ANNUAL THEME: 
THE SEEK CORE VALUES

This year we explored the values which hold us together as a community, through the lens of the Core Values of our Sunday Ethical Education for Kids program. Each month we examined one of the SEEK Core Values, while the younger members of our community learned about that same value. You can read all of our SEEK Core Values by clicking here.

MEMBERS SPEAK IN AUGUST

One month each year we give the Platform over to our members to talk about things which are important to them. This August, learn from our members about the state of reproductive justice post-Roe, the amazing role of plants in human culture; how we can tackle major health disparities in our community; and the evils of casteism.

August 7, 10 a.m. 
Abortion Post-Roe 
Allison Hile 
Music: Olivia, Vivienne and Logan Lu

August 14, 10 a.m. 
Fishes, Forests, and Indigenous Amazonian Peoples 
Jonathan Hill 
Music: Hannah Frey, violin

August 21, 10 a.m. 
Racism in Healthcare: Recognizing and Combating Implicit Bias 
Dr. Nikki Nienhaus, DC 
Music: TBA

August 28, 10 a.m. 
Casteism – What Is It, and Why Does It Matter? 
Raji Laxman 
Music: TBA

Join us for our Platforms in person or on Altar. Masks are recommended & proof of vaccination or negative COVID test are required in the building.
Unprecedented Challenges/Unprecedented Opportunities

We've gone through so much in the last few years, and we're coming back together as a congregation. We're reviving the ways we met in the past, and we're starting to meet online in ways we've never met before. We're emerging from these Unprecedented Challenges with Unprecedented Opportunities. Capitalizing on those opportunities takes creativity, time, staff effort, and... capital. You'll be receiving more information about the upcoming Pledge Drive. This article is just a "heads up" for what is coming in the next few months. Your Friends on The Pledge Team: Lance F, Eric C, Kayla C, and Brian V

JOIN US FOR EXPANDING HORIZONS BINGO

The End Racism Team is proud to present Expanding Horizons BINGO, which has multiple suggested experiences for you to learn more about the cultures, peoples, and history of Saint Louis. We invite you to participate and to take a friend or an Ethical group with you on your various adventures. You have the whole summer to complete a row, column, diagonal, or ambitious coverall of activities and experiences! Share photos and stories about your learning experiences to have an online dialogue -- tag @ethicalstl and use the hashtags #EthicsInAction and #ExpandingHorizonsBINGO -- and we will come together as a full community in the fall to reflect on what we’ve learned and experienced through this summer of expanding horizons.

JUSTICE & LIBERTY FOR ABORTION

We support reproductive rights. Please join us for “Justice & Liberty for Abortion,” a benefit for the Missouri Abortion Fund. We are co-sponsoring the event along with ProgressWomen.com. We will host this benefit, which will take place on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. and feature: Lizz Winstead (co-creator of The Daily Show, national political commentator, and founder of Abortion Access Front) and St. Louis Abortion Rights Heroes: Rev. Traci Blackmon and Rabbi Susan Talve. Tickets are $25 at ProgressWomen.com.

ACTIVIST ACADEMY LAUNCHES 8/4/2022!

The Ethical Society of St. Louis’ new Activist Academy launches on August 4th! If you haven’t yet signed up, and you want to learn how to be a community organizer, you might still be able to join the cohort. We will be working together to promote reproductive justice, practicing concrete skills to build and empower a community while working toward a real campaign goal. Sign up here.

AUGUST GOOD EATIN’ VEggIE POTLUCK

The August Good Eatin’ Veggie Potluck will be held on August 5, 2022 in the Becker Room at the Ethical Society. James Croft, Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, is the host. Please bring a veggie dish for eight people, serving utensils and a beverage of your choice (BYOB). You must be fully vaccinated and masks are encouraged while you are not eating or drinking. Please RSVP to James at jcroft@ethicalstl.org. There will not be a limit on the number of people attending but please RSVP so James knows how many tables and chairs to set up and how many plates, utensils, cups and napkins must be provided.
SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM LEADER
JAMES CROFT – ‘I’M MOVING ON’

When I was asked to succeed Kate Lovelady as Leader of this Ethical Society, nobody could possibly have known what would happen in the months following. No one, at that time, knew that COVID was on the horizon. When COVID hit and we were forced to close, however, just a couple of months before I was due to take over from Kate, I knew that my time with you would be very different to how I had imagined.

Leading the Society through the pandemic required me to develop a new set of skills and make countless extremely difficult decisions: I did not train either as an online content-producer or as an epidemiologist, but since March 2020 I have had to act a little like both. I was required to make decisions – potentially life and death decisions – about when to open and close our building, how to maintain social distancing, which programs to reintroduce and when. These are decisions I was never prepared for and had never imagined having to make.

When the pandemic hit, I made a commitment to myself: I would work incredibly hard to keep this community together while this building was closed, and I would always stick to our values, making decisions in line with our highest principles as Ethical Humanists as we navigated the uncertainty. I am proud of what we achieved together. I am genuinely amazed at the resilience and optimism of this community.

But the work I was required to do during the pandemic was extremely difficult and draining – a situation exacerbated by our decision to go from two full-time Leaders to one, a decision I think was the correct decision for the financial health of the Society, but which placed upon me a burden which was very difficult to carry. Therefore, with great regret and in consultation with my husband Kolten, I have decided that when my current contract expires at the end of May 2023, I will not be signing another one.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve the Ethical Society of St. Louis for the past eight years. I have learned a huge amount from you, and I hope you have learned some things from me as well. This is a strong and healthy community with a lot to offer any potential Leader, and I am sure you will find someone fantastic to help you rebuild after COVID.

I will not be vanishing immediately, of course – my sabbatical begins on December 1st, and until then there are lots of things I intend to do. First, we are in the process of hiring a new Music Director, and I will ensure that this position is filled and well-ensconced before a new Leader begins their work. Second, I am working to improve our internal documentation and processes, so that we have much clearer expectations for key volunteer positions, a clearer pipeline to membership etc. Third, I want to run an actual marketing campaign at least once while I’m the Leader, so look out for that in the next few weeks.

I will be working closely with the search team who will be looking for my replacement to ensure that you have your pick of the best possible candidates to replace me: the chairs for that team have already been selected and have begun the initial considerations related to their work. You will find someone fantastic.

As for me, I don’t know what’s next. All I know is I am hugely grateful for the welcome you have always offered me and the trust you placed in me: I hope I adequately repaid it.

THE CARING TEAM CAN HELP YOU

The Committee of Concern is now the Caring Team! The Caring Team is here to support all our members. Do you need someone to talk to? Are you facing a challenge in life? If you need help, contact the Caring Team.

You can email us at caringteam@ethicalstl.org, or call or text Gena Gardiner at 314-452-1202. Your request will be received by our team of volunteers and by Ethical Society staff, and we will do what we can to help.
FROM THE ETHICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Hopefully by now, all of you are aware that James is planning to leave his position as Leader of the Ethical Society next May. He likely will depart for his paid sabbatical around the first of December this year. One of our jobs in the next few months will be to properly say goodbye to him and to do so with gratitude and respect for the service he has rendered to our community in an unprecedentedly difficult time.

This should be a time for celebrating our connections that have survived the trauma and isolation of a pandemic, for remembering what we have lost, for rebuilding what needs rebuilding, for embracing change with open minds, and for dedicating ourselves to the creation of a bright future.

It is important to bear in mind that the success and well-being of the Ethical Society of St. Louis is not dependent upon any single person, not even its leader. The period of time following the departure of a leader may be a fragile time, but it is also a time filled with promise. We want you to know the Board of Trustees is working hard to facilitate a smooth transition. In consultation with the Leader Search Task Force, co-chaired by Bob and Cathy Pickard, the trustees are weighing the benefits of a period of interim leadership versus jumping immediately into a full-scale search for a new permanent leader. Your voice matters—we will be seeking member input regarding what competencies and services you most want from a leader.

The Ethical Society of St. Louis will survive and thrive, as long as you, our members, continue to commit yourselves—time, treasure, and presence (virtual or in person)—to its mission of providing a welcoming home for humanists.

Your input is welcome at the Board email address: Board@Ethicalstl.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ETHICAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR, ZOE ANN MCKINNON!

The Ethical Society of St. Louis is delighted to welcome Zoe Ann McKinnon, our new ethical education director! Zoe Ann comes to us with years of experience in education, as well as a personal connection to the Society: her daughter Sharon graduated from our very own Youth Group! With her combination of educational experience, and her understanding of our community, we are confident that Zoe Ann will be able to rebuild our SEEK program and develop educational opportunities for our adult members as well.

Make sure to say “hello” to Zoe Ann when you see her in the building, and send any questions you might have about SEEK to zmckinnon@ethicalstl.org.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMING OF AGE AND YOUTH GROUP ADVISORS!

This year we will be handling the process of becoming a Coming of Age and Youth Group advisor differently. Because the SEEK program has been disrupted due to COVID, and because the Society has a legal and ethical responsibility to create a safe environment for children, we will now have an application process for those interested in working with our youth. Members and friends interested in volunteering as Youth Group or Coming of Age advisors must register their interest by filling out this application form. The forms will be reviewed by our staff and individuals selected for interview.

Those who have served our Coming of Age and Youth Group children in the past will have already received an invitation to apply from our Ethical Education Director, and will receive special consideration. Email James Croft at jcroft@ethicalstl.org with questions about this policy.
08/02: Book Review, 10 a.m. Becker Room
Liz Zelman will review Nature Strange and Beautiful: How Living Beings Evolved and Made the Earth a Home by Egbert Giles Leigh and Christian Ziegler. This book focuses on evolution of life (not just human life). The authors, a biologist and a photographer, have worked together for some years in the field, and explore the natural world from its beginning. They are keenly aware and thoughtful about our huge impact on the planet. They beautifully describe how life may have begun, and the coordination of biological processes within and among animals, plants, fungi, viruses, and bacteria. They emphasize the relationship of living things in their context (environments, both micro and macro) and how these interconnections evolved and are still co-evolving. As in evolution, adaptation to change works when a variety of ideas (or “forms most beautiful”) are available. The book is beautifully written and up-to-date in the knowledge it conveys and the points it makes.

08/09: Meeting: International Relations Lecture Series, 11:30 a.m. Becker Room
Send suggestions for topics and/or potential speakers. Please contact Evelyn Meyer at evelyn.becker@ushp.edu or phone or text to (314)-255-3288. There will be a meeting after the party activities on 8/9. We hope to finalize four presentation topics (and alternatives) and to assign volunteers to contact speakers.

08/09: Nonagenarian Party, 10:30 a.m. Becker Room
Let’s honor and toast our amazing nonagenarians! Send RSVPs to Sara Salbego at sfsalbego@sbcglobal.net. This party is to honor our members aged 90 and above. Bring an appetizer or dessert for six.

08/06: Backyard Movie Night, 8:30 p.m. 4623 S 37th St., St. Louis
Join us for a backyard movie night for the third Indiana Jones. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on and your own movie snacks/drinks and spread out in the backyard for the evening. Film will start at sunset, which is around 8:30 p.m. See Facebook Event for more details and updates! Contact Mandy at 314-642-0268 with questions.

08/06: Recipes for Respect: Black Recipes through Foodways,, 10 a.m. Becker Room

08/08: Escape the Zoo, 6:30-8 p.m. Saint Louis Zoo
To help the Zoo save animals from extinction, you must unlock the secrets of the Zoo through a team-building adventure! Race against time to complete your mission by solving a series of puzzles and finding clues hidden along the pathways. Use these clues to discover what the Zoo is all about! Bring your own food or buy BBQ from Sugarfire BBQ right next door. After 5 p.m., the National Blues Museum offers parking for $5 at 410 N 7th St, a secure garage conveniently located across the street. A parking validation, valid for four hours, can be purchased at the jam session to be used upon your exit from the garage. Learn more.

08/08: Sittin’ on the Porch Jam Session, 6-9 p.m., National Blues Museum
Come see and hear (or perform with!) local musicians as they play the blues! Admission is free for musicians and audience members. You can bring your own food or buy BBQ from Sugarfire BBQ right next door. After 5 p.m., the National Blues Museum offers parking for $5 at 410 N 7th St, a secure garage conveniently located across the street. A parking validation, valid for four hours, can be purchased at the jam session to be used upon your exit from the garage. Learn more.

08/13: BBQ Social Night, 7 p.m.
This month’s social hour will be at Bryan’s house and will involve BBQ! More details and Facebook event link coming soon. Check out our main group page for updates. Please email Bryan at BSGBryan@gmail.com for his address.

08/28: Festival of Nations, Tower Grove Park
Explore the entire world right here at Tower Grove Park! More details, including meeting time and place, to come. Check out our main group page for updates.
**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

**Megan Kuss** is a grant writer with experience writing proposals for causes such as affordable housing, mental health, abortion rights, and special education. Her hobbies include meeting new people, attending drag shows, reading, playing games, watching light-hearted movies and shows, listening to NPR and science podcasts, and cuddling with cats. She moved to St. Louis from Los Angeles 3 years ago and identifies as both a Californian and Midwesterner. Her main mode of transportation is by dragon, and when her dragon gets tired, she whips out her air-bending staff. She is super excited to become a member of the Ethical Society!

**Paul Midden** is a psychologist who spent thirty years in clinical practice. Since retiring some years ago, he has worked occasionally as a consultant. His hobbies are reading, fitness, historic preservation, traveling, and writing. To date, he has completed six novels covering various issues about life on earth. He is looking forward to being a part of the Ethical Society community.

**Kaylee Torres** is a mother of three daughters. In a twist of fate, her youngest two daughters both have special needs. One has autism, and one has Down syndrome. She takes care of them full time, and her whole world revolves around all three girls’ development. Kaylee and her husband were both born (and lived for most of their lives) in New Mexico, and in the last decade, they have lived in Seattle, Los Angeles, and here. They are thrilled to be here and to connect with the amazing culture and history here. However, having no friends or family that live here, they would love to adopt some. It’s their dream to someday start a family-owned and operated video game studio, as well as start a variety of non-profits to help others realize their own dreams. As a family, they love to learn as much as they can and to grow into the best possible versions of themselves: a journey they hope is infinite.

**Arthur DaSouza** was born in Queens, New York, grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and moved to St. Louis last year for work. He has a background in food science and now works in the pharmaceutical industry. Arthur was inspired to join the Ethical Society after being impressed by the Platform presentations he attended and is looking forward to exploring other parts of the society. Arthur has spent several years teaching while in school and has a passion for science education and scientific literacy. In his free time, Arthur enjoys reading about science and philosophy, producing music, writing, painting, and collecting all sorts of musical equipment. One of his goals for 2022 is to spend more time volunteering to help those in need.

**Heriberto Rosario** (Pitó) was born in the Bronx 1984. While he was in high school in 1997, Pito began studying religion and philosophy and became a nonbeliever in 2001. He first became involved with Humanism in 2012 through the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture. He became a member at the Riverdale-Yonkers Society and is still part of that community.

"**The Rickerd's Family** is committed to promoting a return to the connection with nature. We are Anqi, Garrett, Lorraine, and Gary. We are nature explorer and respecters of Earth as all of life's only known true home. We enjoy the Ethical Society of St Louis for thought-provoking intellectual and emotional platforms that provide a great sense of community and a network of open minded deep thinking individuals to collectively unite for the greater purpose of ethical behavior while promoting values that reaching out to provide a beacon for truth and understanding.”
**FINDING CONNECTIONS BOOK CLUB MEETS ON SATURDAY MORNINGS**

A new discussion group has started meeting at the Ethical Society! The Finding Connections Book Club explores ethics through faith, philosophy and personal growth. Meetings are held weekly on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Hanke Room.

The participants select the group’s reading material. Currently we are reading chapters from a book by philosopher Lee McIntyre titled *How to Talk to a Science Denier*. Contact Alan Easton at ameast89@yahoo.com with questions.

**GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP RECONVENES IN SEPTEMBER**

The Great Books reading and discussion group will reconvene on September 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet at that time on second Wednesdays, monthly, through May 2023.

The anthology from which we will take selections is titled *Counterparts*. This anthology can be purchased from the Great Books Foundation. From the book cover, “The ten paired texts in Counterparts will challenge your assumptions and spark debate. Presenting bold perspectives on topics such as art, war, fidelity, and death, Counterparts raises questions that go to the heart of the human conditions.”

All are welcome to join the group for any number of our sessions. Hope to see you in September! Contact is Alan Easton at ameast89@yahoo.com.

**ETHICYCLISTS RIDE TO WELDON SPRING**

Saturday, August 13, the Ethicyclists will have their fifth ride of the season. We attempted this ride under the Daniel Boone Bridge last year, but the trail was under water and we rode on the south side of I-64 in Chesterfield Valley. The rain gods are cooperating this year and we’re planning to leave from the Topgolf (16851 N. Outer 40 Rd. 63005) parking lot near the Missouri Greenway Trail (aka Monarch Levee Trail). Due to the high temps this summer, let’s meet at 8 a.m. and leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. We’ll ride west to the Daniel Boone Bridge and circle down to the Katy Trail. Within one mile, we’ll be in the lush greenery & wood bridges of the Busch Greenway near a water treatment plant.

The total ride is about 23 miles and relatively flat with one moderately difficult ascent, which most of our riders have done before. After seeing the new building at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center, we’ll have the joy of descending this big hill back to the Katy Trail and eventually to Topgolf for lunch.

Don’t forget the usual: extra tube, helmet, sunscreen, sunglasses, water, and money.

Contact Joe Corrigan at 314-753-5538 or David Brown at 314-696-8183 for more information. A backup date in case of rain or a high heat index is Saturday, August 20.

**YOUNG ETHICAL LADIES CRAFT NIGHT**

Join YELs on Wednesday, August 10, from 7-9 p.m. in the Hanke room for a craft night. Bring whatever you’re working on, and we’ll craft awhile together. Non-crafters are welcome too. We will also be using a bit of the evening to brainstorm on future YEL events, and we’d love to hear your ideas! Check out the Facebook event.

Young Ethical Ladies aims to develop relationships and build community around female or feminine experiences, in the context of ethical humanism. We use an inclusive definition of “ladies,” and we welcome trans women and those who identify as female. For questions, please contact Beth Correnti at beth.correnti@gmail.com.

Sci-Fi Book Club Meeting

On August 22, at 7 p.m., the Sci-Fi Book Club will be discussing *Rigel* by Timothy Zahn. Join us on Zoom.

Zoom ID: 384 422 5785

**SEEK is on Summer Hiatus; Childcare is Available**

All SEEK programs are suspended during the summer (June-August). However, we have childcare available for young children, so feel free to bring your kids on Sunday mornings!


**Write up for member Jim Rhodes’ Photography**

Catch member Jim Rhodes’ new photography exhibition throughout the month of August at the Webster Groves Public Library. Titled “Exotic Places, New Faces,” the majority of the 20-photo exhibit will consist of large-format color views, bolstered by unexpected close-ups of flora and fauna.

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**August 1 – August 6**

- **Tues, August 2** 10 a.m.  |  Tuesday Women’s Association
- **Fri, August 5** 6 p.m.  |  Good Eatin’ Veggie Potluck
- **Sat, August 6** 10 a.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club
  8:30 p.m.  |  Backyard Movie Night

**August 7 – August 13**

- **Sun, August 7** 10 a.m.  |  Platform: Abortion Post-Roe
- **Mon, August 8** 6 p.m.  |  Regular Board Meeting
  6:30 p.m.  |  Escape the Zoo
- **Tues, August 9** 10 a.m.  |  Tuesday Women’s Association
  6 p.m.  |  Divorce Support Group
- **Wed, August 10** 7 p.m.  |  Craft Night
- **Sat, August 13** 10 a.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club
  7 p.m.  |  BBQ Social Night

**August 14 – August 20**

- **Sun, August 14** 10 a.m.  |  Platform: Fishes, Forests and Indigenous Amazonian Peoples
- **Tues, August 16** 10 a.m.  |  Tuesday Women’s Association
- **Sat, August 20** 10 a.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club

**August 21 – August 27**

- **Sun, August 21** 10 a.m.  |  Platform: Racism in Healthcare
  11 a.m.  |  Sci-Fi Book Club on Zoom
- **Mon, August 22** 7 p.m.  |  Tuesday Women’s Association
  6:30 p.m.  |  Sittin’ on the Porch Jam Session
- **Tues, August 23** 10 a.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club
  6 p.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club
- **Thurs, August 25** 6 p.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club
  10 a.m.  |  Finding Connections Book Club

**August 28 – August 31**

- **Sun, August 28** 10 a.m.  |  Platform: Casteism
  11 a.m.  |  Festival of Nations
- **Tues, August 30** 10 a.m.  |  Tuesday Women’s Association