



# DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

*Join us Sunday April 3rd via **Zoom** at 10am  
to hear Charles Gessert present*

# Can Democracy Work?

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S U P E R I O R  
**FREE**  
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Join us Sunday April 3rd via *Zoom* at 10am  
to hear Charles Gessert present

# Can Democracy Work?



While democracy, in one form or another, has been around for more than 2000 years, it has always been more of an ideal than a reality. Modern democracies have embraced two new concepts - universal suffrage and human rights - as part of the evolving understanding of the ideal of democracy. In this program, we will examine the question 'Can Democracy Work?' as posed by James Miller in his book of the same name.

**CHARLES GESSERT** is the Treasurer of Lake Superior Freethinkers. He has been very active with charitable groups in the region since retiring as research director at Essentia Health and is sought after as a speaker and presenter.

Attendees of the Zoom meeting are encouraged to provide additional comments.

# HAPPY HOUR

Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm  
Thursday, April 7th at Mexico  
Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex

Mexico Lindo will validate your covered parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. Bring a friend, and enjoy the merriment of Lake Superior Freethinkers. See you there!



# William Shatner



In 1931, actor William Alan Shatner was born in Montréal, Québec, to Anne (née Garmaise) and Joseph Shatner, a clothing manufacturer. His maternal grandparents were Jewish immigrants, as was his father. His paternal grandfather Sheldon Schattner anglicized the family name to Shatner.

He studied economics at McGill University in Montreal, where he graduated with a bachelor of commerce degree in 1952, then joined the National Repertory Theatre in Ottawa, where he trained as a classical Shakespearean actor. He was an understudy to Christopher Plummer in "Henry V" and made his Broadway debut in 1956 in Christopher Marlowe's "Tamburlaine the Great."

In 1959, he received good reviews in the role of a British artist in Hong Kong in the Broadway production of "The World of Suzie Wong." His first feature film role came in MGM's "The Brothers Karamazov" with Yul Brynner in 1958. Following were roles in "Judgment at Nuremberg" (1961) and "The Intruder" (1962).

The early '60s featured his many episodic TV roles, but the role that made Shatner famous (and brought a star in 1983 on the Hollywood Walk of Fame) was as Capt. James T. Kirk of the USS Enterprise in Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek." It became a marketing franchise and an obsession for Trekkies enamored of its various movie and television iterations stretching into the 21st century.

He wrote books, fiction and nonfiction, and recorded albums about "Star Trek" and continued to act on TV, including as police Sgt. "T.J. Hooker" in that series (1982–86). His career acting credits by 2022 totaled 247, and he made numerous guest appearances on talk shows.

Shatner recorded a wake-up call in 2011 that was played for the crew of the space shuttle Discovery docked at the International Space Station. Backed by the theme from "Star Trek," it featured a voice-over based on his introduction to the series' opening credits: "Space, the final frontier ..." He flew into suborbital space in October 2021 at age 90, becoming the oldest person to fly to space.

He married four times and had three daughters with his first wife, actress Gloria Rabinowitz Rand: Leslie (b. 1958), Lisabeth (b. 1960) and Melanie (b. 1964).

Asked in 2018 about his religious upbringing, Shatner said: "My father and mother had an observant religious life. They went to temple every Sabbath, prayed to God, and I was dragged along. I'm not religious, but I'm spiritual." (Sydney Morning Herald, Oct. 6, 2018)

"I probably am an animist," he said, talking about the human-animal connection he wrote about as a longtime horse breeder in his book "Spirit of the Horse." (AP, June 16, 2017) "Emotionally I would like to believe there is a life after death. Intellectually ... I cannot accept the idea." (1968 interview with Bonnie Mallory, NBC-TV)

*"My belief system is that when this is over, it's over. That you don't look down from heaven and wait for your loved ones to join you."*



Join us April 20th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at **BOOMTOWN**, (Formerly The Sunset) 4483 Martin Road, Duluth



# Next Pavilion Party Saturday April 23rd



**Pavilion Parties continue on the fourth Saturday of each month at the home of our “Flounder”, Bill Van Druten.**

Plan to arrive at 1pm. Bring a food item you have made, or maybe an interesting libation to share with other attendees.

We'll talk and laugh at Dr. Van Druten's home: 2931 Greysolon Road in Duluth.

Park anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!

# Elizabeth Olsen



In 1989, actress Elizabeth Chase Olsen was born in Sherman Oaks, Calif., to Jarnette (née Jones) and David Olsen, respectively a former ballet dancer and personal manager and a real estate developer and mortgage banker. Her twin sisters Mary-Kate and Ashley, older by two years, gained fame as child stars via the ABC series "Full House" (1987-1995).

Olsen started acting at age 4. Her parents divorced when she was 7. She appeared in her sisters' 1994 TV film "How the West Was Fun." Her debut film role was in "Martha Marcy May Marlene" (2011), earning several award nominations for playing a young woman suffering from delusions after fleeing a cult. She received a BAFTA Rising Star Award nomination and graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2013.

Olsen next appeared in the horror film "Silent House," the thriller "Red Lights" and the comedy "Liberal Arts." She played Edie Parker, novelist Jack Kerouac's first wife, in the biographical drama "Kill Your Darlings." She played the leading role in "In Secret," an adaptation of Émile Zola's 1867 novel "Thérèse Raquin."

Olsen gained worldwide recognition as Wanda Maximoff/Scarlet Witch in the Marvel Cinematic Universe media franchise, appearing in the superhero films "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (2015), "Captain America: Civil War" (2016), "Avengers: Infinity War" (2018), "Avengers: Endgame" (2019) and the TV miniseries "WandaVision" (2021). Her performance in WandaVision garnered her a Primetime Emmy Award nomination. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," also featuring Wanda Maximoff, completed filming in 2021 as the 28th film of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Olsen and actor Boyd Holbrook were in a relationship from 2011 to 2014. She dated musician Robbie Arnett of the band Milo Greene for three years and then revealed in 2021 that they had married.

—Interview, *Dazed magazine* (Sept. 2, 2013)

*“When I was 13, I told my parents I didn’t believe in God anymore. I wanted to be an atheist because I believed that religion should be about community and having a place to go in prayer, not something that should determine women’s freedoms.”*



# FREETHOUGHT LIBRARY

Due to the generous donation of a superb book collection, we have been able to set up a library for use by our members. The collection can be viewed by using the Library link on our website, [LSFreethinkers.org](https://LSFreethinkers.org), or by going directly to the library at <https://LSFLibrary.librarika.com>. You will have to become a library member in order to check books out. That can be done by sending a request to Linda Crumpton who will house the collection and act as librarian. The library's email is [LakeSuperiorFreethinkersBooks@gmail.com](mailto:LakeSuperiorFreethinkersBooks@gmail.com). Once you have an account, you can make arrangements to get the book. Requested books can be brought to our first Sunday program, or picked up or delivered in another way. We hope the collection will get a lot of use and will grow over time. If you have any questions, contact Linda using the library's email address.

