

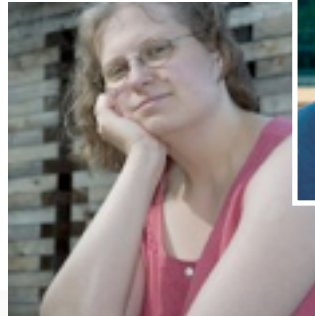
# The Minnesota Atheist

## A Date with the Authors...

Minnesota Atheists' monthly meetings will begin again starting on Sunday, 16 September. Bill Lehto, lead editor for the new Freethought House publication *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*, will be there to discuss the conception, selection process, design, and purpose of the book. Sixteen contributors, including PZ Myers, Stephanie Zvan, August Berkshire, Ryan Benson, Elizabeth Stiras, Robin Raianiemi, Michelle Huber, and others, will speak about their contributions to the book. The bulk of the time will be dedicated to authors reading portions of their essays. Lehto and other editors and authors will answer audience questions. Other contributors, though not reading, will be present to talk about their pieces after the meeting and to sign copies. *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit Minnesota Atheists, with the majority of the funds going to support the radio fund. See page four of this newsletter for more information about the book, including availability and other promotional events.

Afterward, we will venture to Q. Cumbers Restaurant for dinner.

Please join us on Sunday, September 16th to support our meetings and *Atheist Voices*!



## If You Go...

**When:**

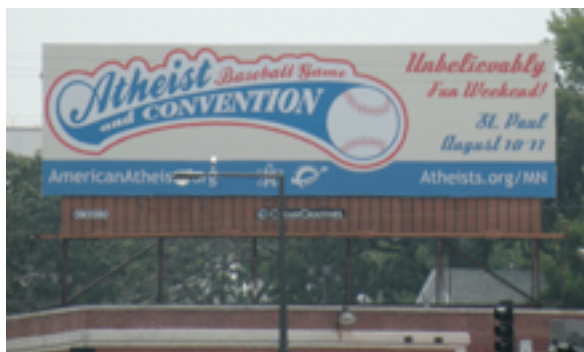
Sunday, September 16, 2012

**Where:**

Southdale Library  
7001 York Avenue South  
Edina, 55435

**Schedule:**

- 1:00-1:15 Social Time
- 1:15-1:45 Business Meeting
- 1:45-2:00 Break
- 2:00-3:30 *Atheist Voices* Presentation
- 4:00- Dinner



INSIDE:

- Many thanks to many people.....see page 3
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 editor@mnatheists.org. Submissions  
 may be edited. Publication is not  
 guaranteed.

**Minnesota Atheists  
 practices positive,  
 inclusive, active, friendly  
 neighborhood atheism in  
 order to:**

- Provide a community for  
 atheists;
- Educate the public about  
 atheism; and
- Promote separation of state  
 and church.

MNA Meetup members: 1,251

Life memberships: 30

**Honorary Members**

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

**Minnesota Atheists Mission Statement**

Minnesota Atheists is dedicated to building a positive atheist community that actively promotes secular values through educational programs, social activities, and participation in public affairs.

## Mr. Paul Aints and Regional Atheist Conference Thank You

It takes many people to pull off two successful back-to-back events like we did. Minnesota Atheists would like to thank the following people for their help with our Mr. Paul Aints baseball game and Regional Atheist Conference. So, thank you to...

Eric Jayne for being the main organizer of the Aints game, the Aints tailgate party, the Aints jerseys, and the post-conference pub crawl. Also for help with the conference, especially choosing the hotel and meals.

August Berkshire for being the main organizer for the conference, including selecting and inviting the speakers, creating most of the promotional material, and for transporting speakers and American Atheists personnel to and from the airport. Also, for help with the Aints game, especially for coming up with the name "Mr. Paul Aints."

St. Paul Saints management for reaching out to Minnesota Atheists and for not backing down in the face of withering criticism. Also for coming up with the catch phrase "A Night of Unbelievable Fun."

Steve Petersen, Shirley Moll, George Kane, Grant Hermanson, Heather Hegi, and August Berkshire for working intense hours on a massive promotional mailing.

Eric Jayne, August Berkshire, and Brianne Bilyeu for the *Atheists Talk* radio show promoting the Aints game and Stephanie Zvan for interviewing Jessica Ahlquist the day after the conference.

Chris Matthews for setting up on-line sales for custom Aints jerseys.

Rick Rohrer for paying for the tailgating space outside the stadium. Everyone who brought food, drinks, and cooking supplies for the Aints tailgate party, especially Eric Jayne and Bill Lehto.

Everyone who handed out fans and literature at the gate, especially Caroline Brunner, Josh Brouse, Bill Lehto, Eric Jayne, August Berkshire, and Ayanna Watson.

Caroline Brunner for researching giveaway items for the Aints game and for printing programs and greeting people at the conference.

Steve Petersen and Shirley Moll for transporting speakers to and from the airport and for taking

Robert Price to his favorite Minnesota restaurant: Famous Dave's.

Rhonda LeSage for bringing conference speakers to the Aints game.

The Doubletree Hotel for working well with us on the conference, including extending the sleeping room deadline, taking food orders up to the last minute, adding tables at the last minute, and checking with us frequently on the day of the conference to make sure everything was to our satisfaction.

Eric Jayne, Heather Hegi, and August Berkshire for giving the Minnesota Atheists welcome at the conference.

Eric Jayne for emceeding the conference and Sarah Maddox, Brianne Bilyeu, Stephanie Zvan, Scott Lohman, and August Berkshire for introducing the speakers.

Rachel Wilson for selling over \$750 of books and t-shirts. Bill Lehto for providing copies of *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*.

Richard Trombley for taking photos of the Aints game and conference for our newsletter and websites. James Zimmerman for being our newsletter editor and compiling and presenting an overview of these events. Grant Hermanson for video recording the conference speakers.

American Atheists for cosponsoring the Aints Game with us, for being the national sponsor of the conference, and for putting up a billboard at University Ave. and Fairview Ave. in St. Paul (see image on cover).

American Atheists staff members Dave Silverman, Amanda Knief, Teresa MacBain, A.J. Johnson, and especially Stuart Bechman, who was our main liaison.

The speakers, who gave generously of their time and talents: Dave Silverman, Hector Avalos, Jessica Ahlquist, Ayanna Watson, Robert Price, Teresa MacBain, PZ Myers, and J. Anderson Thomson.

And finally, and most importantly, everyone who attended the baseball game and conference!

**Now Available!**

## Atheist Voices of Minnesota

An Anthology of Personal Stories

“As much as we can, whenever we can, we have to tell our stories. Exactly as the writers in this book have done.” —Greta Christina, from the Foreword

“The voices are as varied as the speakers in this intriguing exploration of atheism.” —Lavender Magazine

After much hard work by dozens of people, *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* is now available. With contributions from 36 Minnesotans, and a Foreword by Greta Christina, this unique book allows a cross section of ordinary atheists to tell their personal stories about how their lives and atheism connect. The results are touching and fascinating, with a diversity of topics covered: the difficulty of coming out as an atheist; dealing with grief as an atheist; leaving one’s faith of origin; raising children as an atheist; conquering alcoholism as an atheist; being in a Christian youth group and faking it; being an interfaith atheist; being a vegan atheist; fighting for separation of church and state ... to name a handful of the topics.



**All net proceeds from the sale of this book support Minnesota Atheists.** This charitable book is the result of a collaborative effort by nearly 50 people, all atheists. Not only did the authors donate their essays, but the editors, proofreaders, and designers all donated their time as well. Even the cover art was donated by local artist Lynn Fellman. This project has two primary goals: to help foster a true and positive view of atheists, and to financially benefit Minnesota Atheists, a nonprofit organization. Buying this book for yourself or for friends or family (atheist or religious), or asking others to buy it, all support these goals. So does “liking” *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* on Facebook, sharing emails and links about the book, tweeting about it, suggesting it for a book group, requesting it at your library, and special ordering a copy from your local bookstore. So does buying a limited edition print of the cover artwork, signed by Lynn Fellman, available through the Minnesota Atheists online store. We hope you all do what you can to support and promote this important book.

“These are the kind of stories that explain who we are, and build up our own collective mythos, one based in reality. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first book that does that. It shouldn’t be the last.” —contributor Stephanie Zvan, from her blog *Almost Diamonds*

“A chorus not of arguments and positions but of shared human lives. ... At turns smart, funny, and deeply touching” —Dale McGowan, co-author of *Parenting Beyond Belief*

It is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and other booksellers, and directly through Minnesota Atheists’ online store. It’s also available as an eBook for Kindle and Nook. Several author events are lined up, including:

- \* Sep 16 at Southdale Library in Edina: The Minnesota Atheist public lecture, from 2:00 – 3:30pm, will be devoted to author readings.
- \* Oct 10 at Barnes & Noble in the HarMar Mall in Roseville: A panel of authors will read from and discuss *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* starting at 7:00pm.
- \* Oct 14 at Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bloomington: Several authors will read from *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* starting at 10:30am.
- \* Oct 24 at Mayday Books in Minneapolis: Several authors will discuss “Atheism and Activism” at 7:00pm.

## News and Notes

The Romney campaign insists that the 2012 presidential election will be a referendum on Obama's handling of the economy, but the religious right is not sitting it out. In the first post-Citizen's United presidential campaign, its political organizations are planning campaign spending that will dwarf their efforts in every previous election.

The Faith and Freedom Coalition, led by Ralph Reed, the first Executive Director of the Christian Coalition, has budgeted \$10 million for a major 2012 election push to turn out the religious right. This coalition boasts 500,000 members, and chapters in 30 states. In August it mailed out four million voter registration cards to new evangelical and Catholic voters.

Another conservative Christian political action organization, Concerned Women for America, has already spent \$6 million on campaign ads. Yet another, Let Freedom Ring, claims as members 2000 pastors who are working on voter registration. Let Freedom Ring is encouraging these pastors to be more bold and aggressive to lead their flocks into the Republican voting bloc. They, too, are planning to run millions of dollars in campaign ads.

American Crossroads was created by George W. Bush's political strategist, Karl Rove. It is coordinating other religious right organizations to develop strategy, and it is proving to be a champion fund-raiser. Rove claims that the organizations in this syndicate will together raise \$1 billion for the campaign.

Evangelical voters, who historically made up as much as 25 percent of the overall electorate, can be especially important in determining the presidential vote in swing states like Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. During the primary campaign, evangelicals were cool to Romney as they do not consider Mormons to be Christians. Ironically, Obama is the only Protestant on either major party national ticket, as both Biden and Ryan are Catholics. That has made no impression on evangelicals, however, as the polls show that most of them think that Obama is a Muslim.

If Obama had any hope that he could attract some evangelical voters with his talk of the importance of religion in his life and family, he surely realized he had lost any chance when he announced that he had "evolved" to support marriage equality for same-sex couples. That remains a culture-wars issue on which evangelicals are united in opposition.



George Kane

But surely Obama's campaign strategists knew that evangelicals would never hear him out, no matter what he said or did. You might think that some of them would at least like the Affordable Care Act, the principal domestic policy accomplishment of the Obama Administration. After all, Christians need health insurance as much as anyone else. But Richard Land, the president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, an arm of the 16 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, said evangelicals "want to bury Obamacare in a lead coffin with a stake through its heart and cover its grave with garlic." Why? He explains that it is, "a codification and personification (sic) of pro-abortion policies."

Of course, the program in fact provides no government funding for abortions. Today, when most workers and their families are covered by employer-provided policies, a large majority of those policies provide abortion coverage. But, despite elaborate safeguards to enforce segregation of funds to ensure that abortion coverage must be paid for entirely by the employer and the insured, Republicans cannot be satisfied. They insist that any government payments at all to insurance companies that provide abortion coverage amounts to paying for abortions with tax dollars. And, of course, this is red meat for the evangelicals. The only national health care plan that would be acceptable, on this count, is one that would legally prohibit all insurance policies to provide any coverage for abortions.

Minnesota Atheists does not advocate any health care program, as it is not an issue of separation of church and state. Neither do we endorse any candidate for elective office. We do urge members to read our public policy positions at <http://minnesotaatheists.org/information/public-policy-positions>, and invite them to support candidates who take congruent positions on these issues.

## Highway Cleanup and Lunch (or Dinner)

*by Steve Petersen*

Our long tradition of helping beautify our highways and getting some atheist recognition (via a road sign informing motorists that this stretch of highway is maintained by Minnesota Atheists) continues.

On Sunday, September 23, Minnesota Atheists will be performing its Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. The work goes from 10:00 am to about noon, on Highway 10 in Rice, MN, but we'll meet at The Old Creamery Cafe, 405 Main St., Rice, MN 56367 (west of the stoplight on Hwy. 10).

Arrive at 9:45am beforehand and stay for lunch afterwards. Gloves and sturdy footwear are recommended. If you're too busy to join in with the cleanup, feel free to join us for lunch only.

Go to Minnesota Atheists Meet Up page to coordinate car pools from the Twin Cities. Contact: Deb Doucette at 320-749-2025 or Steve Petersen at [spetersen175@gmail.com](mailto:spetersen175@gmail.com) for more details.

Hope to see you there!

### Join the Minnesota Atheists Board of Directors!

There is an interim opening as Secretary:

- Duration will be from October-March with the opportunity to seek re-election
- Must be able to attend monthly board meetings held the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm
- Must currently be a member in good standing for at least one year prior
- Responsibilities consist of writing up the minutes of the board meeting and other secretarial duties

Those interested, please contact Heather Hegi at [chair@mnatheists.org](mailto:chair@mnatheists.org) or any other board member. We need nominations in by October 16th so we may seek approval from members at the October public meeting.

Congrats to our current Secretary Rick Rohrer for the new assignment within his company. We wish you the best during your extended assignment in Atlanta!

FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

Tko, Wgkdmrw OFMJJ gwbwqko fe dkwrc Gwdo, pkolmfk cwjh fck rexbfdt

ldklwdmbq fe kjkrf w gwb vce nkjmksko ck'jj qkf w ljwbkf vckb ck pmko.

*-Dmrcwdp Pwvzmgo, dkhkddmbq fe fck oxrrkoohxj jwbpmby eh fck Gwdo*

*deskd wbp fck whfkadjmhc nkjmkho eh Gedgeb ldkompkbfmwj rwbpmwfk*

*Gmff Degbkt.*

*(Answer on page 10.)*

## Minnesota Atheists Hit a Home Run!

After months and months of planning, the Minnesota Atheists successfully pulled out a big win for atheist outreach by sponsoring a professional baseball game in St. Paul.

The St. Paul Saints—one of 13 teams in the league of American Association of Independent Baseball—became the Mr. Paul Aints on Friday, 10 August. Every player on the team wore specially designed jerseys that closely resembled their usual jerseys except for the slight adjustment in the logo. Instead of “St. Paul” the jerseys read “Mr. Paul” and instead of “Saints” the special jerseys read “Aints” spelled with the atheist scarlet “A” but in team color blue.

While most professional sports teams would probably not allow an evening of atheist celebration, the St. Paul Saints have a history of being cleverly bold. Some recent notable promotions include the Michael Vick dog chew toy giveaway and the Al Franken/Norm Coleman two-faced, rotating head “Count von-Count” vampire doll in 2008. My personal favorite was the Larry Craig bathroom stall, bobble foot doll they handed out after the former senator was arrested at a MSP airport bathroom for soliciting sex with a foot tap in a neighboring stall.

Billed by the St. Paul Saints as a “Night of Unbelievable Fun,” American Atheists president Dave Silverman started it off by tossing the first ceremonial pitch of the game. The evening featured several entertaining acts in between innings including a three-legged race with three teams. Each team had two people with one leg tied to their partner’s leg. One of the teams included a pair of agnostics who didn’t move from the starting line since they were visibly distraught about making a decision as to which way they should go.

Another moment of in between game entertainment came when three unbelievable characters ran around the field chasing each other. The characters were a demon, a Sasquatch, and the Loch Ness Monster.

Unfortunately, there wasn’t a lot of action during the game itself as it ended with a 2-0 loss against the Amarillo Sox. But right after the game

—and before the evening’s fireworks—fans were treated to the 1991 pop song “Unbelievable.” It was incorporated into the Saints’ recurring act, *Karaoke by a Real Japanese Guy*, where a real Japanese guy performed the apropos song karaoke-style.

It’s hard to know for sure how many atheists were among the 6,157 in attendance, but we sold over 250 tickets for our designated section in left field. Approximately 100 people came to our pre-game tailgating party for hot dogs and beverages. Those who saved their appetite for concessions inside the stadium had the unique opportunity to eat spaghetti. That’s right! As a way to recognize the Flying Spaghetti Monster the Mr. Paul Aints provided a special spaghetti stand for our game night only.

The spaghetti stand was conveniently placed across from our information and resource table near the one and only gate into Midway Stadium. We had three volunteers host the table and two more volunteers distributing hand fans to the first 1,000 people to walk through the gate. The hand fans featured the American Atheists logo and the Minnesota Atheists logo with the message: “Become a fan of American Atheists and Minnesota Atheists” followed by each of our websites.

Despite the decree of the Fox and Friends hosts on Fox News to pray that our game gets rained out we were treated with the most ideal late summer weather imaginable: Mostly clear, sunny sky with a gentle breeze, low humidity, and 80 degrees.

Stay tuned to see if we’ll hold another weekend of unbelievable fun next year!



by Eric Jayne

## ***Atheists Talk: June - August Radio Report***

Minnesota Atheists is the producer and the director is Carl Hancock with producers and hosts Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyue, Scott Lohman, Greg Laden, and Stephanie Zvan. Both Stephanie and Brianne upload the podcasts to the web site. The radio program is live every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 at KTNF studios in Eden Prairie, MN. Live streaming can be done through our web page [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org). Original music was composed, played, and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. The six month cost is \$5,320.00. Each donation to support the program is greatly appreciated. To donate just send in a donation to our POB or online at <http://minnesotatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund>. All past programs can be accessed via MNA web page <http://minnesotatheists.org/news-and-media/podcast>. If you are interested in helping on the radio program please send a note to [radio@mnatheists.org](mailto:radio@mnatheists.org)

### **Atheists Talk #174: Ethics, Science or Religion? June 24th, 2012**

Dr. Grant Steves addressed the questions: What is the right thing to do? How has evolution influenced our ethical behavior? Has religion influenced our behavior? Are our values defined by our culture or our biology? As emotions develop, how do they help form our ethics? Interviewer: Scott Lohman. Host: Brianne Bilyue.

### **Atheists Talk #175: African Americans for Humanism, July 8th, 2012**

Debbie Goddard is the director of AAH (African Americans for Humanism). Debbie joined us live in the studio to talk about AAH's mission, what is has accomplished (including those wonderful billboards), and where it is going from here. Interviewer and Host: Stephanie Zvan

### **Atheists Talk #176: Secular Woman, Kim Rippere, July 15th, 2012**

Kim Rippere, the president of Secular Woman, joined us this Sunday to discuss the vision, mission, goals, and values of her organization. Interviewer: Scott

by Steve Petersen

Lohman. Host: Brianne Bilyue.

### **Atheists Talk #177: Atheism and the Case Against Christ, July 22nd, 2012**

In his forthcoming book, philosopher Matthew McCormick lays out the case for atheism along multiple lines of argument. McCormick talked with us today about his arguments and his book. Interviewer: Carl Hancock Host: Stephanie Zvan.

### **Atheists Talk #178: A Night of Unbelievable Fun and the AA Regional Conference, July 29th, 2012**

Eric Jayne and August Berkshire joined us in the studio today to talk about the 2012 Regional Atheist Conference and St. Paul Saints "Aints" game. Host: Brianne Bilyue.

### **Atheists Talk #179: Why Is the Penis Shaped Like That? August 5th, 2012**

Researcher and science writer Jesse Bering delights in being provocative. In *Why Is the Penis Shaped Like That?*, Bering left no topic unturned or curiosity unexamined, and he did it all with an audaciously original voice. Interviewer: Carl Hancock. Host: Mike Haubrich.

### **Atheists Talk #180: Jessica Ahlquist, August 12th, 2012**

Rhode Island is the birthplace of American religious freedom and the wall of separation between church and state. Sometime between its founding and 2010, however, Rhode Island seems to have forgotten this proud part of its history. That was when a student, Jessica Ahlquist, noticed a banner at Cranston High School West that included a prayer. She challenged the legality of the banner under the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Jessica

*Radio Report continued on page 9.*



*Right: Radio show producers, Atheist Voices contributors, and assorted family members pose for a photo following the August 26th episode. Photo by Steve Petersen.*





# July - August Treasury Report

*Compiled by Chris Matthews*

**Radio Fund**

August Berkshire	\$380
Richard H Dean	\$300
Mark Nelson	\$200
Dorothy Rae French	\$165
Thomas R Dooley	\$100
Erik Englebretson	\$100
George Francis Kane	\$100
Rachel J Wilson	\$100
Shirley Moll	\$80
Arthur F Searcy	\$75
Donald Theis	\$75
Kurtis Rader	\$50
Nancy Ruhland	\$50
James Wright	\$50
Michelle Tjernagel	\$36
Laila Schirmeister	\$35
Rhonda LeSage	\$30
James P Barri	\$25
Susan Christiansen	\$25
Francis L Leckie	\$25
Bill Lehto	\$25
Michael Stiegler	\$25
Scott Talbot	\$25
Justine M Hartz	\$23
Richard P Ellingsen	\$20
Mark Paquette	\$20
Mike Spalding	\$20
Sarah Gerold	\$18
Herbert Davis	\$10
Ken Marsh	\$10
cash donations	\$75
<b>Total Radio Fund</b>	<b>\$2,272</b>

**General/Visibility Fund**

Dale Howey	\$20
------------	------

Meghan Kosowski	\$20
Douglas D Stewart	\$10
Joel R Rudin	\$10
cash donations	\$60
Total General/ Visibility Fund	<b>\$120</b>

**"River of Reason" limited edition  
print fundraiser**

Justin Chase	\$100
Greg Laden	\$100
Bill Lehto	\$100
Christopher Matthews	\$100
Total "River of Reason" Fundraiser	<b>\$400</b>

**Total Income: \$2,792**

**Current Building Fund Total**

**\$130,489**

**Radio Show Fundraising Goal \$8,215**

(for 2012)	
Amount Raised(through Aug 25, 2012)	\$4,951
Amount Raised / Goal (through 65% of 2012)	60%
Amount Remaining to Reach Goal:	\$3,264

**Top Expenses for July/August**

Radio Show	\$1,845
Newsletter Printing	\$1,404
Printing, non-Newsletter	\$1,264
Internet Expense	\$705
Storage	\$456
Postage, non-Newsletter	\$441

## ***Atheists Talk: June - August Radio Report (continued)***

joined us to talk about her court case and about how life has been since it was won. Interviewer and Host: Stephanie Zvan.

**Atheists Talk #181: Nonbeliever Nation, August 19th, 2012**

David Niose joined us to discuss his new book, *Nonbeliever Nation: The Rise of Secular Americans*. Interviewer: Carl Hancock with Host: Brianne Bilyue.

**Atheists Talk #182: Atheist Voices of Minnesota, August 26th, 2012**

Nine of the contributors to *Atheist Voices of Minnesota* gathered in the studio to talk about their contributions; Bill Lehto, George Kane, Jill Carlson, Ryan Bolin, Stephanie Zvan, Eric Jayne, James Zimmerman, Michelle Huber, and Kim Socha.

Interviewer: George Kane. Host: Stephanie Zvan.

# July Atheists Talk Television Show Report

*by Steve Petersen.*

Our two new programs were titled "Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Minnesota Chapter." George Kane was the interviewer for both halves of the program. In Part One, Americans United Minnesota Chapter Board Members David Pacheco and Jon Eisenberg were interviewed. Part Two featured a discussion with Jon Eisenberg and Matthew Stark.



If you have an interest in being on a program or would like to sponsor the program on your local cable access station please contact Steve Petersen at 651-484-9277 or [spetersen175@comcast.net](mailto:spetersen175@comcast.net).

All episodes can be viewed on the following cable stations, via iTunes, or Youtube, thanks to Grant Hermanson.

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

**Podcasts:** MinnesotaAtheists.org. Available via Itunes. Made possible by Grant Hermanson.

**Television Schedule:**

**Burnsville/Eagan Community Television:**

Channel 14. Check their web site [www.bect.tv](http://www.bect.tv) for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty

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

**Minneapolis:** Channel 17. Saturday 8:30 p.m. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

**Rochester:** Channel 10. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Salutz.

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

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

**Stillwater:** Channel 16. Tuesday 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Sponsor: Lee Salisbury.

**White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights:** Channel 15. Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.

## Atheists Doing Good Without Gods at Local Food Bank

by Eric Jayne

On August 2nd, eleven atheists gathered at the Emergency Food Network (EFN) food bank in New Hope to pack food for distribution. In two hours we packed 4,387 pounds of food, and portioned bulk bags of rice into 66 smaller bags for distribution. Thank you to our volunteers!



### CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

Yes, America STILL manages to reach Mars, despite half the country preparing to elect a man who believes he'll get a planet when he dies.  
*-Richard Dawkins, referring to the successful landing of the Mars rover and the afterlife beliefs of Mormon presidential candidate Mitt Romney.*



www.mnatheists.org

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

CHECK THE WAYS YOU WANT TO HELP ATHEISM GROW

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

JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

\$600 - Life Membership

General Expense/Outreach Fund

Building Fund

Radio Program

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

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

Name: Phone:

Address:

Things to Do, Places to Go: A Calendar for Atheists

In addition to these regularly scheduled events, there are many more events every month. Please subscribe to Atheist Weekly e-mail on our web site, mnatheists.org, and join our Meetup group.

Sundays, 9:00am-10:00am Atheists Talk Radio. AM 950 KTNF in the Twin Cities or stream live at http://www.am950ktnf.com. Contact us during the show with questions or comments at (952) 946-6205 or radio@mnatheists.org.

Sundays, 6:00pm-7:00pm Atheist/Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous. Men's Center, 3249 Hennepin Avenue South Suite # 55, Minneapolis Meet in the basement. Open to all genders.

2nd Sundays, 1:00pm Minnesota Atheists Little Canada Book Club, Caribou Coffee 3354 Rice St, Little Canada, MN 55126

3rd Sundays, September through May, 1:00pm-4:00pm. Minnesota Atheists Public Meeting. Various libraries. Business meeting, educational program and dinner afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

5th Sundays, 5:00pm (July, September, December). Flying Spaghetti Monster Dinner. Old Spaghetti Factory, 233 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Get together for drinks and pasta.

1st & 3rd Mondays 6:00pm Freethought Toastmasters. Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Ave. W, St. Paul 55113. George Kane, dir2@mnatheists.org.

2nd and 4th Mondays, 5:00pm-7:00pm Freethought Dinner Social. Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, MN. For more information call Bob or Marilyn Neinkerk at 612-866-6200.

1st Tuesdays, 11:30am-1:00pm Freethought Lunch. Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Fairview and Snelling. Bob or Marilyn Nienkirk at 612-866-6200.

4th Tuesdays, 7:00pm Maple Grove Book Club. Byerly's Meeting Room - 12880 Elm Creek Blvd N Maple Grove, MN 55369

Every other Tuesday, 7:00pm Secular Bible Study. Various locations. See the Meetup page http://www.meetup.com/Secular-Bible-Study/.

1st Wednesdays, 7:00pm Minnesota Atheists Burnsville Book Club. Davanni's, 14639 County Road 11, Burnsville MN 55337. Meet in the Party Room.

3rd Wednesdays, 11:30am-2pm Lunch at Dragon House Restaurant. Dragon House Restaurant 3970 Central Avenue Columbia Heights. Private room reserved. Bill Volna 612-781-1420

3rd Wednesdays, 6:30pm Minnesota Atheists Monthly Board Meeting. Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Avenue, St. Paul, 55113. Open to all members. George Kane, dir2@mnatheists.org.

1st Thursdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm Atheists Talk television show. MTN Studio A, 125 SE Main Street, Minneapolis. Steve Petersen at 651-484-9277.

To sign up for the Atheists' Weekly Email (AWE), send a request to awe@mnatheists.org.

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



## Summer Picnic



Above: On August 18th, Minnesota Atheists enjoyed the last Freethinkers' Picnic of the summer (above). *Photo courtesy of Richard Trombley.*

“If Jesus had been killed 20 years ago, Catholic school children would be wearing little Electric Chairs around their necks instead of crosses.”

-Lenny Bruce

**Check us out on the radio!  
AM 950 KTFN**