



Ethical Connection

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

June 2024

June 6, 9:45 a.m. History of Iran with Mory Mani – Forum

In this brief history of Iran over the past 2500 years, key periods will be highlighted to provide an understanding of the people of Iran, how Iran became a Moslem country, particularly a Shiite sect, and how it arrived at its present state. This presentation will include examples of art, history, and historical places.

Mory Mani was born in Iran;

he moved to the US in 1973, right after high school. He completed undergraduate and graduate studies in mechanical and aerospace engineering. Mory worked for four years at NASA Langley Research Center before joining the Boeing Company in 1988. He worked at Boeing Research & Technology, providing computational fluid dynamics

technology, and participating in aerodynamics problem resolutions to all three divisions of Boeing: Commercial, Space, and Military. He remained there until his retirement in December of 2020. Mory now works part-time with a couple of universities, and is enjoying traveling and visiting his kids and grandkids in Washington, DC, and Cambridge, MA.

June 6, 11 a.m.

Is Diet CULTure a cult?

Platform – Katie Thompson

Music – Jeffrey Levine (guitar), Ed Martinez (vocals), Willem von Hombracht (bass)

Is Diet Culture actually a cult? And are most Americans signing on for an accidental membership in the cult? Is it possible that



Katie Thompson

the majority of us have been indoctrinated with the powerful propaganda of this 90 billion dollar a year industry and we have little awareness that the same tactics used by high-control religious organizations and cults are employed in the ways that we engage with food and our bodies? In this conversation, we will examine the classic components of cults and how these same methodologies are used to keep the American populace engaged in Diet Culture.

Katie Thompson LPC, CEDS is a Missouri-based psychotherapist specializing in trauma, eating

disorders, anxiety disorders and couples/family therapy. She has been practicing for over 15 years and in that time she has been a clinician in all levels of psychiatric services including nonprofit social work settings. As a clinician, Katie has vast training and experience with eating disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, complex PTSD, blended families and attachment. Throughout her career, Katie has created a large toolbox of clinical interventions but prefers to work with most clinical issues utilizing Internal Family Systems therapy (IFS), ERP and EMDR. She uses a direct and honest approach coupled with

compassion to help guide clients into the journey of recovery and healing. As a former educator, she utilizes years of experience with children and families as a guide when she steps into the role of family therapist. As a renowned expert in the field of eating disorder recovery, Katie has been serving regionally and nationally as a consultant, trainer and coach throughout her career. When not in clinical space with clients, Katie spends professional time training and supervising other therapists.

This Platform will feature music by Jeffrey Levine (guitar), Ed

Martinez (vocals), and Willem von Hombracht (bass).

Ed Martinez, a retired Air Force photographer, found a new rhythm in life as a vocalist. With a passion for diverse musical genres, Ed started his musical journey in 2014, lending his percussion skills and vocals to the Collinsville, Illinois trio, Tres Tequilas.

Willem von Hombracht loves performing all genres of music, from orchestral and chamber groups, folk music from around the world, traditional Persian

music, West African music, traditional Cuban and salsa, Caribbean calypso, Brazilian samba, Mexican mariachi and Argentine tango. He also loves rock, jazz, and blues.

Jeffrey Levine is a member of the Ethical Society and is the songwriter and arranger for the band The Roominators. He's been playing in bands since he was 15 and has a degree in music composition from UC San Diego. You can hear some of his songs on Spotify - "Lefty and the Hatman", and "Blue Noise Kitchen."



The Roominators

June 9, 9:45 a.m. Living Ethics Discussion with Louise Jett – Forum

Creative Director Louise Jett will offer an opportunity for connection and conversation about ethical action in our daily lives. Several Ethical Societies hold monthly Living Ethics Discussions about approaches to embodying our values. Some of these exchanges are based on controversial topics, while others offer participants a chance to explore personal

ethical dilemmas and seek encouragement, advice and/or resources. This 9:45 Forum will be the latter. Louise will offer a short presentation on ethical thinking before asking attendees to share their ethical victories and challenges. Advice can be given when requested, but Louise hopes we all can listen with empathy and hold space for each other in the

absence of telling others how to live. After all, there is no singular way to live ethically, and we are free to adopt our own values.

Think about the following questions and please join us: How do you make ethical decisions? What stands in your way of leading an ethical life? In what ways do your ethical actions shine?

June 9 , 11 a.m.

A Little Weird is Good

Platform – Emily Kircher-Morris

Music – Claire, Grace, and Cindy Minnis

Embrace neurodiversity and lean into the weird! Neurodivergent people (like those with labels such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, or gifted—to name only a few) are a bit different, but these differences are what make the world a vibrant and thriving place. Rather than conforming, neurodivergent people can live their authentic lives through vulnerability, self-advocacy, risk-taking... and not being afraid of being a little weird.

Emily Kircher-Morris, M.A., M.Ed., LPC, is a licensed professional counselor, author, and podcast host with a passion for neurodiversity. Inspired by her own neurodivergent journey, she has authored several books and hosts The Neurodiversity Podcast. Emily provides professional development worldwide, with many of her resources available on the Neurodiversity University online platform. Based in St. Louis, she specializes in mental health support for neurodivergent individuals and their families. As a seasoned speaker, she regularly addresses conferences on fostering neurodiversity-affirming workplaces, making her a key resource for businesses seeking to promote inclusivity.



Emily Kircher-Morris

This Platform will feature music by Claire, Grace, and Cindy Minnis. Ethical Society of St. Louis Music Director, Claire Minnis, performs alongside her sister and mother. All three women studied music in college after making lots of music in their homes growing up. Claire is the choir director at Rockwood Summit High School and music director at ESSL. Cindy is a financial advisor and a local performer; you can find her playing around STL with Home Remedy (and more). Grace earned her BFA in musical theatre from Missouri State and currently works in coding. She performs in and produces theater and music events around St. Louis.



Grace, Claire, and Cindy Minnis

June 16, 9:45 a.m. Healthy Community Dialogue Forum with Interim Director Amy Miller – Forum

Topic TBD

June 16, 11 a.m.

Father's Day

Platform – Interim Director Amy L. Miller

Music – Dave Farver

As an analogue to our special Mother's Day Platform last month, please join us for a special Father's Day Platform. We will engage with reflections on themes of "fatherhood," both what it is and what it could be: protection, wisdom, tenderness, strength. Interim Director Amy L. Miller will present a short talk while our musical guest will reflect musically on the theme.

This Platform will feature music by Dave Farver. From Dave: "My story is a winding road. I developed my sax chops and vocal range playing in original and cover bands, touring the states, Europe, and South America.

"I played on hundreds of recordings, to crowds in the thousands, and had international airplay with a couple children's albums.

"Now, I'm creating my own music. I've always written songs on the side, but I've finally buckled down and woodshedded the music. I've been singing my heart out for years, finding out what kind of music moves people. I'm hoping these songs have the grit and the polish that people



Amy L. Miller



Dave Farver

remember about the powerhouses of rock, funk and soul. I wanna make people move, bob their heads, feel that surge and groove I felt when I wrote and recorded the songs."

June 23, 9:45 a.m. A Peddler's Tale: Religious Exile and Community in Early Modern Switzerland with Kris Wirts – Forum

Join us for a special Sunday Forum featuring Dr. Kristine Wirts, associate professor of History at the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, as she presents and signs copies of her book, *A Peddler's Tale: Religious Exile and Community in Early Modern Switzerland* (Baton Rouge:

Louisiana State University Press, 2024). Written in the microhistorical tradition, *A Peddler's Tale* tells the story of Jean Giraud, a Huguenot merchant-peddler who with his family fled religious persecution in France following Louis XIV's revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. *A Peddler's Tale* is based

on Jean Giraud's *livre de raison*, or account book, and other records Wirts unearthed in her visits to various state and municipal archives in the French and Swiss Alps. *A Peddler's Tale* will be available for purchase at the book signing on June 23 and may be obtained in advance on Amazon.

June 23, 11 a.m. The Forgotten Trunk in the Attic Platform – Galen Gritts Music – The Ethical Band



Galen Gritts

Missouri, like most states in the center of the U.S., has no extant tribes like some other states have. Therefore, the knowledge of either the history of Natives or the experience of contemporary Native Americans is one step further removed from people's consciousness. Using startling facts as stepping stones to fascinating and forgotten stories, this presentation starts to remedy this phenomenon.

Galen Gritts is a registered member of the Cherokee Nation

and speaker for the Missouri Humanities Council.

This Platform will feature music by The Ethical Band. The Ethical Band is the house band at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, composed of and led by members who are musicians of all kinds, ages, and skill levels! Whether you are a trained player, beginner, or just want to shake a tambourine, The Ethical Band is a great way to both dip your toes into performing and become more involved in our Humanist community.

June 23, 12:30 p.m. Voices of Indigenous Children Art Reception

Toni Wirts' art exhibit *Voices of Indigenous Children* will be featured May 31 through July 21. Her reception is **June 23, 12:30 to 2 p.m.** From the artist: "When I began creating portraits of indigenous children, I was inspired by strong feelings that I was unsure how to put into words. I knew I wanted the viewer to look through the eyes of these children and be moved to seek knowledge and understanding of an indigenous worldview that would

bring me and others closer to the wisdom that the first peoples have for the Earth.

"As a non-indigenous learner, my own culture, its power structure, and materialistic social ideology present certain challenges. The limitations of Western science compel us to face our inherent biases. So that we may better heal and restore the natural resources of the Earth, I encourage you to consider an alternative worldview

– one that, experienced through the eyes of indigenous children, embraces the values of reciprocity, responsibility, and respect for our planet and the environment and the increasing uncertainty produced by climate change and resource depletion.

"I am excited by what I have learned since I began preparing for this exhibit. My personal search in 'How We Come to Know' continues because the more I

learn, the more I want to know. I invite you to seek answers with me, in the hope that together our voices can join with indigenous voices for the sake of the future of all children, indigenous, yours and mine."

Ecoartist Toni Wirts is a sculptress who specializes in creating life-sized and miniature portraits. She has a wide range of experience teaching portrait head, figure, and relief sculpture across the St. Louis area. Her teaching venues have

included Craft Alliance, St. Louis Community College - Meramec, Laumeier Sculpture Park, Webster University, and the St. Louis Art Museum. From 1975 to 1984, Toni served on the Lindbergh School Board. During her tenure, she became a champion for art education and a strong advocate for safe and environmentally friendly schools.

As member of the Ethical Society, Toni has played an active role in sustainability education, and

in organizing the Ethical Society Evolution Exhibit. Along with her educational projects, Toni has successfully sold her art on consignment, featuring her pieces in museum gift shops in St. Louis, Illinois, and Oklahoma. Since COVID, Toni has shifted her focus from sculpture to painting in acrylics and pastels. Her current work focuses on environmental themes and seeks to raise public awareness about the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

June 30, 9:45 a.m. Reading With Pride with Youth Education co-Directors Megan McCarthy and Courtnie Scott-Cammarata – Forum

As many of us know, bans and challenges on LGBTQ+ books are on the rise—Missouri currently ranks third in the country for highest number of book challenges in schools and libraries. Megan McCarthy and Courtnie Scott-Cammarata, our

Youth Education co-directors, will talk about what we can do as citizens to curtail this horrible trend, and, as readers, why it is important for everyone to read and support books featuring LGBTQ+ characters and/or themes, no matter who

you are. Megan and Courtnie will offer some ideas for great LGBTQ+ fiction and non-fiction reads for kids, teens, and adults. Bookworms are encouraged to bring their suggestions as well (and actual books if you want to swap)!

June 30, 11 a.m. Revolutionary Queer Joy

Platform – Ky Miller

Music – Dan Rubright



Ky Miller

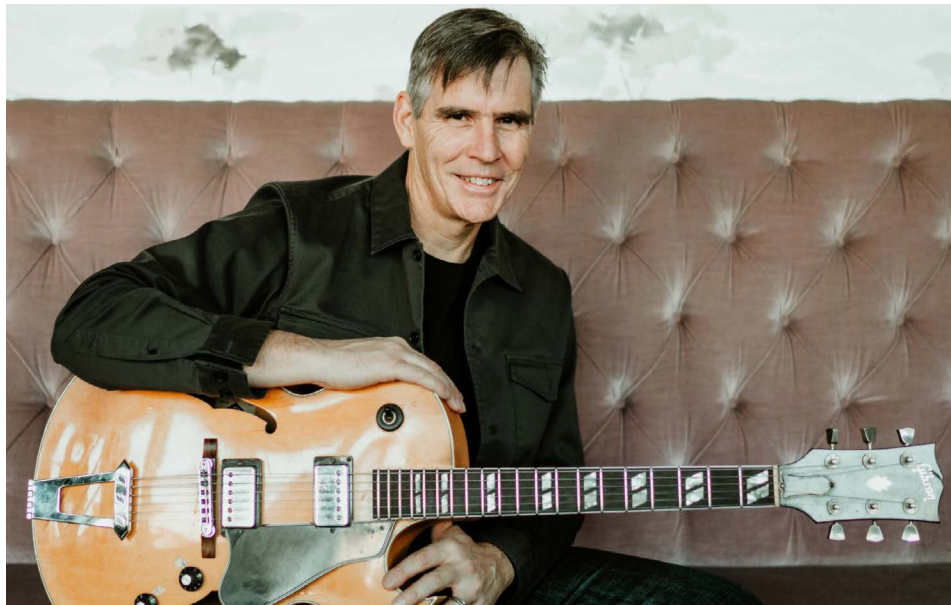
Members of the LGBTQ+ community are frequently socialized in the context of "hard." A copious amount of time is spent discussing how we face disproportionate levels of discrimination, higher rates of mental health challenges, and other hardships. However, we are more than the hurdles we face. Ky Miller will lead us through an exploratory celebration of queer culture, allowing us to connect with what is actually a really fascinating - and fun - culture. We will spend intentional time

dedicated to honoring the sacred and transformational magic that is experienced in connecting with ourselves authentically and expand our perspective of Revolutionary Queer Joy as a fundamental component of liberation.

Ky Miller (they/them) is a social worker and psychotherapist who provides affirming and competent, attachment/trauma-informed therapy to LGBTQ+ children, teens, adults, and their families. An anti-oppression liberationist

at heart, Ky's social activism regarding the rights and humanity of the LGBTQ+ community spans nearly 30 years. Currently, they run ALIGN, an education, training, and consultation program that enhances providers' competencies in serving neurodivergent LGBTQ+ clients.

This Platform will feature music by Dan Rubright, a jazz guitarist and composer from St. Louis, Missouri. He regularly works with the finest musicians in St. Louis and beyond to create his own brand of vibrant, contemporary, sophisticated and inviting music.



Dan Rubright

Board Update

Many thanks to the 85 members who voted on annual Society matters and to those who attended the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting on May 16, 2024, either in person (approximately 60 members) or virtually (approximately five members). Your engagement is critical to forwarding the activities and direction of our community.

Below are the outcomes of the ballot initiatives:

- President: Matthew Hile was approved as president elect with 81 votes in favor, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions.
- Trustee: Mary Ann Perkins was approved as trustee with 71 votes in favor; Sean O'Hara earned 10 votes in favor.
- Board Secretary: Rachel Jones was approved as Board secretary with 85 votes in favor.
- 2024-2025 proposed budget: approved with 79 votes in favor and 6 abstentions.
- Proposed amendment to bylaw 4.4: approved with 83 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.
- Proposed amendment to bylaw 5.3: approved with 81 votes in favor and 4 abstentions.

SUNDAY SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

Complimentary Childcare (Ages 0-5). 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Open Play (Ages 5 and up). 9:45 to Noon.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Blake Hindrichs (he/him)

Jonathan Nevins (he/him)

Michelle Elmore (she/her)

Craig Ellis (he/him) grew up in a suburb of St. Louis in the 1950s and lived a couple blocks from Route 66. There was a four-way stop near the family house on Route 66 and because his family did not have air conditioning, in the summertime, with the windows open, he could hear the tractor-trailers downshifting and stopping all night long. As a boy, he was fascinated by the knowledge that one road, Route 66, went from Chicago all the way to the Pacific Ocean in California. His father was the first one in the family tree to go to college thanks to the G.I. Bill. His mother, though an honor student, had to drop out of school at age 16 and get a job to help her family financially. Both parents consistently emphasized the importance of school and education. Craig received his undergraduate degree from Washington University and his law degree from a state law school. After engaging in public service law for 39 years, he is now retired and enjoys travel with his wife Kathy, but they both agree that the best thing in retirement is the grandkids! Craig does his best to live in accord with the Golden Rule every day.



Sella Garlich (she/her) is a St. Louis area native and currently lives in Maryland Heights with her husband, Brad, and their dog, Ernie. Sella and Brad have two adult children in their early 20s who are both pursuing careers in theatre, so they've enjoyed seeing many theatre productions over the years. Sella enjoys music, singing, TV, movies, reading, comedy, learning embroidery, going on walks, and spending time with her family. She and her husband became Christians in their late 20s. Sella was heavily involved in church, working as the secretary and playing in the praise band for about 18 years. About midway through her time in that church, she entered into a crisis of faith, which ultimately led to the decision to leave about five years ago. Sella is excited to be a part of the Ethical Society, which provides a great opportunity for community without the religious baggage. She looks forward to getting more involved and getting to know more people here.



Brad Garlich (he/him) was born and raised in Sedalia, MO, and found his way to the St. Louis area after meeting his wife, Sella. Brad and Sella have two adult children, Lucy and Milo. They currently enjoy their life together in Maryland Heights, MO with their pandemic dog, Ernie. Brad is a big movie fan, loves reading comics, playing video games, and enjoys listening to all kinds of music. He studied art and design at Mizzou, and likes to leave drawings of monsters and killer robots lying around.

"My wife and I discovered the Ethical Society after attending a Candlelight string quartet performance of '100 Years of Warner Bros' music which was held in the auditorium. We connected with the social and political messaging we noticed in the facility. After many years of attending and serving in a church, we left religion behind but missed the community aspect of it. I have found the Ethical Society topics at Platform very insightful and have enjoyed meeting other members. I look forward to more opportunities to connect and serve."

David Schwartz (he/him): "I grew up in the Ethical Society starting at Sheldon Memorial and feel it is the best match to my beliefs, interests, and values. I went to University City High School which gave me a diverse education in addition to an excellent music program. I received a degree in social sciences education and was licensed to teach in secondary education. Instead I worked with... Instead, worked with low-income communities in the St. Louis area focusing on developing youth. Then I moved to helping adults with challenges coming out of our criminal justice facilities. I took a brief break and went to Hollywood to work on the historic props and research side of films. Failed miserably with this but retained at least 250 historic costumes (and three antique cars), returned to St. Louis and went to graduate school at Washington University majoring in human resources management.

"I was then given my first opportunity in the private sector when hired as a personnel supervisor because of my background "working with criminals" which was how the company at the time viewed union workers. Regardless, worked this into a very rewarding 30 years in the field with a focus in corporate ethics and investigations and recently retired. I still speak at engineering classes at Washington University reviewing critical competencies for success and pitfalls when using assessment tools. Other than that, I take part in local historic preservation efforts (such as appearing as Henry Shaw at the Botanical Gardens) utilizing many of the costumes I still have."

Member News

Celebrate St. Louis Fireworks Fundraiser

This Fourth of July, come celebrate our country's birthday with fireworks, desserts, and a fun evening with folks from the Ethical Society. This is an opportunity to socialize with members of the Ethical Society and to donate to a great cause (the Ethical Society). The location will be a condo with a spectacular view of the Arch. Please BYOB and a dessert to share. The event is open to people 14 years and older. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Parking in the building is available for a small fee and there is

a Metrolink station in close walking distance. Please register ASAP as reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. You can register with Jo-Ellen Forrest in the Becker Room after Platform on June 16, June 23 and June 30. Payment can be made by cash, check, or PayPal. We will also post a link to Google Forms. The event is **Thursday, July 4 at 7:30 p.m.** with a dessert potluck followed by Celebrate St. Louis fireworks. The event promises to be a fun evening and a great time to get together with friends.

Ethicurean Dinners!

Would you like to meet new people within Ethical, or deepen your existing relationships? Sign up for Ethicurean Dinners! We will have small groups that meet for dinner quarterly, rotating through each others' homes. This allows you to really get to know members from other microcosms within Ethical all while enjoying a great meal. If there is sufficient interest, I will try to coordinate groups by dietary restrictions, pet allergies and/or geographic areas.

Please note, since people will be sharing their addresses and opening their homes, some degree of gatekeeping is appropriate. To that end, you must be an Ethical Society member to sign up.

[Please fill out this Google Form.](#) If you have questions/concerns, please email Lindsey Nissenbaum at EthicureanDinner@gmail.com.
καλή όρεξη! (Kali Orexi!)

Field Trip to a Sustainable Yard – Climate Action Now!

"I can learn from everyone" is one of our favorite Core Values, recited by our SEEK kids every Sunday morning. On **Saturday, June 8, at 10 a.m.** we have a very special opportunity to learn from one of the Ethical Society's newest members, Toni Easter. Toni is one of the lead organizers of the St. Louis region's Sustainable Backyard Tour which takes place this year on **June 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** But we are privileged to get a sneak preview and personalized tour of Toni's garden earlier in the month. Here's how Toni describes her yard: *"With limited green space and sunlight, I have focused on perennial food production and native flowers. Through yard sharing, I am able to expand my green spaces and*

have four households utilizing one culinary garden. With pollinator gardens and mature trees, the yard has Audubon Silver Certification for native plants. There are solar panels, a beehive, and tomatoes in wicking pots on the flat garage roof. I have quail for eggs, lots of patio pots, a Garden Tower®, raised beds, trellises, composting, rainwater collection, and a goldfish pond."

To join fellow Ethical Society members and friends in touring Toni's yard, please RSVP to the CAN! email at canethicalstl@gmail.com. We'll provide Toni's address and parking instructions.

[Learn More](#)

June Ethicyclists Bike Ride

The Ethicyclist group had eight cyclists on both the April and May rides, which were from UCity to the Botanical Gardens and from Kirkwood to the River des Peres Greenway Trail and the Grant Trail back to Kirkwood. For our third ride of the season, we will be biking to the Gateway Arch on **Saturday, June 22**. We'll meet at Mansions on the Plaza at 8300 Delmar Blvd., 63124 at **8:45 a.m.** and leave promptly at 9 a.m. Heading east on one of the many routes to Forest Park, we'll cycle to the Visitor Center just east of the History Museum off Lindell and pick up those who want a shorter ride around **9:30 a.m.** Continuing through the Park, we'll cross over I-64 on the pedestrian bridge to Chouteau Ave. and stay on a marked bike lane to the Riverfront Trail and past the majestic 630-foot Gateway Arch. After a group photo, we'll ride up the serpentine path to the Arch legs and past the museum and the Old Courthouse to the redesigned Kiener Plaza. Heading west from downtown, we'll stop to see the reopened City Garden and view the three new and two returning sculptures, which will make 29 total pieces in the 3-acre park opened in 2009. After passing the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, we'll come to the new CityPark where St. Louis City SC plays soccer. Eventually, we'll get to Olive St. which becomes Lindell Blvd. and pass Grand Ave. to Vandeventer and through neighborhoods back to Chouteau Ave. and to Songbird for lunch. Forest Park is close by and we can stay on the trail back to the Visitor Center or head back through Clayton and UCity to our beginning point. The estimated roundtrip



mileage is 26 miles from the Mansions starting location or 17 miles from the Forest Park Visitor Center. Don't forget to bring a helmet, water, extra tube, and sunscreen. Call or text Joe Corrigan at 314-753-5538 for more information. If you want your name added or deleted from the mailing list, contact David Brown at 314-703-6945 or David@thebrowngreens.com. Rain date is the following **Saturday, June 29**, at the same time and place.

Divorce Support Group

The Ethical Society Divorce Group is a secular meeting, open to all people, to discuss any matters pertaining to separation and divorce (i.e., family, emotional, financial, and legal). Members are free to share their personal experiences in this safe, confidential, non-judgmental, and friendly setting. This is a small group with a conversation facilitator

and an occasional guest speaker, designed to provide emotional support and a social network. Our focus will be respectful deep-dive conversations about the challenges of marriage, the divorce process, and life post-divorce. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month in the Hanke Room from 6-8 p.m.** Our next meeting is **June 11**.

Religious Transition Group

Are you a person in religious transition? Find peer support in our weekly meeting at the Ethical Society, **7 p.m. on Mondays** in the Hanke Room. Whether you're transitioning out of religion or

have been out of religion for years, it can help to discuss some of the insights and challenges of this experience. You can also join our [Facebook group](#).

Tuesday Women's Association

June 4, 10:30 a.m. *Writing Your Family Stories (Moved from May 28).* Becker Room

Writing your family stories can be an adventure, a discovery, a healing, a legacy. The older we get, the greater the drive to tell our stories. Whether you have already begun writing or haven't yet thought about it, come hear why these stories are important and how to best tell them. TWA Host – Elaine Miller

June 11, 10:30 a.m. *Bosnian St. Louis, Between Two Worlds.* Becker Room

Speaker: Patrick McCarthy and Akif Cogo, authors. St. Louis was chosen as a major resettlement site for Bosnian war refugees and changed our city forever. McCarthy and Cogo's book is a warm and richly illustrated tribute to an unlikely immigrant success story in America's heartland. TWA Host – Elaine Miller

June 18, 10:30 a.m. *The Delmar DivINe: building a neighborhood inside a neighborhood.* Becker Room

Speaker: Maxine Clark, founder Build-a-Bear Workshop, managing director and inspiration of the Delmar DivINe. Maxine Clark's vision is to help unleash the potential of women and minority entrepreneurs and to use her entrepreneurial skills to create platforms and places that give access to more St. Louis families. Her latest venture is the Delmar DivINe™—the transformation of a neighborhood eyesore, the historic St. Luke's Hospital, into a multi-use real estate development that opened in late 2021. This has been an amazing project that is already quite successful. TWA Host – Maxine Stone

June 25, 10:30 a.m. *End of Year Party* Party Committee to provide details.

Sci-Fi Book Club Meeting

The Science Fiction Book Club will be reading *The Last Murder At The End Of The World* by Stuart Turton. (This new book was released on May 21.) We'll meet at **7 p.m. Monday, June 24**, on Zoom, ID # 395 547 1091.

Social Justice Book Group

Our next book is *James* by Percival Everett. Our next meeting will be at **7 p.m. June 18** in the Hanke Room. Contact Jim Rhodes at jamarhodes@gmail.com if you have questions.

June Good Eatin' Veggie Potluck

The June Good Eatin' Veggie Potluck is **June 7 at 6:30 p.m.** at Maxine Stone's Central West End condo. Please bring a veggie dish for at least eight people, serving utensils, and a beverage of your choice (BYOB). There will be a limit of 25 people so get your reservation in early. Email Maxine at verymaxine@aol.com for your reservation and directions to her condo.

Finding Connections Book Club

The Finding Connections book group will meet **Sundays at 12:30 p.m.** in the Butterfly Room. We will discuss the book *The Last Children of Mill Creek* by Vivian Gibson.

Contact: Alan Easton ameast89@yahoo.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Forum is both an educational and social group. It meets in the Hanke Room **every Tuesday, September through June, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.** The Forum is usually attended by retired men but is open to everyone, members and non-members.

Monthly Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is **Tuesday, June 18, at 6 p.m.** on Zoom. All members are welcome. Nonmembers may request an invitation to attend. Contact Board President Scott Williams: S.Wright.0626@gmail.com.

Zoom ID 395 547 1091

Humanist Hangouts – Social Night

Join us **June 29, from 7–10 p.m.**, for a social evening with friends from the Ethical Society in the Becker Room! See Facebook Event for more information. Contact Sean O'Hara with questions, seanwoharago@gmail.com.

Murky Mercs and the Funky Bunch

This Dungeons and Dragons group meets in the library on the **first and third Tuesdays of the month 6–10 p.m.** We will meet **June 4 and June 18**. This is a closed group for individuals to play a Dungeons and Dragons campaign. People must sign up for it before it happens, and then they can only join periodically rather than being a walk-in participant. Depending on attendance, we may offer more than one type of setting for you to choose from. Contact Blake Marduk at harrisblake1120@gmail.com to help form the new group.

Third Sunday Dinner Theatre: A witty exploration of existential questions

The play on **Sunday, June 16**, will be "R.U.R. [Rossum's Universal Robots]" by Karel Capek - The 1920 play that first used the word "robot" (derived from a Czech word for "forced labor").

Director: Byron Brubaker

Host: Wynn Miller

How it works: We gather in the Becker Room at **5:30 p.m.** for appetizers. Act I begins a little before **6 p.m.** After Act I, we eat dinner. Then we watch Act II; then have dessert. The actors will have had one rehearsal, which is a read-through. Everyone else is the audience.

Everyone should BRING one of the following: appetizer; main dish or salad; dessert. Also BYOB.

Please RSVP to Andie Jackson at andrea.jackson568@gmail.com so we know how many to expect. And say what component of the meal you'll bring, so we can try to keep them in balance. OR just come, bring food.

Creative Writing Night

Creative Writing Nights take place in the library on the **first Sunday of the month 7–9 p.m.** The next meeting is **June 2**. It is an open group for people to come and write poetry, prose, short stories, or comedy pieces. Group members are encouraged to share and edit each other's pieces if they so desire. The second half of the session will be giving participants a platform to share their work aloud if they elect to. Contact Blake Marduk at harrisblake1120@gmail.com to join.

Humanist Hangouts – Shakespeare in the Park

Come out and join us for St. Louis Shakespeare Festival's retelling of As You Like It on **June 8, from 6–11 p.m.**! See Facebook Event ([HH - Shakespeare in the Park](#)) for more information or contact Mandy Sullivan with questions, 314-642-0268.

Tai Chi for June

We will end the first part of the year by continuing to learn and practice the short form taught by Gabriel Chen, using different styles and take a break in July and August, resuming again in September.

Tai chi meets on Zoom **every Friday morning at 9 a.m.**, using the Ethical STL ID, 395 547 1091. Everyone is welcome to join our tai chi class and there is no charge. You do not have to be an Ethical Society member. Class is appropriate for beginners and the more experienced.

There is a tai chi email list. If you would like to get notices and information, please email beere1db@cmich.edu. Don Beere is the teacher. He has been learning, practicing and teaching tai chi for over 50 years, and depending on how one counts, 60 years.

All previous Zoom classes are available on the tai chi page of his website, www.donaldbeere.com. Anyone who would like to learn tai chi can use those videos.



Ethical Connection

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Submission deadline for the Ethical Connection newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month
Email items to connection@ethicalstl.org.