

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February 3*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
February 10*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
February 10, 11, 12**	Thurs./Fri./Sat. 8 P.M.	NYCA Presents: Darwin Live and in Concert
February 13***	Sunday 12:30 P.M.	NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch and Library
February 15****	Tuesday 7:00 P.M.	NYC Atheists Meet-Up
February 17	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
February 24	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
February 27*****	Sunday 1 P.M.	NYC Atheists Monthly Meeting

MARCH

March 3*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
March 10*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
March 13***	Sunday 12:30 P.M.	NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch and Library
March 15****	Tuesday 7:00 P.M.	NYC Atheists Meet-Up
March 17*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
March 24*	Thursday 8 P.M.	NYC Atheists Cable Show
March 27*****	Sunday 1 P.M.	NYC Atheists Monthly Meeting

* Manhattan Cable Channel 67 (RNN Cable Channel 110).

** Where Eagles Dare Theatre — 347 West 36th Street (Between 8th and 9th Avenue).

** 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.

**SEE PAGE 7 FOR “DARWIN LIVE AND IN CONCERT” FLYER
SEE PAGE 8 FOR 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



Ken Bronstein

PRESIDENT'S SERMON

YEAR TWO

We have just completed our first year as a paid membership non-profit (501C) association. Our paid membership has grown to about one hundred and fifty members.

I believe that our demonstration at the Republican National Convention, where about 50 percent of our membership (at that time) participated, was the onset of a new sense of confidence and optimism for many NYC Atheist members.

For 2005, our key objective continues to be membership growth and involvement, and focus upon separation of church and state issues.

Additional 2005 key activities must include: Community outreach, members' social and support networks, essay awards for high school and college students and a second street-tabling capability, Longer-term objectives include a charter school (non-faith-based) educational program; coffee/book shop; expanded media contacts; high profile lecture/debate series; conferences; Speakers' Bureau; paid staff; our own facilities and the additional development and sponsoring of Atheist-oriented theatre productions.

I look forward to working with the membership in the continued development, growth and success of NYC Atheists Inc.

JOIN/RENEW NYC ATHEISTS 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.

JANUARY EVENTS

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

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

Lively discussions.

**January 9, (Sunday) 3 P.M.
NYC Atheists Library**

Many members went to the NYCA Library for discussion and selecting books.

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

Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

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

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Lyle Stuart

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

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Margie Wait

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

Election of officers, vote for amended bylaws, and video of the NYC Atheists Cable Show.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

**February 3, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #33**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Margie Wait

**February 10, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show # 34**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: Margie Wait

February 10, 11, 12, (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) 8 P.M.

“Darwin Live and in Concert”

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

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

**February 13, (Sunday) 12:30 P.M.
NYC Atheists Sunday Brunch**

Location: EURO Diner, 126 East 28 St. (Lexington and Park)

FEBRUARY EVENTS (CONTINUED)

**February 15, (Tuesday) 7 P.M.
NYCA Meet-Up**

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

**February 17, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #35**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: TBA

**February 24, (Thursday) 8 P.M.
NYCA Cable Show #36**

(Manhattan Cable Ch. 67)
Guest: TBA

**February 27, (Sunday) 1 P.M.
NYCA Monthly Meeting**

Location: 352 Seventh Avenue
16th Floor. (Between 29th and
30th Street)
Guest: Massimo Pigliucci

**NYC ATHEISTS
MEMBERSHIP**

January 1 to December 31

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

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

**SEE PAGE 8 MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**



CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

**Creationism is Helping in the
Dumbing Down of America**

by Kenneth Bronstein

On January 19th I attended a Christopher Hitchens' lecture, at which, during the Q&A, he said "Religion is a disease of the mind and the surrender of reason." Later that evening, it hit me: Now I know one of the reasons why the American educational system seriously lags behind other developed nations. How can a nation, in which 30-70 percent of its population believes that Creationism is the truth and that it's not possible that we (humans, animals, etc.), came from a common descendent or evolved. Millions of Americans also believe that the Earth is only seven thousand years old, that prayer can cure illness and that natural disasters are god's response to evil and sin.

The Creationism/Evolution debate has very serious impacts on two groups:

Students: They are told by their parents/minister/priest /rabbi that their teachers /schools are teaching them untruths. Not only

does this confuse the student, but it destroys the trust between the student and teacher /school. Some students extend this negativism to concluding that school/education is a waste of time.

The parents: They are more interested in using the education system to support their faith than to educate the child. Why support the school system? They could vote down all school budgets and/or pull their child out of the school system.

Until we in America want an educational system that focuses upon reality, reasoning, critical thinking and analysis, the educational gap between the United States and the other industrial countries will continue to widen.

Simply put, the religious zealots are trying to use the educational system to perpetuate **THE BIG LIE.**

Madalyn Murray O'Hair had a great line: Without religion we could have landed a man on the moon one thousand years earlier.

**NYCA LIBRARY/RESOURCE
CENTER**

We meet at the NYC Atheists Library/Resource Center after every second-Sunday brunch and when we have Sunday Meetings.

Our Book List is available on our NYC Atheists Website: www.nyc-atheists.org.

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

**CHARLES DARWIN: LIVE & IN
CONCERT**

February 10, 11, 12, 2005

**Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday 8 P.M.**

**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

To order tickets, send an email
to: rmilner@nyc.rr.com

**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS — AT
THE THEATRE — THE NIGHT
OF THE PERFORMANCE**

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*.

SEE FLYER PAGE 7

THE SMART SPECIES

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

Surprised, the zookeeper 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.”

**REHNQUIST: A RADICAL ACTIVIST
JUDGE?**

By Ron Widelec

When a Judge stands up and
speaks out against the ultra-right-
wing agenda of the Republican
Party, one usually expects him to
be a so-called “liberal activist
judge.” However, as the right-wing
agenda reaches new levels of
absurdity, even the highly
conservative Supreme Court Chief
Justice William Rehnquist can’t
help but speak out.

In his recent year-end report
on the federal judiciary, Chief
Justice Rehnquist spoke out
against the recent attacks by right-
wing senators and representatives
on the courts. Congress, while in
the grips of a right-wing majority,
has attempted to pass numerous
unconstitutional laws. The balance
of power, as designed by the
founding fathers, took effect and
the courts have declared these laws
unconstitutional and thus void.
Although one of the key functions
of the federal court system is to
determine the constitutionality of
laws (and overturn those that are
deemed unconstitutional), now the
courts have come under attack for
fulfilling this role. The phrase
‘liberal activist judges, legislating
from the bench’ has been heard
from numerous congressmen and
even the President.

Thwarted by the courts in
their attempts to trample the
constitution, right-wingers have
decided to simply do away with
the balance of power that our
forefathers felt was so important.
Rehnquist mentioned the recent
suggestions to “impeach federal
judges who issue decisions
regarded by some as out of the
mainstream.” To many

conservatives, “out of the
mainstream” means anything with
which they disagree.

Also mentioned by Rehnquist
were “bills introduced in the last
Congress that would limit the
jurisdiction of the federal courts to
decide constitutional challenges of
certain kinds of government
action.” Right-wingers in Congress
have been attacking the separation
of church and state for some time
now. Unfortunately for them, a
minor speed bump known as the
Constitution of the United States
has gotten in the way. To stop the
courts from bringing up that little
‘constitution thing,’ Congressional
right-wingers have tried to pass
laws that would disallow the
federal courts to hear cases dealing
with the expression ‘under god’ in
the pledge, the displaying of the
Ten Commandments in courts and
issues dealing with same-sex
marriage.

Such rules would “destroy
judicial independence” according
to Rehnquist. Perhaps the
opposition of a conservative
Supreme Court Chief Justice can
finally help the ultra-conservative
right-wing see that their agenda
goes against everything upon
which this nation was founded.
However, with Rehnquist likely to
retire this year, and his most likely
replacements being the theocratic
Antonin Scalia or Clarence
Thomas, the right-wing agenda of
constitutional deconstruction
shows little sign of slowing.

**WANTED NEWSLETTER
DISTRIBUTION HELPER**

AS RELIGION TAKES THE NATIONAL STAGE, A BOON FOR THE FAITHLESS

By Sam Knight

New York Times, 1/9/05

At the latest meeting of the New York City Atheists, Ken Bronstein, the group's forthright president, shared good news.

"Let me just tell you," Mr. Bronstein said to a room of about 20 members who gathered on a recent Friday evening. "In the last three months, the acceptance of atheism and atheists has gone up dramatically in this country.

"George Bush has been our greatest ally," Mr. Bronstein went on, as his members ate salami and cheese sandwiches in a rented conference room in a Midtown office building. "I have just seen a sea change out there, especially since the election."

The New York City Atheists, an affiliate of American Atheists, a national group based in Cranford, N.J., had been bumbling along with 25 or so members for much of last year. But in recent weeks, the number has jumped to 125. Or, as Mr. Bronstein puts it, "We've really grown this thing."

He attributes part of the mini-surge in nonbelievers to the increased visibility of the group - it operates tables at street fairs and has a local cable television show filmed in Mr. Bronstein's Upper East Side apartment - and the rest to a faithless boomlet of sorts that has infused atheist groups across the country with new members and has spurred discussions about efforts to unite as a political force, especially as religious groups flex their muscles.

The Council for Secular Humanism, for instance, which

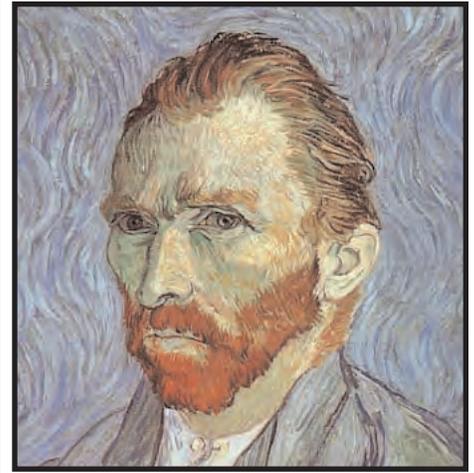
describes itself as "North America's leading organization for nonreligious people," has experienced an "explosive" growth in membership since the election, according to its chairman, Paul Kurtz. And Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a Washington-based religious watchdog group, described what was happening in New York as "a response from people who are frightened that the evangelical right is literally trying to take over the country."

Or, as Mr. Bronstein puts it, "People do not like to be told what is right and wrong."

The membership surge has given New York atheists the confidence to act on their convictions. Mr. Bronstein, for instance, spent much of autumn seeking permission to erect a stall in Bryant Park, to ensure the presence of a skeptical note amid the religious voices. When fully assembled, the atheists' stall is draped in yellow banners demanding the separation of church and state, and is attended by members wearing smart blue baseball caps.

"Here's our real position," he said. "We don't like any religious display in public places. But since I can't stop it, I join it." Mr. Bronstein's flock appreciates his efforts. "He has the leadership we need," said Edith Amster, one of the group's loyalists, "and he knows how to articulate the separation of church and state."

But that's not to say that managing an atheist society is straightforward. Even in a group of nonbelievers, there will always be room for a little doubt.



**VINCENT VAN GOGH,
DUTCH PAINTER**

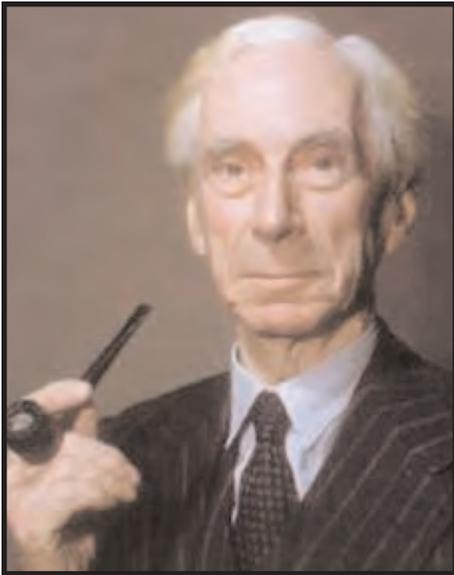
"I can very well do without God both in my life and in my painting, but I cannot, suffering as I am, do without something which is greater than I am, which is my life, the power to create."

At the Friday meeting, for instance, Mr. Bronstein asked if there were any questions.

"Er, I'm pretty new to the group, but I have a question," Bob Grize said. "I was wondering about the name, New York City Atheists. 'Atheists' kind of has bad connotations. What about 'free thinkers'?"

Two days later, Mr. Bronstein was at work again, tending the group's stall on the sidewalk outside Bryant Park. As he took down the group's yellow signs, a slow-drifting crowd of tourists came by. As two Japanese women stopped to take a leaflet, Mr. Bronstein nodded approvingly.

See page 8 for the photo that accompanied this article.



BERTRAND RUSSELL, BRITISH PHILOSOPHER, EDUCATOR, MATHEMATICIAN, AND SOCIAL CRITIC (1872-1970).

“Religion is based . . . mainly on fear . . . fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand. . . . My own view on religion is that of Lucretius. I regard it as a disease born of fear and as a source of untold misery to the human race.”

“Fear is the parent of cruelty, therefore it is no wonder if religion and cruelty have gone hand-in-hand.”

“I believe that when I die I shall rot, and nothing of my ego will survive. I am not young, and I love life. But I should scorn to shiver with terror at the thought of annihilation. Happiness is none the less true happiness because it must come to an end, nor do thought and love lose their value because they are not everlasting.”

“I am myself a dissenter from all known religions, and I hope that every kind of religious belief will die out.”

NYC ATHEISTS MEMBERS DONATE \$2245 FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER

Members of New York City Atheists donated \$ 2245 to Doctors Without Borders to be used for the recent Tsunami disaster.

Listed below are the NYCA members who participated: Edith Amster, Craig Barish, Pat Berger, Kenneth Bronstein, Catherine Clare, Steve Feltes, Robert Grize, Dennis Horvitz, Mason Hu, Dennis Jackson, Claire Jacobs, Josh Karpf, Peter Kramer, Kit Kulak, Suzy Lanza, Chris Lee, Miki Marcu, Marilyn Mock, Robert Morgan, C. Morgillo, Fred Newton, V. Ramchandran, Judith Sager, Saul Sibirsky, Harold Stephens, Diane Stradling,

FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN A RECENT BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

Disappointing Realities

Married Born-Again adults are just as likely as non-Born-Again adults to eventually become divorced

Faith has had a limited effect on people’s behavior, moral convictions and practices, relational activities, lifestyle choices or economic practices.

**MADAYLN O’HAIR QUOTE:
99% OF PEOPLE IN U.S.
JAILS ARE CHRISTIANS.**

Elements that reflect more intense personal involvement in faith or a relationship with Christ are among the least common sources of people’s spiritual fulfillment.

Only 8 percent of teenagers consider music piracy—defined as copying their CD’s for friends and making unauthorized downloads of music from the Internet—to be morally wrong.

A mere seven percent of Born Again adults tithed last year.

Churches are difficult to reach. Only 55 percent of Protestant churches provided telephone callers with a human response to their call attempt after multiple attempts made at different times of the day on a succession of days—during the holiday season!

Born Again Christians and adults who attend Christian churches are more likely than atheists, agnostics, and adherents of non-Christian faiths to buy lottery tickets.

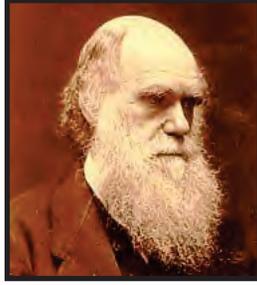
The top watched TV show in those RED States is *Desperate Housewives* (about five 40ish suburban housewives who are sexually active), the winner of the People’s Choice Award for New Television Drama Series

**NYC ATHEISTS
CABLE SHOW
THURS. – 8:00 PM
MANHATTAN CH. 67**

**JOIN
NYC ATHEISTS
SEE PAGE 8**

NEW YORK CITY ATHEISTS

PRESENTS



Event: “Charles Darwin: Live & In Concert”

When: February 10, 11, 12, 2005

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Where: Where Eagles Dare Theater
347 West 36th Street (Between 8th and 9th Avenue)
New York, N.Y.

Cost: Admission — \$20

Reservations Email: rmilner@nyc.rr.com

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PURCHASE TICKETS — AT THE THEATRE — THE NIGHT OF THE PERFORMANCE.

Anthropologist-songwriter Richard Milner of the American Museum of Natural History in New York performs his witty one-man musical “Charles Darwin: Live & In Concert” February 10, 11, 12, 2005.

“My favorite Darwin show” — *Stephen Jay Gould*

“Performed with skill and panache” — *Tony Randall*

“Smartest show in NY” — *Time Out New York*

“Darwin,” Milner’s one-man musical, celebrates the great naturalist’s birthday, February 12, 1809. Performances are Feb 10, 11, and 12th, 2005, at the *Where Eagles Dare Theater, 347 W 36th Street (between 8th and 9th Avenues), New York, at 8:00 P.M.* The show is presented by the New York City Atheists, Inc. (www.nyc-atheists.org).

Admission is \$20. You may order tickets by sending an e-mail to rmilner@nyc.rr.com.

Anthropologist-songwriter *Richard Milner* gives his legendary performance of “*Charles Darwin: Live & In Concert*” Milner, formerly Stephen Jay Gould’s editor at the American Museum of Natural History, is author of “*The Encyclopedia of Evolution*” and “*Charles Darwin: Evolution of a Naturalist.*”

The show includes eleven original songs — in the style of Tom Lehrer, Blues, Broadway, and Gilbert and Sullivan, and pure Milner. Sheldon (“Fiddler on the Roof” lyricist) Harnick is a fan, as were the late Tony Randall and Stephen Jay Gould. TimeOut New York says “smartest show in town.” Penn and Teller say “It’s sheer magic.” Also a favorite of Michael Shermer’s Skeptics Society, which has booked Milner’s “Darwin” several times for their major events.

ITS A NATURAL SELECTION

NYC-ATHEIST ACTIVITIES



October 31 — NYC Atheists at the
NYC Halloween Parade

NYC Atheists members carrying their banners up
6th Avenue.



January 9 — NYCA Sunday Brunch

NYC Atheists members and guests at our Brunch on
second Sunday of each month.



January 9 — New York Times article
about NYC Atheists

Kenneth Bronstein, NYC Atheists — president.



Taping of a future NYC cable show dinner

L to R: Dennis Horvitz (host), Janice Rael (guest).

NYC ATHEISTS — 2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

First Name: _____ Last Name _____

Street Address: _____ Apt No.: _____

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

- Basic — \$ 25 Supporter — \$ 100 Founder — \$ 250 Patron — \$ 500 Life — \$ 1000
 Senior (Age 65 or greater) — \$ 20 Full Time Student — \$ 10 Military (Active) — \$ 15

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**
