

New York City Atheists Inc.

November 2005

Serving the Tri-State area • An affiliate of American Atheists and Center For Atheism Vol. II Issue No. 11

WEB: NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG COOPER STATION - Box 93, NY, NY 10276-0093 212-330-6794

NYCA BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM
NOV. 8, 2005 (TUESDAY) 4:00 – 7:00 PM
SEE PAGE 3

NYC Atheists Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan educational association. Our meetings and membership are open and all are welcome (both non-believers and believers) atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers, skeptics, secularists, separation-of-church/state advocates and individuals who are questioning and searching beliefs.

NOVEMBER

Nov.	3*	Thursday	6:00 / 7:30 P.M.	NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite
Nov.	3**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Nov.	8	Tuesday	4:00 – 7:00 PM	B.L.O.O.D. Program (See page 3)
Nov.	10**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Nov.	10/11	Thur. / Fri.	Washington D.C. -	Atheists in Foxhole March / Rally (See page 4)
Nov.	13***	Sunday	12:00 P.M.	NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club
Nov.	15****	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	NYCA Meet-Up
Nov.	17**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Nov.	20***	Sunday	12:30 P.M.	NYCA Monthly Meeting (NEW LOCATION)
Nov.	24**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show

DECEMBER

Dec.	1*	Thursday	6:00 / 7:30 P.M.	NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite
Dec.	1**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Dec.	8**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Dec.	11***	Sunday	12:00 P.M.	NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club
Dec.	20****	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	NYCA Meet-Up
Dec.	15**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Dec.	21*****	Wednesday	6:30 P.M.	NYCA Solstice Dinner (Location TBA)
Dec.	22**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show
Dec.	29**	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	NYCA Cable Show

* Dinner: Pier 17 – 3rd Floor Food Court – South St. Seaport

* Movie: Southbridge Towers – 66 Frankfort St. - Community Room

** Manhattan Cable Channel 67 / RNN Cable Channel 109

*** Garden Restaurant – 145 East 60th St. (Lexington / Third)

Brunch Cost: Order from Menu — Reservations not required.

**** Manhattan Lounge - 1720 2nd Ave. (89 / 90th St.)

SEE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PAGE 8



PRESIDENT'S SERMON
STAY WITH US AND THE CAUSE

Fundamentalist Christians want a Christian theocracy-first in the United States and, ultimately, in the whole world -based upon their belief that only through the acceptance of Christ can you be saved and go to heaven. We must stop the Fundamentalist attempts to sideswipe the U.S. Constitution. We must counteract the UNPATRIOTIC FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN INSURGENCY that is trying to establish a CHRISTIAN WORLD ORDER.

The primary goal of New York City Atheists is the separation of church and state. We are not trying to convert anybody. Believe what you want, but religion, must keep out of the public space and political policy. Atheists must be pragmatists. No more excuses: I am not a joiner, no time, petty disagreements, personality conflicts, etc. Stay with us and the cause; it will be a long hard road.

The hour is late, we must be unified to defend and protect our freedom and liberty. Join NYCA, attend meetings and events, volunteer.

I would greatly appreciate your comments.

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

PAST OCTOBER EVENTS

-
- Oct. 1, 8 NYCA Street Tabling
-
- Oct. 6 NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite
-
- Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 NYCA Cable Show
-
- Oct. 9 NYCA Brunch , Library, Book Club
-
- Oct. 18 NYCA Meet-Up
-
- Oct. 30 NYCA Monthly Meeting
Subject: NY State Education Syllabus - Evolution
Guest: Daniel Berger
-
- Oct. 31 Halloween Parade and Party
- =====

**FAITH BASED INIYITIVES
ARE
RELIGIOUS SUBSIDES
AND
POLITICAL PAYOLA**

**ATHEISM
IS A CONCLUSION
NOT A BELIEF**

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

-
- Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 NYCA Cable Show
8:00 PM THURSDAY Manhattan Cable # 67
-
- Nov. 3 NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite
Dinner Info:
Time: 6:00 - 7:15pm
Location: Pier 17 - 3rd floor Food Court. Pier 17 is the building on the East River pier at South Street Seaport. Purchase your meal at one of many food stalls and look for us sitting at the tables that have a harbor view of the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Movie Info:**
Movie: Penn & Teller Cable Show
Subject: *Recycling*. Penn & Teller blow the lid off the recycling industry.
Time: 7:30 P.M.

Where: Southbridge Tower - 66 Frankfort Building
The complex is located between Water/Pearl and Fulton Street near the South Street Seaport.

Directions: Southbridge is easily reached by Subway: Fulton Street Station – A,C, J, M, Z,3, 4, 5; City Hall Sta. 6. Buses: B51, M1, M15, M22, M103

The easiest way to enter the complex is to walk east along Fulton Street (towards the South Street Seaport), then through the walkway on Fulton Street by the side of the Footlocker store, straight through two courtyards, to 66 Frankfort. The Community Room is located on the first floor.

Nov. 8 **Tuesday**

B.L.O.O.D. PROGRAM

On Tuesday, November 8th the secular community will initiate the B.L.O.O.D. (Benefiting Lives Of Others Donations) program. The program consists of two activities, (1) blood donation program (2) organ donation sign-up program.

BLOOD DONATION

Date: November 8, 2005 (Tuesday)

NYCA Time: 4:00 – 7:00PM

Walk-ins: allowed: 10:00 AM – 7:45 PM

Location: NY Blood Center

310 East 67th St. (2nd / 3rd)

New York, NY 10021

Other locations:

<http://www.americasblood.org/>

Bottom right of this web page, put in your zip code to find your nearest Blood Donation Center.

Question & Answers

How long does it take to give blood?

About one hour.

Preparations:

Before: Eat some thing , drink fluids, have photo ID.

How much blood is taken?

About 1 pint.

How often can I give?

About every 56 days. .

Are there age limits for blood donors?

17 - no upper age limit.

Is it safe to give blood?

Yes. Donating blood is 100 percent safe. You cannot get HIV or any other infection from donating blood.

Are America's Blood Centers affiliated with the Red Cross?

No. Founded in 1962, (ABC) is North America's largest network of community-based blood programs.

**THE RELIGION BUSINESS
SHOULD BE TAXED**

Organ Donation Sign Up Program

Date: November 8, 2005

On or before November 8, 2005, please complete your: **Organ Donation Form.**

http://www.donatelife.net/downloadables/pdf/become_donor_card.pdf

FAMILY NOTIFICATION FORM

http://www.donatelife.net/become_notifi_form.pdf

New York State Residents

- Sign up online in the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/donor/index.htm>.
- Sign up in the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at the Department of Motor Vehicles when you apply for or renew your license or non-driver ID.

Other information <http://www.donatelife.net/>

Atheists in Foxholes

Banquet and March / Rally

November 10-11, 2005

Washington, D.C.

Nov. 10 **Thursday** **7:30 P.M.**

Welcome Banquet

Contact The Washington Plaza Hotel (202-842-1300) directly to reserve your room(s) and mention Group #4515 to qualify for special rates.

Nov. 11 **Friday**

10:30 (March) / 11:30 AM (Rally)

The Mall in Washington, DC

We salute and celebrate Atheists in Foxholes as we march down the National Mall!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ken Bronstein 212-535-7425.

Nov. 13 **Sunday** **12:00 P.M.**

NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club

Location: Garden Restaurant @ 145 East 60th St (Between Lexington and Third)

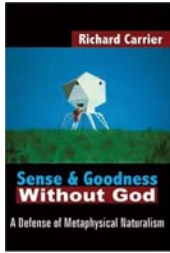
Reservations: Not Required

Cost: Individual Checks

After brunch, we will go to the NYC Atheists' Library on West 48th Street. You will have an opportunity to borrow and return books, followed by the book club meeting.

November – Book Club Readings

Our NYCA Librarian, Pat Berger, has selected our next book club selection: *Sense & Goodness Without God* by Richard Carrier.



We will be reading and discussing Pages 49 - 61; *Method*, searching for the truth and avoiding the false for the truth by analyzing different methods: Reason, Science, Experience, History, Expert Testimony, Plausible Inference and Pure Faith.

Nov. 22 **Tuesday** **7:00 P.M.**
NYCA Meet-Up

Casual conversation and drinks with your fellow freethinkers. Register at <http://atheists.meetup.com>.

Location: Manhattan Lounge, 1720 Second Avenue (Between 89 and 90th Street)

Nov, 20 **Sunday** **12:00 P.M.**
NYCA Monthly Meeting

Subject: Framing the Debate

Guest: TBA

How Conservatives framed the debate for the 2004 elections, i.e. gay marriage, faith based initiatives, war on terror, etc. and how we can take it back.

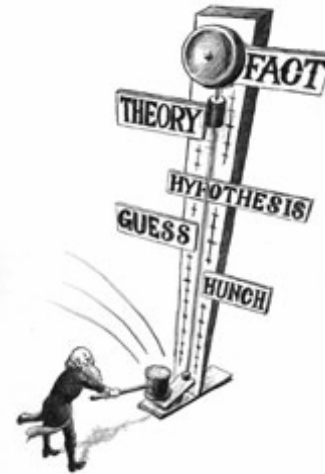
A must read, *Don't Think Of An Elephant – Know Your Values And Frame The Debate* by George Lakoff.

Price only \$ 10.00 at most book stores.

Location: GARDEN RESTAURANT
145 East 60th St. (Lex/3rd)

Four questions to ask an ID / Creationist

- (1) Ask them to define god
- (2) Ask them to provide scientific evidence there is a god
- (3) Ask them if there is a god to provide scientific evidence who / what created the creator
- (4) Ask them if there is a god, why are there birth defects, innocent children killed in disaster, etc.



FROM AN UNKNOWN CFI PUBLICATION

MORE RELIGIOUS EQUALS MORE SOCIETAL DYSFUNCTION

Gregory S. Paul in his July 2005 article in *Journal of Religion & Society* titled *Cross-National Correlations of Quantifiable Societal Health with Popular Religiosity and Secularism in the Prosperous Democracies - A First Look* states:

- (1) That large-scale surveys show dramatic declines in religiosity in favor of secularization in the developed democracies.
- (2) Popular acceptance of evolutionary science correlates negatively with levels of religiosity
- (3) The United States is the only prosperous nation where the majority absolutely believes in a creator and evolutionary science is unpopular.

Abundant data is available on rates of societal dysfunction and health in these countries. Cross-national comparisons of highly differing rates of religiosity and societal conditions form a mass epidemiological experiment that can be used to test whether high rates of belief in and worship of a creator are necessary for high levels of social health.

Initial data correlations show that in almost all regards the highly secular democracies consistently enjoy low rates of societal dysfunction, while pro-religious and anti-evolution America performs poorly.

Two centuries ago there was relatively little dispute over the existence of God, or the societally beneficial effect of popular belief in a creator. In the

20th century extensive secularization occurred in Western nations, the United States being the only significant exception. If religion has receded in some Western nations, what is the impact of this unprecedented transformation upon their populations? Theists often assert that popular belief in a creator is instrumental towards providing the moral, ethical and other foundations necessary for a healthy, cohesive society. Many also contend that widespread acceptance of evolution, and/or denial of a creator, is contrary to these goals and that Europe does not appear to be suffering unduly from its secularization.

Paul says it is surprising that a more systematic examination of the question has not been previously executed since the factors required to do so are in place.

To view this report: [Click here:](http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/pdf/2005-11.pdf)
<http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/pdf/2005-11.pdf>



Fredrich August von Hayek
(1899-1992), Nobel Laureate of Economic 1974
"It is indeed probable that more harm and misery have been caused by men determined to use coercion to stamp out a moral evil than by men intent on doing evil."



WOODY ALLEN
"When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked him to forgive me."



Steven Weinberg, 1979 Nobel Prize in physics
"With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion."

The Superstition Disease.
By Emmett F. Fields (Bank of Wisdom)

The most deadly form of insanity is the Obsessional Neurosis commonly called "religion." This aggressive and contagious mental health disorder has caused more death and suffering than any other communicable disease. At the root of this disease is the delusion that impossible creatures and worlds exist: angels, gods, saints, hells, heavens, etc., and that these imaginary beings demand mind deadening obedience. In its advanced stages, this insanity destroys all sense of right and wrong, and the most ghastly crimes become saintly acts. The terrorist attacks of September 11th and the "War on Terrorism" are the latest products of this insanity.

Science must launch an ongoing study of this deadly disease in all its forms, to find how it might be cured or controlled. This insanity cannot be suppressed by force as it thrives on persecution--both to suffer and to inflict--so it must be treated in other ways yet to be discovered.

[Click here:](http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/pdf/2005-11.pdf)
<http://moses.creighton.edu/JRS/pdf/2005-11.pdf>

The ABC's of the Bible
Compiled by Ruth Hurmence Green

Independent reading of the bible is a traumatic experience for someone taught from childhood that the bible is a "book about love." Side by side with some morally defensible admonishments, one finds repeated instructions to hate and to kill. The Mosaic law, which commands the reader to kill the child who curses its father and mother and to stone the

woman not a virgin when she marries, was upheld by Jesus, "every jot and tittle."

The "loving" gods of both the Old and New Testaments emerge as mean and vengeful, possessed, as Bertrand Russell said, of "an uneasy vanity."

The apologist for the bible, who insists that it is just an occasional passage that is a problem, overlooks the avalanche of mass murders commanded and perpetrated by the biblical Lord. Live burials, beatings, burnings, cannibalism, buying and selling of human beings, the chopping off of heads, hands, feet, ears and plucking out of eyes all fill the pages of the "Good Book."

Here is a listing of bible images. <http://ffrf.org/timely/abcsbible.php> when you read it you will know why Thomas Paine called the bible "a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize." You will know why kind and discerning individuals in our society object to the use of the bible in public ceremonies. You will understand why educational organizations such as the Freedom From Religion Foundation are endeavoring to work for the absolute separation of state and church.

Anne Nicol Gaylor
Freedom From Religion Foundation

Absurdities in the Bible

See the Skeptic's Annotated Bible website, <http://www.skepticsannotatedbible.com/abs/long.htm> for about 1000 absurdities that you will find in the bible.

A few examples to ask creationists from Genesis:

god creates light and separates light from darkness, and day from night, on the first day. Yet he didn't make the light - producing objects (the sun and the stars) until the fourth day ([1:14-19](#)). [1:3-5](#)

Plants are made on the third day before there is a sun to drive their photosynthetic processes ([1:14-19](#)). [1:11](#)

After making the animals, god has Adam name them all. The naming of several million species must have kept Adam busy for a while. [2:18-20](#)

Cain is worried after killing Abel and says, "Every one who finds me shall slay me." This is a strange concern since there were only two other humans alive at the time -- his parents! [4:14](#)

"And Cain knew his wife." That's nice, but where did she come from? [4:](#)



MICHAEL NEWDOW

"Question everything, Be honest. Do what's right. Stand up for principle." When asked how to determine what is right (since he can't look to religion), Newdow says, "I use my brain."

The use of "CE" and "BCE" to identify date <http://www.religioustolerance.org/ce.htm>

Overview:

CE stands for "*Common Era*." It is a relatively new term that is experiencing increased usage and is eventually expected to replace AD. The latter is an abbreviation for "*Anno Domini*" in Latin or "*the year of the Lord*" in English. The latter refers to the approximate birth year of Yeshua of Nazareth (a.k.a. Jesus Christ). CE and AD have the same and value. 2004 CE = 2004 AD.

BCE stands for "*Before the common era*." It is eventually expected to replace BC, which means "*Before christ*." BC and BCE are also identical in value. Most theologians and religious historians believe that the approximate birth date of Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus) was in the fall, sometime between 7 and 4 BCE, although we have seen estimates as late as 4 CE and as early as the second century BCE.

Of course, one can always interpret the letter "C" in CE and BCE as referring to "*Christian*" or "*Christ's*." The *Abbreviations Dictionary* does exactly this.

The word "*common*" simply means that this is the most frequently used calendar system: the Gregorian Calendar. There are many religious calendars in existence, but each of these are normally in use in only a small geographic area of the world -- typically by followers of a single religion.

Groups in favor of CE/BCE:

The Ethic of Reciprocity (the Golden Rule) suggests that one should not intentionally cause pain to other humans. We should treat others as we would wish to be treated. Since only one out of every three humans on earth is a Christian, some theologians and other authors felt that non-religious, neutral terms like CE and BCE would be less offensive to the non-Christian majority. Forcing a Hindu, for example, to use AD and BC might be seen by some as coercing them to acknowledge the supremacy of the Christian God and of Jesus Christ.

Consider an analogous situation: the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance. The most recent version of this pledge includes the phrase: "*Under god.*" Imagine what a Wiccan (who believes in a god *and* a goddess), or many Buddhists and strong Atheists (who do not believe in the existence of God) feel when having to recite those words. Consider how a Christian would feel if the pledge read "*Under Buddha*" or "*Under Allah.*"

Although CE and BCE were originally used mainly within theological writings, the terms are gradually receiving greater usage in secular writing, the media, and in the culture generally.

A group and individual opposed to CE/BCE

Many Christians, particularly from the conservative Protestant wing of that religion, are distressed at the new terms. Some feel that AD and BC have been in use for centuries and that this tradition should be respected. Others see the switch to CE and BCE as just one more example of non-Christian religions being given precedence over Christianity.

At its year 2000 convention at Orlando FL, the Southern Baptist Convention approved their Resolution 9: "*On retaining the traditional method of calendar dating (B.C./A.D.).*" With reference to the popularity of the CE/BCE nomenclature, it stated, in part:

● "*...This practice is the result of the secularization, anti-supernaturalism, religious pluralism, and*

political correctness pervasive in our society."³
● "*The traditional method of dating is a reminder of the preeminence of Christ and His gospel in world history.*"

The resolution recommended that Southern Baptist "*individuals, churches, entities, and institutions....retain the traditional method of dating and avoid this revisionism.*

THOU SHALL NOT PATRONIZE

A New Times October 23, 2005 article, *How Breweth Java With Jesus* described that Starbucks coffee cups will soon be emblazoned with a religious quotation from Rick Warren, the best-selling author and pastor, which includes the line, "*You were made by god and for god, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.*" Meanwhile, hipster havens like Urban Outfitters have made a mint selling T-shirts declaring "*Jesus Is My Homeboy.*" Alaska Airlines distributes cards quoting Bible verses, and at least 100 cities now have phone directories for Christian businesses.

A great way to save money: not patronizing Starbucks, Urban Outfitters and Alaska Airlines.

**When A Fundamentalist Wants To Pray
For You
Tell Them
That Is Arrogant And Insulting**

DARWIN IS DIVINE

**DARWIN
HAD A
COMMON DECENDANT**

CREATIONISM LACKS CREDIBILITY



NYCA BRUNCH – SEPT. 11, 2005



**NYCA STREET TABLING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2005**



**NYCA MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2005
GUEST SPEAKER – HENRY KALOW**



**NYCA MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2005**

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