

The Minnesota Atheist

April Public Meeting

Famous Black Freethinkers

Can you name a famous black atheist other than Neil deGrasse Tyson? There is a stereotype that all (or nearly all) African Americans believe in the existence of a god. Our April speaker will be pleased to dispel this notion.



Ayanna Watson, the founder and president of Black Atheists of America, headquartered in New York City, will educate us about “Famous Black Freethinkers,” with a special emphasis on the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s-1930s. Even if you’re familiar with some of the leaders from that remarkable time period, you might still be surprised and delighted at how many of them had doubts about the existence of a god and criticized religion.

We are also pleased that Ayanna will be our guest on *Atheists Talk* radio program at 9:00 a.m. on KTNF AM 950 that Sunday morning.

Black Atheists of America (BAAM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between atheism and the black community. Because religion is so deeply ingrained in the black community, black atheists often find themselves as a dual minority. BAAM hopes that its efforts will build a stronger overall atheist community by

encouraging black atheists to be open about their stance on religion.

You can find BAAM on the web at BlackAtheistsOfAmerica.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/BlackAtheistsOfAmerica.

If You Go...

When:

Sunday, April 15, 2012

Where:

North Regional Library

1315 Lowry Avenue N.

(Lowry Ave and Freemont Ave)

Minneapolis, 55411

Schedule:

1:00-1:15 p.m. – Social time

1:15-1:45 p.m. – Business

Meeting

1:45-2:00 p.m. – Break

2:00-3:30 p.m. – Presentation

4:00-whenever – Dinner (location to be determined)

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**Minnesota Atheists
practices positive,
inclusive, active, friendly
neighborhood atheism in
order to:**

- Provide a community for
atheists;
- Educate the public about
atheism; and
- Promote separation of state
and church.

MNA Meetup members: 1,089

Life memberships: 30

Honorary Members

- Hector Avalos, PhD
- Dan Barker
- Gerald Erickson, PhD
- Annie Laurie Gaylor
- Dick Hewetson
- Robert M. Price, PhD

Minnesota Atheists Mission Statement

Minnesota Atheists is dedicated to building a positive atheist community that actively promotes secular values through educational programs, social activities, and participation in public affairs.

**PRESIDENT'S
COLUMN**

After the Afterlife



**by August
Berkshire**

Question: What do vampires, zombies, and Harry Potter spirits have in common? Answer: They are all alternatives to the traditional Christian afterlife and they are all very popular with young people.

I see this as part of a larger trend away from Christianity and towards atheism. Let's face it, with modern telescopes able to perceive things that are billions of light years away, we still haven't found an afterlife. It's hard to believe in something that supposedly has no substance, and if God and heaven and the billions of souls in it *had* substance, we would have found them by now.

In contrast, vampires and zombies provide a tangible form of life after death, and even the spirits in Harry Potter are

visible and able to act upon the natural world, implying that they too have substance and are natural.

The desire to avoid (permanent) death is part of our survival instinct. Now, while most people don't want to be zombies, there is a certain poignant allure to being a vampire. And the spirits in Harry Potter can be either good or bad.

So earthly life and the earthly struggle between good and evil go on forever. Older generations outgrew heaven, God, and souls. Today's young people will outgrow vampires, zombies, and spirits. In fact, they already get the joke.

May Day Parade

The May Day Parade and Festival in South Minneapolis is one of the most fun things Minnesota Atheists get to do during the year. We gather at Cedar Field at noon to march down Bloomington Ave from Cedar Field to Powderhorn Park. We carry signs as we march to educate the public about us. We never fail to get a welcoming and enthusiastic response from the crowd!

After the parade, which starts at 1:00, we meet at our booth. It's a great chance to talk to people who are supporters of our causes, even if they are not atheists. Many of them feel just as strongly about the importance of the separation of church and state as we do. So stop on by the booth, or better yet, march in the parade to show your support!

For more information, visit The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater page: <http://www.hobt.org/mayday/parade/route.html>

Or contact Steve Petersen at dir3@mnatheists.org. If you are interested in helping set up, staff, or take down the booth, Steve would love to hear from you.

News and Notes



George Kane

In past columns I have criticized President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. It was Obama's attempt to correct the flaws of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives created by George W. Bush, which was nothing

more than an apparatus for

dispensing government funds to evangelical Christian ministries for charitable social programs. Obama promised to create a partnership between religion and government, to strengthen religion and to give it a role in setting the national agenda.

Obama promised, as soon as he took office, to stop funding faith-based organizations that practiced religious discrimination in employment. He ignored his promise, however, and did not put it on the agenda for the Advisory Council. That first council completed its work with a 163-page document delivered in March of 2010, containing reports on Reform of the Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Office, Economic Recovery and Domestic Poverty, Fatherhood and Healthy Families, Interreligious Cooperation, Environment and Climate Change and Global Poverty and Development. In the two years since, however, I have heard nothing more about the Council. That first Council disbanded, and Obama has to date appointed only 12 of the 25 members of the second Council. The new Council will not convene until all the members have been named.

The reason for the long delay is not at all clear. The White House claims that 70% of the recommendations in the original report have been at least partially implemented, and that Obama is committed to launching the second Council. If the Council were at all in operation, the White House

would have loved to point to it in response to political sniping that he is conducting a "war against religion."

A big story for conservatives in March is an apparent investigation by the Internal Revenue Service into the activities of Tea Party groups. At issue is whether they qualify for 501(c)(4) tax exempt status. They are crying foul because of questions that the IRS has sent them, asking about their members, donors and activities, and for Board meeting minutes.

This is an issue that would normally not warrant mention in this column, as it is not directly a question of church/state separation. However, Minnesota Atheists is itself a tax exempt organization, and we are quite aware of the prohibitions against direct electoral participation. We want to be assured that non-profit groups that oppose us on separation of church and state also play by the rules.

We are not truly on equal footing. Minnesota Atheists' tax exemption derives from Section 501(c)(3), as an educational organization. We are permitted to engage in issue advocacy, including very limited lobbying, but not to endorse candidates for office or to contribute to a political campaign. By contrast, organizations that are exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(4) are afforded rather greater political leeway. While they can do more lobbying than a 501(c)(3), they are classed as "social welfare" organizations, such as business associations and labor unions, and may not have the primary purpose of political advocacy.

Yet if you go to many web sites run by these Tea Party chapters, or read the literature they publish and distribute, you find that they give every impression that their reason for existence is entirely for political campaigning. The IRS must determine if their actual conduct is primarily for the benefit of their members and society as a whole, or electioneering. Donations made for a political campaign not only do not qualify for a tax write-off, donors of more than \$13,000 annually may also be liable to pay a 35% gift tax.

The Tea party chapters claim that the IRS is trying to intimidate them with their questions, to frighten them away from the exercise of their constitutionally

News and Notes continued on page 6.

MINNESOTA ATHEISTS' ANNUAL DAY OF REASON CELEBRATION

**Thursday, May 3, Noon-1:00 p.m.
Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul**

From noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3rd, Minnesota Atheists will once again hold a "Day of Reason" rally inside the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda. This is the seventh year that we have held this celebration of the separation of state and church to protest the "Day of Prayer" event held at the same time outside on the Capitol steps.

While any group of citizens may hold a rally on the Capitol steps, what we are protesting is the government endorsement of this religious event. We are also celebrating the triumph of reason over faith when it comes to understanding the universe.

There are many ways in which the separation of state and church is violated. This year we will focus on the denial of equal rights to gays and lesbians, especially when it comes to civil marriage.

This November an amendment will be on the ballot asking Minnesotans to enshrine bigotry in our state constitution by limiting civil marriage to heterosexuals. Last summer Minnesota Atheists joined a coalition called Minnesotans United for All Families to oppose this amendment.

Minnesota Atheists was also the only organization to file a friend-of-the-court brief supporting three same-sex couples (collectively known as Marry Me



Minnesota) who are suing the state to legalize same-sex marriage and to have such marriages that are legally performed outside of Minnesota recognized by our state.

At our Day of Reason rally this year we will be partnering with members of Marry Me Minnesota and their lawyers to highlight and protest this continuing religion-based discrimination against our fellow citizens. We will also have speakers from Minnesota Atheists

and the Humanists of Minnesota, including the ever-popular Grant Steves.

In addition, if we can find one or more gay or lesbian couples willing to do it, we will have a brief,



secular, commitment ceremony, and note that the Capitol building, even in its current state of disrepair, does not collapse.

Although the state legislature is scheduled to be through with its work in April, there are many who think they will still be in session for our Day of Reason celebration, and thus will be present to appreciate our patriotic support of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The National Day of Reason was instituted as a protest against the National Day of Prayer, which was established by an act of Congress in 1952, and fixed as the first Thursday in May by a law enacted in 1988. The National Day of Reason is observed by secular groups across the country in support of separation of church and state.

Help us remind our government officials that they represent all citizens. Every voice counts. If you can take a long lunch break, or have the free time, we would appreciate your coming to support this event.

With each Day of Reason our turnout has increased. With your help, we hope to continue that tradition. Our elected representatives take notice, as well as school groups and others visiting the State Capitol, and our presence ensures that when any media outlet covers the Day of Prayer, our Day of Reason will get equal time.

Come and be a part of history and make your voice heard. For more information, please contact info@mnatheists.org or call 612-588-7031.

News and Notes (continued)

protected right to freedom of speech. They say that they are guilty of nothing more than the political advocacy which is the right of every citizen, for which they are receiving Gestapo-like suppression. But they are in fact not being subjected to a criminal investigation. The FBI has not been called

in. All of the questions that have been raised by the IRS are for information that they need to decide if these groups satisfy the requirements for a tax exemption. If it is too odious to answer the questions, they should simply withdraw their applications.

Humanist Views Appearance

Minnesota Atheists President August Berkshire (left) was recently interviewed by Humanists of Minnesota President Scott Lohman (right) for the latter group's cable TV show *Humanist Views*. August discussed his essay "My Road to Atheism," which will appear in Freethought House's forthcoming book *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*.

Photo courtesy of Nathan Curland.



FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

Hzdms dw jnm uij ikdsyjit ysbdgmydxxr dw jnm uij hixx ikdsyjit.

Wfibmyeyws yw mziangi mzi aygwm wmib mnhdgt mgcmz.

-Tijyw Tytignm

(Answer on page 10.)

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

The highway clean up for Rice, Minnesota will be on Sunday, April 29. We will start the clean-up at 10:00 in the morning at the Old Creamery Café in Rice, at 405 Main Street, just west of the stoplight on Highway 10. We will have brunch after the cleanup. Contact Deb at 320-253-5422, or Steve Petersen at 651-484-9277 or dir3@mnaatheists.org. Dress for season-appropriate weather with sturdy

shoes and work gloves. The latest in highway vest will be supplied. If there is rain we will still meet to discuss and plan the next date. We have been doing this clean-up for several years, and have had a large enough crew to complete the task in about two hours. For those driving from the Twin Cities, we can car pool. Additionally, it will fun to get together with people from Central Minnesota Freethinkers.

Contact: Jack Rivall
Phone (952) 215 - 1481
Jack.rivall@gmail.com

SOS Sobriety

Twin Cities Addicts Lack Modern and Scientific Recovery Opportunities

A decade late: New and improved self-help groups finally make the scene in Minnesota.

Several probation and parole officers, sobriety advocates and professors are trying to promote new groups throughout the Midwest. This is Minnesota's chance!

Minneapolis, March 28, 2012: The struggle of individuals with dependence issues is very real. Their plight affects their health and nearly every aspect of their lives. It also affects **everybody around them**. Getting support that is modern and scientific can be very difficult; especially in the Midwest. Many Minnesotans from a variety of backgrounds are coming together to promote secular recovery solutions that are all-inclusive and, unlike other popular recovery 'fellowships,' will have verifiable success rates and stories. Meetings will be blossoming at public libraries throughout the Twin Cities this year. The first meeting, under the banner of SOS Sobriety, was held on March 28th at 6:30 PM at the Penn Lake Library - 8800 Penn Ave South in Bloomington MN 55431. Contact Jack Rivall, above, for details regarding future meetings.

Traditional Clothing Amendment Added to November Ballot

Almost one year after state lawmakers passed the Marriage Amendment Bill, and just days after the house and senate passed the Voter ID Bill, it appears that Minnesota voters will be asked to approve a third constitution-altering ballot measure.

Lawmakers in both chambers rapidly worked out a narrow vote over the weekend to pass a traditional clothing bill. Like the marriage and voter ID bills, this will bypass the governor by being put on the November ballot for voters to decide. If voters approve the bill it will be illegal for women to wear pants (including blue jeans) and men to wear dresses (including kilts).

Additionally, the proposed clothing amendment will ban the manufacturing, selling, possession, and wearing of clothing made from blended fabrics.

“Most of our merchandise will be considered contraband if the voters approve this law,” Maplewood Burlington Coat Factory manager Stephanie Hawkins said. “If it passes I may have to move to a more tolerant state like Iowa.”

All states, including Iowa, have no gender-based restrictions on clothing and still allow the sale and manufacturing of blended fabric.

Unlike most states, however, Iowa legalized same-sex marriage after the state’s Supreme Court unanimously approved it in 2009. Iowa became the third state in the nation to extend marriage rights to gays and lesbians.

If the traditional clothing law passes it will be the first of its kind in the United States. “My parents came here from Somalia to escape authoritarian intolerance,” said Fahima Abdi. “These sex and gender amendments are eerily reminiscent of the strict burka and marriage laws enforced by the fundamentalist warlords who took over my homeland over 20 years ago.”

Groups that support the Minnesota marriage amendment are also raising substantial money for the clothing amendment. The Minnesota Catholic Conference has already raised \$265,000 to help campaign for the clothing amendment and the Minnesota Family Council said that their traditional clothing fund is up to \$73,000.

“We believe most Minnesotans support a traditional culture where gender is clearly defined and where we’re all forbidden to enjoy the same-sex pleasures that many of us desire,” says Tom Prichard, President of Minnesota Family Council.

“Our creator intended men and women to procreate and raise families without the confusion or satanic-induced curiosity of gay and lesbian sexual activities,” Prichard added. “How is our society to survive if mothers wear blue jeans and fathers wear pink shirts?”



by Eric Jayne

The Minnesota Family Council’s website cites a variety of bible verses supporting their views including Deuteronomy 22:5, which says God detests women in men’s clothing as



well as men in women’s clothing. Another bible verse quoted on the council’s website is Leviticus 19:19, which says God forbids the donning of clothes “woven of two kinds of material.”

Some lawmakers insist that the clothing amendment is not rooted in discrimination. “This is

Clothing Amendment continued on page 9.

Clothing Amendment (continued)

not about hating women who wear pants and men who wear dresses, nor is it about intolerance," said Rep. Tara Mack, R- Apple Valley, chief author of the clothing bill. "I am faithful that we can have a respectful dialogue on this issue and allow the people of Minnesota to decide whether they want to live in a state condoning gender related abominations against God."

The textiles and human rights lobby are both decrying the law as an unconstitutional overreach of government. "Both federal and state courts have found same-sex marriage bans to be unconstitutional," says Sarah Warbelow, director of Human Rights Campaign. "It should be painfully obvious to anyone with a pulse that the courts will find a law restricting clothing based on gender to be unconstitutional as well."

Carlos Moore, executive vice president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, says it makes no sense for lawmakers to spend time on gender-related issues.

"This is America", Moore said. "And in America we should be free to wear what we want and marry

who we want as long as we're not hurting anybody else."

Mr. Moore also said that he has concerns about what damage could be done to Minnesota's economy if retailers are forced to pull their fabric-blended clothes from the shelves.

Sen. Warren Limmer, R-Maple Grove, is confident that there won't be a negative affect on the state's economy.

"People will still need clothing", Limmer said. "They'll just have to wear state approved clothing for their state approved marriages, which means they'll be pumping money into the economy when shopping for appropriate clothing at the shopping mall."

Minnesota led the nation in voter turnout with 77.8 percent during the last presidential election in 2008. With a presidential election, a U.S. senate seat up for grabs, and an unprecedented three ballot measures, voter turnout might even surpass the 2008 turnout.

Happy April Fool's Day!

From the Star Tribune Opinion page, 02 March 2012:
IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Open mind would have room for nonbelievers

Mitch Pearlstein ("The American mind is open," Feb. 27) painted a picture of a diverse American populace where we "have more than enough respect ... for each other's religious commitments."

What Pearlstein failed to mention is that religious Americans do not extend the same generosity and warmth to nonbelievers as they do to fellow believers.

While the Constitution forbids a religious test for elected office, 53 percent of Americans would not vote for a well-qualified atheist presidential candidate (Gallup poll).

And according to research recently published in the esteemed Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, believers rated atheists and rapists as about equally trustworthy.

Prejudices fade when people get to know each other on a personal level. Until believers and nonbelievers can talk openly and civilly about their respective worldviews, I am afraid that the American mind will not be as open as Pearlstein would have us believe.

-Gary J. Freitas, Waconia.

March Meeting Review: Jen McCreight

by *Brianne Bilyue*

Jennifer McCreight was the guest speaker at the Minnesota Atheists monthly meeting in March. Jennifer McCreight is a PhD student studying genomics. She is also the popular science, feminism, and atheist blogger at Blag Hag (<http://freethoughtblogs.com/blaghag>).

Jennifer's talk was entitled "God's Lady Problem." In this talk Jennifer equated the descriptions (as written in their respective holy books) and religious dogma surrounding the gods of all major religions with that of a violent domestic partner. Like someone who perpetrates domestic violence, gods demand that we love only them, that we give them our money, they threaten to hurt us if we don't do exactly as they say, and they emotionally and psychologically torture and guilt us into staying with them. As Christianity is the major religion in the United States, Jennifer spoke a great deal about the Christian god, but she also turned her eye on Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and even Jainism.

In the next part of her talk, Jennifer focused on the steadily escalating war on women that we are seeing play out in our politics and in the rhetoric of the upcoming presidential elections. From there she

moved into the realm of, what I am dubbing, Atheism's Lady Problem. She touched briefly on some of the recent blogosphere debacles including Elevatorgate (it defies description in this short piece, but you'll find more than you even wanted to know by Googling the term) and some of Reddit's obnoxious behavior on R/Atheism. In the broader atheist community we have had our run-ins with anti-woman language and behavior, or perhaps unintentionally offensive behavior driven by male privilege, but the speed of the internet has also made it easy for us to police ourselves and call out these offenses when they occur. Unlike religions we do not as a movement condone or codify this type of anti-woman behavior.

A large crowd turned out to hear Jennifer's talk; the room at the Roseville public library was filled. The question and answer session was fast-moving and took up all the time allotted for Q&A. Jennifer introduced our group to some new ideas and ways of the thinking about how women are perceived and treated in religions, our government, and our own atheist movement.

Photos courtesy of Matthew Richardson. -ed.

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

What has not been examined impartially has not been well examined.
Skepticism is therefore the first step toward truth.

-Denis Diderot

Planning your estate?
Don't forget to include
Minnesota Atheists.

Atheists Talk: February and March Radio Report

Atheists Talk is produced by Minnesota Atheists and directed by Carl Hancock. Original music is composed, played, and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. Producers and hosts this month included Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyeu, Greg Laden, August

by Steve Petersen

Last year, psychologist Darrel Ray surveyed 10,000 atheists on their relationship to religion and sexuality. The results showed that there wasn't much difference between



believers and non-believers, though there were large differences in the amount of guilt. Atheists who had been religious reported that they experienced far less guilt after leaving religion and far better sex.

In his book *Sex and God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality*, Ray explores how religions incite guilt over sexuality and how they use this guilt to maintain control over their followers. Scott Lohman hosted the show, and Carl Hancock produced and conducted the interview.

"A Universe From Nothing"
#157, Sunday, March 4th, 2012

Dr. Lawrence Krauss is a leader in the fields of theoretical physics, science advocacy in public policy and education, and scientific skepticism. He joined

Atheists Talk to discuss his recently published book, *A Universe From Nothing: Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing*.

Krauss' book tackles ideas of thrilling complexity and importance. After all, in his book he is not merely presenting facts and formulae about the physics of our universe, but also exploring those



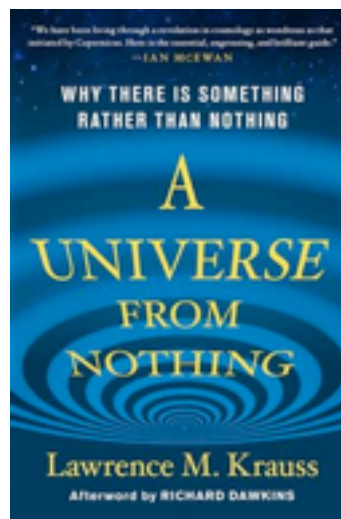
Carl Hancock, left, stands with two frequent hosts: Brianne Bilyeu and Scott Lohman.

Berkshire, Scott Lohman, Stephanie Zvan, George Kane, Rachel Reiva, and Steve Petersen. The radio program is broadcast live from KTNF studios in Eden Prairie every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 at AM950. Listen to live steaming through our web page, www.mnatheists.org. The six month cost is \$5,320; each donation to support the program is greatly appreciated. To donate, send in a donation to our PO box or online at <http://minnesotaatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund>. All past programs can be accessed via web page.

If you are interested in helping on the radio program please write to radio@mnatheists.org.

Recent shows include:

"Sex and God" #156, Sunday, February 26, 2012



Radio Report continued on page 12.

Radio Report (continued)

questions that keep us mortal dreamers awake at night: Where did we come from? Did God start it all? Where are we going to end up?

Lawrence Krauss' book tells a story that weaves together the history of the fields of cosmology and astrophysics with the newest discoveries of the day, and by the end of the book we come to understand that never has nothing been so fascinating. This episode was produced by Carl Hancock. Carl and Scott Lohman conducted the interview and Biranne Bilyue hosted.

"Freethought M.C." #158, Sunday, March 11th, 2012

Freethought M.C. (M.C. standing for "Man of Conscience") creates hip-hop music that invokes compassion, spirituality and a language of reverence while grounded in reason, community, social responsibility, science and ethics.

Though he was raised Baptist, Freethought M.C. grew up questioning religion and philosophy. He became a Zen Buddhist at age 11, studied comparative

religion in his 20s and now identifies as a Humanist and a Unitarian Universalist. His lyrics are influenced by Dawkins, Hitchens, and Harris, as well as science fiction. His music also tackles political and social issues such as corrupt governments, nuclear warfare scenerios, African genocide, and the Iraq war.

In 2009 Freethought M.C. released two albums: *Diary of a Humanist* and *Modern Humanology*, followed by *Freethinker Vol. One* in 2010, and at the end of last year he released *The Categorical Imperative Strikes Back*. During the show, Freethought M.C. discussed his music and his activism in the African American atheist movement. Carl Hancock produced the show. He and Michelle Los conducted the interview. Brianne Bilyue hosted.



Left: *Modern Humanology*. Right: *The Categorical Imperative Strikes Back*.

March Treasury Report



*Compiled by
Chris Matthews*



Billboard Fund

Donald Cummings	\$15
Total Billboard Fund	\$15

Radio Fund

Jon and Christine Strand	\$500
Douglas Post	\$100
Arthur Scearcy	\$75
Paul Gramstad	\$50
Heather Hegi	\$50
Rachel Wilson	\$50
Carl Dawson	\$35
Richard Ellingsen	\$20
Francis Leckie	\$20
Dawn MacDonald	\$15
Eleanor Rittenour	\$10
Total Radio Fund	\$925

General/Visibility Fund

Robert McGeachie	\$100
Francois Baptiste	\$25
Al Seever	\$25
Dale Howey	\$10
Meghan Kosowski	\$10
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$170

Total Income: **\$1,110**

Current Building Fund Total
\$130,241

Radio Show Fundraising Goal	\$8,215
(for 2012)	
Amount Raised (thru March 24, 2012)	\$1,514
Amount Remaining to Reach Goal:	\$6,701

Top Expenses for March

Radio Show	\$820
Newsletter Printing	\$513
Speakers	\$500
Internet Expense	\$215

SNEAK PEAK!



James Zimmerman submitted an excerpt from his essay "Losing My Head" to Jehovah's Witness Blog, and it was published on their site on 23 March. The essay will appear in the book *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*, scheduled for publication this summer. In the meantime, visit www.jehovahswitnessblog.com/real-life-experiences/losing-my-head/ for a sneak peak at one of the essays.

March Atheists Talk Television Show Report

by Steve Petersen and Eric Jayne

Eric Jayne produced and hosted the March cable show entitled, "Get to Know an Atheist." After Eric made a public request on the Minnesota Atheists Facebook page for somebody to interview, who wouldn't mind being better known, Bob Alberti kindly responded.

Bob proved to be a wonderful guest with a unique personal story to share. Along with discussing his transition from Catholicism to atheism, Bob told us about his present day experience of being an active atheist member of the First Universalist Church in Minneapolis. We also learned about Bob's contribution (and Minnesota's significant connection) to the popular role playing game genre that includes a two volume series he wrote entitled *Mitlanyál*.

If you would like to sponsor our program in your community, or have an idea for a program, or if you have a public access television station in your community, please contact Steve Petersen at dir3@mnatheists.org or call 651-484-9277.

Cable Crew: George Kane, Brett Stenbridge, Shirley Moll, Steve Petersen, Wendy Steinberg, Grant Hermanson and Art Anderson .

Podcasts: MinnesotaAtheists.org. Available via iTunes. Made possible by Grant Hermanson.

Cable Schedule:

Burnsville/Eagan Community Television: Channel 14. Check their web site www.bect.tv for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty

Bloomington: Channel 16. Sunday 11:00 p.m. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardsley.

Minneapolis: Channel 17. Saturday 8:30 p.m. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

Rochester: Channel 10. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Salutz.

Roseville, Shoreview, Arden Hills, North Oaks, Little Canada, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Moundsview/New Brighton: Channel 14. Wednesday 10:30 p.m. Sponsor: Shirley Moll.

St. Cloud: Channel 12. Thursday 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Sponsor Tom Stavros.

Stillwater: Channel 16. Tuesday 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Sponsor: Lee Salisbury.

White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahomet, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights: Channel 15. Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.



Minnesota Atheists

www.mnatheists.org

P.O. Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112

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>> Minnesota Atheists has IRS 501(c)(3) status. All contributions are tax-deductible. <<

Things to Do, Places to Go: A Calendar for Atheists

In addition to these regularly scheduled events, there are many more events every month. Please subscribe to Atheist Weekly e-mail on our web site, mnatheists.org, and join our Meetup group.

Sundays, 9:00am-10:00am *Atheists Talk* Radio. AM 950 KTNF in the Twin Cities or stream live at <http://www.am950ktnf.com>. Contact us during the show with questions or comments at (952) 946-6205 or radio@mnatheists.org.

Sundays, 6:00pm-7:00pm Atheist/Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous. Men's Center, 3249 Hennepin Avenue South Suite # 55, Minneapolis Meet in the basement. Open to all genders.

2nd Sundays, 1:00pm Minnesota Atheists Little Canada Book Club, Caribou Coffee 3354 Rice St, Little Canada, MN 55126

3rd Sundays, September through May, 1:00pm-4:00pm. Minnesota Atheists Public Meeting. Various libraries. Business meeting, educational program and dinner afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

5th Sundays, 5:00pm (January, April, July, Sept, Dec). Flying Spaghetti Monster Dinner. Old Spaghetti Factory, 233 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Get together for drinks and pasta.

1st & 3rd Mondays 6:00pm Freethought Toastmasters. Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Ave. W, St. Paul 55113. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. George Kane, dir2@mnatheists.org.

2nd and 4th Mondays, 5:00pm-7:00pm Freethought Dinner Social. Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, MN. For more information call Bob or Marilyn Neinker at 612-866-6200.

1st Tuesdays, 11:30am-1:00pm Freethought Lunch. Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Fairview and Snelling. Bob or Marilyn Nienkirk at 612-866-6200.

4th Tuesdays, 7:00pm Maple Grove Book Club. Byerly's Meeting Room - 12880 Elm Creek Blvd N Maple Grove, MN 55369

Every other Tuesday, 7:00pm Secular Bible Study. Various locations. See the Meetup page <http://www.meetup.com/Secular-Bible-Study/>.

1st Wednesdays, 7:00pm Minnesota Atheists Burnsville Book Club. Davanni's, 14639 County Road 11, Burnsville MN 55337. Meet in the Party Room.

3rd Wednesdays, 11:30am-2pm Lunch at Dragon House Restaurant. Dragon House Restaurant 3970 Central Avenue Columbia Heights. Private room reserved. Bill Volna 612-781-1420

3rd Wednesdays, 6:30pm Minnesota Atheists Monthly Board Meeting. Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Avenue, St. Paul, 55113. Open to all members. George Kane, dir2@mnatheists.org.

1st Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm *Atheists Talk* television show. MTN Studio A, 125 SE Main Street, Minneapolis. Steve Petersen at 651-484-9277.

To sign up for the Atheists' Weekly Email (AWE), send a request to awe@mnatheists.org.

To sign up for Minnesota Atheists Meetups, visit atheists.meetup.com/493.



Religious freedom should work two ways: we should be free to practice the religion of our choice, but we must also be free from having someone else's religion practiced on us.

-John Irving, novelist (b. 1942)

Check us out on the radio!
AM950 on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.