

Welcome to the Platform Meeting of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society (NOVES)

The mission of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society is to bring out the best in others and thereby in ourselves, strengthen our relationships with one another, and build a more humane world by offering a program that promotes ethical growth and learning, builds and sustains community and implements ethical action beyond our Society.

Chair: Randy Best

26 January 2020

Opening Bell • Lighting the Candles • Opening Words

Welcome • Greet Your Neighbors

Story: *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting **Read by:** Amy Anderson



Music

Sharing of Responsibility: Kakenya's Dream

Kakenya's Dream is leading the way to empower girls and transform communities in rural Kenya through education

Announcements and Closing Words

Audio/Visual: Jeremy Weiss

WELCOME

We are delighted you decided to attend.

The platform programs are designed to engage our entire membership – and visitors. We present a variety of speakers who share ethically-themed addresses that hopefully inspire, inform, and sometimes challenge us. Views are those of the speaker. The response period offers an opportunity to reflect on the talk. See www.noves.org for more information about the Society.

NOVES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Penny University Philosophy Discussion. Caffe Amouri. 107 Church St NE, Vienna, VA 22180
7:00 – 8:30 PM.

NOVES Humanist Film Discussion Series. To be held at Libraries as another form of outreach. **7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Monday, January 27, 2020 6:00 PM. Arena Civil Dialogues: What is the proper role of government? What is the proper role of government in our economic and social life? You are invited to participate in a series of civil dialogues, launched by Arena Stage. These dialogues seek to provide an opportunity for members of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan community to engage in discourse about major current issues. They also seek to demonstrate that people of very diverse viewpoints can have fruitful dialogues with one another. We hence assume that all participants have consented to heed the rules of civil dialogue, such as not attributing motives, not demonizing the other side, and showing that they truly listen to the other. There will be a few dialogue starters but most of the time will be dedicated to give and take among the participants. The dialogues will be moderated by Amitai Etzioni. There will be a pre-dialogue reception before each event, starting at 5 p.m. Because of space limitations, registration is required but attendance is free and open to the public.

Tickets can be reserved at: <https://tickets.arenastage.org/29587/29643>

Wednesday, 29 January, 2020, 9:30am. Compassion & Choices is organizing a Lobby Day to advocate for legalizing medical aid in dying in Virginia. C&C is the national organization that advocates for giving terminally ill individuals access to the full range of medical care options in the final days or weeks of life. With the shift in power in Virginia, C&C is optimistic that the General Assembly will enact legislation in the next couple of years. Please join in if you can and help spread the word to your family, friends, Facebooks friends, etc. RSVP by sending an email to CompassionChoicesVA@gmail.com. C&C will respond with the details. Also, one may like [Compassion & Choices' Virginia Facebook page](#) to stay apprised of Lobby Day planning and other activities.

Ongoing, back table – post cards in support of Virginia compassion legislation support. Eugenia Burkes is planning on having post cards available at Platform for you to sign indicating your support for the legislation in case you are unable to go to Richmond on Lobby Day. Also, she and Merry Macke are happy to answer any questions you may have about this important endeavor.

Saturday, February 01, 2020, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. MOVIE NIGHT. Bring snacks to share. We will watch the movie and then discuss our reactions. Please let Iris know if you are interested, so we have enough chairs.

About the movie: A weather man is reluctantly sent to cover a story about a weather forecasting "rat" (as he calls it). This is his fourth year on the story, and he makes no effort to hide his frustration. On awaking the 'following' day he discovers that its Groundhog Day again, and again, and again. First he uses this to his advantage, then comes the realization that he is doomed to spend the rest of eternity in the same place, seeing the same people do the same thing EVERY day. Written by Rob Hartill. Location: Apartment of Iris Woodard, 8512 Tall Trees Ct, Apt T2, Springfield VA

Sunday, 2 February. PLATFORM. 11am – 1 pm. Unpacking Groundhog Day by Randy Best. Groundhog Day has many meanings. Starting with the 1993 movie Groundhog Day and moving into the morass of our current political climate, I will ratchet up the courage to come out of my hole, deal with an uncertain future, and engage the world as it is today.

Sunday, 2 February, 2020. Class Valentines and note cards will be on sale to benefit Kakenya's Dream, a school for girls in Kenya. Come and purchase hand drawn cards to use for classroom

exchange or to use to send short notes of encouragement and kindness to your loved ones. Cards are on sale after the platform. Cash and Check are accepted.

Sunday, 9 February, PLATFORM, 11am-1pm. Louis Clark, Executive Director, the Government Accountability Project. *Truth-Telling in the Trump Era: Harnessing the Power of Whistleblowing to Help Preserve Democracy*

As trust in government and the effectiveness of our democratic system erodes daily, we need a new model of participatory accountability, of an open civic space that drives meaningful governance. To this end, the Government Accountability Project seeks to promote a cultural shift where truth-tellers—whistleblowers who harness the power of information to raise the alarm about gross violations of public trust—are valued as essential to a healthy democracy; where honesty, institutional and individual integrity, and a sense of duty to hold accountable those who engage in serious wrongdoing are restored as fundamental norms and expectations of both workers and leaders; and where whistleblowers are defined not as “snitches” and “tattletales” or viewed as “disloyal,” but are instead considered heroes, patriots, watchdogs, and role models because they chose to speak up rather than stay silent in the face of abuses of power that betray the public trust.

Wednesday, February 12th, PENNY UNIVERSITY

Saturday, 15 February, 6-9 pm: Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company. Please join members of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society along with other Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers, and assorted non-theists for Humanist Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company in Ashburn, Virginia. House 6 is owned by NoVES members Marian Arcelay and Rolando Rivera. It features a variety of beers brewed on the premises. Come for conversation, games, and camaraderie. Location: 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn VA

Sunday, February 16, 2020. PLATFORM. 11am-1pm. Fred Edwords - Why the Science of Human Evolution Matters Now (Darwin Day). The study of human evolution isn't just an exercise in looking backward at old bones; it tells us who we are today and who we may be tomorrow. The most telling discovery in this field is that humanity's impact on planet Earth has become so great that it will be reflected in the fossil record. This is why scientists are calling our present epoch the Anthropocene, the "Age of Humans." How did this happen and what does it tell us about human nature and the future of our species? And what should be our response?

Wednesday, March 11th, PENNY UNIVERSITY

Saturday, 14 March, 6-9 pm: Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company. Please join members of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society along with other Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers, and assorted non-theists for Humanist Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company in Ashburn, Virginia. House 6 is owned by NoVES members Marian Arcelay and Rolando Rivera. It features a variety of beers brewed on the premises. Come for conversation, games, and camaraderie. Location: 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn VA

Wednesday, April 1st, PENNY UNIVERSITY.

Saturday, 18 April, 6-9 pm: Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company. Please join members of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society along with other Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers, and assorted non-theists for Humanist Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company in Ashburn, Virginia. House 6 is owned by NoVES members Marian Arcelay and Rolando Rivera. It features a variety of beers brewed on the premises. Come for conversation, games, and camaraderie. Location: 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn VA

Saturday, 16 May, 6-9 pm: Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company. Please join members of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society along with other Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers, and assorted non-theists for Humanist Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company in Ashburn, Virginia. House 6 is owned by NoVES members Marian Arcelay and Rolando Rivera. It features a variety of beers brewed on the premises. Come for conversation, games, and camaraderie. Location: 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn VA

Wednesday, May 13th, PENNY UNIVERSITY

Saturday, 6 June, 6-9 pm: Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company. Please join members of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society along with other Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers, and assorted non-theists for Humanist Happy Hour at House 6 Brewing Company in Ashburn, Virginia. House 6 is owned by NoVES members Marian Arcelay and Rolando Rivera. It features a variety of beers brewed on the premises. Come for conversation, games, and camaraderie. Location: 44427 Atwater Drive, Ashburn VA

NOVES INFORMATION

NOVES Inclement Weather procedure: NOVES President and Vice-President will consult at 8 am on Sunday morning about questionable weather. Brad May can be consulted for information specific to road conditions in the immediate Vienna area. Should it be necessary to cancel the meeting, a notice will go up on NoVES web site, the Facebook page, and Meet-up. An email will also be sent out to all members and frequent visitors.

Deed Before Creed. The Northern Virginia Ethical Society (NoVES) commits itself to the principle of honoring the worth and dignity of all people.

- We believe that peace, economic justice, environmental responsibility, and respect for human rights are the characteristics of a society in which all persons are able to fulfill their potential.
- We are committed to reducing the suffering in the world.
- We believe that human beings are both capable of and responsible for the creation of a more humane world.
- We believe that our actions matter in the world and that we become our best human selves through working to create a more humane world.

RECYCLE USED MARKERS. Our Sunday School is participating in the ColorCycle project. Throughout the year, please bring in any used markers for recycling.

Free math tutoring and math learning materials. Long-time NOVES member Joe who currently teaches in the NOVES Sunday School has lots of material to share. See his web site **Mathdude.com** . Parents can email him at: jjpawlak@hotmail.com. He can provide tutoring help in Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and ESL at any level ... elementary thru college. His resume is on his site. Email tutoring can be provided via the parents' email addresses. Students requiring help can access various education sites listed in his site. Students may submit questions or homework assignments for which they need assistance.

AEU INFORMATION

AEU at World Humanist Congress in Miami August 5-9, 2020. American Ethical Union invites you all to join our 2020 Assembly at the Humanists International World Humanist Congress, August 5-9, in Miami! The theme is "Beyond Borders: Our Vibrant Global Humanist Culture" and the weekend will be filled with talks, workshops, performances, special guests, and receptions. The Future of Ethical Societies (our 18-35 year old affiliate) will also hold their gathering at the event. The AEU State of the AEU and business meeting will be on

Wednesday, August 5 and attendees will be invited to join American Humanist Association special programming on Thursday, August 6 or explore Miami. Events continue Friday to Sunday afternoon. Registration opens October 1, 2019. More details will be available soon at <https://aeu.org/event/aeu2020>.

WEEKLY INFORMATION

REFRESHMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. New divisions of names starting in December. Members, please consider contributing to the snack table each month according to the table. For example, those with last names that start with A-D, please bring a contribution on the first Sunday of the month.

A-C	1 st Sunday of the month	S-Z	4 th Sunday of the month
D-H	2 nd Sunday of the month	Other contributions	When there is a 5 th Sunday of the month
J-R	3 rd Sunday of the month		

OTHER NOVES INFORMATION. NOVES Platforms - available at: <https://soundcloud.com/novesaudio>

GIFT CARDS are available for purchase at the conclusion of the Platform. Giant, Safeway, Whole Foods, Starbucks, Amazon, and many more. Please see Hank Gassner at the back table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BULLETIN. If you would like an announcement in the bulletin please contact NOVES Bulletin Editor, Bonni van Blarcom at BonniNOVES@yahoo.com with "bulletin" in the subject line.

VISITORS – CONSIDER JOINING US

We encourage visitors to consider membership in NOVES.

NOVES membership comprises a wide range of persuasions, from atheists, agnostics, skeptics, secularists, rationalists, and others, including those who practice a specific faith.

There is no religious test for membership: belief or disbelief in a deity (or other metaphysical ideas) is less important to us than how we live our values: respect for individual human worth and respect for the world which sustains human life, dignity and worth. We hold in common our recognition that our words and deeds make a difference in this world, and that working to create a more humane world for ourselves, our children and others is a worthwhile commitment. We welcome inquisitive individuals of all backgrounds and hope you will find NOVES a welcoming and stimulating group

The Ethical Society is a cooperative community, supported by the voluntary effort and financial contribution of its members. Members contribute generously as they are able to support the Society. Members also contribute their time and effort as they are able to the volunteer committees and projects of the Society. Members vote to elect the Society's Board of Trustees, to approve the annual budget and to approve policy decisions and other important matters, at an annual membership meeting and, occasionally, specially-called membership meeting.