

Mid Ohio *A*theists

A Newsletter For Atheists in the Mansfield Ohio Area

Tenth Issue

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MOA Members Support Domestic Violence Shelter

Two members of Mid Ohio Atheists took it upon themselves to make a donation to the local domestic violence shelter, called The Shelter, in the name of our group. Grant Totman and Beau James contacted The Shelter and found out what they needed in the way of items that they give to the women and children who come there for help.

Grant and Beau went to local stores, purchased the items, and made arrangements with The Shelter to have the items picked up. They since have received a thank you letter addressed to Mid Ohio Atheists from The Shelter's Executive Director, Katherine Ezawa.

Giving to The Shelter is something that MOA earnestly supports. All of us wish to thank Grant and Beau for their efforts in helping families in crisis and also for showing people that atheists are caring and giving people too. ♦

February Meeting

We met at Barnes and Noble on the 20th. We had three new people attend and they all said they liked the group and would be back.

One important topic we discussed was the name of the group. One member brought up the point that having 'atheist' in our name will turn off many people who would otherwise join and/or support our group. They share our point of view but for personal or professional reasons don't want to have their name associated with the word atheist.

We had an energetic discussion for several minutes on this topic, but all the other members agreed we want to stay with our current name. The gist of the conversation was that we are proud atheists and want to show people that atheists aren't evil or vile. If we hide from the word atheist, then we are just promulgating the stereotype of atheists being bad people. ♦

Easter Eggs and Wabbits

by Drenn Workman

For Christianity, Easter is all about the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. However, what if none of it took place, what if Jesus never existed at all?

Christianity has sought to substantiate the existence of Jesus from the second or third century C.E. until the present time. Through forgeries and lies and improper translations the effort began with Church priests from the second or third century, who, desiring a messiah, instead of a heavenly Jesus, decided to invent one. Up until that time he was thought merely a heavenly figure with no connection to our plane of existence. Such a being, having no history, needed history, and so history was manufactured.

Even now it is plain to see: there are no records of the existence of Jesus outside a book of ancient scripture. No historic record exists of Jesus even with writers who plainly took notice of everything else; except this miraculous being who could walk on water, cure disease, and feed crowds from a basket way too small to hold enough food. No mention of this God become man, who plainly stated it, performed miracles, was resurrected, along with multiple corpses from nearby graves or not depending on the account read, who ascended to heaven on a cloud, but promised to return within the lifetimes of those present at his sermons.

Dionysus, Osiris, Horus, Tammuz and other Gods that preceded Jesus were obvious models from which the deity Jesus was drawn. All were born of a virgin. Each are members of the life-death-rebirth club. There is just as much evidence supporting the existence of any of them. (Zilch).

Some say, well, prove George Washington existed. There are numerous refer-

ences to George Washington being real, from what others wrote, to what the man himself wrote. Jesus wrote nothing, put nothing in writing, and is only the subject of 4 different books, by anonymous writers, in the bible, and no where else .

Scholars believe the name Easter is derived from Oestar, Ostera or Eostre a goddess of spring and renewal ,a fertility goddess, for whom a spring festival was held annually. It is from this pagan festival that some of our Easter customs have come. The egg may be the "oldest and most universal symbol of rebirth and new life.

Even before the birth of Christ, Egyptians and Persians dyed eggs in bright colors and gave them to friends as a symbol of renewed life.

There are absolutely no verses, anywhere in the Bible, that authorize or endorse the keeping of Easter celebration! The Bible says nothing about Lent, eggs and egg hunts, or baskets of candy.

Easter eggs and rabbits? Both symbols of renewal, and fertility. Both parts of festivals existing before Jesus was a thought in someone's head. ♦

Favorable Column in NJ

On Feb. 20th, Walter Kania Ph.D. wrote a column in the Mansfield New Journal exhorting the faithful to learn their history. He mentioned recent research that showed humanists, agnostics, and atheists are more knowledgeable about religion than the religious themselves. It was a welcome sight to see atheists being held up as something positive in the local newspaper. Mid Ohio Atheists sent a letter of commendation at the request of one of our members to Dr. Kania for a great column and for mentioning atheists in a positive way. ♦

Isn't Atheism Illogical?

By Ron Stephens

A few years ago I took a beginning Philosophy class at North Central State College. This class actually helped to spur me onto my current past time of atheist activism.

Toward the start of the class, the instructor made the comment that atheists are stupid because they can't prove there is no god, it's impossible to prove the absence of anything. For example- it would be impossible to prove that dogs with wings don't exist. There could always be one hidden somewhere that we haven't found yet.

from us and won't allow us to have proof of its existence. So the claim of absence of evidence is evidence of absence cannot be a logical proof.

A more modern definition of atheist is one who disbelieves there is a god. This person does not assert there is no god, just that there is no evidence for god, so why believe in it. Most atheists I've read or talked to fall under this second definition.

This definition works well for atheists since they are not making a positive claim. They are merely stating that

American Atheists Convention

American Atheists will hold their national convention in Des Moines Iowa on the weekend of April 22-24. Several of our members are planning on carpooling there.

As usual, the schedule includes a great lineup of speakers, including-

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS—well known author and public speaker/debater.

P.Z. MYERS - biologist and associate professor at the University of Minnesota at Morris.

HECTOR AVALOS - professor of Religious Studies at Iowa State University and the author of several books about religion.

GRETA CHRISTINA - widely-read and well-respected blogger.

MATT DILLAHUNTY - President of the Atheist Community of Austin, host of the 'Non-Prophets' podcast.

TOM FLYNN - Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism, and the Editor of Free Inquiry magazine.

LAWRENCE KRAUSS - theoretical physicist, author, and radio commentator

JEFF SHARLET - journalist and author, wrote The Family.

EDDIE TABASH - considered one of the top Atheist debaters on the "Does God Exist?" debate circuit, on the board of directors of the Council for Secular Humanism and the Center for Inquiry and a life member of American Atheists.

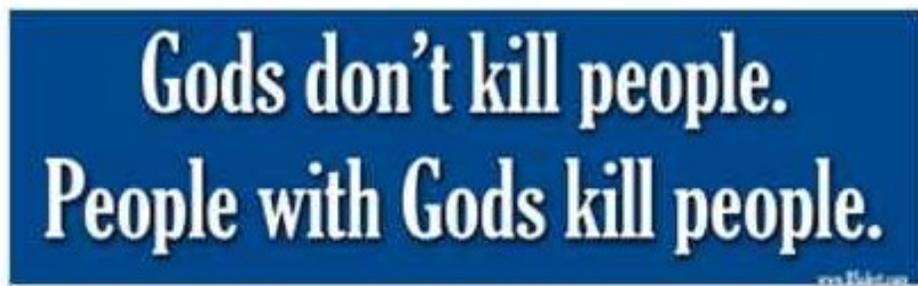
Christopher Hitchens' participation will depend upon his health. All of us who are going certainly do hope Christopher is well enough to speak at the convention.

We will be doing live blogging from the convention on our website. ♦

Atheist Humor

"... And thank you to god for making me an atheist."

-Comedian Ricky Gervais, at the 2011 Golden Globes Awards



What she said really made me angry because I considered myself an atheist and I felt she was wrong. The problem I had was I hadn't researched atheism, I just knew I didn't believe in god and felt I didn't have enough knowledge on the subject to debate her. Another issue I was confronted with was that I needed the class to graduate, so I kept my mouth shut.

After researching the subject of atheism, I learned where the instructor was making a mistake. What she needed to do was define what she meant by 'atheist'. The older definition is a person who asserts there is no god. With this definition it is true that the atheist is making a claim that can't be supported. The atheist in this definition can't prove there is no god, because the god may be hiding

March Meeting

This month's meeting will be on Sunday, March 20th, at Barnes and Noble in Ontario. Anyone that is atheist friendly is welcome to attend. ♦

there has been no convincing evidence of a god. This puts the burden of proof squarely on the theists, who have yet to meet that burden of proof.

Merriam Webster has these two definitions of atheism- a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that there is no deity. The next time someone declare atheists are stupid because they can't possible prove there is no god, just tell them to buy a new dictionary. ♦

**Mid Ohio Atheists
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