

JANUARY 2025



DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

Join us Sunday, January 5th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St., in person and via Zoom, for a presentation by LSF's David Bellert on



Laïcité



The 1905 French law on the separation of religion from the state and it's modern challenges. *See page 2*

New Zoom link Coming!

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LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

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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

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JANUARY 2025

Join us Sunday, January 5th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center,
12 East 4th St., in person and via Zoom, for a presentation on

New Zoom link Coming!

Laïcité

Presented by LSF's David Bellert



David Bellert lives in NE
Carlton county with his wife Christina
and dog Pixie. They enjoy the outdoors
through cycling, hiking, canoeing and
identifying native plants

The principle of laïcité in France is implemented through a number of policies, primarily based on the 1905 law. The French government is legally prohibited from recognizing any religion (except for legacy statutes like those of military chaplains and the local law of Alsace-Moselle).

The 1905 French law on the Separation of the Churches and State (French: Loi du 9 décembre 1905 concernant la séparation des Églises et de l'État) was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on 3 July 1905. Enacted during the Third Republic, it established state secularism in France. France was then governed by the Bloc des gauches (Left Coalition) led by Émile Combes. The law was based on three principles: the neutrality of the state, the freedom of religious exercise, and public powers related to the church. This law is seen as the backbone of the French principle of laïcité (secularism). It is however not applicable in Alsace and Moselle, which were part of Germany when it was enacted.

Join us for *Happy hour*

**4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, January 2nd
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.



**Join us Wednesday January 15th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner
at Blackwoods, 2525 London Road, Duluth**



Bruce Willis



Actor Walter Bruce Willis was born on a military base in Germany on March 19th 1955. He was raised Lutheran and grew up in Penns Grove, New Jersey, attended Montclair State College, then moved to New York City. Willis waited on tables and bartended while looking for acting jobs. He was cast for one of his first roles as a bartender by a director who spotted him tending bar. Willis' TV break came in the series "Moonlighting" (1985). His first box office hit was "Die Hard" (1988).

Among his earlier movies are three "Die Hard" sequels, "Look Who's Talking" (1989), "The Bonfire of the Vanities" (1990), "The Last Boy Scout" (1991), "Pulp Fiction" (1994), "Twelve Monkeys" (1995), "The Jackal" (1997), "Breakfast of Champions" (1999), "The Sixth Sense" and "The Story

of Us" (1999). Since then he has made at least one movie every year as of this writing in 2022. He is the recipient of a Golden Globe, two Primetime Emmy Awards and two People's Choice Awards. He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2006.

Willis was married from 1987 to 2000 to actress Demi Moore and married actress Emma Heming in 2009. He and Moore have three daughters, Rumer, Scout and Tallulah. He and Heming have two daughters, Mabel and Evelyn.

Willis' family announced in March 2022 that he had retired from acting after being diagnosed with aphasia, a language disorder that affects the ability to communicate. It can be caused by a stroke, head injury, brain tumor or other disease.

"Organized religions in general, in my opinion, are dying forms. They were all very important when we didn't know why the sun moved, why weather changed, why hurricanes occurred, or volcanoes happened. Modern religion is the end trail of modern mythology. But there are people who interpret the Bible literally. Literally! I choose not to believe that's the way."

— Willis interview, George magazine (July 1998)