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## Operations During a Pandemic September Public Meeting

The September public meeting will be the first-ever online public meeting for Minnesota Atheists. We do not have a planned speaker and topic that one might typically expect at a public meeting. The board plans to discuss recent events and solicit member thoughts on an array of topics.

We plan to discuss Atheists Talk, which is now a podcast instead of a radio program, our ongoing building search, our membership drive, and the newsletter schedule. We will discuss the impact of COVID on our meetings and the cancellation of the 2020 Winter Solstice celebration.

We are interested in finding out what you need or want from Minnesota Atheists, and what you want to contribute. We will also seek input regarding future online public meeting ideas and any social activities that we might engage in this fall.

We'd like to get together physically but we want to do so safely. Please come prepared to share and/or observe!

If you can attend the meeting online, please do so. Connection details will be provided via the Meetup® event page, online at <https://www.meetup.com/MinnesotaAtheists/events/calendar/>, or use the more specific link in upcoming editions of Atheist Weekly email.

If you are unable to attend the meeting online, you can attend via telephone. Call +1 312 626 6799 and provide the Meeting ID 934 8131 2721 and Passcode 876977 when prompted.

### Sunday, September 20, 2020

1:00–1:15 p.m.: Welcome/Social

1:15–1:45 p.m.: Business Meeting

1:45–2:00 p.m.: Break

2:00–3:30 p.m.: Program

Online

(See <https://www.meetup.com/MinnesotaAtheists/events/calendar/>)

## Notes from the Board The Times They Are A-Changin'

*By Chris Matthews*

These past few months have been turbulent times. This has affected Minnesota Atheists in ways that no one expected when the current board took office on March 1. We expected to review the radio show, the building search, membership building plans, and other topics of interest.

The first unexpected change was the cancellation of the March public meeting, a result of the initial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic response here in Minnesota. This occurred just a couple days before the planned meeting, and left us with no time to implement an alternative. We had planned to have our annual review of the organization's goals, and solicit member feedback regarding our upcoming year and beyond. We expected to review the radio show, interest regarding a potential building, how we planned to grow our membership, and other topics of interest.

We tentatively planned to have a public meeting in April, but the uncertain public health situation and lack of experience in holding a

virtual event left us unable to follow through. We similarly missed the May meeting, and we haven't taken on planning a public meeting during our traditional summer picnic months.

We plan to hold a public meeting in September to end the longest period between public meetings that Minnesota Atheists has experienced.

We have been holding virtual board meetings every month. The board has made several decisions that we want to share with our members and readers. At a glance, we've addressed the following list of issues. Look for additional information regarding each of these items in other articles in this newsletter.

- We are not recommending any physical meetings or events at this time.
- We are asking members who need help to reach out, and we are seeking volunteers to help us with this effort.
- We have suspended the Atheists Talk radio program. Atheists Talk is now a podcast.
- We have issued a statement regarding recent community unrest.
- We have modified the newsletter schedule.

Continued on page 6

## Cryptogram

*By George Francis Kane*

Es cjn igounvo cy hvitnv ivn knvndt ujic Pyz ueddo

idd idygp, cjng ujt hvit?

—Zig Fivanv, Dyoegp Siecj eg Siecj: Svyk Hvniqjnv

cy Icjneoc



## News and Notes

### It's a State Thing, Stupid

By *George Francis Kane*

The global COVID-19 pandemic is opening another division between Americans, over the “stay-at-home” regulations that have been issued in every state and by many cities. There are conflicting opinions over how quickly these regulations can be lifted while protecting public health. This division now threatens even the separation of government from religion.

State regulations typically have required closing non-essential businesses and limiting gatherings to groups of 10. Essential businesses like grocery stores and pharmacies are exempted. Churches are demanding their own exemption to the lockdown rule. “How” they ask, “can liquor stores be counted as an essential business while churches are not?” They claim that they are being treated unequally, and that the regulations violate their First Amendment rights of assembly and free exercise of religion. The risk of the spread of disease at worship services is greater than in the exempted stores, however. In early March 98 people attended a worship service in Arkansas that led to 61 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths.

This struggle is playing out in Minnesota as in many other states. In mid-May, Governor Walz was in negotiation with state religious leaders over steps to open churches for worship while maintaining protections against spreading the disease. The negotiations were considered urgent because the Catholic bishops of Minnesota and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod announced that they planned to resume in-person worship in defiance of Walz’s orders, setting up a legal showdown.

President Trump nearly derailed Walz’s negotiations when he demanded that governors reopen churches, synagogues and mosques “right now,” and threatened to “override” state restrictions if Governors did not rescind them by the weekend. Trump called churches “essential” and vowed to “override” governors who did not open them. As everyone but the president knew, he

does not have that authority.

Governor Walz continued negotiations into the weekend when he announced reaching a compromise with church leaders. Starting the following Wednesday, places of worship could open if they adhere to public health guidelines to keep congregants safe. According to the executive order, churches must adhere to the following requirements:

- In all settings, ensure a minimum of 6 feet of physical distancing between households.
- In indoor settings, occupancy must not exceed 25% of the normal occupant capacity, with a maximum of 250.
- In outdoor settings, gatherings must not exceed 250 individuals.
- They must develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in accordance with guidelines developed by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Other guidelines are recommended rather than required:

- If churches cannot make Communion touch-free for all participants, they are asked to only distribute the sacrament hand-to-hand and not hand-to-mouth.
- Both the distributor and the receiver should extend their arms as far as is comfortable to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet.
- The distributor should use hand sanitizer before Communion and should sanitize again after touching their face, sneezing, coughing or significant touching of another person.
- All participants should wear face coverings.
- Hand sanitizer should be used before and after taking off a face covering for Communion.

But why should the government grant these exemptions? Government should clearly assert that there is no First Amendment violation in issuing regulations to protect the public health. The law does not distinguish between religious and secular organizations. Simply because practicality demands that exemptions must be granted to certain stores does not imply that exemptions must also be granted to churches. The churches are not asserting constitutional rights, but demanding exemptions from state laws as a religious privilege.

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## Atheists Talk Radio Show

By *Steve Petersen*

Podcasts available at [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org) (scroll down to the podcast link), <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk>.

[patreon.com/AtheistTalk](https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk).

Program sponsors: Q.Cumbers restaurant, American Atheists, and the members and donors of Minnesota Atheists. To support the program, go to [mnatheists.org](http://mnatheists.org) →Join/Donate →Radio Fund, giveMN/minnesotaatheists, <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk> or donate by mail to our PO Box. All donations are tax deductible.

### NOTICE:

We have put the radio show on hold for the time being. While we would like to return to the air, we are unfortunately suffering from the effects COVID-19 has had on our advertisers, and we made the decision that to continue the radio show in this current financial climate would not be the best use of the resources our members provide.

Atheist Talk does continue on in podcast form [see link above], however we are suffering from a lack of volunteers.

—Maddy Love

### State continued from page 3

Two days after Walz’s new regulations for churches went into effect, the Supreme Court effectively put an end to further challenges, including from Trump. Expediting an appeal from California, the Court ruled 5–4, in a decision written by Chief Justice Roberts, that the Constitution leaves decisions of when restrictions on particular social activities should be lifted during the pandemic “to the politically accountable officials of the state,” whose decisions “should not be subject to second-guessing” by judges who lack “background, competence, and expertise to assess public health.”

## Treasury Report

March, April, & May 2020

By *Chris Matthews*

### Radio Fund Donations

\$30 Cynthia Flaig  
\$25 anonymous  
\$20 Nancy Ruhland  
**\$75 Subtotal**

### General/Visibility Fund Donations

\$300 Art Kallenbach  
\$150 Mandy & Ross Meisner  
\$100 Dean Borghorst  
\$100 Erik Englebretson  
\$75 Caroline Brunner  
\$70 Ben Zvan  
\$50 Ed Lubinski  
\$40 Geraldine Jensen  
\$40 Joshua Buzicky  
\$15 Art Searcy  
\$14 anonymous  
\$104 Cash donations at Feb 22 fundraiser  
\$60 YourCause  
\$30 PayPal Giving Fund  
\$13 Amazon Smile  
\$15 other  
**\$1,176 Subtotal**

### Building Fund Donations

\$100 Dean Borghorst  
\$55 Ted & Judy Nagel  
**\$155 Subtotal**

### \$1,406 Total Donations

### Expenses

\$1,380 Newsletter  
\$1,025 Radio Show  
\$268 IT General  
\$327 Other  
**\$3,000 Total Expenses**

### Current Building Fund

**\$144,981**



## Kamrin's Corner

### *Godless*

By Kamrin Duncan

*Godless* is a young adult novel, published in 2004, by Pete Hautman. *Godless* stands out with its bold title, especially in the YA genre. Surprisingly, the book does maintain a neutrality between religion and atheism and rather evaluates the dangers of religion and power while exploring the idea of questioning religion and faith at a younger age.

The book revolves around 15-year-old Jason Bock whose family are devout Catholics. One summer, Jason questions his faith, challenges his youth group leader, and even begins to identify as agnostic. As Jason explores his new identify he decides to invent his own religion with his god being the local water tower. Jason soon recruits several other kids from the town and begins to take on the responsibility and power of developing and controlling a religion. Although it is a Young Adult novel, many underlying themes offer a deeper look into the foundation of religion and the dangers of power and control that comes with the hierarchical structure of religion.

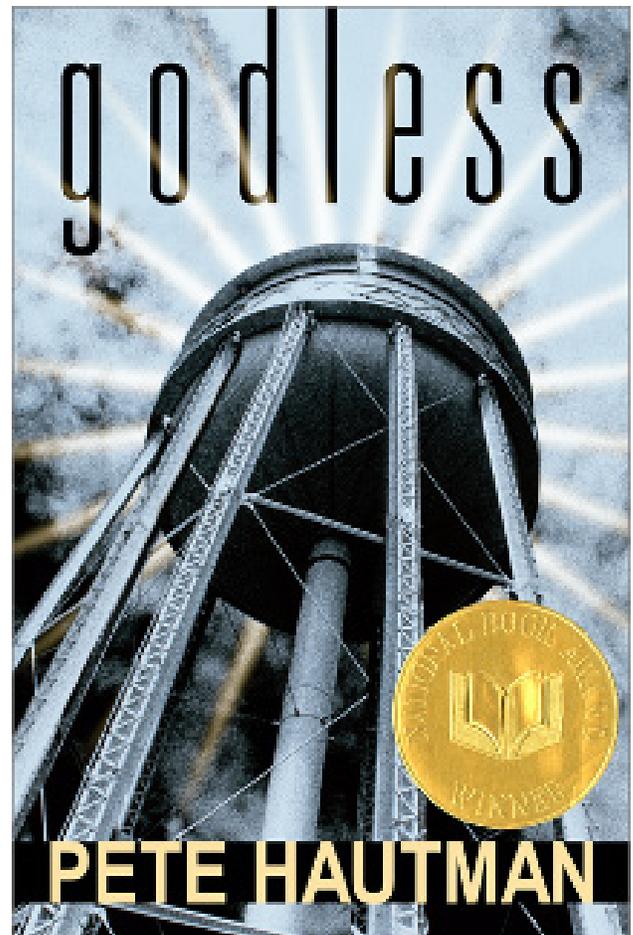
A little about the author: Pete Hautman actually grew up and lives in Minnesota and won the Minnesota Book Award for *Godless*. During an interview Hautman states "I do not think religion is at all necessary for one to live a joyous, productive, and admirable life." (Wordpress, 2009). Although Hautman never truly identifies as an atheist, he makes it clear that religion does not play an important role in his life. In Hautman's writing he focuses on having faith versus having a religion and the implications of each role in one's life.

There are very few books on the market that look at the concept of children and young adults questioning their religion even though this is something that most children experience at one time or another. I know I went through many of these thoughts and emotions as I began to question Christianity when I was in college. This is an important topic that should be included in more YA literature because many people feel isolated when they begin to reconsider their faith and be-

liefs. In the case of *Godless*, Jason is surrounded by his family and in particular his dad, who does not support his decision to leave Catholicism. Moreover, his father continues to force him to partake in religious practice, including attending youth group, prayer, and church. Allowing discussion of this topic helps to mend the void created when people begin to remove themselves from their faith and religious groups. Hautman approaches the topic respectfully and although there is not a blatant message that religion is bad, I did have the sense that this book trends toward the side of atheism. Regardless of one's stance between religion and atheism, *Godless* breaks a few barriers and creates discussion on the very important, but taboo topic of reconsidering one's religion.

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Godless/Pete-Hautman/9781416908166>

"Interview: Pete Hautman, Author of 'Godless.'" NexusZine, Wordpress, 7 Mar. 2009, [nexuszine.wordpress.com/2008/07/07/interview-pete-hautman-author-of-godless/](http://nexuszine.wordpress.com/2008/07/07/interview-pete-hautman-author-of-godless/).



**Times** continued from page 2

As always, the board welcomes input from members on these or any other topics. Monthly board meetings are usually held every first Wednesday at 6:30p.m. We use Zoom to facilitate our virtual meetings. If you are interested in attending a board meeting or otherwise providing input to the board, please contact us using one of these methods:

- Send an email to [board@mnatheists.org](mailto:board@mnatheists.org)
- Send an email to any board member individually — see the email addresses on the last page of this newsletter
- Call us at 612-588-7031

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all adapt to the ever-changing world we find ourselves in.

## Notes from the Board On the Newsletter

*By Chris Matthews*

The board discussed the newsletter schedule at our meeting on July 1. In response to the changed world with respect to COVID-19 and limited physical meetings, we decided to reduce the frequency of published newsletters. These changes are also an attempt to control costs as we are also seeing declines in our donations.

After the July/August/September newsletter that you are currently reading, we tentatively plan one more newsletter for the last quarter of 2020. Expect the October/November/December newsletter to be published prior to our next on-line public meeting.

We plan to discuss the newsletter schedule changes with our members during the September business meeting, so this plan is subject to change based on feedback. For example, we might decide to switch to two-month newsletters, or back to monthly newsletters at some point. Depending on feedback and on changes with the conditions that prompted this schedule change in the first place, the 2021 newsletter schedule may also be affected. Expect an update in upcoming newsletters.

## Notes from the Board On Meetings

*By Chris Matthews*

At this time, we are not recommending any indoor, in-person events. We are using best-available public health information, and we are being cautious out of concern for the health and wellness of our members, many of whom are advanced in age and/or have health issues that put them at increased risk of COVID-19 complications.

We informally review this decision each month at our virtual board meetings, and we will provide an update in the future when we believe it is safe to resume indoor, in-person events.

We do plan to have a September monthly public and business meeting — virtually. The first page of this newsletter provides additional information regarding the agenda and how to attend. Based on our experience with that meeting, we will likely continue with virtual public meetings until further notice.

Since the middle of March, COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation, postponement, or virtualization of most in-person gatherings, and Minnesota Atheists is no exception to this. These typical past meetings and events did not occur:

- Our monthly public meetings in March, April, and May
- The summer freethought picnics in June, July, and August
- The Twin Cities Pride festival and parade in late June.

In addition, American Atheists national convention in April was rescheduled to April, 2021, and the CONvergence convention scheduled for August has been postponed to August, 2021.

Finally, due to required planning lead time and the unlikely resolution of the pandemic in time, the board has tentatively decided not to have this December's annual solstice celebration event.

## Notes from the Board

### On Community

By Stephanie Zvan, Alyssa Ehni,  
and Maddy Love

Minnesota Atheists posted the following statement on our Facebook page on June 17 at 6:50 p.m.

At the end of May, Minneapolis police callously murdered George Floyd in the middle of the street, in the middle of the day, and in the middle of a group of witnesses whom they understood to be filming them.

Minnesota Atheists leadership by and large live and work in the neighborhoods affected by subsequent events. Because of this, we have been slower and less organized about responding as a group. We are an organization that seeks to build community as a bridge to building the world we want to see. As such, we must speak out on issues that shape our communities so profoundly.

As an organization, we want to make it clear and obvious that we believe Black Lives Matter. We believe the right to assemble and demand justice is critical. We believe transparency and accountability are crucial for a functioning society and government. The Minneapolis Police Department, and police departments across the country, have demonstrated through their actions and words they do not share these beliefs.

We recognize the need for change. However, Minnesota Atheists is not the organization to lead that change. We value expertise and the community groups largely led by black and indigent people who have been working on these issues longer than many of our board members have been alive. As individuals, we have and will continue to follow the lead of these well-established organizations. We urge our members to do the same.

As the long-term work of rebuilding begins, we will seek opportunities for our members to get involved and help repair our community. In the meantime, if you are willing and able to help, listed here are some online resources. Many of these same resources also provide information on how and where to seek assistance if you've been impacted.

This interactive, well-updated Google map includes donation sites and what needs are most

urgent. <https://twin-cities-mutual-aid.org/>

The following groups on Facebook are coordinating grassroots efforts:

- South Minneapolis Mutual Aid Autonomous Zone Coordination
- Midway Saint Paul Mutual Aid Autonomous Zone Coordination
- North Minneapolis Mutual Aid Autonomous Zone Coordination

Minneapolis groups working to reshape our public safety efforts at the funding and policy level include:

- Reclaim the Block ([www.reclaimtheblock.org](http://www.reclaimtheblock.org))
- MPD150 ([www.mpd150.com](http://www.mpd150.com))

Reclaim the Block has also put together a list of smaller community groups participating in rebuilding and community support. [https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1yLWGTQIe3967h-dc9RSxBq5s6KKZHe-3\\_mWp5oemd7OA](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1yLWGTQIe3967h-dc9RSxBq5s6KKZHe-3_mWp5oemd7OA)

## In Memoriam

### Otto Link

By *Steve Petersen*

We are sad to announce the death of Otto Link, long time member at the age of 91. Otto and his wife Jeanette were regulars at our Winter Solstice banquets and summer picnics. Otto was a great story teller, excellent teller of jokes and just enjoyed talking with people and getting to know others.

Otto was born in Saint Paul and a graduate of Humboldt High School and went on to the University of Minnesota earning Bachelor of Arts in education and later a master's degree specializing in elementary reading. Otto taught 4th and 5th grade reading including to deaf students. Later in his career he went into school administration first as a vice principle and then as principle.

Otto and Jeanette moved to California in 2017 to be closer to family. We offer our condolences to Jeanette,

Otto's family and many friends. He lived a long and good life and he made the world he touched a better place.



## Disaster at the Supreme Court Another Hole in the Wall of Separation

By George Francis Kane

Some readers may remember that in my column about the *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* case in the November 2019 issue I wrote that if the Supreme Court overturns the Montana decision, “‘Religious freedom’ would be reinterpreted to be a protection only for recipients of government largesse, but denied to federal and state taxpayers.” I considered this case to be the greatest threat to the separation of state and church in American judicial history. So in the morning of June 30, when I received an email from the Freedom from Religion Foundation announcing an adverse decision, I closed down the chess tournament I was watching on the internet and turned on my television. I was sure that there would be wall-to-wall coverage on every news station. I flipped between CNN, MSNBC and Fox news, but I found no coverage whatsoever on any of them.

Until I received the FFRF email, I had retained hope for a favorable ruling. The Montana Supreme Court had found that a tax credit voucher program violated the No Aid Clause of the state constitution, making parents of children in church schools ineligible. The legal theory on which the Roberts decision is based is that the Free Exercise Clause does not permit government to deny to a religious organization a benefit that is available to secular organizations. The argument contends that to do so burdens the free exercise of religion by imposing a penalty on it and violates government neutrality towards religion as well.

This argument had been used by the Court once before, in the 2017 *Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer* decision. That case involved a grant to resurface a school playground with recycled tires, which the court ruled did not promote religion. In *Espinoza*, to the contrary, the government grant would expressly be used to fund religious instruction, which had previously always been considered an Establishment Clause violation. If the Court cared to test this principle by history, it

should note that in *Virginia’s Statute on Religious Freedom*, Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1779 that the use of taxpayer funding to support religion is “sinful and tyrannical.”

The Montana Supreme Court’s ruling voided the entire program, so that the tax credits were not available to any parents, for either religious or secular schools. At no time in the proceedings were benefits that were available to others denied to anyone because of their religious status. The Court should have just dismissed the case, as the complaint was moot. That would be how the court could exercise judicial restraint, which conservatives always extol. The court normally first decides that a violation of the constitution has occurred and orders the state to take care of business in some way that is not unconstitutional. Instead, they told the Montana Supreme Court that they had to reinstate the voucher program to resolve the constitutional problem. The only reason to reverse the Montana decision was to invalidate the No Aid Clauses in 38 state constitutions. This decision is transparent judicial activism.

*“Today’s ruling is perverse...the Court appears to require a State to reinstate a tax-credit program that the Constitution did not demand in the first place.”*

Justice Sotomayor wrote in her dissent “Today’s ruling is perverse. Without any need or power to do

so, the Court appears to require a State to reinstate a tax-credit program that the Constitution did not demand in the first place.”

Just weeks ago, we were outraged when the Small Business Administration waived a regulation that would have stopped it from providing Payroll Protection Program grants to churches to pay minister salaries and more. Now there is no doubt that churches will be eligible for every business bailout hereafter. *Espinoza* only covers school voucher programs, but the same logic will prevail for every other government benefit that is available to non-religious organizations.

Education Secretary DeVos redirected hundreds of millions of dollars of pandemic-relief funds intended for public schools to religious schools. But after *Espinoza* there is no point in opposing grants and vouchers for only church schools. We must stop all government funding of private schools to avoid making taxpayers foot the bill for religious instruction.

## From The Editor's Desk

### Minneapolis Mosque Permit Impermissible, FFRF Contends

[Reprinted with permission from the editor of the FFRF.]

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is chastising the Minneapolis mayor for granting a mosque a permit to broadcast prayer five times daily during the month of Ramadan.

FFRF members and residents of Minneapolis and other parts of Minnesota have contacted the state/church watchdog to report that Mayor Jacob Frey recently gave a special permit to the Dar Al-Hijrah mosque, allowing it to amplify a call to prayer that is “expected to reach thousands” of neighborhood residents five times a day for the duration of Ramadan, which ends this year on May 23. The first daily prayer is being broadcast during pre-dawn hours. The final prayer is at 9:45 p.m.

An FFRF member, who lives close to the mosque and “was awakened at 4:45 a.m. by a Muslim call to prayer,” made a video recording. The long prayers are being broadcast from one or more loudspeakers on the roof of the building housing the mosque. Apparently, the mosque’s imam asked the city to permit prayer broadcasts, arguing that his congregation needs to be discouraged from gathering at the mosque. “However, locking the mosque door, putting a sign on the door, and distributing flyers in the neighborhood could accomplish the same secular goal of urging people to stay home during this coronavirus crisis,” notes the complainant.

While FFRF certainly supports the city’s desire to provide comfort for Minneapolis’ Muslim community during this time of crisis, the exemption from the city’s noise control ordinance impermissibly favors Islam over all other religions. Allowing one religious group to blast its religious message very early in the morning onward violates Minneapolis’ noise ordinance, which is a reasonable restriction meant to foster a peaceful, quiet community with a well-rested population, FFRF emphasizes.

“The Minneapolis noise control ordinance, §389.65(6), prohibits the use of amplified sound,” FFRF Attorney Chris Line writes to the mayor.

“§389.105 allows for the issuance of permits for outdoor sound amplifying equipment for small, standard-size or large block party events. This call to prayer is not a solitary, temporary event as contemplated by the exemption to the use of amplified sound codified in §389.105. This is a five times daily call that will go on for weeks.”

And, very importantly, FFRF adds, the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from privileging religious messages. The Supreme Court has said time and again that the “First Amendment mandates government neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion.”

Many news stories have noted that this is the first time that a call to prayer has been permitted to be broadcast in such a fashion in the United States. If worshippers have always managed to pray on their own without this exemption, they don’t need it now. Since it is not needed, the exemption is simply an unconstitutional support of religious privilege. Plus, it goes without saying, such a prayer call is unnecessary in this modern time, when it is absurd to believe that people must be called to prayer.

Many religious groups would likely relish the opportunity to broadcast their religious message onto the public at large. By allowing Muslim worshippers this privilege, while denying it to all others, the city is unconstitutionally favoring one religion, FFRF concludes.

“We understand the city’s wish to extend solidarity to a minority community during such a difficult time,” says FFRF Co-President Annie Laurie Gaylor. “However, the mayor cannot extend a special privilege to a certain faith, violating the U.S. Constitution in the process, as well as creating noise pollution affecting the mosque neighbors.”

FFRF is asking that the city revoke the special broadcast permit and treat religion neutrally — without favoritism or hostility. It has also submitted an open records request pertaining to information regarding the granting of the permit.

FREEDOM  
FROM RELIGION  
*foundation*

# The “Nones” That You Know

Stanley Kubrick

By *Milo Grika*

Stanley Kubrick (July 26, 1928 – March 7, 1999) was an American film director, screenwriter, producer, and photographer. He is frequently cited as one of the most influential filmmakers in cinematic history. His films are mostly adaptations of novels or short stories.

*“The whole idea of god is absurd. If anything, 2001 shows that what some people call “god” is simply an acceptable term for their ignorance. What they don’t understand, they call “god”... Everything we know about the universe reveals that there is no god. I chose to do Dr. [Arthur C.] Clarke’s story as a film because it highlights a critical factor necessary for human evolution; that is, beyond our present condition. This film*

*is a rejection of the notion that there is a god; isn’t that obvious?”*

—Stanley Kubrick

## Cryptogram Answer

If the answers to prayer are merely what God wills all along, then why pray?

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

## Get Famous (Sort of)

You too can become published by simply submitting something to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter. Just send your input to editor@mnatheists.org and we’ll do the rest.

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Upcoming Events

**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  
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.

**Roseville Human Rights Happy Hour** Every Monday from 5:00-7:00  
Dr, Roseville.

**Freethought Toastmasters Meeting** 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m.,  
Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55128  
www.toastmastersclubs.org

**Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting** 1st Wednesday of every month from 7:00 p.m.,  
Amherst H Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55412  
All Minnesota Atheists members are welcome.

**Godless Gamers** Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.  
Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Road 100, Roseville, MN 55127

**Freethought Dinner Social** 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 5:00–7:00 p.m.,  
Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420

**Freethinking Females** 2nd Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m.,  
Claddagh Irish Pub, 7890 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55412

And 4th Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m.,  
Sweeney's Saloon, 1000 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55412

**NOTE:** Two different events are male dominated with a females-only event.  
Shattering the Glass Ceiling is a female dominated event.

**Volunteer** 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m.,  
The Park Center, 1000 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55412

**Freethought Book Group** 3rd Thursday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the  
Larpenteur Estates apartment complex in St. Paul.

**Brunch** 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m.,  
W 66th St, Richfield.

**Beliefs of Deities** Last Saturday of every month at noon,  
Menlo Park Lanes, 2520 26th Ave S, Minneapolis.

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



**All events are canceled until further notice.**  
[Everyone is encouraged to have virtual gettogethers]

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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.

#### 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 Media

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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: 49

Meetup members: 3,045

#### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD

Dan Barker

Gerald Erickson, PhD

Annie Laurie Gaylor

Dick Hewetson

Robert M. Price, PhD



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