Volunteer Callers
Member volunteers are calling everyone in our membership directory to check in and see how folks are doing, and to make sure everyone knows about our online meetings. If you would like to help with this effort, contact James Croft, jcroft@ethicalstl.org.

Outreach to Seniors by the Committee of Concern
During this health emergency, the Committee of Concern is doing additional outreach to our members 75 and older. If you are a member of any age in need of support, and/or if you would like to join the Committee of Concern in supporting our seniors and other members, please contact CoC chair Jeanette Langton at jeanette.langton@gmail.com.

Pastoral Counseling
Leaders Kate Lovelady and James Croft are still available for one-on-one pastoral counseling conversations, by phone or Zoom. Please contact either or both to schedule a chat: klovelady@ethicalstl.org; jcroft@ethicalstl.org.

Member Relief Fund
This is a nerve-wracking time in many ways, particularly for those who have lost jobs and income. Government and community programs on the local, state, and national level are being put in place to provide financial support in this crisis. The Society also has a fund to provide emergency financial aid to members.

To apply for member relief, please contact Kate at klovelady@ethicalstl.org. If you are in a position to make a donation to help support members in financial crisis, please send checks made out to the Ethical Society of Saint Louis, with “Member Relief Fund” in the memo line; thank you!

New to the Ethical Society? Join Our Virtual Visitors Open House on Zoom!
Visitors are always welcome to attend meetings and events at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, and that remains true for our current Zoom meetings on Sundays and throughout the week. Whether you’ve attended the Society in person or an event on Zoom yet or not, if you’d like to know more about the Ethical Society—its history, beliefs, community, activities, etc.—there’s an opportunity to meet with members twice a month, Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. The upcoming “Virtual Visitors Open House” dates are April 15 and 29, and May 13 and 27. Just go to Zoom.us and enter the meeting ID 384 422 5785, or see above for more information about using Zoom by computer or phone. We look forward to meeting you!
Cycling lends itself to healthy social distancing of at least 6 feet; the Ethicyclists group will strictly adhere to these guidelines while riding and during breaks. However, please note that safety rules may be updated and the ride rescheduled.

Saturday, April 18, the Ethicyclists will meet at 8342 Delcrest Dr. 63124 in U City at 9:15 a.m. and leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. The ride will pass through downtown Clayton to Wydown and into Forest Park. We'll cycle around the CWE a bit before coming back into the park and finishing the 6-mile loop.

After leaving the park, our group will take a little known path through Washington U. and over the Forest Park Parkway to the UCity Loop. We'll wind through Ames Place and Kingsbury Blvd. and see some past and present homes of Ethical Society members. The ride is about 18 miles with roughly an hour and 45 minutes of riding time. Bring water, sunscreen, sunglasses, spare tube, and a helmet. For more information, contact Joe Corrigan (314-753-5538; japplecorr@att.net). To join the Ethicyclists email list, contact David Brown at david@thebrowngreens.com.

**Falter by Bill McKibben Chosen as Ethical Society One Book for 2020**

The One Book Project group has selected Bill McKibben’s book *Falter* to recommend to the Ethical Society membership to read over this summer. *Falter* addresses climate change as well as other existential and humanist issues.

Book discussion groups will kick off at the end of August beginning with the 9:45 Forum on August 30. Additional opportunities to participate will be announced in the coming months.

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.

**Science Fiction Book Club on Zoom in April**

Our next discussion will be Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The book is *The Player of Games* by Iain M. Banks.

Keep up with the club through the Ethical Society Science Fiction Book Club on Facebook.

**Safe Cycling with the Ethicyclists**

Cycling lends itself to healthy social distancing of at least 6 feet; the Ethicyclists group will strictly adhere to these guidelines while riding and during breaks. However, please note that safety rules may be updated and the ride rescheduled. Saturday, April 18, the Ethicyclists will meet at 8342 Delcrest Dr. 63124 in U City at 9:15 a.m. and leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. The ride will pass through downtown Clayton to Wydown and into Forest Park. We'll cycle around the CWE a bit before coming back into the park and finishing the 6-mile loop. After leaving the park, our group will take a little known path through Washington U. and over the Forest Park Parkway to the UCity Loop. We'll wind through Ames Place and Kingsbury Blvd. and see some past and present homes of Ethical Society members. The ride is about 18 miles with roughly an hour and 45 minutes of riding time. Bring water, sunscreen, sunglasses, spare tube, and a helmet. For more information, contact Joe Corrigan (314-753-5538; japplecorr@att.net). To join the Ethicyclists email list, contact David Brown at david@thebrowngreens.com.

**Notes from the Board**

**Farewell Lunch Rescheduled**

For now, Kate’s farewell lunch has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 17, after Platform. Please stay tuned for any additional updates.

**Second Leader Search Update**

A group of dedicated Society members has done AMAZING work searching for a new Second Leader over the last several months. After reviewing applications and conducting interviews, this task force came to the Board with an excellent candidate. With unanimous support from our task force, Leaders, and Board members, I reached out to the candidate to discuss next steps. Unfortunately, they ultimately decided to accept a position elsewhere. I know this is disappointing news for all of us, especially right now. Even if the outcome isn’t what we hoped for, we feel good about the steps that were taken and the process as a whole. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on this search!

So what happens now? The Special Member Meeting on April 19 has been cancelled. For now, we will conclude this search, and we will take steps to explore options in the interim before starting another search. In the longer term, we have some time to take a deep breath and regroup. As we know more, we will let you know.

—Amanda Verbeck, Ethical Society Board President
Proposed Bylaws Changes for Annual Meeting Vote

Greetings from the Board Governance Committee! We have two proposed bylaws changes for the membership to review and vote upon at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14. For your reference, the Bylaws and the Society Policy Manual are both available at https://ethicalstl.org/our-congregation/governance/.

Replace “Executive Leader” with “Ministry Team Leader”: Sections 2.1, 2.4, 4.2, 4.3. The Ethical Society Policy Manual and the Bylaws have differing naming structures for the exact same position. According to the Bylaws, Kate Lovelady is the “Executive Leader;” according to the Policy Manual, she is the “Ministry Team Leader.” The Governance Committee recommends changing the Bylaws language from Executive Leader to Ministry Team Leader, so that the job title is consistent throughout the Society materials. The Board proposes changing the wording in all four places in the Bylaws where an Executive Leader is mentioned: Bylaws Sections 2.1, 2.4, 4.2, and 4.3.

Members Vote Out Trustees: Section 5.4. The Bylaws do not have a mechanism for Society members to remove Trustees from the Board. The Ethical Society supports democratic principles and, as such, should have a way for the membership to remove Trustees, if needed. The Governance Committee recommends adding this language to Section 5.4: “In addition, an Officer or Trustee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Active Membership attending a regular membership meeting or Special Membership Meeting, called either by the Board or by 15 Active Members of the congregation.”

Please share your thoughts or questions with our Governance Committee Chair, Krystal White, and come prepared to vote on these two proposed Bylaws changes at the Annual Meeting.

Nominations for the Board of Trustees

This year’s Nominating Committee is proud to recommend two strong candidates for Board service for the May 2020-May 2023 term.

President Track: Mary Ellen Stanton. Mary Ellen has been a member of the Society for three years. Previously, she was a member of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society (NoVES) for thirty-three years. She and her husband, Andy, joined NoVES so that their then-three-year-old daughter would experience a Sunday School that reflected their ideals and beliefs. Their daughter is long grown, but they stayed with NoVES—where, throughout the years, Mary Ellen served on the Sunday School and Caring Committees; as an officiant (she celebrated over 130 weddings as well as memorial services and baby-namings); and on the NoVES board as a member-at-large, secretary, assistant treasurer, vice president, and president. She also helped NoVES through a Leader transition. On the national level, Mary Ellen has attended multiple AEU Assemblies, allowing her to meet many members of other Ethical Societies. Mary Ellen is a retired teacher. Andy is a retired government attorney. They have been married for forty years. Their daughter, Claire, is a children’s librarian in Nashville, TN. Mary Ellen and Andy have both loved their time here with the Ethical Society of St. Louis. They belong to several Society groups and have found members to be very warm and welcoming.

Secretary/Trustee: Katie Borders. Katie has been a member of the Society for five years. She and her family originally joined to give her young sons a strong ethical education, but having grown up in the Lutheran church, Katie found that she enjoyed being a member of a congregation of like-minded people. She’s been involved in numerous ways—on the Trivia Night Team, the A/V Team, and as secretary of the SEEK Council. Katie is a stay-at-home mom, writer, and activist, holding a leadership role in the Missouri chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America since December 2016. She recently had her first short story published in an online literary magazine!

She enjoys reading, board games, podcasts, musicals, and many other aspects of being human. She lives in Webster Groves with her husband, Heath, and their two sons, Ben and Samuel.

The Nominating Committee is also proud to recommend a strong candidate to serve out the remaining two years for Kayla Vaughan, who has stepped down from Board service. Nathan Schrenk. Nathan and his spouse, Kathy, have been married for 21 years and have three children, Arthur (14), Noah (12), and Helen (7). As a child, Nathan lived in the St. Louis area, but he spent most of his adult life in the San Francisco Bay area, working as a software developer. Kathy and Nathan moved from California to Kirkwood in 2013, found the Ethical Society in 2015, and joined as members in 2016. Nathan enjoys reading (sci-fi, history, misc.), podcasts, maker culture, computers and online culture, occasional video games, CrossFit, and spending time with family.

View the Current Art Exhibit Online

The photography exhibit by Jim Rhodes remains up at the Society, and while the building is closed, you can enjoy it from the comfort of your home using this link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wathovduozejc3/AA8nkfvDADkZcY816RZ0Xae0?dl=0.
1619 Community Listening Project

Join the End Racism Team as we explore the 1619 Podcast during this Community Listening Project. The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. We will cover episodes one, two, four, and five (parts one and two) during a virtual Zoom gathering, details of which will be announced.

The 1619 Project includes articles, poems, images and a podcast. Our Community Listening Forums will include multimedia and opportunities to listen to brief sections of the podcast. While we encourage everyone to listen to this thought-provoking podcast beforehand, you do not need to have listened to it before attending the forums.

Here are some questions to consider while listening: • How do societal structures developed to support the enslavement of black people, and the anti-black racism that was cultivated in the U.S. to justify slavery, influence many aspects of modern laws, policies, systems, and culture? • How have resistance, innovation, and advocacy by black Americans over the course of American history contributed to the nation’s wealth and the strengthening of its democracy?

Explore the 1619 Project at http://bit.ly/1619ProjectESSTL. Listen to the podcast at http://bit.ly/1619PodcastESSTL or wherever you enjoy your podcasts. If you need help listening to the podcast or exploring any of the other 1619 materials, please contact Louise Jett at ljett@ethicalstl.org.

Virtual Travel Club in April on Zoom—James Croft on London (rescheduled)

Be sure your calendar is marked for the Virtual Travel Club’s “virtual” meeting on Friday, April 10, at 7 p.m. Using Zoom, join native Londoner James Croft to uncov-er the amazing riches of one of the world’s greatest cities! Feel free to enjoy a snack and your favorite beverage in the comfort of your own home while you join us via technology. And also feel free to invite friends to join us via Zoom.

Great Books on Zoom in April

The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will meet online using Zoom for its next session on Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. The group will discuss selections from Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville. The group reads selections from the anthology Great Conversations 1. Copies of the anthology can be ordered from the website of the Great Books Foundation, https://store.greatbooks.org/colleges-book-groups/discussion-group-favorites/great-conversations-1.html. If you are interested in joining this reading group, please contact Alan Easton at ameast89@yahoo.com.

Member News

Please welcome our newest members:

Chris LaCoste is a substitute teacher whose passions include reading and writing. He is joining because he thinks the Ethical Society is worth supporting.

Elaine Miller is a retired librarian whose passions include reading, bridge, cooking, attending chamber music concerts, and lifelong-learning classes. She is joining because she identifies with the mission of the Society and would like to make some new like-minded friends. Jim Miller is a human-factors engineer whose passions include lifelong-learning classes, bridge, live classical music, reading, and gardening. He is joining for continuation of education and to meet new people.

15th Anniversary of the Gift Annuity Program

In March of 2005, the Board of Trustees approved the Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) Program, and on April 1, 2005, over $195,000 was donated by 19 annuitants from the Ethical Society of St. Louis. Over the years, there have been new contracts added, and some terminated due to death and the gifting of contracts back to the Society. Today, there are 19 annuity contracts for 20 members and an annuity pool of over $366,000. Gift annuities are for members or friends of the Society who are over 60 years of age, and the minimum gift is $10,000. In return for this gift, there is a fixed quarterly annuity payment based on the age of the donor at the time of the gift. As an example, an 80-year-old would receive an amount that is 6.9% of the gift value for life. Compare this to the very low rates on treasury bills, money market accounts, CDs, and dividends. A portion of the annuity payment would be tax free, which would make the effective rate higher than 6.9%. If the donor itemizes on their taxes, there also is a nice tax deduction in the year of the gift. After the life of the annuitant or annuitants, the residual value of the contract passes to the Society for general operations or to specific funds as designated in the contract. So the gift annuity benefits the donor with higher-than-average lifetime income with tax advantages, and the Ethical Society receives the remaining amount in the contract for its use. If you are interested in finding out more about this great program, contact members Joe Corrigan (japplecorr@att.net) or Steve Harris (stevellitzsinger@gmail.com).
Food Insecurity, Operation Critical for Operation Food Search

We've made a tremendous impact in our community in the past few years with our partnership with Operation Food Search (OFS)—3,965 total pounds of food contributed since August 2017! That’s the weight of an average American vehicle! Now we are all facing new challenges. How do we keep helping? With our building temporarily closed, our blue barrel is sitting empty. Here are five ways to keep the positive impact in our community going:

1. DONATE MONEY through Gift-a-Meal. Due to a matching incentive, right now every dollar you give provides $20 dollars in food and services: https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink.aspx?name=ofsearch&id=154.

2. ROUND UP ON PURCHASES through the Change Maker App, which allows you to donate your change on any purchase, just like rounding up at the register. You control the limit to as little as $5 per month.

3. DONATE FOOD: OFS welcomes food donations at their warehouse. Non-perishable food and household supplies can be dropped off at OFS at 1644 Lotsie Blvd., Overland, MO 63132, M-F 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. See list of Most-Needed Items and Not-Accepted Items. Please do not donate food if you have been near anyone who has been sick in the last two weeks, or if anyone in your household has travelled outside our region in the past three weeks. They encourage social-distancing when visiting their warehouse, remaining six feet away from others. Food can be placed in the blue bins inside their vestibule.

4. VOLUNTEER as an OFS Ambassador. That could mean showing a friend how to download the Change Maker App or enlist kids at home in writing or drawing Hope Notes for OFS to post on social media. Just take a photo of their inspiring messages or art, and OFS will share them so that others know there are people who care. Additional volunteer needs may evolve, so please contact them if you would like to be added to their list of those standing by to help.

5. SHARE: OFS’s Emergency Response 2020 page has the most current information about their work, how to get help, and how to give help. Follow them on social media and share their posts. You never know who might see it and be inspired to get involved.

Deadline Extended to April 30 for Evaluation Survey

Every three years, we evaluate each of our Leaders. James Croft’s evaluation is due this year. Due to the coronavirus, the deadline for completing the survey has been extended to April 30. Click here to take the survey. Please complete and return the survey before the deadline. It takes only a few minutes. The results will help James in understanding his strengths and opportunities for growth. If you would like a paper survey to complete and mail back, please email Andie Jackson, andrejackson568@gmail.com. Thanks for your help in this important process.

How to Reach Us

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Fax & Website  (314) 991-3875  www.ethicalstl.org

The submission deadline for the Connection is always the 15th of the preceding month.
Email items to klovelady@ethicalstl.org.