

# ETHICAL CONNECTION



Ethical Society of St. Louis — Being Human, Together.

## OCTOBER'S THEME: COMMUNICATION

The theme of our 2020-2021 program year is The Examined Life. In October, we will be exploring communication, the process of sharing messages and information with one another. Ethical Humanists believe every person is important and deserves to be heard. Good communication involves the ability to listen and feel empathy. Properly communicating with each other is important for building relationships and creating a just world for everyone. We invite you to explore communication with us all month long.



## SUNDAY PLATFORMS

October 4, 2020  
Therapist Angela Skurtu  
“Infidelity: Helping  
Couples Heal”  
Music from Kelly’s Heroes;  
rock band



Angela Skurtu

October 11, 2020  
Professor John Baugh  
“Linguistic Profiling”  
Music from Hannah  
Wang, Andrew Wu,  
and Olivia Lu; piano



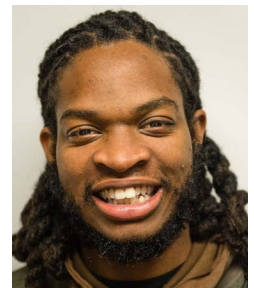
John Baugh

October 18, 2020  
Leader James Croft  
“Other People Are Not  
You: How to Really Listen”  
Music from Rebecca  
Hatlelid; vocals



Dr. James Croft

October 25, 2020  
Leader Intern  
Christian Hayden  
“How Conflict Feeds  
Connection”  
Music from Nathalie Cerin;  
folk



Christian Hayden

MEETING ID: 384 422 5785

# NOTARIES FOR ELECTION BALLOT

Need a free notary? Come to the Ethical Society of St. Louis (9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117) with your completed absentee or mail-In ballot and a government issued photo ID on any of the dates and times listed below. When you arrive at the Ethical Society, drive down the hill behind the building; the notary will be at a table outside. Social distancing and masks required for everyone.

Date	Time
Saturday, October 17	10 a.m. to noon
Wednesday, October 21	4 to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24	10 a.m. to noon
Sunday, October 25	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For information about various ballot options, please review the information here: [Ethical Society of St. Louis Free Notary Schedule and Ballot Options](#) or here: [Missouri Election Info](#).

## OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Join Leader Intern Christian Hayden for two workshops in October at 6 p.m. 10/7- **Ethical Culture (Re)resher** - What is this Ethical Culture thing all about? What are we about when we are in community? And Felix Adler, what was he thinking when he started Ethical Culture, and would he be proud of what it is today, or is he rolling in his grave? Learn (or re-learn) the principles of Ethical Culture, its founding, and what being a part of this community means.

10/21 - **Living Through the Lens of Ethical Culture** - Are you facing an ethical dilemma? Ever thought, "What would Felix Adler do?" Okay, probably not, but have you wondered what your favorite utilitarian or feminist would do in a certain situation? We are offering an opportunity where people can work as a group on an ethical dilemma posed by someone from the group. Principles for working together will be established around respect, openness, and collaboration.

## BLACK LIVES MATTER VIGIL

The Ethical Society has resumed our monthly Black Lives Matter vigils. Join us October 11 and on the second Sunday of every month, 1-2 p.m., up on Clayton Road. Please wear a mask and, since we cannot enter the building, you should bring your own sign as well. All are welcome to participate. Questions? Reach out to Krystal White at [krystalsnowwhite@gmail.com](mailto:krystalsnowwhite@gmail.com).

## "LEGACY" WEBINAR SERIES

Black Nonbelievers of DC are hosting a webinar series, "Legacy," that aims to highlight the story of dissent and narratives around Black non-belief throughout history while connecting it to the values and lived experiences that so many lack nonbelievers currently face in their communities. [Click here to join](#). Meeting ID: 633 065 6711. No advance registration is required.

- 10/3 at 10:30 a.m., Sabrina Dent will present "Reimagining Community"
- 10/10 at 10:30 a.m., Andrew L. Seidel will present "American Christian Nationalism"
- 10/17 at 1 p.m., Christopher Cameron will present "Black Freethinkers & African-American Secularism"

## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Please join us on Friday, October 2, at 7 p.m. for the second in our series of First Friday Forums. The speaker will be Casey Gardonio-Foat, a member of the Ethical Society with a Ph.D. in art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. The title of her talk is "A Garden is a Mirror of a Mind: What Landscape Design Reveals about Our Relationship with Nature."

Casey will share pictures of some of the world's most beautiful gardens and natural spaces and discuss what they can tell us about how humanity has understood nature and the place of humans within it. The Zoom number is 384 422 5785.

## We Thinks Good

Decolonizing Climate Justice: Climate change from an indigenous perspective. Come join us to talk about climate racism, climate sexism, and how oppressed groups are fighting climate change using their communities' cultural resources. We Thinks Good meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 3 p.m. Use Zoom meeting code 384 422 5785.

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## Virtual Travel Club

The October meeting of the Virtual Travel Club will be Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Jim Rhodes who will share his trip to Belize. With Jim's love of photography, there are bound to be some fabulous photos. Invite your friends and family and join us on Zoom. Use Zoom meeting code 384 422 5785.

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## Second Sunday Dinner Theatre

Second Sunday Dinner Theatre will take place on Zoom Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. Please use meeting code 384 422 5785.

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## Falter One Book Discussion, October 5

Another discussion of the book *Falter* will take place Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. This final meeting will focus on Part 4 of *Falter*, "An Outside Chance," and will emphasize solutions to climate change. The Society has arranged for Left Bank Books to make copies of *Falter* available at a discount to our members. (Left Bank is offering curbside pickup.) Get a copy and enjoy a serious author delving into the crucial topics of our age. Use Zoom meeting code 384 422 5785.

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## Science Fiction Book Club

The Science Fiction Book Club will be reading *Downbelow Station* by C.J. Cherryh, and meeting Monday, October 26, at 7 p.m. on Zoom for a discussion. Use Zoom meeting code 384 422 5785.

## Tai Chi

Learn tai chi by applying its principles to walking. Everyone is welcome to join the class, led by Don Beere, Fridays at 10 a.m. Use Zoom meeting code 384 422 5785 and wait to be admitted. Class runs about an hour. You do not have to be an Ethical Society member to join.

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## Great Books Discussion Group

The Great Books group will meet via Zoom on the second Wednesdays of the month through May 2021. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The selection for that discussion is found in the anthology, *Great Conversations 1* on pages 351-375: *Thoughts for the Times on War and Death* by Sigmund Freud. If you are interested in participating in the Great Books reading group, please contact Alan Easton at [ameast89@yahoo.com](mailto:ameast89@yahoo.com).

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## Ethical Mindfulness Practice

The Ethical Mindfulness group will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 a.m. The first three Wednesdays of the month will be on Zoom and the fourth (as well as the fifth in months that have fifth Wednesdays) will be held outdoors, with social distancing and masks. (Of course, this will not be possible during the winter months.) The October schedule is as follows: Zoom on October 7, 14 and 21, and outside on October 28. Exact location to be determined. Stay tuned for updates.

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## Virtual Youth Group

Each Sunday at 10 a.m. our SEEK teen leaders research and present a topic, and we'd love for more teens to join the conversation. Join us for community and discussion with other teens! Meeting ID: 871 5256 0728 and Passcode: 529160

## END RACISM TEAM PLANNING SESSIONS

The End Racism Team meets every fourth Sunday at 10 a.m. to plan educational and ethical action events. All are welcome to join and participate. Our next meeting is on Sunday, October 25;

reach out to Krystal White ([krystalsnowwhite@gmail.com](mailto:krystalsnowwhite@gmail.com)) for the Zoom access code. You can also join our Ethical End Racism distribution list at [ethicalstl-end-racism@googlegroups.com](mailto:ethicalstl-end-racism@googlegroups.com)

# PLATFORM DETAILS

**10/4/2020 – Infidelity: Helping Couples Heal –** Why do people cheat on their significant others, and how does infidelity affect our relationships? Most people believe cheating is morally wrong, yet many people end up cheating on their spouses (even in seemingly happy relationships). Marriage therapist Angela Skurtu will cover ways that people rationalize infidelity and ways it impacts the trust in a relationship once it is discovered. Finally, she will describe the therapeutic process that helps couples rebuild trust and start a renewed relationship. Angela Skurtu is a keynote speaker, author, and president of St. Louis Marriage Therapy. She is a Missouri licensed marriage therapist and nationally certified sex therapist through AASECT. She has written *Pre-Marital Counseling: A Guide for Clinicians* and the book *Helping Couples Overcome Infidelity: A Therapist's Manual*.

**10/11/2020 – Linguistic Profiling –** John Baugh is Professor of Psychology, Anthropology, Education, English, Linguistics, and African and African-American Studies at Washington University. Baugh's primary research interest has been the social stratification of linguistic behavior in multicultural and multilingual nations. In addition to his linguistic research, Professor Baugh directs the African and African-American Studies program, which strives to advance distinguished scholarship of and by people of African descent regardless of academic discipline.

**10/18/2020 – Other People Are Not You: How to Really Listen –** One of the most challenging elements of effective communication is listening. It seems simple – what could be easier than not speaking while someone else talks? But true listening is difficult. To get inside the minds of other people requires us to understand that they are not the same as we are, and that requires a lot of effort and communication skills. Join Leader James Croft as he discusses this topic.

**10/25/2020 – How Conflict Feeds Connection –** The difficult parts of most relationships begin when there is growing tension around certain threshold issues and a lack of skills around how to engage them. But instead of looking at it as a win/loss, how might we turn conflict into a way to grow relationships, instead of break them down? Join Leader Intern Christian Hayden as he discusses this topic.

## October 1 - October 3

Friday, Oct. 2 10 a.m. Tai Chi  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
7 p.m. First Friday Forum  
Saturday, Oct. 3 3 p.m. We Think Good

## October 4 - October 10

Sunday, Oct. 4 11 a.m. Infidelity: Helping Couples Heal  
Monday, Oct. 5 7 p.m. One Book Discussion  
Tuesday, Oct. 6 10 a.m. TWA  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Wednesday, Oct. 7 9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice  
6 p.m. Ethical Culture (Re)frresher  
Thursday, Oct. 8 6 p.m. Post-Platform Discussion  
Friday, Oct. 9 10 a.m. Tai Chi  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Saturday, Oct. 10 7 p.m. Games with Weezy

## October 11 - October 17

Sunday, Oct. 11 11 a.m. Linguistic Profiling  
1 p.m. BLM Vigil  
5:30 p.m. Second Sunday Dinner Theatre  
Monday, Oct. 12 6 p.m. Board Meeting  
Tuesday, Oct. 13 10 a.m. TWA  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Wednesday, Oct. 14 9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice  
7:30 p.m. Great Books Discussion  
Thursday, Oct. 15 6 p.m. Post-Platform Discussion  
Friday, Oct. 16 10 a.m. Tai Chi  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
7 p.m. Virtual Travel Club  
Saturday, Oct. 17 3 p.m. We Think Good

## October 18 - October 24

Sunday, Oct. 18 11 a.m. Other People Are Not You: How to Really Listen  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 10 a.m. TWA  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Wednesday, Oct. 21 9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice  
6 p.m. Living Through the Lens of Ethical Culture  
Thursday, Oct. 22 6 p.m. Post-Platform Discussion  
Friday, Oct. 23 10 a.m. Tai Chi  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Saturday, Oct. 24 7 p.m. Games with Weezy

## October 25 - October 31

Sunday, Oct. 25 11 a.m. How Conflict Feeds Connection  
Monday, Oct. 26 7 p.m. Science Fiction Book Club  
Tuesday, Oct. 27 10 a.m. TWA  
4 p.m. Men's Group Chat  
Wednesday, Oct. 28 9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice  
Thursday, Oct. 29 6 p.m. Post-Platform Discussion

# ETHICAL CONNECTION



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Platform Announcement Submission	

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Submission deadline for the Ethical Connection newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month  
Email items to [connection@ethicalstl.org](mailto:connection@ethicalstl.org).

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