

October 2017  
Volume 27  
Number 8

## October Public Meeting The Beatles and Secular Humanism

The Beatles are famous for helping to revolutionize popular music. Less well known is how their music reflected and helped to change attitudes about religion, and about Christianity in particular, in the 1960s. Dr. Hector Avalos, professor of Religious Studies at Iowa State University, will share his musings about the secular humanism found in Beatles music.

Prof. Avalos is the author of numerous books, including *Fighting Words: The Origins Of Religious Violence* (2005), *The End of Biblical Studies* (2007), and *The Bad Jesus* (2015).



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### Sunday, October 22, 2017

1:00–1:15 p.m.: Social  
1:15–1:45 p.m.: Business Meeting  
1:45–2:00 p.m.: Social  
2:00–3:30 p.m.: Speaker

4:00 p.m.: Dinner

Maplewood Public Library  
3025 Southlawn Dr  
Maplewood, MN 55109

Dinner location will be announced  
at the meeting.

# The Freedom from Religion Foundation’s 40th Convention Madison, Wisconsin

*by Portobello Wellington*

Minnesota was well-represented at the Freedom from Religion Foundation’s 40th Annual Convention on September 15–17 in Madison, Wisconsin. This year they did not announce number of attendees from any state, perhaps by oversight. Minnesota attendees included Heather Hegi, Steve Adams, Steve Petersen, Shirley Moll, George Kane, Ron Lindeman, Nancy Ruhland, Paul Swanson, SueEllen Carroll, Dick Seegers, Jim Salutz, Paul Redleaf and many others. My own name was established by my conference badge that I wore around my neck on a lanyard. Our meal tickets were on the other side.

Conference events began Friday morning with a tour of the FFRF’s office building, Freethought Hall, with complimentary Mimosas. That was followed by cruises on Lake Mendota, with a cash bar and a complimentary lunch.

Presentations kicked off in mid-afternoon, with a rousing welcome by 13-year-old student activist Kelly Helton. She was followed by

acclaimed journalist and author Katha Pollitt, speaking on the question of why Evangelical Christians support President Trump. It was very much like the News and Notes column in this issue, except that Pollitt’s discourse was more articulate and insightful.

In the evening program, FFRF co-Presidents Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor provided a review of the organization’s activities in the last year. Maryam Namazi, an ex-Muslim and feminist activist, spoke about how in Britain, fear of offending Muslims has become a tool for suppressing resistance to religious oppression. Paula Poundstone finished the evening with her legendary stand-up improv.

Saturday was very full of convention activities. The “Nonprayer Breakfast” was highlighted by a “Moment of Bedlam,” in place of the Moment of Silence typical of more prayerful groups. Administrative Director Lisa Strand named all of the states (and foreign nations) with attendees at the convention, but this year actual counts were not provided. Then sculptor Zenos Frudakis spoke on the history of his statue of Clarence Darrow, commissioned by the FFRF, which was placed outside the courthouse in Dayton, Tennessee where the “Scopes Monkey Trial” was held in 1925.

Continued on page 11

## Cryptogram

*By George Francis Kane*

Fc ft abttfrqo cb ajn jgbc dov pjg’t uorct bg dft

rodjqz, rhc fc ft gbc abttfrqo cb pjeo j ihfqcn pjg

fggbkogc rn thzzovfgi fg dft aqjko.

—Kjvq Qbzpjve, Ldjc ft cdo Rfrqo?



## News and Notes

### What Trump Means to Evangelicals

by George Francis Kane

Why do Evangelicals like President Trump? It can't be that they admire his knowledge of Christianity or his moral purity. He's been married three times, his language is vulgar, and his life has been devoted to the pursuit of money. He brags about his sexual exploits, and he built his business on casinos and pageants of half-naked women. Trump's greatest advantage with Evangelicals is that he understands them, and tells them what they want to hear. Evangelicals are a large and loyal Trump constituency. Trump received 81% of the Evangelical vote, higher, even than George W. Bush, who is himself Evangelical; and, while his approval rating overall sags near to record lows, it remains at 78% with them.

After the terrorism in Charlottesville, Trump remarked that there was "blame on many sides," morally equating antifascist protestors to Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. In protest, so many corporate leaders resigned from Trump's business advisory council that he dissolved it, but no one from his evangelical council objected. Liberty University President Jerry Falwell, Jr. said on ABC "One of the reasons I support him is he doesn't say what's politically correct." In a tweet he lauded Trump's accomplishments: "Finally a leader in the White House. Jobs returning, North Korea backing down, bold truthful statement about Charlottesville tragedy. So proud of Donald Trump." This reveals several issues of deep importance to evangelical Christians, and a great deal about their psychology. They consider their religion and ethnicity to be that of the nation. While they reject the explicit racism of Nazis and the KKK, they regard the anti-fascist reaction as anti-Christian, anti-white racism. Their understanding of the economic decline of the American working class is as the product of exploitation by trade deals with foreign nations as well as illegal immigration from Mexico and refugees from the Middle East. They feel that the United States has declined internationally because, for too long, we have not laid down the law to the "yellow horde."

After Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston,

Trump declared a National Day of Prayer on September 3. This bow to the sentiments of Evangelical Christians surprised no one. What was uncharacteristic was that the President and First Lady actually attended a church service themselves.

The political motivation of the Evangelicals is not devotion to any principle, such as democracy, liberty or equality. Rather, it is that they regard their identity as the source of American greatness: a Christian nation, in which government acknowledges that its existence is a gift from God, that must be repaid by governing in accordance with biblical rules.

Another way that they want the nation's identity to mirror their own is racially. Most evangelicals will deny explicit racism, but it is expressed *[Evangelicals] consider Trump's pledge to "make America great again" to mean to restore a white, Christian nation.*

in their opposition to immigration, to admitting refugees, and to many foreign treaties. Their suppressed racism accounts for their reluctance to repudiate white nationalist groups, and opposition to groups like Black Lives Matter.

For years, Catholicism and mainline Protestant churches have seen their numbers decline, while the numbers of Evangelicals had increased. This led them to criticize liberal Christianity as a losing path. They credited their growth to divine approval.

But now their optimism has darkened. In the last decade, their share of the nation's population has dropped from 24% to 17%. They feel they have lost the culture war against LGBT acceptance, especially since the Obergefell decision. They consider Trump's pledge to "make America great again" to mean to restore a white, Christian nation.

In the 1930s, the Nazis used the Christian identity of the German people to unify the nation, and to fan the flames of hatred against those outside that identity. I know Godwin's Law, that any discussion must end whenever someone invokes Hitler, and that the person who did so has lost the argument. But the key players in this story are self-proclaimed Nazis, and Evangelical Christians are defending those Nazis as no different or worse than those who oppose them.

Christians are defending those Nazis as no different or worse than those who oppose them.

# Pride Parade



# sAints Game



Coca-Cola

WALSER

Chuck & Don

TERRACE

100

100

Let's Summon Demons

Praise Jibbers

Aint's

Aint's

Aint's

bleachr

Aint's

MR. PAUL  
EST. 2012

SECURIAN

INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS | RETIREMENT

Take me to Regions Hospital

JERSEY AUCTION

sAints

Bidding Ends at the Start of the 7th Inning Stretch!

sAints  
The Saints Welcome MN Atheists

Imagine No Religion

FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

Saint's

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY

Aint's

We're "unbelievably fan"



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION and MINNESOTA ATHEISTS

## Mythicist Milwaukee in Their Own Words

Almost Diamonds blog

<https://the-orbit.net/almostdiamonds>

By *Stephanie Zvan*

Callie Wright of The Gaytheist Manifesto released an extra edition of the podcast this week. In it, she speaks with the organizers of Mythicist Milwaukee's conference being held this weekend about their decision to invite YouTube anti-feminist (anti-Sarkeesian, Gamergater) "Sargon of Akkad" (Carl Benjamin) to speak at their conference.

It's not a friendly interview. Callie challenges them on nearly everything they have to say. In response, they say...anything, really. They brought him in as an entertainer. They want to settle the record on him. These are conversations already being had, so why not on their stage. People are bored with atheism. We don't know what's in his heart. He's not really as bad as people say. He does a bunch of dry stuff talking about political philosophy.

This seems to be the most straightforward statement of their position:

*He has a huge platform. He's wildly successful in his own right. Why not Sargon? I understand what you're saying about Twitter and all these other things, but guess what. There's been entertainers that troll each other all the time. That's just the way the world goes.*

Also known as, we don't really care what he did.

Callie did a great job pointing out false equivalencies and attempts to stray from the topic. There are a few things I want to add, though.

*I don't think we have the authority to police what happens everywhere.*

Nobody is asking them to police things that happen elsewhere. People are pointing out that history is a pretty good indication of future behavior. If you don't want harassment at your event, it makes very little sense to invite someone with a history of inciting harassment. I've run conferences. I ran one where someone's stalker showed up. We didn't say, "Oh, but he hasn't stalked you here yet." We dealt with the

problem in the way we thought would best keep the stalkee and our other attendees safe.

*What other conference has been talked about this much?*

The Amazing Meeting. TAM was talked about rather a lot for how they handled attendee safety, and their attendance declined as a result. Then it came out that organizers knew Michael Shermer had been accused of raping a volunteer at one of their conferences, and TAM died. Not all publicity is good publicity. Also, if your purpose as a conference is merely to be big, stop.

*The more you talk online, the more likely it is you're going to say something childish and foolish, something you didn't mean to.*

I've never told someone I wouldn't even rape them. That isn't a thing children say. It's a political tactic to shut down certain positions, as the organizers themselves admit later when they say they don't know the positions of the MP involved. And if someone says something that uses the threat of rape for political purposes, the vast, overwhelming majority of us would not turn around and put that person onstage.

Regarding the conference organizers being harassed, it's possible. That isn't what they're describing in the podcast, though. If you want me to believe you've been harassed, you need to not tell me inciting harassment is just like doing bad standup. You also need to accurately represent the calls to your venue saying your "entertainers" make their living inciting harassment, instead of calling them threats. Additionally, being called a "rape apologist" because you're equating inciting rape threats with comedy pieces that don't go well is not harassment.

Sargon/Carl did apologize to Laci Green at VidCon. He also rounded up a large crew of people to attend a panel Anita Sarkeesian was on. VidCon organizers issued an apology for that.

*This year, we had a contingent of attendees (some who paid, some who snuck in with fake passes) who had been either perpetrators of this harassment, or had, for years, watched as the outrage they cultivated resulted in followers doxxing, harassing,*

*intimidating, and even threatening the lives of the creators on these panels.*

*It is difficult to imagine that this group of people (who are aware that their channels have been base-camps for years of harassment of some of our panelists) did not realize that their arriving early to fill up the three front rows of a panel was going to be intimidating. In any case, it looked like intentional intimidation to most people in attendance, and the panelists were understandably on edge throughout the discussion.*

If Mythicist Milwaukee organizers are aware of the first, they should be aware of the second. They didn't mention it.

Long story short, this interview demonstrates the complete lack of a consistent rationale behind inviting Sargon/Carl beyond selling tickets. Listen to the interview if you were in any doubt.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephanie Zvan is the producer of The Humanist Hour podcast. She's also one of the hosts for the Minnesota Atheists' radio show and podcast, Atheists Talk.

## God Goes MIA in Las Vegas

*By Lee Salisbury*

The Greek philosopher Epicurus (341–270 BCE) leaves Christian theologians scrambling for explanations. Epicurus said:

“Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.  
Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.  
Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?  
Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?”

Christians desperately want to believe their God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. After all, if he doesn't measure up to these most basic standards, then he can't be much of a

God. Without these attributes, answers to prayer, eternal life, resurrection, the rapture and Jesus's 2nd coming are at best, questionable.

Yet, here we are with America's worst mass killing of innocent people in our history. The latest count from Las Vegas is 58 dead and 527 wounded. This is evil personified. If God is everything that Christians want to believe, then where was this God on that fateful Sunday night?

An omniscient God would have known in advance what the killer Mr. Paddock planned. An omnipresent God would have watched Mr. Paddock acquire semi-automatic weapons and then rented a hotel room on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel bringing some 23 guns. Certainly an omnipotent God could have stopped Mr. Paddock by giving him a flat tire on his car or a heart attack or some other sudden affliction. But no, the Christian God simply let it all happen as though it were God's will.

Certainly some brilliant theologian will figure out a way to excuse God so God does not appear to be at fault. Pat Robertson says it happened because Americans have not shown proper respect for President Trump. Wow, a deserving offence Pat! Among those 22,000 people attending, there were people sinning with lustful thoughts, fornication, adultery, ignoring the Sabbath, etc., etc., etc. Now there is some serious sin! So the massacre was really the sinners fault and God had to exercise judgment. That's the answer, blame the victims instead of this allegedly all-powerful lovingly inept God. Gee, why did God let the remaining 21,000 sinners get off?

Oops, we forgot, maybe the devil coordinated this tragedy. Really? Poor God, I almost feel sorry for Him cause that makes the devil more powerful than God. What a pathetic excuse for a God!

English philosopher John Stuart Mill (1806–1873 CE) said it best, “The time appears to me to have come when it is the duty of all to make their dissent from religion known.” In other words, which way of thinking will prevail: theological fantasy or reality?

The Las Vegas tragedy forces honest, truth-seeking Americans to join Epicurus in challenging this so-called god the bible-believing religious right would impose on Americans. He is obviously Missing In Action. We too must ask, “Why call Him God?”

## Review of September Public Meeting

### How School Vouchers Fund Religion and Harm Public Education

By *George Francis Kane*

About 50 people attended Minnesota Atheists' September 24 public meeting at the Roseville library to hear FFRF attorney Patrick Elliott discuss the danger school voucher programs pose to the separation of church and state. A St. Paul native, Elliott spoke first about the Life Skills Academy, which operated two Christian schools in Milwaukee.

The Academy advertised on its website that one of its objectives is to teach fear of the lord. They could not boast about the quality of their educational program, as in 2012 they had only one student who tested as proficient in either math or English. They were funded by Wisconsin's parental choice program, which reimburses parents for tuition to private schools with dollar-for-dollar tax credits.

The schools also received other state funding, such as for a hot lunch program, but in 2012 Wisconsin kicked them off that program for failing to meet quality requirements. They served meals such as ramen noodles with hot water and hot sauce.

In 2013, Life Skills Academy's schools closed without warning, leaving parents suddenly needing to find new schools. The owners resurfaced in Florida, where they intended to open new voucher-funded schools. Elliott wrote a letter to the Florida Department of Education, but the reply told him there was nothing they could do. Florida's law did not permit them to deny tax credits to parents who paid them tuition.

In most states, their constitutions expressly bar payments to churches or to schools that churches operate. The Supreme Court has ruled that these so-called "Blaine Amendments" do not bar tax credits, which are not expenditures from the state, but money that they do not collect — weasel words designed to violate the spirit and

intent of state constitutional law. In some cases, parents are able to take deductions on both state and local taxes, "double-dipping" and actually making a profit by sending their child to a private school.

In Milwaukee, 90% of the private schools are operated by churches and ministries, but, throughout the state, 100% of the parental choice tax credits are for tuition to religious schools. This compares to 99% in Indiana and 92% in North Carolina.

Throughout the nation, 90% of children attend public school, but the remaining 10% are overwhelmingly enrolled in religious schools. Of these, 53% are Catholic parochial schools.



Support for voucher programs comes from policy organizations with influence principally among Republicans. The American Legislative Exchange Council, has provided model voucher bills to legislators in every state. In Illinois, Republican legislators held a school funding bill hostage to get a \$75 Million voucher pilot program passed. This bill was heavily lobbied, led by the Cardinal of the Archdiocese of

Chicago.

Experience has been that the cost of voucher programs rises quickly. The biggest "winners" are existing private schools, since it is expensive and difficult to start up new schools; scholarship operators, who charge fees up to 10% for the transfer of tuitions paid to them to the schools; and currently enrolled students. Those students are already attending the schools, at no cost to taxpayers, but the tuition costs become transferred to the state.

Elliott noted that a popular argument by voucher supporters is that they get government out of people's lives by empowering the school choice decisions of parents. However, it negates the decisions of taxpayers who are not parents of children in school to decide how their taxes are spent.

A study by the Friedman Foundation of the voucher program in Indiana found that the number one reason that parents receiving vouchers

Continued on page 9



## Sept. Public Meeting continued from page 8

opted for the private school is that they want their children to receive a religious education.

President Trump's appointment of Betsy DeVos to the post of Secretary of Education is a big boost for vouchers, but the struggle against them is not hopeless. Even Republican legislators who have voted for voucher programs support public education, and many are open to reason. Elliott argues that citizen activism is important. We can

## Atheists Talk Radio & Cable Report

*By Steve Petersen*

**Atheists Talk Radio Show** Podcast can be listened to at [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org) page down to the podcast link, or live on am 950 KTNF or steam live at [am950ktnf.com](http://am950ktnf.com) Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Sponsors of the program are:



Q.Cumbers restaurant in Edina, MN and American Atheists and the members and donors of Minnesota Atheists.

“Answers From Atheists” Atheists Talk #417, August 13, 2017

“Freedom of Speech” Atheists Talk #418, August 20, 2017

“Sci-Fi that Becomes Reality” Atheists Talk #419, August 27, 2017

“Answers From Atheists” Atheists Talk #420, September 10, 2017

“Religion & Government Roundtable” Atheists Talk #421, September 17, 2017

If you are interest in the radio program please send a message to [radio@mnatheists.org](mailto:radio@mnatheists.org). Atheists Talk is on Twitter and Facebook. Thank you to all the volunteers who put the radio program together each week.

point out that after 20 years of experiment and study, there is no evidence that voucher schools improve educational outcomes. Even some conservative think-tanks oppose a federal voucher system, holding that they should be restricted to the states.

After the presentation, Patrick Elliott fielded questions from the audience.

**Atheists Talk cable program** last month had Joseph Homrich interviewed by George Kane on Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. View it online on the Minnesota Atheists iTunes or YouTube channels. If you have an idea or expertise in a subject of interest to atheists, contact Steve Petersen at [address@mnatheists.org](mailto:address@mnatheists.org).

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

**Podcasts:** Available via iTunes and YouTube which are made possible by Grant Hermanson. To date, our YouTube channel has had over 300,000 downloads.

### Cable schedule:

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 at <http://nwct.org/programming.aspx>. Sponsor: Grant Hermanson.

St. Paul: Ch. 15 Wednesday 5:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Jim Wright.



## Get Famous (Sort of)

You too can become published by simply submitting something to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter. Have a blog? Let us reprint it. Have an opinion? Let us hear it. Enjoyed a gathering or event? Tell us about it.

Specifically for the November issue, we're interested in Halloween and Thanksgiving pieces. Here are some ideas (but feel free to surprise us):

- How do you deal with religious family at Thanksgiving?
- Tell us your favorite atheist-related Thanksgiving story.
- Show us your atheism-related halloween costume.

Just send you input to editor@mnatheists.org and we'll do the rest.



### The Minnesota Contingency

From left to right: Steve Petersen, Brent Michael Davids, Suellen Carroll, TBD, George Francis Kane, TBD, Suzanne Perry, (TBD, face obscured by Suzanne Perry's head), Nancy Ruhland, Shirley Moll, TBD, Dick Seegers and Steve Adams.

## Cryptogram Answer

It is possible to pay another man's debts on his behalf, but it is not possible to make a guilty man innocent by suffering in his place.

Carl Lofmark, *What is the Bible?*

## Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

### Membership Levels

- 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

### Donation Funds

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.

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(Required for student memberships and email subscriptions)

**FFRF 40th Convention** continued from page 2

A panel of staff attorneys reported on legal activities in the last year, which included many successes, most of which were won without ever having to go to court. Included in these was the removal of a statue of a soldier kneeling at a cross in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

Freethinker of the Year awards were presented to Jerry Bloom, who won a suit in Shelton, Connecticut against censorship of the FFRF's winter solstice display; Jesse Castillo, the plaintiff in a suit in Brewster County, Texas, that got Christian cross decals removed from police vehicles; and Marie Schaub, the plaintiff in a successful FFRF suit against a Pennsylvania school district to remove a Ten Commandments monument from her daughter's school.

The afternoon program featured presentations by black feminist, atheist and social jus-

tice activist Kimberley Veal; Minnesotan native-American composer Brent Michael Davids; author and columnist Michelle Goldberg; and Evolutionary Psychology icon Steven Pinker, newly named an honorary president of FFRF. Pinker spoke about his new book, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress*.

After dinner, the program concluded with the droll musical stylings of Roy Zimmerman and comedy by Julia Sweeney.

Videos of many of the conference presentations are available online from <https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/30335-videos-up-for-irreverent-ffrf-convention>. The 2018 conference will be November 2–4 in San Francisco.

## Upcoming Events

**Walk to End Hunger Thursday**, November 23 at 7:30 a.m., Mall of America, 8100 24th Ave S, Bloomington. Registration is \$25 which goes directly toward our team's fundraising goal for The Food Group.

**Atheists Talk Community Brunch** 1st Sunday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Q. Cumbers, 7465 France Ave S, Edina.

**Atheist/Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous** Every Sunday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 7:00–8:00 p.m., Health Recovery Center building, lower floor, 3249 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis. Based on A.A., minus beliefs in any form of a God.

**Freethought Toastmasters Meeting** 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 6:30–8:00 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul. [freethought.toastmastersclubs.org](http://freethought.toastmastersclubs.org)

**Godless Gamers** Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Rd B2, Roseville.

**Freethought Dinner Social** 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 5:00–7:00 p.m., Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington.

**Freethinking Females** 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., Claddagh Irish Pub, 7890 Main St N, Maple Grove, and 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., Sweeney's Saloon, 96 North Dale Street, St. Paul (Note, two different locations). Shattering the myth that Atheist groups are male dominated with a female's only event.

**Volunteer Food Packing** 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m., The Food Group, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope.

**Blasphemer's Brunch** 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield.

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

**Bowling for Deities** Last Saturday of every month at noon, Memory Lanes, 2520 26th Ave S, Minneapolis.

For more events, visit [www.meetup.com/minnesota-atheists](http://www.meetup.com/minnesota-atheists)



## 12 The Minnesota Atheist

Minnesota Atheists

### Positive Atheism in action 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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#### 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.

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

#### Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 218  
Life members: 43  
Meetup members: 2,400

#### 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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