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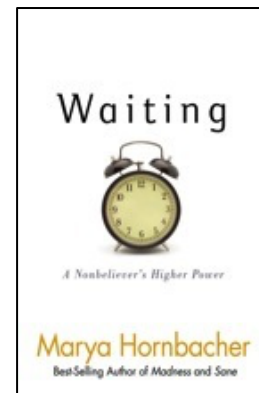
The Minnesota Atheist



April Public Meeting featuring Marya Hornbacher "A Non-Believer's Journey with Addiction Recovery" April 19, 2015

Recovering from a substance abuse addiction is a remarkably hard process. The process is even more difficult when courts, communities, and families know of no other program for recovery, for their secular loved one, than the ones infused with religion. Minnesota Atheists hosts nationally renowned author, Marya Hornbacher, for our April Public Meeting, focusing on addiction recovery without spirituality.

This talk is not only for those individuals and families directly impacted by substance abuse; this conversation will assist the secular community to open a dialogue about issues related to the separation of church and state and human rights. Ms. Hornbacher is a Pulitzer Prize and Pushcart Prize nominee and she frequently lectures at universities and other institutions around the country.



Recently published by Hazelden, her latest book is "Waiting: a Nonbeliever's Higher Power." This piece is Hornbacher's memoir, living a life in recovery from alcoholism without the traditional 12-step path of spirituality. Ms. Hornbacher has also authored New York Times bestsellers, "Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia" and "Madness: A Bipolar Life." She also teaches in the graduate creative writing program at Northwestern University. Please join the conversation.



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Rondo Public Library
461 N Dale St, Saint Paul, MN
1:00---1:15--Social time
1:15---1:45--Business Meeting
1:45---2:00--Break
2:00---3:30--A Non-Believer's Journey
with Addiction Recovery
4:00---whenever--Mai Village, 394
University Ave W, St Paul MN

President's Column – Intelligent Design My Foot!

By Eric Jayne

Last October I broke my right foot at home after slipping on the stairs and landing awkwardly on the stone tile floor with the full weight of my body. It was a devastating experience not only because it hurt so badly when the 5th metatarsal snapped into pieces, but because it also meant that I would not be able to run, which is my favorite and most cathartic exercise. Fortunately, my surgeon repaired my foot and gave me a great idea for this year's atheist-themed St. Paul Saints game.

After two hours of surgery, a dozen pins, a plate fastened with six screws (which is now a permanent fixture in my foot), six weeks in a cast, and three weeks of physical therapy; my unintelligently designed foot fully healed. As I got to know my surgeon during this process, I learned that he was involved with a non-profit called Soles4Souls.

Since the Minnesota Atheists and our cosponsor, Foundation Beyond Belief, were looking to give back to the community as part of this year's St. Paul Saints/Mr. Paul Aints game I did a little research on Soles4Souls. My research revealed that they are a nonprofit whose mission is to fight global and domestic poverty by collecting new and gently used shoes, and then distributing them to those who need them. When I confirmed that they are a secular organization I knew we would need to incorporate a shoe drive for this poverty-fighting organization.

The Atheist Baseball Committee, which is made up of four board members and one non-board member, is currently working out the details of this shoe drive and all the other components of this year's "Atheist Night" with the St. Paul Saints.



As many who are reading this are aware, the Minnesota Atheists have billed a sponsored Saints game as *A Night of Unbelievable Fun* since 2012. This year, however, our game will be billed as *Leave Your Soles at the Gate: A Shoe Drive – Sponsored by Minnesota Atheists and Foundation Beyond Belief*. Fans who attend the game will be encouraged to bring a pair of gently used shoes to donate. The Minnesota Atheists, guided by the Atheist Baseball Committee, will be in charge of collecting and shipping the shoes to Soles4Souls.

The game will also feature atheist-themed antics as we have done in the past. The players will again wear specially designed atheist-themed jerseys during the game and the "S" will be covered on Saints signage throughout the stadium. Even though the new downtown stadium doesn't have a parking lot conducive to tailgating, there will definitely be tailgating somewhere nearby. The Atheist Baseball Committee will keep working out these details and updates will be posted in this newsletter, on MinnesotaAtheists.org, and on the Minnesota Atheists Facebook page.

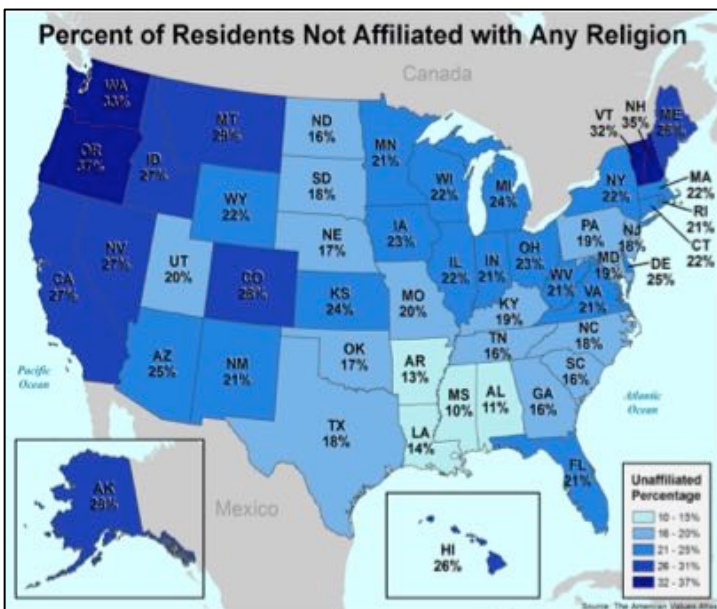
As we wait for the August 8 "Atheist Night" at CHS Field, a few of us are participating in the St. Paul Saints "Running of the Pigs" 5K race on April 11. I'll be running with my newly repaired right foot! There is also a Zer0K available if you're interested in joining the fun without running. Check out our Meetup page event for more details and to register for the race.

Also, be sure to join us at our May 17 public meeting. The Assistant General Manager from the Saints baseball team will speak about their experience with fans, players, and their business partners about being the only professional sports team in the nation to hold an atheist night.

News and Notes - States With the Most Residents Not Affiliated With Any Religion.

By George Kane

Protestants are no longer America's religious majority. New figures reveal that for the first time ever just 47 per cent of the United States identifies with the denomination.



Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Colorado are all between 27 and 29%. The lowest instances of religiously unaffiliated residents were all in the Deep South: Mississippi 10%, Alabama 11%, Arkansas 13% and Louisiana 14%.

Minnesota is just about in the middle at 21%. I'm a little surprised that it is not higher, considering all of the atheist, secular, humanist and skeptical groups in the Twin Cities. Come on, Minnesota! We can do better than 21%!

Another new map of interest is the American Family Association's Bigotry Map at <http://www.afa.net/bigotrymap>. The map is interactive, so simply click on any state, or select it from the drop-down menu. The groups in the Twin Cities overlap, so you have to zoom in quite a bit to see all of them. Minnesota Atheists, Campus Atheists and Secular Humanists, the Minnesota Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Atheists for Human Rights all made the list. The Humanists of Minnesota and the Secular Coalition of Minnesota must feel slighted.

This map looks very different than the map of the religiously unaffiliated. The concentration of atheists, secular humanists and anti-Christian groups seems to be greatest in the South, with very little in the West. This may not be terribly important, however. I doubt that the AFA did any serious research to put it together, so it is not terribly significant.

George Kane Cryptogram

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 bwgfolxe dfmlfola — milf cl ithl fw cta mw emwk Devtu; cl ithl fw cta mw emwk
 Etmtdfdeu; cl ithl fw cta mw emwk tfa wmilx ewxm wb edfdemlx xlvdqdwf
 kxtzmdzl mitm udqim zxllk wfmw mil bxgdmlo kvtdfe.

Tulxdztf Btudva Xtodw iwem Nxatf Bdezilx txqgdfq mitm mil Bwgfodfq Btmilxe
 dfmlfola mil Zwfdemdmgmdwf mw zxltml t Zixdemtdf ftmdwf.

Minnesota Atheists March Meeting Review

By George Francis Kane



At our March Public Meeting, Dr. Scott Forschler presented his innovative ethical theory in a lecture titled "Morality Demystified: The naturalistic origin and justification of ethics." He opened by stating that many people have a mystical understanding of morality, that it is based on the Bible or other religion, but morality is not supernatural. Equally wrong is the view that morality is based in biology or genetics; or social convention; or that it is purely individual. The true basis of ethics is logic.

This answer is important for how we talk about religion, but most of the time misconceptions about the basis for ethical truth do not affect how people act; most people do the right thing most of the time.

Dr. Forschler explained a significant distinction between values and beliefs. Values are representations of the state of affairs as *desires*, while beliefs are representations of the state of affairs as *facts*. When we recognize a disparity between our values and our beliefs, we are motivated to change the facts, but if our values and our beliefs are congruent, we want only to maintain the current state of affairs.

Dr. Forschler pointed out that values are not exclusively human. Squirrels have values, as demonstrated by such behaviors as acquiring acorns and avoiding foxes. He pointed to this as proof that values are natural, and not supernatural; but only humans have *moral values*. Moral judgments, he claimed, are not about actions or results, but about *other values*. Moral values are therefore *higher order values*, or *metavalues*.

Dr. Forschler's novel contribution to ethical theory is his finding that the mechanism for discovering moral values is recursion of the principle of universalization. The principle of universalization takes several forms. Most widely known is the Golden Rule, that we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us. This is posited as a principle that is universal because it applies to all individuals in all cases. But what happens if we apply the Golden Rule to itself? This operation is known as recursion. We would replace "do" in the Golden Rule with 'valuational behavior.'

It would produce a metavalue that would read something like "we should apply valuation behavior to others that is the same as the valuation behavior we would have them apply to us." If we apply this metavalue recursively to itself, we arrive at the higher-level metavalue that "we should apply a principle of reciprocal morality unto others as we would have them apply a principle of reciprocal morality unto us." This is a form of Dr. Forschler's ethical system.

To value some lower-order valuational behavior is to value it whenever it appears, whether in yourself or in others; that is, to value it universally. Valuational behavior cannot be consistently valued if its adoption by others frustrates, rather than satisfies, our own values, producing "valuational dissonance." This is why religion **cannot** be the ultimate source of ethics. If you adopt an entire canon of religious dogma, then you must, by universalizing, accept that others are right to adopt the entire canon of their religion's dogmas; but religions conflict, and so cannot be an objective source of morality. If you adopt only selected parts of the religion, you must have already had moral criteria before you adopted the religion's morality. The same analysis can be used to show that biology and society cannot be the basis of morality.

Creating higher orders of valuations through recursion is the self-correcting process Dr. Forschler claims is the basis of morality. It comes from any moral agent able to make a higher-order valuation, so long as he can do so consistently. Our implicit awareness of what we cannot consistently value is what he names 'conscience.'

Dr. Forschler showed how the process of recursive universalization can be distinguished from the most common error in ethical reasoning, rationalization. When rationalizing, people try to deflect consideration to other issues, and redescribe the conclusion so that it appears universalizable. Usually this is not simply deception, but also self-deception.

(Continued on page 6)



March in the May Day Parade – May 3

By Heather Hegi

Hooray for spring, and what better way to celebrate it than to walk in the May Day Parade with Minnesota Atheists!

I really enjoy walking in the parade and holding signs representing secular values. It just makes your day when you overhear someone from the crowd reading one of our signs exclaiming “Hug an Atheist”, and instead of coming out to hug one of us they hug the person standing right beside them. We truly do feel welcome at this parade, we get lots of cheers and everyone is in a festive mood!

This year’s parade is on Sunday, May 3rd, with the parade starting at Noon. We line up at Cedar Field Park in Minneapolis (2500 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis) and we will walk in the parade to Powderhorn Park (3400 15th Ave S, Minneapolis). Show up about 15 minutes before the parade starts at noon to get a Minnesota Atheists T-Shirt and pick a sign to hold of your choosing (Provided by Minnesota Atheists). You may come wearing your Minnesota Atheists or Aints t-shirt, or get your own special edition Minnesota Atheists T-Shirt that we will have on hand. The organizers of the festival want this to be a no waste event, so please bring your own reusable water bottle so no disposable water bottles are needed.

After the parade, the May Day festival will continue at Powderhorn Park where you are welcome to join us at the Minnesota Atheists booth. We converse with people who stop at the booth, field questions about atheism, and let people know what we are all about. We need volunteers to staff the booth and volunteers to help set up and take down the booth.

If interested please e-mail Heather Hegi at sec@mnatheists.org.

Meeting Review (continued from page 4)

After the slide show, Dr. Forschler fielded questions from the audience. He asserted that higher-order recursion is a better guide than any canon of rules, because no one can ever have a complete list of all the good principles. In response to a question about differing levels of responsibility recognized in law, he responded that it corresponded to gradations in the general well-being resulting from an action in differing contexts. Social well-being he defined as the sum of all individual well-beings.

Day of Reason – May 7

By Heather Hegi

We will be celebrating our tenth annual Day of Reason event at the State Capitol this year. We will hold a program on the Upper Mall of the Capitol on Thursday, May 7th at noon. The program will last an hour and feature several speakers with the theme of Atheists and Humanists at the Capitol. The Humanists of Minnesota are cosponsoring the event.

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

The Upper Mall is a new location for us, as our usual spot, the Rotunda, is closed for renovation. The Upper Mall is located outside the Capitol in the front, between Aurora Ave and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. We will still have our banner and a podium, but attendees will have to stand or bring their own seating.

This is a family friendly event. While tours of the Capitol have been suspended during the week due to the renovation work, it is still a great learning experience, teaching by example, demonstrating the importance of standing up for your rights for a better world.

So let’s represent secular society by rallying for a good cause, demonstrating to legislators that reason matters, and outnumbering the Day of Prayer crowd.

For more information, please contact info@mnatheists.org.

When asked if situation-specific actions are universalizable, he responded "with qualifications." The next-order question would be if the qualifications are universalizable. He was asked if he could prove that no animals engage in higher-order thinking, but replied that nothing in his presentation requires that no animals do it to any degree at all.

The meeting took place in the public room of the Roseville Library. After the meeting, some of those attending had dinner at the Panda Garden Buffet.

The Thing About Cops

Reprinted from apexofludicrous.wordpress.com with permission

By Mike Haubrich

An acquaintance unfriended me on Facebook a few weeks ago because I had hit the “Like” button for a story in which a cop had been killed by a criminal. He assumed that I had hit the “Like” button because I hate cops so much that I am happy to see that one is killed in the line of duty. So, I tried to explain that since Facebook only has a Like button to acknowledge a story without comment, this was my only choice for saying “I see this, but I have no words and no comment.” He still unfriended me, and I was actually very angry at him for assuming that I was so hateful to cops, and to anyone at all for that matter, that I would celebrate their death or murder.

So, I decided I don’t want to have him as a friend if he can believe something like that about me despite having met me in meatspace. He should know better, but there is a tendency to confirm our beliefs based on our overall worldview based on small evidences even in the face of larger, more direct and solid evidences to the contrary. He is so sensitive to the fact that, especially since the Michael Brown shooting and killing in Jefferson last summer, people who support justice and think that Darren Wilson should have been indicted and put on trial are for stronger controls on police activity and abuse of power, that he thinks that we want to see cops killed. We most emphatically do not want to see see cops killed.

Murder is murder, whether the person holding the gun wears a badge. Murder is murder, whether the person pulling the trigger wears a badge. Murder is murder, whether the person with the gun lodged in or near their heart wears a badge.

I don’t think I should have to dress this out, I don’t think that I should have to explain this, but apparently I do. I don’t hate cops. I don’t hate cops as cops. I don’t hate people who choose to be cops. I prefer to see cops as the ideal.

Society needs laws in order to function and we have a means in place to create laws that govern behavior. I agree with some and disagree with others, of course; but laws are made through a messy procedure of lobby and compromise and it would be weird for all of our policy-makers to create laws that work for everyone and make everyone happy. In actuality, that would frighten me because that would probably mean that the puppetmasters have taken over without us being aware of them.

Police and regulatory agencies are necessary to enforce those laws because there are people who disagree with them. Cops are given authority to enforce those laws, but my problem with the situation that we have is that cops are given too much *carte blanche* authority to enforce laws and that carries over into an attitude that they automatically deserve deference in all situations. In all situations we are expected to say “Yes, Sir” or “Yes, Ma’am,” even when the cops are being assholes. We are expected to surrender all authority and this is in the land where there is not supposed to be such deference imposed.

I do believe that they deserve the respect that all people deserve. I don’t especially dislike them for their badge. We need them, as I said, to stick us to the laws as written. The important thing, though, is for cops to remember their role in society. They need to keep in mind that if they are here to serve and to protect, then that is what they should be doing. It’s what they are paid to do, it is what they are expected to do.

But, what I see, now, is that the police are not of the same mind as I am on that. They believe that they are on the front lines of a war against disorder and because it is a war, they are justified in whatever actions they take to maintain order.

Disclaimer: Not all cops.

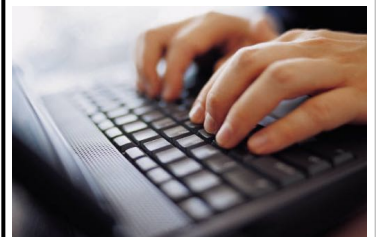
It’s not that there aren’t good cops, there are. It’s a problem that the bad cops are not being prosecuted for breaking the law. It’s a problem that the bad cops are not being held accountable for breaking the law. It’s a problem that the cops are getting expanded powers and military-grade equipment to fight crime, without being held accountable for how they use them.

The thing about cops is that I don’t hate them. The thing about cops is that they are part of an institution of our society that carries out a function. The institution is faulty and needs to be fixed. In the meantime, those cops who do the wrong thing need to be held accountable. Don’t judge me, man.

If you would like to respond to something you saw in The Minnesota Atheist, please send it to:

editor@mnatheists.org

We value your thoughts. Thank you.



Treasury Report

February

Radio Fund

Nancy Ruhland	\$50
Leigh Burlingame	\$50
Steve Petersen	\$25
Mike Haubrich	\$25
Total Radio Fund	\$150

General/Visibility Fund

Heather Hegi	\$75
Eric Jayne	\$75
Robert A Rudell	\$65
Michelle Tjernagel	\$60
Thomas R Dooley	\$50
Justine Hartz	\$23
Joel V Bartos	\$2
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$350

Total Income: \$500

Current Building Fund Total \$133,809

Top Expenses

Baseball Game	\$2,500
Radio Show	\$1,845
Newsletter Printing	\$525

Volunteer Report

By Steve Petersen

So far this year Minnesota Atheists has participated in several volunteer actions; a Polar Plunge to help Special Olympics, cooking at the Family Place for homeless families, and helping at The Food Group food bank.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make these projects become reality!



Cable Report

By Steve Petersen & James Zimmerman

Licensed counselor and Minnesota Atheists board member Jill Carlson appeared on our cable program this month to discuss the importance of finding a secular mental healthcare provider. Jill noted that this can be difficult, as most therapists and counselors do not advertise their feelings on religion and faith; but that it should be possible to determine if a mental health provider is secular or, at least, friendly toward those who are not religious. Jill discussed some of the challenges and issues that might arise in seeing an overtly religious counselor; for example, they might wish to pray with you or view your problems from a religious perspective. Jill then talked about some of the problems regarding church-state separation in the mental health provider field. For example, some practices receive state funding yet are religiously driven. A court might order someone to attend AA although the only such groups in their area might be very religious. Jill indicated a need for a database of secular providers, not just in the mental health field, but also in other areas of care (such as prenatal) where trust and confidence are very important, and where a provider's beliefs might color their methods of treatment. James Zimmerman hosted.

If you would like to see if a program could be shown in your area, or you have a program idea, please contact Steve Petersen at address@mnatheists.org

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

Podcasts: MinnesotaAtheists.org. Available via iTunes and YouTube which are made possible by Grant Hermanson. To date, our channel has had over 134,000 downloads.

Cryptogram Answer

If we don't understand the word 'religion' to mean Christianity — as the founders intended — then we have no way to stop Islam; we have no way to stop Satanism; we have no way to stop any other sort of sinister religion practice that might creep onto the fruited plains.

American Family Radio host Bryan Fischer arguing that the Founding Fathers intended the Constitution to create a Christian nation.

Cable Schedule

Burnsville/Eagan Community Television: Ch. 14. Check their website 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: nwct.org/programming.aspx Sponsor: 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



This was the last time in our current MTN studio as the studio is moving to 820 18th Street NE, Minneapolis 55418 in April. This is a group photo with our crew, guest Jill Carlson and future host Owen.

Secretary's Report – March

By Heather Hegi

- Member, Steve Adams, gave a report on the Humanist Institute training for celebrants. August moved to appoint Steve as a Minnesota Atheists Secular Celebrant and it was approved.
- The Public Policy Committee 2014 revisions were approved by the board.
- Public Members Meeting planning was discussed. Eric will invite Saints Baseball representative(s) to be featured at our May Public Meeting at the Roseville Library.
- Our radio show producer, Mike Haubrich, proposed that a mission statement be created for Atheists Talk to reflect the wide range of topics that are discussed on the show. August will work with Mike to develop a mission statement.
- The Public Service/Charities committee lead, Eric Jayne, requested a monthly stipend to go toward their regular volunteer work at the Family Place Shelter. We have regulars who volunteer and plan the menu, and the costs add up. August moved that we allot \$50 per event to the Public Service/Charities committee to supply food for the Family Place event. This is to be done no more than 2 events per month and receipts totaling at least \$50 shall be submitted to the Treasurer after every event. This motion was approved.
- A new T-Shirt design along with funding to purchase T-Shirts was approved. This year the T-Shirts will be a royal blue with yellow text. The text on the back will read "No Gods, No Masters – Margaret Sanger".
- Heather moved that we spend \$150 to register for the May Day parade and a booth in the free speech section. This motion was approved.
- Chair, Phil Cunliffe resigned from the board for personal reasons, effective as of the adjournment of the meeting.

Call for May 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. Article length should ideally be 500-1000 words and no more than 2000 words.

Please send submissions to the editor, Jenny Nolan at editor@mnatheists.org by 11:59pm on April 22. All submissions may be edited for style and length.

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

Notice:

The Chair of the Board, Phil Cunliffe, resigned from the board at the March Board Meeting. The Associate Chair, Jill Carlson, is now serving as the Chair of the board. The board is planning to fill this vacancy and appoint a new Associate Chair at the April Board Meeting, announce it in the May Newsletter, and seek approval from the membership at the May Public Meeting. If you are interested in filling this vacancy on the board, please email us at info@mnatheists.org.

-Secretary, Heather Hegi

Out of the Closet!



You may have your own opinions, but you cannot have your own facts!

Douglas Earl
Out of the Closet Atheist

Radio Report

By Mike Haubrich

"Nature's God," Matthew Stewart on Atheists Talk #304, March 1, 2015

The revolutionaries who went to war against the King of England to make these colonies into states were not the staid gentlemen portrayed in history books. They were radicals who built a country and many of them were deists. Matthew Stewart tells their story in *Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic*. He traces the strains of deism in Enlightenment thinking and shows how it shaped our country.

"As The Board Turns," MN Atheists Board Members on Atheists Talk #305, March 8, 2015

Stop me if you have heard this one before. "If atheists don't believe in anything, why do they organize and talk about nothing?" Far from being a Seinfeldian sideshow, the Minnesota Atheists are a very active group. We are very much involved in the community; volunteering for various worthy causes, having fun with fellow atheists, meeting and speaking and watching and listening and just generally enjoying each other's company. With so much activity, we need to have a board of directors to make decisions and generate ideas as well as revenue. Each year we elect a new and fresh board and on this episode we talk to members of the board so that members know who is representing them.

"Breath of Wilderness: The Sigurd Olson Story," Kristin Eggerling on Atheists Talk #306, Sunday March 15, 2015

Sigurd Olson was a conservationist and writer and a driving force in preserving the solitude and quiet peace of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. A native Wisconsinite who moved to Minnesota to teach biology, he faced the displeasure of many around Ely who wanted to have fly-in resorts and roads through the pristine natural wonders in Northern Minnesota. Kristin Eggerling has written a biography of Sig to illustrate for children the importance of fighting to save the quiet places and to instill a love of the natural world around us.

"GMO Revisited!" Anastasia Bodnar and Greg Laden on Atheists Talk #307, March 22, 2015

Genetic Engineering, or Genetic Modification, is a process that creates a shortcut method to crossbreeding and hybridizing crops and livestock for favorable traits. Technologists create genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, by inserting genes into the chromosomes of the target DNA. Sometimes the transplanted gene is from an organism in the same species as the target species; other times the gene is from a different species or it may be the case that an animal's gene is spliced into a plant's gene. In a recent show, Dr. Anastasia Bodnar and Mike Haubrich discussed the difficulties of spreading the news about the science of GMOs due to rancor in the social media. On this show, Dr. Greg Laden will join us to continue the discussion in a more positive light. We will go through the positive benefits of using genetic engineering to meet the growing demands of the ways in which the technology will adapt our food to help cope with the effects of climate change and help reduce other threats to the environment as well.

Minnesota Atheists is the producer of the radio program, and the director is Mike Haubrich with hosts Mike Haubrich, Brianne Bilyeu, Scott Lohman, David Pacheco, Mahad Muhamad 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. 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 <http://minnesotatheists.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/atheists_talk](https://twitter.com/atheists_talk). All past programs can be accessed via MNA web page <http://mnatheists.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



Upcoming Events

Social Science Thursday, April 9 at 6:00pm, Science Museum of Minnesota - Adult Computer Education Center, 120 Kellogg Blvd W, St Paul MN. Adult night (21+) at the Science Museum, reserve your tickets in advance, call 651-221-9444 ext. 0

Running of the Pigs 5K and Zer0K Saturday, April 11 at 9:00am, CHS Field, 360 N Broadway St, Saint Paul MN. Register at saintsbaseball.com/community/running-pigs

Shooting Pool with the Infidels Saturday, April 11 at 7:00pm, Dunham's Bar and Grill, 173 Lothenbach Ave, West St Paul MN

March in the May Day Parade Sunday, May 3 at 11:45am, Cedar Field Park, 2500 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis MN

Day of Reason Celebration Thursday, May 7 at Noon, Minnesota State Capitol Upper Mall, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, St Paul MN

Godless Gamers Every Sunday at 2:00pm and Thursday at 6:00pm, Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Road B2, Roseville MN

Freethought Toastmasters Meeting 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30pm, Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, Saint Paul MN.

Volunteer Food Packing 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00pm, The Food Group, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope MN

Blasphemer's Brunch 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:30am, Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield MN

Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, Amherst H Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul MN. All Minnesota Atheists members are welcome.

Freethinking Females 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm, Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Ave S, St. Paul MN. Shattering the myth that Atheist groups are male dominated with a female's only event.

Bowling for Deities Last Saturday of every month at Noon, Memory Lanes, 2520 26th Ave South, Minneapolis MN

2015 Aints Game Saturday, August 8, CHS Field, 360 N Broadway St, Saint Paul MN. Save the Date!

Secular Women Work Conference Friday-Sunday, August 21-23, Humphrey Conference Center, 301 19th Ave S, Minneapolis MN. Save the Date!



There's always time to make a difference.

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

Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

- One-year student membership \$10
- One-year individual membership \$35
- Three-year individual membership \$90
- One-year household membership \$45
- Three-year household membership \$115
- One-year sustaining membership \$75
- Three-year sustaining membership \$200
- Life membership \$600
- General Fund \$_____
- Building Fund \$_____
- 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.

Name: _____
 Street address: _____
 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 actionsm 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.

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Submissions may be edited.

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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: 204
Life members: 40
Meetup members: 1792

Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD
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