July's theme is The Future of Politics.

July 9, 9:45 a.m. How to Beat the Fossil Fuel Lobby and Win for All the Inhabitants of Earth – CAN! Forum

Tired of seeing the fossil fuel lobby win? Join John Hickey, former Missouri state director for the Sierra Club. July 9, at 9:45 a.m. Learn how to run effective campaigns to impact climate policy!

The science on climate change is clear - we need to aggressively cut greenhouse gas pollution while protecting natural landscapes that serve as carbon sinks. However, powerful special interests (e.g. oil and coal companies) are using their political influence to stop this necessary transition to clean energy. What is an ethical person to do?

The good news is that social change activists have created a formula for how to design effective campaigns to win public policy change. The Midwest Strategy Chart is a roadmap for designing the multiple elements of an effective campaign. John Hickey, who served for ten years as the Missouri state director for the Sierra Club, will share this strategic tool used by professional organizers across the country. Attendees will learn how to apply the strategy chart to be more effective advocates for climate action!

July 9, 11 a.m. Confronting Housing Past[es], Imagining Housing Futures: Historical Context and Current Advocacy Around Housing Justice Engagement in St. Louis

Platform – Shuron Jones, organizer
Music: Curt Carter

In this presentation, Shuron will elaborate on past and present efforts toward housing justice in St. Louis. Since and before the historic Kraemer ruling, St. Louis has provided spatial, economic, social, and cultural restraints and opportunities to advance equity.
and liberation through housing justice. Housing work has provided incentives for disparate communities
to form alliances around changes and policies to better living conditions. This work, legacy, and alliance-
building continues because of the seemingly insurmountable current housing system that is broken for most:
evictions, which affect Black women with children the most, are on the rise while wages remain stagnant;
rents are continually rising with no checks on increases; assistance and moratoria have ended; and renter-
workers are retaliated against for reporting conditions issues. Renter-workers are demanding equity through
housing justice and their voices have not and will not go unheeded.

After living under and being evicted by a slumlord, Shuron Danielle Jones (she/her) began organizing around
housing with Homes for All - St. Louis in 2019. Jones' work focuses on the research, passage, implementation,
and evaluation of legislation and policies that forward renter-worker protections. Shuron assisted in crafting
the Four and More for STL Renters campaign to introduce a Right to Counsel, Tenant Bill of Rights, an Office
of Tenant Advocacy, and a City-Wide Tenant Union to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. Shuron is also a public
researcher, historian, and analyst, focusing on the work, lives, and organizing/advocacy/writings of Radical
Queer Black Women in the Midwest from the 1970s.

There is no First Sunday Lunch this month.

July 16, 9:45 a.m. Me & White Supremacy Discussion – Forum – Leader Intern Louise Jett

Take the Me and White Supremacy Pledge

In the summer of 2018, Layla F. Saad ran a
free month-long Instagram challenge that
became an international cultural movement.
The #meandwhitesupremacy workbook invited
participants to examine and own responsibility for the
ways they uphold white supremacy.

From the challenge, Saad updated the workbook,
Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to
Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a
Good Ancestor. It “leads readers through a journey of
understanding their white privilege and participation
in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often
unconsciously) inflicting damage on Black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white
people do better, too.” The new book goes beyond the original challenge by adding more context, sharing
stories and anecdotes, and including definitions, examples, and further resources.

We’re hoping that this summer you take the pledge and commit to journaling through the workbook, which
is available as a free PDF and can be purchased online. It is also available as an audiobook. The pledge is
anonymous, but we will be tracking how many people take it and the number of people who participate in the
discussions. While it is supposed to be a 28-day challenge, we invite you to work through it at your own pace.
We will have opportunities to discuss the topic and workbook at a 9:45 Forum on July 16. There will also be
another opportunity for discussion in August. The discussion will be facilitated by Leader Intern Louise Jett.
You can contact her with questions or while you are journaling for love and support at ljett@ethicalstl.org.
July 23, 9:45 a.m. **Staff Town Hall** – Forum

Please join us to meet and talk with our new staff members, ask questions, and hear some of their ideas. Featuring Megan Bedzek McCarthy, Courtnie Scott-Cammarata, and Claire Minnis. Town Hall facilitated by Amy Miller.

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July 23, 11 a.m. **No Blank Check: Why Americans Don’t like Presidential Power and What it Means for Politics**

Platform – Andrew Reeves, director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy and professor of political science at Washington University in St. Louis

Music: The Ethical Band

Reeves’ research examines the interchange between institutions and behavior with a focus on political accountability and public policy in the United States. His most recent book, *No Blank Check: The Origins and Consequences of Public Antipathy towards Presidential Power* with Jon C. Rogowski was published in 2022 by Cambridge University Press.

**From the publisher:** Concerns about unaccountable executive power have featured recurrently in political debates from the American founding to today. For many, presidents’ use of unilateral power threatens American democracy. *No Blank Check* advances a new perspective: Instead of finding Americans apathetic toward how presidents exercise power, it shows the public is deeply concerned with core democratic values. Drawing on data from original surveys, innovative experiments, historical polls, and contexts outside the United States, the book highlights Americans’ skepticism towards presidential power. This skepticism results in a public that punishes unilaterally minded presidents and the policies they pursue. By departing from existing theories of presidential power which acknowledge only institutional constraints, this timely and revealing book demonstrates the public’s capacity to tame the unilateral impulses of even the most ambitious presidents. Ultimately, when it comes to exercising power, the public does not hand the president a blank check.
July 30, 9:45 a.m. Creating a Welcoming Space – Forum

Please join Membership + Program Manager Courtnie Scott-Cammarata and Leader Intern Louise Jett to explore ways we can team up to make our space even more welcoming for visitors. We will help you refine your “Ethical Society elevator pitch” and discuss various strategies to engage visitors from the time they enter the building until they leave. This will include strategies to clarify our roles and processes. The Welcoming Team is especially encouraged to attend, but everyone is invited.

July 30, 11 a.m.
Exploring Ethical (Pop) Culture
Platform – Leader Intern Louise Jett, M.Ed
Music: Tom Kniest

Creativity and storytelling help us cultivate meaning and bring joy into our lives. How can we harness the power of creativity to grow our movement and reach new audiences? Where can we find Humanism (and our values) in popular culture? Join Leader Intern Louise Jett as she explores pop culture that honors Ethical Humanism.

July 10, 6 p.m. Monday Music Event

Join Curt Carter, singer-songwriter, on a 50-year journey of nature inspiration through songs, thoughts and stories – Songs from the Seventh Direction on Monday, July 10 from 6–7 p.m. Curt will be our musical guest at the July 9 Platform. The Earth is always speaking... we must merely take the time to listen... To listen with our heart... This event is free and open to the public. A freewill “love” offering will be taken up to cover the artist.
Notes from the Board

Since the Annual Meeting in May, your new Board has been hard at work behind the scenes. One of our first (and most important) tasks was to develop a set of goals for the new fiscal year. Lance Finney, Rachel Jones, Mary Murphy-Overman, Kitt Rogers, Samantha White, Scott Wright, Amy Miller, Louise Jett and Trish Cowan met on June 7 to make a plan for the coming year and we’d like to share our formal goals with you:

1. Support the reestablishment of SEEK.
2. Prepare to hire a settled Leader.
3. Increase transparency between the Board and Membership.
5. Create a Task Force to renegotiate the Ethical Society Nursery School Operating Agreement.
6. Designate a panel of former Trustees to investigate potential ways to redistribute Presidential responsibilities.
7. Explore The Ethical Society of Saint Louis’ relationship with the American Ethical Union (AEU).

Do you have feedback you’d like to share about these goals? Do you see a goal that you’re especially passionate about and may want to help bring to fruition? Please feel free to share your comments here.

In the spirit of increasing the transparency between the Board and Membership, we are truly interested in hearing from you. There are great things to share, too! Like the fact that Matthew Hile has been volunteering behind the scenes on our website and with other tech support for twenty years! What a tremendous gift to the Society he is! Thank you, Matthew, for your countless hours webmastering, podcast editing, troubleshooting and supporting. We appreciate all you do for us and all the time you spend doing it.
July 30, Noon Donuts with the Director

Visitors are invited to join Interim Director Amy L. Miller and Membership + Program Manager Courtnie Scott-Cammarata, for coffee and donuts in the Hanke Room Sunday, July 30, at noon after Platform to learn more about the Ethical Society and the benefits of membership. Reservations are recommended. Email Courtnie at cscottcammarata@ethicalstl.org to reserve your slot.

July 1, 8:30 a.m. CAN! Weed and Feed

Join us on July 1 at 8:30 a.m. to weed the rain garden in the northeast corner of the Ethical Society parking lot. Bring gloves, pruners, and loppers (if you have them), sunscreen, and hat. No experience required. We will train you "on the job." Following our session in the garden (at approximately 10:30 a.m.), relax and enjoy refreshments and conversation, as we discuss next steps in our effort to restore and create more native habitat on ES grounds. You don’t have to weed to be fed. If you just want to join us for the discussion, the food, and the company, you are absolutely welcome! Let’s get the Ethical Society on the Homegrown National Park map!!!

July 16, Noon Help Us Update Our Photos

Do us a favor! Many of you have indicated that one of the major things we can do to attract new members is to update our marketing materials. Help us do that July 16 at noon after Platform by posing for some photos. We will be taking photos of the people who are on stage during Platform and staging photos of consenting models at noon. Members of all ages are welcome! The more the merrier!

July 15, 9 a.m. Ethicyclists: Augusta in July – and the Katy Trail

For our ride on Saturday, July 15, 2023: we’ll be on the Katy Trail, starting and ending at Augusta, Missouri. (A great place to find a lunch!) Rain date: July 22. Driving distance to Augusta from Chesterfield Mall (as a point of reference) is about 27 miles which takes 36 minutes. Meet at the Katy Trail head for this lovely town off Route 94. Starting at 9 a.m., we will bike ride northeast to Weldon Spring and back for a total trip of 20.6 miles. Contact Alan Easton at 314-941-8768 or ameast89@yahoo.com.
July 9, 12:30 p.m. Art Show Reception – Ann Miller Titus

Ann Miller Titus will have her quilt exhibit up from July 7 through August 27. Her reception is Sunday, July 9 at 12:30. Ann uses a variety of surface design and fiber techniques, including fabric dying and discharge, transfer with disperse dyes, appliqué and embroidery. The most challenging part of her process is the creation of highly textured surfaces with extensive machine quilting.

Ann is a member and the general manager of the Alliance Art Gallery in Hannibal, Missouri. She is also a member of Art Saint Louis and the Quincy Art Center, where she currently serves in an advisory position to the Board of Directors. Her work has been exhibited throughout the region and won numerous awards, including the 2012 City of Quincy Arts Award and the 2022 City of Quincy Purchase Award at QFest and First Place in the 2022 Mary S. Oakley/Lee Lindsay Artist Showcase in Quincy, Illinois.

Learn more.

July 8, 3–8 p.m. Join Us for A Summer Party!

Let’s have fun in the sun with the Ethical Society Mid Rivers, Ethical Society of St. Louis, and Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle on July 8 from 3-8 p.m! Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. We have reserved Creve Coeur Lake Park Tremayne Shelter. The Tremayne Shelter is directly off the Sailboat Cove parking lot. It’s the largest one, right on the water. There will be food and fun for the entire family! Please RSVP. Don’t worry if you don’t feel comfortable RSVPing, though. If your plans change, come anyway! Please bring a side dish or a dessert. Hope to see you there!
Pronoun Pins & LGBTQIA Terminology

Please consider purchasing your own pronoun pin ($5/each + shipping) and wearing it on Sundays in addition to your official name tag. Here is a helpful glossary of relevant LGBTQIA terminology.

Ethical Edge Is Back for the Summer

We’re bringing back our Ethical Edge discussions this summer! Join us on the third Thursdays in July and August from 7-8 p.m. in the Hanke Room. Check out the details for July's Ethical Edge below and stay tuned for more details on the discussions for August. Feel free to bring your own snacks and/or beverages.

First, we’ll find the facts of the situation; then we’ll expose the ethical edge, identifying the ethical questions raised; then we’ll pose the questions, discussing the ethical issues together. Discussions will be facilitated by Leader Intern Louise Jett. Those with questions can email her at ljett@ethicalstl.org.

July 20, 7-8 p.m.: The Ethics of Online Friendships

We’re bringing back a past Ethical Edge topic: online friendships! If you participated in the first discussion in 2019, maybe your views have changed. We live in a social media age, in which the word “friend” has taken on new meanings. How are the ethics of friendship affected by social media? Is it right to remain “friends” with someone who posts objectionable views? Is it right to ask people to “unfriend” you in real life if they don’t like what you write online? Are these real friendships, anyway? What responsibilities do we have toward people on social media?
Humanist Hangouts

**July 5, 5–9 p.m. Whitaker Music Festival**
Join us for FREE music at the Missouri Botanical Garden! [See Facebook Event for more information.](#) Contact Mandy Sullivan with questions: 314-642-0268.

**July 9, 9–11 a.m. Honeysuckle Bushwhack**
Join us in the war on invasive honeysuckle on Ethical Society grounds! Honeysuckle chokes out native plants, worsens erosion and fosters deer ticks, our local vectors for Lyme disease. Please bring gloves, tools (clippers, loppers, tree saws, etc.), bug spray/sunblock, and lots of water. It will be hot! Contact Lindsey at Lindsey.Nissenbaum@gmail.com with questions. [See Facebook Event for more information.](#)

**July 22, 7–10 p.m. Social Night**
Join us for a social evening with friends from the Ethical Society! [See Facebook Group for more information.](#) Contact Sean O'Hara with questions, seanwohara90@gmail.com.

**July 30, 5–7 p.m. Ice Cream Social**
Join us for an ice cream and social conversation on a hot July night at Sugarwitch, 7726 Virginia Ave, St. Louis, MO 63111. [See Facebook Event for more information.](#) Contact Mandy Sullivan with questions, 314-642-0268.
Sci-Fi Book Club Meeting
For July, the Science Fiction Book Club will be reading *Fire on the Mountain* by Terry Bisson. We will meet **Monday, July 24**, from 7-8 p.m., via the Society’s Zoom account.

Zoom ID 384 422 5785

July Good Eatin’ Veggie Potluck
The July Good Eatin’ Veggie Potluck will be held on Friday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Becker Room at the Ethical Society. Andie Jackson is the host. Please bring a veggie dish for eight people, serving utensils and a beverage of your choice (BYOB). Email Andie at andreajackson568@gmail.com to RSVP. There is no limit on the number of participants but please let Andie know if you are attending so we can set up tables and chairs and provide adequate plates and utensils.

Men’s Group
The Men’s Group will not meet in July. Contact Ron Williams at rwwill78@gmail.com if you have questions.

Finding Connections Book Club
The Finding Connections book group seeks to explore ethics through faith, philosophy, and personal growth. We meet **weekly on Sundays after Platform at 12:30 p.m.** in the Butterfly Room or the Art Room. The participants select the reading material. Our group is currently reading *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America* by Nancy Isenberg. All are welcome to join this book group. Contact: Alan Easton ameast89@yahoo.com.

Third Sunday Dinner Theatre
On July 16, the play will be “Asuncion” by Jesse Eisenberg, which Newsday described as “An almost ridiculously enjoyable portrait of slacker trauma among would-be intellectuals.” Directed by Andie Jackson. Host will be Trudy Conley. 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. If you can, please RSVP to Andie Jackson at andreajackson568@gmail.com. If you can't RSVP, come anyway!

Regular Board Meeting
A regular Board Meeting will take place July 11 at 6 p.m. on Zoom. All members are welcome. Non-members may request an invitation to attend.

Zoom ID 384 422 5785

Tuesday Women’s Association
The Tuesday Women’s Association will not meet in July. TWA resumes August 1.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB CALENDAR**
All of our events can be found on our web calendar at ethicalstl.org.