Traditionally, analytic properties of automorphic $L$-functions are obtained by using either the Rankin-Selberg method or the Langlands-Shahidi method. About a decade ago, Miller and Schmid expanded the applicability of the Rankin-Selberg method by working with automorphic distributions rather than automorphic representations. Using this method, analytic properties of $L$-functions follow from those of Eisenstein distributions. In this talk, I’ll give an introduction to Eisenstein distributions, and in particular, share recent results on the metaplectic Eisenstein distribution on $\widetilde{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$. (Received July 25, 2017)