

THE NORTH TEXAS CHURCH OF FREETHOUGHT Bulletin

A FELLOWSHIP OF UNBELIEVERS

FOUNDED 1994

Vol. XIV No. II

Sunday, February 3rd, 2008

TODAY'S SERVICE



Solving Problems with Reason

We hope everyone had a wonderful solstice season, no matter which holidays they prefer. Now, however, it's back to more excellent Freethought discussions, presented by our own NTCOF members, each of which highlights the ways in which we can use facts

and reason to solve life's most confounding problems.

Trey Elmore has returned (you'll remember his "Reason or Will?" presentation from our August service) for a respite from his studies, and will be pointing out the Problem of Hell. In addition, **Don Lewellyn** has spent some time visiting one of the biggest and most successful churches in the Metroplex, and will explain to us why megachurches are such a successful church paradigm. And finally, Merlin Michaud will lead us on a fascinating voyage that was sparked by the timekeeping frustrations of sailors and the uncanny politics of clock development. And as always, we'll be treated to a **Moment of Science™**, be invited by **Brad Watson** to **Smell the Roses**, and learn more about the **Reason Driven Life**.

Of course, a service as packed with interesting content as this is relies primarily on the contributions of our NTCOF members. As members of this valuable organization, it's our responsibility to ensure that it remains the very best source of freethought-related activities in the Metroplex. Freethinkers pride ourselves in being confident and effective communicators of our ideas- after all, as a tiny minority in this area of the Bible Belt, we HAVE to be just to stay afloat in a sea of superstition and supernaturalism. The best way to hone these skills is to present a 5-10 minute talk on any subject you think would be interesting to your fellow freethinkers. After all, everyone you see presenting today was once sitting in the chair you're in right now. Please see NTCOF Pastoral Director Tim Gorski or Executive Director Zach Moore at today's Service, or send them an email to explain your idea. You can reach them at:

pastor@churchoffreethought.org
exec-director@churchoffreethought.org

COMING IN MARCH

You'll remember that last month, there was a rumor that pioneering church/state separation activist **Ellery Schempp** would be coming to speak for the Freethinkers of UTA at the end of February. This has been confirmed- Mr. Schempp will be speaking on "The Constitution and the Bible" at their February 28th meeting. Please check out their website for more details:

www.freethinkersofuta.org

In addition to that engagement, Mr. Schempp has accepted an invitation to speak at our next Sunday Service held on **Sunday, March 2nd, 2008**. Be sure to spread the word, and invite a friend to this special service! We'll meet at the Wyndham D/FW North Hotel in Irving, located at the corner of Hwy. 114 (John Carpenter Freeway) at Esters Blvd. The address is 4441 Hwy. 114, Irving, TX 75063, and the telephone number is 972/929-8181. We'll begin promptly at 10:30 AM, and Freethought Sunday School will be available for young Freethinkers.

We'll be turning over nearly the whole service to Ellery Schempp, who will be examining the question of whether Freethought can be considered a religion. This question, as you know, is of crucial interest to the NTCOF, and of course has important legal and social implications as well.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and friendly discussion at Jason's Deli in Irving, located just south of I-635 on MacArthur, at 7770 N. MacArthur Blvd., phone 972/432-0555. Easy driving directions: To reach Jason's from the Holiday Inn: turn **RIGHT** out of the parking lot onto Esters Blvd., **RIGHT** onto Freepoint Parkway, **RIGHT** to enter I-635 EAST. Exit I-635 at MacArthur Blvd., then **RIGHT** onto MacArthur, and **RIGHT** again just ahead into the Jason's parking lot.

Games Night: The NTCOF Games group meets nearly every Friday night at the smoke-free IHOP at 2310 Stemmons Trail in Dallas.

The IHOP is adjacent to the Radisson Hotel along Northwest Highway, about a ½ mile east of Loop 12. For the latest details, join the NTCOF Games e-list by sending any e-mail message to:

ntcof_games-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Freethought Forum Discussion Group: The Forum is reorganizing! If you'd like to be part of the new Freethought Forum group, check in online with the plans and talk about where & when to meet and how to kick-start the new group! It's online now in the Freethought Forum section of the NTCOF Bulletin Board:

<http://churchoffreethought.org/bb>

Secular Singles Social Luncheon: Sunday, February 24, 1:30 PM. The Freethinking NTCOF Singles meet for lunch and Freethought fellowship on the fourth Sunday each month at Mimi's Café in Grapevine, located in front of the big Target store along Hwy. 114 just west of Wm. D. Tate; phone 817/410-7270.

Join the NTCOF Secular Singles e-list for the latest info. To get on the list, just send any e-mail message to:

ntcof_singles-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

NTCOF Food Critics: Last month we kicked off a new social group, the NTCOF Food Critics, whose goal is to sample new and interesting restaurants in the Metroplex, while also promoting casual conversation and friendship. The premier restaurant was Cristina's in South Lake- contact Social Director **Brad Watson** for more details:

social@churchoffreethought.org

FREETHOUGHT PODCASTS

Since July of 2007, the NTCOF has been podcasting its monthly services from its website. We're currently reaching about 75 people per day, and have provided over 5000 downloads. But in addition to the NTCOF, there are a lot of Freethought podcasts available to keep your MP3 player full of Freethought the whole month long.

Are We Alone? (SETI): podcast.seti.org

Dogma Free America: dogmafreeamerica.com

Humanist Network News: ihs.libsyn.com

The Good Atheist: thegoodatheist.net

The Skeptic's Guide to the Universe: theskepticsguide.org

CLICK & SHOP WITH NTCOF!

Don't forget that you can help support NTCOF every time you shop online at Amazon.com! Just start your Amazon shopping session from the Amazon link on any page of the NTCOF Web site, and a portion of Amazon's profits on your purchase will go toward supporting us godless heathens!

Point your browser at the NTCOF website and click on the Amazon link along the left-hand navigation bar. It won't cost you another dime, and we earn up to 6% of your purchase in a commission from Amazon!

Also, remember that you can get 'official' NTCOF apparel and merchandise at our CafePress online store. Visit today, and help support the NTCOF!

www.cafepress.com/ntcof

MARCH BLOOD DRIVE

It's almost that time again for us to spill our Freethinker blood to help save the lives of our fellow North Texans, no matter their religious affiliation. Carter BloodCare will be setting up a mobile collection unit at Jason's Deli just after our March service- be sure to eat a good breakfast, come to the service, and try to donate! We have a reputation as the most prolific church-based donor group (per capita), so please help us keep it that way! Contact our Outreach Director **Cash Foley** for more details:

outreach@churchoffreethought.org

The North Texas Church of Freethought

A Fellowship of Unbelievers

Tim Gorski, MD Pastoral Director
Zachary Moore, PhD Executive Director

Deborah Boak Youth Director
Cash Foley Outreach Director
Georgene Harkness Treasurer
Don Lewellyn Operations Director
Bill Waller Welcome Director
Brad Watson Social Director

3000 Custer Road • Suite 270-353 • Plano • TX • 75075

24-hour answering line: 972/395-5343

Web site: <http://www.churchoffreethought.org>

E-mail: info@churchoffreethought.org