



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

Join us Sunday April 7th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center,
12 East 4th St., for a **ZOOM** presentation by Dr. Bradley Onishi

WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND THE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY



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WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND THE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY



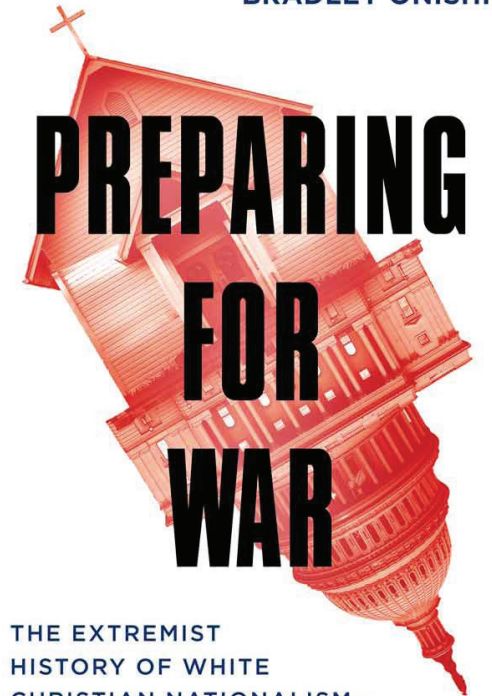
As we gear up for the 2024 elections, author and scholar Bradley Onishi, co-host of the Straight White American Jesus podcast, will discuss the dangers to our political system of an increasingly authoritarian white Christian nationalism.

In his new book, *Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism and What Comes Next*, Onishi describes how a years-long campaign blending white grievance politics and evangelicalism led directly to the Jan. 6 Insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Now, he says, Christian nationalism is an integral component of the rising fascist threat in local and national politics — through the candidacy of Donald Trump and manifold events in cities, schools, churches, and town squares across the nation.

DR. BRADLEY ONISHI is faculty at the University of San Francisco, co-host of the “Straight White American Jesus” podcast, and author of *Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism - And What Comes Next*. His work has appeared in the New York Times, NBC News, Rolling Stone, Politico, and many other outlets.

BRADLEY ONISHI



THE EXTREMIST
HISTORY OF WHITE
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM—
AND WHAT COMES NEXT

Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism and What Comes Next by Brad Onishi. Available anywhere you buy books as well as Kindle.

Join us for brunch after the meeting at Pizza Lucé. See next page



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

Volume 27, Issue 4

**LAKE SUPERIOR
FREETHINKERS**

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

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Join your fellow Freethinkers after each monthly Sunday meeting for brunch at Pizza Lucé, 11 East Superior Street.

- Creative Pies
- Pasta & Hoagies
- Beer & Wine



HAPPY HOUR

Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, April 4th at Mexico Lindo,
Fitger's Brewery Complex

Central location, free covered parking, good eats, half-price margaritas: what's not to like? On the first Thursday of each month, we gather to gab and giggle and goof around and catch up on what's been going on. Without you, it just wouldn't be the same. The festivities begin at 4:00 pm. There are reserved tables with a seat for you and a friendly staff waiting to keep you smiling.



Join us Wednesday March 20th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner

At the FALL INN, 4219 Kingston Road



Eric Idle



Eric Idle was born in County Durham, England on March 29th, 1943. “By odd coincidence, I was born on my birthday,” he quips in his memoir, *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* (2018). His father died in World War II and his mother sent him away to school when he was 5. When he was 7, she placed him in the Royal School Wolverhampton, previously known as the Royal Orphanage. He was there until he “managed to escape” at age 19: “It was a physically abusive, bullying, harsh environment for a kid.”

Accepted by Cambridge University, he discovered comedy. He was president of Footlights Revue and graduated in 1965. He worked in several television comedies, including “The Frost Report.” He wrote “All You Need Is Cash” (aka “The Rutles”), a mockumentary about a fictional band created for an earlier TV sketch. He teamed up with Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman and John Cleese for the enduring TV classic, “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” (1969-74).

The cast produced several irreverent movies, with Idle a driving force, including “Monty Python and the Holy Grail” (1975), which spoofed religion and the Crusades. “Monty Python’s The Life of Brian” (1979) depicts what happens after Brian (played by Chapman) is born on Christmas in a stable next to Jesus’ and spends his life getting mistaken for a messiah. In his memoir, Idle recounts how difficult it was to get studio backing for “The Life of Brian.” His friend George Harrison saved the day by mortgaging

his mansion to pay for the entire \$4.5 million budget: “It’s still the most anyone has ever paid for a cinema ticket,” he quipped. The film memorably ends with the victims of crucifixion singing Idle’s song “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.” Idle writes, “The song was supposed to be ironic, but it ended up being iconic.”

“The Meaning of Life” (1983) contains Idle’s other signature “Galaxy Song,” reminding humans of their insignificance and drawing on Idle’s interest in science. Idle has appeared in many other comedies, including “Nuns on the Run” (1990) and frequently tours the country with his revues. He also wrote the Tony Award-winning musical “Spamalot” (2005). He recruited his surviving fellow Pythons to a memorable reunion in 2014. One of the final shows, which was streamed live globally, included a skit in which his scientist friend Brian Cox nitpicks at some of the dated lyrics in the “Galaxy Song,” ending when Stephen Hawking appears to run over Cox with his wheelchair.

In his memoir he terms himself an “old agnostic” and writes, “Dust to dust is about right. We dissipate into the carbon atoms we came from; technically, reincarnation is sort of correct, we get reassembled into other things.” He has suggested he’d like his tombstone to say: “I’d like a second opinion.” Idle married actor Lyn Ashley in 1969. They have a son, Carey. After divorcing in 1975, he married former model Tania Kosevich in 1981. They have a daughter, Lily.