

February, 2019 Newsletter of the Lake Superior Freethinkers

George Erickson, editor - tundracub@mediacombb.net

First Sunday - Radisson Hotel

9:00 AM Social – 9:30 Breakfast - 10:00 Presentation

Free and open to the public.

Jan Resberg, Chair/President 715-919-0513

Sue Anderson, Social Director 218-728-1361

PROGRAM

Jane Whitledge will speak on Robert Ingersoll,

“The Great Agnostic” of the 19th Century.

Ingersoll, the forgotten champion of the “Golden Age of Freethought,” began as a preacher's kid. Through self-education and legal practice he became a famous orator, critic of the church, the Bible and all superstition. He lectured against slavery and for absolute freedom of thought, the scientific approach, women's rights, and humanitarian ideals.

Jane Whitledge is a poet and songwriter whose poems have appeared in Widener Review, Wilderness magazine, Minnesota Monthly and in *33 Minnesota Poets*.

Editor's note: Ingersoll was also a critic of capitalism, writing, “Don't you know that people would bottle air if they could? Don't you know that there would be an American Air Bottling association? And don't you know that they would allow millions to die for want of breath, if they could not pay for air?”

Evangelicals: God Sent Trump to be King



In a NYT op-ed, Kaherine Stewart, who has studied the Christian right, says that they believe that Donald Trump has been sent by God to be “a vessel for the purposes of the faithful” in the role of King of the United States.

“... prior to the midterm elections, a thousand theaters showed *The Trump Prophecy*, a film about a firefighter who, in a blinding, orgiastic epiphany, picks up a Bible and turns to Isaiah 45, which describes the anointment of King Cyrus by God.” Get it, Isaiah “45” - Trump 45”? What more proof do you need?

“Evangelical author and speaker Lance Wallnau has said: I believe the 45th president is meant to be an Isaiah 45 Cyrus who will restore ... us from cultural collapse.”

Food For Thought



Indiana State Senator Wants To Require 'In God We Trust' Posters In Classrooms

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/dennis-kruse-indiana-in-god-we-trust_us_5c3e44ace4b0922a21d95fc4 Carol Kuruvilla - January 15, 2019

An Indiana state Sen. Dennis Kruser is pushing a bill that seeks to place a poster reading “In God We Trust” in every public and charter school classroom in Indiana.

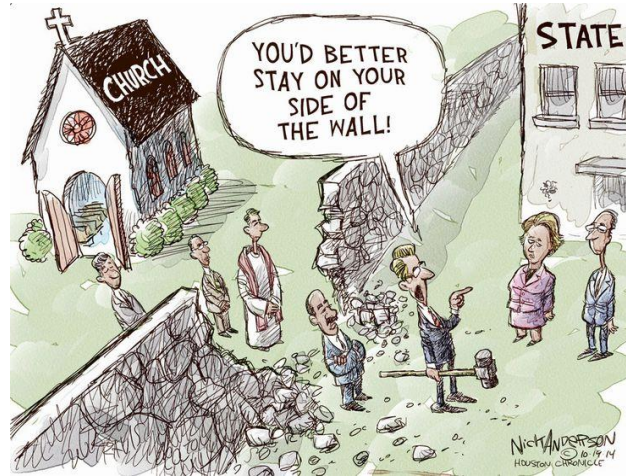
The bill, titled “Education Matters,” specifies that the phrase should appear on a “durable poster or framed picture” that is at least 11 by 17 inches, and that the display could potentially be purchased with school funds.

The bill would also allow public schools to teach creationism and offer a survey course on world religions. Curriculum for the survey course must be “neutral, objective and balanced” and not “promote acceptance of any particular religion,” according to the legislation, but it only lists the Bible as a specific text to be studied.

This year, Alaska, Kentucky, Missouri and South Carolina have already introduced “In God We Trust” bills that would allow the phrase to be placed on public buildings and vehicles, *The Guardian* reports.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, an advocacy organization, claims that the slew of bills is part of a larger campaign by Christian nationalist groups to enshrine America's Judeo-Christian heritage in law.

The phrase "In God We Trust" started appearing on U.S. coins during the Civil War, a period of heightened religious sentiment in the country. The phrase became America's national motto in 1956 and started appearing on paper money one year later.



Holy Nights: New Marriott Rooms to get Bible, Book of Mormon Dee-Ann Durbin

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/a-room-with-a-pew-new-marriotts-get-bible-book-of-mormon/2018/08/25/37cedc1a-a870-11e8-ad6f-080770dcddc2_story.html?utm_term=.3948ed866904

Sheraton, Westin and other Starwood hotels are finding their religion.

Marriott International, which bought Starwood two years ago, has begun putting copies of the Bible and the Book of Mormon in the recently-acquired hotels. By year's end, it expects to place the books in 300,000 rooms.



New Lake Superior Freethinkers Vision, Mission and Values Statement

Lake Superior Freethinkers Vision

Universal respect for secularism.

Lake Superior Freethinkers Mission

LSF is an educational and friendship group that provides mutual support and intellectual growth for Duluth's humanists, secularists, agnostics and atheists. LSF supports discussion of and learning about a wide range of issues pertaining to religion, secularism, science, society and our shared environment. LSF demonstrates secular morality through its commitment to a healthy community and a healthy planet.

Lake Superior Freethinkers Values

We understand humans as an evolving animal species.

Science is our best tool to know ourselves and our world. Accordingly, we rely provisionally on the best evidence and most trusted authorities we can find.

Ethics and morality are evolved constructs that are subject to human revisions.

We choose to be as compassionate as possible toward other persons, other living things and our planetary environment.

We are committed to a society that is free of the harms of religion's policies and behaviors, superstitious beliefs, and intrusions into in civil life.

Approved by LSF Planning Committee January 20, 2019

“It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no gods.” President Thomas Jefferson