Join us Sunday September 4th at 10am at St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge to hear LSF's Charles Gessert give a presentation on the Final Exit Network.

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Join us Sunday September 4th at 10am at St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge to hear LSF's Charles Gessert give a presentation on the Final Exit Network

The Final Exit Network supports individuals who elect to manage their own end-of-life experience, including selecting the time and method of their own "self-deliverance." This program will review the principles and methods of the Final Exit Network, and will provide ample opportunity for questions, answers and discussion.

Further information (handouts) on the Final Exit Network will be available.

**Charles Gessert**, MD, MPH served as a Senior Research Scientist in the Essentia Institute of Rural Health in Duluth, MN from 2000 until his retirement in 2013. His research interests included a wide range of clinical and public health issues: end-of-life decision-making; the use of feeding tubes in advanced dementia; and improving our understanding of the normal lifespan. He is currently active in teaching, local community action, and advocacy for health care reform. He amuses himself by planting trees and researching local craft beers.
Directions to St. Scholastica’s Somers Lounge, 1200 Kenwood Avenue

- Reif Gymnasium/Burns Wellness Commons
- Mitchell Auditorium
- St. Scholastica Theater

Somers Lounge

Main Entrance

Kenwood Avenue
JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR

4:00–6:00 pm Thursday, September 1st at Mexico Lindo, Fitgers Brewery Complex

Mexico Lindo will validate your parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. See you there!
Join us September 21st at 5:30 pm at Lincoln Park for our final outdoor Summer Social Dinner. Bring your own food and beverage.

Lincoln Park is located at 25th Avenue West and 3rd Street
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!

Next Pavilion Party September 24th

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

In 1942, cosmologist Stephen Hawking was born in Oxford, England, "300 years after the death of Galileo," as he once noted. He attended Oxford, studying physics, then earned his Ph.D. in cosmology at Cambridge. By his 21st birthday he had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Despite his disability, which confined him to a wheelchair and forced him to rely on mechanized speech, Hawking became a research fellow, worked at the Institute of Astronomy, and in 1973 joined the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge.

Hawking is celebrated for his work on unifying General Relativity with Quantum Theory. His popular science books include *A Brief History of Time*, *Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays* and *The Universe in a Nutshell*. Although some rationalists have been disappointed in his tendency to use the term "god" too loosely as a metaphor, Hawking made it clear he did not believe in a personal god.

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC News (June 7, 2010), Hawking said, "There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, [and] science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win because it works."

In his follow-up book *The Grand Design* (2010), Hawking and co-author Caltech physicist Leonard Mlodinow wrote that "God" is not necessary: "Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going."

In an interview with the Spanish newspaper El Mundo (Nov. 6, 2015), Hawking was more forthright about declaring his atheism: "Before we understand science, it is natural to believe that God created the universe. But now science offers a more convincing explanation. What I meant by 'we would know the mind of God' is, we would know everything that God would know, if there were a God, which there isn't. I'm an atheist (Soy ateo)."

In his last book, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, published posthumously in 2018, Hawking wrote, "There is no God. No one directs the universe." Included in his parting advice: "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at."

Hawking met Jane Wilde in 1962, the year before his motor neuron diagnosis. They married in 1965 and had three children: Robert (1967), Lucy (1969) and Timothy (1979). His poor health and her strong Christian beliefs led to their divorce in 1995, after which he soon married Elaine Mason, one of his nurses.

After their divorce in 2006, Hawking resumed closer relationships with Jane and his children. Her book Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen was published in 2007 and was made into a film, *The Theory of Everything*, in 2014.

Hawking died at his home in Cambridge at age 76 on March 14, 2018. His ashes were interred in Westminster Abbey's nave between the graves of Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

“All that my work has shown is that you don't have to say that the way the universe began was the personal whim of God.”