

The May AFS Meeting Herb Silverman - The Unflappable Atheist



Herb Silverman

The Atlanta Freethought Society welcomes **Herb Silverman**, who will discuss his new book *An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land* and his previous book *Candidate Without a Prayer*.

In both book and blog, Herb Silverman, the "unflappable atheist," gives his original take on today's most timely issues in the bumpy crossroads among atheism, religion, and politics. He is one of the most original and humorous voices in the secular movement today.

Why did this mild-mannered mathematics professor (Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the College of Charleston) and liberal, Jewish, Yankee atheist decide to be a candidate for governor of South Carolina? In his book, *Candidate Without a Prayer*, Herb tells that story and its unexpected results: Writing a regular column for the "On Faith" page of the *Washington Post*. Writing for *HuffPo*. Even finding a wife.

Herb Silverman is founder and president emeritus of the **Secular Coalition for America**; founder of the **Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry** in Charleston, South Carolina; and founder and former faculty advisor to the College of Charleston student Atheist/Humanist Alliance. He is a board member of the **American Humanist Association**; advisory board member of the **Secular Student Alliance**; and an "On Faith" blogger for the *Washington Post* online.

Herb has appeared in a number of debates on topics that include: "Can We Be Moral Without God?" "Does God Exist?" "Is America a Christian Nation?" He has also debated at the Oxford Union at Oxford University in England on the topic, "Does American Religion Undermine American Values?"

After an eight-year legal battle, Herb won a unanimous decision in South Carolina's Supreme Court, nullifying the state's religious test requirement to hold public office.

Calendar

- 5/14 Potluck Lunch Noon
- 5/14 AFS General Meeting 1:00 pm
- 5/14 Game afternoon after meeting
- 6/11 AFS Board Meeting 11:00 am
- 6/11 AFS General Meeting 1:00 pm
- 6/11 Game afternoon after meeting

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

Be sure to like AFS's Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought

The May Potluck

Before the May 14th 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.

Atheists threaten lawsuit after Trump Executive Order gives special treatment to churches

www.atheist.org

After President Donald Trump signed an executive order May 4 instructing the IRS to ignore future violations of the prohibition on electoral politicking by churches and religious groups, American Atheists pledged a lawsuit challenging the unconstitutional preference of houses of worship over secular nonprofits, including American Atheists, in the order.

Under current federal law, all 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Continued on page 3



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.

May 14: Herb Silverman

Jun 11: Lecia Brooks from the SPLC

July 9: TBD

Aug 13: TBD

Sept 10: TBD

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

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

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.



Atlanta Freethought News An AFS Publication

Editor: Laura Ross
Assistant Editor: Steve Yothment

How to Contact the Editor

Send correspondence to AFS at:
4775 N. Church Lane SE,
Atlanta, GA 30339,
phone Laura at 404-634-1005, or send
e-mail to Laura@LauraRossDesign.com

Atlanta Freethought Society President

Laura Ross – 404-825-0258

VP for Internal Communication

Daniel Pyron – 404-695-1907

VP for External Communication

Dwight Lyman – 404-634-1005

Secretary

John Carver – 404-822-6124

Treasurer

Diane Buckner – 770-432-3049

Board of Directors

Freya Harris – Not available
Judy Thompson – 404-296-2020
Keith Nalumango – 818-856-9677
Mark Banks – 770-354-1546
Michael Buckner – 404-633-2486
Steve Yothment – 678-364-8703

Atlanta Freethought News

Vol. 23, Number 5, May 2017
Copyright © 2017 by the Atlanta Freethought
Society, Inc. Signed articles are all copyright
© 2017 by their respective authors.

Membership in AFS is \$50/year per person,
\$20 for low income.

Membership includes AFNews by email or mail.
(Tell us which one you want.)

Sustaining Membership is \$100.

Life Membership is \$1000.

Subscriptions only are \$30 for 12 issues.

Please make checks and money orders payable to

Atlanta Freethought Society

(or *Paypal* to afs@atlantafreethought.org).

Visit our Meetup page at
meetup.com/Atlanta-Freethought-Society.

See AFS events and member views at:
facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought.

Send E-mail to
afs@atlantafreethought.org.

AFS Wordpress specialist: Dwight Lyman
AFS Facebook page: Laura Ross



Religious Liberty—Just for the Religious?

By Ed Buckner

The Daily News (Galveston, TX), April 14, 2017

A recent front-page story (“County gives up control of Meals on Wheels,” *The Daily News*, April 12) detailed an unconstitutional government action and concluded with a foolish statement supporting his unconstitutional vote from Galveston County Judge Mark Henry.

The county commissioners, apparently concerned about coming cuts from the Trump administration, have formally agreed with a religious organization — Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston — to provide services for citizens in need, using many thousands of taxpayer dollars.

This is unconstitutional, whether or not Interfaith Ministries is a good group and whether or not the citizens need the services. If religious organizations provide help, the religious believers should be the ones paying for it, with their efforts and their money. Governments at all levels are wisely prohibited by the First Amendment from opposing or promoting religious activities and beliefs.

Judge Henry said, “There’s nothing a government does that can’t be done better by a faith-based nonprofit.” This is not only utter nonsense, as a moment’s reflection would show, but it is not the kind of thing a secular judge, as a judge, should say in support of an unconstitutional decision.

Only with careful neutrality can religious freedom be protected. Quite often calls for better protection for religious liberty seem to be aimed only at defending the liberty of the religious — a mistake.

Without much doubt, the political and cultural establishment in the Galveston area is dominated by people like Judge Henry who at least give lip service to religion (and many of the elite are no doubt deeply religious). Religious folks tend to think that everyone — at least everyone worthwhile — is religious. In Galveston a majority of people belong to houses of worship (20 percent Catholic, 12 percent Baptist, 3 percent Muslim, and various others adding up to 55 percent), but what about the other 45 percent? Some of them may be rascals, but rascals have rights, too. Galveston, by the way, is pretty typical of the area: League City’s numbers are similar.

Freedom of conscience is profoundly important as a basic human right; it’s probably no coincidence that the very first freedom addressed in the First Amendment is religious freedom. Protecting it by limiting government — not by limiting citizens — is the core constitutional prescription. Those who hold dissenting or minority opinions are, it must be remembered, the ones whose rights most need protecting. Majorities, at least in a democratic republic like the United States, tend to be able to look out for themselves pretty well.

Does religious liberty for atheists and other minorities mean that the majority have to give up their own rights? No. Myths to the contrary notwithstanding, the truth, as Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1803, is that “It behooves every man who values liberty of conscience for himself, to resist invasions of it in the case of others; or their case may, by change of circumstances, become his own.”

The details matter and there is a huge amount of misinformation about this subject, and about atheism, politics and religion — and more. Judge Henry and any readers who hear claims on these subjects should contemplate and discuss with care.

Ed Buckner, Smyrna, GA

Continued from page 1

organizations—including churches—are prohibited from endorsing or opposing candidates for elected office and from spending money on electoral politics. At the National Prayer Breakfast in February, Trump promised to “totally destroy” this prohibition, which is frequently called the Johnson Amendment. The just-announced executive order directs the IRS to exercise “maximum enforcement discretion” of the Johnson Amendment which the president says is a “burden” on religious leaders.

“The purpose of this action is clear,” said **Amanda Knief**, American Atheists’ National Legal Director. “The president is caving to the demands of a small minority of religious extremists who, in fact, already engage in electoral politics. They want the benefits that come with nonprofit status, but don’t want to play by the same rules as everyone else.”

“Codifying this sort of special treatment of religious groups is fundamentally at odds with the U.S. Constitution and cannot be allowed to stand. We’ll take this all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary,” Knief added.

In talking points released Wednesday, the White House claims that religious leaders are “prohibited from speaking about politics and candidates from the pulpit.” That, however, is inaccurate. Churches and all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are permitted to engage in issue-based advocacy and education.

“They already get tax exempt status, tax deductions for their donors, and opaque finances with no disclosure, and now they want the ability to influence our elections,” added **David Silverman**, President of American Atheists. “This would allow billions of dollars in anonymous money to be funneled through churches, turning religions into the new Super PACs.”

A recent poll showed nearly 75% of Americans oppose allowing religious groups to engage in politicking from the pulpit.

Another, conducted by the National Association of Evangelicals in March, **showed that almost 90% of evangelical pastors surveyed opposed endorsing candidates from the pulpit.**

More than 4,500 leaders of religious and secular groups signed a letter opposing the weakening of the Johnson Amendment.



100 days in, Trump's chipping away at religious freedom

Liz Hayes in Wall of Separation

www.au.org

April 29 was President Donald J. Trump's 100th day in office. Although he campaigned on his 100-day "**Contract with the American Voter**," he **no longer seems** enthusiastic about the milestone. Perhaps that's because he is facing criticism for failing to achieve any major legislative victories. One thing he has accomplished: He has caused real harm to religious freedom and has made promises to do even more.

Here are five things he's done that you should know about – and how we've been fighting back:

I. The Muslim Ban

What he did: On the campaign trail, Trump **promised** a "Muslim ban" even though it's unconstitutional and un-American to single out anyone for discrimination because of their religious beliefs. Within a week of taking office, he delivered by signing a hastily drafted **executive order** barring people from coming to the U.S. from several Muslim-majority countries. Almost immediately, federal courts **blocked** the unconstitutional ban. Then he signed a second **executive order** that had the same problem as the first: It singled out Muslims for disfavor based solely on their religion. Although the order remains blocked, it has still caused real harm, including that its anti-Muslim sentiment has led to a further rise in **hate crimes**.

What we're doing: AU fought back against the ban in the courts and in Congress from day one. We **filed numerous legal briefs** in the lawsuits that challenged – and, so far, have successfully blocked – both Muslim ban executive orders. We also filed our own case, *UMAA v. Trump*, which focuses on how the ban harms the American Muslim community. In Congress, we were an original supporter of the **Freedom of Religion Act** and we led an effort to ensure a congressional hearing on religious freedom **addressed the ban**. AU has also joined **rallies** and **hosted a discussion** about how non-Muslims can be allies to their Muslim neighbors.

2. Promoting Private-School Voucher Schemes

What he did: In Trump's 100-day "Contract," he promised to introduce a private-school voucher program called the "School Choice and Education Act." We haven't seen his bill yet, but he has taken many other steps toward his goal of privatizing public education. First, he **placed voucher-proponent Betsy DeVos** at the helm

of the Department of Education. During his **joint address** to Congress and his visit to a **religious school** where many students use vouchers, Trump touted tuition tax credits, a type of voucher. And in his preliminary "**skinny budget**," he proposes to funnel \$250 million into a private-school voucher program.

What we're doing: AU, along with the **National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE)**, which we co-chair, organized an onslaught of meetings on Capitol Hill to explain why vouchers are bad education policy. We're already in the midst of the **first voucher fight** in the Trump administration and we're ready for any possible proposal among the ever-expanding variety of vouchers. But we need your help too: Learn more about the voucher schemes and take action to urge your state and **federal** lawmakers to oppose any voucher bill.

3. Rolling Back Rights For Women And LGBTQ Americans

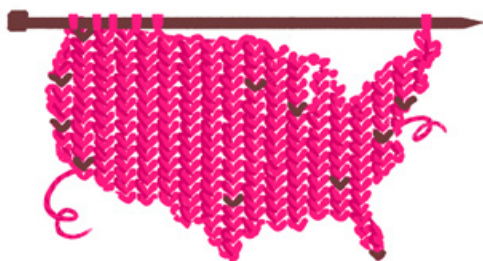
What he did: The Trump Administration has already **rescinded federal guidance** for public schools about civil rights protections for transgender students and restricted access to health care, especially for women, by signing legislation aimed at **defunding** Planned Parenthood and re-imposing the **global gag rule** that bars non-U.S. organizations that even discuss abortions from receiving U.S. foreign aid. In addition, Trump could still be considering a strikingly broad **draft executive order** that surfaced during his second week in office. The order would allow religion to be used as justification to discriminate in hiring, public services and benefits, health care, adoption and foster-care services, education and more. It targets LGBTQ people and women, but would also affect those of minority faiths, non-theists and almost anyone else.

What we're doing: Even though Trump hasn't signed the draft executive order, we've already begun our fight against it, including by filing FOIA information requests with eight federal agencies and raising it at a congressional hearing. We've also made it easy for you to **urge Trump** not to sign it. Our **Protect Thy Neighbor** campaign to ensure religion isn't used as an excuse to discriminate is more important than ever: For example, in the last few weeks we've filed legal briefs on behalf of **Gavin Grimm** and **Aimee Stephens**, transgender individuals fighting discrimination.

4. Turning Houses Of Worship Into Political Action Committees

What he did: During the **National Prayer Breakfast**, Trump doubled down on a campaign promise and said he'd "get rid of and totally destroy" the **Johnson Amendment** – the more than 60-year-old tax law that protects the integrity and independence of tax-exempt organizations, including houses of worship, by ensuring they do not endorse or oppose political candidates. **Numerous polls** show that the majority of Americans don't want their houses of worship to endorse candidates. Nonetheless, some Republicans in Congress have said they want to include its repeal in legislation to revamp the tax code, which is one the next major items on their agenda.

What we're doing: AU has been fighting efforts to repeal and weaken the Johnson Amendment since 1996 when we established **Project Fair Play**.



In response to Trump's proposal, we joined nearly 4,500 non-profits to **urge lawmakers** to maintain the current law. We helped to organize a letter from **99 religious and denominational organizations** in support of the Johnson Amendment. And we're on Capitol Hill, educating Senators and Representatives about the broad support for the law. You can **learn more** about why keeping the Johnson Amendment in place is key, and **let your legislators know** you oppose any repeal or weakening of the current law.

5. Putting People In Power Who Don't Respect Church-State Separation

What he did: DeVos is not the only Trump appointee with a troubling view of religious freedom. Perhaps the most alarming and potentially long-lasting is U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil

Gorsuch, who soon will help to decide the crucial *Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer* case as well as the Muslim ban challenges that are expected to reach the high court. Other concerning picks include U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who has disparaged church-state separation, and Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Tom Price, who has supported restricting access to birth control and health care in the name of religion.

What we're doing: We worked with allies to oppose these nominations, combing through their records and **educating** Senators and AU supporters about **the danger** these Trump picks posed to religious freedom. The work of a broad coalition and our supporters **nearly scuttled** DeVos' confirmation, which required an unprecedented tie-breaking vote from Vice President Mike Pence. Although she was confirmed, people across the country are ready to stop the bad policies she will push as Secretary of Education.

Those are just a few ways Trump and his administration have threatened religious freedom in their first 100 days in office. We've got about 1,360 days to go, and we could use your help. Visit au.org for ways to get involved in the fight to maintain the wall of separation between church and state.

The Religious Right remains fascinated with Russian Totalitarianism

Rob Boston in Wall of Separation

www.au.org

The National Organization for Marriage (NOM) is a Religious Right group founded to oppose marriage equality. The Supreme Court **upheld that concept** in 2015, so NOM has closed up shop, right?

Well, no. Since that defeat, NOM has kept busy doing other things – like trying to make the United States more like Russia.

The Washington Post **reported recently** on U.S. conservatives who are enamored with Vladimir Putin's autocratic rule. Chief among them is **Brian Brown**, president of NOM, who has traveled to Russia four times. He's very impressed with what he has seen.

"What I realized was that there was a great change happening in the former Soviet Union," Brown told *The Post*. "There was a real push to re-install Christian values in the public square."

It is true that the Russian Orthodox Church has seen a resurgence since the fall of the Soviet Union. The Soviets were aggressively anti-religion and worked to suppress faith. Under Putin, the church's fortunes have improved dramatically, and it enjoys semi-official status as Russia's traditional church.

But the country is hardly a beacon of religious freedom. Some Orthodox leaders seem to yearn for the position of official establishment they enjoyed under the czars. They aren't interested in competition. Putin's government is doing their bidding. Many religious groups in Russia are required to register with the state, and their ability to spread their views is curtailed.

"Inciting religious hatred" is a crime in Russia, a term so broad it covers a variety of actions, some of which are harmless. (A blogger in Yekaterinburg is facing three-and-a-half years **in prison** after he made a video of himself playing Pokémon Go in a church and posted it to his blog.)

The U.S. State Department recently **declared Russia** a "country of particular concern" for the way that it treats religious minorities. Most recently, the government has been taking **steps to ban** the Jehovah's Witness faith.

And much of the "re-installation" of Christian values comes at the expense of Russia's LGBTQ community. The country's notorious "gay propaganda" law, which bans the distribution of material promoting "non-traditional

sexual relations" to minors, has been used to harass members of the LGBTQ community and their supporters.

Gay rights activists are frequently assaulted, and police rarely investigate. One LGBTQ rights activist **summed up** the situation this way: "We are treated as subhuman, with no civil or human rights. We are social non-entities, and we are even considered diseased and dangerous to society."

In a decent and just society, an independent judiciary would protect the rights of the people. Not so in Russia. Courts there are hardly independent. In 2005, *The Post* **published a story** about a state body called the Qualification Collegium. It sounds like something out of a Kafka novel and it kind of is: It's a government entity that essentially gets rid of judges who dare to rule in ways Putin doesn't like.

The fact is, Russia remains an autocratic state with a well-developed security apparatus that closely monitors its citizens. As Human Rights Watch **has noted**, the country seeks to control internet access, squelch dissent and promote one-man rule.

Although it's no longer communist, Russia remains a totalitarian state. Religious Right activists, who have long yearned for a theocratic nation run by a strongman who will protect "traditional" (read: regressive) values, may find this attractive, but any American with a lick of sense knows better than to be rootin' for Putin.

Other Meetings of Interest in Metro Atlanta

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.

Gainesville Atheists are now having weekly meet-ups on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at Lake Lanier Club Business Center, 2350 Avonlea Way, Gainesville to discuss the historicity of Jesus. They are also doing outreach to University of North Georgia - Gainesville. (www.meetup.com/Secular-Atheist-Study-the-Scriptures-SASS-Gainesville)

Post-Christian Church of SHATTER meets every Sunday at 5:00 pm at 1371 Hartvord Ave SW, Atlanta. This is a new group so check out the website to find out what to expect and be sure to

RSVP: www.churchofshatter.com/sunday-service (www.meetup.com/Post-Christian-Church-of-SHATTER)

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

The Peachtree City Humanists participate in social and educational activities such as dinners, lunches, coffees, outdoor recreation, discussion groups, and book clubs with topics that include science, psychology, philosophy. (www.meetup.com/Peachtree-City-Humanists-PTCH)

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

N. Georgia Freethinkers Secularists & Humanists Non-religious freethinking adults, who at times feel somewhat isolated in this little corner of Georgia, meet for drinks, to forge friendships, have dinner parties, chat over coffee, practice debating skills, laugh, hold game nights, etc. (www.meetup.com/North-Gwinnett-Freethinkers-Atheist-Agnostic-Meetup)

The Atlanta Science Tavern has several meetings planned. Please check meetup page for more information. (www.meetup.com/AtlantaScienceTavern)

Recovery from Religion - Morrow Chapter meets on Sat, May 13 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)

There will be a **meetup for Atlanta Atheists** Sun., May

14 at 6:00 p.m. at Thinking Man Tavern, 537 W. Howard Ave, in Decatur. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists)

GUST (Gwinnett: Understanding Secular Truths) meets on the Mon May 8 at 7:00 pm at UUCG, 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville, unless otherwise indicated. The topic is "Meaningful Lives in a Secular Age." Check Facebook/Meetup pages for more information. (www.meetup.com/brights-295)

Sunday Assembly Atlanta will explore the topic of "Out of Context" on Sun May 21 at 6 p.m. at First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr NE, Atlanta. Please bring a favorite small object - a knickknack or token - to the assembly for the icebreaker! Everyone has a story to tell. Storytelling provides insight into our history, our identity, and our experiences. The stories we tell become our narratives, which fit into the larger narratives of our family, community, country, and so on. This is called context. Context tells us how we fit into our family, community, country, etc. Find out what someone does, and you have some knowledge of them. Find out someone's context, and you know who they are. Create someone's context, and you shape who they will be.

Assemblies, and the potlucks afterward, are open to the public and free to attend. SAA is an extremely active community with a large number of upcoming events including rock chorus, secular support, mindfulness meditation, wonder club, urban wonder, book club, makers night out, volunteering, queer beyond belief group, public speaking series, trivia nights, etc. (www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly)

Atlanta Astronomy Club is having a general meeting Sat, May 27, 6:30 pm at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Conference Room B, Mansfield, GA (www.atlantaastronomy.org)

Ethical Humanists of Atlanta is meeting Sun, May 28 12:30-2:00 p.m. at Manuel's Tavern, 603 N Highland Ave NE, Atlanta to have a conversation on ethical living. They meet every 4th Sunday. (www.meetup.com/Ethical-Humanists-of-Atlanta)

Another **meetup for Atlanta Atheists** is scheduled for Sun., May 28 at 4:00 p.m. at Five Seasons Brewing, 5600 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs. (www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists)

Atlanta Skeptics has "Drinking Sceptically" on the first Friday of each month. 5 Seasons Brewing, 5600 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs. (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)

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)



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:

Membership Dues# of mems Total

Individual \$50 _____ Name _____
 Low Income \$20 _____ Address: _____

Sustaining Member \$100 _____ Phone: H _____ W _____

Life Member \$1000 _____ Email: _____

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

Books \$ _____

Shipping and handling for Books \$ _____

Extra donation (Thank you!) \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Receive newsletter by email _____

(No charge for members)

Receive paper newsletter by mail _____

(No charge for members)

Save time and postage

by making a payment via **Paypal** to:

afs@atlantafreethought.org

AFS Art Display Program

4775 N. Church Lane SE Atlanta, GA 30339

www.atlantafreethought.org afs@atlantafreethought.org

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: _____

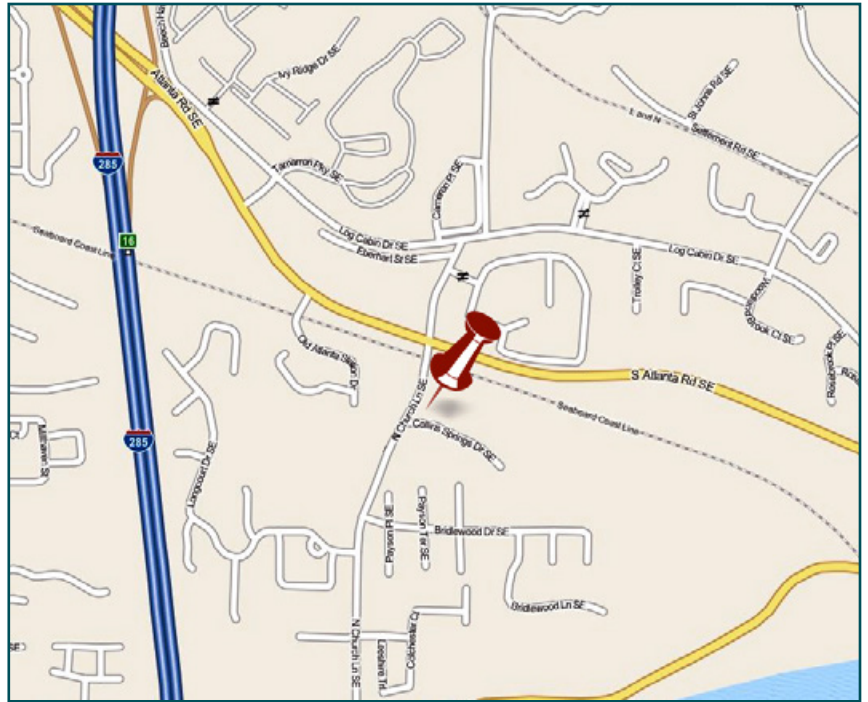
Signature/date _____

*Dare To Think
For Yourself!*



**April 9th meeting
1:00 at AF Hall,
4775 N. Church Lane SE
Atlanta, GA 30339**

Herb Silverman



Atlanta Freethought News is produced by the Atlanta Freethought Society, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, member-run, educational organization created to advance freethought and protect freethinkers. Any freethought, atheist, secular humanist, agnostic, or rationalist group is granted permission to reproduce anything from our newsletter not expressly labeled otherwise (acknowledgement of AFS and author appreciated). Articles published represent the official opinion of AFS only when that is clearly stated; all other opinion is that of the individual author.

Atlanta Freethought News
Atlanta Freethought Society
4775 N Church Lane SE
Atlanta GA 30339

