

New York City Atheists Inc.

Serving the tri-state area • An affiliate of American Atheists

February 2004

WEB: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG

P.O. Box 1187, New York, NY 10013

212-330-6794

EVENTS

Following Events Will Be Held At
352 7th Ave. Btw. 29/30th
16th floor
Just South Of Penn station
Suggested donation \$10

Thur, Feb.12, 2004, 6:30 P.M.
Charles Darwin Day

Speaker: Richard Milner
contributing editor and writer for
Natural History Magazine and
Scientific America. See and
discuss his appearances on A&E
and the History Channel's Charles
Darwin Programs.

Thur, Feb. 26, 2004, 6:30 P.M.
February Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Richard Carrier
Subject: Miracles: Fact or Fiction
Richard Carrier has published
several articles for the Skeptical
Inquirer and has been Editor in
Chief of the Secular Web for
many years.

This evening Carrier will describe
a "tool kit" to examine miracle
claims in history.

Thur, Mar. 25, 2004 6:30 P.M.
Mar. Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Roger Foster
Subject: TBD

Tue. Apr. 13, 2004, 6:30 P.M.
Madalyn Murray O'Hair

Speaker: Caroline Gilman
Subject: On Madalyn Murray
O'Hair's birthday meet with Ms.
Gilman, who was on the Board of
Directors with Ms. O'Hair. Who
was the real Madalyn Murray
O'Hair? Video, Q&A, etc.

**ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS WILL
RECEIVE MAILED COPIES OF
THE NEWSLETTER AFTER THE
MARCH EDITION.
SEE: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG**

Sun, Apr. 25, 2004 1:00 P.M.
April Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Bob Morgan
Subject: A public forum of
Atheism Issues

NYC Atheists Inc. Goals 3
Committee (a forum for
examination and discussion about
Atheism) will review their
activities. The committee will
then hold a public forum on
Atheism.

Thur, May 6, 2004, 7:00 P.M.
Day Of Reason Dinner

Location: TBD
Cost: TBD

Thur May 27, 2004, 6:30 P.M.
May Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Bob Simon of End of
Life Choices (formerly the
Hemlock Society) will discuss
living wills, health care proxies,
caring friends, legality of suicide,
and assisted suicide issues.

Thur, June 24, 2004, 6:30 P.M.
June Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Jim Laatsch
Subject: Life Beyond Earth

Sun, July 25, 2004, 1:00 P.M.
July Monthly Meeting

The July Monthly Meeting will be
either a picnic or trip.

Sun, Aug. 29, 2004 1:00 P.M.
August Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Bob Morgan
Subject: A public forum of
Atheism Issues

NYC Atheists Inc. Goals 3
Committee (a forum for
examination and discussion about
Atheism) will review their
activities. The committee will
then hold a public forum on
Atheism.



**Josh Karpf accepts his
certificate of appreciation as
founder of NYC Atheists Inc.**

Sun, Sept 26, 2004 1:00 P.M.
September Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Ed Stephens, M.D.
Subject: Psychiatrist's
perspective: Why Atheism is a
tough sell.

Atheist Meetups

When: 3rd Tuesday of the
Month at 7:00 P.M.

Casual dining or drinks with your
fellow freethinkers.

Manhattan location to be chosen
by registering and voting at
<http://atheists.meetup.com>.
Feb 17. Mar 16. Apr 20. May 18.
Jun 15. Jul 20. Aug 17. Sept 21.

**EMAIL COPIES OF THE
NEWSLETTER WILL STILL BE
SENT TO ALL ON OUR EMAIL LIST.**

FDA, Bush and Jesus?

By Ron Widelec

Listen up, ladies! The cure to all your ailments is here; Jesus. That's right, according to Dr. Hager, Bush's choice to head the FDA, "scripture reading and prayer" can alleviate headaches and premenstrual pangs (the punishment for original sin, no doubt).

Once again President Bush is attempting to appoint an ultra-conservative Christian to a position of extreme influence in order to force his evangelical views on the nation and codify them into government doctrine. In this case, the possible appointee is Dr. Hager, writer of *As Jesus Cared for Women*, who supports an emphasis on the healing power of Jesus. It is dubious, at best, to think that a man with such supernatural views on health could be the head of the Food and Drug Administration, which deals with serious, realistic health issues where life and death decisions must be made.

According to a Time.com article, Dr. Hager's resume describes him as a University professor, but university officials say that he works part time with interns as a volunteer. The same article quotes sources who said that Hager refuses to prescribe contraceptives to unmarried women.

Dr. Hager's views make him a dangerous individual to lead the FDA as the agency deals with issues such as contraceptive use, abortion and new gene-therapy technology. This move is just another example of the Bush theocracy on a rampage to make Christian law the law of the land.

You can contact the President at president@whitehouse.gov to let him know what you think of Dr. Hager's appointment to the FDA and make him aware that his religious viewpoints are not the law of America.

Questions or comments?
Email me at Beowolf88@aol.com

Secular is Safer

Dear Mr. President,

Although raised in a tradition far from the pagan religions that Jim Towey felt safe in showing his scorn about, I am quite shocked reading this November 26th "ask the White House" interview.

Mr. Towey has obviously mis-read the part of our constitution where it says that the government shall not favor one religion or attempt to institute an official one. Please instruct Mr. Towey that your administration requires that when referring to any religion or tradition in this country he is to show the respect and impartiality that is required of government officials. Pagan traditions pre-date all other known myths and traditions and deserve to be protected from abuse of any kind.

This lapse of judgement by Mr. Towey is another reason why government and religion must be kept separate. Our founding fathers certainly were wise in their belief that a secular government is safer.

Your protection of basic rights is absolutely necessary and you swore to uphold those rights when you took office. Please hold all your administration accountable for their actions. I believe Mr. Towey needs to be counseled or replaced.

Sincerely,
Eileen Regan

Charles Darwin Day **Thursday, February 12th, at 6:30 P.M.**

Richard Milner will discuss his appearances on A&E's "Biography of Charles Darwin" and the History Channel.

Membership Has Privileges
Mailed copy of the Newsletter
Nominating and Voting Rights



NYC ATHEISTS TABLING BEGINS AGAIN IN APRIL

Richard Milner is an author, anthropologist, historian of science and songwriter. Based at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where he is a contributing editor and writer for Natural History magazine, Milner also frequently contributes to Scientific American, the Journal of the Linnean Society of London, and other periodicals.

Trained in anthropology at the University of California (both UCLA and Berkeley), he is the author of *The Encyclopedia of Evolution: Humanity's Search for its Origins* (1993), an award-winning collection of 650 original essays on evolutionary biology and its impact on Western culture. Milner's account of Darwin's life — *Charles Darwin: Evolution of a Naturalist* — is considered the finest short biography of the great naturalist. Milner also studied songwriting on a scholarship to the Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) Musical Theater Workshop. He is currently at work on a new book entitled "Darwin's Universe: Evolution from A to Z."

Tuesday, February 26th at 6:30 P.M.

Richard Carrier is a graduate student at Columbia University currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation on Roman science. He has published several articles in the Skeptical Inquirer, has been Editor in Chief of the Secular Web for many years, and his

forthcoming book *Sense and Goodness Without God: A Defense of Metaphysical Naturalism* is nearing completion.

His competency in English, German, French, Latin, and Greek (Ancient) has greatly enhanced his extensive study of philosophy and world religions.

This evening Carrier will describe a “tool kit” to examine miracle claims in history.

Quotes/Humor

Submit your quotes and humor for Prizes of little or no value.

Childlike behavior is a Born Again Christian.

Atheists believe there would be no need for foxholes if god existed.

The Atheist’s diet is scientifically balanced.

Annulments: Available@donations.church

War: god@my.side

Crusades: my@way.else

Send suggestions to info@nyc-atheists.org

Wants and Needs

Newsletter Editor and Contributors

New York City Atheists urgently needs a monthly newsletter editor. We are also looking for article, cartoon and feature, etc. contributors.

Contact us at: info@nyc-atheists.org or 212-330-6794

You Got No SPIRIT

1. Spirits are not physical entities.
2. Brains are physical entities.
3. Past experiences are stored in our physical brains that we call Memory.
4. Injury can damage portions of

the physical brain that store memory and can alter or erase memories completely.

5. If human spirits exist . . . after death, spirits can have no memory.

My Way Or The Highway?

If Atheists object or question Christian teachings; we are unpatriotic and going against the nation’s founders.

If Atheists teach logical science; we are going against the nation’s founders, unpatriotic and using Science as Religion.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment On Marriage

It was recently mentioned that the Presidential Prayer Team is currently urging us to: “Pray for the President as he seeks wisdom on how to legally codify the definition of marriage. Pray that it will be according to Biblical principles. With many forces insisting on variant definitions of marriage, pray that God’s Word and His standards will be honored by our government.”

I’m sure any good religious person believes prayer should be balanced by action. So here, in support of the Prayer Team’s admirable goals, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment codifying marriage entirely on biblical principles:

Marriage in the United States shall consist of a union between one man and one or more women. (Gen 29:17-28; II Sam 3:2-5.) Marriage shall not impede a man’s right to take concubines in addition to his wife or wives. (II Sam 5:13; I Kings 11:3; II Chron 11:21)

A marriage shall be

Did you know it is unlucky to dial up God ?

G = 4, O = 6, D = 3

4 + 6 + 3 = 13

considered valid only if the wife is a virgin. If the wife is not a virgin, she shall be executed.(Deut 22:13-21)

Marriage of a believer and a non-believer shall be forbidden. (Gen 24:3; Num 25:1-9; Ezra 9:12; Neh 10:30)

Since marriage is for life, neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any State, nor any state or federal law, shall be construed to permit divorce. (Deut 22:19; Mark 10:9)

If a married man dies without children, his brother shall marry the widow. If he refuses to marry his brother’s widow or deliberately does not give her children, he shall pay a fine of one shoe and be otherwise punished in a manner to be determined by law. (Gen. 38:6-10; Deut 25:5-10)

Atheists’ Etiquette

Situation: Someone is gravely ill.

Response: Our prayers are with you.

As an atheist: how would you handle this situation ?

Send your comments to: info@nyc-atheists.org

Argument For Atheists Assuming God Exists

1. If god exists, then everything that exists is part of his / her perfect, divine plan.
2. But, Atheists exist.
3. So, atheists are a part of God’s perfect plan.
4. Therefore, God wants atheists to exist.
5. **WHY?**

Question?

On the planet Mars how does a Muslim know what direction is Mecca?

DEADLINE

Signing Founders' Charter

If you sent in your membership application and dues on or before January 25, 2004 and did not sign the NYC Atheists Founder's Charter at our January 25th meeting, you have **only two more opportunities: the February 12th and February 26th meetings.**

JANUARY 25, 2004 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Signing of the NYC Atheists Inc. Charter by Founding Members

Approval of the Bylaws

Election of the Board Members and Officers

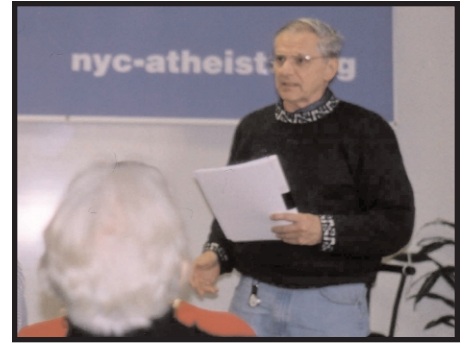
Recognition of Josh Karpf — Founder of NYC Atheists Inc.

Recognition of Jake Shafer for the Web Site improvements and Newsletter Publication

Minutes of the NYC Atheists Annual Membership Meeting, January 25, 2004

1. President Pro Temp Ken Bronstein called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM
He distributed a schedule of future meetings/events and then reviewed its contents in detail. A press release on the observance of Charles Darwin Day, February 12, was distributed and discussed.
2. Bronstein reviewed the background of this new group, how it has come to be a 501.C.3 organization, and why a formal business structure is now required. He read the names of the proposed membership; these individuals shall be designated as "Founding Members"

3. Past President Josh Karpf was presented with a certificate of appreciation recognizing his efforts in organizing, leading and maintaining the NYC Atheists these past years. He also received an electronic crossword puzzle as a symbol of our appreciation for a difficult job well done.
4. Jake Shafer was presented with a certificate of appreciation recognizing his efforts in revising, improving and enhancing the NYC Atheist web site.
5. All present founding members were invited to sign the Organizational Charter. **Absentees will have up to thirty days to sign.**
6. Significant features of the Organizational Bylaws were noted and discussed. The Bylaws were adopted, as proposed, by unanimous consent.
7. The proposed slate of Officers and General Board Members was presented as follows: President and Treasurer, Ken Bronstein; Secretary, Harvey J. Osgood; Membership Chairman, Dennis Horvitz; General Board Members, Mario DeOliverio, Caroline Gilman, Mason Hu, Robert R. Morgan and Jake Shafer. The slate was elected to office, as proposed, by unanimous consent.
8. Bob Morgan provided a brief overview of the activities of the Goal 3 Committee, its purposes, methods and plans for the future. Details are available in his Transitional Report, dated January 25,



Bob Morgan discusses potential April 25th Meeting Atheist Forum Subjects

2004. An invitation was extended to anyone who might care to participate and contribute to future forums. The next open forum will be on Sunday, April 25; the topic will be, "Morality and Ethics: Can atheism support an 'absolute' morality?"

9. President Bronstein adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Harvey J. Osgood, Secretary

Donations

You may now make tax-deductible donations via credit card on our Web page: (nyc-atheists.org). Try it — it's fun and painless.

We also accept checks, money orders, etc. — send to New York City Atheists, P.O. Box 1187, New York, NY 10013.

Some individuals are sending us monthly donations to move up to higher membership levels.

All donations of \$25 and over will receive a formal donation receipt.

MEMBERSHIP **APPLICATIONS**

WEB: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG

PHONE: 212-330-6794