

The March AFS Meeting

Beatrice Ford Brown: "The Scandalous Paradox of a Black Atheist"

As a way to better understand the dynamics of strong, healthy communities, Beatrice embarked upon a learning experience over 30 years ago that would grow into "one of the most fascinating fields," according to her, and one in which she has helped hundreds of organizations, teams and individuals be more productive, creative and inclusive.



Beatrice Ford Brown

As a biochemist and medical researcher in the field of cancer diagnostics, Beatrice traveled nationally and internationally teaching state-of-the art diagnostic, and biotechnology practices. It was from this environment that she began to realize the importance

of cross-cultural competence as a necessary skill set within the scientific community.

She is a certified facilitator with the National Coalition Building Institute of Washington, D.C., with expertise in leadership development, enhancing cultural competence across group identities, and train-the-trainer for peer groups. She has mediated conflicts with church groups who were challenged with decisions of accepting LGBT members. She has been instrumental in conducting difficult conversations between parents and teens who were "coming out" as gay or lesbian.

Beatrice is an affiliate at the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon. ICI is a non-profit organization whose aim is to foster an awareness of cultural differences in the US as well as around the world.

Her expertise includes facilitation, mediation, interactive learning, training games and simulations, and controversial issues processing.

As a consultant, her partial client list includes Tucson Unified School District, Boeing Aircraft Group, University of Arizona Graduate School of Business, Galen University Veterinary Medical School, Belize, Central America, Saint Joseph's College, Belize, Central America, Eureka- Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden, University of Liverpool, UK, Tucson Police Department, Tucson, Arizona

Calendar

3/13 AFS Potluck 12:00 p.m.

3/13 AFS General Meeting 1:00 p.m.

3/19 Roy Zimmerman Concert, 7:00 p.m.

3/25 Game night at AF Hall 7:00 p.m.

4/10 AFS Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.

4/10 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: www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought

and Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, CA, NTSB (National Traffic Safety Board), Tohono O'odam Indian Tribe, Tucson, Arizona.

She co-founded the Anti-Hate Crimes Task Force of Pima County and initially worked with State Attorney General Grant Woods and later with Attorney General Janet Napolitano to successfully pass the Hate Crimes bill in the state of Arizona.

Beatrice holds a BFA in fashion and design, BS in Biochemistry, and a Ph.D in Immunology, Cell Pathology and DNA repair.

The March Potluck

Before the March 13th 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.



For the latest in upcoming AFS events, join our Meetup group!
meetup.com/Atlanta-Freethought-Society

Programs and Speakers

All programs are on the second Sunday of each month at AF Hall, 4775 N. Church Lane SE, Atlanta, GA, 30339 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.

Mar 13: Bea Brown “The Scandalous Paradox of a Black Atheist”

Apr 10: Bharat Bhatia

June 12: TBA

We are always interested in finding new speakers. If you have an idea for a speaker, let a board member know. AFS pays an honorarium.

AFS Email List

The AFS Announcements email list provides subscribers with reminders and updates on AFS activities. Send an email to AFS-Announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.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@yahoogroups.com. The AFS Facebook page is at facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought. For calendar information on AFS activities, please join the [Meetup group](#). The AFS website is www.atlantafreethought.org. To keep up to date on the Atlanta Freethought Society calendar of upcoming events, please join our Meetup group: meetup.com/Atlanta-Freethought-Society.

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.

Views, opinions, positions or strategies expressed by authors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, positions or strategies of the Atlanta Freethought Society or any member thereof. The editors of *Atlanta Freethought News* reserve the right to edit or alter in any manner it sees fit any articles deemed to be obscene, offensive, defamatory, threatening, in violation of trademark, copyright or other laws, or is otherwise unacceptable; and also to correct grammar and to conserve space.



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AFS Facebook page: Laura Ross

Roy Zimmerman Concert - "This Machine"

Saturday, March 19 - 7:00 p.m., \$18



On Saturday, March 19, Atlanta Freethought is honored to present the great humorous musician Roy Zimmerman in concert at Atlanta Freethought Hall.

"This Machine" is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. The title is a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world.

"Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's



absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility of change."

Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Robin Williams, Ellen

DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

You can find his videos on YouTube:

"Creation Science 101"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulwiPsgRrOs

"The Big Republican Tent"

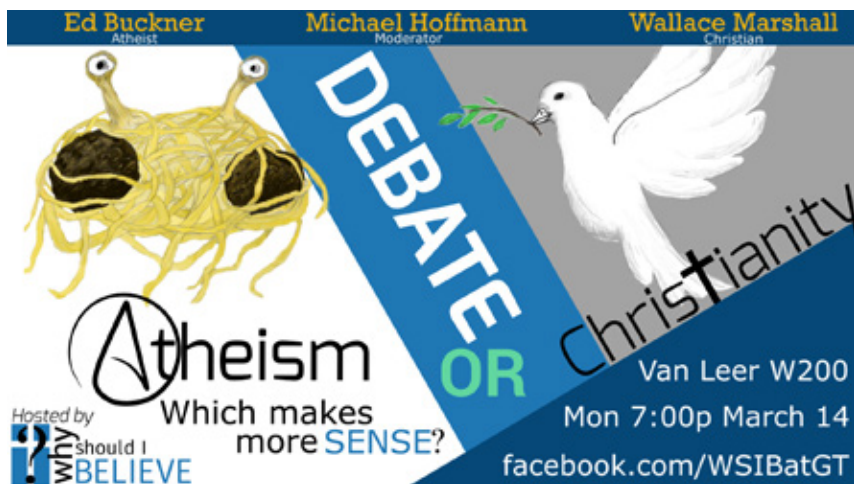
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVM5LpJH5do

"To Be a Liberal"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3qgiNPVpSM>

"My Vote, My Voice, My Right"

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-X-uBlqeVM



Why Should I Believe at Georgia Tech will be hosting South Carolina Reasonable Faith Chapter Director Dr. Wallace Marshall and former President of American Atheists Dr. Ed Buckner in a debate titled "Christianity or Atheism: Which Makes More Sense?" This will be moderated by Georgia Tech Professor Dr. Michael Hoffmann. The format of the debate will allow for more interaction with the audience than what is typical, so if you have any questions, make sure to bring them because you will get the chance to ask two highly respected individuals.



Life after Religion Mini-Conference

Featuring Gayle Jordan

*Executive Director of Recovering from
Religion International*

Phillip Rush Center

1530 DeKalb Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

Sat. March 26th 2:30-6:30 pm

Watch the AFS Meetup page

(www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Freethought-Society/)

or

AFS Facebook page

(www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought/)

for more info.

Editorial: A New Religion for the 21st Century & Beyond

by Jack G. Egger

Introduction: What if all the true and good things of all the existing religions of today could be incorporated into one universal religion? This new religion will have its foundation based on Science and Humanism without any supernaturalism and shall be called Humantology.

Most of today's religions originated between the 7th century BC to 7th century AD when the total population was only about 5 to 300 million. Life expectancy was short. The prophets had no knowledge of the science of evolution and imagined that gods created everything. Tribes had little communication, which resulted in the different gods and religions of today. If there was only one god, the prophets would have received the same message, but they didn't. Obviously, all their conclusions were imagined, therefore all these religions are false.

A prophet is one who is regarded by a group of followers as the authoritative revealer of God's will. However a better qualifier is science that produces the best predictors.

Science also has produced more miracles than even Jesus could have imagined. The scientific method is a body of techniques for investigating phenomena, acquiring new knowledge, or

correcting and integrating previous knowledge. *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines the scientific method as "a method or procedure that has characterized natural science since the 17th century, consisting in systematic observation, measurement, experiment, and the formation testing and modification of hypothesis." This procedure provides testable predictions to see if the hypotheses are true or not. This is the one and only ritual that Humantology needs.

The scientific method to date has produced no evidence to show that anything supernatural exists. In fact, it shows evidence that it does not. We now know that evolution is no longer a hypothesis but a fact and the equation $E=MC^2$ is also true. These two facts make super-naturalism science fiction; this also makes scientists the more authoritative revealer of God's will.

So what exactly is your soul? Your soul is your spirit or your total self, but it must have a human brain with your entire DNA to exist. A soul can't exist as a nonphysical "self" in any kind of afterlife because all life is a combination of mass and energy with DNA. So where is the Holy Ghost's mass and DNA? Energy without mass is just energy and not life, ghosts, or spirits. So it follows that when one dies, your soul also dies.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines religion as "conscientiousness, a cause, principle, or system of beliefs and a personal set or institutionalized system of attitudes, values, and practices held to with ardor and faith." The religion Humantology is composed of two parts: 1) The science of nature which is knowledge that is acquired by using the ritual scientific method, and 2) The code of ethics using the manifest of the Humanist Association. Humantology can bring

together all of the secular organizations, creating a more powerful religion that can compete with all the false ones and have the same tax benefits they have with the protection of the First Amendment.

False religions have built enormous infrastructures that aren't going away any time soon, but if they had competition, they might give up 7th century super-naturalism science fictions and start teaching Humantology. The buildings Humantology will use to worship the truth should be called the Lab of Reason instead of church, mosque, temple, synagogue, etc. Humantology is the only way to solve the religious conflicts in the world today. Let's give future generations a choice between 7th



century BC religions and 21st century religion.

I know secular people need to start to make this happen because, according to Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of American Humanist Association, "Prejudice against atheists remains very real, and our political system is among the most open areas in which it can be applied." It seems to me the only solution to this dilemma is to establish Humantology as the only true religion. Scientists need to step up and denounce the spread of super-naturalisms to world leaders like they did for global climate change. Super-naturalism and runaway capitalism (that which does not support the manifest of humanism) are second only to climate change as the most dangerous enemy of humanity. Humanism together with science will continue to improve life on earth and unravel the mysteries of the universe, including the God concept. By giving up super-naturalism and living in the truth of Humantology, we all can have a more fulfilling life with hope for the future.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

THE ALWAYS SUPER POPULAR ATLANTA FREETHOUGHT SOCIETY GAME NIGHT!

Due to popular demand, we're having another game night on Friday, March 25 at 7-7:30ish (depending on traffic) to 11:00 pm or so. Bring board games, card games, snacks, drinks, money for pizza if we decide to order some, and even a boom box or speaker for music would be nice too!

Discussions and plans are being made on Meetup (possibly for an additional Saturday afternoon game event), so go ahead and join up for a free Meetup membership: www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Freethought-Society/



Photos by Ed Buckner

Other Meetings of Interest in Metro Atlanta

The Atlanta Science Tavern no longer meets at Manuel's Tavern as it has closed for renovations for the next few months (and as it is cutting out the "new" large bar and the North Avenue room, don't expect to meet there anymore). However several events are listed—check the meetup page. (www.meetup.com/AtlantaScienceTavern)

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

We Agnostics Atlanta meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Galano Club, 585 Dutch Valley Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30324. Clubhouse phone number: (404) 881-9188. This is like an Alcoholics Anonymous group.

Marietta Skeptic/Humanist Meetup has various get-togethers and discussion groups. Several upcoming events. (www.meetup.com/Marietta-Atheists-Meetup/)

The Peachtree City Humanists meet often for discussions at Starbucks, lunch, dinner at She's Bistro, and more. Several upcoming events each month. (www.meetup.com/Peachtree-City-Humanists-PTCH/)

The Southern Crescent Free-thinkers sponsor Navigators, Owl & Ibis: A Confluence of Minds, and meet for dinner, etc. Several upcoming events each month. (www.meetup.com/Southern-Crescent-Freethinkers)

Fellowship of Reason meets on the first Sunday of every month at 10:30 AM at AF Hall. There are meetings for book discussion, philosophy, a classic film course, and other events. (www.fellowshipofreason.com.)

The Georgia chapter of **Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)** meets on the first Sunday of each month at AF Hall from 2:00 to 4:00. You can learn more about their topics at www.meetup.com/Freedom-From-Religion-Foundation-of-Georgia.

Recovery from Religion - Atlanta Northside Chapter will meet Wed., Mar. 9, 7:00 p.m. at Harry's Market, 70 Powers Ferry Road, Marietta, GA. Visit www.recoveringfromreligion.org. (www.meetup.com/Recovering-from-religion-Atlanta-northside/)

Recovery from Religion - Morrow Chapter meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Southlake, 1939 Mount Zion Road, Morrow, GA. There is no proselytizing of any kind allowed at these meetings. For more information and resources, please visit www.recoveringfromreligion.org. (www.meetup.com/Recovering-From-Religion-Morrow-Chapter/)

Atlanta Astronomy Club will have their general meeting on the second Saturday of the month 3-5 pm at Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Drive, Atlanta, GA. Lots more

events are available so check out the website (www.atlantaastronomy.org)

GUST (Gwinnett: Understanding Secular Truths) has their monthly meeting on Monday, Mar 14, 7:00 p.m. at UUCG, 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. The topic is "Problems of Ethics and Morality." (www.meetup.com/brights-295/)

There will be a **meetup for Atlanta Atheists** on Sunday, Mar. 13, at 6:00 p.m. at Thinking Man Tavern, 537 W. Howard Ave, in Decatur. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/)

Black Nonbelievers does not have a general meeting listed yet, but they usually meet on the third Sunday of the month. Check their Meetup page for more info. (www.meetup.com/Black-Nonbelievers/)

Atlanta Atheists Parents Meetup will have a play date at Medlock Park, 874 Gaylemont Cir, Decatur near the North Decatur/Embry Hills area Mar. 20 from 11-2. If the weather is too cold or rainy it will be at Leapin Lizards, 185 Sams St, Decatur, GA 30030. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheist-Parents-Meetup)

The Third Sunday meetup for **Atlanta Atheists** is on Sunday, Mar. 20, at 2:00 p.m. at Gordon Biersch, 3242 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/)

Sunday Assembly Atlanta will have their general meeting on Sunday Mar. 20 at 6 p.m. Ian Covell, founder of Highwire Comedy, will be leading "Improv Your Life." Have you ever felt like you have nothing to say? Struggled to work in a team? Thought it would be great to have more self-confidence? Improv might help! In this assembly, we'll be learning about what improv is at its core and how its lessons can be useful in our daily lives.

There will also be a potluck, and First Existentialist Congregation is wheelchair friendly, with childcare upon request. Please check out the meetup page for more information. (www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly/)

Atlanta Atheists Parents Meetup will have a play date at East Cobb Park, 3322 Roswell Rd, Marietta, near Marietta and Sandy Springs, Mar. 27 at 11-2. If the weather is too cold or rainy it will be at Catch Air at Town Center Market, 2505 Chastain Meadows Parkway Northwest, Suite #103, Marietta, GA 30066. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheist-Parents-Meetup)

Another **meetup for Atlanta Atheists** is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 27 at 4:00 p.m. at Five Seasons Brewing, 5600 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists)

Atlanta Skeptics - At press time, the only upcoming meetup for Atlanta Skeptics is Drinking Skeptically at 5 Seasons Brewing, Fri., Apr. 1 at 7 pm. Check their meetup page for more info. (www.meetup.com/AtlantaSkeptics)

Atlanta Atheists has first Sunday meetups each month: the place varies. Check Meetup for info on the get-together. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/)



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!

Annual dues are:

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Subscription only \$30 _____ Email: _____
Books \$ _____ Any other things you'd like to tell us? _____

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(No charge for members)
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AFS Art Display Program

4775 N. Church Lane SE Atlanta, GA 30339
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Person or entity displaying art: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Description of artwork (subject, color, dimensions, weight, frame, price, materials, other info — list on separate page if necessary):

Display dates: from _____ to _____

Owner if other than above: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Is artwork for sale? Yes / No \$ _____ Upon sale
owner agrees to pay AFS a 33.3% fee.

Terms: All artwork displays will be submitted to Atlanta Freethought Society art committee for approval (afs@atlantafreethought.org). Installation & removal will be done by artist/owner overseen by AFS art committee. Damage to building will be repaired by artist/owner. The owner assumes all risk for artwork at all times. AFS will not be responsible for any damage or loss while artwork is in our possession.

Owner agrees to terms:

Signature/date _____

AFS Art Committee approval:

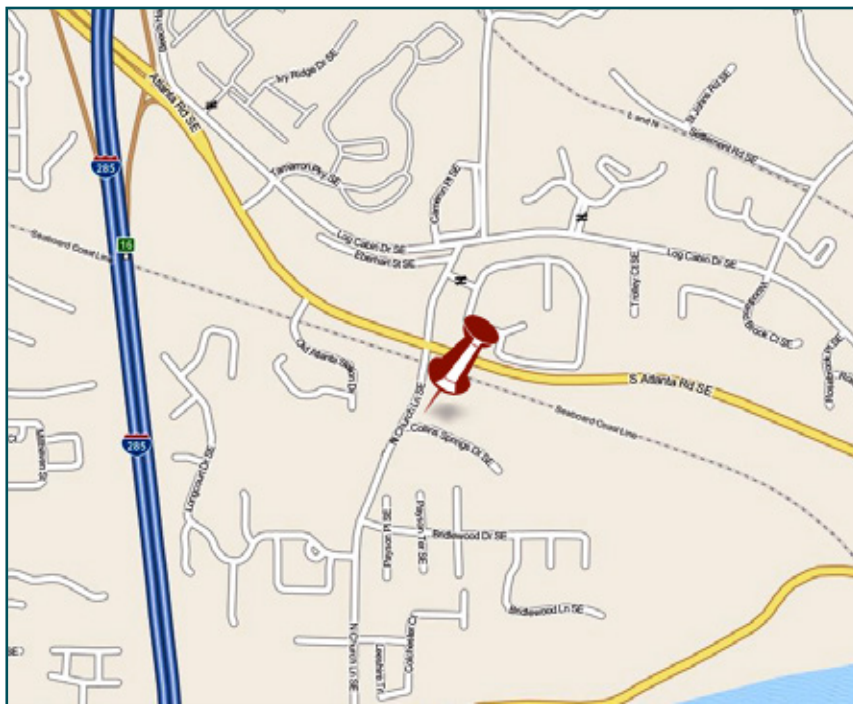
Signature/date _____

*Dare To Think
For Yourself!*



**March 13 meeting
1:00 at AF Hall,
4775 N. Church Lane SE
Atlanta, GA 30339**

**Beatrice Ford
Brown**



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