



# THE MINNESOTA ATHEIST

## Public Meeting Sunday April 17, 2016

### Bad Biology: How Evolutionary Psychology Corrupts Evolution, A presentation by PZ Myers



The most powerful and versatile tool in your toolbox is the adjustable wrench. Not only can it tighten and loosen both nuts and bolts of all sizes, but it also makes an excellent hammer, can be used to punch holes in objects, and it also performs as a serviceable canoe paddle.

If that lack of respect for tools makes you cringe, now you know how PZ Myers feels. Natural selection is one of the most powerful concepts in evolutionary biology, yet many people use it excessively and inappropriately as a kind of quasi-miraculous explanation for everything. Most biologists know better, though, and realize that there are many other forces operating on evolution.

The dangerous aspect of the abuse of natural selection is that it allows the naturalistic fallacy to run rampant. If selection inevitably optimizes everything, then whatever is must be for the best – so human nature must be exactly what allows us to survive. This attitude is used to

justify the status quo, whether it's racism, or the superiority of Western culture, or the inferiority of women. This can only be done by ignoring the multiple forces that drive evolutionary change.

Prof. Myers will explain what these other forces are, and giving examples of the abuse of science to justify several fallacies: so-called "scientific" racism and evolutionary psychology. He'll also discuss how lack of knowledge of basic evolutionary biology can lead professional scientists astray.

*PZ Myers is a biologist at the University of Minnesota – Morris who teaches cell biology, genetics, evolution, and development. In his spare time he shakes his fist at the gods on his blog, Pharyngula. He is also the author of the book, The Happy Atheist. He and his wife, Mary Myers, are life members of Minnesota Atheists.*

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Sunday April 17, 2016

Rondo Public Library, 461 N Dale St,  
St Paul, MN 55104

Southwest corner of University Ave. & Dale St.  
Free underground parking: enter off University Ave.  
On Green Line light rail: Dale St. stop.

1:30pm – Doors Open

2:00pm – Featured Speaker

4:00pm – Dinner at Mai Village, 394 University Ave W, St Paul

# President's Column

By Alyssa Ehni

Recently, Minnesota Atheists received an email from a member asking how they could be more involved with the organization as well as influence our public policy positions and speakers for our monthly public meetings. It occurred to me that if someone who had been involved with our organization for a few years didn't know how they could be heard, many others might not either. And that's the purpose of my column this month. To let you know what you can do to influence our organization and build our community.

Minnesota Atheists is run by volunteers. Every person, from the board of directors to meet-up event organizers, is donating their time and energy to keep our organization going. Financially, we are able to put together our programming and host the events we do, with membership dues and other donations from our members. We can't do it without you. And we want to hear your ideas on how we can continue to build an organization that offers value to its membership. Atheists are not a monolithic group: we aren't all necessarily interested in the same things and not all of us will reach the same conclusions. The only thing we are certain to have in common is that we lack belief in any deities.

The board tries to bring in speakers who will talk about topics that we believe atheists in general will be interested in. We recognize that not every member is going to enjoy or even agree with every presentation or speaker. So let us know. Is there a topic you would like to see featured at one of our monthly public meetings? Perhaps you have a particular

speaker in mind. You can send your ideas to me at [pres@mnatheists.org](mailto:pres@mnatheists.org) or to the entire board of directors at [board@mnatheists.org](mailto:board@mnatheists.org). Better yet, why not come to one of the monthly board meetings to discuss your idea with us? Whatever you choose to do, remember your voice is important.

Maybe you don't have an idea for a speaker, but have an idea for a meet-up that you would like to host. I get it. Not everyone is into craft beer. Maybe you'd rather get together and play volleyball with other atheists. We can help you figure it out and get it started. You can contact our lead meet-up organizer and current Chair, Heather Hegi, at [chair@mnatheists.org](mailto:chair@mnatheists.org).

Another option for getting involved is to donate your time and expertise by joining one of our committees. You can help plan the next Aints game or work on Minnesota Atheists' public policy positions. Information on what each committee does and leadership openings can be found under Committees section of the Info tab on our website, [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org). Please email [volunteer@mnatheists.org](mailto:volunteer@mnatheists.org), if you have any questions.

I'm proud to be leading the oldest freethought organization in Minnesota and look forward to building and strengthening our local community. Your ideas and participation are necessary to continue to move our organization forward. If you see me at one of our many events, feel free to introduce yourself and let me know what your suggestions are.

Don't miss your chance to cheer on the Saints at CHS Field!

\$11 = GA Ticket + Saints Hat  
 \$21 = Infield Reserved Ticket + Saints Hat

Purchase tickets online at [saintsgroups.com](http://saintsgroups.com)  
 Password: 2016atheists

Saturday, July 16 @ 7:05pm



vs.



Fargo Moorhead RedHawks

# News and Notes

By George Francis Kane

I found out that Antonin Scalia died when my daughter told me after checking something on her cell phone. She had to caution me not to exult so obviously, as my 9 year-old grandson was watching. I think that every supporter of the separation of church and state celebrated the moment, though, as the Supreme Court Justice, above all others, had made the demolition of Thomas Jefferson's wall of separation his judicial passion.

We have all learned Scalia's views since his 1986 appointment to the Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan. But those who knew him anticipated everything that he has done on this topic, and opposed him from the beginning.

I came across the testimony of Dr. Robert L. Maddox, then executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, at Scalia's Senate confirmation hearings. Dr. Maddox said in part:

*In 1978 Mr. Scalia and Americans United testified at the same set of hearings before the Senate Finance Committee on a bill to give tuition tax credits to patrons of private and parochial schools. Mr. Scalia supported that bill. Americans United opposed that bill.*

*At that session, in our opinion, Mr. Scalia demonstrated a disregard for the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Mr. Scalia, who has been characterized as a strict constructionist, told the Senate not to worry about the question of whether tuition tax credits were constitutional, but to decide on the basis of what "the fundamental traditions of the society require." He argued that the denial of tuition tax credits to parents of students at religious schools was an "anti-religious result" that the Framers of the Constitution had not intended.*

Scalia is the best-known proponent of "constitutional originalism," the judicial theory that the court should not add to the constitution anything more than what its authors intended. This theory fails because practically every constitutional challenge that comes before the Court involves issues that the authors of the constitution could not foresee. The court instead has sought to determine how the principles laid out in the

constitution apply to modern conditions. "Originalism" is touted as a theory that provides an objective reading of the constitution. In fact its use by Scalia was highly subjective, relying on unhistorical myths about the practices and attitudes of the early nation.

Returning to Dr. Maddox's testimony:

*Fortunately, the Congress rejected that unwise advice when it defeated the tuition tax credit bill later that year.*

*In his testimony at that hearing, Mr. Scalia cited what he called the "utter confusion" of Supreme Court rulings on church/state separation. Mr. Scalia's characterization of the past forty years of Supreme Court rulings deeply disturbs us. The Court's decisions do not represent confusion, particularly in the area of public assistance for church-related schools. Beginning in 1971 the Supreme Court rejected scheme after scheme which state legislatures had devised to circumvent the Constitution and provide substantial public subsidies for church schools. Indeed the landmark Lemon case has established guidelines to test the constitutionality of any legislation which might run afoul of the Establishment Clause. Those guidelines represent a major achievement of the Burger Court. We wonder if Mr. Scalia would dismantle them. We worry about the consequences to religious freedom both for the taxpayer who does not wish to be taxed involuntarily for religion and for the church schools themselves which need to be protected from government intervention and meddling.*

Dr. Maddox's fears were realized in the 2014 *Greece v. Galloway* decision. The Court had previously employed several tests to determine if a government action violated the Establishment Clause. There was the *Neutrality Test*, that the government action must not favor one religion over another, or religion over non-religion; the *Endorsement Test*, that government action may not endorse religion; and the three-

(continued on page 9)

## Cryptogram By George Francis Kane

Yj x frdnfr czz jqxoo xea czz kzzn cz kxb cxslj? Crxc qlxej crxc ezc lezdir klzkol  
 hxec crl frdnfr jlnyzdjob lezdir cz kxb tzn ycj dkmlk. Crle, hrb jrzdoad jdf x  
 frdnfr lsyjc? Hrb jrzdoad xcrlyjc, xiezjcyfj xea eze-frdnfrizlnj gl tznfla cz  
 qxyecxye jdf x djloljj, dehxecla frdnfr gb inxecyei yc cxs lslqkcyze?

L. Rxoalqxe-Udoydj, Crl Frdnfr Yj x Gdnale, Ezc x Gleltyc, Ye Jzfyxo Oytl.

# March Public Meeting Review By Jim Barri

Nancy Bradford's talk, "Religion and Domestic Abuse," is based on her experiences as a counselor for battered women; she also referenced the book *Religion and Men's Violence*, edited by Andy Johnson of Bethel College.

Nancy began by defining domestic abuse as a pattern of behaviors – financial, sexual, socially isolating, physically/emotionally/mentally domineering – all with the aim of controlling a spouse or domestic partner (usually women, about 93-98% of the time).

Bible-based teaching set the stage for these behaviors by teaching that women are blamable because of Eve's sin; that, since Adam was created first, men are the superior sex, and women must obey them, and accept whatever men do. Her main example of this is the Quiverfull movement, which demands that women have as many babies as possible – babies being the arrows in the man's "quiver;" that women be held responsible for children's upbringing (and blamed for ANY misbehavior); they must be sexually available to their husbands at all times; and must follow a special diet to keep their bodies as fertile as possible, for as long as possible. Nancy also mentioned a website, [biblicalgenderroles.com](http://biblicalgenderroles.com), which offers more guidelines for how men can control their women, e.g., don't look at your wife's face while having sex with her, so you don't have to acknowledge that she may be unwilling at the time.

She referred to other Biblical verses, including the Epistle to the Ephesians, which teaches that wives must submit to their husbands; one from 1 Timothy, ordering women to be silent in church, and not to teach doctrine; and from 1 Corinthians, about women being for men, not men for women.

Nancy noted that Islam teaches that a woman's suffering is a test of faith, and that marriage is a duty; and that wife-beatings should only be light and symbolic. Mormonism teaches that women are lower-level people, only meant to serve. Orthodox Judaism and Buddhism also teach male superiority, privilege, and power.

Nancy then quoted Andy Johnson, who stated that agnostic, atheist and secular communities have no history of intertwining misogyny, sexism, and legitimacy of family violence. Nancy also turned around the question "Why doesn't she leave?" into "Why does he abuse?" She thinks the first question is victim-blaming.

Domestic abuse occurs in all social strata and educational levels. An abuser can be anyone at all.

Nancy then answered questions about how best to help abuse victims. Most importantly, BELIEVE them; show compassion and patience, as many women are locked in place by their beliefs, financial situation and social milieu.



# Cable Report By Steve Petersen and James Zimmerman

In March Mahad Mohammad interviewed Hertzzy Hertz and Daniel Hansen about Godless Gamers. This program centered on Dungeons and Dragons (D & D) starting with the first Edition in 1974. This was a new style of gaming, in that it involves role playing and fantasy characters developed by the participants. The games could last for days, weeks, months or longer. Before D & D games were simple. In Monopoly there is the fantasy role of the banker, and players are represented by tokens such as a hat, car or thimble. D & D broke that model and opened up a whole new world for participants. That led to a predictable backlash from some parents and various religious groups that continues to this day. Our guests systematically debunked the controversies and spoke of the game's attraction, benefits and enjoyment. Mahad, Hertzzy and Daniel are all regular participants in the Minnesota Atheists Godless Gamers Meet-Up and they invite others to join them. Go to Minnesota Atheists Meet-Up page and see Godless Gamers for times and location.

We are actively looking for people to host and produce each show. If you have ideas on programming or interest in hosting please get involved. Contact Steve Petersen at [address@mnatheists.org](mailto:address@mnatheists.org).

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

Podcasts: Programs are available on the MinnesotaAtheists.org website. Access via iTunes and YouTube has been made possible by Grant Hermanson. To date, our channel has had over 200,000 downloads.



## Cable Schedule

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

**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: <http://nwct.org/programming.aspx> Sponser: 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, Moundview/ 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.

**Have a program idea? Would like to be an interviewer or interviewee? Would like to get some experience of being on the crew behind the scenes? We have opportunities for you! Also, if you would like to see *Atheists Talk* on your local station, we can work to make that happen. Please contact Steve Petersen at [address@mnatheists.org](mailto:address@mnatheists.org).**

# Secretary's Report - March

By Tim Berry

- A motion was made and approved to drop our membership in the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU).
- A motion was made and approved to approve the State of Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report.
- A motion was made and approved to register for PRIDE booth and parade.



Complete meeting minutes are available to dues paying members by contacting Tim at [sec@mnatheists.org](mailto:sec@mnatheists.org)

## 2016 Minnesota Atheists Board



August Berkshire, Eric Jayne, Tim Berry, Georgia Hancock Tsoi, Heather Hegi, Alyssa Ehni, Art Kallenbach, Chris Matthews, and Hertzey Hertz

## Cryptogram Answer

Is a church too small and too poor to pay taxes? That means that not enough people want the church seriously enough to pay for its upkeep. Then, why should such a church exist? Why should atheists, agnostics and non-churchgoers be forced to maintain such a useless, unwanted church by granting it tax exemption?

-E. Haldeman-Julius, *The Church Is a Burden, Not a Benefit, In Social Life*

# February Treasury Report

By Chris Matthews

<b>Radio Fund</b>	
Georgia Tsoi	\$100
Mark Paquette	\$15
James Barri	\$10
August Berkshire	\$10
Rachel Wilson	\$10
<b>Total Radio Fund</b>	<b>\$145</b>
<b>General/Visibility Fund</b>	
Jon Strand	\$500
Robert Rudell	\$25
anonymous	\$2
<b>Total General/Visibility Fund</b>	<b>\$527</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$672</b>
<b>Current Building Fund Total</b>	<b>\$135,319</b>
<b>Top Expenses</b>	
Radio Show	\$600
Newsletter Printing	\$410

# Call for May 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 by 11:59pm on April 22. All submissions may be edited for style and length.

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

Every year there are several hundred anti-abortion protesters that descend on the main Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Paul. This year, as in past years, members of Minnesota Atheists joined with the protect-the-clinic supporters in standing up for Planned Parenthood and march to counter the anti-abortion protesters.



# March in the May Day Parade By Heather Hegi



The month of May is something that Minnesotans look forward to. It's when we can really tell that spring is here and summer is coming. What better way to bring in May than celebrate it with the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's annual May Day Parade and Festival.

This year's parade is on May Day, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be marching in the parade which starts at noon. We line up at Cedar Field Park in Minneapolis (2500 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis), and there's no need to arrive before noon; we don't step off right away as we are toward the end of the parade. The organizers of the festival want this to be a no-waste event; please bring your own reusable water bottle so no disposable water bottles are needed.

The parade ends at Powderhorn Park (3400 15th Ave S, Minneapolis) which is where the festival takes place. At the festival, we will have a booth where we inform people about our group and what we are about. We need volunteers to staff the booth and volunteers to help set up and take down the booth. If interested please email Heather Hegi at [chair@mnatheists.org](mailto:chair@mnatheists.org).

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## The Day of Reason By Heather Hegi

Join Minnesota Atheists as we celebrate the Day of Reason at the state capitol. We meet over the noon hour to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be on the lower mall due to construction. The lower mall is located between Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

This will be our eleventh year celebrating the Day of Reason. In past years we have been honored by the presence of Representative Phyllis Kahn, Representative Mike Freiberg, and Representative Raymond Dehn. This year we plan to highlight our support for Aid in Dying and the importance of science and reason in policy. Learn more about Minnesota Atheists' stances on issues at: [mnatheists.org/information/public-policy-positions](http://mnatheists.org/information/public-policy-positions)

The National Day of Reason was instituted as a protest against the National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer was established by Congress in 1952 and fixed in 1988 as the first Thursday in May. The National Day of Reason is supported by secular groups across the country in support of separation of church and state.

Let's represent secular society by rallying for a good cause, demonstrating to legislators that reason matters, and outnumbering the Day of Prayer crowd.

For more information, please contact [info@mnatheists.org](mailto:info@mnatheists.org).





# The Problem of Silence

By August Berkshire

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam make the following three claims about their god: (1) He is all-knowing. (2) He is all-powerful. (3) He wants us to know him.

If a god is all-knowing, he would *know* what it takes to convince us he exists. If he is all-powerful, he would have the *power* to do whatever it takes to convince us he exists. And if he wants us to know him, he would *do* whatever he could to convince us he exists.

Why, then, doesn't everyone know this god exists? Why is this god silent? It must be that at least one of the three premises listed above is not true.

Perhaps this god is all-knowing and all-powerful, but he *doesn't care* whether or not we know he exists. Or perhaps he is all-knowing and wants us to know him, but he doesn't have the *power* to do what it would take to convince us he exists. Or perhaps he is all-powerful and wants us to know he exists, but he doesn't *know* what it would take to convince us.

One of the rebuttals theists put forth to this argument is that if a god demonstrated his existence in such a way that we could not deny it, it would take away our free will to

disbelieve in his existence: we would all be "forced" to recognize this god. And yet many theists say they believe due to "undeniable" evidence. So where is their free will? Shouldn't their god make himself a little less obvious to these people?

The three premises that were first listed are sufficient to deal with the Problem of Silence. But to this list we can add two more premises that Christians and Muslims believe, which then introduce another contradiction: (4) He is all-loving. (5) His punishment for disbelief is eternal torture.

If a god will punish us eternally for disbelieving in him, and yet refuses to give us whatever it would take to convince us he exists, then he is not all-loving. He is cruel.



## News & Notes (continued from page 3)

pronged *Lemon Test*. According to *Lemon*, a government action violates the Establishment Clause if it does not have a secular purpose, if it advances or inhibits religion, or if it or if it excessively entangles government with religion.

The Court has never overturned these tests for Establishment Clause violation, but Scalia argued in a concurring opinion in *Elmbrook School district v. Doe* that the decision of *Greece v. Galloway* showed that no test should be applied if the government action in question had been adopted in the early days of the constitution. This argument shows the subjectivity of originalism, as it cannot measure the number of times that the government action may have been rejected because it was regarded as an Establishment Clause violation.

Scalia considered the only applicable test to be one of coercion. That is, a government action violates the Establishment Clause only if it compels religious orthodoxy and financial support of religion by force of law and threat of penalty. By this standard, there would be no Establishment Clause violations.

Returning to Dr. Maddox's testimony:

*Mr. Scalia also questioned the High Court's policy of granting broad standing to taxpayers to file lawsuits in First Amendment church-state cases. "That has enabled cases to reach the Court which couldn't*

*have gotten there before," he added. Taxpaying citizens of the United States should have a right to seek redress under the law when they believe their religious liberties are being infringed. It would be a terrible retrenchment if we were to restrict the freedom of citizens to challenge governmental action in the sensitive area of religion.*

In the 1968 case *Flast v. Cohen*, the Court carved out for Establishment Clause cases an exception to the usual requirements for standing. This is that taxpayers to a government body have standing to take it to court to prevent it from violating the Establishment Clause. In the 2011 case *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn*, the Court found a highly technical pretext to deny standing, but overturned the *Flast* rule.

At least, with Antonin Scalia there were no surprises. His positions in opposition to the wall of separation of church and state were exactly what was expected when he was nominated. His tenure on the court proves how important it is to have him replaced on the court by a reliable supporter of the Establishment Clause.

# Featured Blogpost

by The Radical Housewife, Shannon Drury

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



THIS JUST IN! The Radical Housewife has been named WINNER of a 2015 USA Book Award in the Women's Issues Category!

The Radical Housewife is Shannon Drury, the AWARD-WINNING feminist mom who started a MySpace blog in 2006 with a silly nickname.



At the March for Women's Lives, 2004. Devil horns were appropriate during the Dubya years.

Why? Well, why not?

I already felt out of place in my real life worlds: at feminist action meetings as the only one inquiring about child care, and at Mommy & Me groups as the only one insisting that Strongly Worded Letters Should Be Written About This.

I've always considered myself a writer, from the years I composed love poems to Duran Duran in blank books to when I was runner-up in Sassy magazine's 1990 short story contest. My plan was to write emotionally devastating literary fiction while my placid children napped. Then I actually had a kid, one with "special needs" no less, and I realized that writing snappy blog posts under a goofball moniker was probably going to be more my style.

Most importantly, "The Radical Housewife" happened because I really hoped that the 22-year-olds from Minnesota NOW who talked me into getting a MySpace account would think it was funny (they did).

I found that my blog was a great outlet for some of the ragier things that would blow through my mind during trips to Target and preschool. In 2006, a post I submitted to the Minnesota Women's Press was printed in their paper, and my part-time freelancing career began.

Since 2007 I've had my own column in the magazine, where I write about abortion rights, Madonna vs. Rihanna, activist burnout, grieving lost friends, feminist men, parenting, and other fun stuff.

Since I'm sharing pictures with you, I must whip out this one:



This blog was named a Top 25 Political Mom Blog by Circle of Moms and one of the 30 Political Mom Bloggers Who Will Change Your Vote by The Stir at CafeMom.com, which was pretty nice.

I wrote about Courtney Love in the summer 2011 issue of *Bitch*, a thrill from which I have not yet recovered.

I'm married to a swell feminist guy and we share a house in Minneapolis with two cats, two kids, four computers, hundreds of vinyl records, thousands of books, millions of Lego pieces and billions of dustbunnies.

# Upcoming Events

**March in the May Day Parade with Minnesota Atheists** Sunday, May 1 at noon, Cedar Field Park, 2500 Cedar Ave, Minneapolis. Parade starts at noon but we will not step off right away as we are toward the end.

**Day of Reason** Thursday, May 5 at noon, Minnesota State Capitol Lower Mall, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Saint Paul  
**Americans United Minnesota Chapter Annual Meeting** Saturday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m., East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St, Minneapolis

**Atheist Night with the Mr Paul Aints** Saturday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m., CHS Field, 310 5th St E, St Paul MN. Atheist sponsored St Paul Saints minor league baseball game. Purchase tickets at SaintsGroups.com, password: 2016atheists

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

**Godless Gamers** Every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and Thursday at 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Rd B2, Roseville

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

**Freethought Toastmasters Meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul. freethought.toastmastersclubs.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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
- One-year sustaining membership \$75
- Three-year sustaining membership \$200
- Life membership \$600

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.

**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.**

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required for student memberships and email subscriptions): \_\_\_\_\_

# Minnesota Atheists

## Positive Atheism in action since 1991

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

### Minnesota Atheist Board of Directors

**Board Email**  
board@mnatheists.org

**President**  
Alyssa Ehni  
pres@mnatheists.org

**Associate President**  
Art Kallenbach  
apres@mnatheists.org

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Heather Hegi  
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**Minnesota Atheists Goals**  
Minnesota Atheists practices positive, inclusive, active, friendly, neighborhood atheism in order to provide a community for atheists, educated 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: 206  
Life members: 42  
Meetup members: 2017

### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD  
Dan Barker  
Gerald Erickson, PhD  
Annie Laurie Gaylor  
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