

## Ethical Society of St Louis Leader Search Task Force

Hi! We are the Task Force to find a new leader for the Ethical Society of St. Louis. We look forward to meeting you!

### **Carole Beere (she/her), co-chair**

In 2013, I retired from a career in higher education, where I had been a dean and professor of psychology. Shortly thereafter, Don and I moved to St. Louis to be close to our daughter. Nine months later, we joined the Ethical Society. It only took one visit to show us we had found a home which matched our values and beliefs. Being new to St. Louis, we particularly appreciated how welcoming the members were, and we now have many close friends at the Ethical Society. Since joining, I have led the pledge drive, started the Virtual Travel Club, chaired the Fundraising Team, served on search teams and the Speakers Team, chaired the Activity Fair, and served as president of the Society's Board. I love the Ethical Society, and I love living in St. Louis, especially since our daughter lives here. We spend every Saturday with her two children, and since they all attend the Ethical Society, we see them on Sunday. Our son and his family live in Berlin, so we see them much less often, but today's technology lets us stay in regular contact. I feel very lucky with how our retirement years have evolved.



### **Don Beere (he/him), co-chair**

I've been a member of the Ethical Society for almost ten years. We moved to St. Louis the previous year, and the friends we've made through the society have enriched our lives. I have served on two Nominating Committees, acted as a Greeter, and participated in two interest groups: photography and science fiction. Our daughter lives in St. Louis, and we see her and her two children (ages 8 and 9) every week. Our son lives permanently in Berlin, is married to a German woman, and has four children (ages 12 to 20). Pre-pandemic we saw them twice a year. We hope to resume that this coming year. We've been married for 55 years. I was a professor of clinical psychology for 29 years, had a clinical practice for 43, and have been retired for 10 years. Since retiring, I've had time for three of my passions: tai chi, which I've practiced and taught for 50 years and now teach through the Ethical Society; art, which I do through photography; and writing, having published a psychological thriller, and recently

finished the first book in a science fiction trilogy.

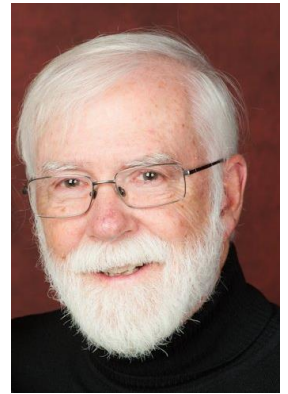
### **Katie Borders (she/her), member**

I've been a member of the Ethical Society for 9 years. I'm a stay-at-home mom to my two kids, ages 15 and 12, and I'm also an activist, with interests in gun safety, local elections, climate change, and feminism. I've been involved in several different areas of the Society: I served as Secretary on the Board of Trustees from 2020-2023; I was a member of the SEEK Council, helping to guide our Ethical Education programs; before our system was upgraded, I helped run AV for our Sunday morning programs; I've helped organize our trivia nights. I'm also a member of our Science Fiction Book Club and recently joined the choir! I love reading, board games, cozy video games and "Weird Al" Yankovic concerts. I'm a Midwesterner through and through, having lived in the Twin Cities in Minnesota, Kansas City and Columbia, MO. I've spent most of my life in St. Louis and currently live with my husband Heath (an ESSL member since he was a kid!) and our two sons. I look forward to meeting you!



**David Brown (he/him), member**

Raised in a fundamentalist religious tradition, I felt liberated when I found the Unitarians in my early 20's. Since then, I have spent about 30 years as a Unitarian Universalist and now almost 20 years as an ethical humanist at the Ethical Society of St. Louis. The Ethical Society, being a bit more secular, is a more comfortable fit for me and my wife. I have served as Board President at both organizations as well as being active on many committees including chairing the annual pledge campaign several times. I have been retired for 20 years after teaching mathematics at the college level and doing software development. We have two sons and four grandchildren who are either in college or are recent graduates.

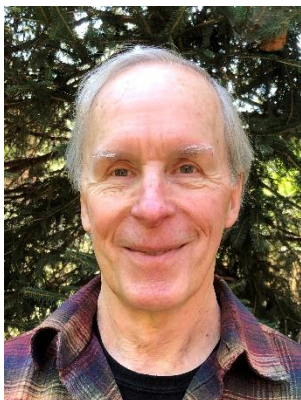
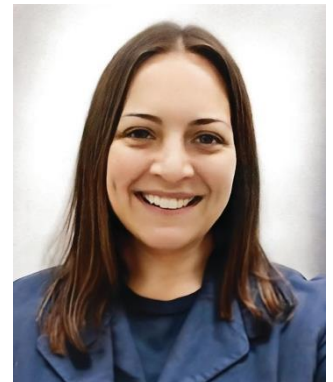


**Cy Henningsen (he/him), member**

I've been a member of the Ethical Society of Saint Louis for 10 years. I organize the Society's monthly Science Fiction Book Club. Formerly I helped organize the Young Ethicals, now called the Humanist Hangouts, and have been a member of various other groups and task forces at the Society. Professionally, I work at a small architectural and planning firm, as a senior laboratory planner and designer. Philosophically I am both an Epicurean (friendships are key to a happy life) and an Existentialist (we each individually must decide the purpose of our life). Politically progressive. 43-years-old, pansexual, in a long term ethically non-monogamous relationship. My hobbies and interests include: board games, hiking, nature photography, reading, visiting the City's many restaurants, role-playing games (D&D, etc.), nerding out on science and history, and gardening.

**Lindsey Nissenbaum (she/her), member**

I joined the Ethical Society in 2015 after searching for a community of liberal and like-minded folks with whom to put down social roots. Here, I head the Humanist Hangouts social group and Ethicurean Dinners (small groups that meet for dinner at each other's homes). I work as an emergency medicine physician and am a faculty member of the residency program at my hospital. My husband and I also own a small business that designs and installs native gardens. Sustainability and environmental preservation are incredibly important to me. I am already a Master Gardener, and I am currently in training to become a Missouri Master Naturalist, too!



**Brian Vandenberg (he/him), member**

My wife and I have been members of the Ethical Society for 19 years and we are grateful for this vibrant, precious community that offers a welcoming home for humanist-wayfarers like ourselves. We enjoy the rich opportunities St Louis offers for music of all kinds, dance, and theater as well as hiking and birding. And the St Louis Cardinals feed my life-long addiction to baseball and heartbreak. I have served on several Ethical Society committees in the past, and currently I am on the Membership and Climate Action Now! committees. I am retired, and in my former life was a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Missouri St. Louis.