

Join us Sunday October 5th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th Street (at the side door), in person and via Zoom for a conversation with Diane Desotelle and Jordan Johnson, candidates for Duluth City Council



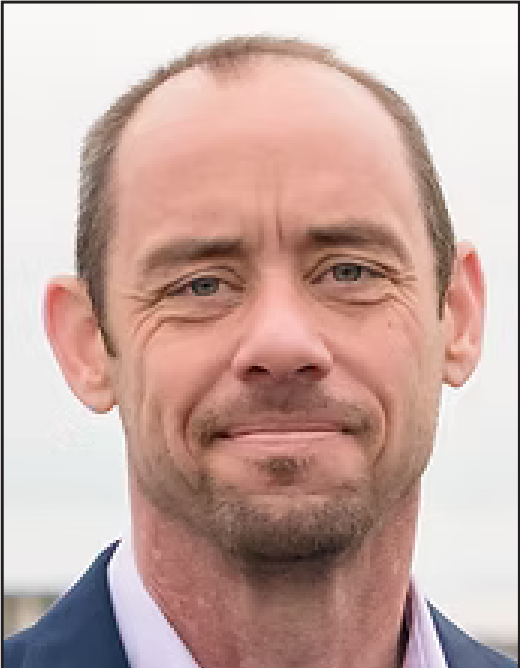
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DULUTH CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES, A CONVERSATION

Doors open for coffee and chat at 9:30 am

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LAKE
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OCTOBER 2025

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DULUTH CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES, A CONVERSATION

★ ————— **Diane Desotelle** ————— ★

Diane Desotelle and her husband raised two children in Duluth who are proud graduates of Duluth Public Schools. One way they live their values is owning one car and biking or walking to work/play as often as possible. Diane volunteers for climate action, environmental, local food and housing groups. For fun and recreation, she enjoys hiking or skiing, playing guitar, gardening, and writing stories. By trade, Diane is a civil engineer and land use planner who knows what it takes to build and maintain clean water, sewer, and road systems. She's owned a small business and taught math to middle and high schoolers, water resources and environmental education at the college level, in our federal prison and to decision makers. She has worked to



preserve and restore public green spaces and volunteered as an advocate for shelters to save lives and housing to end homelessness. Diane knows what it takes to fund and support the work needed for projects that serve us all. In her years of work with the city and the state, she has built the understanding and knowledge needed to work with a diversity of partners to not only help the environment but sustain our economy and social fabric. Diane is focused on encouraging local investment and attracting new markets for a more sustainable local economy, stewardship of our parks, trails and natural systems, tackling Duluth's housing and homelessness issues, unleashing the power of volunteers in our community, and educating our citizens about planning for climate change.

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★ ——— **Jordan Johnson** ——— ★

Jordon Johnson, PhD, was born and raised in Duluth where he graduated from Marshall School in 1990. After completing his doctorate at the University of New Mexico, he returned back to Minnesota to be close to his mom and extended family. Jordon is an only child and raised by a single mother who worked multiple jobs throughout his childhood. His dad, who passed away in 2022, grew up in Duluth and graduated from Central High School. Upon moving back home, Jordon has brought a wealth of knowledge, initiatives, and effective actions to lift up individuals and families in the area especially our young people.

Jordon has spent 20 plus years working alongside community members as an educator, in executive leadership, and an engaged volunteer in different



capacities. He believes in the power of the people to create positive and sustainable change that benefits us all. He has taught in higher education, worked in nonprofit organizations, and is a public health champion. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Center of Alcohol and Drug Treatment.

Jordon brings a wealth of lived experience and knowledge related to advocating to lift up community health and wellbeing. He is a first-generation college student, living a recovery path, and embracing who he is as a transman. He enjoys running, training and spending time in the outdoors with his dog all year around. He has run Grandma's marathon multiple times, did a New York Half Ironman last year, and training for his first full Ironman in Wisconsin this September.

Sinclair Lewis



Harry Sinclair Lewis was born in Sauk Centre, Minn on February 7th, 1885. The novelist wrote such enduring classics as *Main Street* (1920), *Babbitt* (1922), *Arrowsmith* (1925) and the irreverent *Elmer Gantry* (1927). The title character, a preacher, is portrayed as a rogue and hypocrite who steals freethinker Robert G. Ingersoll's "Love" as his signature sermon.

Lewis' other books include *It Can't Happen Here* (1935) and *The God-Seeker* (1949). An unbeliever since his days at Yale, from which he graduated in 1908, Lewis was married twice and had one son. In 1930 he became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humour, new types of characters." (He had refused an earlier Pulitzer Prize.)

In his autobiographical sketch for the Nobel committee, Lewis noted that although he traveled widely, he had "lived a quite unromantic and unstimulating life." He was dubbed "the conscience of his generation" by Sheldon Norman Grebstein. (D. 1951)



Lewis purchased this house at 2601 East 2nd Street in Duluth's Congdon Park neighborhood in 1944. He owned the property from 1944 to 1946. While residing at the house, he wrote two books: *Minnesota Diary*, 1944-46, which was published while he lived there, and the controversial *Kingsblood Royal*, which was published after he moved in 1947. It has been speculated that *Kingsblood Royal* was based on a fictional Duluth, referred to as "Grand Republic, Minnesota" in the book. Lewis sold the property to the Dominican Nuns, who used the house as a convent from 1951 to 1992.

"It is, I think, an error to believe that there is any need of religion to make life seem worth living."

— Lewis, quoted by Will Durant in *"On the Meaning of Life"* (1932)

LSF OCTOBER HAPPY HOUR

Start your Oktober Fest early!

Join your fellow Freethinkers at Mexico Lindo in the Fitger's Brewery Complex, Thursday October 2nd from 4 to 6pm, for LSF's October Happy Hour.



OCTOBER 2025



Join us Wednesday October 15th at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner at Fitger's Brewhouse "Barrel Room" (Accross the hall from the Brewhouse). Besides locally famous craft beer the Barrel Room features a full bar where we will first have a mixer/ social/happy hour before seating ourselves for dinner.

Plenty of validated parking in the Fitger's ramp.

LSF OCTOBER SOCIAL DINNER

