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DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



LSF PARTNERS WITH ONE ROOF

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Join us Sunday January 7th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center,
12 East 4th St., for a presentation by Jason Ford PhD on

CULTS AND VERY SMALL RELIGIONS

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Join us Sunday January 7th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center,
12 East 4th St., for a presentation by Jason Ford PhD on

CULTS AND VERY SMALL RELIGIONS



The word "cult" has negative connotations. While some use the term to refer to any religion the speaker doesn't like, or any small religion, I will discuss some of the genuinely malicious practices that would merit calling a group a cult - with all the negative connotations. These will provide a spectrum from the innocuous to the very cult-y. I will also bring a selection from my collection of holy books from very small religions. I look forward to questions and discussion.

JASON FORD

I have been the Department Head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, since April of 2016. I study consciousness, specifically the role that attention plays in structuring our conscious experience. My publications have appeared in Philosophical Studies, The Journal of Consciousness Studies, Minds and Machines, Logique et Analyse, and Cognitive Critique. I teach Philosophy of Psychology, Introduction to Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Law and Punishment, Medical Ethics, Values and Technology, Philosophy of the 19th Century, Philosophy of the 20th Century, Ethical Theory, Critical Thinking, Logic, Philosophy through Dialogue and Debate, and Introduction to Philosophy.

LSF 2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT

On December 18, 2023, the Lake Superior Freethinkers donated \$2190 to its 2023 community partner, One Roof Community Housing.

The funds donated to One Roof included a \$1000 community partnership grant from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and \$1190 in matching funds donated by Lake Superior Freethinkers members.

One Roof is a non-profit organization committed to providing housing services, and to building and sustaining affordable homes and healthy neighborhoods. One Roof Community Housing has been featured in recent news articles, emphasizing its role in bringing more affordable housing to Duluth, especially housing to meet the needs of seniors.

The Lake Superior Freethinkers is delighted to support One Roof Community Housing, as the two organizations have a good working relationship. One Roof has provided space for the Lake Superior Freethinkers to convene its monthly “First Sunday” programs over the last year. Several LSF members have worked with One Roof staff to maintain appropriate building security, to arrange audio-visual equipment for LSF programs, and to assure that the Community Center meeting room is set up for the next users.



From left to right: Julias Salinas, Rod Froseth, Charles Gessert, Jeff Corey, Mary McMahan, Tom Patten. (Jeff Corey is the Executive Director of One Roof Community Housing and Mary McMahan is One Roof's Administrative Associate; the others are members of the Lake Superior Freethinkers' Planning Committee.)

Join us for *Happy hour*

**4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, January 4th
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex**

Start the new year off with your favorite freethinkers at our old haunt: Mexico Lindo within the Fitger's Complex. We'll be there from 4:00 pm until 6:00pm to share stories, questions, and TexMex food choices or just some half-priced drinks. The server will validate your parking and we will validate (some of) your unusual ideas.





Join us Wednesday January 17th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at the LYRIC in the downtown Holiday Center 205 West Superior Street.



A black and white portrait of Marlene Dietrich, showing her from the chest up. She has dark, wavy hair and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, garment.

Marlene Dietrich

On December 27th 1901, entertainer and actress Marlene Dietrich, née Maria Magdalena Dietrich, was born in Schöneberg, Germany, near Berlin. She became a cabaret singer in the 1920s, worked in silent films, then was typecast as a cabaret singer in the memorable "The Blue Angel" film (1930) directed by Josef von Sternberg. She was invited to Hollywood, where her first role was opposite Gary Cooper in "Morocco" (1930). She played a prostitute in "Shanghai Express" (1932).

For a time, she was Hollywood's most highly paid actress, although unhappy over the casting. After several failed films, she returned to Europe to work. Dietrich became a U.S. citizen in 1937. Her comeback came in "Destry Rides Again" (1939) with Jimmy Stewart. A noted critic of Nazism, she toured in arduous conditions with the Allies during World War II and was awarded medals by the U.S. and France for her efforts. She worked in nightclubs and Las Vegas and periodically appeared in films, notably "Judgment at Nuremberg" (1961). She made over 50 movies, including silents, during her career.

Dietrich was married only once, to director Rudolf Sieber from 1923-76. She had many affairs in between, often to his knowledge. They had a daughter, Maria Elisabeth, in 1924. As of this writing in late 2019, Maria Riva was 94 and living in Los Angeles. Dietrich died of renal failure at age 90 in Paris in 1992.

"I lost my faith during the war and can't believe they are all up there, flying around or sitting at tables, all those I've lost."