



# DULUTHINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS



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**Join us Sunday, June 1st at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St., (at the side door), in person and via Zoom for a presentation by LSF's Charles Gessert**

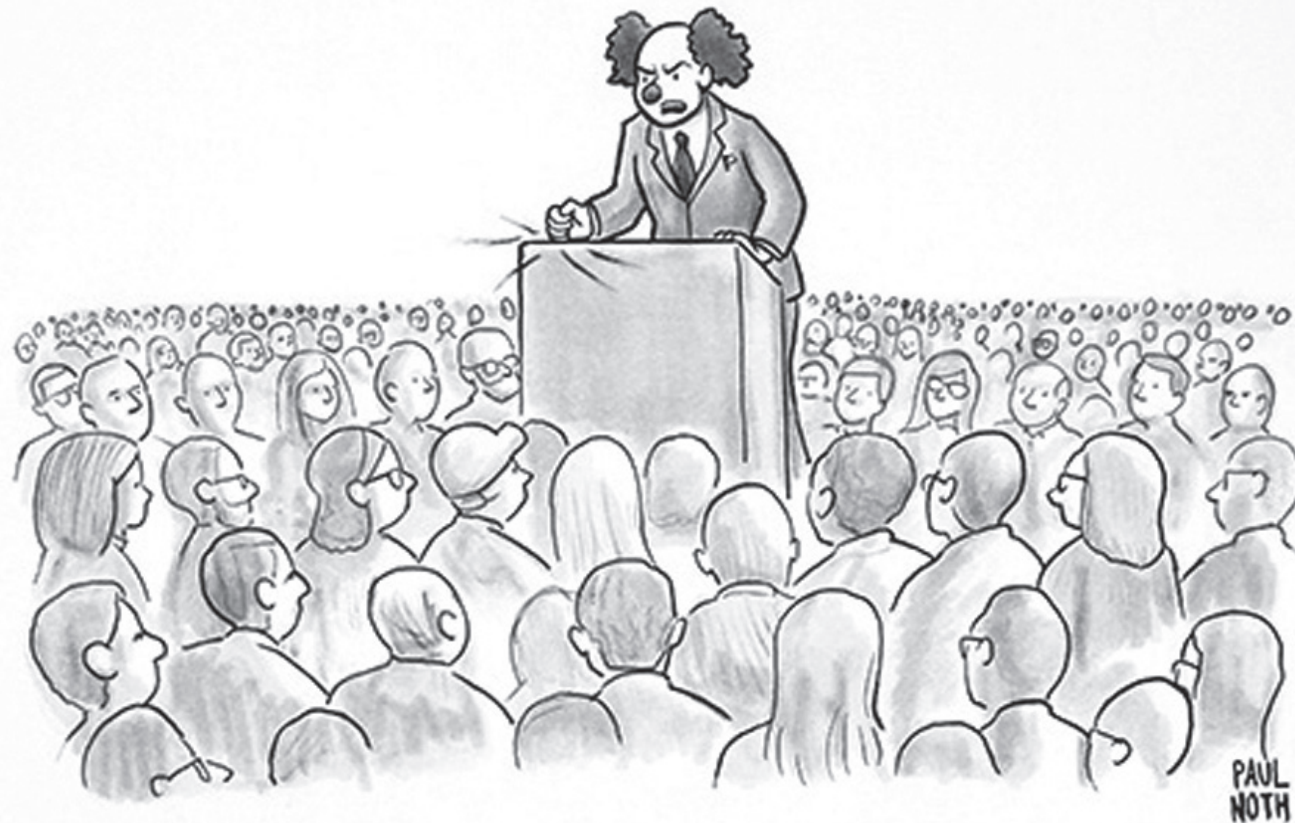
# LAUGHING AT POLITICS

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**Doors open for coffee and chat at 9:30 am**

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"Other countries are laughing at us!"



LAKE  
SUPERIOR  
**FREE  
THINKERS**

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**LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS**

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**CHARLES GESSERT**

is the Treasurer of Lake Superior Freethinkers. He is a retired physician, a regular contributor of letters-to-the-editor, a stamp collector and a minor political activist. He recently presented a 16-hour course "Challenges For Democracy" to UMD's University for Seniors.

JUNE 2025

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# LAUGHING AT POLITICS

**O**n Sunday, June 1st, the Lake Superior Freethinkers will present "Laughing at Politics," featuring political cartoons drawn from Charles Gessert's vast collection. In addition to displaying dozens of cartoons on many contemporary political topics, Charles will provide a brief analysis of the art of political cartooning, and commentary on some of the themes and techniques used by effective cartoonists.

**To join the meeting via Zoom, click the link below**

<https://zoom.us/j/92979628251?pwd=Pvw6OQDacOBpxaPc3v1d2bw9quo94L.1>



# Join other members of Lake Superior Freethinkers, and become a member of FFRF



Lake Superior Freethinkers is a chapter of the **Freedom From Religion Foundation**. An annual individual membership of \$40 supports FFRF's hard-working office, their educational and legal work, and includes: Ten issues a year of the *Freethought Today* newspaper, fully reporting on FFRF actions and news.

————— **Learn more at [FFRF.org](https://www.ffrf.org)** —————

FREEDOM  
FROM RELIGION  
*foundation*



# JOIN US FOR **HAPPY HOUR**

**4:00-6:00 pm Thursday, June 5th at Mexico  
Lindo, Fitgers Brewery Complex.**



**Mexico Lindo will validate your  
parking and we will validate your  
skepticism about religion.  
See you there!**





# June Social Dinner

Join us June 18th at 5:30 pm at Chambers Grove Park for our first outdoor Summer Social Dinner of 2025. Bring your own food and beverage.

Chambers Grove Park is located at 131st Avenue West.





# NEXT PAVILION PARTY SATURDAY JUNE 28TH

**Pavilion Parties continue on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1pm at the home of Bill Van Druten, 2931 Greysolon Road.**

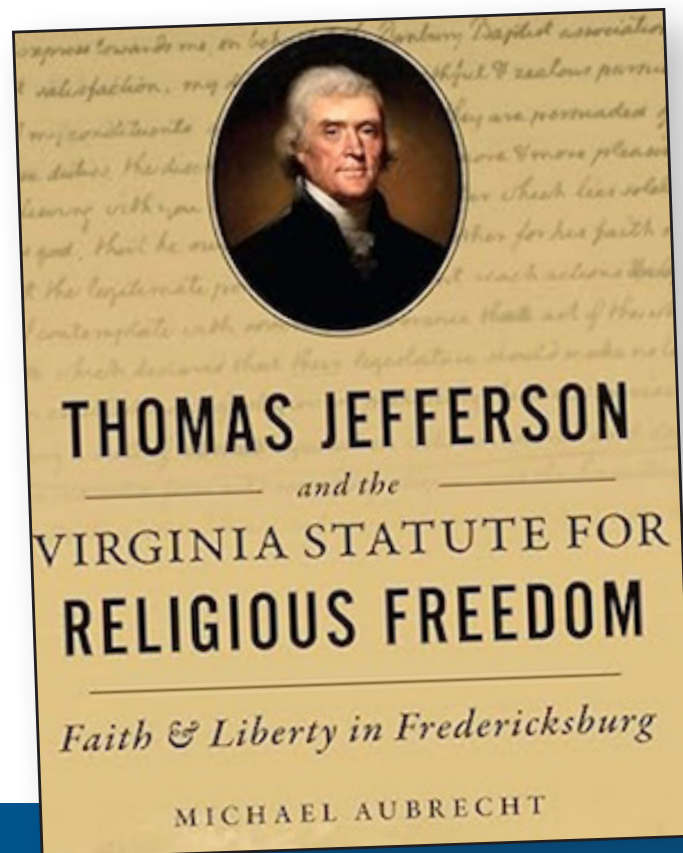
Please remember that we can park anywhere on Greysolon Road, but NOT on 30th Avenue



Plan to arrive at 1pm. Consider bringing something to share. Maybe some leftovers or a snack you've prepared or maybe some liquid concoction that's fun to drink. We'll talk about religion, old friends, new venues, bird watching, weather etc.



# Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom Enacted 1786



**O**n January 16th 1786, Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom passed the Virginia General Assembly. The preamble to its three paragraphs is a sweeping indictment of state-dictated religion, noting that "false religions over the greatest part of the world and through all time" have been maintained through the church-state alliance: "To compell a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical. ... Our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry."

The heart of the statute has been replicated in differing versions in most state constitutions. So important was the statute to Jefferson that he gave these instructions for the epitaph to be placed on his tombstone: "Thomas Jefferson/Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom & Father of the University of Virginia." Omitting his two terms as president, Jefferson wrote these were the "testimonials that I have lived and by which I wish most to be remembered."

*"That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or belief: but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities."*

— Jefferson, *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*, enacted Jan. 16, 1786