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NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



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Christian Nationalism's Successful Message: Be Afraid

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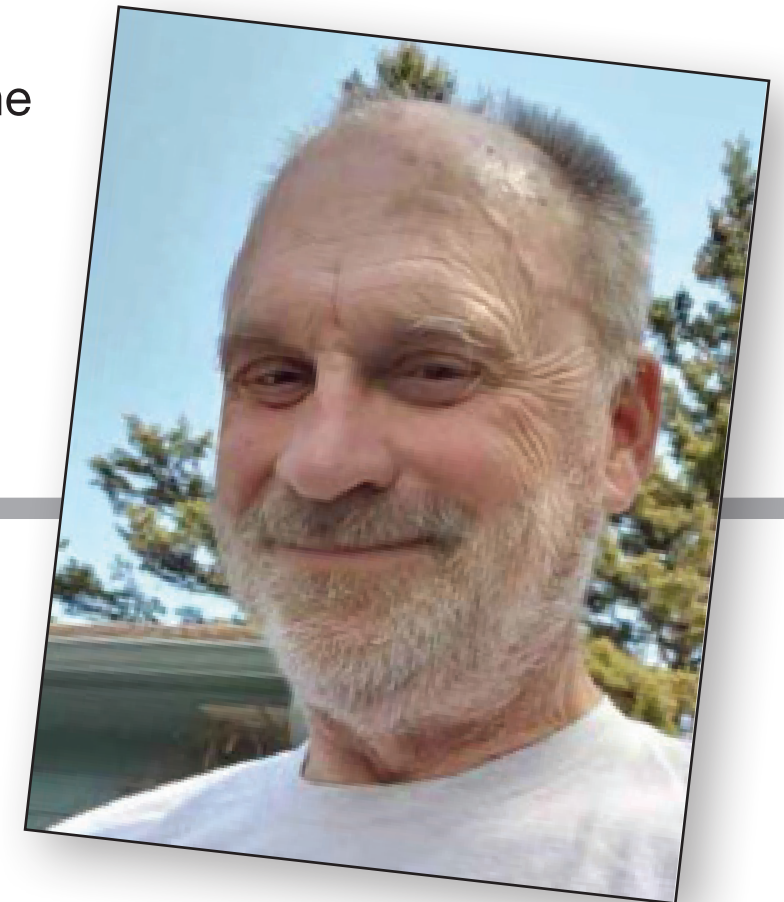


Join us **Sunday March 3rd at 10am** at the **Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St.**, for a presentation by **Bill Guse**

Christian Nationalism's Successful Message: Be Afraid

Popular Christian talk radio often sounds like an industry that alerts its listeners to the dangers of numerous national and global interconnected conspiracies organized by elites with an agenda to control the world by promoting socialism as a tool to destroy individual freedom.

BILL GUSE is the recently retired owner of Bob's Cabins and has served Lake Superior Freethinkers for many years in different roles such as FFRF liaison and host/emcee. Retirement has given him time to think about the stories we all tell ourselves and how they construct our experiences of reality.



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



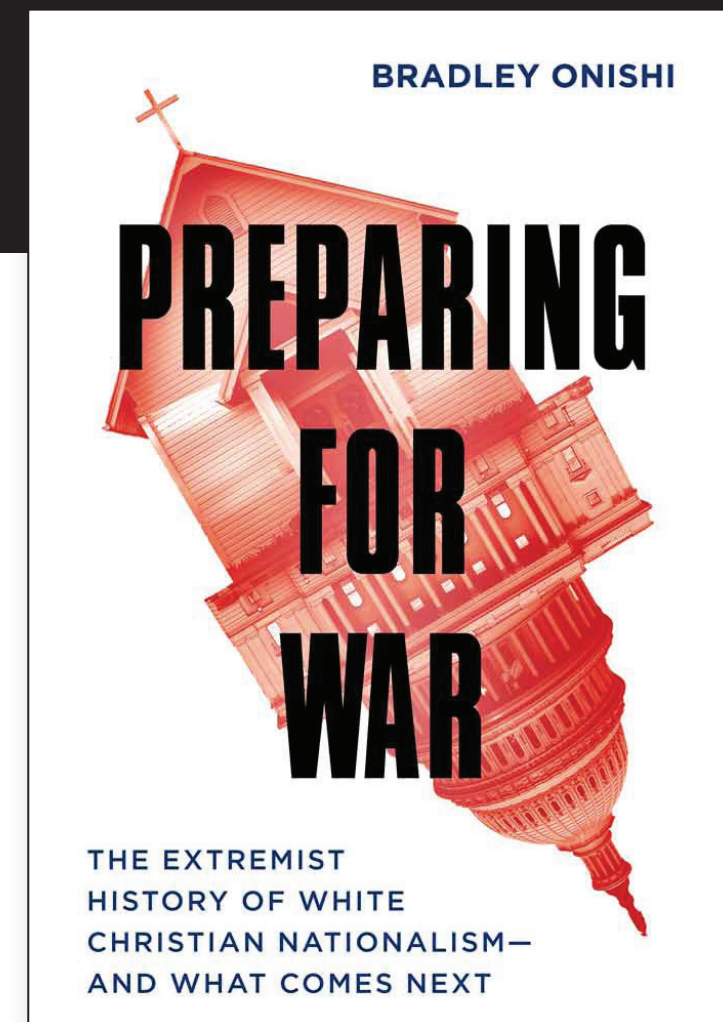
As we gear up for the 2024 elections, author and scholar Bradley Onishi, co-host of the Straight White American Jesus podcast, will discuss the dangers to our political system of an increasingly authoritarian white Christian nationalism.

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.

THRICE-WEEKLY PODCAST, “Straight, White, American Jesus” presented by Brad Onishi with cohost, Daniel Miller, available at: www.straightwhiteamericanjesus.com or wherever you get your podcasts.



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.

HAPPY HOUR

Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, March 7th at Mexico
Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex

Mexico Lindo will validate your covered parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. Bring a friend, and enjoy the merriment of Lake Superior Freethinkers. See you there!



Join us Wednesday March 20th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at the GRAND VIEW Grill & Bar, 2820 Midway Road (Formerly the DRY DOCK)



Marjory Stoneman Douglas



On April 7th 1890, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who became one of the greatest environmental writers and activists of the 20th century, was born in Minneapolis, the only child of Frank Stoneman and Florence (Trefethen) Douglas. Her parents separated when she was 6 and she had an unsettled upbringing, with her mother suffering from mental illness. Her upbringing, she wrote in her 1987 autobiography, contributed to her becoming "a skeptic and a dissenter." After graduating from Wellesley College in 1912 (her mother died when she was a senior), Douglas served in Europe during World War I with the American Red Cross.

She became an early feminist and vigorous civil rights activist. In 1916 she and others lobbied Florida legislators for women's suffrage. She had moved to Florida and married Kenneth Douglas in 1914, a much older man who was later revealed to be a bigamist and con artist. She went to work for her father in 1915 at the paper that became the Miami Herald. From 1920 to 1990, Douglas published 109 fiction articles and stories.

She dedicated five years to her groundbreaking book *The Everglades: River of Grass* (1947). The book forever changed the way that Americans viewed wetlands and the relationship between Floridians and the Everglades. It was a best-seller and battle anthem for preservationists. She founded Friends of the Everglades in the 1960s and led the group for three decades. In 1993 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. She was inducted into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame in 1999 and the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Although Douglas grew up in a religious household, she called herself an agnostic. In her autobiography she wrote, "The soul is a fiction of mankind, because mankind hates the idea of death. It wants to think that something goes on after. I don't think that it does, and I don't think we have souls. I think death is the end. A lot of people can't bear that idea, but I find it a little restful, really."

Before her death at age 108, she asked that there be no religious ceremony.

"I believe that life should be lived so vividly and so intensely that thoughts of another life, or of a longer life, are not necessary."