

New York City Atheists Inc.

Serving the Tri-State area • An affiliate of American Atheists

January 2005

Vol. II Issue No. 1

WEB: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG

Cooper Station — P.O. Box 93, NY, NY 10276-0093

212-330-6794

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JANUARY

Jan. 6	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Jan. 9*	Sunday 12:30 P.M.	NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch
Jan. 13	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Jan. 18**	Tuesday 7 P.M.	NYC Atheists Meetup
Jan. 20	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Jan. 27	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Jan. 30***	Sunday 1:30 P.M.	NYC Atheists Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Feb. 10	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Feb. 13*	Sunday 12:30 P.M.	NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch
Feb. 15**	Tuesday 7:00 P.M.	NYC Atheists Meetup
Feb. 17	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Feb. 24	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show (Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Feb. 27***	Sunday 1 P.M.	NYC Atheists Monthly Meeting

* Brunch Location: EURO Diner at 126 East 28th Street (Between Lexington and Park Avenue)

Brunch Cost: Order from Menu — Reservations not required.

** Meetup Location: Manhattan Lounge 1270 Second Avenue (Between 89th and 90th Street).

*** Meeting Location: 352 7th Avenue, 16th Floor (Between 29 and 30th Street)

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NYC Atheists Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational association. Its meetings and membership are open and all are welcomed (both nonbelievers and believers), *i.e.* atheists, agnostics, humanists, free thinkers, skeptics, seculars, separation-of-church/state advocates, and individuals who are questioning and searching beliefs.

JOIN OR RENEW WITH NYC ATHEISTS NOW

**SEE PAGE 7 FOR NEW MEMBER 2005 MEMBERSHIP OFFER
SEE PAGE 8 FOR SPECIAL RENEWAL 2005 MEMBERSHIP OFFER**



Ken Bronstein

PRESIDENT'S SERMON

Our First Anniversary as a Membership Organization

On January 25, 2004, New York City Atheists Inc. held its first annual membership meeting as a 501C non-profit, paid-membership association. We elected a board of directors and ratified our by-laws.

During 2004, we focused upon organization, actions and membership development. We set up an Excel database, developed a standardized newsletter format and published the newsletter on the first of each month. We developed a standard format of member email notification and established the NYC Atheists Resource Center and Library.

We had more than 75 actions during 2004, which included:

- **Demonstrations:** At the US Supreme Court in Washington D.C.; at the U.S. Court House in Foley Square in New York City; at the The Republican National Convention.
- **Social:** Sunday Brunches; July 4th barbeque; NYC Harbor Cruise; Comedy Club evening; marching in the Halloween Day parade.
- **Events:** Monthly Meetings; 15 Street Tablings; observation of Madalyn O’Hair Day; Charles Darwin Day.
- **To increase membership:** We did street tabling, advertised in newspapers and inaugurated a weekly Cable TV show. Starting with 30 founding members, as of December 31, 2004 we now have 140 paid members.

For 2005, we will continue to focus upon membership and expanding our activism. Additional projects will include the sponsoring of an Off-Broadway production about Charles Darwin; Essay Awards for high school and college students; a second street tabling capability, and the establishment of a five-year objective of a non-believers charter school (non-faith based).

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. ONLY THROUGH A LARGE AND INVOLVED MEMBERSHIP CAN WE CONTINUE OUR PROGRESS AND HAVE AN IMPACT.

Contact me with your comments: Ken Bronstein at NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM or 212-535-7425.

PAST EVENTS/MEETINGS

December 2 (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #24
(Manhattan Cable Channel 67)
Guest: Michael Newdow

December 9 (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show # 25
(Manhattan Cable Channel 67)
Guest: Michael Newdow

December 12 (Sunday) 12:30 P.M.
NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch
Location: EURO Diner 126 East E28 St. (Between Lexington and Park Avenue)

December 16 (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYC Atheists Cable Show
(Manhattan Cable Channel 67)
Guest: Michael Newdow

December 21, (Tuesday) 7 P.M.
NYC Atheists Solstice Dinner:
Location: Minado Restaurant 6 East 32nd St. (Between Madison and Fifth Avenue)
Forty NYC Atheists members and guests enjoyed the extensive buffet. Rich Perlstein of the Village Voice was our featured speaker.

December 23, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYC Atheists Cable Show
(Manhattan Cable Channel 67)
Guest: Michael Newdow

December 30, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYC Atheists Cable Show
(Manhattan Cable Channel 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

JANUARY EVENTS

Jan. 6, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #29
(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

**Jan. 9, (Sunday) 12:30 P.M.
NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch**

Location: EURO Diner, 126 East
28 St. (Lex/Park)

**Jan. 13, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show # 30**

Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

**Jan. 18, (Tuesday) 7 P.M.
NYCA Meetup**

Location: Manhattan Lounge
1270 Second Ave. (89/90th St.)

**Jan. 20, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #31**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

**Jan. 27, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #32**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Margie Wait

**Jan. 30, (Sunday) 1 P.M.
NYCA Annual Meeting**

Location: 352 Seventh Ave. —
16th Floor. Second Annual
Meeting to elect our 2005 Board
of Directors and vote on revisions
to our by-laws. After the business
meeting we will see tapes of our
NYCA Cable Show.

**AMERICA IS NOT FOUNDED ON
THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION**

Treaty of Peace and
Friendship, signed at Tripoli
November 4, 1796. Submitted to
the U.S. Senate May 29, 1797.
(Message of May 26, 1797
Ratified by the United States

June 10, 1797.) Proclaimed June
10, 1797

ARTICLE 11.

**As the government of the
United States of America is not
in any sense founded on the
Christian Religion,** as it has in
itself no character of enmity
against the laws, religion or
tranquility of Musselmen, and as
the said States never have entered
into any war or act of hostility
against any Mehomitan nation, it
is declared by the parties that no
pretext arising from religious
opinions shall ever produce an
interruption of the harmony
existing between the two
countries.

2005 Membership Renewals

NYC Atheists' annual
memberships cover the period
from January 1 to December 31.
Therefore all memberships will
expire as of December 31, 2004.

NYCA is offering a special
renewal Membership Program
incentive: Between December 1,
2004 and January 30, 2005, an
annual membership will be offered
for \$10. We will continue to offer
our regular membership categories
— see below. Life memberships
are now available.

Basic	\$ 25
Supporter	\$ 100
Fellow	\$ 250
Patron	\$ 500
Life	\$ 1000 – 5000

Remember, you must be a
paid-up 2005 member to vote at
the January 2005 Annual Meeting.

Membership privileges
include: the right to nominate and

to vote for NYC Atheists Board
members, a mailed copy of the
NYC Atheists Newsletter,
discounts at special events, library
and resource center access and
Yahoo group online privileges.

After January 30, 2005 we
will return to our regular
membership fees.

NYCA LIBRARY

We meet at the NYC Atheists
Library after every second-Sunday
Brunch and when we have Sunday
Meetings.

Our Book List is available on
our NYC Atheists Website: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG

We are always looking for
donations to our library. All
donations are tax deductible.



COFFEE WORSHIP

Atheist 2005 Resolutions

by Annan E. Muss

1. I resolve to name my dogs
Darwin and Madalyn instead of
Elizabeth and Albert.
2. I resolve to lose about 180 lbs.
by urging the impeachment of
George W. Bush.

**SEE PAGE 7 FOR NEW MEMBER 2005 MEMBERSHIP OFFER
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3. I resolve to read all of Tom Paine’s books, especially “Common Sense,” instead of The Nanny Diaries and John Grisham.
4. I resolve not to cringe when anyone exclaims “O my God,” “Heavens!” “Jesus!” or even “Holy Cow,” and to start a new trend by exclaiming when surprised, “O my Evolution!” “Darwin!” or “Great Galapagos!”
5. I resolve that when someone says they are “spiritual,” I will respond gently by saying I, on the other hand, am “materialual” or “earthual.”

NEW RESEARCH DISPUTES IDEA OF A HOLIDAY “WILL TO LIVE”

(New York Times — 12/22/2004)

The common perception that terminally ill people can hang on to life through important religious or personal days is more romance than reality, researchers report.

In a study of some 300,000 deaths from cancer in Ohio from 1989 to 2000, the researchers, Dr. Donn Young and Erinn M. Hade of Ohio State University, found no significant difference in death rates before or after Christmas, Thanksgiving or people’s birthdays. Women even showed a slight tendency to succumb just before their birthdays.

The researchers used information from death certificates of 1,269,474 Ohioans who died during the 11 years they studied. They then looked at the proportion of deaths from cancer before an event and the week after.

The finding, published in the current issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association,

contradicts earlier research that indicated dips in mortality just before important holidays followed by jumps in death rates just after such days.

“The fact is, death does not keep a calendar,” Dr. Young said. “You can’t put it in your Palm Pilot and say O.K., let’s have dinner on Friday and I’ll pencil in death for Sunday.”

Dr. Young studied cancer death, he said, because patients usually know when death is near and would presumably be able to consciously assert their will to live.

Dr. young said his findings suggested the best way to ensure that a terminally ill family member could take in a holiday was to move up the date. “If you have a family member or loved one dying, and a significant event coming up, don’t take your chances – celebrate early,” he said, “Give them a gift now.”



“By the year 2000, we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God.”

“It’s an incredible con job when you think of it, to believe something now in exchange for life after death. Even corporations with all their reward systems don’t try to make it posthumous.”

— Gloria Steinam, *women’s rights activist*

One day the zookeeper noticed that the orangutan was reading two books — the Bible and Darwin’s Origin of Species.

Surprised, he asked the ape, “Why are you reading both those books?”

“Well,” said the orangutan, “I just wanted to know if I was my brother’s keeper or my keeper’s brother.”



“The memory of my own suffering has prevented me from ever shadowing one young soul with the superstitions of religion.

“The Bible and the Church have been the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of women’s emancipation.

“The bible teaches that woman brought sin and death into the world, that she precipitated the fall of the race, that she was arraigned before the judgment seat of Heaven, tried, condemned and sentenced. Marriage for her was to be a condition of bondage, maternity a period of suffering and anguish, and in silence and subjection, she was to play the role of a dependent on man’s bounty for all her material wants, and for all the information she might desire...”

— Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *American suffragist (1815 – 1902).*

Pray as if everything depended upon God and work as if everything depended upon man.

— Francis Cardinal Spellman (1889 – 1967)



“God gave us an opportunity through science to understand the natural world, but there will never be a scientific proof of God’s existence.”

— Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project

**CHARLES DARWIN:
LIVE & IN CONCERT**

February 10, 11, 12, 2005
(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)

Time: 8 p.m.

Event: NYC Atheists Presents Charles Darwin: Live & in Concert

Location: Where Eagles Dare Theatre at 347 West 36th Street (Between 8th and 9th Avenue)

Cost: \$20 See Anthropologist-songwriter Richard Milner’s performance of “Charles Darwin: Live & In Concert”.

Richard Milner, formerly Stephen Jay Gould’s editor at the

American Museum of Natural History, is also the author of “The Encyclopedia of Evolution” and “Charles Darwin: Evolution of a Naturalist.” To order tickets, send

an email to:
RMILNER@NYC.RR.COM

LIMITED SEATING — ORDER YOUR TICKETS — ASAP



“There is so much in the bible against which every instinct of my being rebels, so much so that I regret the necessity which has compelled me to read it through from beginning to end. I do not think that the knowledge I have gained of its history and sources compensates me for the unpleasant details it has forced upon my attention.”

— Helen Keller, American lecture

JUDGES ROBE

(Mobile Register, Alabama)
Dec. 24, 2004

Legal experts say the scriptural words emblazoned on a south Alabama judge’s robes are likely to spur a long, expensive court battle and one with a twist from past Ten Commandments cases. This time, they say, the case is not just about separation of church and state, it’s also about freedom of expression, since the Commandments display is on clothing, not on the courtroom wall or in a lobby...

“Freedom of expression issues may play out with McKathan that were not involved in Moore’s

case,” Jones said. “It will be interesting to see what transpires.” Context matters in such cases, said Bryan Fair, a professor and constitutional law expert at the University of Alabama. Just how the courts view a Ten Commandments display has been varied, but there are cases pending from Texas and Kentucky before the U.S. Supreme Court that should give some clarification on which displays are acceptable, he said.

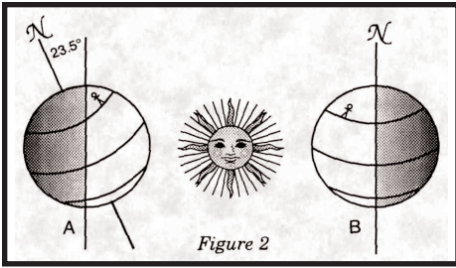
Fair said that embracing the displays as religious expression, as Moore did, is contrary to the Alabama Constitution of 1901 and the U.S. Constitution, which prohibit any governmental establishment of religion.

YEAR: 4,500,002,005

The Earth was created, along with all the other planets in our Solar System, approximately 4.5 billion years ago. The Solar System was created when pods of swirling gases and dust formed together and grew by attracting nearby particles of matter. These collections of dust and metal developed into the planets that now travel around our Sun. Therefore, if we use earth as a reference the year should be 4,500,002,005 instead of 2005.

Therefore, the New Year rings in a more accurate date of 4,500,002,005—or 4.5 x 10 x 9th.

**JOIN OR RENEW WITH NYC
ATHEISTS NOW**



THE WINTER SOLSTICE

The Winter Solstice is when the Earth is at the point of its orbit most tilted away from the Sun.

The Winter Solstice is that date with the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

In the northern hemisphere, this date usually falls on Dec. 21 or Dec. 22.

The dates of the Winter Solstice and Summer Solstice are reversed for the northern and southern hemispheres.

In the southern hemisphere, Winter Solstice usually falls on June 21/June 22

THE SEASONS

The seasons have nothing to do with how far the Earth is from the Sun.

The Earth being tilted on its axis causes the seasons.

On December 21/22, **Winter Solstice**, the Sun is positioned directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5 degrees South Latitude. The Northern Hemisphere is tipped away from the Sun, producing a low sun angle and short days. The Southern Hemisphere is therefore receiving the direct sunlight, with little scattering of the Sun's rays

and a high sun angle and long days.

March 21/22 — Vernal Equinox. The sun is directly over the equator. (the sun's energy is in balance between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres).

June 21/22 — Summer Solstice. The Sun is positioned directly over the Tropic of Cancer at 23.5 degrees north latitude. The Northern Hemisphere is therefore receiving the direct sunlight, with little scattering of the sun's rays and a high sun angle producing long days. The Southern Hemisphere is tipped away from the Sun, producing a low sun angle and short days.

September 21/22 — Autumnal Equinox. The Sun is now directly over the equator. (the Sun's energy is in balance between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres).

WHY DOES THE EARTH TILT?

The tilt of the earth is a result of collisions with large bodies during the formation of the planets in the solar system. The size of the bodies and the angle of collision determined the tilt and the rotation of the planets.

Each planet has a different tilt with respect to the planet's plane of the ecliptic

SEE PAGE 8 FOR SPECIAL RENEWAL 2005 MEMBERSHIP OFFER

ORBIT SPECS

- Earth rotates on its axis approximately at 1000 MPH .
- A Day = one revolution = 24 hours
- Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptic.
- Perihelion: Closest point of Earth Orbit to the Sun
- January — approx. 91 million miles
- Aphelion: Furthest point of Earth orbit to the Sun
- July — approx. 94 million miles

Earth is orbiting around the sun at up to 67,000 MPH

Earth orbit approximately 600 million miles.

Year = One Orbit = 365 1/4 days

SOLSTICE

WHEN THE SUN STANDS STILL.

RENEW/JOIN NYC ATHEISTS NOW !

SCHOOLS NEED A MOMENT OF SCIENCE

IN HOTELS, ASK FOR A NO SMOKING/NO BIBLE ROOM

NYC ATHEISTS INC. 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

WEB: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG

PHONE: (212) 330-6794

(January 1 to December 31, 2005)

Name: _____
(Required) First Last

Address: _____
(Required) Number Street P.O. Box/Apt.

City State Zip

Email: _____ @ _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

NYC Atheists Inc. is a non-profit (501c), non-partisan, and educational association with the purposes and goals:

1. To promote the total and absolute separation of church and state
2. To educate and inform the public about Atheism
3. To provide a forum for examination and discussion about Atheism
4. To develop and engage in educational, cultural, charitable, and social activities that are beneficial to the members of NYC Atheists Inc., the Atheist community, and the community at large.

YOUR 2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

I support NYC Atheists Inc. purposes and goals and apply for membership which entitles me to voting and nominating rights (except organizations*) and a mailed copy of the newsletter as an:

Individual member: (\$ 25) (\$ 100) (\$ 250) (\$ 500) (\$ 1000)
Basic Supporter Fellow Patron Life

Senior (Age 65 or greater): (\$ 20) Full Time Student: (\$ 10)

ADDITIONAL DONATION: (\$ _____) TOTAL AMOUNT: (\$ _____)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Where you a 2004 NYC Atheists Member? YES _____ NO _____

How did you learn about NYC Atheists? _____

Reason for joining NYC Atheists? _____

Skills/Interests? _____

Do you know any NYC Atheists Members? _____

CHECK PAYABLE TO: NYC ATHEISTS INC. — SEND APPLICATION TO:
NYC ATHEIST INC. MEMBERSHIP — COOPER STATION P.O. Box 93 NY, NY 10276-0093

NYC-ATHEIST ACTIVITIES



December 12 — Sunday Brunch

NYC Atheists members and guests enjoying our second Sunday Brunch.



December 18 — American Atheists Solstice Lunch

NYC Atheists members who attended the American Atheists Solstice Lunch in New Jersey.
L to R: Dennis Jackson, Rich Calissi, Dennis Horvitz, Jane Everhart, Mario Deoliveira, Josh Karpf, Pat Berger, Paul Grosswald, Jay Gumbiner, Chris Lee.



December 21 — NYC Atheists Solstice Dinner

NYC Atheists and guests listening to our featured speaker.



December 21 — NYC Atheists Solstice Dinner

Rich Perlstein, of the Village Voice, our feature speaker.

NYC ATHEISTS: SPECIAL RENEWAL 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

First Name: _____ Last Name _____
 Street Address: _____ Apt No.: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email: _____@_____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

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YOUR 2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

\$ 10 — SPECIAL 2005 YEAR END MEMBERSHIP — \$ 10

DONATION: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**CHECK PAYABLE TO: NYC ATHEISTS INC. – SEND APPLICATION TO:
 NYC ATHEISTS INC. MEMBERSHIP — COOPER STATION P.O. Box 93 NY, NY 10276-0093**