

The Minnesota Atheist

May Public Meeting

Meet a State Representative

The speaker at our May 20th meeting will be State Representative Mindy Greiling, who is retiring at the completion of her current term. In twenty years representing District 54A, Greiling has been a consistent supporter of the separation of church and state, on issues such as abortion, science and history education standards, vouchers for religious schools, and recitation in



public school of the Pledge of Allegiance. She has opposed imposition by the government of the views of any religion over others, or over non-religion. In legislative debates she has marshaled arguments based upon scientific fact to rebut conservative Christian ideology.

During her years of service, Greiling has earned a reputation for honesty and high principle. While other legislators privately stated their opposition to mandatory recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, some voted to uphold the exercise for fear of a political backlash. Greiling had the courage to vote her conscience, without regard for electoral consequences. Her efforts led the legislature to adopt some of the best protections in the country

for students and teachers. Greiling also argued that religious schools should only be eligible to receive vouchers if they are held to the same requirements applied to the public schools in enrollment, testing and reporting.

Minnesota Atheists is proud to host Representative Greiling at the end of her distinguished legislative career. She will speak about the threats to the separation of church and state that she has faced, and that will come up in the next legislative session. There is much that we can learn from her about how we can be better activists, constituents and citizens.

Please join us!

If You Go...

When:

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Where:

**Roseville Library
2180 Hamline Avenue North**

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 – Panda Garden Buffet

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guaranteed.

**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: 1,126

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

Outreach



by August
Berkshire

There are some things we do that mainly involve us talking and socializing with each other, such as picnics, our winter solstice party, and most of our dozens of Meetups each month.

Then there are other things that bridge the gap between internal and external, such as when we post our newsletter (or many parts of it) on our website, our postings on our Facebook page, our charitable contributions, and our third Sunday meetings with speakers (which we then post as podcasts).

But there are an enormous number of things that we do to bring atheism directly to the public. Our public access cable TV show and our live radio show, both of which we later turn into podcasts, come to mind immediately. This year we submitted a proposal to the Minnesota Idea Open for a \$15,000 grant to start an interfaith radio program (in addition to our atheist show). Unfortunately, the panel of religious judges didn't select our project as a finalist.

Our ongoing Adopt-A-Highway signs in Rice, were joined by our billboards in Minneapolis and St. Paul this past January, which garnered us the front page of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and a lead news story on the local 10 p.m. news, as well as other publicity. From time to time, we also get letters to the editor and opinion pieces published in newspapers.

There are many celebrations, festivals, and parades we participate in each year. In the first week of May, we host a Day of Reason celebration at the State Capitol and participate in the May Day parade and booth at Powderhorn Park.

Between June and September we participate in six gay pride celebrations around the state – in Minneapolis, Rochester, La Crosse, Duluth, Mankato, and St. Cloud. This year we are hoping to add Pine City.

We also participate in the Juneteenth festival, and this year we have the added bonus that we have become the sponsoring group of the very first chapter of Black Atheists of America (BAAM)! Finally, in mid-September we participate in the Twin Cities Anarchist Bookfair in Minneapolis.

If you know of any festivals or conferences where we can have a booth, please let us know. In April there was a local women's conference. We tried to get a booth, but they decided not to have any.

Spring is when we often are contacted by schools and students for presentations and interviews about atheism. This year I spoke at Maple Grove Senior High School; Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids (which served as a catalyst to starting a freethought group in town); and to three classes at Northwestern College, a Christian school in Arden Hills. I've also been interviewed by three students attending Christian colleges for projects they were working on. Eric Jayne was interviewed by three students from Calvin High School in Fridley. Stephanie Zvan gave a presentation at Normandale Community College.

This August we have three very special events that will make news. The first is a St. Paul Saints baseball game that we are cosponsoring with American Atheists on Friday, August 10. It will be advertised as "a night of unbelievable fun." We will be renaming the team as the "Mr. Paul Aints." The team will be covering up the letter "S" on all the signs in the stadium and we will be allowed five banners to advertise our own groups. Jerseys with our new team name will be worn by the players and auctioned off later as a fundraiser for us. Tens of thousands of schedules have been printed and will be distributed that feature the names Minnesota Atheists and American Atheists.

The next day, on Saturday, August 11, we will host an all-day American Atheists Regional Atheist Conference in downtown St. Paul. Confirmed speakers so far are PZ Myers, Hector Avalos, and Robert Price.

That weekend will also see the publication by Freethought House of a book of essays titled *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*. It will have a forward by Greta Christina and will be for sale at the conference (though, unfortunately, Greta will be unable to appear at the conference).

It takes almost 100 volunteers to accomplish everything we do, and we sincerely thank everyone who helps us. This organization truly belongs to all of us. In addition, individually, each of us is a personal ambassador of atheism when we speak about it to our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and when we write letters to the editor. If you have done something to spread the good word of atheism, please let us know!

News and Notes

At the end of March, American Atheists, The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation held a rock concert at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. This “Rock Beyond Belief” event was held as a response to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association’s “Rock the Fort” concert last September that promoted Christian evangelism. The brass at the base were in a box: having approved the Christian event, they had to approve the atheist concert or it would not have been possible to deny bigotry.

The event was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Stiefel Freethought Foundation, which even provided a free barbecue lunch for the first 1,000 military ID-card holders. Richard Dawkins was the featured speaker.

Touting the military’s even-handedness, the garrison commander, Col. Stephen Sicinski said, “We try to accommodate all of the quality of life needs of our soldiers and their family members.” Despite the concert’s success, event organizers would prefer for this concert to be their last. They would prefer that the army, in the future, not approve concerts sponsored by outside groups that take any position on religion. Christians would love to have military bases opened to every gala religious-expression event, expecting to maintain an inescapable Christian presence while swamping atheism and every minority religion into a mute background.

Of more pressing concern to the event organizers is that no atheist group is currently permitted to hold regular meetings at the camp. According to Col. Sicinski, “that needs to be answered by the Department of Defense. As far as I know, that’s being discussed at the Chief of Chaplains level.”

Old, settled constitutional arguments are rising like zombies in a couple of southern states. **In Tennessee**, the legislature passed a bill encouraging teachers to present the “scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses” of topics that arouse “debate and disputation” such as “biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.” The governor allowed the bill to become law without his signature.

Tennessee became the object of national ridicule during the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial,

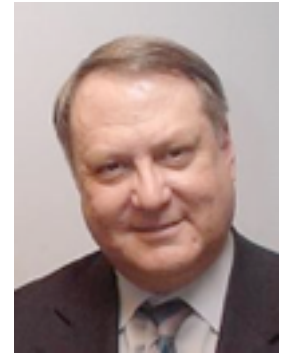
after its legislature had criminalized teaching evolution. The Supreme Court ruled in 1968 that the opposition to evolution is a religious belief, which cannot be taught as science without violating the establishment clause of the First Amendment. The Dover case in 2005 rebuffed an attempt to dress up religious belief in scientific garb as “intelligent design.” The current bill is an attempt to discredit science broadly to promote conservative ideology.

The bill was strongly opposed by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association, but Governor Bill Haslam let it become law without his signature. It is certain to be challenged in the courts.

Meanwhile, in Florida, Governor Rick Scott signed into law a bill designed to subvert the protection of public school children against institutionalized prayer. Although the bill does not mention prayer, it is clearly intended to sidestep the prohibition against school-sponsored prayer by leaving the content completely up to the student who offers the “inspiration” to open an assembly or sporting event. The schools are expressly forbidden to censor or edit these “inspirations.”

Does anyone think that problems might arise when you regularly give teenage boys an open microphone and a captive audience, and tell them that the school cannot do anything regardless of what they say? Democrats tried to amend the bill to *restrict messages to avoid anything that “could or would endanger the health and safety of children,” “distorts well-established historical facts,” or expresses “anti-American sentiments that are intended to disparage, either directly or indirectly, the United States of America.”* Had any such exceptions been incorporated into the bill, Republicans feared that the courts would see the prayers as not truly “student-initiated,” and therefore fail constitutional review.

Once again, Christians expect their advantage in numbers to outweigh the risk of giving a platform to a dissident or two. They expect that for every troublemaker, a dozen compliant sheep will satisfy their religious duty to proclaim the glory of Lord Jesus.



George Kane

April Meeting Review: Famous Black Freethinkers

by Aly Jiselle

Ayanna Watson, founder and president of Black Atheists of America, presented on the topic "Famous Black Freethinkers." An attorney and New York native, Ayanna focused primarily on individuals who were prominent during the Harlem Renaissance, a period between the 1920s and 30s when Harlem experienced a burgeoning of African-American culture following the migration of thousands of African-Americans from southern states.



The Harlem Renaissance, Ayanna explained, was a "focal point for African-Americans to express themselves through the arts." A major catalyst was an event organized by Charles S. Johnson in 1924. It was a celebration of African-American writers and was the largest gathering of its kind, attracting over 100 Black artists and numerous White publicists who were able to bring attention to their works.

After explaining the origin of the Harlem Renaissance, including the rise of Black churches that met the social and political needs of African-Americans, Ayanna discussed prominent writers who hold a place in history as some of America's first outspoken Black freethinkers.

Countee Cullen, for example, wrote "The Black Christ" which aroused controversy for its depiction of Jesus as a Black man. He also wrote "Heritage," which exposes the "double consciousness" of African-Americans. This sense of "two-ness," Ayanna explained, was a "bipolar identity" Blacks like Cullen experienced when their own identity and accomplishments conflicted drastically with how they viewed themselves through the eyes of Whites. In "Pagan Prayer" Cullen questioned why Blacks are still living in despair. He couldn't understand why god would allow such injustice.

Ayanna then discussed other Black freethinkers of the Harlem Renaissance and

she read excerpts of their works. She focused mainly on Langston Hughes, who wrote "Goodbye Christ," and Claude McCay, author of "Fresh from the Lecture." She also discussed A. Phillip Randolph, whom she identified as "one of the founding fathers of the Civil Rights movement." Randolph is credited as being a Christian although he vehemently rejected religion and defined prayer as "nothing more than a fervent wish." Ayanna made the

interesting point that people who do good things in history, as Randolph did, are often assumed to be Christian, and suggested that this is the result of Christians being "uncomfortable" believing that atheists can perform good deeds. She concluded with an excerpt from Langston Hughes' poem "Who, But the Lord?" in which he questions why god doesn't help Blacks in distress.

After her presentation, Ayanna responded to questions from a sizable audience. Conversations ensued about the role religion plays in oppressing African-Americans, and about the steps teachers can take to combat the religious beliefs of their students. She was also asked if there were any female freethinkers during the Harlem Renaissance, and she mentioned Zora Neale Hurston and Butterfly McQueen. Ayanna discussed the mission of Black Atheists of America and the "social suicide" Black atheists face because of their non-belief.

Ayanna's visit was not only an opportunity to educate Minnesota Atheists about the Black atheist experience, it also prompted efforts to establish the first chapter of Black Atheists of America in Minnesota. Anyone interested in getting involved or donating to Black Atheists of America should visit www.blackatheistsofamerica.org.

Library photo courtesy of Matthew Richardson. -ed.

Supporting Marriage Equality in Stylish Comfort



by Eric Jayne

Minnesota Atheists has traditionally released an annual T-shirt design for the past several years. The color combination of shirt and logo has changed every year – blue on white, blue on gray, red on gray, blue on yellow, magenta on pink, yellow on green, white on purple, blue on wheat and orange on black. Recently a message was added to the back: “Positive Atheist in Action.” We have stuck with this presentation for quite some time...until this year. Beginning in May, Minnesota Atheists will sell a timely—and timeless—shirt depicting our support for marriage equality at a time when the state’s constitution is vulnerable to discriminatory manipulation on this November’s ballot.



This year’s shirt is light lavender with a dark purple MNA logo and white outline on the front. The shirt’s backside reads “Minnesota Atheists Supports Marriage Equality” with coupled male/male, female/female, and male/female silhouettes under the text. The shirts are available for \$6.66 at most events, but we welcome payments above the suggested price, and we’ll offer the shirts for free to those who march with us in the Twin Cities Pride Fest parade this June twenty-fourth.

It can be difficult to mobilize atheists around particular causes or political issues, but when

there are concerns of religious intrusion into our public policy atheists of every political stripe are mostly united. Since religious leaders and organizations supply virtually all the power, all the money, and all the influence behind marriage discrimination propaganda, members belonging to socially conscientious secular organizations (such as MNA) should and do feel good about protesting such actions.

When you wear this year’s shirt you might feel good about supporting the rights of a marginalized community. You might feel the pride of rejecting religious dogma that justifies discriminatory policies in our society. Perhaps you’ll be reminded that morality is better achieved when religious texts are left unopened.

Maybe you’ll experience all of this, some of this, or none of this, but at the very least you’ll feel comfortable in the soft, durable 100 percent cotton t-shirt.

If you’d like to receive this year’s special shirt in the mail, send \$12 (via personal check, money order, or cash) to Minnesota Atheists P.O. Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112. Contact us at info@mnatheists.org for further questions or more information.

FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

Wk awx ckpgsu cz nxigsp Qwdguegmsgez ckeekd ewms ewk edtew,
 agnn fdxqkkh cz nxigsp wgu xas ukqe xd qwtdqw ckeekd ewms
 Qwdguegmsgez, msh agnn ksh nxigsp wgjuknr ckeekd ewms mnn.
 -Umjtkn Emznxd Qxnkdghpk

(Answer on page 10.)

Unbelievable Fun and Regional Conference This August in St. Paul

by Eric Jayne Save the date! Minnesota Atheists is co-hosting an all-day, regional atheist conference on Saturday, August 11. The conference will be held at the Double Tree Hotel (formerly the Hilton) in downtown St. Paul. We're still getting speakers lined up, but we have three already scheduled: PZ Myers, Hector Avalos, and Robert Price. American Atheists president, David Silverman will also be a contributor.

For an added bonus, the conference will be preceded by the first ever atheist-sponsored professional baseball game! On Friday, August 10, Minnesota Atheists and American Atheists are co-sponsoring the St. Paul Saints game at Midway Stadium for what has been billed as "A Night of Unbelievable Fun."

The stadium will be adorned with banners promoting both Minnesota Atheists and American Atheists. We will have a table with free swag (stickers, pamphlets) hosted by MN Atheists members at the front entrance gate to greet fans. To enhance the evening even more, every mention of the word "Saint(s)" will either be covered or

changed to "Aint," and David Silverman will toss out the first ceremonial pitch. You also might want to stick around for the fireworks display following the game.

The team will be renamed the "Mr. Paul Aints" and players will wear special game jerseys with the new name. The player-worn game jerseys will be auctioned during the game and there will also be an option to order your own custom-made jersey. Proceeds from the jersey sales will benefit Minnesota Atheists.

If you're interested in going to the game you will be thrilled to know that there will be a special game ticket rate (TBD as of this writing) for members. It's less than a 10 minute drive (or \$10 cab ride) to and from the Double Tree hotel. The price of the hotel rooms will be at a special group rate of \$99 on both Friday and Saturday night whether you choose one night or both nights. The ticket price for the all-day Saturday conference is still being determined.

Keep checking MinnesotaAtheists.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and details for an unbelievably fun weekend in August!

April Treasury Report

*Compiled by
Chris Matthews*



Building Fund	
Thomas Dooley	\$100
Total BuildingFund	\$100
Radio Fund	
J S Futcher	\$100
Jerrold Larson	\$100
Mark Nelson	\$100
Tim Traynor	\$50
Charles Boltuck	\$25
Geraldine Jensen	\$25
Total Radio Fund	\$400
General/Visibility Fund	
August Berkshire	\$100
Caroline Brunner, in memory of Nick Pease	\$25

Allen Cavell	\$25
Dale Howey	\$10
Meghan Kosowski	\$10
anonymous	\$97
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$267

Total Income: \$767

Current Building Fund Total \$130,341

Radio Show Fundraising Goal \$8,215

(for 2012)	
Amount Raised (thru April 26, 2012)	\$1,914
Amount Remaining to Reach Goal:	\$6,301

Top Expenses for April

Radio Show	\$1,025
Newsletter Printing	\$502
Day of Reason event	\$397
Speakers	\$350

Atheists Talk: March and April 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. The 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 of all past programs through our web page, www.mnatheists.org. The six month cost of the program to MN Atheists is \$5,320. Your kind donation will be greatly appreciated. Donate online at <http://minnesotaatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund>, or by check to Minnesota Atheists, P.O. Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112. If you can contribute your time, please write to radio@mnatheists.org.

Recent shows - all hosted by Stephanie Zvan - include:

Activist Blogging, #159, Sunday, March 18, 2012. "Blogs are stupid." "Blogs are graffiti with punctuation." Those are two of Google's autocompleting suggestions on the topic of blogs. That doesn't make the statements true, of course. Jennifer McCreight, in town to speak at our monthly meeting, talked about what atheist bloggers do, why they do it, what they have accomplished, and what they hope to accomplish. Greg Laden and Brianne Bilyeu

by Steve Petersen

conducted the interview.

The Matter with Us, #160, Sunday March 25, 2012.

Once we have rejected the spiritual, we are left with the material. That should simplify our lives, right? Not necessarily. As John Rawles book, *The Matter with Us* details. Via phone, the British author offered tantalizing tidbits from his recent book and explained his rationale behind some of the book's more controversial assertions. James Zimmerman produced the show and interviewed Dr. Rawles, **Before the Lights Go Out**, #161, Sunday, April 1, 2012.

Maggie Koerth-Baker is the author of the new book, *Before the Lights Go Out: Conquering the Energy Crisis Before It Conquers Us*. Maggie is the science editor and a regular writer at Boing Boing, and hails from the Twin Cities. She was once described as "a lighthouse of reason in a churning ocean of stupidity," which is exactly why we all need to read her book. Greg Laden produced the show and conducted the interview.

Tips for Tim Tebow: Carl Dix on Atheists Talk, #162, Sunday, April 8, 2012.

Carl Dix is a longtime revolutionary and a founding member of the Revolutionary Communist Party. He is a co-issuer of the Call for the National Day of Resistance to Stop Mass Incarceration. In 1970, he was part of the largest mass refusal of U.S. soldiers to go to Vietnam. In 1996, he co-founded the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality. In 2006, he co-ordinated the Katrina Hearings of the Bush Crimes Commission. In 2011, he co-issued a call for a campaign of civil disobedience to STOP "Stop & Frisk." George Kane produced the show and interviewed Carl.

Black Atheists of America Ayanna Watson on Atheists Talk, #163, Sunday, April 15, 2012. Ayanna Watson joined *Atheists Talk* to discuss Black Atheists of America (BAAM), the national organization that seeks to bridge the gap between atheism and the black community. Ayanna Watson was interviewed by August Berkshire and Aly Jiselle Lajeune.



Ayanna Watson, founder and president of Black Atheists of America (center) and Aly Jiselle Lajeune (right) were interviewed by August Berkshire (not pictured; photographer) on our "Atheists Talk" radio show on April 15. Stephanie Zvan (left) hosted the program.

Radio Report continued on page 9.

MN Atheists' Successful Food Donation

by Eric Jayne

The month of March was Food Drive Month, so on Sunday, March 25th, Minnesota Atheists organized a food drive party at Green Mill—one of St. Paul's oldest and most well-known pizza restaurants.

Twenty-five atheists attended the food drive party with their donations, then settled down for lunch, conversations, and games. At the end of the party three Minnesota Atheists volunteers packed the donations in their cars and delivered the items to the Second Harvest Heartland food bank later that week.

Second Harvest Heartland is a secular, non-faith-based organization whose mission is to end hunger through community partnerships. According to their website, each year about 70 million pounds of food and hygiene products are delivered to nearly 1,000 local food shelves, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior community centers, and children's after school programs in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

We are pleased to report that the Minnesota Atheists collected nearly 300 pounds of food and hygiene products along with \$90.00 in cash! Thank you to all of our generous donors!



Radio Report (continued)

Human Evolution: John Hawks on Atheists Talk, #164, Sunday, April 22, 2012.

John Hawks is one of the nation's leading palaeoanthropologists and has lately been working with ancient DNA, recent and earlier Human

Evolution, and an interesting project that is a sort of casting call for extinct humans and their relatives. Greg Laden interviewed Hawks. Carl Hancock produced the show.

April Atheists Talk Television Show Report

by Steve Petersen.

In March, George Kane interviewed Greg Peterson on *The Utility of God?* Greg is a former Evangelical believer and they compared the value of religious ethics, morals, and motivations versus secular-based motivations to do good in life.

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.

Television 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, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights: Channel 15. Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.



CAMP QUEST TO HOST FUNDRAISING PICNIC

by Rick Rohrer

Join Camp Quest of Minnesota staff, parents, and campers for a picnic and fundraiser on Sunday, May 20th. The event is at the Foundation Shelter in Central Park in Roseville, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There is a \$5 per person suggested donation, and some unique and valuable prizes will be auctioned off.

Examples of the prizes are a genuine bottle of Romulan Ale, a three-hour boat ride on Lake Minnetonka, hand made necklaces, an author-signed copy of the *The Cheetah Diaries*, and many more. This is a fun way to kick off the summer a week before Memorial Day. We hope to see you there!



CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

He who begins by loving Christianity better than truth, will proceed by loving his own sect or church better than Christianity, and will end by loving himself better than all.

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Minnesota Atheists

www.mnatheists.org

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

Join or Renew Membership

- _____ \$35 - Individual Membership
 _____ \$45 - Household Membership
 _____ \$75 - Sustaining Fund Membership
 _____ \$20 - Student (newsletter by email; send copy
 of fee statement or school ID)
 _____ \$600 - Lifetime Membership
 _____ \$25 - Newsletter Only

Donate to Special Funds

- \$ _____ General Expense / Outreach Fund
 \$ _____ Building Fund
 \$ _____ Radio Fund
 \$ _____ Monthly Donation

All memberships include the newsletter. To pay by credit card or PayPal, please visit our website.

Payment by: Check (enclosed) for \$ _____, payable to **Minnesota Atheists**.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

>> 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.



Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong. All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them. The truly civilized man is always skeptical and tolerant, in this field as in all others. His culture is based on "I am not too sure."

-H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)

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