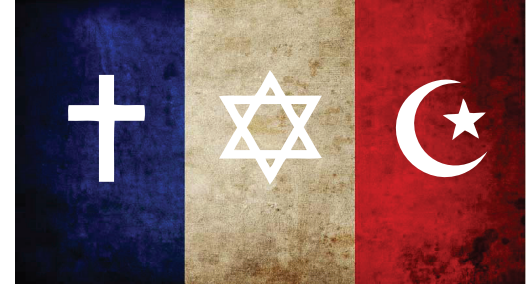




DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



JANUARY PROGRAM
Page 3

**Join us Sunday, December 1st at 10am at the Hillside Community Center,
12 East 4th St., in person and via Zoom, for a presentation by Trans
Northland Executive Director Sean Hayes.**

Transgender 101

See page 2

Upcoming January Program	Page 3
LSF Year End Appeal.....	Page 4
December Happy Hour.....	Page 5
December Social Dinner.....	Page 6
Rachel Bloom	Page 7



L A K E
SUPERIOR
**FREE
THINKERS**

Volume 27, Issue 12

LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

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

NEWSLETTER

doctorbill@lsfreethinkers.org

CHAIR

THOMAS PATTEN
tpatten@chartermi.net

VICE-CHAIR

DAVID COLE
dcole@d.umn.edu

TREASURER

CHARLES GESSERT
CGessert@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

DON FRASER
dfraser456@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

ROD FROSETH
JUNE CARTER
DAVID BELLERT
ALICIA GASKIN

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

BILL VAN DRUTEN
SUE ANDERSON



Transgender 101

Sean Hayes, Trans Northland Executive Director

Sean Hayes is passionate about building strong, joyful communities. For over 8 years, he's been an advocate and organizer for the transgender and queer community. As co-founder and executive director of Trans Northland (TN), a non-profit in the Twin Ports, Sean helps provide support and connection to transgender folks and those across the gender spectrum. Sean leads peer support groups, offers Trans 101 training, and organizes events like Transgender Day of Remembrance, Trans Day of Visibility, and Trans Joy Fest.

It's not uncommon for people to feel confused about transgender issues. For example:

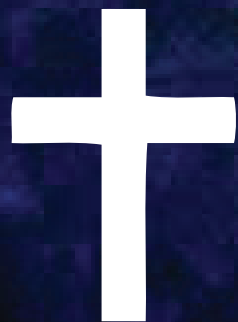
- How does gender identity differ from sexual orientation?
- Why do some people use non-binary or gender-neutral pronouns?
- What is the process of transitioning?

In this presentation, Sean will share his own story, present Trans 101, and answer some of your burning questions surrounding transgender issues.

**Join us Sunday January 5th to hear LSF's
David Bellert give a presentation on**

LAÏCITÉ

**The 1905 French law on the separation of religion
from the state and it's modern challenges.**



LSF Year End Appeal

As 2024 nears closure, we look back to what we've done as an organization that supports our rights and freedom to think and live free of religious obligation. Our work as members of LSF to provide a place to gather, learn, and find like-minded friends is more important now than it ever was.



This year LSF organized several social opportunities every month. Our attendance at these events continues to grow. Our First Sunday Gathering and Presentations centered mostly around Understanding Christian Nationalism. We had yet to learn a year ago how spot-on our focus would be. We brought specialist speakers to you like Brad Onishi, Angela Denker, Dan Dwyer, Shawna Weaver, Jen Schultz, and Sean Hayes along with our own creative and experienced LSF presenters and panelists.

Each year we engage in a partnered project with a local organization. 2024 was no different as we raised funds and leveraged a matching grant for ongoing youth work at Life House in Duluth

In 2024 we worked hard at our outward-facing presence in the Arrowhead and Twin Ports area adjusting and adapting to use technology and the skill of our members to send a clear message that LSF is a place to come to learn, grow, and find friends.

In 2025 we'd like to continue to raise the bar again just a bit because we know that we can do more. We want to offer more relevant resources to you and attract more local people who will enjoy and benefit from our programs and social opportunities. To do that we can use a bit more funding.

Will you consider a year-end gift to Lake Superior Freethinkers? Or, will you consider monthly support? Your support is tax deductible and we make it easy for you to give in several ways.



Go to lsfreethinkers.org and click the "Donate With Paypal" button. You can use your PayPal account or any credit card to make a one-time gift or set up monthly support.



Hand a check payable to Lake Superior Freethinkers to any of our Board Members at our First Sunday Gathering on December 1st or even in January.



Mail your check to: Charles Gessert, Treasurer, PO Box 3219, Duluth, MN

JOIN US FOR **Happy Hour**

**4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, December 5th
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's Brewery Complex**

Meet your fellow Freethinkers at our old haunt: Mexico Lindo within the Fitger's Complex. We'll be there from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm to share stories, questions, and TexMex food choices or just some half-priced drinks. Park in the public garage and bring your ticket. The server will validate your parking and we will validate (some of) your unusual ideas. Why not bring a friend?

**Join us Wednesday December 18th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner.
SILO's Restaurant, Pier B Resort, 800 West Railroad Street.**



Rachel Bloom



On April 3rd 1987, entertainer Rachel Leah Bloom, was born in Los Angeles to Shelli (Rosenberg), a musician, and Alan Bloom, an attorney. She was raised in Manhattan Beach with what she called a “heavy” Jewish identity. While the Blooms weren’t observant, her parents were “always going to Holocaust museums” and were “all up on who’s Jewish in Hollywood.” (Tablet online, July 8, 2014)

When she was 10, she dropped out of Hebrew School because it conflicted with her interest in taking theater classes. She engaged in her passion for theater throughout her childhood and attended New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where she received a BFA in 2009.

Bloom is best known for her co-creation of “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” (2015-19), in which she had the starring role. The dark-humored television series is centered around the life of a young woman suffering from anxiety and depression while searching for happiness. Bloom’s empathy with those who, like her, struggle with mental illness, motivates her work as an activist for improved quality and availability of mental health care for all who need it.

She is also a proponent of women’s rights and issues, believing that feminism and humanism are inseparable allies. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Dan Gregor, whom she married in 2015. They have a daughter, born in 2020.

“[When] the Constitution established a separation of church and state. That’s so important, because if you look at almost any religion, especially the major three, there is an oppression of women. I feel very lucky to be in a country with a more secular mindset.”

— Interview, The Scientist magazine (May 2003)