

OCTOBER 2019



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NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



PLEASE JOIN US OCTOBER 6TH

Discussion of Frans de Wall's TED talk on The Morality of Animals

Led by Charles Gessert

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Discussion of Frans de Waal's TED talk on The Morality of Animals

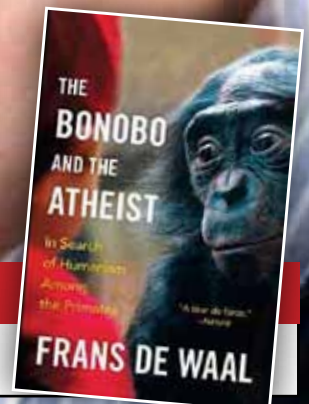
Led by Charles Gessert

We will be viewing and discussing Frans de Waal's short film "Moral Behavior in Animals," which may be located on YouTube under "Moral Behavior in Animals." In discussing the film, we will be examining the sources of moral behavior in humans, with specific focus on the degree to which morality arises from nature vs. culture. Some of the ideas and findings – and questions – from Frans de Waal's 2013 book "The Bonobo and the Atheist" will also be presented and discussed.

Franciscus de Waal (born October 29, 1948) is a Dutch primatologist and ethologist. He is a Professor of Primate Behavior in the Department of Psychology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory. He is the author of numerous books including *The Bonobo and the Atheist*, *Chimpanzee Politics* and *Our Inner Ape*. His research centers on primate social behavior, including conflict resolution, cooperation, inequity aversion, and food-sharing. He is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Click the Link below for a review of the book "The Bonobo and the Atheist"

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/mind-reviews-bonobo-and-atheist/>



Upcoming LSF Presentations



DATE	PRESENTER	TOPIC	HOST	REFLECTION
Nov. 3rd	Jane Whitledge	Thomas Paine	Jim Lyttle	Dr. Bill Van Druten
Dec. 1st	Jim Lyttle	Civil Communication	June Carter	Jan Resberg
Jan. 5th	Bill Guse	New Evangelical Themes		Dr. Charles Gessert
Feb. 2nd	Howard Mooers	Charles Darwin		Jim Lyttle

October 16th LSF Social Dinner with Sue Anderson

Join us at 5:30 pm at
Grandma's Salon & Grill!



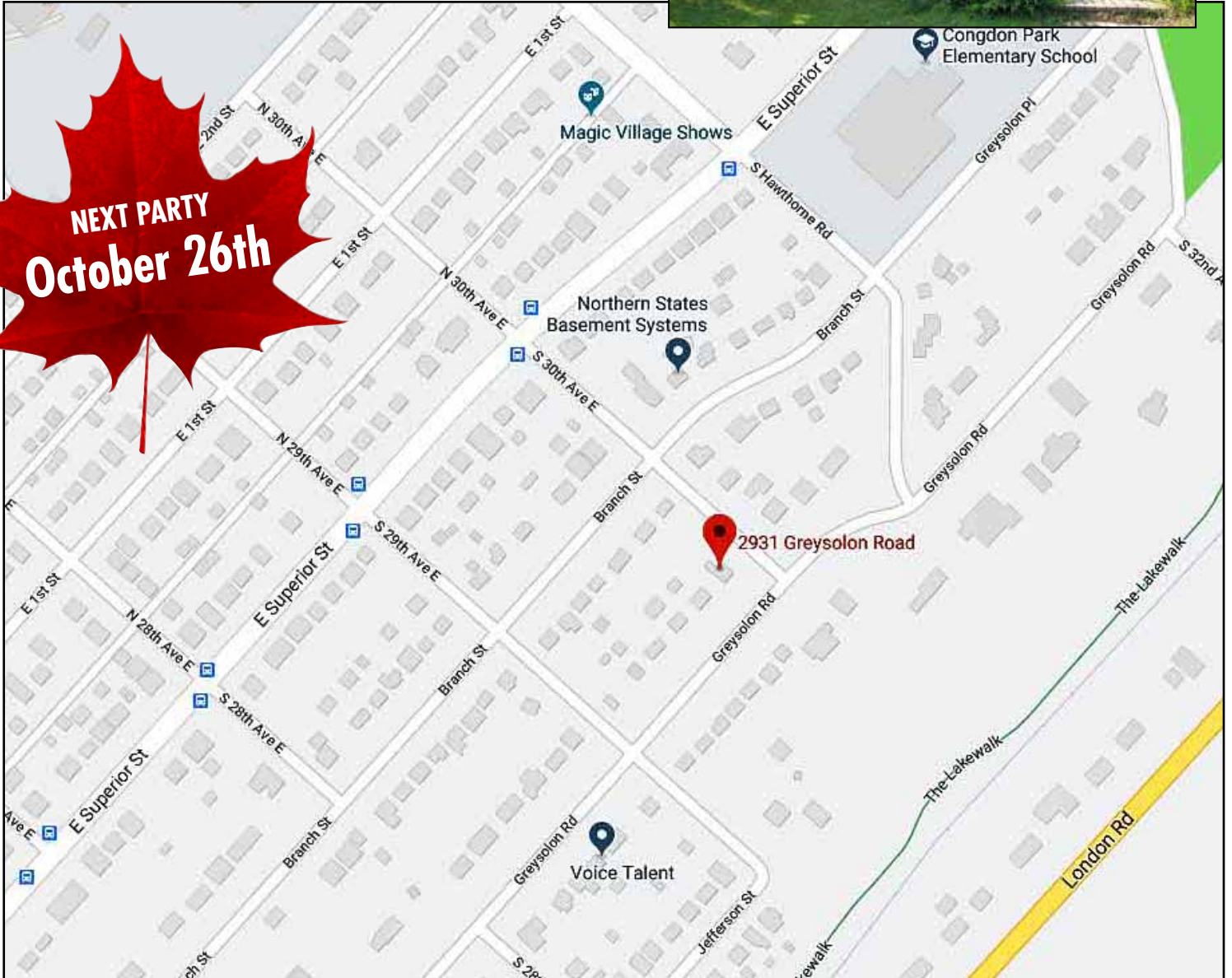
First Thursday LSF Happy Hours with Tom & Gerry

Join us **October 3rd** and every first Thursday of the month at **Mexico Lindo** in the **Fitger's Brewery Complex** for Happy Hour from **4:00–6:00pm**. Your hosts **Tom and Gerry** are looking forward to sharing food, drink, and lots of fun with you.



Pavilion Parties Continue!

Starting in October, Pavilion Parties will continue all year long on **the fourth Saturday of each month** at the home of our Flounder, Dr. Bill Van Druten. Plan to arrive between 3 and 4pm. Bring a food item you have made, or maybe an interesting libation to share with other attendees. We'll talk and laugh at Dr. Van Druten's lovely home: 2931 Greysolon Road in Duluth. Park anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!





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FFRF's new billboards oppose S. Dakota 'In God We Trust' law



The Freedom From Religion Foundation is placing eye-catching billboards in South Dakota's largest cities to protest a new state law requiring "In God We Trust" in public schools.

One billboard is going up for a month on West 41st Street in Sioux Falls and the other at Baken Park in Rapid City. The Sioux Falls billboard message will move to a new location the week of Sept. 23, to 41st Street, 1200 feet west of Cliff. And FFRF will place the message up on a billboard in Pierre, the state capital, that same week on Highways 14 and 83.

The billboard message features an irreverent cartoon showing the presidents immortalized on Mount Rushmore skeptically proclaiming "There goes the neighborhood" as the motto "In God We Trust" is carved into the mountainside. The cartoon was penned for FFRF by Steve Benson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist who formerly worked for the Arizona Republic.

"There has been such concern expressed by our South Dakota members and from Americans across the country over this misguided law," comments Annie Laurie Gaylor, FFRF co-president. Gaylor notes that "In God We Trust" is an outdated and mischief-making motto that was adopted at the height of the Cold War. She calls it divisive, saying it fosters the false perception that piety is somehow equated

with patriotism. That perception has bred discriminatory attitudes toward nonbelievers, who are consequently at the bottom of the totem pole when it comes to social acceptance.

Yet many prominent U.S. Founders were Deists and promoters of the Enlightenment. Our nation's original motto, E Pluribus Unum [out of many, come one], chosen by the distinguished committee of Jefferson, Adams and Franklin, fosters the concept of unity. "In God We Trust" is a completely inappropriate motto for our nation, given the fact that the U.S. Constitution is itself godless, and the document's only references to religion are exclusionary, such as barring any religious test for public office.

"We hate to see a captive audience of public schoolchildren targeted by the Religious Right and the Christian Nationalists who are behind this legislation," adds Gaylor. Project Blitz, a legislative assault to flood state legislatures with bills promoting hard-line Christian Nationalist views, is behind South Dakota's new "In God We Trust" law and many other "model bills" intended to entangle religion and government. Project Blitz is the brainchild of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is a leading state/church watchdog whose 30,000-plus members (which includes members in South Dakota) are largely nonreligious.

FFRF publishes Don Addis' 'Cartoons for the Irreverent'

In an era that can definitely use a lot less religion and a lot more humor, the Freedom From Religion Foundation has the perfect offering: a new book, "Cartoons for the Irreverent," celebrating the wit of editorial cartoonist Don Addis.

If you can make someone laugh about a controversial subject, aren't you halfway there to converting them to your point of view? This unique



collection of cartoons by Don Addis will bring a smile, while making you think.

Addis, who died at 74 in 2009, was the legendary daily editorial cartoonist of the St. Petersburg Times, who penned his delicious and deceptively gentle jibes at religion and other foibles for 40 years, six days a week. This collection represents a bit more than 1 percent of his life's work, which Don once put at more than 11,150 cartoons. But FFRF considers them to be the *crème de la crème*.

"No one could puncture sanctimony like Don," recalls his friend and colleague Robyn Blumner, a former St. Petersburg Times columnist who is now CEO of Center for Inquiry.

The collection of more than 150

cartoons is largely made up of those penned exclusively for FFRF and its newspaper, Freethought Today. Addis, a longtime FFRF member who was famous for giving away his original cartoons, first started sending FFRF his cartoons dealing with religion in the early 2000s.

When Don retired in 2004, he went into overdrive, penning cartoon after brilliant cartoon for Freethought Today, FFRF Co-President Annie Laurie Gaylor relates in her warm introduction. After being published in FFRF's periodical, the funny, brilliant and irreverent cartoons sadly languished in a file drawer until Gaylor resuscitated them and turned them into this long-overdue book celebrating Don's life and genius.

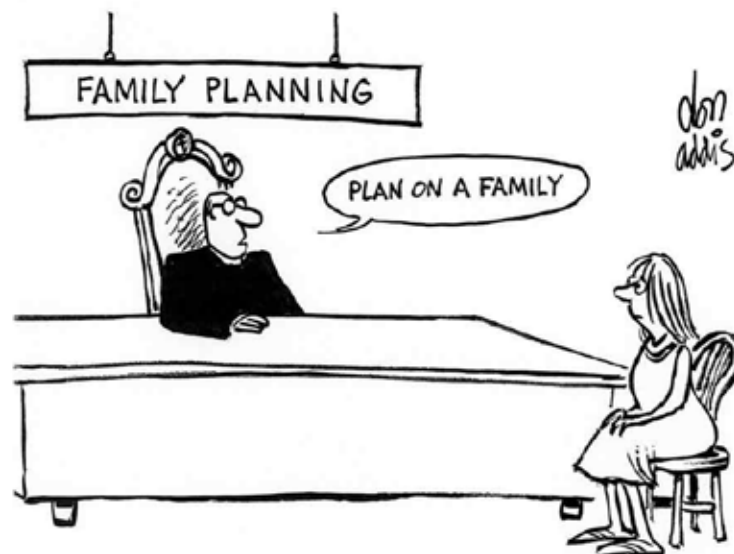
Don's views on religion, science (mis)education and the Christian Right remain as prescient and timely today as when he penned them 10 or 15 years ago. His cartoons are loosely organized into sections: those on freethought and atheism, science versus religion, feminism and gay rights, the dangers of church/state entanglements (Don's speciality), and toons lampooning religion and true believers.

Don's email moniker was inkyfeller@aol.com and his cartoon "signature" was the ubiquitous fly appearing in most of his toons. The fly was an inside



joke with his mother-in-law, even after she became his ex-mother-in-law. But Don was himself a "fly on the wall," observing and skewering human failings, such as our tendencies to credulity, blind faith, piety and sheep-like conduct.

FFRF thanks its graphic artist Jake Swenson for design, the Center for Inquiry and the Tampa Bay Times for permission to reprint several of the cartoons Don drew for them, and FFRF Attorney Patrick Elliott for his help.



The book reprints a memorial column appearing in the St. Petersburg Times about Don by colleague Andrew Meacham.

The large paperback is the perfect gift for you or the freethinker on your list, and is now available from ffrf.org/shop (\$15 postpaid). All profits benefit FFRF.