ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT

Society Report for Baltimore Ethical Society

Leader(s): Hugh Taft-Morales

President(s): Tevis Tsai

Administrative Director/Office Contact: president@bmoreethical.org

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Society that occurred or developed in 2019:

Ethical Action:

● Climate: Actively worked to promote recognition of and action to deal with climate change including inaugurating a book club, Co-sponsoring United Workers Climate Summit launching the Zero Waste Campaign, and participating in other events.
● Racial Justice: Organized BES’s participation in the Martin Luther King Parade
● Other: Used internet to keep members informed regarding issues involving the Ethical Action Committee, including a blog and posting Bill Tracking and Calendar of Events page.

Ethical Education (children ages 2-13) :

● Updating teacher contracts and launching a successful 2019-2020 Sunday School year
● Family Sunday Funday in June 2019 was a huge success, attracting new kids and providing a fun and dynamic intergenerational activity day for the whole community
● Sunday School attendance for Jan/Feb 2020 is up compared to Jan/Feb 2019.

& Youth of Ethical Societies (teens ages 14-18): N/A
Future of Ethical Societies (young adults ages 18-35): N/A
Communications:

- Attended festivals including the Abell Street Fair, Baltimore Pride, and AFRAM to let people know about BES and our events
- Sponsored Charm City Kitty Club to advertise BES and funded their ASL interpreter at their show "Cliterature." We hope this will be the first of similar mutually beneficial partnerships/advertising sponsorships with local organizations.

Finances:

- Moved from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online. This will allow greater coordinating between the Treasurer and new Assistant Treasurer, as well as oversight by the Finance Committee.
- Implemented a mid-year budget review that freed funds, that otherwise would have gone unused, for other important work of the Society.
- Organized another successful pledge campaign.

Membership:

- Brought six new members on board in 10 months.
- Had small promotional buttons produced to use as giveaways at the Welcome Table.
- Staffed welcome table every Sunday, maintained visitor log, recorded member attendance, and sent follow-up emails to first-time visitors.

New Developments:

- Booked a variety of compelling Speakers for 2019-2020 Season
- Responded to pandemic with creative solutions for continuing weekly platforms through electronic media uninterrupted.

Goals for 2020:

Ethical Action:

- Becoming more active in attracting members to BES.
- Facilitate members taking an active part in social justice issues.
- Actively create or sponsor events dealing with social justice issues.

Finances:

- Conduct an audit of FY20 by the end of September.
- Host another successful pledge drive.

Public relations/communications:

- Grow our relationships with other local organizations such as the LGBTQ Humanist Council, COR, and other communities.
● Invigorate festival volunteers
● Explore new avenues to advertise BES

Ethical Education:
● Host another Family Sunday Funday
● Consistently track Sunday School attendance
● Maintain and utilize EEC family email list

Program Committee:
● To find a Co-Chair who can become Chair in 2021.
● Invigorate BES with new programming ideas.
● Deepen the connection of BES with other Societies.

Membership:
● Simplify the process of submitting and processing membership applications.
● Make it easier for new members to begin participating in the Society’s volunteer and financial-support activities