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No Chapter Meetings during the Summer

Join us at the Freethought Picnic

August 21

Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Columbia Park

HUMANISM:

A better life for all through education, democracy, free speech, reason, and science, without reliance on arbitrary dogmas, revelations, and faith.



Join us at the Final Freethought Picnic of the Summer! (Noon to 3:00 p.m.)

Sunday, August 21

During the summer, the MN freethought community comes together for three jointly-held monthly picnics. Whether you attend one of our groups regularly or just want to get acquainted and socialize with like-minded folks in a relaxed atmosphere, do join us:

- This is a potluck picnic, so bring some food to share and your own beverage.
- Plates and utensils will be available, but to reduce waste, bring your own re-usable items if you can.
- The picnic goes on rain or shine! We've reserved a shelter for eating and socializing.
- The shelter area has electrical outlets, a sink, and bathrooms nearby.
- The nearby playground (with sandbox) is a great gathering place for kids.
- Bring lawn games such as Frisbee, Ladder Ball, Badminton—and/or tennis balls and rackets for the nearby tennis court.

The August picnic is hosted by Minnesota Atheists at Columbia Park

COLUMBIA PARK is located in northeast Minneapolis.

- ▶ Take Central Ave NE (MN Hwy. 65) to Columbia Pkwy. (Between 36th Ave. and 37th Ave.)
- ▶ Turn west onto Columbia Pkwy and proceed for 0.35 miles.
- ▶ After you go under the railroad bridge, you will see the park on your left.
- ▶ Take the first left onto the service road (you will see a sign for "800 Columbia Blvd."). (You should see us by the shelter on the hill!)

PRESIDENT'S

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After the killing of two black men by policemen in July—in Louisiana and Minnesota—National Public Radio aired a rant by an Ohio policewoman as part of their coverage of these terrible events. Her plea to fellow white officers was to get out of law enforcement if they were afraid of black and brown men. I can't find the reference now to recap what I heard, but she voiced something that is tragically true in America—white and black and brown people are too often afraid of one other.

The racial divide in America now seems larger than it has been in a generation. People may argue whether it has grown worse in past decades, diminished or stayed about the same since the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 1960s, but one thing is clear: the racial divide is now staring us in the face and we cannot avert our gaze. And while the divide seems especially glaring and concerning between the police and black residents, the actual divide cuts across our whole society. We can't just blame law enforcement

for racial conflict and violence in our society; we all bear responsibility for it.

We all participate in the racial divide—though primarily unwittingly—because that's the way our society was intentionally designed in the past and we have been woefully unsuccessful at dismantling it completely and redesigning inclusive social systems and building healthy cross-cultural relationships. Those of us who are “white” don't usually have to think about the divide or critique the system that secures our place on the privileged side of the divide. Until some folks make us think about it -- like those within the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

#BlackLivesMatter emerged out of repeated horrific policing incidents. But the fear and conflict that erupts during police stops grows out of much deeper divisions in our society. Do black lives matter enough in our communities that all children get a good education? Do black lives matter enough that living wage jobs are available in and around black neighborhoods? Do black lives matter enough that affordable housing is available where the jobs are? Or that adequate transportation options, essential childcare and ample youth programs exist? Have we sufficiently reconstructed healthy social, economic and political systems to overcome the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow laws and intractable segregation so that African Americans can thrive in their own country?

While many people from all walks of life now feel like the economy and the government aren't working for them, these systems have never worked well for African Americans. And as white people's frustration and anger escalates as we see happening today, sadly and frightfully, so does the scapegoating. Are we about to see the divide grow even worse?

Humanists must remain allies of the #BlackLivesMatter movement—what is becoming the leading Civil Rights movement of our time. Not because every one of us necessarily agrees with everything about the movement but because of our humanist commitment to egalitarianism and the well-being of all. Change has only ever come throughout history because people were tired of the circumstances they found themselves in and they organized to change the status quo. It's always been a messy and uncomfortable process—and it will be now.

Whether or not you personally are ready to dive into some racial justice action, sign up for some rally or follow some leader, it is imperative that we all better educate ourselves—and others—about the black experience in America. Just recently on the internet I stumbled across [James Baldwin and William Buckley debating](#) the proposition—in 1965--“Has the American Dream been achieved at the expense of the American Negro?” Baldwin's eloquent and captivating performance provided an overview of the black experience that is as insightful and relevant today as it was 50 years ago. It is a must see.

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In addition, if you've never watched the PBS series "Eyes on the Prize," a history of the Civil Rights movement, such knowledge is essential for every American. Or watch it again as an excellent refresher on civil rights activism. To better understand today's reality for Black Americans, contemporary authors Michelle Alexander (*The New Jim Crow*) and Ta-Nehisi Coates (*Between the World and Me*) are good places to start.

We might process some of this information together if there is enough interest as a community. I'm open to suggestions. But whether we learn together or on our own time, gaining greater knowledge and understanding of the black experience should be on every humanist's agenda these days. Let's help break down the walls of ignorance and fear and lay a solid foundation for the bridge-building we need to do in our society.

James Baldwin and William Buckley debate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFeoS41xe7w> Ω



Humanist Community:

Doing Good Together

By Harlan Garbell

At our most recent chapter meeting the membership team asked members about activities they would like to participate in that would also serve to make our humanist community stronger. Several members commented that they would like to have more volunteer opportunities that reflect their humanist values. But a key component of this desire was to participate in these volunteer activities *along with other members*.

Most of our members are aware that over the past few years Humanists of Minnesota has associated with other volunteer organizations (e.g. Camp Quest, Tubman Center) for the purpose of furthering those organizations' goals. However, the membership team wants to expand opportunities for volunteer work for our members. But instead of providing our members with a list of volunteer or charitable organizations, we thought a good idea would be to first ask our members what volunteer organizations they have worked with, or alternatively, what volunteer organizations they would like to work with. Your suggestions will be highly valued and each one will be seriously considered by the membership team.

With the information you provide we can reach out to these organizations and find out what they need from volunteers. But perhaps more importantly, we can arrange to get like-minded members to work together at the same time for the same organization. A true "win-win" situation for members, Humanists of Minnesota, and the organization that needs our help. Please contact Harlan Garbell at hgarbell@comcast.net with information regarding volunteer opportunities that you would like to participate in with other members. This would truly allow us the opportunity to "do good together." Ω



In Memoriam:

*Lee Ann P.
Schneider*

We mourn the loss of fellow Humanists of Minnesota member and friend Lee Ann Schneider. She died on July 17th, a victim of depression. Her heart was as beautiful as her mind, and her generosity and compassion towards people and animals in need inspired all who knew her. The impact she had on countless individuals through her enduring activism will long be re-

membered. Her energy for volunteer activities was endless and spanned from The Animal Humane Society to Brookdale Hospice in Edina, American Red Cross, and most recently, The Circle of Discipline and the Shakopee School District. Memorials preferred to The Circle of Discipline Inc., PO Box 7313, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Celebrations of her life are being planned for both CA and MN. For more information please contact Kurt Schneider at kurt.schneider10@gmail.com. Ω

Announcements

DISCUSSION GROUPS ETC.

2nd Friday 5:00 p.m., *Humanist Happy Hour St. Paul*, Green Mill Restaurant & Bar, 57 Hamline Ave S.

4th Friday 5:00 p.m., *Humanist Happy Hour Minneapolis*, Salsa a La Salsa--2841 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

2nd Friday 10:00 a.m., *Coffee and Current Events*, Loring Park Dunn Bros., 329 W. 15th St., Mpls.

2nd Saturday 10:30 a.m., *Blasphemers' Brunch*, Pizza Luce, 800 W 66th Street, Richfield

2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m., *Sunday Assembly*. First Unitarian Society. 900 Mt. Curve Avenue, Minneapolis.

1st Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-noon, *Lake Superior Freethinkers monthly meeting*. Radisson Hotel Duluth, Viking Room. For information contact Bill van Druten, (218) 724-4176.

1st Sunday, 10:00 a.m., *Central Minnesota Freethinkers, St. Cloud Coffee Social*. Check their website for details: cmfreethinkers.org or contact them at info@cmfreethinkers.org

Mondays, 5:00-6:30 p.m., *Atheists for Human Rights Happy Hour*, OI' Mexico Restaurant, 1754 Lexington Ave., Roseville (just north of Larpenteur). Tables on terrace level. Call Paul Craven, (763) 788-8918.

1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m., *Freethought Toastmasters Club*, Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Ave. W., St. Paul. Contact George Kane, nup@minn.net or (651) 488-8225.

2nd & 4th Mondays, 5:00-7:00 p.m., *Freethought Dinner Social*, Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Ave So, Bloomington. Call Marilyn Nienkerk, (612) 866-6200.

1st Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., *Freethought Lunch*, Dragon House, 3950 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights, MN. Call Marilyn Nienkerk, (612) 866-6200.

3rd Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., *Freethought Lunch*, Dragon House, 3950 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights. Call Bill Volna, (612) 781-1420.

2nd Thursday, evening, *Rochester Area Freethinkers (RAFT)*, Downtown Rochester Public Library, Meeting Room A. Contact Jim Salutz, jsalutz@aol.com or (507) 280-8012.

OTHER EVENTS

Second Wednesday, 7 p.m., *Humanists of Minnesota Board of Directors meeting*. Open to all members. Contact Audrey Kingstrom at akingstrom@comcast.net.

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. (during school year), *Campus Atheists, Skeptics and Humanists (CASH)* general meeting. 3rd floor Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis. Contact cash@cashumn.org.

Check out our Meetup events at <http://www.meetup.com/humanism-166>

Tenets of Humanism Part II: Intro to Ethics

*Thursday, August 25, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Lunds Uptown, 1450 W Lake St, Minneapolis*

This session we will focus on the ethical imperative of humanism and disentangling ethics from religion. We will explore the moral theories and principles that lay the foundation of the humanist outlook and the concept of moral relativity. As interest arises, we will compare and contrast humanist ethics with liberal religious and spiritual traditions as well as identify differences from non-theist, agnostic and atheist worldviews. Come explore the heart of humanism. Host: Audrey Kingstrom

Maple Grove Discussion Group:

Saturday, August 13th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.: "What Should the US Immigration Policy Be?" with Dell Erickson and Ruthie Hendricks. Maple Grove Community Center, 12951 Weaver Lake Rd, room 124, Maple Grove 55311, \$5 donation. Register at landforsale@visi.com or call Laurie at (763) 420-6350.

Support Humanists of Minnesota! Painlessly!

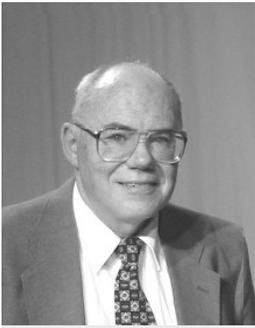
Do you shop at Amazon.com?

If so, Amazon will donate some of their profits to Humanists of Minnesota! Just use the following URL to enter their website when you shop there (note: though the charity listed is the AHA, the funds will go to HofMN):

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1570800>

"Humanist Views," our weekly Cable program, airs at **6:30 p.m. Mondays** on MTN Channel 75.





Freethought History:

On the Origins of Organized American Humanism

Paul Heffron, Chapter Historian

In my review of Roy Speckhardt's book, *Creating Change Through Humanism* (in our June issue), I mentioned that I wished he had covered our origins more. He left out the three books on our beginnings in his bibliography, surely an oversight since he would have consulted them. The books are: Mason Olds, *American Religious Humanism* (University Press of America, 1977, HUUmanist Association NFP, Revised Edition, 2006). Edwin H. Wilson, *The Genesis of a Humanist Manifesto I* (Humanist Press, 1995). William F. Schultz, *Making the Manifesto: The Birth of Religious Humanism* (Skinner House Books, 2002).

Students from the University of Chicago and Meadville Theological School plus some adjacent schools in the Chicago area formed the Humanist Fellowship in 1927 under the leadership of Albert Eustace Haydon, professor of comparative religion. This was probably the first use of the word "humanist" for a religious/philosophical organization. Previously humanism had referred to a form of learning, but at this time the word was gaining usage as a non-theistic religion or a naturalistic philosophy of life. A newsletter called *The New Humanist* was published in 1928 by the new organization using a mimeograph machine. Edwin Wilson became the editor in 1929, and in 1930 the mimeographed bulletin of the fellowship became a printed journal aimed at a national audience with Wilson, who had earned a doctorate, at the helm. That was the same Ed Wilson who became the first editor of *The Humanist* in 1941 and the executive director of its publisher, the American Humanist Association. Wilson provided some details of this early stage of the fellowship and its publication in his book. The printed issues of *The New Humanist* ran until 1936 and included the 1933 issue with the *Humanist Manifesto*. Wilson was co-owner, manager, fundraiser as well as editor until 1935 when the Humanist Press Association became the national membership organization of the journal. The name was a nod to the British Freethought Press Association. From the beginning, nonreligious freethinkers were welcomed in the fellowship and in the publication. A fire and lack of funds caused a suspension of the publication in 1936. Wilson filled the void on his own with *The Humanist Bulletin* until the Humanist Press Association became the American Humanist Association and *The New Humanist* became *The Humanist*.

Haydon, the advisor of the Humanist Fellowship, was a charismatic speaker and teacher. His first career was as a Baptist preacher in Canada. Later in life he did a PhD in the history of religion at the University of Chicago and became a professor there. He was a pioneer scholar in his approach to religion and a catalyst of American humanism. There is a biography of Haydon and three volumes of his lectures and papers. The titles are: *A Good Life in a World Made Good: Albert Eustace Haydon, 1880-1975* by Creighton Peden (Peter Lang Publishing, 2006) and *Volumes on Works of Albert Eustace Haydon* (Mellen Press, 2006). Peden's article on Haydon is "Humanists Pioneer: A. Eustace Haydon, 1880-1975" in *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism*, vol. 14, 2006, 9-27.

I read all the issues of the printed *New Humanist* at the University of Minnesota library, but the mimeographed issues were unavailable. They were archived at the University of Chicago. Francis "Frank" Mortyn, physicist and former Fellowship of San Diego leader and newsletter editor, traveled to the University of Chicago in January 1999 to see the mimeographed issues at the birthplace of American organized humanism. At the library he was handed an envelope containing the mimeographed issues and found that they almost disintegrated before his eyes as he handled them. Frank held up a piece from one page and told the librarian, "This little scrap of crumbling paper is a priceless relic" and urged that the 70-year-old documents be properly preserved. He later learned that the mimeographed issues were salvaged and archived at the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale. They are in a collection which includes the Edwin Wilson papers. The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship regularly holds forums called *The New Humanist* in honor of the publication of the Humanist Fellowship. Although travel at my age (80 next March) is difficult, I'll be tempted to travel to Carbondale and see that relic of the origins of organized American humanism. Ω

Humanist Family and Friends Freethought Summer Picnic!

It was a beautiful day for a picnic as freethinkers, their families and friends descended on the Wabun Picnic Area on Sunday, July 17th, for food, fun and conversation!



Pictures by Julie Davis

HUMANIST NEWS & VIEWS

Editor, Nathan Curland

Editorial Committee - Brad Bolin, Dale Handeen, Suzanne Perry

Articles, letters, event notices and other writings are welcome. Send to: editor@humanistsofmn.org with the word "newsletter" in the subject line, or to P.O. Box 582997, Minneapolis, MN 55458-2997. (E-mail submissions are preferred.) All submissions must include the writer's full name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address. All submissions become the property of this newsletter and cannot be returned. Submission deadline is the 22nd of the prior month.

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Upcoming Critical Thinking Club Meetings

Twin Cities Chapter. Sunday, August 7th, 10:00 a.m. to noon: "The Animals Who Believe That Myths Are Real and Dreams Can Come True," by Bob Kaufman. Uptown Bryn Mawr Community Gathering Place, 400 Cedar Lake Rd South, Minneapolis.

West Metro Chapter. Saturday, August 27th, 10:00 a.m. to noon: "9-11 From an Engineering Standpoint," by Mark Paquette. Ridge Point Apts. Meeting Room, 12800 Marion Lane W., Minnetonka.

Stillwater Chapter. Monday, August 8th, 7:00 p.m.: "What the Mainstream Media Does Understand About the 2016 Election," by Prof. David Schultz. Family Means Bldg., 1875 Northwestern Ave, Stillwater.

*For additional information, visit:
www.meetup.com/Critical-Thinking-Club/calendar*

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August 2016

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Your membership is vital to the growth of Humanism and the Humanist community. Our membership categories are:
(For categories at RH and above, married couples or domestic partners will be considered as one membership, if you so indicate.)

- (B) Budget, \$25.00
- (RI) Regular Individual, \$40.00
- (RH) Regular Household, \$60.00
- (S) Sustaining, \$100.00
- (P) Patron, \$250.00
- (BN) Benefactor, \$500.00
- (L) Life Membership, \$1000.00
- (T) Trial subscription for 3 months, just ask

*Full time students at an accredited institution can receive a complimentary subscription

For national or international membership write to:

American Humanist Association
1777 T Street NW
Washington, DC 20009-7125
www.americanhumanist.org

Council for Secular Humanism
A Subsidiary of the Center for Inquiry
PO Box 664
Amherst, NY 14226
www.secularhumanism.org

Please check the appropriate box, complete the information and mail with your check to Humanists of Minnesota, P.O. Box 582997, Minneapolis, MN 55458-2997.

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(for special announcements, blogs etc. Keeps you in touch!)

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