

The Minnesota Atheist

September Public Meeting – September 20, 2015

John Wreisner of The Satanic Temple and the Separation of Church and State

When a Florida school board made the decision that religious and atheist organizations were allowed to hand out material (including bibles) in public schools, they were prepared for the chance that atheist organizations would take advantage of the policy, but what they were not prepared for were the Satanists. To their surprise, The Satanic Temple used the ruling to pass out satanic coloring books to students. The coloring books themselves are benign, but that didn't matter to Christian parents who were horrified that their children were coloring in a Satanic Coloring Book! The school board reversed their decision, which is exactly what The Satanic Temple was aiming for.

The Satanic Temple is essentially a humanistic, atheistic organization. Followers do not believe in a literal Satan, they use it as a metaphor; they utilize the archetype of Lucifer as a guiding principle. Their wholly fictional Lucifer represents knowledge, liberty, and resistance to tyranny and arbitrary authority. They do not relate to The Satanic Bible; rather, they relate to the literary Satan of the enlightenment best exemplified by Milton and the Romantic Satanists from Blake to Shelley and Anatole France. While members are not required to consider themselves atheists, The Satanic Temple is a non-theistic religion. Members are expected to conform their beliefs to our best scientific understanding of the world, and never to distort scientific facts to fit their beliefs.

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Join us at the September public meeting to learn more about The Satanic Temple. The head of the newly formed Minneapolis Chapter, John Wreisner will discuss their national successes and continuing efforts to support the separation of church and state. It should be a hell of a good time.

Sunday, September 20, 2015
Where: Rondo Public Library, 461 North Dale Street, St Paul
Schedule:
1:30pm – Doors Open
2:00pm – Featured Speaker
4:00pm – Dinner at Mai Village
394 University Ave W, St Paul

President's Column – 2015 Aints Game

By Eric Jayne

Local baseball fans gave up their soles to atheists this past Saturday at CHS Field in downtown St. Paul. The fourth annual atheist-themed Saint Paul Saints game was sponsored by Minnesota Atheists, the Foundation Beyond Belief and the Humanists of Minnesota. This year it featured a shoe drive that was advertised as "Leave Your Soles at the Gate. The 400 pairs of shoes we collected benefits Soles4Souls whose mission is to fight poverty through the collection and distribution of shoes and clothes. Not only was this collaborative achievement a lot of fun, but it also embodies the natural compassion of people, whether they are religiously faithful, atheist, or somewhere in-between.

The gates at CHS Field opened at 5:30 at which time the shoes immediately came flooding in. Before my son and I tossed a carefully rehearsed ceremonial first pitch at 7:00 p.m. our shoe collection box was overflowing. Fortunately one of our board members, Art Kallenbach, brought large industrial strength bags for this very contingency. Art also took the lead in building the shoe collection box, hauling the shoes from the stadium, and coordinating the delivery to Soles4Souls. Our associate president, Alyssa Ehni, secretary Heather Hegi, and assistant organizers Caroline Brunner, Mahad Muhammad, Les Stordalen and Hertzey Hertz helped design the box with a lot of colorful paint that included the logos of all the sponsoring organizations.

Next to the shoe collection box was our greeting table with information pamphlets and complimentary Get Out of Hell Free cards, in the style of the *Get Out of Jail Free* cards from the classic Monopoly game. These tongue-in-cheek cards were quite popular among the fans who stopped by to learn more about the local organized freethought community.

The pre-game tailgating was filled with great food, drinks, company, and beautiful sunny weather. The ballgame itself was exciting and was also played under a gorgeous summer sky. The rebranded and secularized *Mr. Paul Aints* were down by two runs twice during the game. They held the lead after scoring three runs in the 6th inning and then scored two more insurance runs in the 8th for a 7-4 win over the Winnipeg Goldeyes. After losing in 2012 and 2013, the team has won while wearing the atheist-themed jerseys for the last two years. For the actual Saints team, it was their 8th consecutive win, giving them a league leading 56-16 record.

The between-inning antics included an evolution-themed race where the public address announcer informed the participants, "There's no finish in this race!" Other antics included appearances by Doubting Thomas, karaoke performance of Soul Man by the team's recurring performer Seigo Masubuchi, and a contest in which a fan was asked whether or not a celebrity pictured on the stadium's big scoreboard had a "sole or no sole". There were head-and-shoulders shots of famous people, which included Fred Flinstone, Frodo Baggins and Marilyn Monroe. After the contestant guessed sole or no sole, the rest of the picture would reveal if they were wearing shoes ("sole") or not. It was a silly evening filled with footwear puns, and it was a lot of fun!

As an atheist and longtime fan of our national pastime, I can't help but notice one significant privilege that comes with religious faith. There are multiple "Faith Night" celebrations in professional sports. The majority of Major League Baseball teams, including the Minnesota Twins, have a night dedicated to the celebration of religious faith. The St. Louis Cardinals narrow theirs down to "Christian Day." Local atheists therefore feel extremely fortunate that the St. Paul Saints players have been good sports about this. Some of the religiously faithful players have been asked to push the limits of their comfort zone so we are especially appreciative of, and even humbled by, their willingness to participate in the only atheist-sponsored game in all of professional sports. My personal appreciation for their tolerance and support cannot be overstated, and I am hopeful we can help collect more soles for souls in need while playing ball together next year. Until then, let's cheer on the Saints as they play for the 2015 championship!



Quarterly Business Meeting

Monday, September 14 - 6:30pm

Announcing our new business meeting structure:

Do you hate sitting through long, boring meetings? Are you interested in getting more involved as a leader, supporter or an idea generator with MN Atheists? We have a solution for you. Starting in September, Minnesota Atheists is changing the way we do our business meetings. Please mark your calendar for Monday, September 14th at 6:30PM for a night of great Pizza Luce food and fun conversation. The party room at the Pizza Luce-Richfield has been reserved and the agenda for the meeting is being prepared. This will be Minnesota Atheists' new space, venue and time for our quarterly business meetings.

This gathering will be a prime opportunity for people who identify as Minnesota Atheist newbies, lurkers, visitors, members, lifers or leaders to talk about the direction of our organization and to set goals. Are you involved in a project at Minnesota Atheists and you need some volunteer help to make your activity richer and more vibrant? This meeting would be a great place to build coalitions, network and to learn about new initiatives. The Minnesota Atheists Board of Directors graciously invites you to mark your calendars for September 14th at Pizza Luce located at 800 W 66th St, Richfield, MN at 6:30PM. There is no cost to attend, but ordering some food would be great way to support our free meeting space.

If you have any questions, topics or comments about this evening please direct those thoughts to me at chair@mnatheists.org.

I appreciate your attention,

Jill Carlson



Business Item:

At the May Board Meeting of Minnesota Atheists, the Associate Chair vacancy was filled by appointment by the board in accordance to our bylaws. Georgia Hancock Tsoi was appointed as Associate Chair. This created a Director-at-Large vacancy, this was also filled by appointment by the board. Longtime member Jim Barri was appointed as Director-at-Large. At this Quarterly Business Meeting, we will ask dues-paying members to approve these appointments in a vote.



M nampw naxn mp nak smrhzrrmyp ye pxnzdc vdygckqr ok yzfan ny gkfmp pyn omna nak Rhdmvnzdkr, gzn omna klvkdmqkpnr, xps skqyprndxnmypr.

Fxcmcky Fxcmckm, "Nak Xznaydmnu ye Rhdmvnzdk mp Vamcyryvamhxc Hypndyikdrmk"

News and Notes

By George Kane

In late July, the Star Tribune published an infamous opinion piece by David Pence entitled "These wars — they're religious. Will the West take its proper side? Christian martyrs around the world are looking in vain for a champion to protect them." Pence's thesis was not merely that U.S. foreign policy should be guided by Christian values; members of every group, whether Christian, atheist, Republican, Democrat, libertarian or consequentialist believe that their group has the best values. Rather, Pence's article was alarming because of his assertion that, with a majority Christian population, the United States is a Christian nation, and so has a responsibility to be the 'protector' of 'Christian martyrs' who are under attack by Muslims in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He wrote:

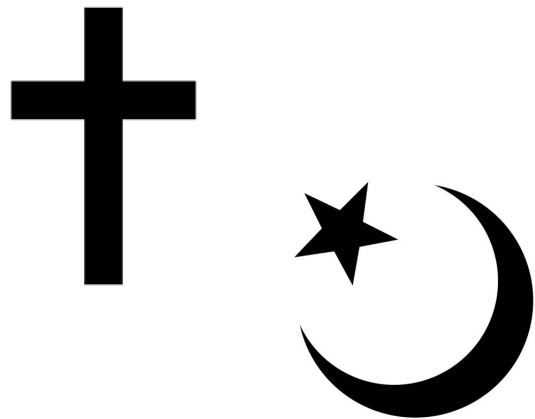
The cities, states and nations that formed inside the Christian agreement are our instruments of protection. We in the West, and especially in America, have played the Great Satan for too long. Let us reintroduce ourselves as a largely Christian people, especially Christian men, seeking to do the will of God....Secular Europeans marched for the murdered martyrs of atheism — the antireligious pornographers at Charlie Hebdo. But American Christian men are inspired by the martyrdom of our Ethiopian and Egyptian brothers who died for our Lord. We saw their blood and their faith and we could not help but say, "They look a lot like us." We can only pray that we will look like them in displaying the courage needed to perform the protective and diplomatic roles assigned to us in God's plan.

There are civil wars in progress throughout this region, leading to predictable charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. In such cases, the United States has to come to a decision on how it should respond, taking into account not only our strategic interests and caution to avoid war, but also our moral obligations. We must respond to each situation according to its individual merits and foreseeable consequences. Our decision cannot be based upon the religious profession of the victims. We must value the lives of the victims of war equally, regardless of their religion, nationality, race or class. That is an obligation imposed on us by universal human rights as well as by our commitment to secular government.

President Obama infuriated America's Christians when he remarked at this year's National Prayer Breakfast that no religion can plead innocence to political violence. Rush Limbaugh denounced the remark as an "insult to Christianity," while the Tea Party News Network fumed that Obama "threw Christians under the bus." In fact Christian crimes against Muslims are as significant as the much more publicized Muslim crimes against Christians. For example, the 1990 sectarian warfare in the Balkans culminated in an explicit genocide against Muslim Bosnians by Serbian Orthodox Christians. A decade ago, Catholic clergy were directly involved in anti-Muslim genocide in Rwanda. Father Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, who used to wear a gun on his hip, colluded with a Hutu militia that massacred hundreds of people seeking shelter in his church. After the genocide concluded, various Catholic clergy helped others who were guilty of murder flee the country and re-settle elsewhere, including one priest who allowed all of the men, women, and children hiding in his church to be killed by having the church bulldozed.

Christian genocide of Muslims is an ongoing story in the Central African Republic, according to a report by Human Rights Watch. An estimated 415,000 Muslims in western parts of the country fled brutal attacks by Christian paramilitary troops in late 2013 and early 2014 for Cameroon and Chad. Another 10,500 are protected by UN peacekeepers in a handful of enclaves.

Christians are not the exclusive victims of religious violence. Let us remember that another atheist blogger was murdered in Bangladesh in July, bringing this year's total to 4. In the middle of August, six more received death threats. The United States should demand that Bangladesh bring the assassins to justice.



Featured Blog Post

This month's selection for a blog post by a Minnesota blogger is about a Hell House in Willmar, Minnesota. It is from the blog *Incongruent Elements*, and may be read at:

<http://www.skepticink.com/incongruentelements/2015/07/21/the-99-public-service-or-hell-house/>

We are not publishing it because we have been unable to contact Beth Anne Erickson, the blogger, to obtain permission.

Cryptogram Answer

I think that in the discussion of natural problems we ought to begin not with the Scriptures, but with experiments, and demonstrations.

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

Minnesota Atheists at the 2015 Aints Game!



Radio Report

By Mike Haubrich

AM 950 KTNF



Atheists Talk radio and podcast is a communications service of Minnesota Atheists. Our volunteer producers, hosts, interviewers, and contributors are committed to presenting topics of interest to atheists and humanists. Topics include, but are not limited to, general atheism and humanism, separation of church and state, science, religion, gender, race, culture, and the arts.

"Humanism in Lobbying," Matthew Bulger on Atheists Talk #318, June 21, 2015

Matthew advocates for church-state separation and humanist values in public policy to public officials. He also serves as the editor of the American Humanist Association's quarterly membership publication *Free Mind* and is a regular contributor at TheHumanist.com. Matthew graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the American University in Washington, DC and is the co-founder and former president of the American University Rationalists and Atheists.

"From Eternity to Here," Bruce Gerencser on Atheists Talk #319, June 28, 2015

Independent Baptist Preachers can be feisty types. They even maintain their 'tude after they become atheists. Bruce Gerencser started over eight churches, pastored at eight and was a preacher for over twenty five years. Now Bruce is a humanist and agnostic blogger. Join us as we find out about his life as a preacher and how he left religion. Bruce writes a blog titled "The Life and Times of Bruce Gerencser; One Man's Journey from Eternity to Here."

"Stay", Jennifer Michael Hecht on Atheists Talk #320, July 5, 2015

After losing two friends to suicide just over a year apart, atheist Jennifer Michael Hecht was looking for answers. As she usually does, she turned to philosophy, but she found herself dissatisfied with the reactive individualism of Enlightenment and modern secular philosophy. Out of that dissatisfaction came *Stay: A History of Suicide and the Arguments Against It*. *Stay* chronicles the history of Western reasons for committing suicide and the religious and secular reasons philosophers have given for people to hang on through bleakness and despair.

"Fortney Road," Jeff Stevenson on Atheists Talk #321, July 12, 2015

Our guest, Jeff Stevenson, spent seven years researching the goings-on of a cult whose members were run through an ordeal that few can understand. They lived through sleep deprivation, corporal punishment and

sexual abuse at the hands of Larry Hill, pastor of The Church of the Risen Christ. Things looked great from the outside and sounded great too. The church sponsored a musical group that has produced some of the most unusual blues/rock Christian music ever heard and featured the talented guitarist Glenn Schwartz, who had come through "The James Gang" and "Pacific Gas And Electric" before joining Hill's church and helping to form the "All Saved Freak Band."

"Skeptical Gun Duel," Eric Jayne and Art Kallenbach on Atheists Talk #322, July 19, 2015

On May 31, Mike Haubrich and Art Kallenbach discussed the balance between Second Amendment rights and responsibilities and the need to address gun violence in the United States. The conversation was only the beginning of an attempt to create dialog between supporters of gun rights and supporters of gun control, with conversations that look at the facts and try to steer away from the emotional charge that often gets in the way of a fruitful discussion of the topic. On this show, we were joined by an additional debater as Eric Jayne gets into the fray. Eric is a supporter of gun control and Art is a supporter of gun rights.

"AtheistVoter," Amanda Knief on Atheists Talk #323, July 26, 2015

In May, American Atheists underwent a reorganization to better help them focus on shaping public policy. As part of that focus, they created a new role of National Legal and Public Policy Director in Washington, DC. This role is filled by former Executive Director Amanda Knief, whose background is in law and politics. This past week, she took American Atheists' AtheistVoter initiative to the Family Leadership Summit in Iowa to ask conservative Christian politicians what they had to offer the growing demographic of nonbeliever voters and to join Iowa Atheists and Freethinkers' protest of the event.

"Center for Medical Progress," Amanda Marcotte on Atheists Talk #325, August 9, 2015

An anti-abortion group known as the "Center for Medical Progress" participated in a coordinated attack against Planned Parenthood by releasing "gotcha" style and heavily edited videos purporting to show the health and contraceptives clinics directors expressing a willingness to illegally sell fetal tissue. What is the true nature of the Center for Medical Progress and how do they fit into concerted efforts to deny women the right to obtain legal abortions and contraceptives? Amanda Marcotte and Stephanie Zvan revealed the truth on this show.

(Continued on page 10)

Secretary's Report – August

By Heather Hegi

- Thoughts on The Satanic Temple were discussed. No official stance was made but board members had no objection to educating members about the organization and posting their bake sale to Meetup, being it's one of their first public events, with the stance that we are not endorsing but educating. We like that they are active in state/church separation.
- A motion was made and approved that we purchase \$75 worth of "Get out of Hell Free" cards (5,000 count.)
- A motion was made and approved to order up to 1,000 sets of the flyers (for the Aints game and other events) with August Berkshire making the final judgment call as to how many exactly we order.
- A motion was made and approved to invite Michael Mpagi Kirumira to come speak to us. Michael is a gay atheist from Uganda who will be visiting a friend in Minnesota who is a member of Minnesota Atheists.
- Quarterly Business Meeting plans were discussed.
- Dinner with the Board Fundraiser plans were developed.
- A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$300 to support a speaking engagement with Scientology Speaker, Tony Ortega. Funds would be used to secure a venue if any funds are needed at all.

Complete meeting minutes are available to dues paying members by contacting Heather at sec@mnatheists.org

Call for October 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 September 22. All submissions may be edited for style and length.

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

Out of the Closet!



Read the Jewish and Christian texts and Atheism is the result. I recommend reading them. A humanist message is discernable in there, too, amidst the fantasy and mythology.

-Dale Handeen
Out of the Closet Humanist and Atheist

Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

James Zimmerman interviewed Grant Steves for two programs in August. Both programs were based on a series of books by Freethinkers on purpose and reason in the lives of non religious people. The first program was titled: *Purpose Driven: Object or Goal* and the second was: *Reason and Purpose*. Resource books were Robert Price's *Reason Driven Life* and Walter Kaufman books *The Faith of a Heretic* and *Critique of Religion*; Dan Barker's *Life Driven Purpose*, Lawrence Krauss' *A Universe from Nothing* and James Zimmerman's *Deliverance at Hand*.

If you are interested in hosting or being a guest or helping with the crew, or if you would like to see if the program could be shown in your area, or you have a program idea, please contact Steve Petersen at 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 134,000 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> 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.



In Memoriam - Bob Nienkerk

By Steve Petersen

Bob Nienkerk was a founding member of Minnesota Atheists. Although many of our current members do not know him personally, his values have been ingrained into our governing documents, public personality and our public discourse. For today's generation, being an atheist is a natural part of social life. In Bob's time, people ran away from atheists as if we had the plague. This year when Minnesota Atheists marched in the Gay Pride parade, 150,000 people cheered us like any other group, and several people from the crowd spontaneously joined in and marched with us. In Bob's generation, it took courage to be a public atheist because we were stereotyped as "the village atheist," loners who were troubled haters of religion, anarchists, Communists, trouble-makers, or any other pejorative characterization of the time. Bob wore the appellation "trouble-maker" proudly, because he did not like authority to be too comfortable, and he was good at knocking them off their golden thrones.

For Bob, being an atheist was not a declaration of rebellion, but a life view with which he was at ease. That was why he was able to do public appearances on radio and television at a time when few knew or understood atheists. Bob did not come to his atheism because of anger or hatred of religion, although some things done in the name of religion really pissed him off; but so it is also with most religionists who disavow the actions of fundamentalists and other fanatics who base their actions on religion. In many ways, religionists and atheists like Bob have the same common enemy, fanatics who defy common sense and decency. That was part of Bob's magic, that he could bridge that divide and find common interest with civil-minded people of goodwill. That became a foundational characteristic of Minnesota Atheists. We are always interested in constructive dialogue and working together in coalitions of civic and religious people to achieve a more cooperative world.

The other important part of Bob's legacy was social. Bob started The Friends Free of Theism at a time when Atheists were closeted, with a simple mailing list of like-minded people who got together on the Solstices and Equinoxes. From that modest start the organization expanded. After the closing of the Twin Cities Chapter of American Atheists, Bob and Marilyn held a winter Solstice party at the old Decathlon Club. The Phoenix rose from the ashes in the form of Minnesota Atheists.

Many of Bob's values were embedded into our structure: Social participation, open public representation, separation of government and religion, giving protection and providing a safe haven for those who are abused by religion or alienated from their families because of being an atheist.



Bob Nienkerk was a good person who made a difference in society. He lived a life of principle and ethics and involvement in the betterment of society. This was not because he was an atheist but because that is what civic involvement is about. Living a life free of god belief is just natural and easy. He was a role model for me and for Minnesota Atheists. We were honored he was part of our organization and we hope to continue to live up to his life standards.



Treasury Report**June - July****Baseball Game Fund**

Humanists of Minnesota	\$500
misc cash	\$25
Total Baseball Game Fund	\$525

Radio Fund

Nancy Hertz	\$250
Mark Nelson	\$200
Nancy Ruhland	\$100
Mark Paquette	\$30
Richard Ellingsen	\$20
misc cash	\$260
Total Radio Fund	\$860

General/Visibility Fund

Paul Heffron	\$10
Warren Mesenbring	\$30
Steve Petersen and Shirley Moll in memory of	
Bob Nienkerk	\$100
James Wright	\$35
Fred Whitehead	\$100
Joel Bartos	\$5
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$280

Total Income: \$1,665**Current Building Fund Total \$134,105****Top Expenses**

Conference	\$3,588
Baseball Game Sponsorship	\$2,500
Radio Show	\$1,640
Newsletter Printing	\$993

Radio Report (continued from page 6)**"Personal Autonomy and the Satanic Temple,"**

John Wreisner, Kyle Monville, John Powell and Karissah Peterson on Atheists Talk #326, August 16, 2015

The Satanic Temple sees the figurehead of Satan as more of a metaphor than a deity, according to John Wreisne, the head of the Minneapolis chapter of the Temple. The group focuses on social activism as a religion, though members of the group are generally atheists. The national group has been in the news for their move to install a monument to Baphomet at the Oklahoma capitol grounds alongside a display of the Ten Commandments, they have created an activity book to pass out to children in schools where bibles are distributed, and locally they have been working to change the culture of religious bullying of GLBT kids in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Atheists Talk is produced by Minnesota Atheists and is directed by Mike Haubrich with hosts Mike Haubrich, Brianne Bilyeu, Scott Lohman, David Pacheco, Mahad Muhamad and Stephanie Zvan. Stephanie and Brianne upload podcasts to our web site. The radio program is broadcast live every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. from AM950 KTNF studios in Eden Prairie. Live streaming is available on our web page, www.mnatheists.org. Original music was composed, played and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. The cost to us is \$5,320.00 every six months. Your donations will be appreciated. They can be sent to our post office box or posted online at <http://minnesotatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund>. Thanks to Brianne Bilyeu the program has a presence on social media: an *Atheists Talk* Facebook page and an account at [Twitter.com/atheists talk](https://twitter.com/atheists_talk). All past programs can be accessed via MNA web page <http://mnatheists.org/news-and-media/podcast> or on iTunes. If you are interested in helping on the radio program, please send a message to radio@mnatheists.org

Out of the Closet!

Contact us at board@mnatheists.org if you are interested in participating in the Out of the Closet campaign. We look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Events

Group Outing to the Renaissance Festival Saturday, Sept 12 at 9:00am, MN Renaissance Festival, 12364 Chestnut Blvd, Shakopee. Find us by the wedding chapel near the front entrance. \$18.50 for adults and \$10.50 for kids

Brunch at Q.Cumbers Sunday, Sept 13 at 10:30am, Q.Cumbers, 7465 France Avenue South, Edina. Ask for the Minnesota Atheists group.

Quarterly Business Meeting Sunday, Sept 14 at 6:30pm, Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield. Minnesota Atheists official quarterly meeting to discuss business and set goals.

Atheists Investment Group Saturday, Sept 19 at 3:00pm, Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd, Minneapolis. The U.S. national debt and personal investing will be discussed. Learn more at Meetup.com

Dinner with the Board Sunday, Sept 26 at 6:00pm, Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul. Home-cooked meal served by the board. RSVP Required, RSVP at Meetup.com or call us. Cost \$30

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

Atheist/Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous Every Sunday from 6-7pm and Wednesday from 7-8pm, 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 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30pm, Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul.
freethought.toastmastersclubs.org

Volunteer Food Packing 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00pm, The Food Group, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope

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

Shooting Pool with the Infidels 2nd Saturday of every month at 7:00pm, Dunham's Bar and Grill, 173 Lothenbach Ave, West St Paul

Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, Amherst H Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul. All Minnesota Atheists members are welcome.

Freethinking Females 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm, Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Ave S, St. Paul. Shattering the myth that Atheist groups are male dominated with a female's only event.

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



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

Name: _____
 Street address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 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 actionsm 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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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: 41
Meetup members: 1428

Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

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