

The Minnesota Atheist

Minnesota Atheists

Established 1991

Positive Atheism in Action

Volume 12 Number 9

October 2002

The clergy know that I know that they know that they do not know. – Robert Green Ingersoll, "Orthodoxy" (1884)



The informative and entertaining Dale McGowan Photos by Vern Young

An atheist teaching at a Catholic college? Truth inspires fiction in McGowan's novel

By David Mallinder

Dr. Dale McGowan, our featured speaker at the September membership meeting, is certainly accustomed to reconciling apparent paradoxes. Being a secular humanist professor at a Catholic college who attends a "stealth" Baptist church because of family connections and who placed a son in Lutheran preschool because of the quality of the education is only the beginning.

Then consider the college – St Catherine's – itself. McGowan spoke of the four unwavering doctrines of this school – Catholicism, feminism, political correctness and postmodernist philosophy (the concept that no truths are objective but only a matter of perspective). Think about that for a second. Yes, the feminist, ultra-liberal and completely subjective Catholic church is alive and well! (Remember to ask your local female priest about the church's constantly

changing and ephemeral beliefs next time you see her at the Gay Pride parade.)

Holding these contradictions together without going insane was clearly an excellent training ground for McGowan's refreshingly dry and pointedly satirical multi-layered novel, *Calling Bernadette's Bluff* (available from the Minnesota Atheists bookstore and a highly recommended fun read).

The fact that the novel is centered on a secular humanist professor coming out as a nonbeliever at a small Catholic women's college in Minnesota can surely only be a staggering coincidence, as can the first outward and visible sign of the inward struggle for intellectual grace. Here McGowan and his novel's hero, Jack Kassel, both adopted the tactic of posting secular articles and quotes on their office door.

He reports hearing secondhand that one particularly ardent feminist wants to slap him and one disgruntled theologian now refers to him as "that idiot."

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Minnesota Atheists practices positive, inclusive, active, friendly neighborhood atheism in order to:

- Create a community of atheists;
- Educate the public about atheism; and
- Promote separation of state and church.

(Continued on page 10)

October membership meeting
1-3:30 p.m.
East Lake Street Library
2727 East Lake Street, Minneapolis
Sunday, October 20, 2002

Meet the man who put atheism into his comparative religion classes

In 1974, Bob Rasmussen was one of 30 teachers selected from throughout the United States to develop a course to "teach about religion in the public schools." For the next 26 years he taught the course every year with all of the sections filling up each year.

In 1985, he happened to see a Mr. Fixit column in the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* mentioning August Berkshire (then president of the Twin Cities Chapter of American Atheists) as the person to contact for more information about atheism. He invited Berkshire to talk to his students about atheism. That led to Berkshire speaking to comparative religion classes in Brooklyn Park and then in Maple Grove and Osseo.



Robert Rasmussen

As a social studies teacher and department chair at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park from 1969 to 2000, Rasmussen taught classes in American History, World Area Studies and World Religions. In June 2000, Rasmussen retired from full time teaching and today works part time at Park Center as the student activities advisor as well as pursuing his many interests and hobbies.

Rasmussen's leadership gave his religious students perspectives they may not have had in another school. And it gave his occasional atheist students a sense of acceptance. Hear the story from Rasmussen himself.

Time to vote on new bylaws

Seven members of the current board of directors ran on a promise of spreading leadership responsibilities among more people so that the board of directors better represents the members. The following changes will be submitted for Minnesota Atheists members' approval at the October meeting.

- Addition after Subsection A. President: The President shall not also serve as newsletter editor.
- New Bylaw: A member shall not have sole or combined service as President and/or Chair for more than three consecutive years. After three years, that person shall be ineligible to run for either of those positions for one year.
- Deletion from Article 11 Section 1. Elections: For the election of co-chairs, they may vote for two candidates.

The Minnesota Atheist

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 affiliate of American Atheists.

It's debatable...

October holds many opportunities to hear and see atheists offering their own perspectives in debates against religious ideas.

Oct. 6, Dr. Robert M. Price, Woodridge Church

Dr. Robert M. Price, author of *Deconstructing Jesus*, will debate Gregg Boyd at Woodridge Church, 1500 County Road 4, Medina, Sunday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. (Price will also speak at the Lake Superiors Freethinkers meeting in Duluth that Sunday morning and will tape two "Atheists Talk" TV programs on Oct. 3.)



Dr. Robert Price



August Berkshire

Oct. 17, August Berkshire, Carleton College

August Berkshire, president, Minnesota Atheists, will participate in "A friendly conversation between an atheist and a theist." The theist will be Ronn Johnson, pastor, Evangelical Free Church, Brooklyn Center. The debate will be at 149 Olin Hall of Science, Carleton College, Northfield, Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30-9 p.m.



David Mallinder

Oct. 19, David Mallinder, Northwestern Book Store and KKMS-AM 980

David Mallinder, director, Minnesota Atheists, will debate evangelist Ray Comfort on the subject "Does God Exist" at the Northwestern Book Store, Har-Mar Mall, Roseville, on Saturday, Oct. 19, 7-9 p.m. The debate will be broadcast live on KKMS-AM 980.

Actors, singers, playwrights wanted

Were you there at the Solstice Banquet last December or the year before? It's a feast of entertainment – and it's all provided by the creativity and talent of our freethought community.

Volunteers are needed to create the Free-thought Follies entertainment program for this year's banquet, December 15. The Follies

committee, led by Jerry Rauser, is looking for people willing to write scripts for five-minute humorous sketches, take acting roles in those

sketches, or sing in the vocal ensemble. Everyone is an amateur, so only enthusiasm is required.

This will be the third year for the Free-thought Follies. It has been a fun time of year for our community. If you volunteer you are sure to have fun, get your photo in the newsletters, and become rich and famous – well, maybe not rich.



Jerry Rauser, Freethought Band leader and Freethought Follies director

To volunteer, please contact Jerry Rauser at jrauser@attbi.com, or call 763-535-7637.

'Atheists Talk' schedule

Minneapolis: Ch 17 Sat. 8:30 p.m.
Sponsor: Art Anderson

Rochester: Charter Ch 10. Schedule varies. Check rochath.tripod/tv.
Sponsor: The Cramers

Roseville, Shoreview, Arden Hills, North Oaks, Little Canada, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Mounds View, New Brighton: Ch 15 Tues., Midnight.
Sponsor Art Anderson

White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights: Ch 15 various times: Sponsor: Art Anderson

MCN Channel Six metro-wide: Sundays 4:30 p.m. Atheists Talk 1st & 3rd Sundays alternating with the Humanists of Minnesota on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.

Did you know?**Ingersoll spoke clearly for freethought****By David Mallinder***First in a series about famous freethinkers*

When discussing famous freethinkers, one of the first names to come up is that of the great 19th century orator Robert Green Ingersoll.

Ingersoll was born August 11, 1833. The son of a barely successful itinerant preacher and grocer, the young Ingersoll received a sparse formal education at best. A year with a fundamentalist preacher and a few months of law classes were about the extent, but in 1854 this qualified him for the bar. He soon opened a law office in the thriving railroad town of Peoria, Ill. While known as an abolitionist, his early stance was actually pro-Douglas – allowing slavery in the South but not the North. He even managed to receive a Union commission while declaring himself opposed to Lincoln's emancipation plans.

He married into a wealthy "rationalist" family, the Parkers, in 1862, wedding wife Eva in a religious ceremony. He became increasingly irreligious after this time, most likely due to the influence of his wife, and in 1868 these opinions cost him the nomination for governor of Illinois



as he refused to remain silent on the topic.

And remain silent he certainly did not. His speeches became increasingly iconoclastic and in 1872 he flatly stated: "Give me the storm and tempest of thought and action rather than the dead calm of ignorance and faith." His fees for lectures in the 1870s were staggering – ranging from \$400 to \$7,000. Rather conservative socially, he carried on a campaign for secularism nonethe-

Selected Ingersoll quotes:

"The universe is all the god there is."

"The inspiration of the Bible depends upon the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it."

"Our ignorance is god – what we know is science."

"An honest god is the noblest work of man."

"Religion can never reform mankind because religion is slavery."

less. His speeches and lectures and writings grew in popularity and he often spoke to audiences of thousands, and was clearly heard at a time when microphones had not been invented. Sadly he never used this great popularity to energize a base of organized freethought and continued his campaign as a lone voice. He died of an apparent heart attack in 1899.

**'Atheists Talk'
Cable Show Report****By Steve Petersen**

We taped two programs in September with author Dale McGowan. August interviewed McGowan on his book *Calling Bernadette's Bluff* (see page 1). Lee Salisbury interviewed McGowan on the Death of God Theology. The

Death of God theology is an intellectual Christian idea about saving their religion even after admitting there is no god.

We are adding two more cable cities in this month – St. Paul and Stillwater. Look for times, channels and dates in our next newsletter. We are in need of sponsors for our program in your town or city. Please contact Steve

Petersen at 651-484-9277 or sp175@aol.com.

Cable Coordinator: Steve Petersen
Advisor: Jerry Rauser
Crew: Art Anderson, August Berkshire, Bill Burlison, George Kane, David Mallinder, Shirley Moll, Russ Samdahl and Brett Stembridge. New crew members are always welcome; contact Steve Petersen.

See schedule on page 3.

Labor Day outreach succeeds after all

By Sue O'Donnell

The Minnesota Atheists board was quite excited to receive an invitation to have an information table at the St. Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly Labor Day Picnic. It looked like a great opportunity to extend a summer of public outreach. The fee was sent in and planning began.

But a few days before the Labor Day event, Minnesota Atheists was uninvited "because of a number of factors." Those factors were not explained. When pressured further, the organizers said the theme was Social Justice and no ideology-based groups would be there, including churches.

Steve Petersen, Minnesota Atheists associate president and a union member since age 16, went to work along with August Berkshire, president, to change the situation.

"When we found out the Humanists of Minnesota were accepted, we requested a better explanation," Petersen said. "None came, so we suggested we might need to go to the press."

(It became apparent that the organizers did not realize the humanists they had invited were atheists and that Scouting for All, another invitee, was concerned about discrimination against atheists as well as gays.)

The picnic organizers invited Petersen and Berkshire to a Friday morning meeting to make their case before a group of 30 union representatives.

"Steve gave a passionate presentation about how, as a union member, he often felt left out when union meetings open with prayer," Berkshire said. "He pointed out there would be an ecumenical service to open the picnic and told



After working hard to be re-invited, Minnesota Atheists were especially happy for the opportunity to hand out literature and talk with Labor Day picnic attendees. At the atheist table are (from left) Steve Petersen, Scott Jackson, Shirley Moll and August Berkshire. Photo by Sue O'Donnell

them, "Unless atheists are there, I feel left out."

Then Berkshire showed the union group newsletter pictures of Minnesota Atheists, Humanists of Minnesota and Scouting for all marching together at the May Day and Gay Pride parades. "I put the emphasis on 'together,'" Berkshire said.

Since there would be no religions there, Petersen and Berkshire suggested that literature for the table would focus on state-church separation. Their diplomacy won the day, and Minnesota Atheists were re-invited to the picnic.

A successful result ...

After setting up the table Monday morning, activity was slow. "We began to ask ourselves if it was worth it," Berkshire said. As the day progressed, though, Minnesota Atheists members were greeted warmly by many people

who stopped by to say: "I'm glad you're here," "I agree with you about separation of state and church," and "I agree with you about the pledge."

A number of politicians dropped by, including a Minnesota state senator who signed up for the mailing list and suggested we send the newsletter to all state legislators. "This was by far the best opportunity we had in the past year to discuss our views with current elected officials and several who are running for office," Petersen said.

Handouts included an essay about the pledge issue, a list of state-church separation quotes from U.S. presidents and Supreme Court justices, and the lyrics to a Joe Hill song about labor.

The day produced strong visibility for Minnesota Atheists and a list of 25 people who asked to be on the mailing list.

News and notes of interest to atheists

O'Reilly offends 'family values' group

The American Family Association said it was disappointed in popular talk show host Bill O'Reilly for his comments on September 3 labeling Bible-believing Christians "fanatics."

"Mr. O'Reilly makes a living using a hard-nosed, take-no-prisoners approach in his interviews, and that's why people love his show. But he crossed the line on his show Tuesday night," said AFA Chairman Donald E. Wildmon.

On his September 3 installment of *The O'Reilly Factor*, the fiery host bludgeoned guest Stephen Bennett for his Christian beliefs about homosexuality.

"We live in a secular society, you're a religious fanatic, with all due respect," he told Bennett. When his guest objected to the characterization, O'Reilly repeated, "You're a religious fanatic."

Buffalo Bill or church?

Glenda and I stopped in at Susan B. Anthony's house in Buffalo last month and I found an amusing anecdote:

According to Mary M. Huth ("*Susan B. Anthony Meets Buffalo Bill*"), the prominent women's leader attended the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. One of the programs at the Exposition was the World's Congress of Representative Women, which kept Anthony busy, but not entirely so.

This was a time when many thought it scandalous that people might do things other than attend church on Sunday like attend the Exposition. Anthony, on the other hand, understood that when working people labor for six days they ought to be permitted some fun on the seventh. A clergyman asked her if she would permit her son to see

Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show on a Sunday. He was performing in Chicago at the same time. Anthony said she believed "he would probably learn more there than from the sermons preached in some churches." Amused by the exchange, Buffalo Bill offered her a box at his show – which she accepted.

– Peter Holste

Inconsistent constants

The latest tactic of creationists (a.k.a. "intelligent design" advocates) is to claim that six physical constants of the universe must exist within a very narrow range for life in the universe to exist. The odds, they say, of this happening randomly are so low that there must be a god.

However, it is fair to ask: must god be precisely the way he is, or could he be some other way? If god must be the way he is, then there is zero margin for error, making god even more unlikely than a life-sustaining universe!

– August Berkshire

Film review and discussion group

The Jefferson-Paine Society of Friends is sponsoring a film and discussion group about the psychic forces used by religious, political and self-help gurus around the world.

Bill Ronan, humanist pastoral counselor, hosts the sessions. The suggested donation (\$5 per session) is not required. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at Oaks of Mainstreet Townhomes, 1920 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343. For more information and a list of future films, call 952-933-3460, BillRonan@USFamily.net, www.MNHypnosis.com.

The October 9 film, made for and about Adolf Hitler, is often called the greatest propaganda movie of all time.

The Humanist Center

The Humanist Center of Minnesota has a series of first Sunday lectures at the First Unitarian Society, 900 Mt. Curve, Minneapolis. The Nov. 3rd lecture is "Longing to Die: A Humanist Critique of Eschatology and Christian Fundamentalism" by Anthony Pinn, religious studies professor, Macalester College. Social time is 6:30 p.m., program at 7, questions at 8 and social time at 8:30.

For more information about the series, call Matt Stark, 612-377-2211.

March on Washington

On Nov. 2nd, "Godless Americans" will march on Washington, D.C. Organized by American Atheists, the march will include atheists, humanists, freethinkers and any other label that fits godless people. The event will begin at 11 a.m. on the National Mall on the west side of the U.S. Capitol. For more information, check the Web site www.godlessamericans.org, or call the American Atheist Center for updates at 908-276-7300.

Interviewed by NPR

Steve Petersen was interviewed by phone by National Public Radio on Sept. 9 about the anniversary of 9-11 for broadcast (Sept. 10 or 11) on *All Things Considered*. We are unable to confirm whether that clip was used.

– August Berkshire

ATHEIST license gets more press

A photo of August Berkshire and his ATHEIST license plate appeared in the August 2002 issue of *Canadian Humanist News*, published by the Humanist Association of Canada. They also requested and reprinted his May 2002 Minnesota Atheists President's Column as a letter from an American friend.

Separation of state and church? Let's run for it!

How far should we run?

Well, if we have our say it will be about the distance of a 5K fun run around St Paul between the cathedral and state capitol in the fall of 2003.

Several Minnesota Atheists members have expressed an interest in a charity fun run to raise funds and raise awareness at the same time. We're going to do just that. Such events, however, take a lot of time and effort to organize. Tim Lamb, who has a great deal of experience and knowledge here, has volunteered to be the main organizer, but he needs help and initially this help is most needed in gaining the co-sponsorship of other organizations.

The more organizations involved, the greater our impact will be. This appeal is for any members who may have influence, or know people who do, in other organizations that support state-church separation. The following is by no means an



Tim Lamb, race organizer

exhaustive list:

Any other secular/freethought organizations
 Liberal churches such as Unitarians
 GLBT organizations
 MCLU or other civil rights organizations
 The Libertarians

Politically liberal pressure groups

If you have any contacts or influence in these or similar organizations, contact Tim Lamb at 651-210-6653 or timlamb55124@yahoo.com. We hope to make this run, with hundreds of participants, a fundraiser for state-church separation and a public relations event for all groups involved. Please also contact Lamb if you can help provide any of the following:

Participation in the run itself – rough numbers would help a lot

Assistance in distributing or processing applications – retail locations are great
 Any help in planning or organizing the run, especially if you have done so before

Let's make this a big annual event starting next year!

— **David Mallinder**

Reel and meal crowd grows

Seventeen atheists gathered the first Sunday in September to see "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" at the Mall of America. The movie was fun — and the conversation afterward was even more fun.

Reel and a meal meets the first Sunday of each month. Watch AWE for time and place.



Among those present were (from left) Rachel Wilson, Lois Schadewald, Bill Ronan, Jean Riddering, Brett Stembbridge, Marilyn Nienkerk, Bob Nienkerk, Stuart Arkley, Rhonda Arkley, Tom Riddering, Tim Lamb, August Berkshire and Sue O'Donnell.

Letters...

From the out-box

Published in the Duluth News Tribune, September 2, 2002

The August 18 [Duluth] *News Tribune* reported that American Catholic bishops have decided Catholics no longer need to convert Jews. This is certainly the most magnanimous gesture by a Catholic since the Pope forgave Galileo for being right.

These Catholic comedians have just learned that their God had a prior commitment with the Jews, some kind of deal before God became Catholic. And that prior deal is good for all eternity, they say. The church had been wrong to torture Jews to save their souls. Or at least they shouldn't do it any more.

I don't know why it took so long to figure this out, but I am proud that Americans thought of it. I'll bet the current Pope wishes he had. The older popes were mean to Jews, even harsh sometimes. But everything is OK now. No hard feelings.

An important Catholic guy said that the announcement is nothing

new, "but it distills a lot of things...." But a Jewish guy says that it is "groundbreaking." If the Jews do get the Catholics off their backs it will be good for them and they can get on with being even more special than anyone else.

Anyway Jews can still come over to the Catholic side if they want. They will have dual heavenly citizenship, retaining their eternal rights as chosen dudes.

It is possible that I don't understand all this fully but I understand it better than the bishops. They have been distracted over the priest chastity matter. Probably working hard on a new distillation that only heterosexual chastity is required.

Those of us who are not Jewish or Catholic nor special in any other category are left in our previous condition. But if we are good and patient, some bishop will distill up a go-to-heaven-free pass for us, too. I don't know that for sure but it seems likely the way things are going.

– Bill van Druen
Member of Lake Superior Freethinkers and Minnesota Atheists

From the in-box

My visit to Minnesota in August was thoroughly enjoyable, meeting friends again and renewing acquaintances. I attended a few get-togethers, including a perfect-weather picnic, a Minnesota Atheists lunch at Old Country Buffet where we had an interesting round-table discussion, and a Freethought Toastmasters meeting.

I was even pressed into modeling a Minnesota Atheists T-shirt for a picture taken by August Berkshire, which will no doubt get my mug into a future newsletter. My thanks to all who made me feel welcome and showed me a good time.

Best wishes,
Earl Doherty, author of *The Jesus Puzzle*



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August Berkshire provided a spirited defense of atheism, keeping his cool in the face of Jason Lewis's interrogation and often unfriendly calls from the public.

Berkshire interviewed on KSTP-AM by Jason Lewis

On Wednesday, September 4, August Berkshire was the guest on The Jason Lewis Show, an interview and call-in program on KSTP-AM 1500. For an hour, Berkshire answered illogical assumptions with logical, fact-based information.

Lewis set the tone with his opening: "Short of eternal damnation and burning in hell, there's nothing wrong with being an atheist."

Berkshire moved the tone from there to friendly and conversational. "We're not advocating government promoting our viewpoint," Berkshire said, noting that

religionists, likewise, don't have the right to commandeer government resources to promote their viewpoint.

While Lewis continued to make tired arguments about "majority rule" without discussing the minority protections in the Bill of Rights, he did acknowledge: "You can derive a moral code just by observing nature and the actions of humans."

There was also the usual question: Without a god, how did everything get started? Berkshire said, "God doesn't answer the question; it compounds the question by asking the origin of god."

Steve Petersen called in and pointed out that there were no prayers at the Constitutional Convention. Other callers (of a decidedly different persuasion) seemed to confuse the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers.

The program gave Minnesota Atheists more visibility (both Web site address and phone number were given out) and challenged a lot of misconceptions about history.

– Sue O'Donnell

McGowan...



Dale McGowan autographs his book, *Calling Bernadette's Bluff*, for members after his entertaining presentation.

(Continued from page 1)

Neither got a reaction after the initial tame J. S. Mill quote, so the freethought arms race quickly heats up with Jefferson, then Twain, Stanton, Steinem, Sagan, Asimov, et al., until the walls are covered five feet from the office door. And still little reaction beyond a strained increase in Minnesota Nice.

All this happens against the background of a very real papal pronouncement, *ex corde*, which forbids even non-Catholic teachers at Catholic schools from criticizing or disrespecting the church or its views. After this launch, however, the real and the fictional part company as the novel romps through a succession of delightfully dotty characters and situations loaded with in-jokes, humorous names that no one in the novel ever

seems to notice, and swathes of dialog certain to bring a smile to any atheist's lips.

One parallel, hopefully without the novel's sadly hilarious results, which does crop up is the foundation of a secular humanist association on campus. Here McGowan is a true pioneer. Not content with thumbing his nose at the Pontiff and his employer, he is launching the first atheistic association we know of at a private Christian college. We wish them every success, of course!

Since the novel's publication, McGowan reports hearing from six closeted secularists on the faculty and has received rave reviews from most on campus, including one 80-year-old nun. The college bookstore has reordered his novel several times and

public reaction has been largely positive – although he reports hearing secondhand that one particularly ardent feminist wants to slap him and one disgruntled theologian now refers to him as “that idiot.”

McGowan held our audience spellbound for over an hour with tales from his life, thoughts on humanism, readings from his book and answers to audience questions. Happily for those who enjoyed *Calling Bernadette's Bluff* – and these numbers will surely swell as a brisk trade at the book counter indicated – he is now working on a sequel.

After closing his remarks he was awarded the very first, but soon to be world famous, Minnesota Atheists coffee mug which will be given to all future speakers and cable guests.

Things to do, places to go: A calendar for atheists

1st Sundays: **Reel and a Meal**
Times and locations vary, see AWE or call Michelle Losey, 952-736-1739

1st Sundays: 3-5 p.m. **Freethinking Families**. Potluck at members' homes. Rich Sinda, 952-380-0688.

2nd Sundays: 6 p.m. **Minnesota Atheists board meeting**. Location varies. All members welcome. George Kane 651-488-8225.

3rd Sundays: 1-3:30 p.m. **Minnesota Atheists Membership Meeting**. (See page 2 for program and address)

1st and 3rd Mondays: 6 p.m. **Freethought Toastmasters Club**. Muffaletta Cafe, 2280 Como Ave., St. Paul. Private room. George Kane, 651-488-8225.

2nd and 4th Mondays: 5-7 p.m. **Happy Hour North**. Free food. Ol' Mexico Restaurant, on Lexington, one block north of Larpenteur, Roseville. George Kane, 651-488-8225.

2nd and 4th Mondays: 5-7 p.m. **Happy Hour South**. Chi Chi's Mexican Restaurant, 7717 Nicollet Ave., Richfield, Bob/Marilyn Nienkerk, 612-866-6200.

1st Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. **Lunch Social**. Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Snelling and Fairview, Roseville. Bob/Marilyn Nienkerk, 612-866-6200.

3rd Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m. **Lunch Social**. Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, Hwy 47 and Mississippi St. NE, Fridley. Private room. Bill Volna, 612-781-4273.

1st Thursdays: 6-9 p.m., **"Atheists Talk" TV taping**. MTN, Studio A, 125 SE Main St., Minneapolis. Steve Petersen, 651-484-9277.

3rd Saturdays: 1-3 p.m. **Religion-Free Families**. Galaxie Library, Apple Valley. Rhonda Arkley, 952-322-1003.

4th Saturdays: 8:30-11 a.m. **Breakfast Social**. Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, Hwy 47 and Mississippi St., Fridley. Private room. Fern Wodtke, 651-784-2307.

"Atheists Talk" TV Broadcast
First and third Sundays, 4:30 p.m., Metro Channel 6.

Get a free weekly list of atheist activities by subscribing to AWE (Atheist Weekly E-mail). Send request to George Kane at nup@minn.net

CHECK THE WAYS YOU WANT TO HELP ATHEISM GROW

Minnesota Atheists has IRS 501(c)(3) status. All contributions are tax deductible.

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Credit card Visa MasterCard _____ Exp. Date: ____

Signature _____ Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Mail to: Minnesota Atheists, P.O. Box 6261, Minneapolis MN 55406

If you would like information on how to direct your United Way contribution to Minnesota Atheists, please contact George Kane at (651) 488-8225 or nup@minn.net.

Is there an intelligent man or woman now in the world who believes in the Garden of Eden story? If you find any man who believes it, strike his forehead and you will hear an echo. Something is for rent.

— Robert Green Ingersoll, "Orthodoxy" (1884)

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