

## AEU News & Updates - November 2021

### Societies in the Press: Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society passes milestone



The Standard-Journal  
LEWISBURG — “Founders Month’ was recently celebrated by the Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society (SVES) with an outdoor meeting in front of the Donald Heiter Community Center.

The humanist-inspired group dedicated to ethics, social justice and education had its first meeting in October 2016, noted Pattie Arduini, co-founder and president of the group. Their activities and mission work in tandem with those of the American Ethical Union (AEU). Music, snacks and speakers were featured at the gathering. Drawings by young children of members were put up along the wall of the center.

The Rev. Jé Hooper, SVES consulting clergy leader, was also instrumental in setting up the meeting for the community.

“We’ve been trying to build a stronger network,” Hooper said of the group’s objective. “My role is to enhance some of the tools we already have (and) tap into the resources but also (members) gifts and qualities.”

For example, Hooper noted a member whose skills with children were being cultivated. Other members may want to personally adjust their direction in life. “That’s the beautiful thing about ethical culture. It’s about who am I now and what am I called to do as a purpose now,” Hooper said. “This community could not only be like a grounding, but also a ‘catapulting.’”

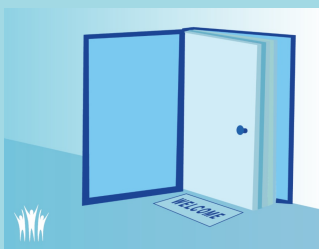
For anyone at any age, Hooper said people need a place where they feel like they have value.

“A lot of congregants are not only remembering who they are, they are reclaiming who they are,” Hooper said. “My role is to say ‘let’s go’ and help them. The flame is not out yet.”

Arduini noted that Bart Wordon, American Ethical Union executive director, planned to address the group via Zoom. She noted he planned to retire in the year ahead.

[Watch the recording on youtube](#)

### Open New Doors with Anti-Racism Book Dialogs



Last year, members of multiple Ethical Societies joined together to [read and discuss anti-racist literature](#). This discussion group project was created by Jone Johnson Lewis, Bart Worden and the AEU Ethical Action Committee as part of the groundwork for an anti-racist framework for the AEU and our Societies. Registration is now open for fall 2021! One important goal of the project is to create a firmer foundation for the anti-racism work we do, as individuals and as members of Ethical Societies. Anti-racism work can be about individual growth and action, action as an Ethical Society, or a look at our own institutions.

[Read more and register here!](#)

### All Society Platform Hosted by Future of Ethical Societies: "Journeys to Justice"



**Sunday, October 31,  
11:00 am - 12:30 ET**

How does one find the courage to do good? What are the experiences, pains, and inspirations that drive us to do meaningful work? In "Journeys to Justice," hear from Future of Ethical Societies members, young adults spread nationally and internationally, about their personal pathways to working for social justice. **Julia Julstrom-Agoyo, Katie LaClair, and Kai Lin Zhang** were our speakers for the day.

Music for the morning was provided by **Emma Pauline**, a musician, artist and herbalist born and raised in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Video: [Journeys to Justice](#)

[Read more here!](#)

### Ethical Culture Society of Westchester Turns 100



On October 18, 1921 fifteen people gathered at the home of Henry and Amy Frank in New Rochelle, New York and by the end of that meeting had committed to starting an Ethical Society. All fifteen were members of the New York Society for Ethical Culture who wanted a more local Ethical Society that would offer Ethical Education for children to families in the area. Within a few months they had secured a meeting place for the the Sunday School and arranged for training of their all-volunteer staff by John Lovejoy Elliott.

The Westchester Ethics Group, as it was then called, became the Westchester Society for Ethical Culture in 1930 and at that time became a full-fledged member of the American Ethical Union. David Saville Muzzey was the first Leader for the Society and served for 24 years.

The Society built the current Meeting House in White Plains in 1963.

The Society has had a number of accomplishments:

- The founding of The Guidance Center of New Rochelle (a community mental health clinic)
- Hosting the first public meeting on the topic of legalizing abortion
- The founding of Futura House (a group home for adults with psychiatric disability)
- Hosting Encampment for Citizenship
- Hosting the first Humanist Weekend

The Society held their 100th Anniversary celebration on October 24th as both an in-person and Zoom event which included the planting of a commemorative tree and, of course, a luncheon!

Congratulations on your first 100 years and good wishes for the next 100!

# Stay up to date with our Connections Calendar!

Please check our Connections Calendar for upcoming events from AEU and our Ethical Societies.

Join our [Connections Forum \(Google Group\)](#) to receive and share information on current events and ethical issues we face together.

