

May 2014  
Volume 27  
Number 5

# The Minnesota



# Atheist

## May 2014 Minnesota Atheists meeting “The Illusion of Free Will and its Impact on Moral Responsibility”

The question of whether or not we have free will has been debated for thousands of years. What affects do determinism, indeterminism, and randomness have on free will? What are the obstacles to perceiving free will as an illusion?

If free will is an illusion, what does this say about praise, blame, responsibility, ethics, justice, revenge, punishment, rehabilitation, cooperation, and altruism? Is life worth living? Should we be optimistic or pessimistic about the future?



*August Berkshire is a past president of Minnesota Atheists and a past vice president of Atheist Alliance International. He has been an atheist activist since 1984 and is the author of numerous pamphlets. He is the owner of the ATHEIST car license plate for Minnesota and is proud to be listed in the reference book “Who’s Who in Hell.” His following the trail of reason and evidence has led him to the conclusion that neither gods nor free will exist, and that we can live happy, fulfilled lives without either one.*

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Our speaker, August Berkshire, will discuss the ramifications of a natural universe without gods or free will, in which evolution shapes our thoughts and actions. He will conclude that it’s a good thing that we don’t have free will!

Minnesota Atheists  
May Public Meeting Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Roseville Public Library  
2180 Hamline Ave. N  
St. Paul, MN 55113

1:00-1:15 pm – Social Time  
1:15-1:45 pm – Business Meeting  
1:45-2:00 pm – Break  
2:00-3:30 pm – Illusion of Free Will  
4:00-Whenever – Dinner at Panda Garden

## President's Column – Minnesota Atheists Wants YOU to Throw the Frist Pitch

By Eric Jayne



Help Wanted! We need somebody to represent the Minnesota Atheists at our co-sponsored St. Paul Saints game. The minor league baseball team will change their name to the secular-friendly Mister Paul Aints for the third year in a row in what is being billed as a *Night of Unbelievable Fun: The Third Strike* sponsored by the Minnesota Atheists and Freedom from Religion Foundation. After losing the first two years, the Mr. Paul Aints will be going for their first win when they face the Kansas City T-Bones on Friday, July 11. There will be pregame tailgating, post-game fireworks, atheist-themed antics, atheist team jerseys, and we want YOU to toss out the first ceremonial pitch of the game! Email your bids to [atheistbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:atheistbaseball@gmail.com)



Here are the bidding rules:

- Bidding begins on June 9, 2014 and ends on June 23, 2014 at 5pm (central time).
- Submit your bid to [atheistbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:atheistbaseball@gmail.com)
- Along with your bid, you will need to include your full name, address, and phone number. You will be contacted by a Minnesota Atheists board member to verify your bid. Bids placed without this information will not be accepted.
- The bidding will be updated daily at [MinnesotaAtheists.org/FirstPitch](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org/FirstPitch) so you can see how your bid compares to others.
- Your first name and initial of your last name will be posted in the list of bids on [MinnesotaAtheists.org/FirstPitch](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org/FirstPitch)
- Payment must be received within five business days. Electronic payment via PayPal is preferred. Check or money order is acceptable and can be sent to Minnesota Atheists P.O. Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112.
- The winner will receive a complimentary Mr. Paul Aints t-shirt and hat which they will be required to wear when throwing out the first ceremonial pitch.
- Must be at least 18 years old to bid and participate.

If you're interested in attending the game, game tickets are available at [SaintsGroups.com](http://SaintsGroups.com). After you get through the Captcha screen you'll need to enter in the code word, "Atheists."

You might want to consider staying in town the next day and join other friendly heathens for our third annual regional conference in downtown St. Paul. Speakers include Susan Jacoby, Debbie Goddard, PZ Myers, and more! For more details about the baseball game and conference visit [MinnesotaAtheists.org/conference](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org/conference)

## News and Notes

By George Kane

Saudi Arabia has a problem. Too many young Arabian men have been going to Syria to fight in the civil war. There they get military training, and when they come home they have ideas of overthrowing the monarchy. That is why the government has come up with new laws that will allow them to fight their own war against terrorism.

This is perfectly understandable, but the new laws have been implemented by a royal decree that criminalizes virtually all forms of dissent and abolishes the freedoms of speech and belief. Since the nation's government is legitimized by the Wahhabi interpretation of Islam, non-believers are seen as *de facto* enemies of the Saudi state. Atheists have been classified, by definition, as terrorists.

The document that has been denounced in a report from Human Rights Watch is Royal Decree 44, which establishes who will be considered a terrorist. Article 1 identifies as terrorism "(c)alling for atheist thought in any form, or calling into question the fundamentals of the Islamic religion on which this country is based." So atheists are terrorists even if they have perpetrated no violence, nor made any threats, nor planned any actions. It would seem that anyone who is not a Wahhabi Muslim would be a threat to the state, but atheists are the only group that is defined as terrorist based upon their views of religion.

If you are a member of Minnesota Atheists, under this decree you could be arrested as soon as you set foot in Saudi Arabia. Article 4 identifies as a criminal "Anyone who aids ["terrorist"] organizations, groups, currents [of thought], associations, or parties, or demonstrates affiliation with them, or sympathy with them, or promotes them, or holds meetings under their umbrella, either inside or outside the kingdom; this includes participation in audio, written, or visual media; social media in its audio, written, or visual forms; internet websites; or circulating their contents in any form, or using slogans of these groups and currents [of thought], or any symbols which point to support or sympathy with them."

Arabia is governed by the Saud family, so royal decrees have the force of law. A person convicted of atheism could face years or even decades of prison. Saudi courts are the administration of Sharia, and legal decisions are usually based on a literal interpretation of the Qu'ran and hadiths. Saudi Arabia already has a death sentence for "apostasy", which in practice makes conversion from Islam or expression of atheism unlawful. Many who are convicted of apostasy are forced to disavow their views and undergo "re-education".

Despite the severity of religious law, Arabian society is nevertheless not religiously monolithic. A 2012 WIN/Gallup International poll found that almost a quarter of the people interviewed in Saudi Arabia described themselves as "not religious," and five per cent declared themselves to be atheists. Extrapolating that figure on a national scale suggests that around 1.4 million atheists live in Saudi Arabia – all of them considered by the government to be terrorists.

Despite this shameful record of suppression of religious liberty and freedom of expression, Saudi Arabia was recently elected a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, continuing a takeover by the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This substantially undermines the credibility of the Council, which in recent years has focused on condemning insults to Islam rather than on exposing the nations that abuse human rights.

Yet the U.S. government has said nothing. U.S. President Barack Obama paid a state visit at the end of March, but left Riyadh apparently without raising human rights issues during talks with Saudi officials.

On April 10 House Bill 503 was passed in Louisiana, which declares the Holy Bible the official state book. The original version conferred that title on a specific 16th century copy in the Louisiana State Museum system. It was first amended to the King James Version, a Protestant bible particularly used by fundamentalists, but that was rejected by Catholic legislators. The bill now goes to the Senate.

### George Kane Cryptogram

Hlvojowf quffwr ufn czwevn fwr il hlyvuqln is urzlodc. Hlvojowf flnc rw jw ugus ufn fwr il hlyvuqln is ufszofj. Urzlodc oc fwr u hlvojowf. Or'c rzl uiclfql wb hlvojowf, ufn rzur'c u gwfnlhbev rzofj.

Ylff Aovvlrrl

## Minnesota Atheist Meeting Review - April

By Mike Haubrich



Greg Laden's talk on global warming nicely tied in themes of biblical disaster to the coming catastrophic changes our global home is going to visit on us even to the seventh generation. Well, not so nice, in review of the ways

that the earth's ecosystem will respond to the "sin" of overusage of carbon consumption by our industrialized economy.

The dire warnings of sea-level rise are being broadcast by people who have been studying the models of climate change. Like prophets in the wilderness, they are ignored by those of us who don't want to take responsibility for making changes. Unlike the Bible's prophets, there is no God to pray for forgiveness there are only ourselves to rely on for relief. What climatologists are discovering is that the levels of carbon expelled into the atmosphere are reaching levels correlated to historical periods of sea-level rises that will carry with them problems beyond even the catastrophes experienced by the Jews of the Old Testament.

Are we beyond the tipping point? It seems likely. Laden demonstrated that the response of the climate to the 400 parts per million density of carbon in the atmosphere has fallen within the predicted models of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,) but on the high end of predicted global and sea-level trends.

We should expect worse disasters from climate than anything modern humans have seen; flooding, drought, ocean acidification, civil unrest from people who will have to adapt forcibly to the effects of climate change and we are going to have to deal with a plague of emerald ash borers as they migrate into the upper midwest.

The relationships between religion, politics and climate denial are not easily found, according to Laden but strong indications from polling show that conservative Christians are less likely to accept the science of global climate change than any other group. The policy question, then, for activist atheists is to choose our priorities. Greg Laden asked if the survival of our species is more important than moving society away from religion. I would say that we need to solve the most pressing problems first.

This may not seem like an atheist issue, and a bit of a departure from most monthly meetings but we owe it to future generations to address it with every bit of effort we can spare; atheists, theists and all who are concerned with the quality of life on Earth should take responsibility to mitigate the effects of the alarming global disasters of biblical proportions.



# Minnesota Atheists Defend Planned Parenthood

by Jerry Rauser

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, thirteen members of Minnesota Atheists and Humanists of Minnesota helped defend a Planned Parenthood health center in St. Paul. On each Good Friday, churches send hundreds of protesters to attempt to intimidate patients and disrupt work at the clinic. That might sound a bit scary, but from our smiling faces in the photos above, you can see that our representatives thoroughly enjoyed marching and visiting on the sunny afternoon. My impression of the people on the other side of the barricade is that they seemed consumed with fear and guilt. See the photos on the right side of the collage below.

Why do these Christians do this? My answer is that each has been indoctrinated to believe in the fictitious God character and the bible from early childhood. The indoctrination continues weekly at church. It is also reinforced by common symbols and sayings in our culture such as "In God We Trust", "One Nation under God", and the "God bless America" of politicians.

Christian clerics have found the combination of biblical patriarchy and the abortion issue to be useful tools to bind their flocks together. Patriarchy is the idea that the men in a family own the women as their chattel property. Is that biblical? Recall that a man's wife is listed among a man's property along with slaves and farm animals in the Ten Commandments, and "wives obey your husbands".

Minnesota Atheists has a Public Policy Position on Reproductive Rights. Just click the INFO tab of [mnatheists.org](http://mnatheists.org). Our community members in the photos include: Shirley Moll, Nancy Ruhland, Hiero Russell, George Kane, Steve Petersen and Jerry Rauser posing with Tim Stanley, a Planned Parenthood senior director. Hope to see you there next year.



Photos by Jerry Rauser and Richard Trombley

## Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

In April, George Kane interviewed Lee Salisbury, Founder of the Critical Thinking Club. The title and subject was "Jesus, Historical or Mythical". They discussed the biblical record of contradictions in the Gospels, the lack of historical records and how Jesus ranked on a scale of other mythical gods from the similar geographical area to see which ones had the best traits for living beings versus strictly mythical.

Thanks to Grant Hermanson, we are on Northwest Community Television (NWCT) access again. We are waiting for a regular time slot but until then go to <http://nwct.org/programming.aspx> and check the program guild for Atheists Talk to see the time and date of programs.

**Cable Crew:** George Kane, Brett Stenbridge, Shirley Moll, Steve Petersen, Les Stordahan, Grant Hermanson and Art Anderson .

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



## Cryptogram Answer

Religion cannot and should not be replaced by atheism. Religion needs to go away and not be replaced by anything. Atheism is not a religion. It's the absence of religion, and that's a wonderful thing.

Penn Jillette



## Cable Schedule

**Burnsville/Eagan Community Television:** Ch. 14 Check their web site [www.bect.tv](http://www.bect.tv) for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty

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

**Minneapolis:** Ch. 75. Monday 7:00 p.m. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

**Northwest Community Television (NWCT) Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth and Robbinsdale,** Ch. 20 check web page for date and times: <http://nwct.org/programming.aspx> Sponser: Grant Hermanson

**Rochester:** Ch. 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:** Ch. 14. Wednesday 10:30 p.m. Sponsor: Shirley Moll.

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

**St. Paul:** Ch. 15 Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Wright.

**Stillwater:** Ch., 16. Tuesday 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Sponsor: Lee Salisbury.

**White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights:** Ch. 15. Saturday 8:00 p.m. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.

## Atheists Talk Radio Report

**"Imagine There's No Heaven"** was the program title for Carl Hancock's interview of Mitchell Stephens on *Atheists Talk* #263, April 6th, 2014. Stephens is a journalist, reporter and author of *Imagine No Heaven: How Atheism Help Create the Modern World*. Stephens was motivated to write this book because he found there were no good historical works on atheism, while there are thousands of books on religious history. This interview was primarily about Western culture starting with the Greeks and covering both better known and lesser known philosophers and contributors, including women. Stephens notes that women and atheists have one thing in common, that their early history was recorded by religious males who had a bias against both groups. For women, he starts with Ernestine Rose. Stephens also covers Madelyn Murray O'Hair's contributions to atheism and the fight for separation of government and religion.

**"Minnesota Marriage Officiant Bill"**, August Berkshire on *Atheists Talk* #264, April 13, 2014.

Stephanie Zvan interviewed August Berkshire on the push by Minnesota Atheists to update the Minnesota marriage officiant statutes to accommodate atheists and secular humanists. This effort was reported in *The Minnesota Atheist* newsletter last issue. August and Stephanie reported that this is the first known time in Minnesota that atheists have asked for recognition in law for our nonreligious lifestyle. They discussed the details of current law and how the state gives preference to religious groups that register with the state and certify ministers' credentials to represent their faith to perform marriage. Additionally, they reviewed how some atheist groups and freethought churches have found a method of legal manipulation of the law to get atheist ministers registered, but noted that this is still being done under the name of religion. This bill would allow atheist and humanists groups to certify their own representatives to perform marriages.

**"Wicked Gods"**, the first novel by professor Eilís Leyne, was discussed on *Atheists Talk* #265, April 20, 2014. Scott Lohman interviewed Ms. Leyne, who had previously published non-fiction books on religion in America. She decided to write a novel to emotionally explore the pernicious role that religion can play in society: the slide towards theocracy. 'Eilís Leyne' is a pseudonym the author adopted to establish a clear separation from her academic work, but also to protect herself and her family from vilification from Christians.



AM950 KTNF

Minnesota Atheists is the producer of the radio program, and the director is Carl Hancock with hosts Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyeu, Scott Lohman, David Pacheco and Stephanie Zvan. Both Stephanie and Brianne upload podcasts to our web site. The radio program is broadcast live every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. from AM950 KTNF studios in Eden Prairie, MN. Live streaming is available on our web page. [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org). Original music was composed, played and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. The cost to us is \$5,320.00 every six months. Your donations will be appreciated. They can be sent to our post office box or posted online at [minnesootatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund](http://minnesootatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund). Thanks to Brianne Bilyeu the program has a presence on social media: an *Atheists Talk* Facebook page and an account at [Twitter.com/atheiststalk](https://twitter.com/atheiststalk).

All past programs can be accessed via the MNA web page <http://minnesootatheists.org/news-and-media/podcast> or on iTunes. If you are interested in helping on the radio program, please send a message to [radio@mnatheists.org](mailto:radio@mnatheists.org).

## Call for June Articles

We welcome contributions from all readers of The Minnesota Atheist. While we cannot guarantee that your submission will be accepted for publication, we will carefully consider anything that is related to atheism. We would especially like to receive contributions which provide profiles of individual atheists and which report atheist-related events in the wider community.

Because we are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, we cannot print articles that support or oppose a specific candidate, but we can print articles that support or oppose specific causes. A good length to aim for is about 500-1000 words and no more than about 2000 words.

Please send submissions to the editor, Jenny Nolan at [editor@mnatheists.org](mailto:editor@mnatheists.org) by 11:59pm on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All submissions may be edited for style and length.

We look forward to receiving your submissions. Without contributions for readers like you, The Minnesota Atheist would be needlessly constrained in its breadth and depth.

## Secretary's Report

Here are a few highlights from the Board of Director's meeting held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- The Humanists of MN offered to co-sponsor "The Day of Reason" event with MN Atheists and will be splitting the costs. MNA Board approved this co-sponsorship. Mark Richie has been confirmed as a speaker for the event and the theme will be "30 Years and Growing with Good Reason". The Day of Reason will occur on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Board discussed creating a contest or bid process for throwing out the first pitch at the MNA Saints game to be held in July. This project is still in development.
- Brainstorming took place how to promote and support our MNA radio show advertisers using Meetup.com, the MNA website and power point at the monthly meetings.

## March Treasury Report

### Radio Fund

George Kane	\$100
Arthur Searcy	\$50
Steve Petersen	\$40
Nancy Ruhland	\$30
Mark Paquette	\$10
misc, 5th Sunday Fundraiser	\$332
anonymous	\$500
<b>Total Radio Fund</b>	<b>\$1,062</b>

### General/Visibility Fund

Jon Strand	\$500
Linda Frieden	\$25
Eleanor Rittenour	\$20
<b>Total General/Visibility Fund</b>	<b>\$545</b>

**Total Income: \$1,607**

**Current Building Fund Total \$132,304**

### Top Expenses

Radio Show	\$1,025
Newsletter Printing	\$577

**MINNESOTA ATHEISTS  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Members of Minnesota Atheists and Central Minnesota Freethinkers joined together to clean our highway section on HWY 10 just north of Rice, MN on Saturday, April, 26th.

**The fall clean up is scheduled for Sunday, September 28th, 2014.**





Minnesota Atheists and Humanists of Minnesota present:  
**2014 All-Star Freethought Conference**  
 Saturday, July 12, 2014 - RiverCentre, 175 W Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN

*Headlining Speakers, Morning Workshops, Silent Auction, Freethought Networking, + More!*



**Susan Jacoby** - Best-selling author, scholar, and former Washington Post reporter. Her work has explored law, religion, medicine, aging, women's rights, and political dissent. Her most recent book about Robert Ingersoll was made available in paperback in February.



**Rebecca Watson** - Skeptical female activist and founder of the Skepchick blog. She is a popular speaker around the world on topics about atheism, feminism, skepticism, and science.



**PZ Myers** - Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Minnesota in Morris. He is the author of the world-famous science-atheist blog Pharyngula, which can be found on Freethought Blogs and Science Blogs. His recently published book is titled *The Happy Atheist*.



**James Croft** - Research and Education Fellow at the Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard. He is a Cambridge and Harvard Graduate, and is currently studying for his Doctorate in the philosophy of education.



**Debbie Goddard** - Director of African Americans for Humanism, a program of the Council for Secular Humanism, and the director of Outreach at the Center for Inquiry-Transnational. She participated with and helped organize freethought groups and is involved with LGBT activism.

Register online at [MinnesotaAtheists.org/Conference](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org/Conference)  
 or mail in the form below with your check or m/o made out to **Minnesota Atheists**

\*\*\*\*\* **EARLY BIRD PRICE ENDS MAY 18** \*\*\*\*\*

- > **Full Package** (speakers, lunch\*, and dinner\*\*)      \_\_\_ \$80 Non-Members    \_\_\_ **\$72 Members**
- > **Speakers Only** (add \$20 for optional lunch; \$30 for optional dinner)    \_\_\_ \$45 Non-Members    \_\_\_ **\$40 Members**
- > **Student Rate for Speakers Only** (25 and under, with ID)      \_\_\_ \$20 Non-Members    \_\_\_ **\$18 Members**

\* Lunch Choices: \_\_\_ **Italian Hoagie**    \_\_\_ **Brie and Apple Croissant**    \_\_\_ **Vegan (TBD)**

\*\* Dinner Choices: \_\_\_ **Mexican Buffet** (with vegetarian options)      \_\_\_ **Vegan (TBD)**

*Additional 10% Discount for MN Atheists members!*

*Become a member: \_\_\_ \$10 Student    \_\_\_ \$35 Individual    \_\_\_ \$45 Household    \_\_\_ \$75 Sustaining    \_\_\_ \$600*

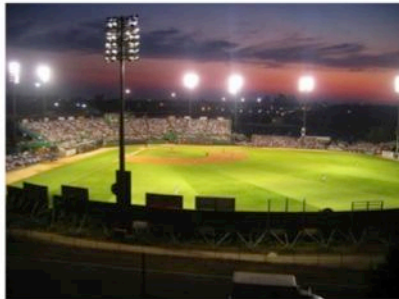
> **TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# Night of Unbelievable Fun: The Third Strike presented by Minnesota Atheists and Freedom From Religion Foundation



**St. Paul Saints become  
Mr. Paul Aints**

\$22 Package

- Infield Reserved ticket
- Mr. Paul Aints hat

\$12 Package

- General Admission ticket
- Hot dog & soda

July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:05 PM



VS



**Order & Print  
Tickets Online**

Go to: [SAINTSGROUPS.com](http://SAINTSGROUPS.com)

Enter "atheists" as the  
password and pick out  
your seats!

For more information about the Saints call  
651-644-6659

For more information about this game's  
sponsors visit  
[MinnesotaAtheists.org](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org) and [FFRF.org](http://FFRF.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous.** Sundays, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Men's Center, 3249 Hennepin Avenue South, Suite 55, Minneapolis. Meets in the basement. Open to all genders.

**Lake Superior Freethinkers Monthly Membership**

**Meeting.** First Sundays, social time 9:00 a.m., breakfast 9:30 a.m. (\$13.00), program 10:00 a.m., Duluth Radisson, 505 West Superior Street, Duluth.

**Freethought Toastmasters.** First and third Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Avenue West, Saint Paul. Contact George Kane, nup@Minn.net

**Freethought Lunch.** First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Fairview and Snelling. Contact Bob or Marilyn Nienkirk, 612-866-6200.

**Burnsville Book Club.** First Wednesday, Dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m., Davanni's, 14639 County Road 11, Burnsville. Meet in the party room.

**Atheists Talk Television Show Recording.** First Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., MTN Studio A, 125 Southeast Main Street, Minneapolis. Contact Steve Petersen, 651-484-9277.

**Crafty Freethinkers North.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Brookdale Library, Study Room I, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center.

**Little Canada Book Club.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m., Caribou Coffee, 3354 Rice Street, Little Canada.

**Freethought Dinner Social.** Second and fourth Mondays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington. Contact Bob or Marilyn Neinker, 612-866-6200.

**Godless Gamers—Board Game Night.** Second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Road B2, Roseville.

**Blasphemer's Brunch.** Second Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 West 66th Street, Richfield.

**Lunch at the Dragon House Restaurant.** Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Dragon House Restaurant, 3970 Central Avenue, Columbia Heights. Contact Bill Volna, 612-781-1420.

**Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting.** Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Open to all members. Contact Heather Hegi, hair@mnatheists.org. for location.

**Freethinking Females Evening** at Chatterbox Pub. Fourth Monday, 7:30 p.m., Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Avenue South, Saint Paul.



Check out more events on our Meetup page at: [meetup.com/minnesota-atheists](http://meetup.com/minnesota-atheists).



**There's  
always time  
to make a  
difference.**

**Join  
Minnesota  
Atheists,  
renew your  
membership  
or make a  
donation  
today.**

### Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-year student membership \$10      | <input type="checkbox"/> Three-year sustaining membership \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-year individual membership \$35   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership \$600                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three-year individual membership \$90 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-year household membership \$45    | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund \$_____                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three-year household membership \$115 | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund \$_____                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One-year sustaining membership \$75   | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Fund \$_____                     |

Donations are tax deductible. Membership fees are deductible for the amount beyond their fair market value.

Student memberships include a subscription to the PDF version of *The Minnesota Atheist* delivered by email. All other memberships include a subscription to the printed version delivered by postal mail. If you would prefer the PDF version delivered by email, please check the box and provide your email address.

- Please send my subscription by email

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required for student memberships and email subscriptions): \_\_\_\_\_

**Minnesota Atheists, PO Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112. Please make checks payable to Minnesota Atheists. Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.**

# Minnesota Atheists

## Positive atheism in action<sup>sm</sup> since 1991

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.

### Minnesota Atheists Board of Directors

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### The Minnesota Atheist Newsletter

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**Submissions**  
Submit material for the  
newsletter to the editor at  
editor@mnaatheists.org  
Submissions may be edited.

### Minnesota Atheists Media

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### Minnesota Atheists Goals

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.

### Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

Minnesota Atheists is affiliated with the Atheist Alliance of America, Atheist Alliance International, American Atheists, The American Humanist Association, the Council for Secular Humanism, The International Humanist and Ethical Union, and the Secular Coalition for America.

### Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 207  
Life members: 37  
Meetup members: 1,566

### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

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



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