

The Minnesota Atheist

How the 2012 Election Affects State-Church

Considerable attention in the press has been focused on the constitutional amendment referendum to forbid the state to recognize same-sex marriages. This is the ballot measure with which we at Minnesota Atheists are most concerned, because the only serious reason in support of



the amendment is ancient bigotry based on religion. Additionally, there are candidates who have stated their intention to use the government to benefit religion and serve God. Minnesota is not unique – there are issues like this all over the country. Referendums prohibiting the recognition of same-sex marriage will also be on the ballot in Maryland, Maine, and Washington State. In Florida there will be a referendum to amend the state constitution to permit the government to pay revenues from the public treasury directly to churches.

When our November public meeting is held, the elections will be all decided. David Pacheco will review the results that are important from the standpoint of our political concern, the separation of church and state.

David Pacheco is a member of the board of directors of the newly formed Minnesota chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

If You Go...

When
Sunday, November 18, 2012

Where
Ridgedale Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive
Minnetonka 55305

Schedule
1:00-1:15 Social Time
1:15-1:45 Business Meeting
1:45-2:00 Break
2:00-3:30 Pacheco Presentation
4:00- Dinner at Wanderer's Garden



INSIDE:

- An Unbelievable Year.....see page 3
- Pew Review.....see page 4
- News and Notes.....see page 5
- *Atheist Talk* TV show report.....see page 10

IN THIS ISSUE...

November Meeting 1
 Assoc. President's Column 3
 October Meeting Review 4
 Pew Review 4
 News and Notes 5
 Freethought Cryptogram 7
 October Radio Report 8
 Treasury Report 9
 Print Fundraiser 9
 October TV Show Report 10
 Things To Do.... 11

**MINNESOTA ATHEISTS
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

board@mnatheists.org

President: August Berkshire
 pres@mnatheists.org
 612-338-4548

Associate President: Eric Jayne
 apres@mnatheists.org

Chair: Heather Hegi
 chair@mnatheists.org

Associate Chair: Robin Raianiemi
 achair@mnatheists.org
 612-872-0574

Treasurer: Chris Matthews
 treas@mnatheists.org
 763-476-3989

Secretary: Jill Carlson
 sec@mnatheists.org

Director-at-Large: Caroline
 Brunner, dir1@mnatheists.org

Director-at-Large: George Kane
 dir2@mnatheists.org
 651-488-8225

Director-at-Large: Steve
 Petersen, dir3@mnatheists.org
 651-484-9277

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Published by Minnesota Atheists,
 P.O. Box 120304
 New Brighton, MN 55112
 612-588-7031, info@mnatheists.org
 www.MinnesotaAtheists.org

Editorial Board, editor@mnatheists.org

James Zimmerman, editor
 zgoatee@gmail.com

Chief Photographer: Richard Trombley

Membership/change of address: Steve
 Petersen, address@mnatheists.org,
 651-484-9277

Public Relations: Emily Matejcek,
 pr@mnatheists.org

Atheists Weekly Email (AWE): George
 Kane, awe@mnatheists.com

Cable: Steve Petersen,
 cable@mnatheists.org, 651-484-9277

Webmaster: Grant Hermanson
 web@mnatheists.org

Podcasts: Grant Hermanson,
 podcast@mnatheists.org

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 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: 1,279

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.

Associate President's Column

2012: An Unbelievably Positive Year for Minnesota Atheists



Eric Jayne

Minnesota Atheists had an incredible (some might say “unbelievable”) year in 2012. Thanks to great leadership and enthusiasm from our board and general members we were able to take on new and significant projects that helped to promote our brand of *Positive Atheism in Action*. I’d like to take a moment to celebrate some of our accomplishments.

In some ways it feels like it’s been several years ago, but it was only this past January that we erected our first ever billboard campaign. After receiving design feedback and financial assistance from American Atheists and our own members, we were able to put up two billboards—one in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul.

Not only did the billboards attract the attention of local media (print, online, radio, and TV), they also caught the eye of some of the St. Paul Saints front office management team; more on that in a moment.

In April, Minnesota Atheists revealed the new t-shirt design that proclaimed *Minnesota Atheists Supports Marriage Equality*. The lavender shirts sold at an unprecedented pace and they were proudly donned by several members and donors who participated at the *Day of Reason* inside the state capitol on May 3.

The following month, roughly 50 people marched with Minnesota Atheists in the Twin Cities Pride Fest parade. Congressman Keith Ellison and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak both had their picture taken with our group. And, as with the Day of Reason, most of our marchers wore the Marriage Equality lavender t-shirts.

Then in July a media storm landed on the Minnesota Atheists for the upcoming *Mr. Paul*

Aints game. After months of planning, the news percolated through the internet, and then in mid-July the story became the focus of conversation on local radio morning shows, columns in the area’s two biggest newspapers, other big newspapers in places like Philadelphia, San Francisco, New York, and *USA Today*. Our Aints game even made it onto the morning *Fox & Friends* show on Fox News and international spots like *The Guardian* and Montreal’s biggest newspaper, *La Presse*.

August was undoubtedly the busiest time for Minnesota Atheists. And, as previously mentioned, the billboard campaign back in January is what triggered two of the three big godless events for us: The Aints game and the regional conference. Any night where PZ Myers, Teresa MacBain, Ayanna Watson, and more than 250 other atheists watch Dave Silverman lob a baseball to a professional baseball catcher in front of more than 6,000 other spectators is a night to remember.

Even though the Aints lost 2-0 (as if most of us were *that* into the game), attendees enjoyed a fun tailgating pre-game party, beautiful and sunny summer weather, group camaraderie, a proud sense of community, and several laughs while watching our team play in atheist-inspired specialized jerseys that matched clever wit with public outreach. The sport of baseball aside, it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase atheism and our community in a popular and mainstream venue.

Associate President's Column continued on page 7.

October Meeting Review

Do we live in a “just world” where good behaviors are rewarded and where punishment is meted out to those who harm others? Is there some cosmic balance that ensures fairness, either in this life or, as some believe, in a future life?

Not according to Stephanie Zvan, popular Minnesota Atheists radio host and speaker at our October membership meeting held at North Regional Library in Minneapolis on October 21.

Zvan’s presentation, “Justice in a Just World,” began by answering the above questions. Although our culture teaches that “what goes around, comes around,” Zvan explained that we have no reason to assume that justice will prevail without a rational effort toward that end..

In fact, according to Zvan, if we want to see justice done, we need to make it happen rather than assume that gods or karma will see to it. She outlined several ways in which our society

unfairly blames victims and turns a blind eye to justice due to wrongheaded belief in a just world. She also discussed several techniques for achieving justice such as prevention of injustice, rewarding rationality, and raising the cost of irrational activities.

Our objective, Zvan stated, should be to work toward creating a just world, which can only happen if people take responsibility for achieving justice rather than believing that justice will happen on its own.

A lively question-and-answer session followed the talk, after which a number of participants continued the conversation over pizza at the post-meeting meal. Thanks to Stephanie for an eye-opening presentation.



Andy Flamm

Pew Review

by George Kane



The number of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated is growing rapidly, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center that was released on October 9. That report states:

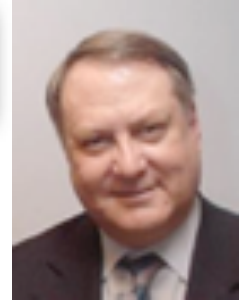
In 1972, only 7% of the adults in America were religiously unaffiliated. That number now stands just under 20%. In the last five years alone, the unaffiliated have increased from just over 15%, an increase of about a third. Their ranks now include more than 13 million self-described atheists and agnostics (nearly 6% of the U.S. public), as well as nearly 33 million people who say they have no particular religious affiliation (14%).

Of those who responded to the question of their religious affiliation with ‘None,’ 12% call themselves atheists and 17% call themselves agnostics. Although two-thirds of people without religious affiliation say they believe in a god, 88% of them are not looking for a religion, indicating that they have permanently severed their ties with religion. Since the report lumps atheists with these god-believers into the same category, it unfortunately does not provide a demographic picture of atheists. It does, however, provide a few interesting facts.

America remains a highly religious nation when compared to the nations of Western Europe. Fifty-eight percent of Americans say religion is very important in their lives compared to only 17% in Britain, 13% in

Pew Review continued on back cover.

News and Notes



George Kane

The previous issue (October) of this newsletter included an article by Minnesota Atheists' Associate President Eric Jayne on the voter photo ID constitutional amendment on the November ballot. Beneath the banner the Editor ran a disclaimer stating "The opinions expressed herein are solely those of Eric Jayne and are not necessarily those of Minnesota Atheists." This may have led new readers of the newsletter to wonder if Minnesota Atheists has official political positions – and, if so, how those positions fit with their own.

In 2008, the board of directors of Minnesota Atheists formed a committee to draft position statements on public policies of concern to all atheists. This was a significant step in the political maturation of the group. As a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, we are not allowed to endorse any candidate for election, or to advocate for voting against any candidate. We are permitted to advocate for issues, but the first question the committee had to answer was, which ones?

That is covered in the Prologue of the policies, which can be viewed at <http://mnatheists.org/information/public-policy-positions>. As an atheist organization, we are concerned with all violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. That is the criterion for our decisions on which public issues we take a position. Our current public policy document addresses government endorsement of religion, display of religious symbols on public property, prayer at government sessions, government funding of church-based programs, religious privilege, blue laws, taxation of churches and other nonprofit corporations, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender rights, reproductive rights, public education, religiously hostile workplace

environment, end of life issues and dealing with Islam. In some cases, the connection to the Establishment Clause comes about because of the political activism of religious groups. We take a position issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage because the only basis for opposition is religious dogma.

Our positions are very much in line with the public policy positions of other atheist organizations. Compare our positions with those taken by the Atheist Alliance of America, an association of atheist organizations, at <http://atheistallianceamerica.org/about-aaa/about-us/>. If you have a strong disagreement with any of our public policy positions you may want to run for election to our board, so that you can influence change; but you also may want to consider the possibility that we are not the right organization for you.

On public policy issues that do not follow from the Establishment Clause, we are completely tolerant of a diversity of member opinion. The Prologue to our public policies states "On other questions of government policy, we support objective application of consequential reasoning, and oppose arguments, whether from the left or right, based upon superstition, religious values and cultural identity based on religious history. We will speak out to oppose the intrusion of religion into public policy debate. Laws must have a secular purpose and justification." As long as a public policy stays clear of religious dogma, we have no argument with it. This is why Minnesota Atheists

News and Notes continued on page 13.

News and Notes (continued)

will not take a public position on issues such as use of drones, economic stimulus or voter photo ID.

But do our educational and social events reflect this tolerance for political diversity? In early October we received the following letter:

I am not sure who I should direct this question to so I am starting here. I have recently come out and telling people I am an atheist and going to atheist hosted events with the meetup site. I have generally enjoyed the events and the people. However I have noticed on several occasions when the topic of why believers believe or the platform of the GOP I am finding myself troubled with the answers. There appears to be a belief held by some atheist that people who believe in a god or are political conservative are stupid and brainwashed and other unkind words that I do not wish to repeat.

The reason this bothers me is I can not understand why an atheist would use the weapon of marginalizing people in order to have a seat at the table and seen as an equal. If we are able to develop our own moral compass without a god are we behaving in a moral and just manner when we make unkind assumptions of people not like us?

Is this a typical response from atheists to call believers and conservatives stupid and brainwashed or have I just met a

few people who are giving atheism a bad image?

I sent the writer the following response:

While there is political diversity within the atheist community -- from libertarians to Marxists -- it is a social fact that an extremely large number of organized atheists were driven to atheist activism (or to the atheist conclusion) by the stridency of the religious right. In consequence, a high percentage are liberal Democrats. [...]

The leadership of Minnesota Atheists is aware of the political diversity within the membership, and takes positions on only the public policy questions where the separation of church and state is at issue. Please check out our Public Policy positions at the mnatheists.org web site.

I hope that, when you encounter ideological intolerance at Minnesota Atheist Meetup events, that you speak up about it. Usually this will cause the stridency to tone down, and lead to calm discussion. Let us know how that works out for you.

I hope that our members will see the letter from our new Meetup member as a reason to consider our own behavior at Minnesota Atheist events. We are comfortable that we are a community of like-minded people on the issue of supernatural gods, but should not presume agreement on unrelated political issues. If you want to discuss politics, feel free to do so, but remember to be courteous and respectful of opinions that differ from your own.

2012: An Unbelievably Positive Year for Minnesota Atheists (continued)

The subsequent conference at the Double Tree hotel in downtown St. Paul was a resounding success as almost 200 people showed up to learn from a stellar lineup of nationally respected atheists including Robert Price, Jessica Ahlquist, Andy Thomson, and Hector Avalos.

Another significant moment in August was the release of *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*. This highly successful and well-reviewed anthology of 36 local atheists begins with a foreword from Greta Christina. It has been featured and reviewed on several popular websites and has been the object of several authors' events including one at a Barnes & Noble in October. If you haven't purchased a copy yet, you can buy it through Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, and our very own MNA online store. It's also available in ebook format. All net proceeds go to the Minnesota Atheists.

September and October (as well as all the other months this year) provided many fun events and group outings on our Meetup site including book clubs, picnics, *Freethinking*

Female lunches, board game nights, parent groups, movie nights, pub nights, community volunteer events, and so much more. We really are "Positive Atheism in Action."

We have nearly doubled the annual increase of members on our Meetup site compared to last year (and this year isn't even over yet!). Even though many of the individuals who sign up on Meetup are not paying members they are prospective paid members/donors if we do a better job campaigning for money. They also represent new enthusiasm, new ideas, and new perspectives. Beginning in January, we broke the previous monthly record for new Meetup members (which had been March 2009) every month except for two. There's little doubt that our hard work and creative outreach efforts this year are guiding us toward an exciting path. Stay tuned for an exciting 2013...and please consider becoming a dues-paying member or donating to one of our many projects online so we can keep up the work!

FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

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-Iv. Manaivpdg

(Answer on page 14.)

Atheists Talk: October Radio Report

Atheists Talk is produced by Minnesota Atheists and directed by Carl Hancock with producers and hosts Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyue, Scott Lohman, Greg Laden, David Pacheco, 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 AM950 KTNF. Live streaming can be done through our web page www.mnatheists.org. To donate just send to our PO box or online at <http://minnesotaatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund>. Every donation is greatly appreciated

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

"Darwin's Ghosts: The Secret History of Evolution" Atheists Talk #187, September 30th, 2012. Producer and interviewer: Carl Hancock. Host: Brianne Bilyue.

Charles Darwin laid the groundwork for our modern understanding of evolution. In his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, Darwin presented novel evidence-based concepts about the diversity of life and common descent, which also cleared the way for the heretical idea that no supernatural creator was needed for the evolution of new life on this planet.

But as Rebecca Stott shows in her book *Darwin's Ghosts: The Secret History of Evolution*, these ideas were thousands of years in the making. Darwin may have been the one to publish the book that revolutionized biology, but scientists and philosophers from Aristotle to Alfred Wallace had been speculating about the origins of life for years and centuries prior.

During our show, we spoke with Rebecca Stott about Al-Jahiz, Leonardo da Vinci, Denis Diderot and others who helped shape the way we learned about how life propagates on this planet, and how finally, through Darwin's writings, we vocalized our understanding of evolution by natural selection.

"Debunking David Barton's Jefferson Lies" Atheists Talk #188, October 7, 2012. Producer and interviewer: Scott Lohman. Host Stephanie Zvan.

What do you do when someone lies publicly and repeatedly about the history of your country? If you're Jon Stewart and that "someone" is evangelical

by Steve Petersen

pseudo historian David Barton, you give him free publicity and a platform while looking vaguely uncomfortable. Luckily, not everyone is Jon Stewart.

Earlier this year, David Barton's book, *The Jefferson Lies*, was recalled by its publisher after being voted "the least credible history book in print." Much of the research that went into proving Barton was distorting history came from one independent scholar, Chris Rodda. Her book, *Liars for Jesus*, was released before Barton's. In it, Rodda demonstrated that Barton's claim were not just misreadings of the historical documents, but gross misrepresentations and, sometimes, outright lies.

Rodda recently released the first of her chapter-by-chapter refutations of *The Jefferson Lies*. For this show, she joined us by phone to discuss the audacity of David Barton and the process of defending our country's history.

"The God Problem" Atheists Talk #189, October 14, 2012. Producer: Carl Hancock. Interviewer: David Pacheco. Host: Stephanie Zvan.

Howard Bloom is an extraordinary individual, which might be amusing when one realizes that a vast portion of his interest is the study of groups and system interactions. Bloom is a scientist, activist, innovator and music industry publicist whose success in that arena is credited more to his understanding of mass psychology than of music.

Howard Bloom is a prolific writer whose topics of interest seem to span the entire range of everything from the beginnings of the universe to the future of mankind. His work has been published in well-known journals, magazines and newspapers, and he is the author of four books. For this show, Bloom discussed his fascinating new book, *The God Problem: How a Godless Cosmos Creates*.

"Science Left Behind" Atheists Talk #190, October 21, 2012. Producer and interviewer: Carl Hancock. Host Stephanie Zvan.

Is it true that progressives are just as anti-science as conservatives? According to Alex Berezow, editor of RealClearScience and associate editor of RealClearReligion, and Hank Campbell, founder of the Science 2.0 network, they are. During our show, we discussed their research and findings.



October Treasury Report

Compiled by Chris Matthews

Radio Fund

Randall Quast	\$1,000
Richard Dean	\$465
John Annen	\$265
Nathan Curland	\$210
Mark Nelson	\$200
George Kane	\$100
Leland Salisbury	\$65
Nancy Ruhland	\$50
Rachel Wilson	\$50
Shirley Moll	\$30
James Wright	\$25
James Barri	\$25
Breonna Mason	\$20
Mark Paquette	\$10
5th Sunday cash donations	\$165
Total Radio Fund	\$2,680

General/Visibility Fund

Christopher Matthews	\$50
Richard Dean	\$35
Val Miller	\$25
Meghan Kosowski	\$10
Eleanor Rittenour	\$10
anonymous	\$250
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$380

Total Income: \$3,060

Current Building Fund Total \$130,489

Radio Show Fundraising Goal \$8,215
(for 2012)

Amount Raised \$7,656

Amount Remaining to Reach Goal: \$559

We are ahead of our goal:

We have raised **93%** of our goal
in the first **80%** of the year!

Top Expenses for October

Saint Paul Saints Jerseys	\$954
Radio Show	\$820
Newsletter Printing	\$633
Storage	\$152



"River of Reason" Limited Edition Print Fundraiser

Minnesota Atheists member and artist Lynn Fellman is the talent behind a limited edition fine art print fundraiser. Lynn created the cover art for the book *Atheist Voices of Minnesota*. The "River of Reason" prints are a revised and larger version of the book's cover art. They are printed exclusively for this fundraiser. The edition size is limited to 50. Each print is available for \$125. \$100 goes to Minnesota Atheists, and \$25 is to cover the cost of materials. Each print is 20" by 13", and includes a page of information that explains the care and handling of a fine art print, about the book, and about the artist. If you would like to own one of these fine art prints, or if you have questions, contact Minnesota Atheists treasurer Chris Matthews via email at treas@mnatheists.org or visit the online store via the upper-right hand Store link on www.mnatheists.org.

October Atheists Talk Television Show Report

by Steve Petersen

Audrey Kingstrom and Kevin Eich, founders of the Secular Parenting Group, discussed their reasons for creating the group and their recent activities. They noted the importance of children having a sense of community and the need to celebrate special events in our lives and in the changing of the season, without having to tie these events in with religiosity. Along with

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

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



guest Rhonda (second from right, above), the three guests offered suggestions of books to share with children on values, evolution, diversity, religion, and finding wonder in the world. Kevin suggested visiting the Kochar Humanist Education Center's website and the Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children to obtain more resources. He also noted the books *Raising Freethinkers* and *Nurture Shock* as valuable tools for parenting. James Zimmerman hosted.

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.

Television Schedule:

Burnsville/Eagan Community Television: Channel 14. Check their web site www.bect.tv for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty.

Bloomington: Channel 16. Sunday 11:00 pm. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardsley.

Minneapolis: Channel 17. Saturday 8:30 pm. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

The danger already exists that mathematicians have made a covenant with the devil to darken the spirit and confine man in the bonds of Hell.

-St. Augustine



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.



Pew Review (continued from page 4)

France, 21% in Germany and 22% in Spain. The report notes that the United States is the principal exception to the general rule that religious belief is high in nations with low per-capita GDP, and low in nations where “existential security” is high.

The entire 80-page report, “*Nones*” on the Rise: *One-in-Five Adults Have No Religious Affiliation*, is available as a free download at http://www.pewforum.org/uploadedFiles/Topics/Religious_Affiliation/Unaffiliated/NonesOnTheRise-full.pdf.

The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible [is] a collection of honorable, but yet quite primitive legends. No interpretation no matter how subtle can (for me) change this. These subtilised interpretations are highly manifold according to their nature and have almost nothing to do with the original text.

-Albert Einstein, to author Eric B. Gutkind, whose book, *Choose Life: The Biblical Call to Revolt*, Einstein had recently been reading. The handwritten letter, written in German on January 3, 1954, is for sale on eBay. Bidding began at \$3 million.

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