

# The Minnesota Atheist

The 2013 Day of Reason:

One Nation Indivisible

*The following is a transcript of the speech written by Grant Steves and delivered by James Barri at the State Capital during the Day of Reason:*

The Pledge of Allegiance is described as an oath, a national prayer, and a statement that elevates the government and flag to religious icons. Its major supporters have been clergy, religious and patriotic groups.

Francis Bellamy, who composed the original Pledge of allegiance in 1892, had these thoughts about it:

The true reason for allegiance to the flag is the ‘republic for which it stands’. . . . And what does that vast thing, the Republic mean? It is the concise political word for the Nation—the one nation which the civil war was fought to prove. To make that one nation idea clear, we must specify that it is indivisible.

In 1948 Louis Bowman, a chaplain, was the first to lead a group in saying the pledge with the inserted phrase “under God.” The Daughters of the American Revolution gave him an award as the originator of this phrase.

1951: The Knights of Columbus passed a resolution directing all their chapters to use the phrase “under God.”

1952: Louis Bowman’s idea was proposed to William Randolph Hearst—his papers started a campaign for this phrase to be inserted into the pledge.

In 1952 an influential religious leader and a founder of the National Prayer Breakfast, Mr. Holger Christian Langmack, had ongoing conversations with President Truman. But no legislation was acted upon.

On February 5, 1954, the Reverend George MacPherson Docherty at the Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, delivered a sermon about injecting

the phrase “under God” into the Pledge. In the audience that Sunday was President Eisenhower. Three days later Congressman Charles Oakman, a Republican from Michigan, introduced a bill injecting “under God” into the pledge. It became law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954, when President Eisenhower signed it into law with the following comments:

From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. . . . In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource, in peace or in war.

Some have objected to saying any pledge and some have objected to the religious phrase of “under God.” The Pledge has captured the imagination of the majority in this country and they have reacted to the minority that objects by beating them, tar and feathering them, and castrating them.

So much for “liberty and justice for all.” The majority seems to ignore the Constitution that protects the minority’s right of freedom of speech and of and from religion. This is a controversy that will continue to cause dissent.

The Pledge may bind us to an indivisible nation under God, but the Constitution frees us from that binding.

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Submit material for the newsletter to editor@mnaatheists.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: 1,402

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.

President's Column



Eric Jayne

**FSM Junction Separates Church and State:**  
*An expanded version of Eric's speech at the Day of Reason on May 2nd*

If you look from a bird's-eye view of the state capitol and zoom out to a six-block radius, you will notice that there are actually two large domed buildings near downtown St. Paul—each one serving a distinct purpose—separated by a stretch of

intertwined urban freeway. This section of freeway is commonly identified as “Spaghetti Junction” (I think atheists should start calling it “Flying Spaghetti Monster Junction”), and it sharply symbolizes the importance of church and state separation.

The domed building that is north of the I-94 spaghetti strand is the Minnesota state capitol and the domed building to the south of the I-94 spaghetti strand is the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The former is where the business of the government takes place and the latter is where the business of the church takes place.

The domed capitol is where laws are made and constitutional rights are preserved. It's where bills are drafted, debated, and signed. It's where the people's elected representatives join together

*President's Column continued on back cover.*



**Top 10 Reasons to Buy Mr. Paul Aints Merchandise**

- 10. Merchandise is available in Mr. Paul and Ms. Paula versions and in both black and white.
- 9. Hats and T-shirts are available for the low price of \$15.
- 8. You get your choice of two Aints items, hats and shirts, for the discounted price of \$25.
- 7. You can personalize your own authentic, stitched Mr. Paul Aints jersey for only \$69.



6. The 2013 version of the Mr. Paul and Ms. Paula Aints logo features the scarlet atheist “A.”

5. This is your unique opportunity to showcase your atheist pride with stylish and sporty fashion.

4. There is a very limited supply of Aints items so once they're gone, they're gone for good.

3. Your purchase directly helps Minnesota Atheists with operating costs and Saints sponsorship fees.

2. We make it easy for you to order at [MinnesotaAtheists.org/store](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org/store).

1. Aints items are fun. The baseball game is fun. Atheists are fun. And fun is good!



## May Meeting Review

by Blake Page

When most of us think of the roots of free thought communities in the United States, we recall Madalyn O’Hair and the 1960’s. In his book *An Infidel Body-Snatcher and the Fruits of his Philosophy*, Dan Allosso shatters that misconception by detailing the life of Dr. Charles Knowlton, a physician who championed women’s rights in the early nineteenth century. While the book is a fascinating topic in itself, much of Dan’s presentation at our May Meeting addressed how a growing acceptance of free thought allowed Dr. Knowlton to contribute to the advancement of women’s rights and empiricism in medicine.



Dr. Knowlton, Dan explained, was among the first to publicly acknowledge the concept of women’s rights in his pithy sixty-page publication, *The Fruits of Philosophy* (1831). This book, which described nineteenth-century means of birth control, also espoused the right of women to control their bodies and the responsibility of both parents to limit family size. This work conflicted with stagnant medical philosophy which was largely influenced by religious beliefs about competitive breeding. It was only through the work of freethinkers that such bold new ideas could be

disseminated. Many of us may think the recent Women in Secularism Conferences represent the scope of the history of cooperation between secularism and feminism. The discussion with Dan clearly showed the history of this allegiance goes much farther back.

Of course, attitudes toward birth control weren’t the only problem with nineteenth-century medicine. The fundamental problem was the lack of empiricism. Most of us consider the development of medicine as a topic unrelated to secularism or freethought.

Dan argued that the freethinking activists proved essential turning medicine away from doctrinal thought and toward empiricism. Dr. Knowlton was just such an activist. His works on materialism, his exposure of quackery, and his advocacy for the need of scientific inquiry contributed significantly to the advancement of modern medicine. Of course, this did not happen in a vacuum. In the process of advocating for reform, Dr. Knowlton found himself involved in a very active community of freethinkers who were promoting their ideas through newspapers, lectures, dances, and many other activities.

Dan argues that the real history of free thought has been obscured by Christian Revisionists, the most well-funded historians of our times. Because of this, much of the history of our country has been obscured with fantastic claims of a uniformly Christian government and American population from time immemorial. Dan’s research into the life and work of Dr. Knowlton exposes not just the incredible contributions of one man to the scientific advancement of medicine, but also the surprising extent of the nineteenth century American freethinking. Books like Chris Rodda’s *Liars for Jesus* provide strong evidence against the absurdity of revisionists’ claims. Dan Allosso begins to set the record straight by sharing the story of freethinking pioneers.

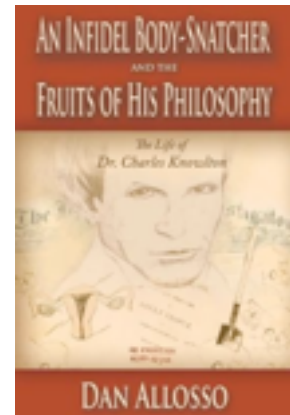


photo courtesy of Richard Trombley

## News and Notes



*by George Kane*

In 2008 our board of directors issued a document stating Minnesota Atheists' positions on public policy issues of concern to atheists. This document is useful to everyone who has to represent the organization, so that

whether commenting to the press or testifying at a legislative committee hearing, Minnesota Atheists' position will not be in doubt. The document defines our values both for the outside world and for our members.

Every year a committee reviews these policies to determine if any revisions are needed, or if there are gaps that require new policies. This year we are drafting position statements on blasphemy laws, religious freedom in the military, and a variety of issues regarding health care, such as medical professionals denying care based on personal beliefs, including pharmacists denying emergency contraception; religiously based child abuse and neglect such as faith healing; exemptions to vaccination requirements; and laws restricting stem cell research.

From the initial release, we have limited our public policy positions to questions of separation of church and state, and to political arguments in which organized religion plays a major role. We recognize that good atheists can disagree over tax policy or foreign trade issues, for example, so we take no position on them.

On the other hand, we have to consider the rise of a new movement that calls itself "Atheism Plus," or just "A+." You are probably familiar with it if you are a regular reader of bloggers Jen McCreight, PZ Myers and Greta Christina. This movement expressly tries to expand the scope of atheist activism beyond mere denial of supernatural gods and support for the separation of church and state to include issues of social justice. It calls for applying skepticism and critical thinking to social issues "like sexism, racism, GLBT issues, politics, poverty, and crime." This raises the question of whether Minnesota Atheists should adopt policies addressing poverty, environmentalism, civil rights for minorities and feminism.

Before we began this year's review, I brought this question to the board. It reaffirmed restricting our public policy statements to the separation of church and state and issues for which the political debate is driven by religious dogma.

While Minnesota Atheists takes a narrow approach with our public policies, we encourage members to work within the organization to promote the benefit of society in diverse ways. An example is charitable activity. A few years ago, the proposal to engage in charitable works was raised at one of our membership meetings. The motion met with substantial opposition. Opponents noted that we have no organizational expertise that would benefit any charitable campaign; that secular charities already exist that deserve the support of our members; and that collecting donations for charitable activities could detract from other fund-raising that we do, such as for the Radio Fund or the Building Fund. I opposed it myself, because members arguing for supporting charitable community work asserted that it would be good for public relations, and would show that atheists are motivated by the same community concern and self-sacrifice that benefits the reputation of churches. I feel that the value of charity should be the effect it has in peoples' lives, not public relations. I don't approve of Catholic Charities and Lutheran Charities because those names were chosen to make the religions look good. If there were Atheist Charities, I would feel the same way about it. Also, we will look very bad if we invite comparison with Christianity on charitable giving. We cannot compete.

Ultimately, the members voted to let those who wanted to pursue charitable do so. As a result, we now have popular Meetup events such as cooking for families at a homeless shelter, and we are members of The Foundation Beyond Belief. In the same way, we have welcomed feminists who hold events such as the Freethinking Females nights out. While we take no official stand on issues not directly related to atheism, there is certainly a place for "Atheism Plus" within Minnesota Atheists.

You can read our public policy document on our web site. It is a drop-down selection on the 'Info' tab of the menu bar.

## Minnesota Atheists Stand United for Eighth Annual Day of Reason

by Jack Caravela



Since 2006, Minnesota Atheists have gathered at the state capitol building on the first Thursday in May to celebrate the annual Day of Reason. Begun as a response to the federal and state supported Day of Prayer, an annual abuse of the U.S. Constitution that was officially endorsed this year through proclamations by both Governor Dayton and President Obama, we have been proud to assemble in the Rotunda while those who seek to perpetuate the myth of America as a nation founded on religious beliefs congregate outside.

This year's theme was One Nation Indivisible, declaring that government should respect all points of view and not endorse one sectarian belief system over any others. When an Act of Congress in 1954 inserted the words "under god" into the Pledge of Allegiance, it reflected the tyranny of the religious majority over the non-religious minority. This year we honored our secular Constitution and secular veterans who took an oath to protect it.

Speakers included emcees George Kane and Heather Hegi, both members of Minnesota Atheists' Board of Directors, MNA President Eric Jayne, Scott Lohman, President of the Humanists of Minnesota, David Pacheco, President of the Minnesota Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, MNA member James Barri reading a speech by former MNA Chair Grant Steves, and Hiero Russell, past President of the Humanists of Minnesota and a former Marine. We were also welcomed by Minnesota House Representative Phyllis Kahn and State Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, who each addressed our group from the podium under our Minnesota Atheists banner.

The keynote was delivered by Blake Page, Director of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation's Affairs at West Point and Special Assistant to the President of that organization. Mr. Page is a former West Point cadet who was compelled to resign by the pervasive Christian fundamentalist presence at that Military Academy. Despite having led the charge in fighting for (and winning) secular, non-religious alternatives to previously compulsory prayer ceremonies, he ultimately could not tolerate the open disrespect and abuse of non-religious cadets shown by the faculty and administration. As

*Day of Reason continued on page 8.*



## Highway Clean-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped at last month's highway clean-up near Rice.

Front row: Dennis, Shirley Moll, Richard Trombley and Deb Doucette.

Back row: Clint Buhs, Tom Stavros, Morgan Christian, Rob Taylor and Steve Petersen.

Our next clean-up scheduled for Sunday, Spetember 22, 2013. Keep watching the newsletter for details.



## The Aints Ball Game (Let's All Go to the)

*Lyrics by Paul Heffron and Jerry Rauser  
(To the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game")*



*(Verse 1)*  
 Let's all go to the Aints game.  
 Let's all show who we are.  
 The big red A says a lot about us.  
 We're here for fun, so please don't make a fuss.  
 So we'll root for the Mister Paul Aints team.  
 For they accept us by name.  
 So it's hip, hip, hip, hip hooray  
 At the Aints ball game.

*(Verse 2)*  
 Let's have fun at the Aints game,  
 Tail-gate party supreme.  
 Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks for all.  
 Under our banner we'll all have a ball.  
 We will root, root, root for the pigs' race.  
 In Pig's Eye town there's no shame.  
 For it's one, two, pick up the pace  
 At the Aints Ball Game!

FREETHOUGHT CRYPTOGRAM

BY GEORGE KANE

Hjqu xajq mkjqmkgz yuha ksddz ae zmygumg, sup pgcahg xajq  
 dgyzjqg psx ha hkg zhjpx ae xajq afu napygz, hkg susdxzyz ae xajq  
 afu vyupz, sup hkg grsvyushyau ae hkg esyq vshgqysd faqdp fkymk  
 grhgupz sqajup xaj!

-Eqsumgz Fqywkh, "Dyeg, Dghhgqz sup Dgmhjqqz"

*Cryptogram answer appears on page 10.*

## ***Atheists Talk: April / May Radio Report***

by Steve Petersen

*Atheists Talk* is produced by Minnesota Atheists, directed by Carl Hancock, and hosted by Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyeu, 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 from KTNF studios in Eden Prairie. Listen to live streaming through our web page, [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org). Original music was composed, played, and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. Thanks to Brianne Bilyeu we have an Atheists Talk Facebook page and Twitter account at [twitter.com/atheiststalk](https://twitter.com/atheiststalk).

The six month cost for the show is \$5,320. Every donation to support the program is greatly appreciated. Please consider becoming a monthly Sustaining supporter. To donate just send in a donation to our mailing address (see page 2) or online at [minnesotatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund](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)

### **"The Outsider Test for Faith," #215, April 21.**

John Loftus is a former evangelical preacher. He appeared on the show on this day to discuss two of his books, *The Christian Delusion* and *The End of Christianity*. The show was produced by Carl Hancock. David Pacheco conducted the interview. Brianne Bilyeu hosted.

### **"Secular Coalition for America," #216, April 28.**

Almost a year ago, Edwina Rogers took over as the executive director of the Secular Coalition for America. Rogers joined us to talk with Scott Lohman about what the Coalition has accomplished and where they're going in the next year. Scott Lohman served as producer, host and interviewer.

### **"The Myth of Persecution," #217, May 5.**

The early history of Christianity is a history of persecution, with pagans zealously defending their own

faiths through torture and martyrdom. Or is it? Biblical scholar Candida Moss came on the show to review the evidence of early Christian persecution. Her research is found in her new book, *The Myth of Persecution: How Early Christians Invented a Story of Martyrdom*.

This episode was produced by David Pacheco, who also conducted the interview. Stephanie Zvan hosted.

### **"Elders: A Novel," #218, May 12.**

Ryan McIlvain is a former Mormon missionary whose missionary work presented challenges to his faith that ultimately led him away from Mormonism. McIlvain joined us this episode to talk about his experiences. Carl Hancock produced the show and conducted the interview.



*Scott Lohman, left, stands with author Dan Allosso outside the AM950 Studios.*

Stephanie Zvan hosted.

### **"An Infidel Body-Snatcher and the Fruits of His Philosophy," #219, May 19.**

The history of atheists, secular Humanists and other freethinking people is not well known. Freethought Historian, Dan Allosso is out to change that in his book: *An Infidel Body-Snatcher and the Fruits of His Philosophy*. Scott Lohman interviewed Dan about his new book and freethought history.

## **Minnesota Atheists Stand United for Eighth Annual Day of Reason (continued)**

part of his stirring speech, Blake read a letter he had composed to President Obama, calling on him to take action against the pervasive prejudice, bigotry, and civil rights abuses suffered by non-religious members of the military. Mr. Page's address received a well-deserved standing ovation.

It has been rewarding to see how our numbers have grown each year, a trend noted by Representative Kahn. With the increasing support of our members and friends, we may soon see our supporters outnumber those on the Capitol lawn. More rewarding still would be an end to the unconstitutional government endorsement of the Day of Prayer, but until we see that day we will be standing strong every first Thursday of May at the State Capitol.





# April Treasury Report

**Radio Fund**

Richard Dean	\$400
Alice Lesney	\$200
Mark Nelson	\$200
Erik Englebretson	\$100
Dorothy French	\$100
Jerrold Larson	\$100
Otto Link	\$100
Robert McGreachie	\$100
Joshua Robertson	\$100
Jeffrey Sella	\$100
Paul Heffron	\$60
Susan Christiansen	\$50
Edward Rang	\$50
Jerry Rauser	\$50
Nancy Ruhland	\$50
James Barri	\$25
Rodney Chelberg	\$25
Louis Geeraerts	\$25
Geraldine Jensen	\$25
James Wright	\$25
Richard Ellingsen	\$20
Shirley Moll	\$10
Mark Paquette	\$10
Steve Petersen	\$10

anonymous	\$30
<b>Total Radio Fund</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>

**General/Visibility Fund**

Caroline Brunner	\$100
Valerie Gingras	\$70
Leonard Sojka	\$65
Paul Larson	\$50
Meghan Kosowski	\$10
anonymous	\$20
<b>Total General/Visibility Fund</b>	<b>\$315</b>

**Building Fund**

Dawn MacDonald	\$15
<b>Total Building Fund</b>	<b>\$15</b>

**Total Income: \$2,295**

**Current Building Fund Total \$131,195**

**Top Expenses for April**

Radio Show	\$820
Newsletter Printing	\$565
Merchandise	\$556
Parade, Booth, etc	\$515

## May Day Celebration

Twenty-five people helped with our booth or marched with us at the May Day festival in Minneapolis on May 5th. The predictions for nasty weather didn't come true and it was a nice, sunny day instead. Most of us wore this year's Minnesota Atheists' patriotism-themed t-shirts that have the message "One Nation Indivisible" on back.

As always, the crowd cheered as we marched and we collected names of many interested people at our booth. Thanks to the following atheists for helping us: Josiah Anderson, August Berkshire, Dave Bradley, Caroline Brunner, Jack Caravela, Bernadette Chlebeck, Phil Cunliffe, Patrick Currier, Greg Hart, Heather Hegi, Sarah Hertz, William Hodgson, Joseph Homrich, Daniel Jensen, George Kane, Jacqueline Larsen-Burda, Shirley Moll, Kristin Oman, Juli Anne Owens (and dogma-free dog Lily), David Perry, Steve Petersen, Les Stordalen, Mike Toft, Richard Trombley, and Rachel Wilson.

Photos by Richard Trombley



# May Atheists Talk Television Show Report

by Steve Petersen

For the first part of the show, Dr. Sharon Preves, sociologist and professor, discussed her research of intersex individuals. Sharon first defined terms, such as "intersex," "hermaphrodite," and "transgender," then explained how and why she became involved in this research. Sharon next explained the cause for negative stigma of intersex individuals, including the religious views of people who do not fit easily into the male/female binary. Sharon noted the strong drive that society has to pigeonhole everyone - even fetuses - into one of two genders. She discussed the evolution of outlying conditions in Western civilization: from sin, to crime, to medicalization. Sharon then explained the excessive intrusion of the medical world and its treatment of intersexuality as an emergency requiring "correction."

During the second half of the show, Sharon further detailed the medicalization of conditions that do not, normally, require medical intervention, including intersex infants and childbirth itself. Sharon compared the unnecessary interventions into intersexed individuals' bodies with circumcision, and she then discussed the emotional ramifications on the patients. Many felt guilt, shame, and even fear. Some grew up convinced they had been born with a disease so terrible that no one - not even their parents or doctors - would discuss it openly. Sharon next cited recent gains in the rights of those born intersexed, and listed ways they have found healing, such as through support groups. Sharon also provided the example of an intersex teenager who was instructed to pray that she become fully female. Sharon concluded by offering several resources, including her own book, *Intersex and Identity*. James Zimmerman hosted both halves.

If you would like to sponsor our program in your community, or have an idea for a program, or if you have a public access television station in your community, please contact Steve Petersen at [spetersen175@comcast.net](mailto:spetersen175@comcast.net) or 651-484-9277.

**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.

## 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 pm. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardsley.

**Minneapolis:** Channel 75. Monday 7:00 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

Turn your churches into halls of science, and devote your leisure day to the study of your own bodies, the analysis of your own minds, and the examination of the fair material world which extends around you!  
-Frances Wright, "Life, Letters and Lectures"



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**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 email 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (April, June, September, December). Flying Spaghetti Monster Dinner. Old Spaghetti Factory, 233 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Get together for drinks and pasta.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 6:00pm Freethought Toastmasters. Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Ave. W, St. Paul 55113. George Kane, [dir2@mnatheists.org](mailto:dir2@mnatheists.org).

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

4<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:dir2@mnatheists.org).

1<sup>st</sup> 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), go to [mnatheists.org](http://mnatheists.org) and enter your email at "Get news and event updates."**

**To sign up for Minnesota Atheists Meetups, visit [atheists.meetup.com/493](http://atheists.meetup.com/493).**



## President's Column (continued)

to serve the interests of our increasingly diverse statewide community, consisting of several theistic and nontheistic perspectives.

The domed church is where religious beliefs are established and prayer is demanded. It's where the Bible is taught, rationalized, and praised. It's where clergy and parishioners gather to serve the interests of their doctrine and their religious institution.

The domed capitol represents our nation's celebrated secular American values—like liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness; whereas the domed church represents the church's dogmatic values—like faith, submission, and celibacy before marriage.

The domed capitol falls under the purview of the United States Constitution, which makes no mention of God, and the domed church falls under the purview of the Bible, which makes several mentions of God.

Minnesota Atheists' annual Day of Reason event was again held under the capitol dome as a way to remind our elected representatives as well as our pious neighbors that there is a good reason for these two separate domes. We wanted to remind them that

injecting God-beliefs, Bible stories, dogma, and religious rituals into our public schools, public policy, courthouses, and military is not only disrespectful but unconstitutional.

If we are to truly be "One Nation Indivisible," our government should respect the two separate domains and stick to the business of government—not the business of the church. Our elected lawmakers should encourage their constituents to think critically and to be good stewards of our shared community, instead of encouraging their constituents to pray and preserve sectarian rituals. Let the clergy lead their followers in prayer in one of their many houses of worship.

I remain hopeful that we are approaching an end to this government endorsement of religious rituals and religious indoctrination. According to several polls, the number of religious believers is on the decline while those who have no religious identity (The "Nones") are increasing. It may not be too much longer until the number of participants at the Day of Reason outnumbers those participating in the Day of Prayer at the dome north of *FSM Junction*.

"It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service [writing the Constitution] had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the inspiration of Heaven."

— John Adams

(This quote will appear on the new public atheist monument being constructed near the courthouse in Starke, Florida.)

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

# MINNESOTA ATHEISTS PRESENTS

## MR. PAUL AINTS BASEBALL GAME



*A Night of Unbelievable Fun:  
The Second Coming !*

Friday, August 9, 2013, 7:00 PM  
(Tailgate Party begins at 5:00 PM)



**Midway Stadium, 1771 Energy Park Dr., St. Paul, MN 55108**

The St. Paul Saints will become the Mr. Paul Aints for their game against the Sioux City Explorers.  
The game will be preceded by a **Tailgate Party** and followed by a **Fireworks Display**.

### MERCHANDISE !

Both **Mr. Paul Aints** and **Ms. Paula Aints** t-shirts and caps are available.  
The price is **\$15 each** or **2 for \$25**, mix and match.  
(People who buy a \$21 Aints Reserved Infield ticket will get a voucher for a free cap.)

You can also order a **custom Mr. Paul Aints jersey** with a name and number on the back for \$69.

Go to our online store at: **MinnesotaAtheists.org/Store**. T-shirts and caps will also be available at many Minnesota Atheists meetings, including our Regional Atheist Conference on August 10, 2013.

These are limited edition, collector's items and we have an exclusive merchandising agreement with the St. Paul Saints to sell these products. The baseball players' Aints jerseys will also be auctioned off at the game.

### TICKETS !

**Reserved Infield** (or "Infidel") seats are **\$21** (a \$29 value).  
Your ticket includes a voucher for a free **Mr. Paul Aints** or **Ms. Paula Aints** cap.

**General Admission Outfield** seats are **\$10** (an \$11 value).  
Your ticket includes a voucher for a free **soda pop** and **hot dog**.

You can order and print out these special group tickets on-line at **SAINTSGROUPS.com**.  
Enter the captcha letters and then the password: **atheists**.

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Order tickets online (see above) or by filling out and mailing this coupon to: **St. Paul Saints, 1771 Energy Park Dr., St. Paul, MN 55108**. Make check payable to "Saint Paul Saints." Or call: (651) 644-6659.

**AUGUST 9, 2013 AINTS GAME**    \_\_\_ \$21 Reserved Infield    \_\_\_ \$10 General Admission Outfield

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover Card \_\_\_

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**TICKETS ORDERED BY MAIL OR PHONE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT "WILL CALL" ON THE DAY OF THE GAME.**

# MINNESOTA ATHEISTS & AMERICAN ATHEISTS PRESENT REGIONAL ATHEIST CONFERENCE

**Saturday, August 10, 2013  
8:30 AM - 8:30 PM**

**Ramada Plaza Minneapolis  
1330 Industrial Blvd N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
(612) 331-1900**



Our headline speaker is **Susan Jacoby**, who has written several highly acclaimed books including *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism*, *The Age of American Unreason*, and her most recent work, *The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought*.

Other speakers include **Greta Christina**, **Hector Avalos**, **Amanda Knief**, and **PZ Myers**. We will also have some exciting, interactive workshops and breakout sessions covering topics of particular interest to our diverse community of atheists, humanists, and freethinkers. We'll finish the day with an **all-star panel discussion**.

Lodging at the hotel is available for our attendees for only \$89/night plus tax. (Mention the conference.)

**10% CONFERENCE DISCOUNT BY BEING OR BECOMING A MEMBER OF MINNESOTA ATHEISTS!**

**MEMBERSHIP:** \_\_\_\$10 Student \_\_\_\$35 Individual \_\_\_\$45 Household \_\_\_\$75 Sustaining \_\_\_\$600 Life

**Convention Early Bird Price (Before July 10, 2013)**

\_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_ \$54 Members - Full Package (speakers, lunch\*, and dinner\*\*)  
 \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$27 Members - Speakers-Only (no meals)  
 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$ 9 Members - Speakers-Only (no meals) Student Price (Age 25 and under, with ID)

**Convention Regular Price (non-early bird) (After July 10, 2013)**

\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$67 Members - Full Package (speakers, lunch\*, and dinner\*\*)  
 \_\_\_ \$40 \_\_\_ \$36 Members - Speakers-Only (no meals)  
 \_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$ 9 Members - Speakers-Only (no meals) Student Price (Age 25 and under, with ID)

**Add a Meal to Speakers-Only price**

\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$18 Members - **Lunch\*** \_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_ \$27 Members - **Dinner w/Dessert\*\***

\* **Lunch Choices:** \_\_\_Lasagna \_\_\_Parmesan Chicken Breast \_\_\_Three Bean & Corn Chili over brown rice (vegan)

\*\* **Dinner Choices:** \_\_\_Herb Baked Tilapia w/ coconut shrimp & rice pilaf w/ fresh vegetables. Chocolate fudge cake.  
 \_\_\_Sonoma Chicken stuffed w/ goat cheese, spinach, & sun-dried tomatoes. Chocolate fudge cake.  
 \_\_\_ Grilled Eggplant Rollatini stuffed with vegetables over lemon risotto and marinara. (vegan)  
 The dessert for this entree is sliced bananas & pineapple w/ fresh strawberry sauce & toasted coconut. (vegan)

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

Signup on-line at **MinnesotaAtheists.org/Conference** (PayPal) or mail this **coupon** with your **check** (made to "Minnesota Atheists") or **credit card** info to: **Minnesota Atheists; PO Box 120304; New Brighton, MN 55112.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover Card \_\_\_

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_