



# DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



Join us Sunday November 5th  
at 10am, at the Hillside Community Center,  
12 East 4th St., for a presentation  
by Dr. David Swenson on

## The Limitations of Rationality

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LAKE  
SUPERIOR  
**FREE  
THINKERS**

Volume 26, Issue 11

**LAKE SUPERIOR  
FREETHINKERS**

is a registered 501(c)(3)  
Minnesota non-profit.  
Receipts are available  
for donations over \$75.

**NEWSLETTER**

LSFreethinkers@outlook.com

**CHAIR**

**TOM PATTEN**

tpatten@chartermi.net

**VICE-CHAIR**

**DAVID COLE**

dcole@d.umn.edu

**TREASURER**

**CHARLES GESSERT**

CGessert@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY**

**DON FRASER**

dfraser456@gmail.com

**SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

**SUE ANDERSON**

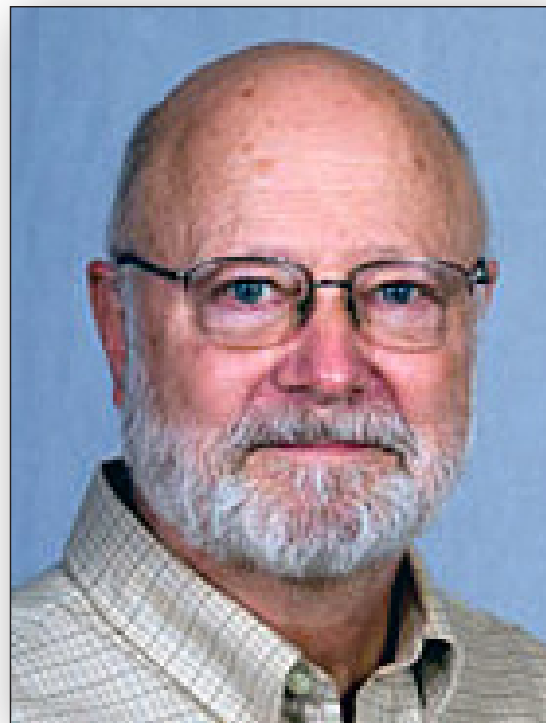
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for a presentation by Dr. David Swenson on

# The Limitations of Rationality

We rely strongly on being consciously deliberate, rational, and logical in problem solving and decision making. While this approach works with simple problems, complex problems require a different approach. Brain and social science research shows that rationality has its limits and unconscious cognition can have significant advantages. This presentation will provide examples of limitations and discuss the benefits and applications of other forms of cognition, and how they complement rationality.



**Dr. David X. Swenson** PhD LP  
is Professor and former Director of the  
MBA in Rural Health at the College of St.  
Scholastica and a forensic psychologist in  
private practice. He has been in the field  
for 50 years and is a consultant to health  
and human service agencies, law  
enforcement, and emergency  
services with an emphasis on crisis  
management and leadership.





# LSF NOVEMBER HAPPY HOUR

**Join us Thursday November 2nd from 4:00-6:00 pm at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex. "Gobble Gobble" down some reduced price Margaritas or other beverages and snacks of your choice. You'll also be "thankful" for validated parking**



# NOVEMBER SOCIAL DINNER

Join us Monday November 15th at 5:30 pm for our November Social Dinner at Bellisio's, 405 S. Lake Ave, Canal Park, Duluth





# Fran Lebowitz



**O**n October 27th, 1950, author and humorist Frances Ann Lebowitz was born in Morristown, N.J., to Ruth and Harold Lebowitz, who owned a furniture store and upholstery shop and attended a Conservative Jewish synagogue. She was expelled from an Episcopalian high school at age 17 for what she later called "non-specific surliness" and completed her GED.

She moved to New York City in 1969 and worked as a cleaning lady, chauffeur, taxi driver and freelance writer. Andy Warhol hired her as a columnist for Interview magazine. She also wrote for Mademoiselle. Her first book, a collection of comedic essays titled Metropolitan Life, was published in 1978.

"All God's children are not beautiful. Most of God's children are, in fact, barely presentable," Lebowitz wrote in Social Studies (1981), another essay collection. The Fran Lebowitz Reader and the children's book Mr. Chas and Lisa Sue Meet the Pandas followed in 1994.

Since then she has worked on uncompleted book projects like Exterior Signs of Wealth — a novel about rich people who want to be artists and artists who want to be rich — and her book Progress, excerpted in Vanity Fair starting in 2004 but still unfinished as of 2021. "For every mandatory moment of silence before classes at a public school, during which students are free

to pray or not, there will be a mandatory moment of noise before services at a religious institution, during which congregants are free to listen or not." (Vanity Fair, Oct. 17, 2006)

Lebowitz later largely supported herself with TV appearances, speaking engagements and as a contributing editor and occasional columnist for Vanity Fair. She is a political liberal and a lesbian who is uncomfortable in long-term relationships. "I'm the world's greatest daughter. I'm a great relative. I believe I'm a great friend. I'm a horrible girlfriend. I always was. I'm great at the beginning, because I can be very romantic." (Interview magazine, March 11, 2016)

She was the subject of film director Martin Scorsese's 82-minute documentary "Public Speaking" on HBO in 2010 before a limited theatrical release the next year. She collaborated again with Scorsese on "Pretend It's a City," a seven-part documentary series featuring her interviews and conversations with Scorsese. It was released on Netflix in January 2021.

"I got in trouble when I was 12 or 13, because I told the Sunday school teacher I don't believe in God. I have not changed my mind on that," Lebowitz once told an interviewer. "My Jewish identity is ethnic or cultural or whatever people call it now. But it's not religious." (New Jersey Jewish News, Jan. 27, 2016)

*"I've been an atheist since I was about 7 years old."*