~ MARCH’S THEME—RESPONSIBILITIES ~

Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m. Platform
Music Festival: Orquesta Chevere

Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy a morning of salsa dance music with Randy Holmes and his band Orquesta Chevere. This 10-piece St. Louis-based band is comprised of singers, trumpets, trombones, piano, bass, congas, timbales, and Latin percussion.

Salsa is an umbrella term for a popular dance music genre that initially arose in New York City during the 1960s. It is the product of various Cuban musical genres including the Afro-Cuban montuno, guaracha, cha cha chá, mambo, bolero, and the Puerto Rican plena and bomba. Latin jazz has also had a significant influence. Salsa is primarily Cuban itself and a fusion of Spanish folk songs with guitar and Afro-Cuban percussion, merged with North American jazz. Salsa also occasionally incorporates elements of rock, R&B, and funk.

Split Collection
Half of today’s undesignated collection will be donated to the Kingdom House food pantry. (*Note: If you pay your membership pledge through the collection, write “pledge” on your check, and it will not be divided.)

First Sunday Lunch
Please join the Tuesday Women’s Association after Platform on March 1. By popular demand, we will again provide an authentic Indian meal prepared by our members who have come to us from India. These women know how to please a crowd with their true-to-the-art dishes. There will be chicken and vegetarian dishes, with spices on the side to suit individual tastes, as well as desserts. The cost is $6 for adults and $3 for children, with PBJs available for the little ones.

And please remember to bring a canned good for our ongoing food drive!

Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m. Platform
“Between the Rocks of Responsibilities and the Siren Song of Irresponsibility: Life Crises”; Kate Lovelady, Leader
Music: Celia Shacklett, guitar and voice

Daylight Saving Time Starts—Spring Forward!

Quarter-life crises, mid-life crises, later-life crises—life is full of turmoil. We seek throughout our lives to navigate the waters of responsibility, to decide to whom and for what we are responsible. Sometimes we just want to chuck all our responsibilities and chart a totally new course. But what if we thought about these choices differently?
Ethical Connection March 2020

Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m. Platform
“The Responsibilities of Citizenship”; James Croft, Outreach Director
Music: Eimear Arkins and Eileen Gannon, Irish folk music

Being a good citizen means both enjoying the freedoms and meeting the responsibilities of citizenship. Sometimes, our responsibilities as citizens can seem unclear, particularly when politics is volatile and the future seems uncertain. Now, at a time of extreme political polarization and widespread distrust of our political systems, what are the responsibilities of citizenship and how can we meet them? By looking at different notions of citizenship, and by presenting the arguments of different philosophers on what it means to be a citizen, James hopes to spark a discussion as to what good citizenship means today.

Split Collection
Half of today’s “undesignated collection” will be donated to Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, which provides and supports reproductive and sexual health services, access, and rights; plannedparenthood.org. (*Note: If you pay your membership pledge through the collection, write “pledge” on your check, and it will not be divided.)

Sunday, March 22, 11 a.m. Platform
“Becoming Responsible for Ourselves: The Evolution of Religion”; James Croft
Music: Gloria Attoun and Michael Bauermeister, folk

Religion is ancient, diverse, and deeply human. All through human history, and even into prehistory, human beings have used religion to fulfill fundamental existential and spiritual needs. Yet in a world of rapid secularization, religion must evolve: we must take responsibility for religion ourselves, and shape it to our new needs.

Sunday, March 29, 11 a.m. Platform
Associate Leader Candidate Address
Music: Deborah Sharn and Steve Schenkel, guitar and voice

All Ethical Society members, please attend this very special Platform in which the Platform address will be given by the candidate chosen by the Second Leader Search Task Force. The candidate’s name and additional information will be shared by the Board of Trustees starting early March, in multiple formats including individual emails, weekly members’ email, web site, and updates to the March Ethical Connection.

The Board and Search Task Force will discuss the process and candidate at Forum on March 29.

The membership vote on the Associate Leader candidate will be held at a Special Membership Meeting after Platform on Sunday, April 19. Before the vote, there will be additional opportunities to meet the candidate, and notice of the Special Membership Meeting will be communicated in multiple ways. Members who are not able to attend will be able to vote by absentee ballot.

Please see Board Notes on page 5 for additional information.

9:45 Forum on March 29—Second Leader Search Process and Candidate

Please join members of the Second Leader Search Task Force and the Board of Trustees to discuss the search process and learn about the candidate for Associate Leader, who will be speaking at Platform that Sunday. This Forum will be held in the Auditorium so that everyone who wants to can attend. For more information about the search process, see the March 29 Platform information above, Board Notes on page 5, and upcoming communications.

Virtual Travel Club—March 13, James Croft on London

Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Hanke Room, join native Londoner James Croft to uncover the amazing riches of one of the world’s greatest cities! Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage (alcohol or not). We suggest a $1 donation to cover the cost of plates, napkins, and cups. Excess funds are donated to the Ethical Society. Bring your friends! All are welcome, members and non-members alike. If you have questions, contact Carole Beere (beere1ca@cmich.edu).
9:45 Forum on March 8—The Earth Charter: The Way Forward for the Earth

This month we complete our discussion of the Earth Charter (an international framework linking environmental issues and human rights concerns) with the final section, “The Way Forward for the Earth”; it culminates in this statement: “Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”

Together we will imagine an environmentally stable and just world. What can we do to bring such a world about? What is the way forward for the earth? Come and share your views and learn from others!

9:45 Forum on March 15—Report on the AEU Youth of Ethical Societies Conference

Come hear from members of our own Youth Group about their experiences and what they learned at the 2020 YES Conference. This annual conference is organized by the American Ethical Union and brings together Youth of Ethical Societies across the nation. It’s a pivotal experience for many teens as they spend a weekend diving into issues critical to their own big-picture interests and getting to know teens from other Societies. There are opportunities to lead and be led, to express individual experiences and listen to other perspectives, and to return to the magic of YES every year as we they continue to grow and connect. This year the conference met in Washington, DC; the theme of the conference was Government Abuses of Power, and it included breakout sessions on money, women’s bodies, colonization, and government-run camps.

Upcoming Science Fiction Book Club Meetings, 4th Mondays

Our Science Fiction Book Club meets 4th Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., in Kate Lovelady’s office. All are welcome to any meeting, even if you have not finished the book (but be prepared for spoilers!).

March 23. Nemo Rising by C. Courtney Joyner. An exciting sequel to Jules Verne’s famous 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Sea monsters are sinking ships up and down the Atlantic Coast, and President Ulysses S. Grant is forced to ask for assistance from the notorious Captain Nemo, in prison for war crimes and scheduled for execution. Grant returns Nemo’s submarine, Victorian steampunk marvel Nautilus, and he promises a full Presidential pardon if Nemo hunts down and destroys the source of the attacks.

Next month: April 27, The Player of Games by Iain M. Banks.

You can also keep up with the club through the Ethical Society Science Fiction Book Club on Facebook.

Two Young Ethical Ladies Events in March

Sunday, March 8, at 9 a.m., the Young Ethical Ladies are going to MoKaBe’s Sunday Brunch (Arsenal & South Grand). Come early and enjoy an all-you-can-eat brunch before platform with your favorite ladies! Please contact Beth Correnti at beth.correnti@gmail.com or 314.452.6950 with any questions about this event.

Sunday, March 29, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Young Ethical Ladies are going to Recess (4500 Swan Ave., 63110) for some drinks and lawn games. This is a kid-friendly YEL event—learn more at recessstl.com. Contact Lindsey van Sambeek at 314.598.7289 or lindseyv@gmail.com with questions about this event.

YESs use an inclusive definition of "ladies" and we welcome transwomen and non-binary people who are female-identified.

Trivia Night 2020 Is Saturday, April 25

Tweak your calendar! The Ethical Society’s Trivia Night, Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader, has been moved from March 21 to April 25. Tickets are $20 paid in advance or $25 at the door. Bring food and drinks to share with your table. Prizes for the best costumes and school spirit. Registrations accepted in the Becker Room after Platform, beginning March 8. Tables hold eight people, so get your friends together for an exciting night. You can sign up as part of a group or we can combine you with others to make a full table. Questions? Contact Carole Beere at beere1ca@cmich.edu.
TWA Talk

The Tuesday Women’s Association (TWA) meets in the Becker Room (except where noted) on Tuesdays beginning at 10 a.m., August through June. After the morning programs, all are invited to stay for a brown-bag lunch followed by news of members, roundtables, and/or mah jongg at 12:30 p.m.


March 10. (Lecture begins 10:45 a.m. in the Auditorium.) International Relations Lecture Series. All Are Welcome! “Cyber(UN)Security”; Joseph Scherrer, executive director, Washington University in St. Louis Henry Edwin Sever Institute; director, Cybersecurity Strategic Initiative; program director, Graduate Studies in Information Systems Management & Cybersecurity Management. Following a distinguished 24-year career as a leader and IT and cybersecurity innovator with the US Air Force, culminating as the commander of the Air Force’s only combat-coded deployable communications wing, Scherrer retired as a colonel. Committee: Kay Meyer (AAUW) & Joy Ryan (TWA).

March 17. Party! By the Luck o’ the Irish, today is St. Patrick’s Day.

March 24. Program. “Pages to Stages”; Ann Bronsing, volunteer, St. Louis Repertory Theatre. Ann will cover different steps in getting a written play (page) to its performance stage (stage). She will cover directing actors, costumes, set and prop design, rehearsals, and the performances. What a fun way to learn what goes on behind the scenes!

March 31. Trip! We will visit the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in downtown St. Louis. This noteworthy art deco building has undergone a recent two-year renovation under the direction of the Missouri Historical Society.

Great Decisions 2020—Lunchtime Discussions Begin in March

Every year the Foreign Policy Association (FPA), the nation’s oldest organization devoted to citizen education in world affairs, authors the Great Decisions Series, a national discussion program focusing on eight major foreign-policy issues.

The issues are selected based on the most critical global challenges to United States foreign policy. The program aims to present all sides of each issue in order to inform and educate the public. The topics for 2020 are Climate Change and the Global Order; India and Pakistan; Red Sea Security; Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking; US Relations with the Northern Triangle of Central America; China’s Road into Latin America; The Philippines and the US; and Artificial Intelligence and Data.

The World Affairs Council of St. Louis and the University of Missouri—St. Louis sponsor a Great Decisions group at the Ethical Society, free and open to all. Local experts will host each session.

The 2019 Series will start on Thursday, March 19, 12-1:30 p.m. in the Becker Room and continue every other week through June 25.

Register Now for “Ethical Humanism Yesterday and Today” Seminar, April 25-26

Want a more intensive experience to understand Ethical Humanism—where it comes from and where it is today? Want to spend a weekend getting to know other members, delving into questions of history, religion, philosophy, and how an institution works to realize its values? Join James Croft and Kate Lovelady, Saturday April 25 and Sunday April 26 (which will include attending Forum and Platform—you don’t have to miss them!), for a weekend of workshops, discussions, and activities.

Free; limited to Ethical Society members. Prereading will be strongly encouraged but not required. For information and registration, contact Kate (klovelady@ethicalstl.org).

Men’s Discussion Group, Tuesday Mornings

Each Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon the Men’s Forum gathers in the Hanke Room: the first hour a formal program is presented, followed by a general meeting. Participants are invited to stay after noon for a brown-bag lunch. All are welcome, whether a member of the Ethical Society or not. Just bring an open mind and a small cash donation for the hot drinks and snacks that are usually available.

March 3. Andy Stanton will present a partial history of Saint Louis.

March 10. 10-10:45—Alan Ranford will present a program on conservation. 10:45—International Relations Lecture Series (see TWA schedule above).

March 17. James Croft and Kate Lovelady will lead a discussion concerning cultural assimilation and adapting to change.

March 24. Bob Saigh will discuss the book Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell.

Monthly Black Lives Matter Vigil and Recent Construction

Every second Sunday, Society members and friends gather on Clayton Road to uphold the dignity and worth of every person and support the movement for black lives. As you may have noticed, there has recently been substantial construction along Clayton Road. Construction permitting, we plan to resume our monthly vigils on Sunday, March 8, at noon. Join us for fifteen minutes or stay for the full hour. We have signs and scarves to share, and please remember to dress for the weather.

Great Books Reading and Discussion Group in March

The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group will meet for its next session on Thursday, March 12, when the group will discuss selections from Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month (through May) in the Ethical Society Board Room at 7:30 p.m. 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.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and General Health

This winter, we are learning tai chi for arthritis, a short sun style tai chi form developed by Dr. Paul Lam, an Australian family physician and winner of several tai chi competitions. Though Dr. Lam originally developed it for arthritis, it is good for everyone. It is an enjoyable and rewarding form to do. This particular form has been the subject of research and demonstrated that it has significant health benefits. You can find information at https://taichiforhealthinstitute.org/. As well, we will learn numerous tai chi practices, chi kung, tai chi basics, and Taoist meditation.

Tai Chi meets most Tuesdays (see calendar), 5:15–6:30 p.m., in the Hanke Room. Everyone is welcome; participants do not have to be Ethical Society members. We ask for at most a $5 donation to support the Ethical Society.

Don Beere has been learning, practicing and teaching tai chi for over 40 years. He taught it as a credit-bearing course while a faculty member at Central Michigan University, and he sponsored 21 yearly tai chi workshops led by three different tai chi masters—Hubert H. Lui, Dr. Zaiwen Shen, and Chungliang “Al” Huang. Don has been a certified tai chi instructor for arthritis. You can see his background at www.donaldbeere.com.

Divorce and Separation Support Group

On the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in Leader Kate Lovelady’s office, a self-led group of Ethical Society members and friends gathers to provide help, support, and encouragement to anyone going through the difficult and painful process of divorce and separation. The group is open to all. Contact Rich Feldenberg (lrichard.feldenberg@health.slu.edu) for more information.

Board Notes

We are gearing up for a busy spring, and a party seems like the best place to start! Mark your calendars now for an early farewell lunch for Kate Lovelady. Join us for a tasty meal on Sunday, April 5 at noon to celebrate Kate’s time here as our Leader. No need to bring anything...food and beverages will be provided.

The Second Leader Search Task Force has been busy at work, and the Board should have a candidate soon. Looking ahead, our hope is to have a 9:45 Forum with the Task Force and Board on March 29, have the candidate give a Platform on March 29, and then hold a Special Membership Meeting on April 19 after Platform for the congregation to vote. These dates are tentative right now. Please stay tuned for more info as it becomes available.

Other things you will notice this spring include work from the Nominating Committee and the Triennial Leader Evaluation Task Force. Each year the Nominating Committee reaches out to dedicated members for Board service, and every three years the membership conducts a Leader evaluation. This year’s evaluation will be for James Croft only. Please be sure to participate in the survey when it rolls out.

And since we are looking ahead, our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14. This is an important meeting that only happens once a year, and we would love to see you there.

Amanda Verbeck, ESSL President amandanv530@yahoo.com
Ethical Connection March 2020

Around the Building

In the News. The Nine Network (channel 9 PBS) is producing a documentary about mid-century modern architecture in St. Louis. Harris Armstrong (architect of the Ethical Society building) was a key architect of that era and will be included in the documentary. The new special, “Mid-Century Modern in St. Louis,” airs Thursday, March 5, at 8 p.m.

Reserving Meeting Spaces. There are many activities and groups meeting in the Ethical Society building throughout the week. Please contact Nancy Jelinek at njelinek@ethicalstl.org to make sure your group has reserved needed meeting space.

Volunteer Opportunities. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to help with a small cleaning or maintenance project, please contact Facility Coordinator Terri Arscott at torscott@ethicalstl.org or 991-0955 x 211.

Ethical Art Gallery—Jim Rhodes, Photography

Member Jim Rhodes will have his photography art exhibit at the Ethical Society from March 13 to April 26. His artist reception will take place Sunday, March 15, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Foyer.

Jim Rhodes is a local amateur photographer who has been taking photographs since the early 1970s. His favorite subjects include animals and nature, people, and travel in both color and black and white. His current major interest in photography is doing portraits in a formal setting. Most of the photographs in this show were taken with a digital camera, although a few were scanned from old 35mm color slides.

Jim uses a Pentax DSLR with various lenses, and, for editing, he uses the Adobe program Lightroom.

Jim is an environmental engineer who worked for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources until he retired in 2014. He is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but he also lived in Virginia between 1985 and 1987. He has been an active member of the Ethical Society since 1991. He is married to Stephanie Sigala, and they live in Webster Groves.

“We Thinks Good,” Philosophy Discussion Group in March—Aesthetics

First and Third Saturdays, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Hanke Room, member Michelle Ciurria (Philosophy PhD and teaches philosophy at UMSL) leads a workshop on ethical and personal philosophy and theory. Each session begins with a presentation, leading into guided discussion. The workshop is designed for newcomers, so don’t be shy! March’s topic is Aesthetics. Saturday, March 7, Michelle welcomes James Croft for a discussion on “Thinking Smart about Art.” You can also keep up with the group on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/groups/147779839205159/.

Member News

Please welcome our newest members:

Shom Bhandari is a strength analyst.

Tamara Bhandari is a science writer who likes books, science, and the outdoors, and who is interested in issues relating to racial justice and international development. They are joining to be part of a community that shares their values.

Hilary Lord is a registrar and business manager of a Montessori school. Her passions are reading, literacy, writing, linguistics, cooking, and helping people with speech loss communicate. She is joining to be part of a community of people who she assumes share her values and for community for her daughter.

We were sorry to report the death of member Janet Omurtag in January. A celebration of her life and a party in her memory will be held at the Ethical Society on Saturday, March 14, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Drawdown Available for Borrowing from the E-3 Library

Please check out the Ethical Society self-help E-3 Library in the Becker Room next to the Evolution Exhibit. The library has many books, videos, and other materials related to topics affecting Earth, Evolution, and Ethics.

Now available is the book Drawdown, with information by an international coalition of researchers, professionals, and scientists, offering realistic and bold solutions to reverse global warming. Among the categories with many examples each are: energy, food, women and girls, buildings and cities, land use, transport, and materials. This book can be a valuable resource to expand personal awareness as well as for discussion groups and other programs.
Sunday, March 1
8 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Foyer.
9:45 a.m. Colloquy. Board Room.
10 a.m. SEEK begins. Becker Room.

Monday, March 2
5 p.m. Yoga. Hanke Room.

Tuesday, March 3
9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Kate Lovelady’s office.
10 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Association. See page 4.
10 a.m. Men’s Forum. See page 4.
5:15 p.m. Tai Chi. Hanke Room. See page 5.
7 p.m. SOS Secular Sobriety. Coming of Age Room.

Wednesday, March 4
7:30 p.m. Ethical Chorus Rehearsal. Auditorium.

Friday, March 6
6:30 p.m. Good Eatin’ meatless potluck. Becker Room. No RSVP necessary. All are welcome!

Saturday, March 7
3 p.m. We Thinks Good. Hanke Room. See page 6.

Sunday, March 8
8 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Foyer.
9 a.m. Young Ethical Ladies Brunch at MoKaBe’s. See page 3.
9:45 a.m. Colloquy. Board Room.
10 a.m. SEEK begins. Becker Room.
Noon. People Power Lay Leadership Potluck. Hanke Room.
5:30 p.m. Second Sunday Dinner Theater. Becker Room.

Monday, March 9
5 p.m. Yoga. Hanke Room.
6 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting. Board Room.
6:30 p.m. Current Events. Youth Group Room.

Tuesday, March 10
9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Kate Lovelady’s office.
10 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Association. See page 4.
10 a.m. Men’s Forum. See page 4.
5:15 p.m. Tai Chi. Hanke Room. See page 5.
7 p.m. SOS Secular Sobriety. Coming of Age Room.

Wednesday, March 11
7:30 p.m. Ethical Chorus Rehearsal. Auditorium.

Thursday, March 12
7 p.m. Divorce/Separation Support. Lovelady’s office. See pg 5.
7:30 p.m. Great Books Discussion Grp. Board Room. See page 5.

Friday, March 13
7 p.m. Virtual Travel Club. London. Hanke Room. See page 2.

Sunday, March 15
8 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Foyer.
9:45 a.m. Colloquy. Board Room.
10 a.m. SEEK begins. Becker Room.
12:30 p.m. Just Write writers group. Visitors Open House Room.
12:30 p.m. Art Reception for Jim Rhodes. Foyer. See page 6.

Monday, March 16
5 p.m. Yoga. Hanke Room.

Tuesday, March 17
9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Kate Lovelady’s office.
10 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Association. See page 4.
10 a.m. Men’s Forum. See page 4.
5:15 p.m. Tai Chi. Hanke Room. See page 5.
7 p.m. SOS Secular Sobriety. Coming of Age Room.
The Science Enthusiasts Club is no longer meeting.

Wednesday, March 18
7:30 p.m. Ethical Chorus Rehearsal. Auditorium.

Thursday, March 19

Saturday, March 21
3 p.m. We Thinks Good. Hanke Room. See page 6.

Sunday, March 22
8 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Foyer.
9:45 a.m. Colloquy. Board Room.
9:45 Forum: “Exploring Ethical Humanism: Responsibilities”; Kate Lovelady. Hanke Room.
10 a.m. SEEK begins. Becker Room.

Monday, March 23
5 p.m. Yoga. Hanke Room.
7 p.m. Sci-Fi Book Club. Kate Lovelady’s office. See page 3.

Tuesday, March 24
9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Kate Lovelady’s office.
10 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Association. See page 4.
10 a.m. Men’s Forum. See page 4.
5:15 p.m. Tai Chi. Hanke Room. See page 5.
7 p.m. SOS Secular Sobriety. Coming of Age Room.

Wednesday, March 25
7:30 p.m. Ethical Chorus Rehearsal. Auditorium.

Sunday, March 29
8 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Foyer.
9:45 a.m. Colloquy. Board Room.
9:45 Forum: Second Leader Search Task Force and Board of Trustees. Hanke Room.
10 a.m. SEEK begins. Becker Room.
11 a.m. Platform: Associate Leader Candidate Address. Music: Deborah Sharn and Steve Schenkel. Auditorium.
1 p.m. Young Ethical Ladies Outing to Recess. See Page 3.

Monday, March 30
5 p.m. Yoga. Hanke Room.

Tuesday, March 31
9 a.m. Ethical Mindfulness Practice. Kate Lovelady’s office.
10 a.m. Tuesday Women’s Association. See page 4.
10 a.m. Men’s Forum. See page 4.
5:15 p.m. Tai Chi. Hanke Room. See page 5.
7 p.m. SOS Secular Sobriety. Coming of Age Room.
The submission deadline for the Connection is always the 15th of the preceding month.
Email items to klovelady@ethicalstl.org.
or bring or mail them to Ethical Society of St. Louis; Attn: Connection

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