

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: Amy Anderson

12 January 2020

Opening Bell • Lighting the Candles • Opening Words

Music: Joe Ballanderson

Welcome • Greet Your Neighbors

Story: *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai

Music

Platform Speaker: Randy Best, NOVES Leader



Making Ethical Humanism Your Own

Music

Sharing of Responsibility: Moms Demand Action

Every day, about 100 Americans are killed with guns. Your generous donation helps us work to prevent gun violence and save lives

Announcements and Closing Words

Audio/Visual: Patrick Savage

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

Friday, 17 January. Fund Raiser for Puerto Rico, 3-10pm, 44427 Atwater Dr, Ashburn VA. Puerto Rico has once again been impacted by a natural disaster. Small tremors have been felt for weeks building up to January 6th when three 6.0-6.5 magnitude earthquakes got the southern coast of the island. After these many aftershocks are still occurring. As I write this, I am getting alerts about tremors that seem to be losing strength, they are now around 3.8, but are stressing both the infrastructure and people's resolve. Just like for Hurricane Maria it is those able to help taking it upon themselves to help. Federal Aid has not arrived in PR as hundreds of people sleep in cots outside or in camping tents. Communities are taking to baseball fields and open plazas because they are either without homes or in compromised homes that might not be able to take another shake. This time, Rolando and I along with our friend Coral (owner of Taino Foods), are in a position where our voice has more reach than it did two years ago. We are organizing a fundraiser on Friday, January 17th at House 6 Brewing. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of beer and food will be donated to an organization in PR that is working directly with those affected the most. In addition we will have a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and special commemorative glass for sale with 100% of the profits going to the foundation. There will also be an option to make cash or credit card donations on site. We will have live music and a happy, family friendly atmosphere to celebrate the resilience of PR. I hope to see you there, but if you are not able to join us, we will have a link on our FB event page to the group in PR that we are sending donations to Thank you, Marian Arcelay.

Saturday, January 18, 2020 10:00 AM Women's March on Washington. 2020 is set to be a landmark year for the Women's March. We are writing our fourth year into existence and you play the biggest role. In 2020 we are engaging in targeted direct action aimed at those who have attempted to impede on our rights and we are building with those who have always stood by our side. Women have seen serious attacks under our current administration but we have also seen just what we are capable of when we fight together. They are also asking for cash contributions. You can donate at <https://womensmarch.com/2020-march>

Sunday, 19 January, 2020, 11 am. PLATFORM About MLK Day of Service - Anacostia River Cleanup. Please join the day before the cleanup for a platform presentation by ARK Outreach Coordinator & Staff Biologist, Trey Sherard.

Monday, 20 January 2020. 10:00 am – 1 pm. MLK Day of Service - Anacostia River Cleanup. This free collaborative event celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the memory of Joseph Glover, Founder, and Chair of Pope Branch Park Restoration Alliance. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-waterways-volunteer-cleanup-dr-martin-luther-king-day-of-service-tickets-80504116981>. This event is Rain or Shine. All supplies provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and clothing you can get dirty that will protect you from the brush. To learn more about the Anacostia Riverkeeper Program. Location: Pope Branch Park 2900 M Pl SE Washington, DC

Saturday, 25 January, 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, 26 January, 11 am: WINTER FESTIVAL. Winter Festival is Jan 26, 2020 The theme is "Welcome Home." Please contact [Amy Anderson](#) if you wish to sponsor a table - bring plates, glasses and cloth napkins for 8 people.

NoVES will be collecting items to donate to New Hope Housing. Since 1978, New Hope Housing has been providing a comprehensive, innovative array of services to homeless families and single adults. New Hope Housing is the oldest and largest provider of shelter beds in northern Virginia. They work to locate permanent housing options to end the cycle of homelessness. Our collection request is for cleaning supplies that will make kits to give each family as they move into permanent housing. The NoVES Green Team has asked that we focus on eco-friendly products from the following brands:

1. **Method** brand is made from natural products and uses recycled packaging.
2. **Seventh Generation** is made from natural products and uses recycled packaging.
3. **Common Good** is made from natural products and uses refillable packaging.
4. **Ecos** brand is made from natural products and its facilities are powered by 100% renewable energy.
5. **J.R. Watkins** brand is made from natural products and is biodegradable.
6. **Mrs Meyer's** is made from natural products and uses 25% post-consumer plastic for packaging.

Or you may donate more permanent items such as a broom, dustpan, sponges, or towels. Iris Woodard will collect these items and deliver to New Hope in early Feb.

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.

Sunday, 2 February. PLATFORM. 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, 9 February, PLATFORM, 11am. 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

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.