

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ..."
The first words of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution

Editorial by David Millett

When will we rid our world of religion?

The San Francisco Atheists would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the people senselessly killed at Fort Hood by [Major Nidal Malik Hasan](#) this month. The loss of these good people deeply saddens us.

I suspect damage by religious belief caused Hasan to commit this mad crime. I am not arguing that he is a Muslim Sleeper Agent or any such nonsense. It is too soon to say what motivated him; and perhaps we will never know. However, all children raised in the fantasy world of any and all religions run the risk of damage to their cognitive abilities. I have personally seen belief in religious illusions change people's minds in this way. The conflict between clear thinking and the convoluted, distorted, duplicitous, and hateful views embedded in all religious teachings causes reasoning to come apart. When you place such a person in a high stress situation they are more likely to make faulty decisions and behave badly.

This senseless act is another example of why all religions are ultimately bad for society.

News

New Web Site

We are launching an updated San Francisco Atheist web site this month. The site has a new look and feel and offers some new features. Included are:

- * A search option that enables quick searching of all site content.
- * All site photos are stored in Windows Live photo albums making it easier to find a photo and nicer to view them.
- * The new calendar offers an RSS feed so you can subscribe to the calendar and be sent an email when a new event is added or updated.

Help us test the new site by visiting it and trying it out. Please feel free to share it with your friends and community web sites.

Check it out:

www.sfatheists.com

Who We Are

On the new web site we have added the "Who We Are" tab. The purpose of this area is to identify who are the people that make up the San Francisco Atheists. We encourage all members to send the [web master](#) a one paragraph testimonial of why/how you became an atheist and a head-shot photo. We would love to know your journey and share it with others.

Essays

If you have more to say then consider writing and submitting an essay to us for review. We would love to publish your writing and thoughts on our web site. Send your PDF or Word document to the [web master](#).

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It's party time!

Winter Solstice Party

2009 is drawing to a close. And it is time we all got together to celebrate. This year's party will be held at Chevys on 3rd street and Howard. It is on Saturday December 19th from 6:30pm until we drop to the floor from fun.



See you there.

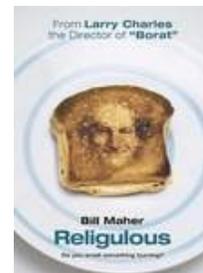
November meeting program

Religulous

Come join us at Schroeder's in San Francisco at 6:00pm Saturday, Nov 28, 2009 for our regular monthly meeting. We will be screening Religulous the movie. Politically provocative talk show host Bill Maher skewers the current state of organized religion in this hot-button documentary that derives its title from a blend of the words "religion" and "ridiculous." Making stops in Jerusalem, the Vatican and other holy destinations, Maher travels the world to talk to believers from a variety of faiths to

find out why they're so sure their religion is right -- and why they're so certain others are wrong.

There will be a discussion of the movie after.



October meeting photos

Attack of the Incas!

We had a great meeting this month. It was also very informative as Dr. Darrel Ray presented his new book The God Virus. We had a full house and many dressed to show support for those poor deluded people who really believe in ghosts and goblins.



Here are the [photos](#) from the event.

What's on

[Our Calendar](#)

[Meetup Calendar](#)

[Facebook Calendar](#)

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Uganda Humanists Group

Received our book donation

Don Havis has been communicating and working with Bwambale Robert Director of Kasese United Humanist Association in Uganda. They asked us if we would donate atheist books and related reading materials.

able to fill their request.

Below is the letter of thanks we received from Bwambale:

Through Don's good work, and your support, the San Francisco Atheists have been

Greetings and thanks for the Books

Dear Donald,

On behalf of my organization, I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the consignment of books you sent to us through the postal mail. We received them on Saturday 7th and I straight away meet all my members over the weekend and explained to them about the books. We are thanking you and the San Francisco Atheists for this generous contribution of these materials towards our project. Special thanks goes to you and Mr. Dave for playing a key role in this project.

We will keep you posted on all developments, our association is in preparation to open up a website as we have identified where we can be webhosted for free and right now we are still organizing info and photos about us to put on this site. We shall let you and your members get a glimpse at it when its ready. The books you send are good with lots of information which will equip us with Knowledge. The box was intact and not tampered with and received it in good condition. At a later stage if you come across back issues of rational magazines and literature on sciences or science DVDs do send them to us as well.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.
yours in service,
Bwambale Robert, DIRECTOR

A humanist serenade

Humanists of Washington

Here are two interesting YouTube videos performed by Jim Corbett:

[It Must Be Jesus](#)

[I am a Humanist](#)

Interesting article

U.S. opposes bid to bar religious defamation

Mark Thomas spotted an interesting article this month.

Check it out: [Article](#)

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East Bay Atheists meeting

Sunday, November 15, 1:30 - 3:30pm

Berkeley Main Library, 3rd Floor Meeting Room
2090 Kittredge St.
One Block From Downtown Berkeley BART

Paul Gehrman is the author of *Kaleidoscope*, a philosophical novel that challenges readers to evaluate the role of religious belief in society and humanity's place in the universe. The novel is not only inspirational, but contains many nonfiction elements and is based on several years of research. This month Paul will speak on his novel and his ideas.

Paul's personal view is that much of religion's negative impact (both today and historically) is based on the notion of "Original Sin." And a primary theme raised in his book is: Do we timidly accept the primitive dogma in ancient texts or do we rise to our highest potential as a species by embracing our unique abilities, trusting our own minds, and taking full responsibility for our own destinies?

Read more [here](#).

Join us for a stimulating presentation, followed by a discussion.

Copies of *Kaleidoscope* will be available for sale by the author.

Larry Hicok, Coordinator: 510-222-7580
Ski Grabowski, Treasurer: 510-652-8350

To subscribe to our monthly newsletter or for any other issues, email us at:
info@eastbayatheists.org

BART Access: From the downtown Berkeley BART Station, walk 1.5 blocks south on Shattuck Avenue, then turn right on Kittredge. The library is a half block down the street on the left.

Parking: The city parking lot at Allston & Harold Way, a short block from the library, is \$5 for the entire day on Sunday. If you don't mind walking, take University to MLK, turn right and then instead of proceeding left on Allston to the parking lot, turn right. In several blocks you will see parking on the side streets.

Our December meeting will take place on Sunday, December 13 in the Library. Details next month.

Joke of the month

