**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.

**23 February**

**Chair:** Margaretha Backers-Netherton

**Opening Bell • Lighting the Candles • Opening Words**

**Music:** Recorded Music

**Welcome • Greet Your Neighbors**

**Story*:*** *Pandora* by Victoria Turnbull

**Read by:** Chris van Dyke

Today’s Platform: “Healthy Thinking about Health Policy”



Sven Sinclair, NOVES Member (close to national Jeopardy champion)

**Music**

**Sharing of Responsibility:** Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

The Conservancy advocates, educates and engages to preserve healthy wildlife habitats in Loudoun County for future generations.

**Announcements and Closing Words**

**Audio/Visual**

**WELCOME**

**We are delighted you decided to attend.** **Please join us for lunch after platform** **this week.**

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**

**Sunday, 29 February, 11am, PLATFORM by Hugh Taft-Morales, “The ‘7 Deadly Sins’ through a Humanist Lens”.** Most humanists reject the concept of “sin” as it relates to divine judgment. Many liberal religions embrace the idea that human nature, as flawed as it is, is basically good.  So how do humanists process those personality traits condemned by the bible as “deadly”? How should we regard pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth? Come explore with Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Ethical Societies, some of the different approaches to how we biological creatures might process these traits within the context of our lofty ideals.

**Sunday, 1 March, 11 am, PLATFORM by** [**Jud Richland and Sara Stern: “Choice in Life, Choice in Death: Medical Aid in Dying in Virginia**](https://noves.org/event-3755667)**”.** A growing number of states give terminally ill patients access to the full range of medical care options in their final weeks and days, including medical aid in dying.  Medical aid in dying refers to the medical practice of allowing a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request a prescription to bring about a peaceful death.  This presentation will describe efforts to authorize medical aid in dying in Virginia.

**Thursday, 5 March, 7pm – Sunday, March 8 1pm. Youth of Ethical Society’s Teen Conference 2020: Government Abuses of Power.** $250 per attendee (covers room, board and conference registration), scholarships available. Please contact Trish Cowan, YES Facilitator at trishhotze@sbcglobal.net or (314) 680-3348 with questions.

**Sunday, 8 March, 11am, PLATFORM by Amanda Poppei,** Washington Ethical Society’s Leader,

**“Feet of Clay”.** How do we respond when our heroes–activists, artists, authors–show us their deepest flaws, especially when those flaws are harmful in the world? Can we continue to love the art they create? Is there a limit to our reverence of them? And why do people have to be so messy, anyway?

**Wednesday, 11th March:** **PENNY UNIVERSITY.**  **What is intuition? Is it trustworthy?**

Our Brains process our environment at different levels.  Intuition provides knowledge and direction without recourse to conscious reasoning.  Is our immediate apprehension someting to be trusted?  How do you react to your intuition?  Come explore this idea in group conversation. Location: Caffe Amouri.107 Church St NE, Vienna, VA 22180

**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.** **The Meaning and Limits of April Fools**

Yes, we are really having a community discussion on this date.  What are the limits on the jokes we play on others?  Is “I was only kidding” an excuse for hurtful, passive-aggressive comments? What limits and boundaries are there to humor?  Come explore these ideas in our community discussion. Location: Caffe Amouri.107 Church St NE, Vienna, VA 22180

**Saturday, 4 April, 10am to dusk: Spring Barbeque at Andrew Orlan’s home.** Music provided by Mark Rudnicki and friends, in honor of Brillat-Savarin's birthday (1755) and All Fools' Day,  at Valhall, Andrew's house, also known as Brookes Corner Books on Google Maps, 7463 John Marshall Hwy, Marshall, VA 20115.  540-364-3366.  Rain date is April 11th though food, good books, music and conversation will be available on the 4th indoors in any case.

**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

**Wednesday, 13 May: PENNY UNIVERSITY.** **Is privacy a right?** Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  Privacy? Do we have a right to be left alone?  When is our private behavior subject to government regulation?  What are the limits to our openness with others?  When does private behavior and individual choice affect others? Come and share your innermost thoughts on this topic with others. Location: Caffe Amouri.107 Church St NE, Vienna, VA 22180

**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

**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**

**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.

**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](https://www.noves.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.ashx?linkAndRecipientCode=KW5f60XEix8vP84wTUUbaCBmOp4PeS98DEiX%2f2vJrBjPdTVGcuQWn95Lhe8NBGMXKaTZzzGeJ%2bVyT7P%2bGUXBGm30cRMybbtfOI0z28hmIpg%3d).  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](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.

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