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President's Column Summer Fun!

By Heather Hegi

Summer is always a fun time in Minnesota. It starts with PRIDE Month and the PRIDE Festival June 27 & 28. We won't be participating in the parade this year, instead focusing our efforts in having a strong presence at the festival where we will have a booth. Please stop by our booth or even sign up for a shift (find the link on Meetup). We also welcome members to hang out at the booth at their leisure, not tied to a shift, to spread the good word about our organization!

A summer tradition is our summer Freethought Picnics! I don't know how long we have been holding these, but usually Minnesota Atheists hosts one, HumanistsMN hosts one, and Camp Quest hosts one — last few years we have hosted this one and raised funds for Camp Quest. HumanistsMN had stepped up their game with an all-catered picnic while we have kept with potluck style for simplicity.

This year we are trying out new picnic shelter locations which I'm excited about. In June we will be at a new shelter at Lake Owasso County Park in Shoreview, which looks like a relaxing nook of the city with a unique nature playground next to the picnic shelter. It might even have a more lake country feel nestled among trees with a public beach across the road. In August we will be in the brand-new Bryant Park Shelter in Bloomington. The whole park was redone last year with an accessible playground, new trails, and sport fields. The shelter is a net-zero building that has seating both indoors and outdoors. Being it has such a nice indoor space, we are planning to incorporate some entertainment into our picnic as well, such as a fun debaptism ceremony and a short program with presentations, all in honor of International Apostasy Day (the day before).

See the enclosed flyer for all the details on these picnics. Hope to see you there!



AAI-Supported Blasphemy Case Triumphs in Bangladesh

Minnesota Atheists is a member society of Atheist Alliance International (AAI). An important part of AAI is its Atheist Support Network (ASN). This is one of its success stories.

In October 2020, the life of Mohammed Alam changed overnight.

A secular activist from Bangladesh’s Panchagar district, Alam had long believed in the importance of free expression and open discussion. But in a country where accusations of “blasphemy” can destroy lives, those beliefs came at a devastating cost.

After allegations surfaced accusing him of defaming both Muslim and Hindu faiths on social media, outrage quickly spread. Threats against him intensified. Fear consumed not only Alam, but also his family, who suddenly found themselves isolated and vulnerable.

Instead of protecting him from mob hostility and violence, authorities arrested Alam under Bangladesh’s Digital Security Act 2018 — a law widely criticized for being used to silence dissent and target secular voices. He was imprisoned without trial.

Days turned into weeks. Weeks turned into months.

For eleven long months, Mohammed Alam remained behind bars, uncertain if justice would ever come. His family struggled emotionally and financially while the future seemed painfully unclear.

But he was not alone.

Atheist Alliance International, together with its partners in Bangladesh, stepped in to support Alam throughout his ordeal. Assistance was provided for his legal defense, and support extended to his family during one of the most difficult periods of their lives.

The case became yet another example of how blasphemy-style laws are weaponized against secular activists, freethinkers, and vulnerable minorities.

Then, after nearly two years of uncertainty, justice finally prevailed. On November 30, 2022, the court acquitted Mohammed Alam of all charges.

The ruling marked more than just the end of one man’s legal nightmare. It became a powerful reminder that solidarity, legal advocacy, and international support can make a real difference in the fight against unjust persecution.

For people targeted simply for expressing their thoughts, organizations like AAI provide more than legal aid — they provide hope.

Mohammed Alam’s story is not only a story of suffering. It is a story of resilience, courage, and the importance of standing together to defend freedom of belief and expression.

Cryptogram

By George Francis Kane

NPICLVWFD HC IR WLHQVWQ NWCQMSWG ND

CKLWECQHQMHR KLMR XMFFMR CWRCW.

EMNWEQ UEWWR HRUWECMPP



News and Notes

Make America Christian Again

By *George Francis Kane*

On the last day of April, the Trump administration released its “Task Force Report on Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias.” The report accuses President Biden, a devout Roman Catholic, of issuing regulations and instituting policies that restrict the practice of Christianity throughout the executive branch of government. It begins with a list of 14 “Key Findings,” followed by more than 500 pages of supporting material. The report offers a revealing view of Trump’s plan to use government power to “convert” America into a Christian nation.

Some of the Key Findings criticize the Biden administration for failing to support Christianity in ways that would themselves violate the Establishment Clause. This is especially clear in “Key Finding 11,” which states: “The Biden Administration ignored human rights crises that affected Christians. The Biden State Department removed Nigeria from its list of countries of particular concern for religious freedom, despite acknowledging ongoing murder, kidnapping, and persecution of Nigerian Christians.”

The Trump administration launched missile strikes against insurrectionist training camps in Nigeria, but Muslims have also been victims of the violence. The insurgency in Nigeria is a humanitarian crisis, but characterizing it primarily as a war between religions is unjustified. Military action against the insurgency may have been commendable, but Trump did not need to frame it as a defense of Christians alone. He did so to portray his administration as the military wing of Christianity.

Most of the Key Findings argue for what amounts to a constitutional privilege allowing Christians exemption from anti-discrimination laws. The report places particular emphasis on what it claims was Biden’s misunderstanding of a court decision that had previously received relatively little public attention.

In this case, Gerald Bostock, a gay man, began working for Clayton County, Georgia, as a child welfare services coordinator in 2003. During his ten-year career with the county, Bostock received positive performance evaluations and numerous acco-

lades. In 2013, he began participating in a gay recreational softball league. Clayton County later terminated him, allegedly for “conduct unbecoming of its employees.” Bostock sued the county, alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He prevailed because the Supreme Court ruled that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation constitutes discrimination “because of . . . sex” under Title VII.

The Biden administration broadly applied the Bostock decision to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) rejected attempts to justify discrimination through religious objections, describing such practices as “discrimination in hiring . . . cloaked as religious practice.”

On his first day in office, President Biden signed Executive Order 13988, “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation,” directing all executive branch agencies to ensure that their policies, guidance documents, regulations, and related actions “prevent and combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.” The executive order made no reference to religious exemptions. The Task Force Report cites this omission as evidence of anti-Christian bias.

Anti-discrimination laws are written to apply equally to everyone. A law that does not intentionally target religious practice is generally constitutional. Granting broad religious exemptions would allow every citizen to become “a law unto himself,” free to decide which laws to obey.

The report’s true agenda is to elevate certain religious viewpoints above the rights and dignity of others — precisely what the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment forbids. It distorts the principle of religious freedom by portraying constitutional neutrality toward religion as hostility toward Christianity.

The report further suggests that its Christian nationalist agenda would somehow protect non-Christians, claiming: “By addressing anti-Christian bias and religious discrimination directly, Americans can make religious discrimination unthinkable for all faiths.” This claim is implausible. The authors of the

The Frosty Atheist Confession of an Ex-Muskeist

By Ross Meisner



I have an ethical dilemma. And it revolves around one human: Elon Musk.

As you know, Elon Musk is a driven visionary and insanely successful innovator. He wanted to reduce global warming so he built Tesla, proving EVs can be a viable market. He wants to ensure humanity's existence, and created SpaceX to eventually have humans live on Mars. He wanted to solve traffic congestion so he started The Boring Company to make tunnels under cities. And he happens to make billions of dollars doing all this. So amazing. I loved Elon.

He's also the DOGE wrecking ball that helped Trump undermine government functions and derail parts of our fragile democracy. He has publicly disparaged empathy, diversity and inclusion, and gender rights. And he's using his billions to buy influence, fund unsavory political candidates, and undermine regulations, taxes, and government oversight.

I've grown to really dislike him. He may be the poster child for being corrupted by power and money. But... I love my Tesla! And I'm utterly thrilled with how SpaceX will radically open up space to exploration, business, even tourism.

Have you ever heard someone say, "Well, Hitler did some good things: Pulled Germany out of recession, built the Autobahn, insisted on the protection of animals and nature..." Can we admire some accomplishments of a terrible human while despising the person? Or must we stand against those good accomplishments in solidarity against the evil they do?

After much anguish and soul-searching, I finally decided to take a compelling stand! I, umm, put an anti-Elon bumper sticker on my Tesla. Pathetic, I know.

I really want to keep supporting the EV industry. I'll never buy another gasoline car. Of course I can buy a Rivian, Lucid Air, or EV from Audi, Ford, Porsche, etc. But there are pros and cons to these competing models: Should I refuse to buy a Tesla even if that is the best model for me?

I share this quandary because it's emblematic of our times, as we ethical atheists strive to navigate a path that supports our beliefs and resists the dogmatic abuses being perpetrated by government today. How much should we sacrifice to make a statement? To resist tyranny? Definitely something. Maybe a lot. Even more than a bumper sticker.

MACA continued from page 3

report would almost certainly reject any exemption to anti-discrimination laws that allowed others to discriminate against Christians on religious grounds.

The Task Force will issue another report next year, with policy recommendations to implement the Christian nationalist reconstitution of America.

Treasury Report February, 2026

By Chris Matthews

General/Visibility Fund Donations

- \$200 Art Kallenbach
- \$50 Ross Meisner
- \$40 private (2)
- \$290 Subtotal**

Atheist Refugee Assistance Program (ARAP) Fund Donations

- \$1,000 August Berkshire
- \$200 Steve Petersen / Shirley Moll
- \$1,200 Subtotal**

\$1,490 Total Donations

ARAP Fund

- \$3,000 Goal
- \$1,200 2026 Donations
- 40% Of Goal**

Expenses

- \$637 IT
- \$632 Newsletter
- \$346 Misc
- \$1,615 Total Expenses**

Current Building Fund — \$167,247

Introduction National Day of Reason

By Heather Hegi



Thank you for joining us today for the Day of Reason, a day to celebrate truth and reason, to raise public awareness about the persistent threat to religious freedom, and to rally for secular government.

This event is hosted by Minnesota Atheists with co-hosts Humanists Minnesota and Rochester Area Freethinkers. We have been holding this rally for the National Day of Reason nearly every year since 2005.

Being here today matters.

We invite State Legislators to address the audience which helps to bring awareness of our presence here today. Whether your representative or senator addresses us today or not, I invite you to fill out a postcard to let your legislator know that you were here today.

It makes a difference, not only in Minnesota State Government, but in Federal Government. State Legislators may advise Federal Legislators, or they may even become a Federal Legislator. Representative Ilhan Omar spoke to us in 2017, and now she represents Congressional District 5 in Congress.

This year the United States Celebrates 250 years as a nation. Our nation was founded by people wanting to escape religious persecution, so they wanted the government to have no role in religion. They understood that if government gets entangled in religion, they may not promote their sect of religion, so best not be involved at all.

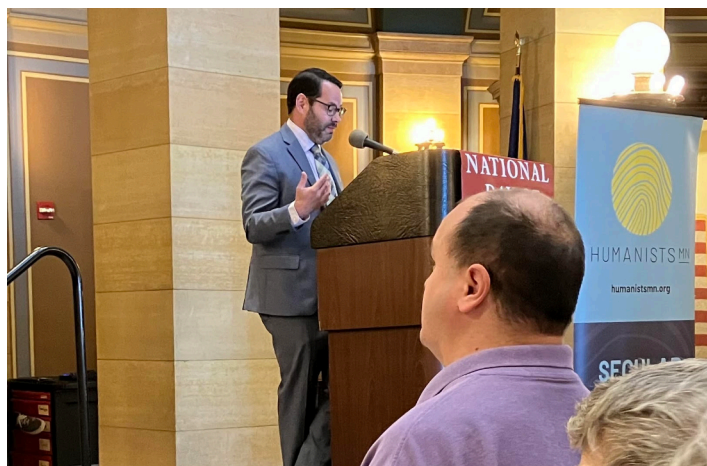
Unfortunately, our government has shown a favoritism to general deism and took a step backwards in the 1950s when “Under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance and “In God We Trust” was adopted as our national motto and added to our currency.

However, that’s nothing compared to the threats we are seeing today with Christian Nationalism rhetoric being promoted by the Trump Administration. It has never been so important to affirm our commitment to the constitutional wall of separation between religion and government, and to stand up for reason as the guiding principle of our secular democracy.

I would like to thank Steve Petersen for helping to plan today’s event and thank George Kane for emceeding today.

FFRF National Day of Reason

By Patrick Elliott



The following are the prepared remarks by Patrick Elliott for the Minnesota Day of Reason. The speech delivered at the event on May 4, 2026, deviated slightly from these written remarks.

Thank you Minnesota Atheists for organizing this event and thank you for inviting me today. We are here to support secular government. While the groups here today and the attendees support the separation between church and state, that is something that a large contingent of the U.S. population has taken for granted.

NDoR Continued on page 6

NDoR continued from page 5

First, I want to just illustrate why it is important. Then, I will highlight some of the most pressing threats we are facing in 2026. Finally, I'll talk about what the Freedom From Religion Foundation is doing about it and what we all collectively can do about it.

When we talk about the separation of religion and government, some people act like it is a problem of the past. A majority of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court seem to view the need for strong constitutional protections under the Establishment Clause as unnecessary.

When I think about why state/church separation is important, I think about a specific case that I worked on and one particular little girl that suffered because of government imposed religion. In 2017, Mercer County Schools in West Virginia held Bible classes in all of its elementary schools. Thousands of children received Bible lessons, which began in first grade. The school district defended these lessons and said they were about learning literature and not taught in a devotional manner. (By the way, that is always what schools say when you challenge them on biblical instruction.)

I requested copies of the curricular materials. One lesson included an image of Adam and Eve with dinosaurs. It said: "So picture Adam being able to crawl up on the back of a dinosaur! He and Eve could have their own personal water slide! Wouldn't that be so wild!"

One mom in the school district made the very rational decision to take her daughter (who I will call Jessica) out of those classes. First, the school put her in a coat closet area in the back of the classroom where she could still hear the Bible lessons. Her mom, who was rightly upset, objected. Starting in first grade, Jessica would leave her normal classroom and study by herself.

Because her school was so committed to bringing the Bible to "unchurched" kids, Jessica was brazenly mistreated, ostracized, and missed learning other subjects while fundamentalist Christianity was being taught.

Her mom, Elizabeth, was brave. We filed a lawsuit with her as a plaintiff seeking to stop the Bible classes. The school district fought us. They even won a preliminary ruling that we had to ap-

peal. That decision was overturned by a federal court of appeals. Following the appeals court decision, the school board voted to permanently end the Bible in the Schools program. It took 5 years, but we then successfully settled the case and ended Bible instruction that had been going on for 75 years.

This problem of people wanting to inject religion into schools is not a problem of just the southern United States. We see it all over the country, including right here in Minnesota.

In 2026, there are two recurring themes I want to highlight. First, religious groups want government money but do not want to follow the rules. We know this firsthand in Minnesota. Two Christian colleges secured a court victory this past August when they challenged a Minnesota law that would not allow them to require publicly funded PSEO students to sign faith statements in order to attend the schools.

The biggest case that you probably have not heard about will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court this fall. That case is *Saint Mary's Catholic Parish v. Roy*. Colorado created a publicly funded pre-k program. That program, while permitting religious providers, does not allow participating pre-k providers to discriminate, including against children or their parents because they are LGBTQ+. Both lower courts upheld the rule, now the Supreme Court will decide whether the state must exempt the Catholic church from the discrimination rules. FFRF will be filing a friend-of-the-court brief in that case and we can expect a decision sometime next year.

The second theme this year is that there is a nationwide effort underway to inject religion into public school instruction. We are seeing bill after bill in state legislatures to put Christian instruction in school classrooms. State boards of education are also approving religious content standards and religious instructional materials. Utah passed a law a few weeks ago that requires social studies instruction to include Christian nationalist themes. That law permits the instruction to start in grades of children as young as 8 years old. Multiple states have passed laws mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in school classrooms.

This leads to the third topic today: What the Freedom From Religion Foundation is doing

about it and what we all collectively can do about these threats.

First, we should not give up or give in. We are not going to allow the dismantling of a secular government without a vigorous fight. The religious groups on the other side want complacency. Do not give that to them.

There is also a mismatch between what politicians are doing and what most Americans want. Politicians who seek to create a theocratic government are going against what most Americans want. Educators and parents do not want schools to become embroiled in religious disputes.

In Minnesota, 59% of respondents last year in a Pew Research study said they opposed teacher-led prayers. Most Minnesotans are with us on this. That is helpful to know when speaking to public officials.

At FFRF, we are supporting families in lawsuits challenging laws that infringe their constitutional rights. We are suing with a coalition in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. We anticipate requesting that the U.S. Supreme Court take up the Texas case and reaffirm court precedent that prohibits posting the Ten Commandments in schools.

The second thing we can do is to understand the motivations of the other side. We have to understand that the other side is often not operating honestly. We should try to challenge their underlying motivations.

The push for the Ten Commandments in schools is a good example. Is this really about the Ten Commandments? It does not seem to be from my experience. People in government want to appear to be pious, and they are reacting to children having different beliefs or no belief. In addition, state officials want to mark territory as Christian, including our public schools and public institutions.

I say this because merely opposing the official reasons in a bill will only get you so far. Those often tout a false historical narrative. We should be talking about the impact on children, including religious minorities, nonreligious families, and how these are harmful to real people.

Finally, to support secular government, we need to work together. Our voices are stronger when complemented with other similar voices. At FFRF, we are increasingly working in coalitions

with other groups, including with religious groups. For example, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has helped organize and oppose religion in government.

Attending this event today is one example that is helpful to show our numbers and support. Please join groups doing this work so we can work together toward our shared goals.

I'll just conclude with a note about perseverance and the little girl that I noted in West Virginia. Jessica had to endure a challenging educational environment because year after year her school was imposing religion on young kids. Her mother was an outcast for daring to challenge it. In the end, they achieved something that had a lasting impact. Since they won their case, no other child in the school district has had to endure Bible classes. Fighting to keep religion and government separate can take a great deal of effort, but the resulting impact can benefit many future generations. Thank you.

HumanistsMN National Day of Reason

By David Breeden



My name is David Breeden. I serve on the board of HumanistsMN and also on the board of the Secular Coalition of America, an umbrella organization based in Washington, DC supporting

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NDoR continued from page 7

groups such as HumanistsMN, Minnesota Atheists, the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and others working to protect secular democracy

We who have gathered here for the Day of Reason know that reason is not abstract or cold or empty. Reason is one of the ways we care for each other in the public sphere.

In recent months we here in Minnesota have experienced what political terrorism can do to a community. We have seen what happens when government becomes addled by one particular religious interpretation of one particular branch of one religious tradition, and then mistakes that interpretation for the will of “we, the people.”

That’s dangerous.

Of all the human emotions, the one I most fear is certitude.

When government seizes religion, or religion seizes government, belief hardens into requirement. What should be open to free choice becomes socially coerced. Prayer becomes public performance. Law requires certain words to appear on certain walls.

Creed becomes a test.

History’s lesson is clear: When religion becomes an arm of power, both religion and government lose their souls. And their minds.

A democratic society is never one voice but a chorus of convictions, doubts, traditions, questions, and hopes. The separation of religion and government simply protects the beautiful chorus of human multiplicity.

Separation ensures that no single worldview can claim ownership of the public square. That means a church, a synagogue, a mosque, a humanist gathering, and a room full of atheists can all exist without fear of state interference or favoritism. Each can speak in its own voice. Each can use and critique power in its own way. Each can in its own authentic voice call us toward justice, compassion, and the common good.

Separation does not silence religion. It allows [followers of] all religions and no religion the freedom to be who and what they can be.

And it keeps citizens free as well. The First Amendment draws a careful line: Government shall not establish religion, and it shall not prohibit the free exercise of religion and non-reli-

gion. Those two commitments belong together in endless creative tension.

Freedom from establishment protects us from state-sponsored dogma. Freedom of exercise protects the conscience of every person.

Because genuine belief cannot be coerced.

Governments pass laws, collect taxes, build roads, schools, courthouses, and capitol rotundas. But no government can ever make faith sincere or make doubt disappear.

No government can command the inward life. Nor should it try.

A secular government is not a government without values. A secular democracy is committed to fairness, equal protection, public reason, and the common good. It creates a civic, civil space where people of many beliefs, and no religious belief, can deliberate together as equals.

Religious voices are welcome in that space. Humanist voices are welcome. Agnostic voices are welcome. Atheist voices are welcome. But none enter secular space as hierarchically superior. We enter as neighbors. As citizens. We bear witness. We argue. We listen. We build. As a community.

That is democracy at its best: no throne, only chairs at the table. In a diverse society, this balance will never be effortless, but the principle must remain clear: Government must not, must never, favor one faith over another, or faith over non-faith, and it must not interfere with conscience unless real harm is being done to others, as we in this community experienced in January.

In the end, the separation of religion and government is an act of trust. The separation of religion and government trusts groups and individuals to seek meaning in their own ways. It trusts communities to gather around shared values without government interference. And it trusts that together we can be both deeply moral and genuinely free.

That breathing space, that careful boundary, is not a weakness in our system, but rather one of its greatest strengths. The separation of religion and government allows faith and unfaith to remain in respectful discussion. Separation allows democracy to remain a respectful discussion. And it allows conscience to remain honest and free.

Here in Minnesota, on this Day of Reason, may we re-commit ourselves to defending the open space, the free exchange of ideas. May we

defend the dignity of conscience. May we defend the richness of our plural community. And may we remember: Reason is not the opposite of faith or the enemy of faith. Reason is the common language by which the faithful and the faith-less learn to live together in community and democracy.

The Religious Virus National Day of Reason

By *Grant Steves*

There is a virus in our body politic. It attacks: our judgment, our shared sense of reality, and our ability to reason together.

More than two centuries ago, Thomas Jefferson confronted this virus. The Danbury Baptist Association worried that the Congregationalists might use political power to restrict the liberty of the Baptists. In his 1802 reply, Jefferson wrote that the First Amendment built “a wall of separation between Church & State.” It was designed to protect the freedom of conscience for believers and nonbelievers of religion.

In Western culture, religion is often described as belief in the supernatural. Anthropologists emphasize that religions also function as systems that organize meaning into dogma, define purpose as doctrine, and treat a religious text as the source of truth. That distinction matters because any belief system can claim ultimate authority and demand obedience.

Historical examples of religious nationalist governments are Stalin’s Soviet Union, Mao’s China, and Kim Jong-un’s North Korea. They demanded loyalty, enforced orthodoxy, and punished dissent. The founders of this nation feared that kind of power, whether it came from a church aligned with the state or from the state adopting the posture of a church.

Their fear was not theoretical; it was born of

experience.

Many early Americans had lived under governments in which religious authority was backed by law, the state endorsed religions, and dissent carried real consequences.

Even after American independence, we struggled to live up to our ideals because of religious dogma supporting racism. The Civil War was not only a political crisis — it was also a moral one, fought over slavery and the denial of basic rights to millions of African Americans.

The Enlightenment offered a different vision. It challenged the idea that authority comes from divine right and instead insisted that power rests with the people. In a democracy, leaders are not ordained — they are elected.

That shift required something essential: a government that does not become a religion. Because a government organized as a religion is, by design, dogmatic, and liberty requires that freedom to believe is preeminent.

The Constitution states this principle clearly:

Article VI prohibits any religious test for public office. And it requires those who serve to swear loyalty not to a church, not to a person, but to the Constitution itself.

In our pluralistic democracy, laws must be grounded in our Constitution and the equal rights of people, and not in a religious text.

Government officials are not appointed by god to preach and pray, but are servants appointed by the people and for the people.

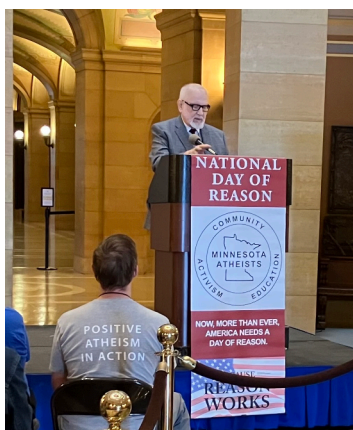
Today, we are seeing the rise of white religious nationalism. That is the original virus: It replaces science with dogma, debate with algorithms, evidence with information manipulation, and of liberty with control.

The Constitution does not defend itself.

The wall Jefferson described will not collapse overnight. It will, and is, eroding quietly, gradually, until one day we look up and realize it is gone.

The cure depends on citizens who know their Constitutional history, think critically, and demand evidence.

Citizens must question authority, promote the facts, and defend freedom for all. And above all, vote! Because the survival of our constitutional system depends on it.

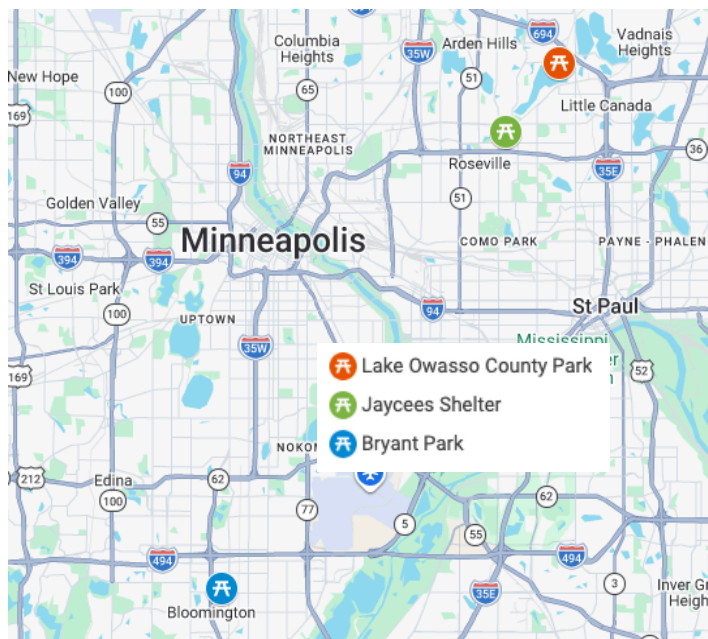


Upcoming Special Events

In Person June Freethought Picnic
Sunday, June 21, Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Lake Owasso County Park Picnic Shelter
370 N Owasso Blvd, Shoreview, MN

In Person July Humanist Families and Friends Summer Picnic Social!
Sunday, July 19, Noon – 3:00 p.m.
Jaycees Picnic Shelter
2540 Lexington Ave N, Roseville, MN

In Person August Apostate's Picnic
Sunday, August 23, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Bryant Park Shelter
1001 W 85th St, Bloomington MN



Upcoming Monthly Events

In Person Bowling for Deities First Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m.,
(usually) at Flaherty's Arden Bowl, 1273 West County Road E, Arden Hills, MN.

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

Online Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
Email chair@mnatheists.org for the meeting link.

Freethinking Females

Online 2nd Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

In Person Last Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.,
Sweeney's Saloon, 96 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN.
Shattering the myth that atheist groups are male dominated with a females-only event.

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

In Person Lunch with Secular Seniors and Friends 1st Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
Maya Cuisine, 1840 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN.

In Person Friends Free of Theism Brunch 3rd Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
Q.Cumbers Restaurant, 7645 France Ave S, Edina, MN.

In Person Trivia Night Every Sunday from 5:30–8 p.m.
Venn Brewing, 3550 E 46th St, Suite 140, Minneapolis, MN.

For more events and instructions for connecting to online events, visit:

The “Nones” That You Know Barack Obama Sr.

By *Milo Grika*

Barack Hussein Obama born Baraka Hussein Obama, 18 June 1934–24 November 1982 was a Kenyan senior governmental economist and the father of President Barack Obama.

“Although my father had been raised a Muslim, by the time he met my mother he was a confirmed atheist, thinking religion to be so much superstition, like the mumbo-jumbo of the witch doctors that he had witnessed in the Kenyan vil- lages of his youth.”

— Former U.S. President Barack Obama

Cryptogram Answer

Blasphemy is an epithet bestowed by super- stition upon common sense.

Robert Green Ingersoll

Get Famous (Sort of)

You too can become published by simply sub- mitting something to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter:

Enjoyed a gathering or event?

Tell us about it. You can also send us a photo.
Just send your input to editor@mnatheists.org.

Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

Membership Levels

- Student membership *Free*
- 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 \$_____

I would like my donation(s) to be

- private
- public
- attributed by my name only

for reporting in the Minnesota Atheists newslet- ter and on the website. (By default, each dona- tion will be considered private.)

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. Student memberships do not have voting rights and are not able to run for the board.

All paid 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 ad- dress.

Please make checks payable to:

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Students, please enclose a copy of your fee state- ment or school identification.

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(Required for student memberships and email subscriptions)

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.

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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 memberships: 79

Life members:

54

Meetup subscribers:

4,517

AWE subscribers:

1,162

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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