



# DULUTH THINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHOUGHTERS

**Join us Sunday May 1st LIVE at St. Scholastica's  
Somers Lounge to hear UMD's Dr. Richard Davis discuss**

# Mormonism

See page 2

Founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith in upstate New York. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has distinctive practices, and beliefs about the afterlife, a pre-existence, Jesus in America, and the nature of God, that set it apart from other Christian denominations

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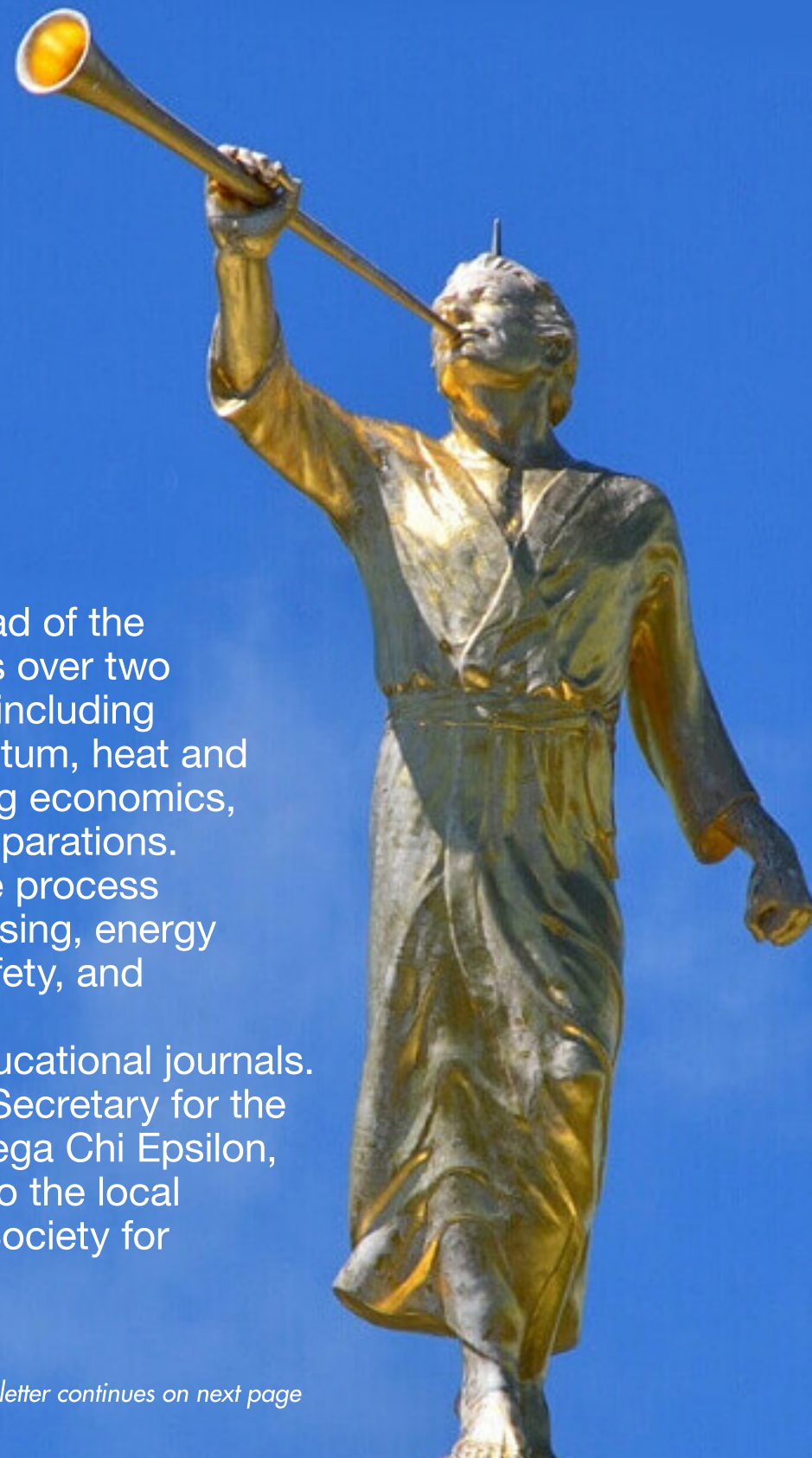
MAY 2022

# Join us Sunday May 1st LIVE at St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge to hear UMD's Dr. Richard Davis discuss **Mormonism**



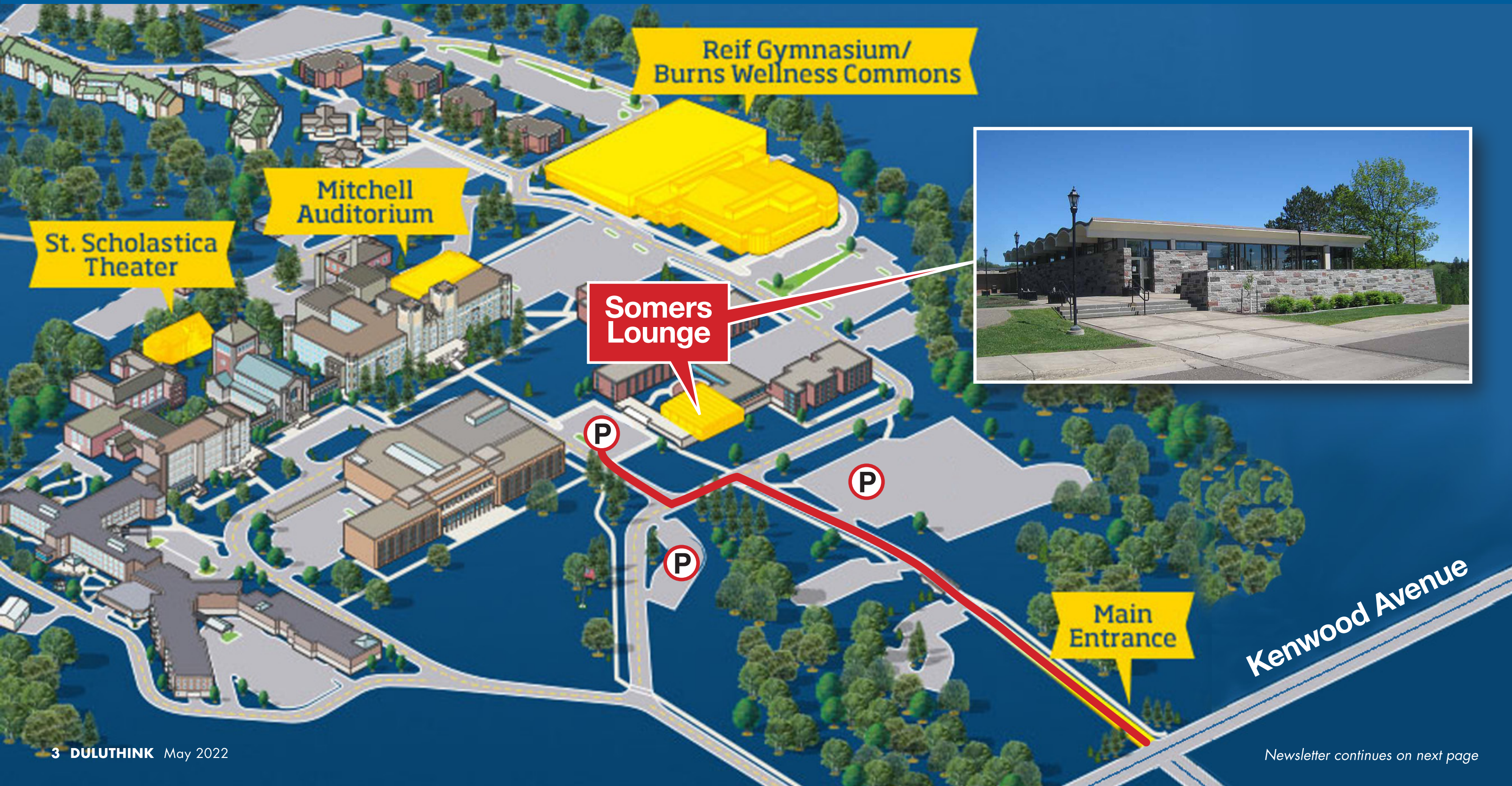
Dr. Richard Davis is Professor and Department head of the Chemical Engineering Department at UMD. He has over two decades experience teaching a variety of courses including computational methods, unit operations of momentum, heat and mass transfer, chemical reactor design, engineering economics, bioprocess engineering, green engineering, and separations. His current teaching and research interests include process modeling and simulation applied to mineral processing, energy conversion, pollution control, chemical process safety, and environmental management.

He publishes regularly in both technical and educational journals. Professor Davis currently serves as the Executive Secretary for the National Chemical Engineering Honor Society Omega Chi Epsilon, and is active in AIChE and ASEE. He also serves as the academic adviser to the local engineering student chapters of Tau Beta Pi, Omega Chi Epsilon, and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration.





# Directions to St. Scholastica's Somers Lounge, 1200 Kenwood Avenue





MAY 2022

# Next Pavilion Party Saturday May 28th



**Pavilion Parties continue on the fourth Saturday of each month at the home of our “Flounder”, Bill Van Druten.**

Plan to arrive at 1pm. 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 home: 2931 Greysolon Road in Duluth. Park anywhere on Greysolon Road but not on 30th Avenue!



# Happy Hour

Join us from 4:00-6:00pm Thursday, May 5th  
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex,  
600 East Superior Street, Duluth

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 May 18th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at  
the Green Mill, 340 South Lake Avenue, Duluth**

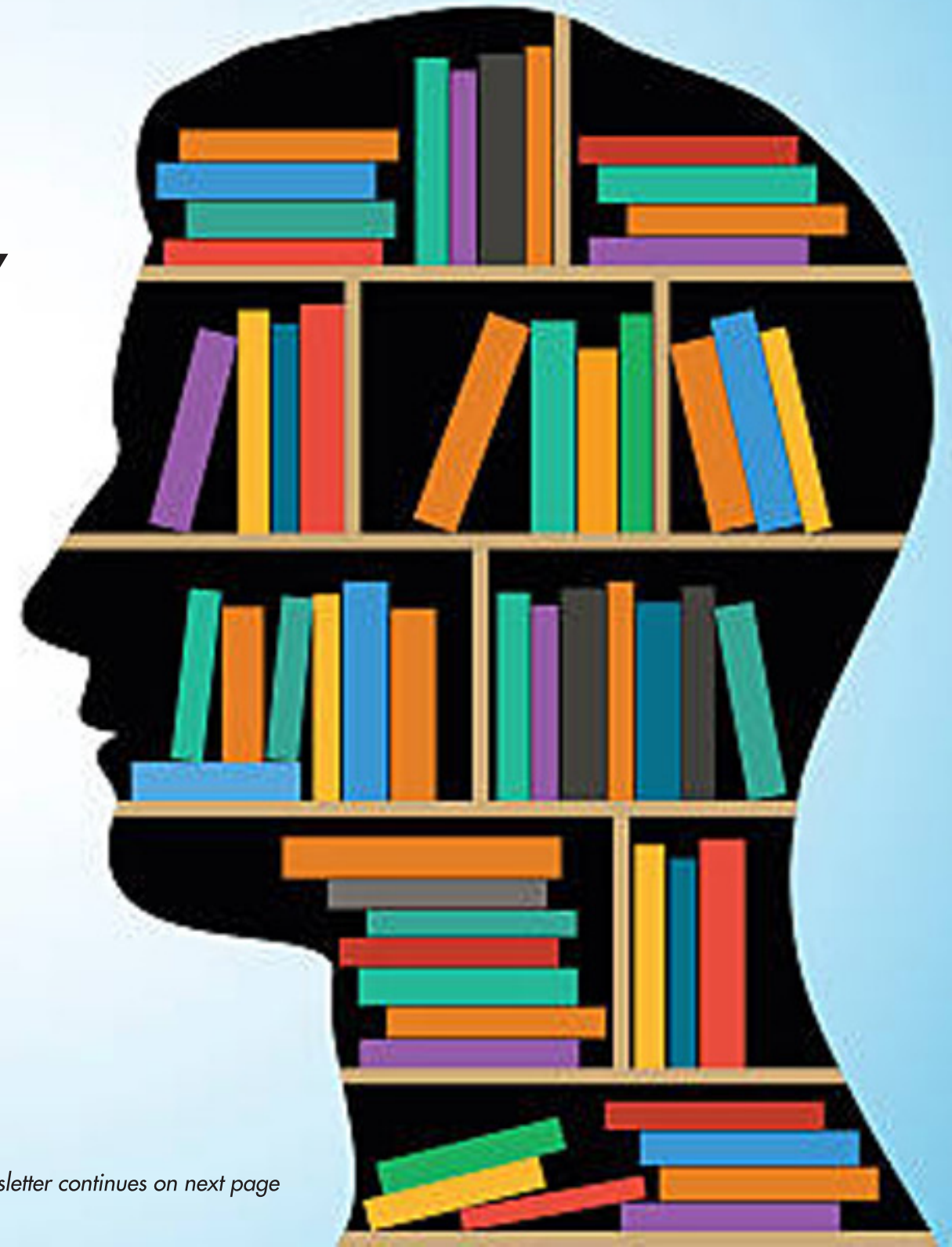






# FREETHOUGHT LIBRARY

Due to the generous donation of a superb book collection, we have been able to set up a library for use by our members. The collection can be viewed by using the Library link on our website, [LSFreethinkers.org](https://LSFreethinkers.org), or by going directly to the library at <https://LSFLibrary.librarika.com>. You will have to become a library member in order to check books out. That can be done by sending a request to Linda Crumpton who will house the collection and act as librarian. The library's email is [LakeSuperiorFreethinkersBooks@gmail.com](mailto:LakeSuperiorFreethinkersBooks@gmail.com). Once you have an account, you can make arrangements to get the book. Requested books can be brought to our first Sunday program, or picked up or delivered in another way. We hope the collection will get a lot of use and will grow over time. If you have any questions, contact Linda using the library's email address.



# Abraham Lincoln



In 1809, the 16th U.S. president, Abraham Lincoln, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. Largely self-educated, he worked on farms, splitting those famous rails, and clerking at a store. Lincoln spent eight years in the Illinois Legislature and also rode the circuit of courts for many years. He married Mary Todd; only one of their four sons lived to adulthood. While seeking the nomination for Congress, Lincoln ruefully wrote Martin M. Morris, of Petersburg, Illinois, that "There was the strangest combination of church influence against me .. everywhere contended that no Christian ought to vote for me because I belonged to no Church, [and] was suspected of being a Deist." (*March 26, 1843, Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, Nicolay & Hay edition.*)

Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglass for U.S. senator in 1858, losing the election but winning a national reputation. Elected as a Republican as president in 1860, Lincoln guided the nation during the Civil War, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, which freed slaves within the Confederacy. He

won reelection in 1864. His wise plans for peace ("With malice toward none; with charity for all") were foiled by an assassin's bullet on April 14, 1865, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Among the words inscribed at the Lincoln Memorial are Lincoln's Second Inaugural address, which, though full of conventional references to the "Almighty," astutely observes of the North and the South: "Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged."

While Lincoln punctuated his eloquent speeches with deistic references to "Divine Providence," in which he firmly believed, he was strongly rationalist and not conventionally Christian. Among the friends who testified to that was Ward Hill Lamon in *Life of Abraham Lincoln* (1872). Lamon, who was religious, had known Lincoln for years and wrote: "Perhaps no phrase

of his character has been more persistently misrepresented and variously misunderstood than this of his religious belief."

Lamon related how Lincoln wrote a "little book," probably an extended essay, to prove "First, that the Bible is not God's revelation. Second, that Jesus was not the Son of God." He took the manuscript to Samuel Hill, a shopkeeper and unbeliever, whose son considered the work "infamous." Hill reportedly snatched the book from Lincoln and threw it into the fire to protect Lincoln's political career, a story other contemporaries corroborated had been told them.

"But he never told anyone that he accepted Jesus as the Christ," Lamon noted. His book also quotes Lincoln's first law partner, John T. Stuart: "Lincoln went further against Christian beliefs and doctrines and principles than any man I ever heard: he shocked me." David Davis, who knew Lincoln for 20 years and rode with him on the court circuit, told Lamon: "He had no faith, in the Christian sense of the term." D. 1865.

*"Mr. Lincoln was never a member of any Church, nor did he believe in the divinity of Christ, or the inspiration of the Scriptures in the sense understood by evangelical Christians."*