

# New York City Atheists Inc. April 2006

Serving the Tri-State area • An affiliate of American Atheists and Center For Atheism Vol. III Issue No. 4

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

**May 4, 2006 (Thursday) / 4:00-7:00 P.M. / NYCA BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM  
SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS**

## APRIL

|      |         |          |                  |                                      |
|------|---------|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Apr. | 6*      | Thursday | 6:00 / 7:30 P.M. | NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite             |
| Apr. | 6**     | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                      |
| Apr. | 9***    | Sunday   | 12:00 P.M.       | NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club      |
| Apr. | 13**    | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                      |
| Apr. | 18****  | Tuesday  | 7:00 P.M.        | NYCA Meet-Up                         |
| Apr. | 20***** | Thursday | 7:00 P.M.        | Madalyn Murray O'Hair Birthday Party |
| Apr. | 20**    | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                      |
| Apr. | 27**    | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                      |
| Apr. | 30***   | Sunday   | 12:00 P.M.       | NYCA Monthly Meeting                 |

## MAY

|     |        |          |                  |                                 |
|-----|--------|----------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| May | 4      | Thursday | 4:00 / 7:00 P.M. | NYCA BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM     |
| May | 4**    | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                 |
| May | 11**   | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                 |
| May | 14***  | Sunday   | 12:00 P.M.       | NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club |
| May | 16**** | Tuesday  | 7:00 P.M.        | NYCA Meet-Up                    |
| May | 18**   | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                 |
| May | 23**   | Thursday | 8:00 P.M.        | NYCA Cable Show                 |
| May | 28***  | Sunday   | 12:00 P.M.       | NYCA Monthly Meeting            |

\* Dinner: Southbridge Towers – 80 Beekman St. – Squires Diner (NEW LOCATION)

\* 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.)

\*\*\*\*\* Hunan 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Restaurant – 401 Fifth Ave. (36/37<sup>th</sup> St.)

**!!! LAST CHANCE !!!**

**\$10 – 2006 NYCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - \$10**

**USE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PAGE 8**



**KEN BRONSTEIN**

**PRESIDENT'S SERMON**

**Atheists Need Holidays**

In New York City, in addition to all state and national holidays, alternate-side-of-the-street parking rules are suspended for eight Jewish holidays (11 days); eight Christian holidays; two Greek Orthodox holidays; two Muslim holidays; Asian Lunar New Year and the proposed holidays which will mark the birthdays of Lord Krishna and Lord Buddha.

We Atheists are opposed to giving any special rights to religion. Unfortunately, the courts have allowed the above actions. Therefore, I am proposing that the Atheist/Secular community seek New York City holiday parking suspensions for the Summer Solstice (June 22) and Winter Solstice (December 21).

Recently, New York City eliminated the operation of parking meters on Sunday because church attendees complained that they had to leave their church services to add money to the parking meters. So, our proposal will also include that parking meters shall not be operational on *our* holidays.

I would appreciate your comments. Ken Bronstein at [NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM](mailto:NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM) or 212-535-7425.

**PAST MARCH EVENTS**

Mar. 2 , 9, 16, 23 Thursday  
NYCA Cable Show

Mar. 2 Thursday  
NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite  
Canceled: Inclement weather

Mar. 12 Sunday  
NYCA Brunch, Library, Book Club  
Great meeting and discussion

Mar. 21 Tuesday  
NYCA Meet-Up  
Twenty-one bright, friendly people attended.

Mar. 22 Wednesday  
NYCA Volunteer Workshop  
Meeting was postponed

Mar. 26 Sunday  
NYCA Monthly Meeting  
Guest: Don Phillips  
Subject: *Dating The Evolution of Life On Earth*  
Professor Phillips described how a paleontologist determines the age of plants and fossils from the current evidence and can date a fossil back to the beginning of life on earth about 3.5 billion years ago.

**UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS**

Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27 8:00 PM Thursday  
NYCA Cable Show -Manhattan Cable # 67

Apr. 6 NYCA Dinner & Movie Nite  
Dinner Info:

Time: 6:00 - 7:15pm  
Location: Squires Diner – 80 Beekman St.  
On Fulton Street – Enter road on the side of the Foot Locker store. Walk into Southbridge Towers Courtyard.  
Individual checks – reservations not required.

**Movie Info:**

Time: 7:30 P.M.  
Movie: CSPAN Show - *Darwin's Four Great Books: The Voyage of the Beagle; The Origins of Species; The Descent of Man; The Expression of Emotion in Man and Animals.*

Harvard Professor and two time Pulitzer-prize winner Edward O. Wilson discusses Charles Darwin's four great books.

Where: Southbridge Tower - 66 Frankfort  
Located between Water/Pearl and Fulton Street near the South Street Seaport.

Directions:  
Subway: Fulton St. Station – A,C, J, M, Z,3, 4, 5;  
City Hall Sta. 6. Buses: B51, M1, M15, M22, M103

Walk east along Fulton Street (towards the South Street Seaport), then through the walkway on Fulton Street by the side of the Foot Locker store, straight through two courtyards, to 66 Frankfort. The Community Room is located on the first floor.

---

Apr. 9                      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.

March – 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 135-160, *The Nature of Mind*.

---

Apr. 18                      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)

---

Apr. 20                      Thursday                      6:30 P.M.  
Madalyn Murray O'Hair Birthday Party

Join NYCA in celebrating Madalyn Murray O'Hair's birthday. Learn about Madalyn and see videos.

Location: Hunan 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Restaurant  
401 Fifth Ave. (36/37<sup>th</sup> St.)  
Banquet cost: \$30 (includes food, tax, tip)  
Drinks – not included  
Reservations: Not required

Apr. 30                      Sunday 12:00 P.M.

### Monthly Meeting

Location: Garden Restaurant  
145 East 60th St (Between Lexington and Third)  
Reservations: Not required  
Cost: Individual checks  
Guest Speaker: Lee M. Silver,  
Professor of Molecular Biology and Public Affairs Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.

Subject: *Challenging Nature: The Clash of Science and Spirituality at the New Frontiers of Life*

Why do religious fundamentalists and New Age devotees alike react so strongly against genetic engineering, a science that has been evolving for centuries? In a book by Professor Lee Silver, Princeton biophysicist, *Challenging Nature: The Clash of Science and Spirituality at the New Frontiers of Life*, he claims that the way Far Eastern cultures view deities makes those societies more accepting of modern scientific advances such as biotechnology.

Professor Silver will also discuss how Judeo-Christian beliefs limit human knowledge and stand in the way of progress.

---

## REQUEST A BIBLE-FREE ROOM

---

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.

May 4 Thursday 4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

**NYCA BLOOD DONATION EVENT**

**NYCA's RESPONSE TO  
THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**B.L.O.O.D. (Benefiting Lives Of Others  
Donations) program.**

**Location: NYC Blood donation center  
310 East 67th St. (1st / 2nd Ave.)**

**Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Reservations: Not required**

**NYCA members will donate blood and sign up  
for the organ donation program.**

**BLOOD DONATION**

**If the NYC Blood Center is not convenient:  
To find your local Blood Donation Center,  
[Click here: America's Blood Centers - It's  
About Life.](#)**

**ORGAN DONATION SIGN UP PROGRAM**

**Organ Donation Form, [Click here:](#)  
[http://www.donatelife.net/downloadables/pdf/become\\_donor\\_card.pdf](http://www.donatelife.net/downloadables/pdf/become_donor_card.pdf)**

**FAMILY NOTIFICATION FORM  
[http://www.donatelife.net/become\\_notifi\\_form.pdf](http://www.donatelife.net/become_notifi_form.pdf) Other information:  
<http://www.donatelife.net>**

**QUESTIONS: Ken Bronstein  
[FIREBELL1@AOL.COM](mailto:FIREBELL1@AOL.COM) / 212-535-7425**

**CENTER FOR ATHEISM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Center for Atheism website is now  
operational:**

**[Click here: Center for Atheism - Home Page](#)**

**The Center for Atheism cable show: *This Week  
in Atheism*, Wednesdays, 6:30 P.M. on  
Manhattan Cable Channel 57.**



**NYC ATHEISTS ESSAY CONTEST**

**NYC Atheists Inc. has established two \$500-  
award essay contests--one for high school  
students, the second for college students.**

**The essay subject this year is: "WHAT  
SHOULD BE YOUR RIGHT-TO-DIE LEGAL  
OPTIONS?" (i.e. Terri Schiavo case, Oregon  
State assisted-suicide law)**

**For questions: Call Ken Bronstein –  
[NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM](mailto:NYCATHEISTS@AOL.COM) - 212-535-7425**

**The student does not have to be an Atheist.  
(Both non-believers and believers are eligible.)  
Only one entry per student. The essay must be  
the sole, unpublished, original work of the  
entrant and must not violate or infringe upon the  
rights of any third parties.**

**High School Student Requirements:**

- \* **Must be a full time student enrolled in a NYC  
high school (public or private).**
- \* **Should be not less than 500 words (excluding  
bibliography), typed (double-spaced).**
- \* **Must include a cover sheet that includes the  
student's name, complete address,  
telephone number, email address, date of  
birth, name of the teacher, school name,  
school address, name of parent or legal  
guardian.**

**College Student Requirements**

- \* **Must be a full time undergraduate student  
enrolled in a metro-New York  
City (25 mile radius) college/university.**
- \* **Should be not less than 1,000 words (excluding  
bibliography), typed (double-spaced).**
- \* **Must include a cover sheet that includes the  
student's name, complete address,  
telephone number, email address, school  
name and address, number of  
hours completed and program major.**

**Decision**

**Essays will be judged on style, content and  
writing that is clear, articulate, and logically  
organized. The decision of the NYC Atheists Inc.  
Board of Directors is final. The NYC Atheists  
Board of Directors may choose not to select a  
winner if they deem no entry meets its criteria.**

**Submit:**

NYC Atheists Inc./Awards Committee / Cooper Station PO Box 93 / NY, NY 10276-0093

**Deadline:**

Entry must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2006.

**Other:**

- \* All entries become the property of NYC Atheists Inc. and will not be returned.
- \* Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use the winner's name and to publish in whole or in part the winning essay.
- \* NYC Atheists Inc. is not responsible for lost, misdirected, illegible, damaged, postage due, or late entries.

**Notification:**

- \* Winners will be notified by US Mail
- \* Name will be posted on the NYC-ATHEISTS.ORG web site on June 30, 2006.

*“An Atheist thinks that only in a knowledge of himself and a knowledge of his fellow human can he find the understanding that will help achieve a life of fulfillment. Therefore, he seeks to know himself and his fellow man rather than to know a god.”*

*”An Atheist knows that a deed must be done instead of a prayer said.”*

*“An Atheist strives for involvement in life and not escape into death.”*

*“An Atheist wants disease conquered, poverty vanquished, war eliminated.”*

*”An Atheist knows that we cannot rely on a god nor channel action into prayer nor hope for an end of troubles in a hereafter.”*

*”An Atheist knows that we are our brothers' keepers and keepers of our own lives; that we are responsible persons; that the job is here and the time is now.”*



**Madalyn Murray O'Hair Quotes**  
April 13, 1919 - 1995

*“Without religion, we would have landed on the moon 500 years earlier.”*

*“An Atheist knows that a hospital should be built instead of a church.”*

*“An Atheist loves himself and his fellow man instead of god”.*

*“An Atheist knows that heaven is something for which we should work now--here on earth-- for all people together to enjoy.”*

*“An Atheist thinks that he can get no help through prayer but that he must find in himself the inner conviction and strength to meet life, to grapple with it, to subdue it and enjoy it.”*



**Thomas Jefferson**  
Born Apr. 13, 1743  
(same birthday as Ms. O'Hair)  
US Founding Father

**Drafted the Declaration of Independence  
3rd US President**

*"Is uniformity attainable? Millions of innocent men, women, and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced one inch towards uniformity. What has been the effect of coercion? To make one half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites. "*



**John Morley (1838-1923)**

Source: Voltaire, 1872

"When it is a duty to worship the sun  
it is pretty sure to be a crime  
to examine the laws of heat."

---

## A Brief History of Celibacy in the Catholic Church

### First Century

Peter, the first pope, and the apostles that Jesus chose were, for the most part, married men. The New Testament implies that women presided at Eucharistic meals in the early church.

### Second and Third Century

Age of Gnosticism: Light and spirit are good, darkness and material things are evil. A person cannot be married and be perfect. However, most priests were married.

### Fourth Century

306-Council of Elvira, Spain, decree #43: A priest who sleeps with his wife the night before Mass will lose his job.

325-Council of Nicea decreed that after ordination, a priest could not marry. Proclaimed the Nicene Creed.

352-Council of Laodicea: Women are not to be ordained. This suggests that before this time there was ordination of women.

385-Pope Siricius left his wife in order to become pope. Decreed that priests may no longer sleep with their wives.

### Fifth Century

401-St. Augustine wrote: "Nothing is so powerful in drawing the spirit of a man downwards as the caresses of a woman."

### Sixth Century

567-Second Council of Tours: Any cleric found in bed with his wife would be excommunicated for a year and reduced to the lay state.

580-Pope Pelagius II: His policy was not to

bother married priests as long as they did not hand over church property to wives or children. 590-604-Pope Gregory "the Great" said that all sexual desire is sinful in itself (meaning that sexual desire is intrinsically evil?).

### Seventh Century

France: Documents show that the majority of priests were married.

### Eighth Century

St. Boniface reported to the pope that in Germany almost no bishop or priest was celibate.

### Ninth Century

836-Council of Aix-la-Chapelle openly admitted that abortions and infanticide took place in convents and monasteries to cover up activities of uncelibate clerics.

St. Ulrich, a bishop, argued from scripture and common sense that the only way to purify the church from the worst excesses of celibacy was to permit priests to marry.

### Eleventh Century

1045-Pope Boniface IX dispensed himself from celibacy and resigned in order to marry.

1074-Pope Gregory VII said anyone to be ordained must first pledge celibacy: 'Priests [must] first escape from the clutches of their wives.'

1095-Pope Urban II had priests' wives sold into slavery, children were abandoned.

### Twelfth Century

1123-Pope Calistus II: First Lateran Council decreed that clerical marriages were invalid.

1139-Pope Innocent II: Second Lateran Council confirmed the previous council's decree.

### Fourteenth Century

Bishop Pelagio complains that women are still ordained and hearing confessions.

### Fifteenth Century

Transition; 50% of priests are married and accepted by the people.

### Sixteenth Century

1545-63-Council of Trent states that celibacy and virginity are superior to marriage.

## Nineteenth Century

1869-First Vatican Council; infallibility of pope.

## Twentieth Century

1930-Pope Pius XI: Sex can be good and holy.

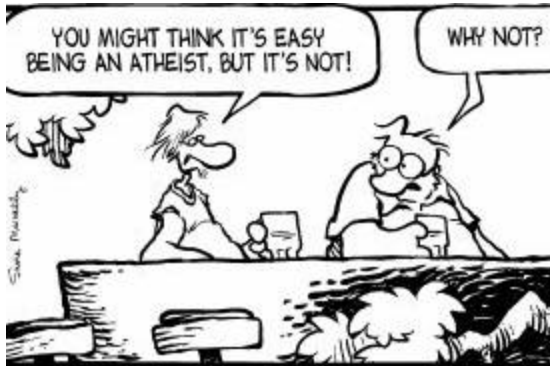
1951-Pope Pius XII: Married Lutheran pastor ordained catholic priest in Germany.

1962-Pope John XXIII: Vatican Council II; vernacular; marriage is equal to virginity.

1966-Pope Paul VI: celibacy dispensations.

1970s-Ludmilla Javorova and several other Czech women ordained to serve needs of women imprisoned by Communists.

1980-Married Anglican/Episcopal pastors are ordained as catholic priests in the US; also in Canada and England in 1994.



**ATHEISM  
IS A CONCLUSION  
NOT A BELIEF**

**Science will replace religion.**

**Knowledge will replace faith.**

**Understanding will eliminate fear**

**YOU ARE ENTITLED  
TO YOUR OWN BELIEFS,**

**BUT YOU ARE NOT  
ENTITLED  
TO YOUR OWN FACTS.**

**STOP  
FAITH-BASED SUBSIDIES  
THAT WILL BECOME  
FAITH-BASED ENTITLEMENTS!**

**TOUCHE**

On Wednesday, March 1st, 2006, in Annapolis at a hearing on the proposed Constitutional Amendment to prohibit gay marriage, Jamie Raskin, professor of law at AU, was requested to testify.

At the end of his testimony, Republican Senator Nancy Jacobs said: "Mr. Raskin, my Bible says marriage is only between a man and a woman. What do you have to say about that?"

Raskin replied: "Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You did not place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."

The room erupted into applause.

**Question religion!  
No free pass for faith**

**NYCA Member Starts Treatment**

NYCA Member Bob Curci started his chemotherapy and radiation treatment on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, New York.

NYCA accompanied Bob to his first therapy session and we will be following his progress. We wish him a successful outcome, a full recovery and a long and happy atheist life.



**Feb. 26, 2006  
Guest Speaker: Lori Brown  
Monthly Meeting**



**March 12, 2006  
NYCA Brunch**



**March 20, 2006  
Bob Curci – NYCA Member  
Starts Radiation Treatment**



**March 21, 2006  
NYCA Meetup  
Rich Sander Leads Group**



**NYC ATHEISTS — 2006 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 2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**LAST CHANCE - SPECIAL - \$10**

**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**