



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

2 West 64th Street • New York, NY 10023 • www.aeu.org
Phone 212.873.6500 • Fax 212-624-0203 • office@aeu.org

ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT

Society Report for Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle

Leader(s): NA

President(s): Ken Novak

Administrative Director/Office Contact: Sue Walton

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Society that occurred or developed in 2020:

We adopted a new monthly schedule:

1st Sunday: Colloquy

2nd Sunday: Platform (alternating live and recorded talk)

3rd Sunday: Colloquy

4th Sunday: Salon on topics political, social, scientific, etc.

We meet at 2pm Central on Sundays.

Ethical Action:

- Climate: Held a salon on climate refugees
- Racial Justice: Participated in Evanston's interfaith coalition work for fair housing access; platform on accessing city data portals
- Economic Justice: Platform on Sustainable Investment, Ethical Action I our support and involvement of the New Foundation of Hope in Chicago's Ashburn neighborhood and participation in Evanston's interfaith coalition advocacy and direct service programs to the hungry and homeless
- Other: Platform on resources for aging with dignity

As yet, we have no Ethical Education program.

Communications: We depended on email for most communications, adding event listings on Facebook and Meetup.com

Finances: Virtual meetings saved us quite a bit of rental expense, and financial support from our members continued.



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Membership: Our focus is not so much increasing membership as it is expanding the number of people we serve. We have become closer to each other in the viral crisis, many of us checking in to chat every Wednesday at dinnertime. Our membership has grown from 18 to 23, as some of our Friends became members.

New Developments: This Spring, we began a program of Special Interest Meetups (SIMs). Experience has shown us that many people who express no interest in joining an Ethical community but who join, for instance, a book group, later become close-knit members of the community. Our first SIM is a Sunday afternoon discussion of that week's New Yorker short story. We hope to add at least four more by the time you read this.

Goals for 2021: We want to expand the member of people who we serve through programs or Ethical Action, to increase knowledge-sharing and ethical action around particular areas of need in Chicago and Evanston, and to hold more joint programs with other Ethical and Humanist communities.