

November/December
2018
Volume 28
Number 9

Pre-holiday Boot Camp November Public Meeting

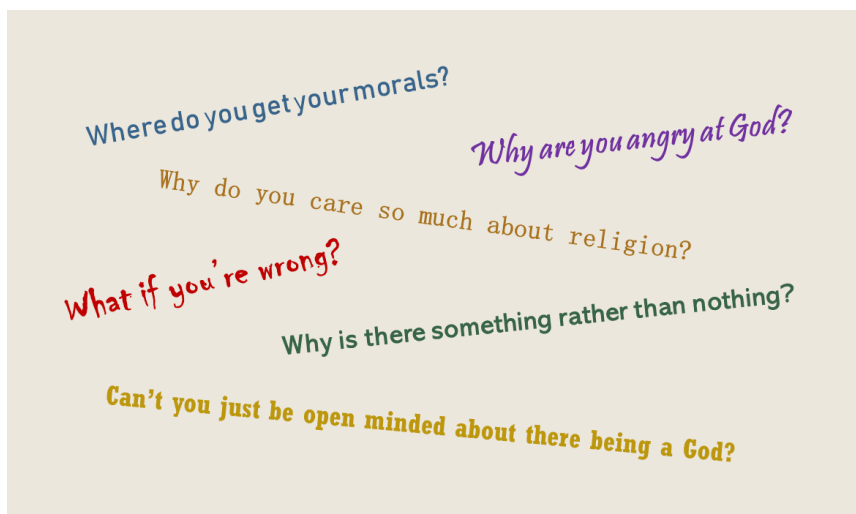
By Heather Hegi

It's the season of family gatherings and religious ritual. No better time to hone up on atheist argumentation skills, a good skill to have whether you plan for participating in religious arguments or not.

You never know when a friend or family member might bring up religion and go down the rabbit hole of wanting to save you. How do you argue with someone to whom you don't want to hurt their feelings or shred to pieces their deeply held religious beliefs? Or how might you avoid or shut down arguments?

At the November Public Meeting we will break up into small discussion groups based on interest. We will pose some questions for you to consider and discuss how to best answer. We invite you to pose questions you want to see how other atheists answer.

Don't consider yourself an atheist? We welcome you to attend too, ask questions, and hear what we have to say.



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Sunday, November 18, 2018

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

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

4:00 p.m.: Dinner

Hoa Bien
1105 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55104



President’s Column Bringing Stars to Minnesota

By Alyssa Ehni

Have you ever wanted to see a well-known atheist speaker present in Minnesota or wonder why Minnesota Atheists hasn’t brought in more well-known atheist speakers? In September, Minnesota Atheists brought Seth Andrews, host of The Thinking Atheist podcast, to Minnesota. It has been a few years since Minnesota Atheists has brought in a well-known speaker. For those of you who could not attend, Mr. Andrews, a former Christian radio broadcaster, spoke about his time in that industry.

The show sold out at the initial venue and the board was able to obtain a larger space on short notice, (THANK YOU HEATHER!) which also sold out. There wasn’t an empty seat in the house. Interestingly, most of those in attendance were people who had never been to a Minnesota Atheists’ event. I met an atheist from Germany who, although she had lived in the United States for nearly a decade, was still experiencing culture shock with how pervasive and impactful religion

is in daily life here and I met a recent transplant who happened to be a former board member of the Great Plains Atheists in Fargo.

In reflecting on the event, it did a great job of increasing our visibility within the atheist community in Minnesota and also got many new people to show up to an event. Both of these things are good for our organization.

Prior to scheduling the event, there was some discussion as to whether the cost of bringing in a more well-known speaker would provide a sufficient benefit to Minnesota Atheists since there was not a direct connection with Minnesota Atheists’ stated goals, values, or public policy. Ultimately, a board member and a couple of members offered to back the event financially, so that the organization would not lose any of our members’ money if the event did not break even. Although the backers did not need to contribute financially in the end, this event would not have taken place without their willingness to contribute.

Using a similar model, Minnesota Atheists hopes to bring more well-known speakers to the area. After our September meeting, the board

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Cryptogram

By George Francis Kane

Jr ywjnl mb xv v nal slxtrjr qy mb olr, rm mrl ixr

wtmphil x yjr qvl bxin mt tlxymr nm yhw wmt n nal

ulvjlb jr Qmp xrp jr wltymrxv joomtnxvjns.

—lvxtlril Pxttme



News and Notes Public Policy vs The White House

By *George Francis Kane*

As a 501(c)3 educational non-profit organization, Minnesota Atheists is not permitted (despite President Trump's announcement that he had rescinded the Johnson Amendment) to participate in electoral politics. We are allowed, however, to advocate for laws that are supportive of our expressive mission, "to promote the atheist viewpoint as a valid contribution to public discourse (and) to strive to maintain the First Amendment guarantee of separation of state and church."

To this end, we document our positions on public policies on our website at <http://mnatheists.org/information/public-policy-positions>.

It presents an extensive commentary on government policy from an atheist, secular point of view. Every year, the Public Policy Committee reviews the document, decides what must be added or revised based upon events of the last year, and submits the revisions to the board for approval. This year's review by the committee comprising Associate Chair Georgia Tsoi, former director and current Minnesota State Director of American Atheists August Berkshire and I just completed its review.

Having reached the middle of the first term of President Trump's administration, it is an appropriate time to review his actions guided by the just-completed revision of our Public Policy document. Following are administrative actions addressing the separation of church and state.

The Johnson Amendment is a clause inserted into the tax code in 1954 that prohibits tax-exempt organizations to endorse or oppose candidates for election. Last year Trump announced on Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network "I signed an executive order so that now people like you that I want to hear from, ministers and preachers and rabbis and whoever it may be, they can speak. You know, you couldn't speak politi-

cally before; now you can."

Minnesota Atheists supports keeping non-profit organizations from participating in electoral politics, even though it restricts us as well as religious groups. Without such a law, churches would become campaign proxies to finance campaigns with tax-exempt funds.

As he commonly does, Trump greatly exaggerated his accomplishment. The Freedom from Religion Foundation sued the Internal Revenue Service over the executive order, when Department of Justice lawyers admitted in court that it doesn't change any existing laws or alter any policies to benefit churches or clergy. The president may not, under the constitution, repeal a law without legislation by Congress.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has announced her plan to

Attorney General Jefferson Sessions issued guidelines for all federal agencies that provide a battle plan for discrimination against the LGBTQI and minority religious communities, and against women's reproductive rights.

roll out a diversion of \$1 Billion of department funds for public education to a private school voucher program that will support

Christian schools. Our Public Policy document states that "It makes no difference regarding state/church separation whether the government subsidy is in the form of a direct payment or a tax credit. Public funds should not be used to pay for an education at a religious school. Funding school programs that include religious activity makes it difficult if not impossible to separate the funding of religious from nonreligious instruction."

Under the guise of "religious freedom" the Trump administration has changed regulations and guidelines for several government agencies to encourage contractors and grantees to discriminate against the LGBTQI community, women and others. The Department of Health and Human Services announced plans to remove barriers for private agencies it funds to deny services to anyone by claiming a religious objection. For example, it would allow health care providers to reject patients, even in a medical crisis. Attorney General Jefferson Sessions issued guidelines for all federal agencies that provide a battle plan for discrimination against the LGBTQI and mi-

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Atheists Talk Radio Show

Podcasts can be listened to at www.mnatheists.org (scroll down to the podcast link), <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk>. 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/> and <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/a-minnesota-transatheist/atheist-talk>. 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](https://twitter.com/atheiststalk).

Sponsors of the program are Q.Cumbers restaurant in Edina, American Atheists, and the members and donors of Minnesota Atheists. To support the program, go to the MNA web page [donation/radio](http://www.mnatheists.org/donation/radio), [giveMN/minnesotaatheists](http://www.giveMN.org/minnesotaatheists), <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk> or donate by mail to our PO Box. All donations are tax deductible.

Recent Programs

EEp 470 Seth Andrews

September 23, 2018

Seth Andrews of The Thinking Atheist podcast joins us in studio.

From The Thinking Atheist about page:

“The Thinking Atheist is a website, radio podcast and online community which rejects faith as a suitable tool for living.

Far too often, faith (believing something without evidence) is celebrated, reason is distrusted, and people are encouraged not to ask questions, test the waters, demand evidence or think outside the religious box.

The Thinking Atheist icon is a symbol that reminds atheist and believer alike to engage the brain, to challenge even the most sacred of traditions/beliefs, to be passionately curious about our world and universe, and to never be satisfied with the charge, ‘You just have to take it on faith.’ Enjoy our videos. Listen to the weekly radio podcasts. Connect with others through our forum and social media pages. And benefit from this wonderful and diverse community of freethinkers.

Assume nothing. Question everything. And start thinking.”

The Thinking Atheist show page: <http://www.thethinkingatheist.com/>

The Thinking Atheist Podcast Page: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/thethinkingatheist>

Ep 471 Wayward Willis Podcast

September 30, 2018

The Wayward Willis is an atheist podcast with a slant toward secular humanism and education. Their stated goal is to publicize religious topics and discuss the effects of religion on a secular society in an entertaining way. Jon and Logan are a father and son with very different backgrounds and approach religion from two different perspectives.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thewaywardwillis/>

Apple Podcasts: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-wayward-willis-podcast/id1262982316>

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/wayward>

Ep 472 Marissa Alexa McCool Returns

October 7, 2018

Marissa Alexa McCool joins us again to discuss her recent gender confirmation surgery, her upcoming book, and how religious oppression has shaped her life. She publicly came out as transgender to a hate-filled Christian street preacher as a crowd of her fellow students looked on. Marissa has continued sharing her life and journey with the world, and in doing so helped countless of people on their own journeys.

You can find Marissa on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RisMcCool>

Podcasting at:

Inciting Incident: <http://incitingincident.libsyn.com/>

The Cis are Getting out of Hand: <https://www.spreaker.com/show/the-cis-are-getting-out-of-hand>

Find her books and other writing on her page: <http://rismccool.com/>

Ep 473 Mentalist David Gamut Returns

October 14, 2018

Jim Helton in Minneapolis

Opinion

By PZ Myers

Reprinted with permission from the blog post <https://freethoughtblogs.com/pharyngula/2018/10/22/jim-helton-in-minneapolis/>

I skipped off to the big city yesterday (allowing a TERF (Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist) to flood the comments, sorry — he has been dealt with now) to hear Jim G. Helton speak on the new directions American Atheists is going to take. Well, maybe. He's AA's Kentucky State Director, so I'm not sure how well his goals are shared with the national leadership, but I like his plan. I left hoping his ideas would be translated into real action, but at the same time, "hope" is an unfamiliar emotion when dealing with organized atheism, and I've been disappointed more than a few times.

Here's the gist of his talk. He put up a slide of "Atheist Issues," the stuff we're all familiar with and that has nearly 100% support from atheist organizations.

- Government Prayer
- Bibles
- 10 Commandments
- Crosses
- Religious Funding
- Religious Exemptions
- Creationism

If you're like me, you recognize these as standard separation of church and state concerns, and maybe, if you're like me, you automatically assume that the government should not be promoting sectarian religious views. This is kind of a core set of ideas for atheism in general, but it's often stuff that has to be handled by lawyers. It's good to have lawyers on your side, but it's not really stuff I can get directly involved in, other than donating money to pay lawyers and making pissed-off comments.

And then he asked, "Are these atheist issues?"

- Dying with Dignity
- Sex Education

- LGBT
- Abortion
- Women's Rights
- Science & History
- Racial Justice

He asked this of possibly the most sympathetic audience he could find: Minnesota Atheists are so socially justicey at all times for all of history that the entire membership enthusiastically agreed that all of those were important atheist issues. I certainly think they are, and have been saying so for over a decade (not that anyone listens).

Then he gave his rationale for why all these issues ought to be on the agenda of an atheist organization. When you get down to it, most of the opposition to all of them is religiously motivated — if religion vanished tomorrow, so would creationism, and all of those Bible in the schools bills, and the opposition to all those other issues would be greatly attenuated. There's no doubt-

ing that religion is a major contributor to the world of bad ideas plaguing us.

I like the direction he's going; hope he succeeds, but am afraid he's a little naïve about the forces within atheism that are going to make life difficult for him.

I like the direction he's going, but I fear he's too optimistic. I know that if I could snap my fingers in a kind of atheist Thanos-gambit and selectively make every religious person on the planet crumble into dust (it would be far more than half, I'm afraid), I'm confident that all the items on his first list would immediately disappear



as well. Poof, easy.

But the items on the second list? Not so fast. A lot of their opponents would vanish, as would much of their financial base, but unfortunately, there are a lot of fanatical atheists who oppose LGBT and women's rights, for instance. Those

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Winter Solstice Banquet a Night of Magical Disbelief

By *Heather Hegi*

Save the Date for a magical night! This year's Winter Solstice Banquet will be on December 15th at the Embassy Suites in Brooklyn Center. Our theme highlights the performing art of magicians. The featured entertainment will be mentalist David Gamut.

Cost:

\$50 for members

\$55 for non-members

Tickets available online at <http://mnatheists.org/store/>

Schedule:

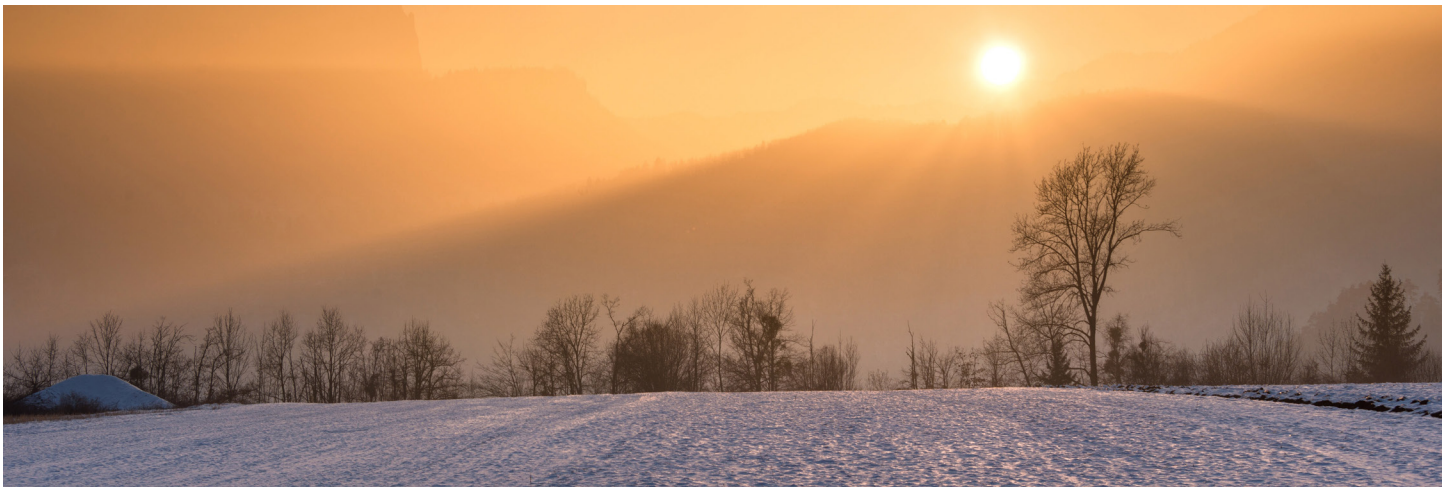
5:00 p.m. — Social hour with a cash bar

6:00 p.m. — Dinner & Awards Program

7:00 p.m. — Entertainment

We will be collecting gift donations for Bridge for Youth as we have in years past. Please consider bringing: \$5 gift cards (Target, Cub Foods, Subway, Caribou), clothing (slippers, sneakers, seasonal clothing for teens — particular larger sizes), or bedding (twin sheet sets, comforters, pillows). For more ideas, see <http://www.bridgeforyouth.org/get-involved/donate/>

The venue will be Embassy Suites by Hilton Minneapolis North, 6300 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN. Embassy Suites is located on the southwest quadrant of the intersection of I-94/I-694 and Hwy 100, off Shingle Creek Pkwy which is exit 34 off I-94/I-694. If you decide you would like to spend the night, we have a block of rooms reserved; just tell them you are with the Minnesota Atheists group.



Public Policy continued from page 3

nority religious communities, and against women's reproductive rights. For example, if a state discontinues using a religious adoption agency because it refuses to serve people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, Health and Human Services funding for the state could be reduced or withheld.

Minnesota Atheists opposes these guidelines for reasons documented in its Public Policies. We support the civil rights of LGBTQI individuals and the reproductive rights of women because opposition to them is based on religion. The guidelines do not protect religious freedom, but privileges religious claims to violate laws that are entirely secular.

Radio continued from page 4

David Gamut travels the world doing speaking event where he uses his skills as a mentalist to entertain as well as educate the audience on how to have empathy for one another, and how to have productive conversations with people we disagree with.

You can find David on twitter at <https://twitter.com/DavidGamut>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/davidgamut/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/davidgamut>

David Gamut will be the guest speaker at this year's Winter Solstice celebration.

October Public Meeting Review

Jim Helton of American Atheists: Our Message is Equality

By Jack Caravela

If atheist activism is to be effective, says Jim Helton, the National Field Organizer for American Atheists (website: <https://www.atheists.org>), we must focus on a single unifying theme. Our customary causes of taking on government-sponsored prayer, religious symbols in public spaces, and taxpayer funding of religious activities are and will continue to be important, but we must both broaden and simplify our response to the question “What is an atheist issue?” The answer, says Jim, is anything restricting equal rights for all Americans.

Jim invited us to ask him what American Atheists can do for us.

At Minnesota Atheists’ monthly meeting on October 21, 2018, Jim Helton explained how he is carrying out this vision of atheist activism on behalf of American Atheists. Dying with dignity, abstinence-only sex education and faith-biased teaching of science and history in public schools, restriction of reproductive rights, and discrimination against women and LGBT individuals are all issues that are solved when religion is removed. Racial justice is also well served when faith can no longer be used as a false rationale, and all of these causes fit under the principle of equality for everyone.

Rather than request our support, Jim invited us to ask him what American Atheists can do for us. The organization has long considered Minnesota Atheists to be a leading example of a successful freethought group, but like most others it has fallen short in its service to activism. American Atheists stands ready to help with advice and toolkits consisting of step-by-step guides to



effect change and in Jim’s words, get us “out of the pubs and into the statehouses.”

One of the most successful campaigns Jim has organized is the fight against religion-based sex education in public schools. As a leader of Tri-State Freethinkers, based in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, Jim has been instrumental in getting these programs dropped from the curriculum and replaced with evidence-based instruction. One of the keys to success has been enlisting partners, from concerned parents to organizations like Planned Parenthood, to join in the effort. Jim’s daughter Kelly was inspired to speak out, and from a modest two-sentence start has since become a powerful voice for atheist activism. To see for yourself, watch the video “Kelly Helton: Young and Outspoken” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd45toVRFaw>. His daughter’s example has impressed on Jim the importance of letting students speak, as they command the attention of both the public and our elected representatives. Among other appearances, Kelly was a featured speaker at both the Women’s March and the March for Science.

Emphasizing the need to build coalitions around atheist issues, Jim explained how supporting other organizations as proud atheists builds trust and cooperation with them. In his experience, if we show up for them, they will do the same for us. All the while we should be open and proactive about our atheism, not just by opposing legislation but by proposing our own, always citing the goal as equal rights for all.

If making change on a national level seems intimidating, Jim suggests starting locally. One way is to ask your local public school about its science and sex education content. School board meetings are usually sparsely attended, so one or two voices can make a big difference. If you are

ACES Program - Planned Parenthood (example)

Activism

- State House Protest
- Lobbying
- Letters/Postcards
- Phone Banks

Education

- Speakers & Discussions
- Documentaries

Community

- Women’s Shelter
- Hygiene Products

Social

- Movie Nights
- Dinner & Drinks



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a volunteer in a political campaign, make your concerns known to the candidate you are supporting.

Jim has distilled an effective media strategy: draw attention with a provocative statement and use the opportunity to deliver a persuasive message based on the facts. To counter the Gideons' intention to distribute bibles in and around public schools, the American Atheists press release was titled "Atheists Descend on Public Schools." As a result, American Atheists was given an opportunity to highlight this first amendment violation (the Gideons cancelled their plans). A yearly protest of the taxpayer-funded Ark Encounter theme park includes a large banner proclaiming it "Genocide and Incest Park." If this tag line seems at all inflammatory to you, please note that in Jim's resulting hours of interviews from both national and international media he never mentioned it, focusing instead on the public funding and discriminatory practices of Ken Ham's fundamentalist attraction.

To enlist support for our causes, Jim suggests

Protest Positioning



Ark Encounter Protest



we avoid political labels and party affiliation. When the issue is the intrusion of religion in public education and government it is possible to find allies in places we might not expect, especially when we emphasize the tenet of equal rights for all. In the process we can achieve the two main goals of American Atheists: separate church and state and normalize atheism.

With leaders like Jim Helton, American Atheists is charting a new and ambitious course. In just one year, from 2017 to 2018, it has grown from ten state directors to 51 directors, attracted over two hundred affiliates and 11 local partners. Interested in adding to its growth? Find out more at atheists.org.

Treasury Report

August

By *Chris Matthews*

Radio Fund

\$10 August Berkshire
\$10 Cynthia Flaig
\$20 Total Radio Fund

General/Visibility Fund

\$70 Mandy & Ross Meisner
\$20 Jacob Schumacher
\$10 Caroline Brunner
\$10 Ken Holmbeck
\$10 JoAnne Gill
\$10 Vanessa Hazelton
\$5 Christianna Jahn
\$5 Collin Sullivan
\$5 Caleb Thilges
\$5 Adin Briggs
\$5 Heidi Uppgaard
\$26 YourCause
\$9 Amazon Smile
\$2 PayPal Giving Fund
\$193 Total General/Visibility Fund

Building Fund

\$0 Total Building Fund

Total Income \$213

Current Building Fund \$139,904

Top Expenses

\$1,442 CONvergence
\$820 Radio Show

Stars continued from page 2

established a financial backing program which, in the future, would help us bring in speakers that we may not otherwise consider. If there is a speaker you would like to bring to Minnesota and are willing to underwrite a portion of the event, let us know via email at board@mnatheists.org

It's exciting to think about the opportunities this could open up for Minnesota Atheists. Who might show up to our next event? What national speakers would you like to see?

Opinion continued from page 5

TERFs that have been making bad, incoherent arguments against transgender rights here on the blog in the last few weeks ... near as I can tell, they've all been skeptics and atheists. Go browse the atheist channels on YouTube, and you'll find a sordid mass of knee-jerk misogynists thriving there. The alt-right is full of people whose racist beliefs rest on a religious conviction that they are objectively, factually, scientifically correct. Stephen Fry and Richard Dawkins just declared at CSICON that the people who support those issues are extremists who belong to the regressive left.

The space between the two lists above is precisely where the fault line that has created the Deep Rifts in the atheist movement lies. You can't just claim that the division is between the religious and the non-religious, because there is no shortage of atheists who will fight tooth and nail against all the issues on the second list. These aren't purely atheist issues, even if Jim Helton and Minnesota Atheists and PZ Myers are consistently aligned in favor of them. If and when American Atheists adopts that list as an important component of their organization's activism, there will be howls of protest.

Are they prepared for that? I don't know. Helton's personal enthusiasm is great, but I have my cynical, pessimistic doubts.

I asked one question and didn't get a solid answer. American Atheist's national convention is in April in Cincinnati, Helton's own backyard. For years I've seen them chase the elusive celebrity atheist to headline their events, often without regard for their other views. I can sympathize with why they do it — a celebrity headliner is great for improving attendance. But are they going to continue to lust after the kind of celebrity atheist who labels people who promote the items in that second list as "extremists" and the "regressive left"? He skirted the question, because speakers for that event haven't been lined up yet.

I fear, though, that the planners for that conference would be eager to sign up one of the usual Big Name Atheists — a Dawkins or a Harris, for instance, or a Stephen Fry — and would commit to them in a flash, no matter that their views often contradict the values in that hopeful list. The problem is that the celebrity atheists all turn



out to be such assholes.

One glimmer of hope: part of his proposed strategy is to make deeper alliances with organization like Planned Parenthood or the LGBTQ community, in part because they're a new member pool, but also because there are smart, talented people among them who could be great speakers at atheist events. I think that's an important idea, not the least because a lot of those people would be alienated by the kinds of racist, misogynistic ideas that way too many atheist big shots like to endorse, and maybe atheist organizations would stop drooling at the idea of bringing in yet another popular cis-het white man who wants to pander to nothing but their fellow cis-het white men.

My tentative take-away from the talk: I like the direction he's going; hope he succeeds, but am afraid he's a little naïve about the forces within atheism that are going to make life difficult for him. I can already predict all the complaints he's going to get, because I've been getting them for years.

Get Famous (Sort of)

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

Have a blog?

Let us reprint it.

Have an opinion?

Let us hear it.

Want to review a movie/TV show/book etc.?

Give us your take.

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

The “Nones” That You Know

Frank Sinatra

By *Milo Grika*

Francis Albert Sinatra (December 12, 1915 – May 14, 1998) while best known as a pop singer, he was also an actor and producer.

That’s right, you heard me, Ol’ Blue Eyes himself! I’ve always thought of him as a hack of a singer, but when I heard an interview¹ and learned of his liberal views (radically liberal for the time) I am now strongly admiring of him as a person.

But, I hear you say, he was a staunch Catholic and became a Republican. At best, quotes (like the following) show him to be something of a Cultural Catholic. (And while he became a fiscal conservative, he remained a social liberal.)

“I’m like Albert Schweitzer and Bertrand Rus-

sell and Albert Einstein in that I have a respect for life — in any form. I believe in nature, in the birds, the sea, the sky, in everything I can see or that there is real evidence for. If these things are what you mean by God, then I believe in God. But I don’t believe in a personal God to whom I look for comfort or for a natural on the next roll of the dice.”

— Frank Sinatra

¹ <https://sinatrafamily.com/forum/showthread.php/29275>

Cryptogram Answer

In spite of all the yearnings of men, no one can produce a single fact or reason to support the belief in God and in personal immortality.

—Clarence Darrow

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

Walk to End Hunger Thursday, Nov 22, 7:30–9:30 a.m., Mall of America, 60 East Broadway, Bloomington.

Winter Solstice Banquet Saturday, Dec 15, 5:00–9:00 p.m., Embassy Suites Minneapolis — North, 6300 Earle Brown Dr, Brooklyn Center.

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

Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 1st 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.
NOTE: The day of the month has changed.

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 5:00–7:00 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 females-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.

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



12 The Minnesota Atheist

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

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Stephanie Zvan

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The Minnesota Atheist Newsletter

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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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Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

Atheist Alliance of America

Atheist Alliance International

American Atheists

The American Humanist Association

Council for Secular Humanism

The International Humanist and Ethical Union

Secular Coalition for America

Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 183

Life members: 43

Meetup members: 3,045

Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD

Dan Barker

Gerald Erickson, PhD

Annie Laurie Gaylor

Dick Hewetson

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