



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

Join us Sunday March 6th LIVE at 10 am at St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge to hear a panel discussion on

Ethics without gods

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L A K E
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FREE
T H I N K E R S

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FREETHINKERS**

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MARCH 2022

Join us Sunday March 6th LIVE at 10 am at St. Scholastica's
Somers Lounge to hear a panel discussion on

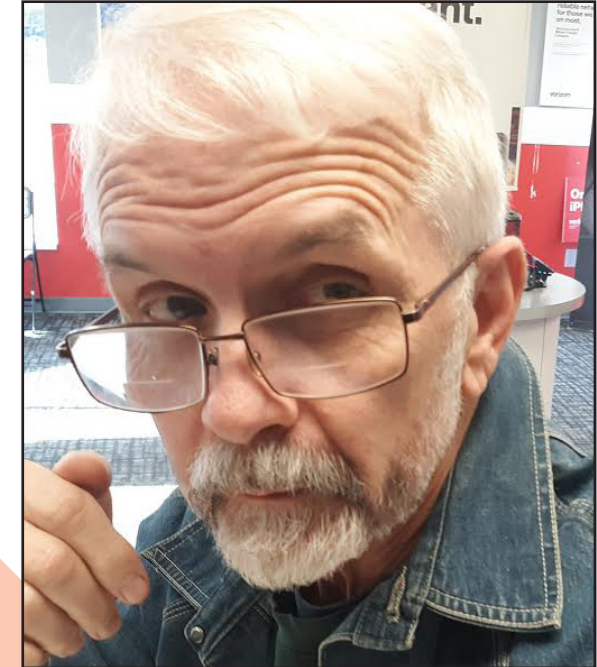
Ethics without gods



DAVID BROMAN was once a conservative Christian, but is now an atheist who has mixed political positions. He has worked with a variety of cultures and belief systems, having been a teacher in a Christian school, a Native American school, in Japan, in a treatment center, and in both rural and urban areas.

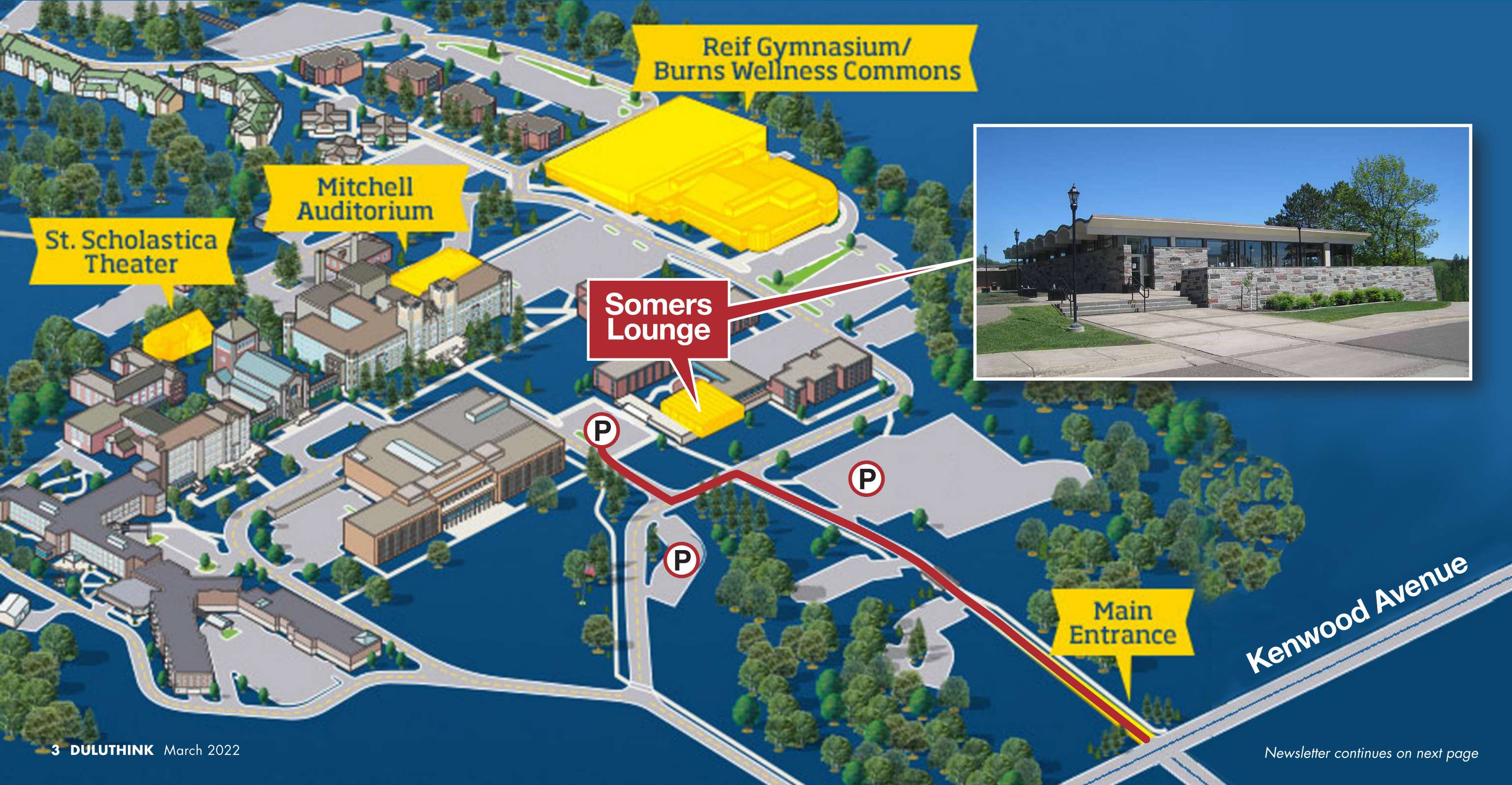


DAVID COLE received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, San Diego. He has taught at San Diego State University, the University of Delaware, and UMD. He has written on philosophy of language, epistemology, cognitive science and artificial intelligence.

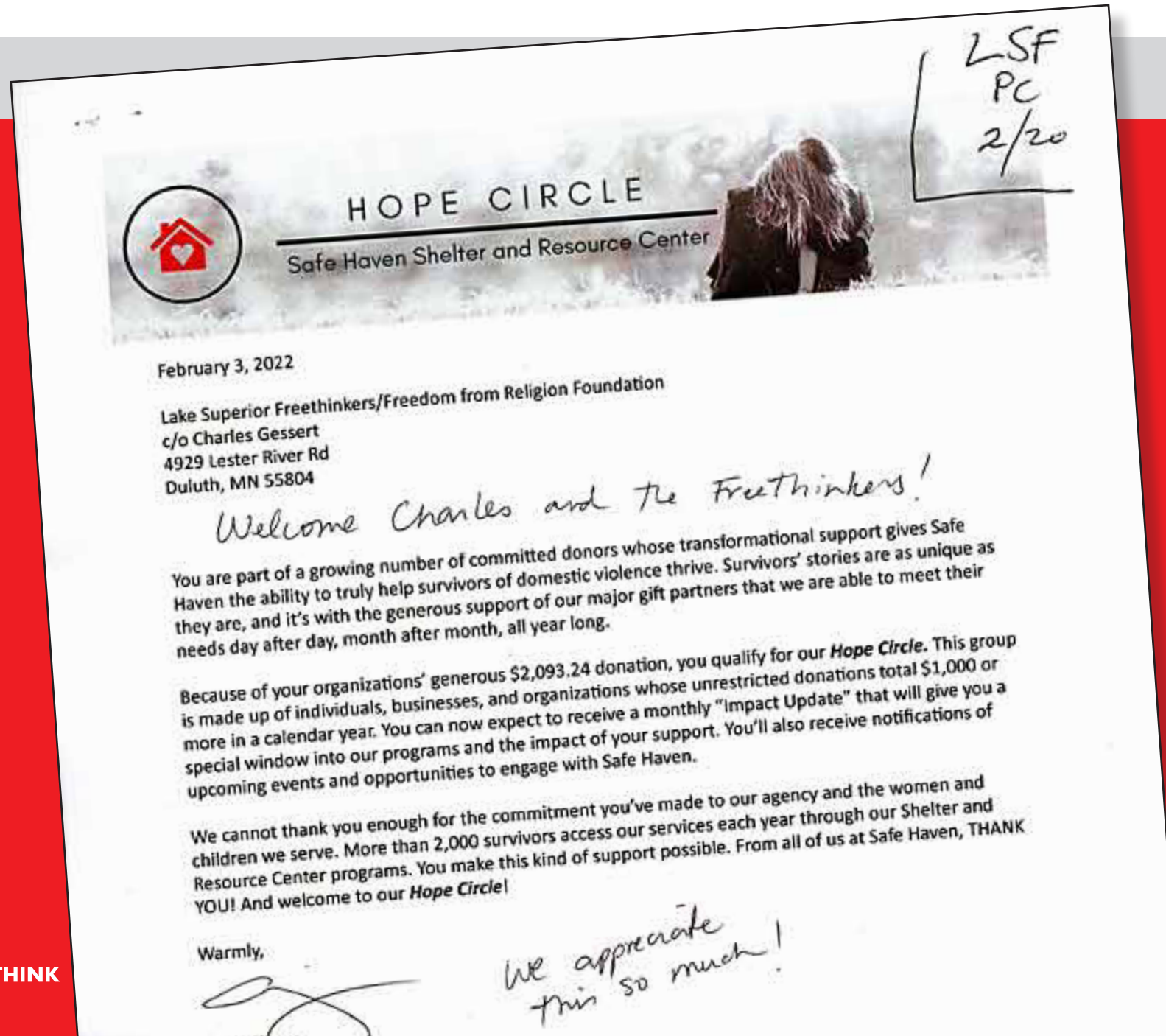


JAN RESBERG is a former Benedictine monk, devout atheist, and practicing theologian. Theological pursuits are in the area of god in the imagination and image of man. And morality a human construct. Jan is currently retired and living in Superior.

Directions to St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge, 1200 Kenwood Avenue



LSF receives Thank You letter from Safe Haven for LSF's \$2,093 Donation



“We cannot thank you enough for the commitment you've made to our agency and the women and children we serve. More than 2,000 survivors access our services each year through our Shelter and Resource Center programs. You make this kind of support possible. From all of us at Safe Haven, **THANK YOU!** And welcome to our Hope Circle.”

CARIN SKOOG
Director of Philanthropy

BRITTANY ROBB
Executive Director

Next Pavilion Party Saturday March 26th



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!

The Visitors

An essay by our "flounder" Bill Van Druten

Two young women presented themselves at my front door a while back. They were ever so neat and clean and all bright with cherubic smiles. I just wanted to buy some cookies from them. But the brighter eyed cherub explained that they hadn't brought cookies but had something much more valuable for me: SALVATION FROM MR. JOSEPH, THE MORMON, SMITH. They came into my sunny dining room and sat down. I learned that in 1828 Mr. Joe Smith found some shiny golden tablets when he was digging around in New York. They had mysterious symbols on them but Joe with his third grade education was able to translate them from their ancient Egyptian glyphs. From them he developed the BOOK OF MORON and started a new religion for us, MORONISM. And these charming angels were here to invite me to salvation. No cookies but still a very good deal.

I listened attentively as they showed me actual pages from his book. When I had a chance, I asked them if they had any evidence for their religion. OH, YES, the golden tablets are the evidence. Super, said I, where can we see them? OH, you can't see them, they were taken up by god. Then there is no evidence? THAT IS THE EVIDENCE, that they were taken up, proves there is a god!

Well, I explained the nature of evidence for them and they agreed that they didn't have any, but they didn't need evidence because: WE HAVE FAITH! Indeed they had a bushel of faith. I was sorry to disappoint them but I explained that I had been canvassed by a variety of religious salesmen and all had faith as exuberant as theirs. So I asked if they had anything in their faith baskets that was stronger, more earnest, more convincer than the others. I wanted to help so I suggested that if there were several gods.....OH, NO, NO, NO. There is only one true god and he belongs to Joseph Smith!

The smiles were some tarnished now but they gathered their wits and asked? Have you read the Bible? Sure, I've read it plenty. Do you two believe it? Oh, we surely do, every word.

It was my turn now and I said: Excellent, then now we can get down to business. Do you know that Jesus said, TRULY, TRULY (I paused for a powerful

effect between the first TRULY and the second TRULY, then I started up again), TRULY, TRULY, ANYTHING YOU ASK OF THE FATHER IN MY NAME WILL BE GIVEN YOU. Oh, they believed that with all their sunbeam hearts. Now, I said, we can get some evidence. I took a lovely pear from a bowl on my table. It glowed of summer's sun with radiant greens, yellows and pinks. I asked them to pray with me: Dear god, we pray in Jesus' name that this pear be turned to solid gold in the next five minutes that we may sell it and give the money to your church for good deeds. This will display your power and glory and will cast away all my doubts. Amen.

OH, DEAR, OH, DEARIE ME! The tension grew thick as the minutes started. Smiles flattened into grimaces as the older cherub suddenly remembered that they had another house to visit and were late. Up they jumped and started for the door. WAIT, WAIT, only one minute more and we will surely know if Jesus and the Bible told the truth and you will have a convert! But OH, NO, it was time to go! They said they would pray for me and scooted out. I called after them: Don't you trust your god?

Well, the pear just remained a pear, no gold at all. I guess that disproved the bible and Mr. Jesus and Joe the moron. I checked on the pear the next morning. Perhaps god had been out of the office or on a journey. But still no gold. And that was just fine because I didn't want any religion and the pear tasted swell.



HAPPY HOUR

**Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, March 3rd
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's
Brewery Complex**

The fun begins at 4:00 pm! The restaurant will validate your covered parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. Come on out, bring a friend, and enjoy the monthly merriment of Lake Superior Freethinkers.



**JOIN US MARCH 16TH AT 5:30PM FOR LSF'S SOCIAL DINNER AT DUBH LINN IRISH PUB,
109 WEST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH**



L A K E
S U P E R I O R
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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, 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.** 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.

