



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT

Society Report for Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society

President(s): Patricia Arduini

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Society that occurred or developed in 2018:

Ethical Action:

- Climate:
 - Platform Speaker, Sandy Fields “The Climate Reality Project”
 - Platform Speaker, nature photographer Ian Adrian “Growing Greener to Nurture Our Earth”

- Racial Justice:
 - Hosted the showing of the film “I Am Not Your Negro”/discussion
 - Platform - Showing Up for Racial Justice [SURJ] Casey Pegg, speaker
 - Platform speaker, Je Hooper “Afro-theosophy”
 - Colloquy “Our Response to Hatred & Bigotry” White Flour by David Lamotte

- Economic Justice:
 - Started a Go Fund Me Campaign for a woman incarcerated for killing her husband. Helena was in an abusive relationship and she acted in self-defense.
 - Ongoing project with Haven Ministry Homeless Shelter (plush toys for children)
 - Winter Coat Drive
 - Food Pantry donations

- Development and Peace:
 - Participated with other nonprofits in the Lewisburg Art Festival’s Community Commons for the benefit of promoting our mission.
 - Platform “Nurturing Community”
 - Board members attended our local ACLU chapter’s annual banquet and set-up a display highlighting Ethical Cultures work in social justice.
 - Worked with local groups in organizing the Lewisburg community’s March 24th “March for Our Lives” event.
 - Platform Speaker, David Heayn “Insight into the Islamic Religion: Growing Our Knowledge to Nurture Our Tolerance”

- Other:
 - We supported the resolution for the admission of the State of New Columbia to the Union

- Ongoing project for Foster Care Children (duffle bags)
- Colloquy “LGBTQ+ Terminology 101”
- Platform Speaker, Rebecca Armstrong, Lewisburg Prison Project “From Behind the Wall” incarceration

Ethical Education (children ages 2-13)

- We have taken a multigenerational approach by keeping children in the same space as the adults. There is no formal ethical education taking place, but we supply art supplies, play dough, puzzles, books for children who attend.

Youth of Ethical Societies (teens ages 14-18)

- NA

Future of Ethical Societies (young adults ages 18-35):

- NA

Communications:

- website (www.susquehannavalleyethicalsociety.org)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- bi-monthly newsletter
- local newspaper calendar

Finances:

- Healthy for a very small Society
- All members are pledged financial contributors

Membership:

- 18 members
 - 2 families with children 6 years and younger
 - 3 new members in December 2018
- New members receive a certificate and membership card
- 1st time visitors receive a phone call or email a few days following their visit

New Developments:

- Moved to a new location in October 2018. More room to grow and family friendly.
- Went from meeting twice a month to meeting four times a month
- Building our Society library with books on Ethical Culture & Felix Adler, books on the topic of racial justice, and the Humanist Magazine

Goals for 2019:

Increase membership (young families with children)

Increase member involvement in the life of SVES to foster connectedness and growth

Increase visibility and outreach

Increase racial/ethnic diversity

Increase our efforts to be better allies (POC & LGBTQ+)

Increase our work in addressing the issues of climate change