

The Minnesota Atheist

May Meeting:

A Story About a Rebel



Our speaker for the May meeting will be Dan Allosso. Dan is a freethought history writer who has recently come out with the book *An Infidel Body-Snatcher and the Fruits of His Philosophy*. This book is the story of a freethinker. Charles Knowlton. Charles was an outsider for most of his life, swimming against the stream of religious and social conformity. This is a true story about

why outsiders are important, and what they can achieve. It's also an adventure story, full of conflict, drama, humor, and a little horror. See page 7 for a review of the book.

Our speaker, Dan, took a break from writing his dissertation for a Ph.D. in History, because he thought the story of Charles Knowlton was important. His previous book, the award-winning novel *Outside the Box*, convinced Dan that in order to raise a new generation of creative critical thinkers, we need to tell them stories about rebels. At our upcoming meeting, Dan will share his story, and Charles', with us.

Please join us!

If You Go...

When

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Where

Roseville Library
2180 Hamline Avenue
Roseville

Schedule

1:00-1:15 Social Time
1:15-1:45 Business Meeting
1:45-2:00 Break
2:00-3:30 Allosso Presentation
4:00- Dinner at Old Chicago
(2100 N Snelling Avenue)

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The Minnesota Atheist

Published by Minnesota Atheists,
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A production of
Minnesota Atheists Press.

Minnesota Atheists is an affiliate of Atheist Alliance of America, Atheist Alliance International, American Atheists, American Humanist Association, Council for Secular Humanism, International Humanist and Ethical Union, and Secular Coalition for America.

Submit material for the newsletter to editor@mnatheists.org. Submissions may be edited. Publication is not 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: 1,381

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

Godless Resiliency



Eric Jayne

The Boston Marathon bombings showcased the good and the bad of humanity. The bad comes from the two Muslim brothers from Chechnya who killed three people and gruesomely injured over 100 more with two pressure cooker bombs. The good is from the bystanders, some who just completed a marathon (!), who quickly took action among the chaos, unsure if more bombs would explode, to help victims to safety. Some people literally ripped the shirt off their backs to make tourniquets for victims rapidly losing blood.

Even though the attackers were motivated by religion—Islam in particular—I am quite certain that most religious followers—including Muslims—see the attack as a senseless and horrific tragedy. Just like religious believers, irreligious non-believers were shocked, upset, and probably also injured from the attack. But when the Massachusetts Governor's office took charge in organizing a public mourning event, they made it exclusively and explicitly religious. A variety of us nonreligious folks were justifiably discouraged by this, but we also found empowering ways to deal with the rejection while also dealing with the gruesome attack.

President Obama and over a thousand more gathered inside the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston for the interfaith service to heal and pray together. Before the service, Laura Everett, director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, said she hoped the interfaith service will “represent the breadth of religious traditions”. This “breadth” was limited to Christianity (Catholic and Protestant), Islam, and Judaism.

Many atheists and other non-religious people felt unfairly excluded from the event. Zachary Bos, the co-chair of the Secular Coalition of Massachusetts and state director of American Atheists, asked to participate in the public interfaith service but his request was denied by organizing officials.

Legitimate complaints spread online mainly through social media and blogs. Many atheists were upset about their perspective being rejected from joining a public mourning event that deeply affected several from our own community. There were also many questioning the

constitutionality of elected representatives participating in an exclusionary religious event.

In spite of this suppression we should all be proud of the way atheists, as a whole, responded. The Boston Atheists partnered with the Secular Coalition of Massachusetts for a fund raising campaign for victims of the attack. So far they have raised nearly \$30,000 and it's still growing as of this writing.

Another positive response came from a very touching piece that Greg Epstein, Humanist Chaplain at Harvard, wrote for CNN.com. It was about a volunteer in his congregation who was badly injured in the bombings and his displeasure with the exclusion of nonreligious representation at the interfaith event. He eloquently expressed his personal grief and social concerns while pointing out atheists, humanists, and other secularists are positive forces in our larger, shared community. He also participated in a secular humanistic memorial service that was open to the public regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, age, and religion.

Processing through tragedies is a difficult task on its own, but being rejected from a public mourning event exacerbates the difficulty even more. Fortunately, our secular community was able to avoid getting bogged down in victimhood so that we could instead take the initiative to raise money for the real victims and mourn together. Epstein summed up the best attributes of any community when describing atheists and humanists: “ We serve. We meet throughout the year. We help one another raise good kids. We celebrate life, and we grieve death.” I would like to add that we are also very resilient.

April Meeting Review

by Jo Marsicano

Phil Duran, Legal Director for OutFront Minnesota, gave a compelling and informative presentation on the status of legal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States. Covering some of the history of legal decisions, he included an explanation of how the law is developing around these issues. For instance, a woman denied a promotion because she didn't look feminine enough sued the company, and her court victory has ended up benefitting transgender people, who are covered under the same "sex discrimination" based on physical appearance standard.

Phil also talked about emerging legal issues that will have to be resolved around bullying of LGBT people in the schools, for example, to what extent will the courts try to regulate speech outside of schools, such as that of social media that ends up affecting the social environment at schools and can contribute to a bullying environment.

He also summarized the legal questions before the U.S. Supreme Court affecting marriage equality – he expects the court will strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which currently bars same-sex married couples from any federal right or benefit afforded opposite-sex married couples, such as federal tax and social security benefits. However, he also said the result of a positive ruling could create multiple classes of same-sex couples depending on which state they live in.

He also noted that bills are proceeding through the Minnesota House and Senate which would establish marriage equality in our state and that



photo courtesy of Richard Trombley

action on these bills should happen within the next month.

Phil said atheists are an important part of the equality conversation because their participation intersects with the religious conversation playing out between religious conservatives and religious progressives.

FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

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 wjydehj wjq quhqyxn pucwcvh xdeoktqurqyk.

-Ycijuyo Ouprcvk, Wjq Axcvo Puwijklurqy

Cryptogram answer appears on page 10.

News and Notes



by George Kane

As was the case with the **Cartoon Intifada** in 2006, extremists are inciting street mobs to violence with cries of “Blasphemy!” to bring about a political crisis. This time the scene is Bangladesh, and the objects of religious fury are atheist bloggers who campaigned for secular government.

The background to the current uprising is the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The Pakistan Army and collaborators targeted Hindu communities, intellectuals and members of the political opposition for attacks. According to official estimates as many as 400,000 women were raped, leading to an estimated 25,000 war babies. As many as 3,000,000 people were massacred. An estimated 30,000,000 people were displaced, including 10,000,000 refugees who fled to India.

In 2009 the government, controlled by the majority *Awami* League, announced that trials for war crimes would be organized under the International Crimes Tribunal Act of 1973. This act authorized prosecution only of people living within Bangladesh who were members of the armed forces or paramilitary groups.

The first dozen men indicted included nine leaders of *Jamaat-e-Islami*, the largest Islamist party in Bangladesh. Two leaders of the opposition Bangladesh National Party were also indicted.

Early this year, the first verdicts were issued. Abul Kalam Azad, a prominent Muslim cleric and former member of *Jamaat*, was found guilty *in absentia* of seven of eight charges and sentenced to death by hanging. Abdul Quader Mollah, assistant secretary of *Jamaat*, was convicted on five of six counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, the deputy of *Jamaat*, was found guilty of genocide, rape and religious persecution, and sentenced to death by hanging.

The continuing trials threaten to destroy *Jamaat-e-Islami* and the other Islamist parties that in coalition constitute the principle opposition to the *Awami* League government. *Jamaat* decided that their only salvation would be to bring the nation to its knees with violent demonstrations.

So how could they set about doing that? The proven method is to demand retribution for insults to Islam and the Prophet; then rioters would surely pour into the streets. Islamist political parties submitted a list of 84 “atheist bloggers” and demanded the death penalty for “insulting religion”. Several bloggers have since been arrested, and a government official promised to pursue everyone on the list. Public rage against the bloggers first erupted in February, when one of them was murdered in his home in a machete attack.

In early April, Muslim protesters flooded from the countryside into the capital city of Dhaka. Police reported about 100,000 protesters, who marched through the streets chanting “God is great, hang the atheist bloggers.” This cowed the government into arresting four of the bloggers, blocking about a dozen websites and blogs hoping to stem the unrest, and creating a panel to monitor blasphemy on social media.

President Eric Jayne, representing Minnesota Atheists, signed a declaration condemning the attacks and calling on the government of Bangladesh to guarantee the bloggers’ safety. The declaration, initiated by the International Humanist Ethical Union, designates April 25 as a day to demonstrate international support for Bangladesh’s atheist bloggers and activists.

The Republican-controlled legislature of North Carolina is considering Joint Resolution HB494, which asserts that the U. S. Constitution prohibits only Congress to make laws respecting an establishment of religion, but not the states. It goes on to declare that North Carolina “does not recognize federal court rulings which prohibit and otherwise regulate the State of North Carolina, its public schools, or any political subdivisions of the State from making laws respecting an establishment of religion.” The authors of the bill have stated that their intent is to declare Christianity the established religion of North Carolina. The bill has been assigned to committee.

Nationally there is considerable support for such laws trashing the Establishment Clause. An Omnibus Poll of 1000 adults conducted in April shows that 34% of Americans favor establishing Christianity as the official religion in their state, and 32% favor establishing Christianity as the official religion of the nation.

Tickets on Sale Now for Aints Game

by Eric Jayne

A lot of excitement has been brewing in the sports world these days about the prospects of an actively playing male professional athlete coming out as gay. Now that the LGBT community has gained increased support and tolerance in our culture the first openly gay athlete from one of the big four leagues (National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, and Major League Baseball) could receive not just accolades, but millions of dollars in endorsements from companies eager to endorse a big-name gay athlete.

There's no doubt in my mind that having such an athlete publicly come out as gay would be a significant event for the LGBT equality but my thoughts can't help but think of how exciting and significant it would also be for a professional athlete to come out as an atheist. With all of the intermingling between religion and sports these days (7th inning God Bless America renditions, locker room bible study, and routine Jesus invocations before, during, and after gameplay, for example) there might be far less acceptance for an out-of-the-closet atheist than an out-of-the-closet gay man.

While there may not be an openly atheist professional athlete from one of the four big leagues, Minnesota Atheists and the St. Paul Saints baseball team are able to offer, for the second year in a row, an entire evening celebrating atheism at a minor league baseball game in a minor league baseball stadium.

The ticket packages are now available at SAINTSGROUPS.com. You will need to use the password "atheists" after the captcha screen. For \$21 (a \$29 value) you can get an Infield (or Infidel) Reserved ticket plus a very limited edition baseball cap to commemorate the event. The adjustable, one-size-fits-all hat features the Aints logo (with a red "A" in Aints) with some

branded as "Mr. Paul" and some branded as "Ms. Paula;" because Minnesota Atheists wanted to ensure representation of both men and women!

The other ticket offer is a bit more affordable but it doesn't come with a Mr. Paul/Ms. Paula Aints hat. The tickets are for non-reserved General Admission in the outfield. That ticket comes with a soda and hot dog voucher—but no hat—for \$10 (\$11 value).

Thanks to the open minded, fun-loving, and accepting players and front office management at the St. Paul Saints we had an unbelievably fun

evening of atheist camaraderie and family fun last year. We at the Minnesota Atheists are grateful to do business with the St. Paul Saints team again this year and we also appreciate their original willingness and enthusiasm to embark on an adventure into unexplored territory.

The new and unexplored territory this year is the "A" on the Aints player jerseys being red so it better matches the scarlet letter A (last year's jerseys depicted the "A" but it was kept blue to match the team colors). We are also licensed by the Saints to sell "Aints" merchandise like t-shirts, hats, and personalized jerseys. All proceeds go to the Minnesota Atheists so we can

continue our mission of "Positive Atheism in Action" and community outreach.

Even though atheists don't have a professional athlete we can point to we do have an entire baseball team that supports atheists in a welcoming and accepting way. I hope to see you at the ballgame on Friday, August ninth, as the Mr. Paul Aints take on the Sioux City Explorers for what will be billed as a "Night of Unbelievable Fun: The Second Coming." The fun will continue the following day at the Ramada Inn on Industrial Blvd. in Minneapolis for an all-day regional conference with the American Atheists! Tickets are on sale for that as well at our online store. Visit MinnesotaAtheists.org for all the details.



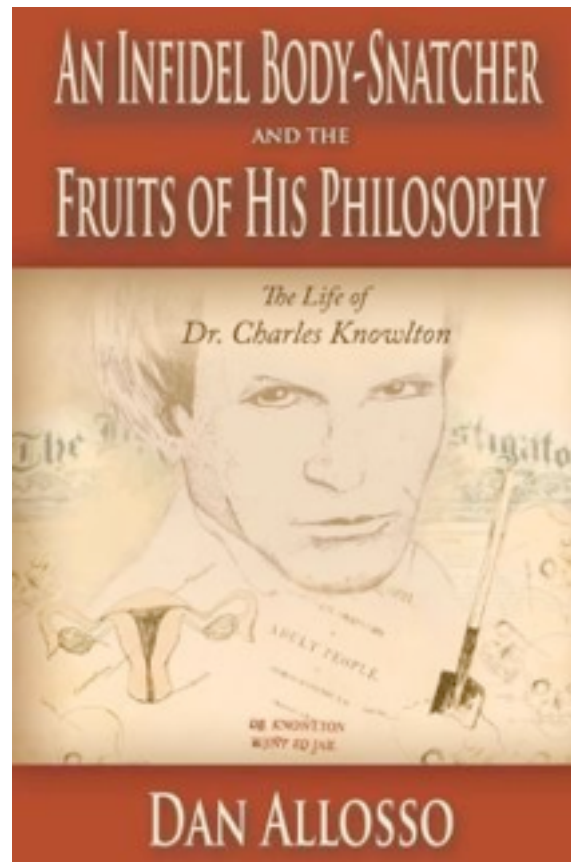
Book Review

by Scott Lobman

The history of Freethinking people is not always about the big characters of our movement. Most of what has happened was done by those of us who do boring jobs and are active in Freethought outside of any profession. Charles Knowlton was one of those. He was a medical doctor who helped move his profession away from treating the "four humors" as they were called.

Knowlton was born in 1800 to a New England farm family. The family was pretty typical of the time, farming to survive and provide income. Knowlton had early exposure to the medical field of the time and, fortunately, he lived to tell about it. Medicine of that time was not based on understanding the body, its organs, fluids, and diseases; but of the "four humors". These were commonly known as blood, phlegm, black and yellow bile. Medicine was then the practice of getting you to balance those four substances. This was done via bleeding and the taking of potentially dangerous substances. Knowlton was diagnosed with a disease called "gonorrhoea demientium." This was the contemporary term for ejaculating while sleeping, an occurrence we now call nocturnal emissions. Knowlton's "disease" shows that knowledge of our bodies is tantamount to being able to properly treat medical conditions.

Knowlton was treated by a number of doctors and spent his youth quite sickly. He actually recovered when he stopped getting treated. He was influenced by the family of the woman he married,



An Infidel Body-Snatcher and the Fruits of his Philosophy: The Life of Dr. Charles Knowlton by Dan Allosso, 270 pages, CreateSpace Independent Publishing

who were freethinkers and non-believers. It was under the influence of his father-in-law that he learned the importance of studying, hands on learning and acquiring knowledge. Knowlton decided to pursue medicine. Professions were mainly learned by self teaching and studying under an already practicing doctor. Knowlton wanted to know more than the books could give him. To do that he needed to learn from actual bodies. This meant he needed to look at actual bodies. This was before people donated bodies to science and schools, so he had to acquire them by other means. Thus his being a body-snatcher.

Allosso details how Knowlton was able to learn his profession. He was also interested in the philosophy of materialism. He spent a great deal of time writing a book called *The Elements of Modern Materialism*. Most books were sold via subscriptions, in which people were pre-sold the book to finance its publication. Knowlton ended up going into debt producing the book. He had a small medical practice,

but it was barely covering living expenses.

Knowlton also helped write a book on sex education and methods of birth control called the *Fruits of Philosophy*. Unsurprisingly, doing a book on that subject, especially at that time, was a tough sell.

Allosso does a good job capturing the spirit of the times and the life of Charles Knowlton. History is not always found with big characters but many times with those of living normal somewhat ordinary lives.

Atheists Talk: March / April Radio Report

Atheists Talk is produced
by Minnesota
Atheists, directed by Carl
Hancock, and hosted by
Carl Hancock, Brienne

by Steve Petersen

Bilyeu, Scott Lohman, Greg Laden, David Pacheco, and Stephanie Zvan. Both Stephanie and Brienne upload the podcasts to the web site. The radio program is live every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 at AM950 from KTNF studios in Eden Prairie. Listen to live streaming through our web page, www.mnatheists.org Original music was composed, played, and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. Thanks to Brienne Bilyeu we have an Atheists Talk Facebook page and Twitter account at twitter.com/atheiststalk.

The six month cost for the show is \$5,320. Every donation to support the program is greatly appreciated. Please consider becoming a monthly Sustaining supporter. To donate just send in a donation to our mailing address (see page 2) or online at minnesotatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund

All past programs can be accessed via MNA web page <http://minnesotatheists.org/news-and-media/podcast>. If you are interested in helping on the radio program please send a note to radio@mnatheists.org

"Last Ape Standing," #211, March 24, 2013

Human beings are alone in the world. Homo sapiens are the only remainders of genus homo. Our closest relatives are chimps and bonobos, but many of our closer relatives have been lost to time.

In his book, *Last Ape Standing: The Seven-Million-Year Story of How and Why We Survived*, science journalist and documentarian Chip Walter explores how we came to stand alone and what happened to our very distant cousins. Chip joined us today to discuss his fascinating book.

Carl Hancock producer the show and conducted the interview. Stephanie Zvan hosted and uploaded the program.

"Atheist Evangelism," #212, March 31st, 2013

Roger Scott Jackson was raised in a Pentecostal family, but left religion at early age. Throughout his life he has been a high school English teacher, a journalist and a comedy writer. Mr. Jackson is also a performance artist, and perhaps his most famous creation is the fictional firebrand, Sam Singleton Atheist Evangelist.



Brother Sam has been known to deliver an atheist sermon or two for high-profile atheist conferences and events, and both he and his creator, Roger Scott Jackson are sought-after speakers listed among the Secular Student Alliance and Center For Inquiry speakers bureaus.

Sam Singleton has delivered many different experiences for those who gather to hear his gospel. Today, he gathered with us to discuss his craft.

Carl Hancock served as producer and interviewer. Brienne Bilyeu hosted.

"The Bonobo and the Atheist", #213, April 7, 2013

One of the questions for the ages is the origin of human morality. Some ascribe it to a god or gods. Some would prefer a more empirical approach.

In his work with primates, Frans de Wall has explored the evolution of those traits we used to consider uniquely human. His latest book, *The Bonobo and the Atheist: In Search of Humanism Among the Primates*, he tackles morality. Small spoiler: We're not as special in this regard as we tend to think.

With thoughtful philosophical analysis, de Waal seeks a bottom-up explanation of morality that emphasizes our connection with animals. In doing so, de Waal explores for the first time the implications of his work for our understanding of modern religion. Whatever the role of religious moral imperatives, he sees it as a "Johnny-come-lately" role that emerged only as an addition to our natural instincts for cooperation and empathy. de Wall joined *Atheists Talk* on this morning to talk about his work and his book.

Radio Report continued on page 9.

March Treasury Report

Radio Fund

George F Kane	\$200
Ben Zvan	\$130
Leland J Salisbury	\$75
Nancy Ruhland	\$75
Thomas R Dooley	\$50
James Wright	\$25
Francis L Leckie	\$20
Kenneth G Holmbeck	\$20
Daniel Ray Hansen	\$15
Steve Petersen	\$10
Mark Paquette	\$10
Shirley Rae Moll	\$10
Alyssa K Carlson	\$10
Total Radio Fund	\$650

General/Visibility Fund

Paul Larson	\$100
Kimberly Hanfelt	\$95
Elliott James	\$25
Linda Frieden	\$25
Meghan Kosowski	\$10
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$255



Total Income: \$905

Current Building Fund Total \$131,180

Top Expenses for March

Radio Show	\$1,025
Newsletter Printing	\$582
Internet Expense	\$204
Meetings & Picnics	\$200
Storage	\$169

Atheists Talk: March / April Radio Report (continued)

Carl Hancock produced the show. David Pacheco conducted the interview, and Stephanie Zvan hosted.

"Denialism on a Large Scale," #214, April 14, 2013

Greg Laden stumbled onto climate denialism through a combination of concern for the environment and studying what climate history can tell us about human evolution. He has documented lies, threats and simple misinformation while working to get good information on climate change out to audiences on his blog and elsewhere. He joined us on this day to discuss his research.

Stephanie Zvan produced the show and conducted the interview.

"The Outsider Test for Faith," April 21, 2013

John Loftus is a former evangelical preacher. He studied under William Lane Craig and earned Master's degrees in divinity and theology. He is currently an adjunct professor of philosophy, an author, the creator and primary blogger of the popular website, Debunking Christianity, and the founder of the Skeptic Ink blogging network. He is the author of *Why I Became an Atheist: A Former Preacher Rejects Christianity*, and co-author of the book *God or Godless*.

John joined us today to discuss his writings. The show was produced by Carl Hancock with David Pacheco conducting the interview. Brianne Bilyeu hosted the episode.

April Atheists Talk Television Show Report

by Steve Petersen

For the recording of our April edition of *Atheists Talk*, George Kane interviewed Linnea House, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota. The title of the program is “Challenges of Reproductive Freedom in 2013.” Look for the program on the cable stations listed, YouTube, or iTunes.

Minneapolis viewers please note that the channel, day, and time have changed. Check the schedule, at right.

If you would like to sponsor *Atheists Talk* in your community, have an idea for a program, or if you have a public access television station in your community, please contact Steve Petersen via email at spetersen175@comcast.net or call 651-484-9277.

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

Podcasts: MinnesotaAtheists.org. Available via iTunes and YouTube. 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 pm. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardsley.



Minneapolis: Channel 75. Monday 7:00 pm. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

Rochester: Channel 10. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 pm. Sponsor: Jim Salutz.

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

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

St. Paul: Channel 15. Wednesday 5:00 pm. Sponsor: Jim Wright.

Stillwater: Channel 16. Tuesday 7:00 pm. 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 pm. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.

Cryptogram Answer

A scientist who cautiously whispers some slight misgiving about a current nuance of Darwinism is liable to hear his distorted and barely recognizable words booming and echoing through the eagerly waiting loudspeakers.

-Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*



www.mnatheists.org

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

CHECK THE WAYS YOU WANT TO HELP ATHEISM GROW

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

JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

_____ \$35 - Individual Membership
 _____ \$90 - 3 years for Individual

_____ \$45 - Household Membership
 _____ \$115 - 3 years for Household

_____ \$75 - Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$200 - 3 year Sustaining

_____ \$10 - Student (newsletter by email; send copy of fee statement or school ID

_____ \$600 - Life Membership

\$ _____ General Expense/Outreach Fund

\$ _____ Building Fund

\$ _____ Radio Program

Other than students, please let us know if you wish to receive your newsletter by email or regular mail. If you prefer e-mail, please add your e-mail address:

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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 (April, June, September, December). 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. 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 Neinkerk 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), go to mnatheists.org and enter your email at "Get news and event updates."

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



“There is something infantile in the presumption that somebody else has a responsibility to give your life meaning and point... The truly adult view, by contrast, is that our life is as meaningful, as full and as wonderful as we choose to make it.”

— Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

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