In August, members speak.

August 6, 9:45 a.m. When The Bones Are Good (Follow-up Discussion) with Interim Director Amy L. Miller, MSW – Forum

Many of you said you enjoyed the Platform talk on July 16 about healthy relationships and would like to continue the conversation, so let's do it! Consider it like a recap for those who weren't there and an opportunity for Q&A and discussion. Facilitated by Interim Director Amy Miller.

August 6, 11 a.m.
But You’d Be A Great Mom: Short Film
Platform – Hollie Brubaker, filmmaker
Music: JOIA World Percussion Ensemble

The pressure to become a mom is everywhere. In this short documentary film, you'll experience the infertility journey of a woman, Hollie, who has decided to come out as childfree. This film is a series of video confessions and interviews with loved ones exploring the twists and turns leading up to her big decision to live childfree and take back her sense of belonging in the world. An emotional roller coaster leads up to almost becoming foster parents, but this is ultimately a story of changing perspectives. Hollie will share the moment she finally began "celebrating what is right in the world..." and discovered that women can contribute to society in many beautiful ways.

Member Hollie Brubaker is an Emmy Award-winning TV producer and filmmaker. By day, she manages TV commercial productions for a Fortune 100 company, and in her spare time she enjoys creating films, photography and art. She started her production company, Thespis Media, in 2014 in Cleveland with her husband, Byron. Hollie and Byron’s shared passion for movies, storytelling and creativity have inspired several short narrative films making festival rounds in the past 10 years, along with many documentary projects for non-profit organizations. She is currently based in St. Louis and hopes to develop her short film, “But You'd Be A Great Mom,” into a feature film or docuseries exploring childless/childfree topics.

August 6, Noon. Caring Team Ice Cream Social

Please join us on August 6, 2023, for the third annual Ice Cream Social to be held immediately after Platform. Come one and all! Non-dairy and vegan options will be available. (Donations appreciated to offset costs but not required.)
August 13, 9:45 a.m. What is whiteness? with author, speaker, and activist Heather Fleming – Forum

What is whiteness? What cultural practices and features comprise whiteness? Author, speaker, and activist Heather Fleming of the MO Equity Education Partnership will lead a presentation and discussion on this topic through the lens of how whiteness is experienced by those outside of it and allow participants to think critically and empathetically about its place in equity work.

August 13, 11 a.m. How the Core Values Provide Me with a Behavioral Roadmap to Joy & Meaning
Platform – Dan Overmann
Music: The Ethical Band

Member Dan Overmann will give a personal account of how the core values provide a behavioral "roadmap" leading to an enriched quality of life for himself and others – a life quality that is characterized by joy and meaning. Eliciting the best in the human spirit is the navigational keystone of the roadmap.

Dan is a sole practitioner architect and owner of dro Design & Planning. The majority of his work involves the planning, design and implementation of healthcare facilities such as hospitals and clinics. He and his wife Mary joined the Ethical Society 26 years ago to provide a non-religious, value-centered learning environment for their two children. He currently serves the Ethical Society as a member of the Lay Leadership Development Committee, the Welcome Team, and the Platform Host Team.

August 20, 9:45 a.m. Lay Leadership Development Committee – Forum

Have you even heard of the Ethical Society’s Lay Leadership Development Committee (LLDC). . .and if you have, do you have any idea what they do? Come to the 9:45 Forum on August 20th and learn what the Committee does and how it might be beneficial to you. This interactive Forum will also include time for you to suggest other services you would like to see offered.

August 20, 11 a.m. Perspectives on Kilamanjaro
Platform – Mary Ann Perkins
Music: Home Remedy, folk-pop duo

Kilimanjaro – the world's tallest freestanding mountain – rises nearly 20,000 feet above sea level in safari lands on the border between Tanzania and Kenya. The mountain has five distinct ecological zones at different altitudes, with jungle at the foothills and glaciers at the summit. Some 35,000 tourists attempt to reach the peak each year, encountering physical and psychological challenges along the way. Some 10-25 percent of them have to turn back, succumbing to altitude sickness, injury, exposure to the cold or other adverse conditions. On June 14, Mary Ann Perkins and her daughter, Danielle, reached the summit. In her address to the Ethical Society, Mary Ann will draw parallels between their experiences on the mountain and humanist perspectives on life.
August 27, 9:45 a.m. Some Musings About Guns with Ken Schechtman – Forum

Ken Schechtman, Ph.D. and professor of Biostatistics and Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, will be presenting Some Musings About Guns. It will be a heavily data-driven talk focused on the following questions:

• How many suicides, homicides, and other gun deaths are there?
• Who are the perpetrators and victims of gun violence?
• Where is gun violence most prevalent?
• What is the association between gun ownership and gun deaths?
• What do voters say they believe about gun control? How do they actually vote?

As time permits, we will discuss the implications of the data regarding gun control measures that are likely to have an impact on firearm mortality.

August 27, 11 a.m.  
To Build: My Decade With the Ethical Society of St. Louis  
Platform – Kyle Nienhaus  
Music: Hannah Frey and Sam Moreas, violins

Summiting ten years of membership, Kyle Nienhaus shares his experiences with the Ethical Society of St. Louis including reflections on personal growth, challenges still to be met, memories of friends along the way, and hopes for our children's future. Humanist values are human values worth wanting, and Kyle intends to show the "how- come?" and the "what-for?" of that age-old question: "Why?"

Member Kyle Nienhaus is an independent philosopher and musician, author of the forthcoming Humanist, All Too Humanist: A Nietzsche Interpretation and trained at Berklee College of Music. He was born and raised in St. Louis where he lives with his wife Nikki and their daughter Lorelai.

Member News

Please join us for a BYOB - Bring Your Own Books - Book Swap

Our Interim Director, Amy, a self-professed bookworm, has offered to host our first Book Swap in the Becker Room on August 9 from 6-8 p.m. is an introvert-friendly event where you can talk or not talk to people. You can just come swap out books if you'd prefer that.

This is a great opportunity to give and get new (to you) books, meet new people, connect with friends, talk about books, and generally enjoy the Ethical Society community. Bring your own books and beer/wine/soda/whatever you want to drink. You are also welcome to bring food to share if you would like. This Any and all genres of books are welcome, just like any and all humans are welcome. Whatever books are not taken home by the end of the event will be donated to the book cart at ESSL for fundraising.

Hope to see you on August 9!
August 26, 6:30 p.m. Introvert Social Night (Extraverts are welcome, too!)
On Saturday, August 26, from 6-8 p.m., all adult members and friends are invited to join us in the Becker Room for a staff-sponsored special “introvert friendly” social event. We are in the planning stage of the event, but everything will be clear and easy and no one will have to do anything awkward or public. No icebreakers or “introduce yourself to the group” stuff. The entire goal of the event is to get to know more members through meaningful interactions. Small talk is not required, although extraverts are also invited so they might be able to guide us in that area. Please come ready to connect and have fun! BYOB (or wine or sparkling water or whatever) and snacks to share.

August 12 & 26 Ethicyclists ride twice in August
Contact David Brown (david@thebrowngreens.com) or Joe Corrigan (japplecorr@att.net) to let us know you plan to join us.

Fast Eddie’s Ride
On Saturday, August 12, the Ethicyclists will be riding from the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site to Alton, Illinois, to see the statue of Robert Wadlow (aka the Alton Giant). This route is the Madison County Confluence Trail and the round trip is about 23.5 miles. We’ll travel along the levee near the Mississippi River until we see the majestic Clark Bridge in Alton. Then it’s up a slight hill to College Avenue and the life-size statue of Alton native Robert Wadlow, who grew to be 8’11”. After eating at the iconic Fast Eddie’s Bon Air, we’ll head back along the trail to Hartford. The museum there has exhibits about the Corps of Discovery, and the Confluence Tower is close by for great views. The meeting time is 9 a.m. with a prompt departure of 9:15 a.m. The Lewis and Clark Site address is 1 Lewis and Clark Trail, Hartford, Illinois, 62048. The rain date is August 19.

Festival of Nations Ride
On Saturday, August 26, we will ride from Stacy Park in Olivette to Tower Grove Park where the International Institute is sponsoring its annual Festival of Nations event. At the festival, there are a great variety of authentic ethnic foods, artifacts from different cultures, and entertainers from around the world. Stacy Park is located at 9750 Old Bonhomme Road, Olivette. The distance to Tower Grove Park from Stacy Park is 12 miles. We leave at 10 a.m. to dine at the park, enjoy the exhibits, then return to Stacy Park.
News from the Board

We are delighted to share that the Board unanimously voted to add Juneteenth as an official paid holiday for all our hardworking and dedicated employees starting next year. This decision is in line with our commitment to social justice, equality, and to our shared values as an inclusive community.

Juneteenth holds profound historical significance as a celebration of emancipation from slavery in the United States. Adding Juneteenth as a paid holiday demonstrates our dedication to fostering a workplace culture that values diversity, promotes inclusivity, and stands against all forms of systemic oppression.

We will update the Board Policy Manual and Employee Handbook to recognize the addition to the holiday schedule.

American Ethical Union Assembly Update

The American Ethical Union held its 108th Assembly Business Meeting on Saturday, July 29. Delegates from Ethical Societies voted on resolutions, bylaws and a budget. Directors and officers were also elected to the AEU Board of Directors. Check out a detailed explanation of the results.

The highlights from the meeting are as follows:

- The motion to create a second Assembly was rejected.
- None of the Resolutions for the Future of the AEU were chosen, because none of them received a simple majority of the votes.
- Khandra Sears, Anthony Cruz Pantojas, and Jé Hooper were all elected to the AEU Board of Directors.
- Khandra Sears was elected president. Jé Hooper was elected vice president. Elizabeth (Liz) Singer was elected treasurer. Anya Overmann was elected secretary.
- The 2023-24 budget was approved.
- The Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County bylaw amendment to change the composition of the AEU Board passed and therefore invalidated all the other proposed amendments.

Many thanks to our delegates: Alan Easton, Mary Murphy-Overmann, Kyle Nienhaus, Scott Wright, Mary Witttr (as past AEU president), Louise Jett (National Leader Council representative) and Trish Cowan-Williams. Congratulations to member Anya Overmann on her election as the AEU Board of Directors secretary!
August 14, 6 p.m. Monday Music Event

Join us as our interim director, Amy Miller, and St. Louis music legend Michael Schaefer take the stage at the Ethical Society of St. Louis for an all-ages, free, public concert. All are welcome to gather in the auditorium on Monday, August 14, from 6-7:30 p.m. You may also stay home and watch online if you'd prefer, as it will be livestreamed as well.

Michael and Amy have been playing together for nearly two decades, and have mastered the art of two-part harmony and improvising songs on the fly. Their repertoire runs the gamut of anything that can reasonably be covered by an acoustic guitar. It will be a fun, informal, interactive event; the musicians will accept song requests from the audience and offer stories and banter between songs. Please join us! It will be fun. A freewill "love" offering will be taken up to cover the artists and support staff. You can join on AltarLive or YouTube.

Save the Date
FALL GATHERING
SEPT. 10 2023
Membership Anniversary Celebration!
Fun for the entire family!
Update from Claire Minnis, Music Director

The vision for Music at Ethical Society of St. Louis this year is to create a more just, loving, and sustainable world for all.

To pursue this vision in 2023-2024, we have great plans to get our programming off to a strong start.

MUSIC AT ETHICAL SOCIETY ST. LOUIS

Please follow these links for more information on our music plans:
   • Four Core Music Programs at Ethical STL
     • Featured Platform Performers
     • Justice Choir STL
     • Ethical Voices
     • The Ethical Band
   • Full Music Calendar 2023-2024

MAKE MUSIC WITH US

If you are interested in participating in our Music Programs, please complete this very short form.

SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS

Whether you plan to make music this season or simply enjoy music this season, you can support our music programs by visiting our brand new online storefront.

Every purchase supports our music programs in three important ways:
1. Fundraising
2. Raising local visibility
3. Building community and ownership across our in-house music ensembles and our congregation of music enthusiasts

In the storefront, you will find:
   • Light-colored tops with black text (tees, tanks, and sweatshirts)
   • Dark-colored tops with white text (tees, tanks, and sweatshirts)
   • Totes
   • Mugs

Each swag item design features the happy humanist, in very similar form to our intentional and thoughtful branding package. The humanists are presented in a communal and diverse setting - reflecting the vision for our music programming, and the text on the reverse of the shirts comes directly from our values statement.
SEEK is Hiring!

Our Sunday Ethical Education for Kids (SEEK) has paid part-time positions open for three different age groups:

• Sunday Childcare Worker – Nursery/Preschool
• Sunday Ethical Education for Kids 3rd-5th Grade Teacher
• Coming of Age/Middle School Teacher

Interested and qualified applicants can email Youth Education Director Megan McCarthy at mmccarthy@ethicalstl.org to apply. Please help spread the word!

Megan Bezdek McCarthy

A Note from Membership + Program Manager Courtnie Scott-Cammarata

I am looking for volunteers interested in planning and hosting the Fall Gathering. Please email me at cscottcammarata@ethicalstl.org if you’re interested.

Our first meeting will take place the week of August 24.

Courtnie Scott-Cammarata

Membership Anniversaries

We will be celebrating milestone anniversaries at the Fall Gathering on Sept. 10 this year, for anyone hitting a 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 year anniversary (including 2021 and 2022 anniversaries, since we missed celebrating those.)

Between now and then, we’ll be reaching out to folks and inviting them to submit photos and their life and ESSL stories. We love a chance to learn more about our members!

Future Leader Survey

If you haven’t done so yet, please answer these questions about the future Leader you desire.
Is it time for humans to inhabit space? Many people are looking to other planets and hoping space colonization may help prevent human extinction, but does the idea of space colonization distract us from fixing our problems on Earth? What about the equitable distribution of resources harvested from space? Some argue that instead of treating Mars and the moon as sites of conquest and settlement, we need a radical new ethics of space exploration. Let’s explore the pros and cons of space colonization!

Join us on the third Thursday in August from 7-8 p.m. in the Hanke Room. 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.

Visit the Ethical Society Adult Library

The E-3 (Earth, Evolution, Ethics) Adult Library is located on the top two shelves of our library – downstairs, across from the Evolution Exhibit. The library functions on an honor basis. A list of the categories and books are available for review. You can check out books by adding your name, phone number, date and the book title to the lending list. It is up to the borrower to return the book in a reasonable time and mark through your name on the lending list. Otherwise, you may get a call as a reminder or if the book is in demand.

NEW: The category VII ONE SPECIES, MANY CULTURES now includes the topic RACE RELATIONS. Several new books under this new topic are available for check out: His Truth is Marching On, John Lewis and the Power of Hope by John Meacham, 2020, and Across That Bridge authored by John Lewis himself in 2012.

NEW: IX-3 The Defoliation of America by Amy Hay, 2022; IX-3 Seed Money, Monsanto’s Past and Our Food Future by Bartow J. Elmore, 2021; XI Storms of My Grandchildren by James Hansen; IX-3 Rachael Carson (PBS-DVD shelf)

Help Us with Our Branding Refresh

We are in the process of a branding refresh and making some updates to the website, and we’d love your input. Please complete this survey and let us know your thoughts.

Take the Survey
Janet Anderson Morse, of Chesterfield, MO, passed away on July 11, 2023. Janet came from a large Swedish family from South St. Louis that was community-minded and full of music. She grew up near Grant's Farm off Gravois Road eventually graduating from Washington University where she majored in physical education, was on the synchronized swimming team, a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and where she met her husband, James Buckner (Buck) Morse (deceased).

After Buck's service in the Army in El Paso, TX, they moved to Austin, TX, where Janet received a fellowship to take courses towards her master's in education and taught in the University of Texas Physical Education Department while Buck pursued his civil engineering degree.

While mostly living in the St. Louis area, she and Buck made an adventurous decision in 1966 to take their young family of three boys, True, Roger and Stuart, to live in Spain for Buck's job with Ralston Purina. That led to later living in Tehran, Iran, before returning to St. Louis in 1969. Janet loved the outdoors and especially owning and riding horses which started in Spain.

For eight years, she and Buck owned a 600-acre working registered Black Angus cattle farm in central Missouri while still living in West St. Louis County. The whole family was involved with the sons spending their summers working on the farm as well as weekends during the school year.

In 1993 Janet, along with her youngest son Stuart and his wife Stacey, moved to a six-acre property in Wildwood, MO. She lived at the property for 30 years until she moved into a skilled nursing facility in Spring, 2023.

No matter what Janet became involved in, she often ended up in leadership roles. Janet leaves a tremendously rich legacy that is rooted in shared family experiences, music, large holiday gatherings, leadership, and stories that have created enduring bonds.

She is survived by her brother Thor (Shirley), son True (Jane), daughter-in-law Leslie (Roger-deceased) and Stuart (Stacey) along with six grandchildren (Nick, John, Adrian, Merill, Helen, True) and three great grandchildren (Nick-Cecile, True, Peter).

The family requests that any memorial gifts be made to the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 314-991-0955 or the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights advocacy organization.

Gerald Norman Cohen


He attended University of Missouri and Saint Louis University where he obtained his Bachelor in Business Administration in 1963 and his Master in Science in Commerce with a major in Management Sciences in 1969, respectively. He wrote a book called Find a Job..., and worked over 44 years in various companies in the St. Louis area as a computer programmer, IT consultant and manager of training. Gerald was also in the USMC in the 50s, stationed in Okinawa and made rank of corporal.

He thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the Ethical Society of St. Louis and attending services, as well as making memories at Congregation Shaare Emeth. Gerald was an avid Mizzou football fan, adored fishing with his granddaughter; and was a family man who cared deeply for his wife, Rose, and his many children and grandchildren.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association.
Tuesday Women’s Association

**August 1, 10:30 a.m. Book Review**

**August 8, 10:30 a.m. Planning Meeting**

**August 15, 10:30 a.m. Quarterly Business Meeting**
Becker Room.

**August 22, 10:30 a.m. Making Progress by Creating Opportunities for Generational Change**
Speaker: Megan Ellyia Green, president, St. Louis Board of Aldermen. TWA Host: Karen Anderson. Disparities that prevent individuals from finding success are holding our city back. Access to affordable housing, early childhood education and a fair criminal justice system are foundational to the lives of St. Louis residents. By applying policy solutions that create generational change in these areas, we can make our city a better and more attractive place to live. Becker Room.

**August 29, Field Trip! The Walls Off Washington Tour**
TWA Host: Mary Ann Tipton. Arica Foster, KAF community engagement director, and Brandon Anschultz, KAF director of studios and galleries will lead us on a field trip to The Walls Off Washington. The venue features 20 thought-provoking murals by renowned local, national, and international artists. The murals are painted on (and off) walls between Josephine Baker Boulevard and N. Leonard Ave. After the tour, we will meet for lunch at the City Foundry Food Hall.

Humanist Hangouts

**August 4, 9–11 a.m. The Future is Female Comedy Showcase featuring Becca Mackelprang**
Location: The Heavy Anchor, 5226 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63116
See Facebook Event for more information.

**August 12, 7–10 p.m. Social Night**
Location: Ethical Society, Becker Room
Join us for a social evening with friends from the Ethical Society!
See Facebook Group for more information.
Contact Lindsey Nissenbaum with questions, Lindsey.Nissenbaum@gmail.com.

Ethical Ladies

**August 12, 11 a.m. Peach Picking**
The Ethical Ladies will go peach picking at Braeutigam Orchards, 2795 Turkey Hill Ln., Belleville, IL, 62221. Those interested in carpooling can meet at the Ethical Society at 11 a.m. Lunch location TBD; it will be on the way to the orchards.

**August 19, 8 p.m. Chihuly Nights**
View Chihuly’s dramatically illuminated works of art at Missouri Botanical Gardens. Advance purchase tickets recommended to guarantee admission. Contact Hollie Brubaker for details on any Ethical Ladies events: 330-933-0494, or join the Facebook group.
On August 20, the play will be “An Act of God,” by David Javerbaum. Directed by Jessica Saigh. “The One with the first and last word on everything has finally arrived to set the record straight. After many millennia, and in just 90 minutes [plus intermission for dinner], God (assisted by his devoted angels) answers some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since creation.” Did we mention that it’s a comedy?

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!

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 The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haidt. All are welcome to join this book group. Contact: Alan Easton ameast89@yahoo.com.

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