

January 2015  
Volume 25  
Number 1

# The Minnesota Atheist



## January Public Meeting – January 18, 2015



Over this past summer there was quite a bit of talk about abortion clinics and the people who oppose them. This was due in large part to the U.S. Supreme Court case *McCullen v. Coakley*. In that case the justices ruled that a Massachusetts law which makes it a crime to stand on a public road or sidewalk within thirty-five feet of a reproductive health care facility violates the First Amendment.

This finding rocked reproductive justice activists back on their heels, and at the Minnesota Atheists January public meeting, two of these activists will explain why.

For the past several years, Niki Massey and Brianne Bilyeu have been volunteering as clinic escorts at an abortion clinic in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have seen what patients and their companions have experienced upon attempting to enter the building in which the clinic is located. On every business day of the clinic's operation, there are anywhere between one and 20 abortion opponents gathered in front of the clinic. Some come to pray for the souls of the patient and the fetuses that will be aborted. Others attempt to stop patients and their companions to speak

with them. If the patients stop, the protesters will offer medical misinformation, spiritual and relationship advice, and promises of pregnancy support and adoption help. There is always an element of religious evangelism involved in these gatherings.

Brianne and Niki believe that every person has a right to make the legal medical decision of abortion free from hindrance or harassment. They protest most vehemently the dispensing of medical advice from non-medical staff. They cringe at the blatantly misogynist and racist language and ideas that are employed in an attempt to sway patients from entering the clinic.

In January please join Niki Massey and Brianne Bilyeu as they share the realities of on-the-ground reproductive justice activism.

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Maplewood Library, 3025  
Southlawn Drive, Maplewood, MN  
55109  
1:00-1:15. – Social time  
1:15-1:45 – Business Meeting  
1:45-2:00 – Break  
2:00-3:30 – Reproductive Justice  
Activism  
4:00-whenever – Olive Garden  
1749 Beam Avenue  
Maplewood MN

## President's Column

By Eric Jayne

In keeping with recent tradition, Minnesota Atheists closed out the year with a heavy dose of human kindness. It was a nice finish to a year filled with compassion and volunteerism.

Supporters and members of Minnesota Atheists raised \$1,190 for an east metro food shelf in November as participants in the annual Thanksgiving Day *Walk to End Hunger* at the Mall of America. Minnesota Atheists organized the largest team of walkers for the Keystone Community Services food shelf with 11 "hunger fighters" who all completed the 5K walk.

In December, two dozen atheists gathered at the Green Mill restaurant in St. Paul. Each person brought gifts with them to wrap and donate to the Children's Hospital of Minnesota. After wrapping and tagging the gifts with a holiday greeting from Minnesota Atheists, five of us delivered the gifts to the hospital.

The recurring monthly volunteer events at the Family Place shelter in St. Paul and the Food Group food bank in New Hope was wrapped into what some of us affectionately called the *War on Christmas*. With our tongues firmly in our cheeks we were able to help some local secular nonprofits while mocking the ridiculous belief that atheists are waging war against Christmas.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press featured a complimentary piece about our philanthropic efforts in the Sunday before Christmas newspaper. A significant angle to the story was that atheists do charitable work during the holidays but as many Minnesota Atheists members and supporters know, we do charitable work all year round.

During the year of 2014, we had **over 70 volunteers donate over 1,600 hours of service** for our monthly food bank packing event at the Food Group food bank in the Twin Cities metro. (In December we packed 223 holiday food packs which will feed 892 people). We also had **over 150 volunteers serve 14 meals to over 300 people without permanent housing** at the Family Place Shelter in St. Paul.

In 2015 we plan to not only continue our monthly volunteer events at the Family Place shelter and Food Group food bank, but we plan to start helping another secular community nonprofit in Minneapolis with building beautification projects. You can check for updates on our Meetup page, this newsletter, our Facebook page, or our website. Also, if you're interested in sharing ideas for volunteer activities or if you would like to join the volunteer planning committee please contact me at [pres@mnatheists.org](mailto:pres@mnatheists.org).

Minnesota Atheists is one of the first member organizations of the international Foundation Beyond Belief network. We have received awards and grants, including volunteer team of the month and picture of the month, for our volunteer activities. None of this could have been done without the kindness and organizational efforts of volunteer event leaders and generous participants.

I would be remiss not to mention that Minnesota Atheists, as an all-volunteer-run 501c3 nonprofit, relies on dues-paying members to keep our operations running. If you'd like to support our brand of *positive atheism in action* please visit [MinnesotaAtheists.org](http://MinnesotaAtheists.org) and click on the "Join/Donate" button at the top of the webpage.



## News and Notes

By George Kane

In the last session of the Minnesota legislature, Representative Phyllis Kahn and State Senator John Marty introduced a bill to permit atheist organizations to certify marriage celebrants. The bill was drafted by Minnesota Atheist board members August Berkshire and Stephanie Zvan, and was supported by the Humanists of Minnesota and the Secular Coalition of Minnesota. The bill died without action when the session ended, but it will be introduced again in the next session. There was extensive coverage of the bill in the February, 2014 issue of this newsletter.

Now there may be help from a new source. The case *Atheists for Human Rights v. Washington County* was filed in US District Court, alleging that Washington County improperly rejected the application by Rodney Michael Rogers, supported by credentials from Atheists for Human Rights, to register to perform marriage ceremonies. According to an article in the *Star Tribune*, Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsay Counties had earlier accepted AfHR certificates and had registered applicants who presented them. The Washington County clerk explained that he had been instructed not to accept applications from any atheist or humanist organizations. When Rogers requested a written explanation for the rejection, the clerk's supervisor provided a copy of Minnesota Statute §517.04 (which our bill seeks to amend) with the word 'religious' underlined. The suit claims that the statute violates the Establishment Clause and denies atheist organizations equal protection of the law.

In *Center for Inquiry v. Indiana*, a nearly identical case decided in July, the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit unanimously ruled that the state of Indiana must allow

marriages to be performed by secular celebrants. If Minnesota's law is invalidated, the legislature will have to find a remedy for its constitutional defects. Our bill will await their consideration.

There is some concern that an unsympathetic judge might dismiss the case because plaintiff AfHR can get their marriage celebrants approved if they just declare themselves to be a religious organization. After all, the state has no qualms about approving applications from ministers certified by phony religions such as the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Clearly this would not be acceptable to a sincere and ethical atheist, nor to anyone who supports secular government. In the *CFI v. Indiana* case Judge Easterbrook averred that ruling atheism a religion would only serve to make hypocrites of nonreligious couples and organizations, noting that the plaintiffs "are unwilling to pretend to be something they are not, or pretend to believe something they do not; they are shut out as long as they are sincere in following an ethical system that does not worship any god, adopt any theology, or accept a religious label." He also rejected the proposal that secular couples have their unions legalized by a clerk of the court on a separate occasion as suggesting secular celebrants would only preside over a "sham ceremony."

On the other hand, the courts have consistently ruled that if government confers any rights, privileges or protections to religion, they must be extended to atheists also. This doctrine

(continued on page 4)

### George Kane Cryptogram

Rz ayvyn ky jcyd zcyu jpogw fpdnzqsrđ nfrydfy xu zcy sozcpqrzu pt  
zcy Nfqrłzoqyn sdw uyz wp dpz fpdnrwyq zcyknygayn xpodw zp  
sdnjyq qysnpđ sdw yvlyqrkydz.

Hsgrgyp Hsgrgyr, "Zcy Sozcpqrzu pt Nfqrłzoqyn rd Lcrgpnplcrfsg  
Fpdzqpayqnryn."

## News and Notes (continued from page 3)

By George Kane

was confirmed recently in the case *American Humanist Association v. United States*, in which a federal prisoner was seeking to compel the penitentiary to approve a humanist study group as it routinely permitted inmates to form religious groups. Senior District Judge Ancer Haggerty denied a request for summary dismissal, holding that a non-religious world view is “a religion for Establishment Clause purposes.”

A win by Washington County could set back legislative progress on our bill, assuring legislators that the current law is constitutionally sound. Other suits would be sure to follow, however, that would incorporate lessons from the case and repair any flaws. Court decisions often provide the losing side the information that they need to win the next case on the same issue. On the other hand the suit may motivate legislators to take action on the bill, to make the case moot to keep the courts from taking the matter out of their hands.

### People are Skilled at Lying to Themselves By P. Z. Myers

Reprinted with permission from [freethoughtblogs.com](http://freethoughtblogs.com).

Both Alex and Heina have excellent articles on the association of religion with LGBTQ people. It's an absurdity that Christianity accommodates both Fred Phelps and Marcella Althaus-Reid, telling us definitively what Jesus' opinions on homosexuality were, and both of them giving completely contradictory answers. The problem is that Jesus and Mohammed and Moses are completely malleable imaginary authority figures who can be invoked to justify *anything* — Jesus simultaneously blesses the peacemakers and comes with a sword in that muddled book of myths, the Bible, so pacifists and warmongers are both happy to adopt his 'philosophy'. It's not at all surprising, then, that both queer folk and gay-haters happily quote their holy books to justify whatever the hell they believe. But it's dishonest. And it invalidates the holy books — they're obviously just Rorschach blots for any gullible brain looking for an authoritarian fallacy to back up their bullshit.

As an act of appropriation, or more charitably, extension, I've been saying the same

### Minnesota Atheists Member Makes a Point

*The following was published online on Dec. 11, 2014 in The Courier-Journal in Kentucky, in response to news that the [Noah's] Ark Encounter [a.k.a. the Ark Park] in Williamstown, KY would be denied government tax subsidies. It may also have appeared in print.*

Letter: Ark not seaworthy

Answers In Genesis should build its ark by the ocean, then put it to sea to show us that it could stay afloat without breaking in half. Of course, this ark is not seaworthy. Nor is it worthy of taxpayer dollars or more attention than fiction-based Disneyland entertainment. At least Disneyland is more honest about the likelihood of its fairy tales being true.

August Berkshire, Minneapolis, Minn. 55454

thing for many years, but on a different topic: science. Scientists who try to marry their empirical scientific ideas to their religious beliefs are committing a similar kind of betrayal. No, your holy book is not a scientific text. It is wrong about the nature of the universe — definitively, demonstrably *proven* wrong. It isn't just wrong in detail, but wrong in method. A scientific brain ought to be squalling in anguish at the very idea that they ought to accept the garbage of the Bible with greater certainty than the provisional observations published in a peer-reviewed scientific paper (and we properly ought to question the latter, making the former an even more pathetic joke.)

But no. Religion's primary purpose seems to be to condition human minds to reject sense, reason, and evidence, and to replace a thinking human morality with a strain of absolutist dogma. Those happy gay men trying to continue in a church that hates them are in the same sad state as a scientist who tries to use the Big Bang as evidence of divine benevolence.

## Accepting Nominees to the 2015 Board of Directors

By Heather Hegi

Minnesota Atheists holds elections for their board of directors every year. The board of directors consists of: president, associate president, chair, associate chair, secretary, treasurer, and three directors-at-large. All positions are up for election. While directors are often nominated and subsequently elected back into their old position, we are run by our membership and no member is guaranteed a position. More than one person may be nominated for the same position which allows the membership to elect which nominee they want to represent them on the board.

Nominations will open and close on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the January Public Business Meeting. This will be held at the Maplewood Public Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr, Maplewood MN 55109. The business meeting will start at 1:15pm and end at 1:45pm, the nominations will be conducted within this time.

A candidate for office needs to be nominated by another dues-paying member while nominations are open. The candidate does not need to be present to be nominated. To be eligible for office, the nominee must have been a dues-paying member for at least one year prior to the date of election; director-at-large nominees only need to have been a member for 6 months prior instead of one year. If you're interested in being on the board but do not meet these qualifications, consider getting your dues in now so you may qualify next year!

The Elections will take place on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Public Business Meeting at the Southdale Library in Edina. The new board will take effect on March 1, 2015.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me, Heather Hegi at [chair@mnatheists.org](mailto:chair@mnatheists.org) or contact another board member.

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## 2014 Solstice Party

Minnesota Atheists held their 2014 Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21 in Minneapolis.



## Highway Cleanup Project

By Steve Petersen

The highway cleanup started in the year 2000 with August Berkshire talking with the Friends Free of Theism group in St. Cloud, which is now Central Minnesota Freethinkers. From there, Deb Doucette and her partner Rob Taylor took up the challenge of organizing the cleanup tasks, setting up the dates, and getting bags and vests. A two mile section was found for us, but when someone in the Department of Transportation objected that our sign, which said that this section is cleaned by Minnesota Atheists, would be at the entrance to a Catholic cemetery, a state bureaucrat rejected it. They found for us instead a section on Highway 10 in Rice going three miles to the north that had not been cleaned in several years.

For several years this project was one of the central activities for both groups. 10 to 15 people gathered twice a year to pick up trash and socialize afterwards. Now, after 14 years, it has come to an end. Changing demographics of volunteers and a vastly greater diversity of activities for both groups merged in a way that this activity no longer works out.

Deb and Rob wish to thank the volunteers over the years that gave their valuable time and worked picking up trash on the side of the highway.

Members of Minnesota Atheists and Central Minnesota Atheists may yet wish to initiate a highway cleanup program closer to their base. Let a board member know if you would be willing to lead such a project.

We thank both Deb and Rob for leading this project for 14 years.



Deb Doucette and Rob Taylor, who were central to the highway cleanup project.



## Minnesota Atheists November Meeting Review

By Dan Harrison

Dr. Kim Socha's book, "Animal Liberation and Atheism: Dismantling the Procrustean Bed" was the subject of her talk at the Minnesota Atheists November Public Meeting.

She opened with why she wrote the book. She explained that her commitment to animal liberation grew from continued reflections after her conversion away from the Catholicism in which she was raised. She explained that the "exploitation looked different" than when she was a Catholic, because of the new moral framework she came to.

As a result, she was surprised and disappointed to see that, even though the animal liberation movement was secular, almost all of its voices were making religious arguments: arguments from Christianity, Buddhism, and from the "most vegan of vegan" religions, Jainism. There was no simple, direct explanation based on the belief system she and those in her movement shared.

Worse than that, however, these religious arguments did not work very well. They were a Procrustean Bed, referring to the Greek myth about a man who mutilated those who stayed in his inns to make them fit into his beds. That is the main goal of the book: to lay that out, and get the secular community engaged in the issue. She does this by explaining the fault in religious arguments, and then doing what she hopes will bear the most fruit: call on significant figures in atheism, who already agree with her, to live out their convictions and adopt vegan food-ways. In her talk, this was the part she focused on the most.

The leaders of the New Atheist movement, she points out, can "fill stadiums just like Metallica", and have a significant platform were they to push this issue. But they don't. Richard Dawkins wrote about this issue at length in a 1993 article in "New Scientist" magazine, and had a debate with Peter Singer available on YouTube. In both cases, Dawkins either makes a strong argument and refuses to follow it through in his life, or when pushed, gives in and simply says, "well, I'm just not as moral as you are. I can live with that."

Sam Harris, in his book "The Moral Landscape", makes a similar argument (but only in footnotes) and refuses to follow it through.

Christopher Hitchens wrote an article in "Slate" which briefly touches on the subject, and she points out his use of "faulty logic" in order to rationalize his meat consumption (which continued until his death).

Dr. Socha finds this unacceptable. These are very privileged men in a very privileged society, and they believe in the moral argument. Why are they not doing this in their lives? She sees no reason at all. "I'm not going to villages in Guatemala and saying 'go vegan'," she explained during the Q and A at the end. This is a pragmatic argument based on our ability to be more moral than we were in centuries past -- very similar to what these leaders are saying about religion and its chequered past.

In spite of the narrow topic, generally relaxed atmosphere, and qualifiers on some of her strong statements, those more skeptical of Animal Liberation (even those who support animal rights -- a distinction she draws in her book) would take issue with several things in Dr. Socha's talk.

Many in the scientific community who would disagree with her were met with dismissal. Dieticians who argue that meat based diets are healthier (based on scientifically valid, though debated, research) were "arguing from authority" according to her. Meat eating is purely based on tradition, she asserted, because protein deficiency in vegans is "impossible if you know what you're doing." By contrast, doctors extolling the virtue of a plant-based diet are absolutely right and proof her vegan food-ways are justified.

Similarly, scientists conducting animal research believe their research is ethical because of their own "speciesism." Were it not for this, they would realize all of it was "torture," because "the benefits do not justify the costs." Dr. Socha also briefly mentioned a common rebuttal (several scientists on FreeThoughtBlogs have used it) that they use animals because they lack better models. But she mentioned it only to dismiss it out of hand as *prima facie* invalid. It should be noted at this point that Dr. Socha's doctorate is in Philosophy of English Literature and Criticism.

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## Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

The past two months have been busy. We recorded two new programs and added another cable viewing area. In November, Steve Petersen interviewed Janet Conn, President of Compassion and Choices Minnesota and discussed end of life issues, healthcare directives and Bethany Maynard, the person in Oregon who recently used the Oregon Death with Dignity law to relieve her suffering. In December August Berkshire interviewed Dan Wegner, a Catholic and founder and host of the "Does God Exist?" Meetup. The Meetup was aimed more for religious people but many atheists have been interested and welcomed to be part of the group. It was a civil discussion of issues related to god belief covered in several past Meetups.

If you would like to see if a program could be shown in your area or have a program idea, please contact Steve Petersen at [address@mnatheists.org](mailto:address@mnatheists.org). We would like to thank Jim Stroebel for sponsoring Atheists Talk cable program on the southwest Suburban Community Cable representing the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield.

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

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

## Cryptogram Answer

It vexes me when they would constrain science by the authority of the Scriptures, and yet do not consider themselves bound to answer reason and experiment.

Galileo Galilei, "The Authority of Scripture in Philosophical Controversies"



Janet Conn



Dan Wegner and August Berkshire

## Cable Schedule

**Burnsville/Eagan Community Television:** Ch 14.

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

**Bloomington:** Ch. 16. Sunday 11:00 p.m.

Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardesley.

**Minneapolis:** Ch. 75. Monday 7:00 p.m. Sponsor: Steve Petersen

**Northwest Community Television (NWCT)**

**Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth and Robbinsdale,** Ch. 20 check web

page for date and times:

[nwct.org/programming.aspx](http://nwct.org/programming.aspx) Sponsor: Grant Hermanson

**Rochester:** Ch. 10. Tuesday, Wednesday &

Thursday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Salutz

**Roseville, Shoreview, Arden Hills, North Oaks, Little Canada, Falcon Heights,**

**Lauderdale, Moundsview/New Brighton:** Ch. 14.

Wednesday 10:30 p.m. Sponsor: Shirley Moll

**St. Cloud:** Ch. 12 Thursday 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Sponsor: Tom Stavros

**St. Paul:** Ch. 15 Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Wright

**Stillwater:** Ch., 16. Tuesday 7:00 p.m.;

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Sponsor: Lee Salisbury

**White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights:** Ch. 15. Saturday 8:00 p.m. Sponsor:

Michael Seliga





## Secretary's Report – December

By Jill Carlson

The following is a summary of Board of Director's activities for Minnesota Atheists December, 2014

- The annual budget was drafted and documented to establish goals and structure for MNA's financial decisions for 2015
- The status of the secular celebrant in the MN legislator was summarized and Stephanie Zvan was presented with a certificate with approval status as celebrant authorized by MN Atheists
- 2015 Saint Paul Saints planning was brainstormed and co-sponsors were discussed
- 2015 conference planning preliminary discussed with Zvan giving a presentation about Kickstarter

## Call for February Articles

We welcome contributions from all readers of The Minnesota Atheist. While we cannot guarantee that your submission will be accepted for publication, we will carefully consider anything that is related to atheism. We would especially like to receive contributions which provide profiles of individual atheists and which report atheist-related events in the wider community.

Because we are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, we cannot print articles that support or oppose a specific candidate, but we can print articles that support or oppose specific causes. Article length should ideally be 500-1000 words and no more than 2000 words.

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

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

## Meeting Review (continued from page 7)

There were even one or two emotional appeals that atheists might think they left behind in their religions. In addition to the obligatory passing mention of vivisection, she quoted a list of bad things religions did to people, and then came up with grisly parallel practices in industrialized meat production -- or, as she would say, the "animal-industrial complex". In addition to all those practices, they got meat on the pyramid because of "lobbyists" working for decades.

In conclusion, it was a talk with interesting and important philosophical implications for the Animal Liberation movement. Those outside the movement hoping for a less rhetorical approach to the subject, however, probably left disappointed.

\*Noted from the Editorial Board: The opinions expressed by the author are his alone, and do not represent a position by Minnesota Atheists or the editorial board of this newsletter. We are grateful to Dr. Socha for her challenging presentation on this important topic.

## Pioneer Press Article

An article explaining an atheist's war on Christmas was featured in the Pioneer Press for December 21. We received an email giving kudos for our efforts.

"I thought the Pioneer Press did a nice job with telling a story about how the holiday season can be viewed. Eric's quote of "it takes people to do god's work, because there is no god to do god's work" was great! I can't say I've heard that line before, but it's one I will remember. Thank you for giving your time this holiday season to help others!"

-John Hebert



## Minnesota Atheists Member News

Minnesota Atheists newsletter editor, Jenny Nolan, gave birth to her second child this December. Her husband, Jonathan, and daughter, Emmai, helped welcome Kessler Nolan to the family on December 14.



## Minnesota Atheists Give Back

On Dec. 24, August Berkshire dropped off the solstice gifts to the Bridge for Youth ([bridgeforyouth.org](http://bridgeforyouth.org)) and composed this letter to go with them.

"Dear Bridge for Youth,

Thank you for all you do throughout the year to help young people. As a small token of our appreciation, the members of Minnesota Atheists and the Humanists of Minnesota have again taken up a collection of gifts for the people you help, at our annual winter solstice party.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Atheists  
Humanists of Minnesota



## Upcoming Events

**Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous.** Sundays, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Men’s Center, 3249 Hennepin Avenue South, Suite 55, Minneapolis. Meets in the basement. Open to all genders.

**Lake Superior Freethinkers Monthly Membership Meeting.**

First Sundays, social time 9:00 a.m., breakfast 9:30 a.m. (\$13.00), program 10:00 a.m., Duluth Radisson, 505 West Superior Street, Duluth.

**Freethought Toastmasters.** First and third Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Avenue West, Saint Paul. Contact George Kane, nup@Minn.net

**Freethought Lunch.** First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Fairview and Snelling. Contact Bob or Marilyn Nienkerk, 612-866-6200.

**Crafty Freethinkers North.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Brookdale Library, Study Room I, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center.

**Little Canada Book Club.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m., Caribou Coffee, 3354 Rice Street, Little Canada.

**Freethought Dinner Social.** Second and fourth Mondays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Davanni’s, 8605 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington. Contact Bob or Marilyn Neinker, 612-866-6200.

**Godless Gamers—Board Game Night.** Second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Road B2, Roseville.

**Blasphemer’s Brunch.** Second Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 West 66th Street, Richfield.

**Lunch at the Dragon House Restaurant.** Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Dragon House Restaurant, 3970 Central Avenue, Columbia Heights. Contact Bill Volna, 612-781-1420.

**Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting.** Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Open to all members. Contact Heather Hegi, chair@mnatheists.org. for location.

**Freethinking Females Evening** at Chatterbox Pub. Fourth Monday, 7:30 p.m., Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Avenue South, Saint Paul.



Check out more events on our Meetup page at: [meetup.com/minnesota-atheists](http://meetup.com/minnesota-atheists).



**There’s always time to make a difference.**

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

### Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

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

Donations are tax deductible. Membership fees are deductible for the amount beyond their fair market value.

Student memberships include a subscription to the PDF version of *The Minnesota Atheist* delivered by email. All other memberships include a subscription to the printed version delivered by postal mail. If you would prefer the PDF version delivered by email, please check the box and provide your email address.

- Please send my subscription by email

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Email (required for student memberships and email subscriptions): \_\_\_\_\_

**Minnesota Atheists, PO Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112. Please make checks payable to Minnesota Atheists. Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.**

# Minnesota Atheists

## Positive atheism in action<sup>sm</sup> since 1991

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

### Minnesota Atheist Board of Directors

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Submit material for the newsletter to the editor at editor@mnatheists.org  
Submissions may be edited.

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### Minnesota Atheists Goals

Minnesota Atheists practices positive, inclusive, active, friendly, neighborhood atheism in order to provide a community for atheists, educate the public about atheism, and promote separation of state and church.

### Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

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

### Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 207  
Life members: 37  
Meetup members: 1566

### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

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



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