

The November AFS Meeting

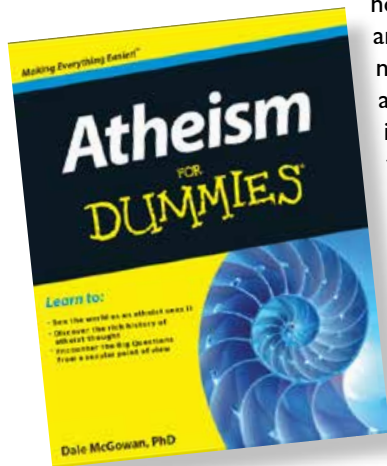


Dale McGowan

Dale McGowan, a nationally acclaimed atheist/freethought/humanist writer and speaker, will provide our program this Sunday, November 10th. McGowan, famous for witty, engaging talks and writing, will talk about his latest book **Atheism for Dummies** as

well as related matters. We consistently provide our members and others with great programs, but this promises to be one of the best of recent years.

Dale McGowan is in great demand across America as a speaker for good reasons. McGowan



noted that his talk and his book are not in fact aimed at “dummies” but instead “at people who lack information on a topic and want more.” He added that he’s “eager to learn as well as to inform.”

McGowan writes a popular secular blog, “**The**

Meming of Life” (<http://parentingbeyondbelief.com/blog/>), has conducted secular parenting workshops across North America, is the executive director of **Foundation Beyond Belief**

(<http://foundationbeyondbelief.org/>) which is a humanist charitable and educational organization, edited **Voices of Unbelief** (Greenwood, 2012), and edited/co-authored **Parenting Beyond Belief** (AMACOM, 2007) and **Raising Freethinkers** (AMACOM, 2009).

Dr. McGowan was named 2008 Harvard Humanist of the Year.

McGowan’s books will be available for purchase after the lecture and there will be a chance to get him to sign books as well.

Before the meeting, be sure to note that we are having a potluck lunch and social hour starting at noon. See the notice in the box at the bottom of this page to see your requested dish.

We are also looking for people who would like to form a grounds committee on an ongoing basis.

Bring your friends along with you— visitors are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Calendar

- 11/10 Potluck lunch 12:00 p.m.
- 11/10 AFS General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- 11/23 Open Mic & Chili Cookoff 7:00 p.m.
- 12/15 AFS General Meeting 1:00 p.m.

All events are at AF Hall unless noted and are subject to change.

Be sure to like AFS’s Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought>

Grounds Committee

AFS is looking for people who would like to be on the Grounds Committee for 2014. It’s a great way to get fresh air while making Freethought Hall a better place to be. Please see a board member for more information.

The November Potluck

Before the regular November 10th meeting, we will have a Potluck Lunch, starting at noon. Join AFS members and guests for some good food and great socializing. Please bring food according to the first letter of your last name:

- A-G: Bring a side dish**
- H-P: Bring a main dish**
- Q-Z: Bring a dessert**

AFS will provide drinks, plates and silverware.

Programs and Speakers

All programs are on the second Sunday of each month at AF Hall, 4775 N. Church Lane SE, Atlanta, GA, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 1:00 PM, but feel free to arrive at 12:00 for socializing. Visitors are always welcome.

The views and opinions expressed by speakers at AFS do not necessarily reflect those of AFS members or its policy.



Nov 10: Dale McGowan, Executive Director of Foundation Beyond Belief, will speak on his new book *Atheism for Dummies*.

Dec 15: Newcomers and visitors to Atlanta Freethought Society might think that 'freethought' is synonymous with 'atheism'. However, atheism is simply a likely consequence of more fundamental ideas embraced by freethinkers and secular humanists alike. In this talk, **Dr. Dennis Martin** will discuss some of those fundamental ideas, how they arose in history, and how you can show their importance to your non-freethinking friends.

AFS Email List

The AFS Announcements email list provides subscribers with reminders and updates on AFS activities. Send an email to AFS-Announce-subscribe@yahoo.com to subscribe. The AFS Forum email list is a place for discussions of freethought, atheism, agnosticism, church-state separation and religion. To subscribe to this list, send an email to AFSForum-subscribe@yahoo.com. For information on other AFS email groups, visit the AFS website at <http://www.atlantafreethought.org>.

The Atlanta Freethought Society is a member-run organization dedicated to advancing freethought and protecting the rights and reputation of freethinkers, agnostics, atheists and humanists.

We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about living a good life free from religion through attending AFS speeches, debates, and discussions. We employ protests, letters to the editor, broadcast appearances, and any other reasonable and civil means available to achieve our mission.

We define freethought as "the forming of opinions about life in general and religion in particular on the basis of reason and the evidence of our senses, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief."

We actively support a strict separation of church and state as the best means to guarantee liberty for all, regardless of religious belief or lack of belief.

We seek to educate ourselves on many topics but especially on religion and non-religion. We do this through a series of thought-provoking speakers and programs, and by maintaining a web forum and an extensive library of freethought, religious, and related books, pamphlets, videotapes, and audiotapes.

We provide an organization where freethinkers and non-theists can develop friendships, talk freely, socialize and enjoy each other's company. We do not discriminate against anyone on such irrelevant grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, or physical disability. We welcome members and leaders of all political parties and preferences.

Because we are designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) educational organization, contributions to AFS are tax deductible.

Any who are like-minded are welcome to join us.

Atlanta Freethought News An AFS Publication

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Atlanta Freethought News

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\$20 for low income.

Membership includes AFNews by email or mail.
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Send E-mail to **afs@atlantafreethought.org**.

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Saving Georgia's Rivers

by Cristhtian Perez Molina

photographybymolina.com/blog/saving-georgias-rivers

October 28, 2013 in Documentary

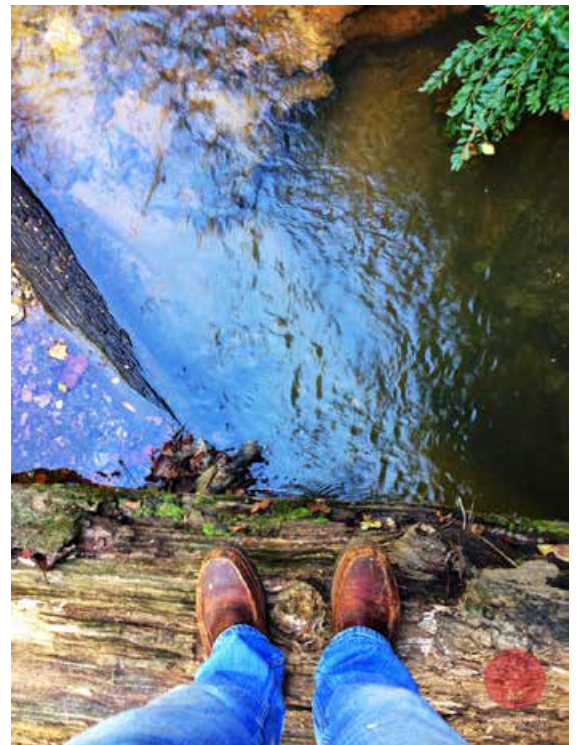
Hello everyone,

I wish to share with you some photographs I took on Saturday, October, 26th. That's the day I drove out to Marietta to help members of the Sierra Club, Atlanta Freethought Society, and some Life University students, in an effort to clean the Rotenwood Creek that runs through the university's campus and later feeds into the Chattahoochee River. It was a cold October morning, but despite the cool temperatures, many people showed up

to participate. I've been a Member of the Sierra Club for a few months now, but this was my first volunteer outing I've had the opportunity to take-part in—and I really hope it is not my last one. I had such a great time—the people were wonderful and the nature trail that swerves down the creek was breathtaking. Through our combined efforts, we were able to reduce the amount of trash what was cluttering the creek—in total, 14 tires and 12 large trash bags were collected and removed from one of Georgia's beautiful creeks. To learn more about the Sierra Club, you can visit their website [HERE \(http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/\)](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/). If you're interested in the Atlanta Freethought Society, their information can be found [HERE \(http://www.atlantafreethought.org/\)](http://www.atlantafreethought.org/). I hope you'll enjoy the images! :)



Photos courtesy of
Cristhtian Perez Molina



Photos from AFS and Black Nonbelievers booth at Atlanta Pride Festival, Piedmont Park

by Ed Buckner





Freedom From Religion Foundation applauds court action in Messiah case

<http://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/19023-ffrf-applauds-court-action-in-messiah-case>

October 28, 2013

The Freedom From Religion Foundation hailed action by the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct late last week directing disciplinary charges be filed against a judge who ordered a baby's name changed from "Messiah" to "Martin."

FFRF Senior Staff Attorney Rebecca Markert had formally requested the state judicial board review the actions of Child Support Magistrate Lu Ann Ballew of Cocke County. The parents, Jalessa Martin and Jawaan McCullough, were disputing their 8-month-old son's surname (not the first name, Messiah) when Ballew interfered.

In her Aug. 14 letter, Markert noted that Ballew had violated Canons 1 and 2 of the Tennessee Code of Judicial Conduct, imposing "her own religious beliefs upon parties coming before her, thus calling into question her ability to conduct herself in a manner that 'promotes' public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary."

"The word 'messiah' is a title, and it's a title that has only been earned by one person, and that one person is Jesus Christ," Ballew told WBIR-TV in Knoxville in August. Another judge in September had held that Ballew's ruling was unconstitutional.

A three-member investigative panel of the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct on Oct. 23 found "reasonable cause to believe [Ballew] has committed judicial offenses."

Messiah was the 387th most popular name for boys born in the United States last year, according to the Reuters, based on Social Security card filings. Reuters found 762 applications for boys named Messiah in 2012.

Read FFRF's original press release (<http://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/18558-ffrf-seeks-probe-of-tennessee-magistrate-who-ordered-boys-name-changed>), which includes a link to Aug. 14 letter (http://ffrf.org/images/ballew_letter.pdf).

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, based in Madison, Wis., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational charity, is the nation's largest association of freethinkers (atheists, agnostics), and has been working since 1978 to keep religion and government separate.

Other Meetings of Interest in Metro Atlanta

Atlanta Astronomy Club meetings are usually held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at AF Hall. The November program, on the International Space Station, will be on the 16th at 8:00 pm with a newcomer Q&A session starting at 7:30. <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>

The Fellowship of Reason meets on the first Sunday of every month at 10:30 AM at AF Hall. They also have meetings for book discussion, philosophy, a classic film course, and other events. <http://www.fellowshipofreason.com>.

The Fayette Freethought Society hosts lunches, dinners, book discussions, civic activities and more. <http://www.meetup.com/Fayette-Freethought-Society/>

The Peachtree City Humanists meet often for discussions at Starbucks, lunch, dinner at She's Bistro, and more. Several upcoming events in October. <http://www.meetup.com/Peachtree-City-Humanists-PTCH/>.

GUST (Gwinnett: Understanding Secular Truths) meet often for discussions, etc. <http://gust.domek.org/>.

The Atlanta Skeptics is having their monthly meeting at Manuel's Tavern, Saturday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m. The topic is **"50 Year Anniversary of JFK Assassination."** Christian Walters, who will be giving the presentation, was one of the original Founders of Atlanta Skeptics and is part of the podcast "Ask A Canadian."

November marks the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. This one tragic event spawned what is perhaps the most enduring cluster of conspiracy theories the world has ever known. It also may have spawned the Vietnam War and an opening for a manager at a Dallas night club. But we're going to focus on the conspiracy theory thing.

Join us as we take a look back (and to the left) at magic bullets, grassy knolls, mob hits, and babushka ladies. We're going to relive those days when any assassination theory you could imagine was more likely than the laughable one about a lone nut with a rifle in a warehouse. <http://www.meetup.com/AtlantaSkeptics/>.

The Atlanta Science Tavern is meeting Saturday, Nov. 30, 7:00 pm, \$3.00, Manuel's Tavern. The topic is **"The Archaeology of a 2,000 Year-Old Ceremonial Center in Northwest Georgia,"** presented by Scot Keith, Principal Investigator and Senior Archaeologist, New South Associates.

Nearly 2,500 years ago, and nearly a millenium before the famous Etowah Mounds were built, Native Americans began to occupy a bend of the Etowah River just outside of present-day Cartersville. Known as the Leake site, the site initially served as a domestic residential settlement of local peoples. Over the next 1,000 years the site developed into a vast ceremonial center at which peoples from throughout the Eastern Woodlands came to visit.

The Leake site contains the archaeological remains of at least three earthen mounds, a large ditch enclosure, structures, and organic middens containing the refuse of both ceremonial and everyday activities. The site was also part of a larger ceremonial landscape which included a mountain across the river from the site. This mountain had a large cavern on one end that likely served as a place for ritual; the summit was enclosed by a stone wall and likely served as an astronomical observatory; and at the base of the mountain, these people buried an important leader in a log tomb inside of a stone mound.

Given the site's strategic location at the interface of several major river systems and physiographic regions, the site served as a gateway that linked the Southeast with the Midwest as a major node of an extensive interaction network that archaeologists

refer to as the Hopewell Interaction Sphere. Remains from the site reveal connections to sites and peoples from the Gulf Coast to Indiana and Ohio.

Come hear about what was happening in northwest Georgia 2,000 years ago, and how at this time peoples traveled extensively throughout the Eastern Woodlands to participate in ceremonies at religious centers, the interaction networks that developed, and the material culture they made and used as part of this network. <http://www.meetup.com/AtlantaScienceTavern>

The Black Nonbelievers of Atlanta is having their monthly meeting at Barnes and Noble at Southlake, 1939

Mount Zion Rd, Morrow GA on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 1:00 p.m. <http://www.meetup.com/Black-Nonbelievers/>

The SOS (Secular Organizations for Sobriety) meets on Tuesdays at 7:30PM in Roswell. For more information, send an email to donnaigore@yahoo.com.

There will be a **meetup for Atlanta atheists** on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 6:00 p.m. at Thinking Man Tavern, 537 W. Howard Ave, in Decatur. (<http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/>)

Another **meetup for Atlanta atheists** is scheduled for Sun., Nov. 24 at 4:00 p.m. at Five Seasons Brewery, 5600 Roswell Rd, in Sandy Springs. (<http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/>)

IIG Atlanta will have a general meeting Saturday, Nov 16 at 4:30 p.m. at Manuel's Tavern (602 N Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307). Independent Investigations Group Atlanta is affiliated with IIG-West and Center for Inquiry, and promotes critical thinking about the paranormal, supernatural and unexplained. *It offers \$100,000 for anyone who can demonstrate evidence of the occult or paranormal under properly controlled conditions.* Questions? Visit IIGAtlanta.com or contact Shaune Beattie by gmail: shaune.beattie@gmail.com. (<http://www.meetup.com/IIG-Atlanta/>).



Become a Member!

(Or renew your membership with this form or online at www.AtlantaFreethought.org!)

If you've enjoyed what you've read, we enthusiastically invite you to join the Atlanta Freethought Society. Every month you will get our acclaimed monthly newsletter, the Atlanta Freethought News, voting rights in the organization—and enjoyment of the superb speakers we have coming up, as well as the social and activist events that we sponsor!

Individual memberships: One person can become a member for \$50 per year.

Sustaining memberships: One person can become a sustaining member for \$100 per year.

Life memberships: Avoid the hassle of renewing every year. A life membership lasts a lifetime.

Paper newsletter: We encourage members to receive the newsletter by email. This avoids the printing and mailing expenses. But if you really want the paper version of the newsletter, just let us know and we will send it to you at no additional charge. (You can also pick up a paper newsletter at any AFS meeting.)

Thank you for your support! We look forward to your being with us in the coming months!

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"Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect."

—James Madison, 1774

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Dare To Think
For Yourself!



**The November 10
Meeting:
1:00 at AF Hall,
4775 N. Church Lane SE
Atlanta, GA**

**This Month's Speaker:
Dale McGowan**



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