



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

Join us Sunday August 6th at 10am at the One Roof Central Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St., for a presentation by judge Mary Beth O'Connor [See page 2](#)



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L A K E
S U P E R I O R
FREE
THINKERS

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**LAKE SUPERIOR
FREETHINKERS**

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NEWSLETTER

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Join us Sunday August 6th at 10am at the One Roof Central Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St., for a presentation by judge Mary Beth O'Connor



Mary Beth O'Connor has been clean and sober since 1994. She also is in recovery from abuse, trauma, and anxiety. Mary Beth is a director, secretary, and founding investor for She Recovers Foundation. She also is a director for LifeRing Secular Recovery. She regularly speaks on behalf of these organizations and about multiple paths to recovery. This includes conferences, podcasts, radio, and recovery houses. She also develops relationships with other organizations, such as Women for Sobriety. In August 2020, Mary Beth had an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, "**I Beat Addiction without God,**" where she described combining ideas from several secular programs to create a robust recovery foundation. Mary Beth's memoir writings have been published in Memoir Magazine, Awakenings, The Noyo River Review, The Fault Zone, Carry the Light, and Ravens Perch. Professionally, six years into her recovery, Mary Beth attended Berkeley Law. She worked at a large firm, then litigated class actions for the federal government. In 2014, she was appointed a federal administrative law judge.

LSF makes donation of \$2,090 to the Duluth Library Foundation



LSF Treasurer Charles Gessert presents a check for \$2,090 to David Moeller; Board of Directors President, at the Duluth Library Foundation annual awards meeting February 26th.

JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR

**4:00-6:00 PM THURSDAY, AUGUST 3RD 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 August 16th at 5:30 pm at Lincoln Park
for our third outdoor Summer Social Dinner.
Bring your own food and beverage.**

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



Next Pavilion Party August 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. Please bring something to share: maybe some leftovers or a snack you've prepared or maybe some liquid concoction that's fun to drink in good company. We'll talk about religion, old friends, new venues, religion, bird watching, weather, and perhaps religion. If you're late, you'll miss the beginning. And please remember that we can park anywhere on Greysolon Road, but not on 30th Avenue!



Albert Einstein



On March 14th in 1879, Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany, to nonobservant Jewish parents. He attended a Catholic school from age 5 to 8. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Zurich in 1909. His 1905 paper explaining the photo-electric effect — the basis of electronics — earned him the Nobel Prize in 1921. His first paper on Special Relativity Theory, also published in 1905, changed the world.

Einstein split his time and academic appointments between various European universities. After the rise of the Nazi Party, Einstein made Princeton his permanent home, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1940 after moving there in 1933 with his second wife. A pacifist during World War I, he remained a firm proponent of social justice and responsibility. Einstein played a major role in the formation of what would become International Rescue Committee. He chaired the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, which organized to alert the public to the dangers of atomic warfare.

Einstein wrote often about his views on religion and wonder at the cosmic mysteries. Confusion over his beliefs stemmed from such comments as his public statement, reported by United Press on April 25, 1929, that: "I believe in Spinoza's God, who reveals himself in the orderly harmony in being, not in a God who deals with the facts and actions of men." Einstein's famous "God does not play dice with the Universe" metaphor — meaning nature conforms to mathematical law — fueled more confusion.

At a symposium, he advised: "In their struggle for the ethical good, teachers of religion must have the stature to give up the doctrine of a personal God, that is, give up that source of fear and hope which in the past placed such vast power in the hands of priests. In their labors

they will have to avail themselves of those forces which are capable of cultivating the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in humanity itself. This is, to be sure a more difficult but an incomparably more worthy task." ("Science, Philosophy and Religion, A Symposium," 1941)

In a letter to philosopher Eric Gutkind dated Jan. 3, 1954, Einstein continued to reject the idea of a personal god. Although saying he was proud to be a Jew, he said he was not impressed with Judaism. "The word god is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of venerable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish." In 2018 the "God letter" sold for almost \$2.9 million following a four-minute bidding battle at Christie's.

He married Mileva Maric in 1903 and they had two sons. They had a daughter before marriage whose fate is unclear. She was either given up for adoption or died of scarlet fever. Their son Eduard was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age 20 and spent most of the rest of his life in asylums. After divorcing in 1919, Einstein married Elsa Löwenthal that same year after having a relationship with her since 1912. She was a first cousin maternally and a second cousin paternally. She was diagnosed with heart and kidney problems and died in December 1936.

He died of an abdominal aortic aneurysm in 1955. Pathologist Thomas Stoltz Harvey removed his brain without the family's permission and preserved it in formalin before Einstein was cremated. Harvey later cut the brain into 240 blocks, took tissue samples from each block, mounted them on microscope slides and distributed the slides to some of the world's top neuropathologists for study.

"Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hopes of reward after death. It is therefore easy to see why the churches have always fought science and persecuted its devotees."