



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



Join us Sunday December 4th at 10am at St. Scholastica's
Somers Lounge to hear Dr. David Swenson present

THE OTHER VIRUS: FAKE NEWS

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LAKE
SUPERIOR
**FREE
THINKERS**

Volume 25, Issue 12

**LAKE SUPERIOR
FREETHINKERS**

is a registered 501(c)(3)
Minnesota non-profit.
Receipts are available
for donations over \$75.

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Join us Sunday December 4th at 10am at St. Scholastica's
Somers Lounge to hear Dr. David Swenson discuss

THE OTHER VIRUS: FAKE NEWS



We are challenged daily with news reports and social media that make it difficult to determine the accuracy and intent of that information. This presentation will define fake news, briefly describe its history, explain its effects on democracy and our institutions, what drives it, how to distinguish real and fake news, and have an open discussion on its effects on ourselves.

David X. Swenson PhD LP is Professor and former Director of the MBA in Rural Health at the College of St. Scholastica and a forensic psychologist in private practice. He has been in the field for 50 years and is a consultant to health and human service agencies, law enforcement, and emergency services with an emphasis on crisis management and leadership.

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



JOIN US FOR **HAPPY HOUR**

**4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, December 1st
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex**

Meet your new favorite freethinkers at our old haunt: Mexico Lindo within the Fitger's Complex. We'll be there from 4:00 pm until 6:00pm to share stories, questions, and TexMex food choices or just some half-priced drinks. The server will validate your parking and we will validate (some of) your unusual ideas.



December Social Dinner

Join us Wednesday December 21ST at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at the revolving Apostle Supper Club on top of the Radisson Hotel overlooking Bentleyville



Next Pavilion Party December 24th

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!



Alan Alda



In 1936, Alan Alda (né Alphonso Joseph D'Abruzzo) was born in Bronx, N.Y., to actor Robert Alda and Joan Browne Alda. He began acting at the age of 16, a hobby that he continued during his time at Fordham University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English in 1956. After graduating, he spent time performing at the Cleveland Playhouse and on Broadway. Alda's best-known acting role is starring as surgeon Hawkeye Pierce on the television show "M*A*S*H" (1972-83), for which Alda wrote and directed numerous episodes.

Alda has acted in numerous movies, including "Crimes and Misdemeanors" (1989) and "The Aviator" (2004), for which he was Oscar-nominated as Best Supporting Actor. He has also written and directed films such as "The Four Seasons" (1981) and performed in Broadway plays, including "QED" (2001-02), in which he portrayed Richard Feynman. In 2019 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild. He has written two books, Never Have Your Dog Stuffed

(2005) and Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself (2007).

Alda hosted the television shows "Scientific American Frontiers" (1993-2007) and "The Human Spark" (2010). He was awarded a People's Choice Award for Favorite Male Actor in 1975 and won an Emmy in 2006 for his portrayal of a Republican senator on "The West Wing" (2004-06). Alda's character, Sen. Arnold Vinick stopped going to church and often battles the Religious Right in his own party.

He married photographer Arlene Weiss in 1957 and they have three daughters: Eve, Elizabeth and Beatrice.

Alda is open about his lack of belief but prefers to identify simply as a nonbeliever rather than as an atheist or agnostic. He told the Edge Foundation, "I still don't like the word agnostic. It's too fancy. I'm simply not a believer. But, as simple as this notion is, it confuses some people. Someone wrote a Wikipedia entry about me, identifying me as an atheist because I'd said in a book I wrote that I wasn't a believer."

"For a while in my teens, I was sure I had it. It was about getting to heaven. If heaven existed and lasted forever, then a mere lifetime spent scrupulously following orders was a small investment for an infinite payoff. One day, though, I realized I was no longer a believer, and realizing that, I couldn't go back."