It's a two-year program that culminates in a speech before the community, in which every program participant explores their values and identity as they move into young adulthood. Participants spend a fair amount of their time together discussing their new levels of responsibility and how they'll negotiate their relationships. They visit other religious congregations and contemplate how different belief systems help people grapple with the same issues and questions that all humans encounter. The program serves 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We meet on Sundays from 10 a.m. until noon, September through May.

**Contact:** Nick Cowan: nick.s.cowan@gmail.com; 314-488-8879

**51. Ethical Navigators:** Our chapter, Chapter 33 of Navigators USA, is a neo-scout group that welcomes all people: kids and adults, no matter what gender, race, lifestyle, ability, religious or lack of religious belief. We believe the greatest challenge for the future of our planet is whether we will learn how to get along with people different from ourselves. The national mission is to help kids and their parents spend more time outdoors, getting to know what nature has to offer while getting to know each other.

**Contact:** Angie Postal: Angie.Postal@gmail.com

Ethical Navigators Council: chapter33leaders@navigatorusa.org

**\*52. Nursery School:** The Ethical Society Nursery School was founded by Ethical Society members 50 years ago to provide a supportive, educational environment in which each child is accepted as unique. Our school strives to enhance self-esteem, promote positive social skills, and encourage the natural curiosity and creativity of the preschool child. Attention to self-help skills contributes to a child's feelings of capability and independence. In this environment, children enjoy problem solving and feel free to take risks in their exploration of the world. Age-appropriate activities are geared toward all facets of growth: physical, cognitive, emotional as well as social. Please contact us with enrollment questions.

**Contact:** Jill Allen, Director: jillallen23@gmail.com; 314-991-1353

**53. SEEK:** SEEK – our Sunday Ethical Education for Kids program - helps children from infancy through their teens develop their values, explore their identities, think critically about the ways religions influence the decisions people make throughout their lifetimes, and decide for themselves how they will put their ethics into action in the world. We offer all children and youth a supportive and richly diverse community where they learn about the values that are foundational to Ethical Humanism. Then we challenge them do their part to make the world a more loving and just. SEEK programming from birth through high school runs from 10 a.m. to noon every Sunday from early September through mid-May. In the summer, we organize activities every Sunday for infants through elementary schoolers. Rachel Valenti would love to hear from you if you'd like to lead a workshop for children or parents or assist with projects and events.

**Contact:** Rachel Valenti, SEEK Director: rvalenti@ethicalstl.org

**54. SEEK Council:** The SEEK Council is a group of Ethical Society members and friends who care deeply about the ongoing strength and growth of ethical education programs for kids. We meet monthly after platform (exact dates for fall 2019 TBD) to guide SEEK administration in planning and strategy for programs for ages preschool through high school. Our group includes parents of current and former SEEK students and educators. We welcome anyone who is passionate about kids' education to join.

**Contact:** Kathy Schrenk: kathys@gmail.com; 650-533-9507

**55. Youth Group:** In our Youth Group, teens, in grades 9 through 12, offer each other a safe, respectful, and confidential environment where they can freely discuss and explore topics that are relevant and important to them. While the group is youth led, adult advisors participate to help guide the discussions and projects. Youth Group Members work together to organize service activities, fundraisers, and creative events that have become Society traditions. A highlight of each year is the annual weekend Youth of Ethical Societies (YES) Conference with other Ethical Humanist teens from around the country.

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