

January 2018
Volume 28
Number 1

January Public Meeting Guest Speaker: Marissa Alexa McCool

For the January Public Meeting we are pleased to welcome Marissa Alexa McCool. Marissa is an atheist, LGBT-rights activist and speaker, multiple podcast host, author, columnist, and stage performer whose goal is to speak out, speak loudly, and bring visibility to LGBT issues.

Marissa came out as a trans woman in the midst of the 2016 election, and kicked down the closet door by screaming in a hate pastor's face and publishing a visceral reaction to the circumstances. In the last year, she has published five books, started a nonprofit for trans content creators, hosted podcasts, and has traveled all over the country.

Marissa has authored a total of nine books, including *The PC Lie: How American Lives Decided I Don't Matter*, *False Start: A Novel*, *Silent Dreams*, and her newest novel *Voice in the Dark*. As host of the *Inciting Incident* podcast, she begins conversations on difficult topics in current events. In addition to many different interviews, such as with Noah Lugeons, Karen Garst, Dan Arel, Steve Shives, Tim Brown, Lucinda Lugeons, Matthew O'Neil, Noam Chomsky, and Chris Kluwe, to name a few, she hosts individual topics and conversations about LGBT rights, transgender visibility, suicide and mental health awareness, and the myths of PC Culture.

At the January Public Meeting, we will hear more about her story and her insights. An important takeaway will be that, as atheists, we are not immune to toxic cultural influences in regard to how marginalized communities are treated. As freethinkers and critical thinkers, we must always challenge our preconceptions. We hope you will join us for this insightful presentation by Marissa Alexa McCool.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

1:00–1:15 p.m.: Social
1:15–1:45 p.m.: Business Meeting
and Board Nominations
1:45–2:00 p.m.: Break
2:00–3:30 p.m.: Program

4:00 p.m.: Dinner

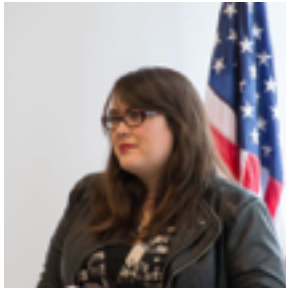


Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy
Brooklyn Center, MN

Dinner details will be announced at the meeting.

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President's Column Iconic Resolution

By *Alyssa Ehni*

Happy New Year to my fellow heathens! I hope the holiday season treated you well and that you had a very merry whatever it is that you and yours celebrate.

Cliché, I know, but the new year makes room for fresh beginnings and change. One thing the board would like to change is the logo that Minnesota Atheists uses. While we are all fond of the logo we have, the lettering does not always print nicely when the logo must be small. Before we get to how we would like to redesign the logo, let's talk about the logo that we presently use.

The logo is comprised of multiple symbols. It

references science, with a shooting star crossing in front of a crescent moon, which forms a rounded version of the capital letter A, for atheism. The star also represents Minnesota, as the North Star State and the star in motion represents that we are an action oriented organization. I like it. It is thoughtful and was designed years ago by one of our members, Pierre Tardif, who was vice president of Lavender magazine.

So why am I talking about the fact that we would like to change the logo instead of introducing something new? Well, that's because we would like to have a design contest for the new logo! That's right, you can submit your idea for a shiny brand new Minnesota Atheists' logo. Design wise we are open, but please consider the following:

1. Any proposed logo should be clear and readable when it is being used for something like a sticker or a button.

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Cryptogram

By *George Francis Kane*

Rzta gwalrgr, zxrjqqlon gwcg css "appavgr" oaab
c vcera, crrajg gwcg Nzb lr c vcera xeg ozg co
appavg. Xeg oz zoa wcr aqaj zxrjqab co eovcerab
vcera cob rltkxi loqaoglon zoa tajasi crretar fwcg
gwa cjnetaog flrwar gz kjzqa.

—Bco Xcjhaj, Szrlon Pclgw lo Pclgw: Pjzt Kjacvwaj
gz Cgwalrg.



News & Notes The “War on Christmas”

By *George Francis Kane*

Atheists tend to regard references to “the War on Christmas” with light-hearted seasonal mirth. Conservative Christians strike out against everyone who does not say “Merry Christmas,” to shame people who prefer nonreligious salutations such as “season’s greetings.” At least, this year Bill O’Reilly does not have his program on Fox to launch the attack. For Minnesota Atheists, the “War on Christmas” was the theme of the annual gift collection for the Children’s Hospital of Minnesota. This year we collected \$900 worth of gifts.

The “War on Christmas” does lead to adversarial confrontations, however, when some Christian ministries try to exploit the Christmas holiday to erect crèche scenes on public property. They say that they do this to restore the original, religious meaning of the holiday and “put Christ back in Christmas,” but they are not satisfied to do this only on private property. They need a partnership with government to show that America is a “Christian nation.”

There are several actions that secular groups can then take to defend the separation of church and state. It usually starts with a letter, simply to inform the government entity that its planned action violates the First Amendment. The Supreme Court decided this issue in the 1989 case *County of Allegheny v. ACLU of Pittsburgh*, finding that a crèche displayed in the county courthouse was an endorsement of religion, and sends the message that the county supports and promotes the crèche’s religious message. That is what Freedom from Religion Foundation lawyers wrote in December to the city of Bakersfield, California, asking it to omit religious displays from future public celebrations.

Sometimes this is enough, and government officials agree, whether through conviction or expediency, to end the nativity displays. If not, legal action is required, by groups such as the Freedom from Religion Foundation, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, American Atheists and the American Civil Liberties Union. These suits are often successful, but

crèches are sometimes permissible as part of a balanced tableau including secular elements and displays from different religious traditions.

If the court rules against the crèche, the government may appeal the decision, when litigation is continued into another round. The city may decide not to incur the costs of further litigation, and simply discontinue the nativity scene from Christmas displays. For example, the FfRF in 2015 sued the public Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana to stop a live nativity scene in its Christmas extravaganza that had been a tradition for 45 years. In early 2017 the Federal District Court ruled that the show created an impermissible government endorsement of religion. In December, it was announced that the tradition would be picked up by the St. Thomas the Apostle Church and School.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation is prepared with its own “nativity” scene.

Finally, the government may decide to try to retain the crèche by bringing the total display into constitutional compliance, as described previously, by opening the presentation to other groups, regardless of content. From the standpoint of the separation of church and state this is a less desirable decision, but it forces the government to accept non-Christian displays. The FfRF is prepared with its own “nativity” scene.

In the display, Benjamin Franklin, the Statue of Liberty, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson look approvingly on the “baby” constitution. The text reads “At this season of the Winter Solstice join us in honoring the Bill of Rights, adopted on December 15, 1791, which reminds us there can be no religious freedom without the freedom to dissent. Keep religion and government separate!”

This year, the FfRF has placed its nativity scene in the state capitols in Wisconsin, California, Illinois and Iowa; in Brodhead, Wisconsin, Cleveland, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois and elsewhere to counter religious displays on government property. “If there is a religious display on public land, you can be sure that we’ll be there, too,” said FfRF Co-President Dan Barker.

Snopes.com has an excellent article on the history of the War on Christmas in America, dating back to 1659.

Chanukah Memories Home for the (Secularized) Holidays

By Joyce Denn

I grew up in a sort-of-secular Jewish household: that is, my parents were believers who made me attend Hebrew School, but their belief did not extend to attending religious services (though the Hebrew School required us to attend services, and took attendance), or celebrating holidays. As a child, I found that confusing — if I had to spend Saturday mornings in synagogue, why couldn't I also enjoy the holidays the way the other kids in my class did — and disheartening. I still remember how thrilled I felt when friends of my parents gave us a brass menorah (a special candelabra designed for the 8 nights of Chanukah) with a music box in the base, as a gift. I remember thinking it was the most beautiful menorah, especially on the last night of Chanukah, when every candle was lit; yes, I annoyed my parents to no end until they allowed me to light candles for Chanukah. I insisted on saying the prayers for the candle lighting, too, because I wanted to do Chanukah the way my friends did.

You don't need religion to make compassion a part of your life.

I bring this up because, as an adult, I came to understand why holiday observances are so important. Holiday celebrations are, after all, rites of passage which articulate the year and mark the passage of time. Every known culture has seasonal holiday observances, and it is no accident that in nearly every known culture throughout history, the holidays associated with the winter solstice are celebrated with evergreens, candles, bonfires, and/or burning logs; we may no longer believe in the sympathetic magic of firelight bringing back the sun, but we need glitter and sparkling lights to help us navigate those long nights of winter. (A bit of gratuitous trivia: the ancient Greeks liked to get married on the winter solstice, because of the longest night.)

I have been an atheist for as long as I can remember, so, when I had a family of my own, I decided to celebrate the most enjoyable holidays, that is, the ones involving a festive meal with family and friends, with a decidedly secular spin.

Thanksgiving was easy, of course, and it is one of my favorite holidays because I love cooking and baking. Besides, there is nothing overtly religious about Thanksgiving, no prayers or religious services are required, so it is easy to celebrate as an atheist. My other favorite holidays, Chanukah and Passover, are more problematic, but, I've managed to secularize them while keeping a connection with their original meanings.

Let me pause here to point out that, though I love cooking and baking, I hate cooking for Chanukah; because of a miracle involving oil (the lamp in the ancient temple supposedly burned for 8 days, even though there was only enough purified oil for one, hence the eight nights of lighting candles) every traditional Chanukah food is fried. I hate frying. No joke — Christian homes are redolent of cinnamon and cloves, mulled cider, cookies still warm from the oven, while Jewish homes smell of cooking oil.

But, Chanukah is not only about a miracle, it is about the Jewish people fighting for the right to practice their religion as they saw fit, without the Hellenization imposed by the Greek conquerors. That was my hook — Chanukah was not only an excuse to give presents (I LOVE giving presents), it was a time to celebrate all religious freedom, including freedom FROM religion. In my home, we light candles, play dreidel (for Reese's Pieces, not money), eat latkes, give presents, and talk about freedom of conscience, and how we can work against the forces that seek to impose their religious practices on everyone, a particularly apt discussion right now.

Similarly, we celebrate Passover, an observance associated with the exodus from Egypt, with the traditional foods and rituals, and with a doctored reading of the Haggadah, the text which explains the meanings of the rituals, but with an emphasis on working for the enslaved and the oppressed in our own time. The Haggadah tells us that we must speak of the exodus as if it were not ancient history, as if we, ourselves, were freed from slavery, because that way we will remember that freedom must not be taken for granted, and that we must never stop fighting oppression wherever and whenever it occurs.

My favorite part of the Passover Seder (the ritual meal) is when one person opens the front door and calls out, loudly, "If there is anybody

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Boss Baby = Religious Codes? Depends on Your Point of View

By Milo Grika

Having a toddler means watching the same movie(s) millions of times. Currently, one of the movies my son is fixated on is DreamWorks Animation's *The Boss Baby*; I honestly can't tell you how many times I've watched it.

Getting to see the same movie over and over ... and over again, means picking up on things that were missed in the earlier viewings. And the more times I watched *The Boss Baby*, the more I became convinced that it was trying to slip me religious references.

Chronologically in the movie (not in order of my realization):

[Warning: may include spoilers]

1. Babies are produced at Baby Co. which is headquartered in the clouds, where everything is white, and we are introduced to this scene with the accompanying music: "Heaven, I'm in heaven, and I seem to find the happiness I seek ..."
2. The protagonist, Tim's alarm clock includes an animatronic wizard. When Tim sets off to expose the Boss Baby, Wizzy exclaims, "God speed, Tim!"
3. Tim asks the Boss Baby, "Are you the baby Jesus?" BB replies, "Yes, ah no. You see, I'm more ... middle management." He seems to imply that the "CEO" might indeed be Jesus.
4. Tim gets to see the portraits of past "bosses" including Super Colossal Big Fat Boss Baby. Boss Baby relates to Tim that when he's trying to decide something, "I ask myself, 'WWSCBFBB?'"
5. Tim is reading Hansel & Gretel to Boss Baby, which ends "... and the godless witch was miserably burned to death."
6. Tim and Boss Baby are in a spooky, dark office and Boss Baby holds his flashlight under his chin, looks at Tim and says, "I've come for your soul."
7. When all hope to save Tim's parents seems lost, Boss Baby exclaims, "We're gonna' need a miracle." Which is followed by a bright light emanating from an angelic being descending towards them. This turns out to be

a cape-wearing Elvis impersonator coming down the escalator with his arms raised and light glinting off his rhinestones, but that doesn't dispel the angel image in my eyes.

8. And finally, Tim's last name is Templeton.

Being the healthy skeptic, even of myself, I had to find a second, corroborating source, just to be sure. The second hit of a Google search of: "boss baby religious" was: <https://christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2017/bossbaby2017.html>

The Christian Answers website is exactly what it sounds like. Interestingly though, is that it has a section called Christian Spotlight on Entertainment which has movie reviews.

For *The Boss Baby*, it starts with just the distributor's description of the movie, followed by the digest:

Violence: Mild

Profanity: "God" (2), "heck" (1), "darn" (1)

Sex/Nudity: Moderate

This is followed by reader's comments; and boy was I stunned!

It has one positive review, one neutral (which is still rather negative), and three negative reviews. (I've shortened the following comments to just the most interesting information.)

Neutral—I was SHOCKED at the amount of religious comments they had, calling him the devil baby (because the little brother didn't like him, and he was making his life difficult), then they made a reference to him being the baby Jesus which was totally uncalled for.

Also, no clue what [sic] they had to show a baby's butt many times throughout the movie! And they had a cross dressing man, who wasn't pretending to enjoy it, he was just acting like the nanny but still that can be confusing.

My Ratings: Moral rating: Offensive / Movie-making quality: 4

Negative—Besides the fact that it is lacking substance, there are a couple of scenes in which they are making fun of our LORD and Christianity.

The baby and the older brother have a conversation about where babies come from. The older brother asks him: are you baby JESUS? And

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Searching for a Job as an Atheist January Meeting Review

By August Berkshire

At our November 2017 Public Meeting we did something we don't often do: address an issue that has a direct, practical application to many of our members. At one time or another virtually everyone has to look for a job and sometimes being an atheist is an issue.

The idea for the meeting came from a post on our Minnesota Atheists Facebook page:

I am recently unemployed and I have been working with the workforce centers though the state. They have offered a lot of job fair or networking opportunities through different religious groups and churches. They also give everyone information on networking and job fairs they offer. I was wondering if the atheist groups in Minnesota ever hold employment-networking groups for people seeking employment?

There are a number of questions worth considering, such as: What resources are available? What are the secular options? How "out" should I be as an atheist? If I serve on the Minnesota Atheists board or a committee, should I put it on my résumé? Will the Human Resources department search my social media page (like Facebook) or Google my name and find a connection to atheism? What are the privacy rights of individual employees vs. the rights of companies to know your history?

With about 20 people in attendance, we decided to form a circle with our chairs to facilitate discussion amongst ourselves. Each person introduced themselves and spoke briefly on their work history. Although everyone had an interesting story to tell, not everyone brought up the issue of atheism. Here are some of the highlights that pertain to being an atheist at work:

Heather does GIS map-making on a computer as a city employee. On her résumé she uses the word "Nonprofit" instead of the name of our group.

Alyssa works for a life insurance company handling customer complaints. Her company has a good diversity policy. Activities outside of work must be approved by a supervisor for possible

conflicts of interest. Minnesota Atheists is not a conflict.

Georgia works in the insurance industry. She has people get to know her as a person first. Then, if they find out later that she is an atheist, it's less of a big deal. She works with conservative Christians. Being an out atheist makes them respect a neutral workplace more.

Shirley has worked as an assistant corporate secretary and a legal secretary. If a coworker brought up religion then Shirley didn't hesitate to be out of the closet. Once on a "Casual Friday." where you were not supposed to have wording on your clothing, a co-worker wore a "God First" t-shirt. Shirley challenged it and threatened to wear an atheist t-shirt. As a result, the co-worker quit wearing religious clothing.

Will Human Resources Google my name and find a connection to atheism?

Steve was a letter carrier at the Post Office and also worked with the Postal Union. There were policies against harassment but they were often ignored, sometimes creating a hostile work environment. If Steve were looking for a job today, he would want to look at a company's diversity policy before he would list a connection to Minnesota Atheists. He noted that growing diversity in the work force has led companies to rename "Christmas" parties to "Holiday" parties. While working at the Post Office, Steve filed a complaint against a religious display at a Belgrade, Minnesota Post Office. Because of this, it was moved to private property. Steve noted that he had the protection of being in a union.

David is a former retired teacher who is now working at Target. He said that coming out as an atheist when he was a public school teacher was a disaster, as far as the reaction he got from fellow teachers and parents.

August has worked most of his life as a delivery driver, based in Minneapolis. Perhaps because it is a liberal city, being an open atheist has never been a problem for him.

Mark is a gay atheist who worked at Caterpillar, General Electric, and a software company. Some of his work involved international travel. He found that the Discovery Channel Latin America was very welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds. He said that often coworkers who

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January Meeting continued from page 6 were strongest in their religious beliefs are the most obnoxious about it and can be easily identified and dealt with as you think best.

A different Steve noted that we don't see religion much in publicly held companies; privately held companies are more likely to violate a person's religious rights.

Patrick has degrees in English and political science. He has worked in public libraries and a library in a Catholic girls private school.

Erica Klein, Ph.D., was the person who had the most experience on the meeting's topic. She has a degree in the Psychology of Work. Her thesis was on how stereotypes impact the screening of résumés. She is the author of the book *Employment Tests: Get the Edge when You Compete for a Job*. While she was unemployed, she began job search networking for atheists (as opposed to a church-run network). She said there were no laws against a company looking at your social media. However, your social media is not a predictor of how good an employee you will be. She said it was not wise for a company to do this (look at your Facebook account or Google your name) because they could be accused of discrimination if it adversely affected your employment. These things are different from a background check, which can be legitimate.

The meeting concluding by asking: How can we be job-networking resource for each other? Should we establish an atheist professional directory? We welcome your thoughts and volunteer efforts regarding this important topic.

Logo continued from page 2

2. The entry is original and does not infringe on any trademarks, copyright etc.
3. The proposed logo is positive and in the spirit of Minnesota Atheists.

You can submit your proposed logo to the board via email (board@mnatheists.org) by March 31, 2018. Once the board has the opportunity to review the submissions, we will present our members with an opportunity to vote on their favorite. When a winner has been determined, we will start using the new logo on our website, tee-shirts, pamphlets, etc.

Go forth, design, or draw. We look forward to your submissions.

Treasury Report October and November

By *Chris Matthews*

Building Fund

\$20 David A Hahn
\$20 Ann E Zaiser
\$40 Total Building Fund

Radio Fund

\$500 Richard Dean
\$500 Alice Lesney
\$200 Matthew & Nancy Hertz
\$200 George Kane
\$200 Jay Mellentin
\$30 Nancy Ruhland
\$20 August Berkshire
\$20 David Hahn
\$15 James Barri
\$15 Gene & Anita Martinez
\$15 Mark Paquette
\$112 cash donations
\$1,827 Total Radio Fund

General/Visibility Fund

\$600 Alyssa Ehni
\$150 Mike Abbott
\$30 James Barri
\$20 David Hahn
\$20 Jim Mueller
\$20 Ann Zaiser
\$10 Nancy Ruhland
\$5 Prudence Johnson
\$94 cash / anonymous
\$949 Total General/Visibility Fund

Total Income \$2,816

Current Building Fund \$138,302

Top Expenses

\$1,845 Radio Show
\$667 Newsletter Printing

Chanukah continued from page 4

who is hungry, if there is anybody who is cold, or hurting, come join us, you are welcome in our home." You don't need religion to understand the power of a declaration like that; you don't need religion to make compassion a part of your life. In my home, Passover is a paean to human rights, and a reminder of all that still needs to be done.

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Boss Baby continued from page 5

he answers: “Yes, I’m baby JESUS.” After a small pause he adds: “No, I’m not.”

The second instance was when the two of them are at the airport and are in need of a fast intervention. One of them says: “We need a miracle.” The next scene shows a bright light in the shape of an angel coming down the escalator. After the camera zooms in, we see a man impersonating Elvis Presley. I thought that was really unnecessary and did feel like they were making fun of our values.

It is so frustrating, that Hollywood laughs at us Christians and includes so much junk in their movies, and, for a great part, we just laugh along because we have become so used to it.

My Ratings: Moral rating: Very Offensive /
Moviemaking quality: no opinion

Negative—The first thing I noticed is the abundance of triangles in this movie, which is an Illuminati symbol. The baby takes God’s name in vain, and there is a mockery of Jesus Christ. The magic pacifiers, the “what would big colossal boss baby do” mocking what would Jesus do. Francis sits on his brother’s/father’s lap. Cross dressing, Tim is given an alcoholic beverage, the wizard who kept trying to cast spells—this movie is FULL of anti-Christ conversations and symbols!

Ephesians 5:11: “Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

My Ratings: Moral rating: Extremely Offensive / Moviemaking quality: 4

Negative—Right off the bat, there’s a scene that boss baby fears being sodomized by a binky... and then gets batted around when they’re trying to determine his gender.

The big brother, Eugene, dresses like a woman and apparently gets in touch with his feminine side, because he softens at the end with a very motherly approach to his new baby. I am concerned that there are certain things that movies like this are trying to normalize and desensitize us to that are in direct violation of God’s Word.

On the surface, it’s just a funny kids movie... but with the discernment of the Spirit, I have to recommend against watching this film.

My Ratings: Moral rating: Offensive / Movie-making quality: 5

It was amazing to me that some of the very things that I thought of as promoting religion, were viewed as exactly the opposite: attempts to weaken peoples’ religious “spirit.”

In the end, it’s obvious that we all have biases that color our view of the world. And as rational folks we need to remember that we are as fallible to our biases and prejudices as those in the religious community and we are better people when we step back and review our own thoughts and opinions, since the religious have faith that their opinions are absolute fact, if not divinely inspired.

Get Famous (Sort of)

You too can become published by simply submitting something to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Have a blog? | <i>Let us reprint it.</i> |
| Have an opinion? | <i>Let us hear it.</i> |
| Want to review a movie/TV show/book etc.? | <i>Give us your take.</i> |
| Enjoyed a gathering or event? | <i>Tell us about it.</i> |
| | <i>You can also send us a photo.</i> |
| Have a comment about something we printed? | <i>Don’t hold back.</i> |

Just send your input to editor@mnatheists.org and we’ll do the rest.

Cryptogram Answer

Some theists, observing that all “effects” need a cause, assert that God is a cause but not an effect. But no one has ever observed an uncaused cause and simply inventing one merely assumes what the argument wishes to prove.

—Dan Barker, *Losing Faith in Faith: From Preacher to Atheist*

Atheists Talk Radio & Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

Atheists Talk Radio Show

Podcast can be listened to at www.mnatheists.org page down to the podcast link, <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk> Atheist. You can catch our show live, every Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m. Central on AM 950 KTNF or online at <http://www.am950radio.com/listen-live/> Contact us during the show with questions or comments at (952) 946-6205 or contact us anytime via radio@mnatheists.org or tweet us anytime at @atheiststalk

Sponsors of the program are: Q.Cumbers restaurant in Edina, MN and American Atheists and the members and donors of Minnesota Atheists. To support the program go the MNA web page donation/radio, giveMN/minnesootatheists, <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk> Atheist or by mail to our Post Office Box. All donations are tax deductible.

“Original Motto Project” Atheists Talk #432, December 10, 2017

“Beyond The Trailer Park” Atheists Talk #431, December 03, 2017

“Nick Fish of American Atheists” Atheists Talk #430, November 26, 2017

“Dimland Radio” Atheists Talk #429, November 19, 2017

“Answers From Atheists” Atheists Talk #428, November 12, 2017

“Svan & Shives Platform Shoes & Co,” Atheists Talk #427, November 5, 2017

“Halloween; Witch Trials” Atheists Talk #426, October 29, 2017

“Inclusivi-Tee” Atheists Talk #425, October 22, 2017

If you are interested in the radio program, please send a message to radio@mnatheists.org. Atheists Talk is on Twitter and Facebook. Thank you to all the volunteers who put the radio program together each week.

Atheists Talk cable program

We taped two programs with host Grant Steves and guest Tim Stanley from Planned Parenthood. Program one: Planned Parenthood and its Mission and program two: Planned Parenthood and Legislation.

Atheists Talk cable: View it online on the Minnesota Atheists iTunes or YouTube channels. If you have an idea or expertise in a subject of interest to atheists, contact Steve Petersen at address@mnatheists.org.

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

Podcasts: Available via iTunes and YouTube which are made possible by Grant Hermanson. To date, our YouTube channel has had over 300,000 downloads.

Cable schedule:

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 at: <http://nwct.org/programming.aspx>. Sponsor: Grant Hermanson.

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

Bloomington: Ch. 16 Sunday 11:00 p.m. Sponsor: David Beardsley



Accepting Nominees to the 2018 Board of Directors

By Heather Hegi

Minnesota Atheists holds elections for the 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 with a couple board members glad to refrain from running if someone else runs for their position. If you are interested or would like to know more about a board position, please contact Heather Hegi at chair@mnatheists.org or any other board member.

Nominations will open and close on January 21st at 1:15 p.m. during the January Business Meeting, before the featured speaker at 2:00 p.m.

This will be held at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.

To be nominated, one needs to be nominated by another dues-paying member while nominations are open. The nominee 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 assuming office, Director-at-Large nominees must have been a member for six (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 18th during the February Business Meeting, before the featured speaker. The new board will take effect on March 1, 2018.

Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

Membership Levels

- 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

Donation Funds

General Fund \$ _____

Building Fund \$ _____

Radio 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 make checks payable to:

Minnesota Atheists.

Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.

Minnesota Atheists
PO Box 120304
New Brighton, MN 55112

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Just email newsletter Email address _____
(Required for student memberships and email subscriptions)

Upcoming Events

View the British Arrow Award Winners Saturday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m.
Davanni's Party Room, 663 Winnetka Ave N, Golden Valley.

White Elephant Gift Exchange Saturday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Green Mill, 57 South Hamline, St. Paul.

Out to Eat Sunday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m.
Hola Arepa, 3501 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis.

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

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

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

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

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

Freethinking Females

2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
Claddagh Irish Pub, 7890 Main St N, Maple Grove

And 4th 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 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m.
The Food Group, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope.

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

Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 3rd 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 S, Minneapolis.

For more events, visit www.meetup.com/minnesota-atheists



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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.

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The American

Humanist Association

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Humanist and

Ethical Union

Secular Coalition

for America

Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 218

Life members: 43

Meetup members:

2,400

Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD

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Gerald Erickson, PhD

Annie Laurie Gaylor

Dick Hewetson

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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.



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