
PANViews



*Newsletter of PA Nonbelievers, Inc., affiliated with American Atheists,
Atheist Alliance International and the Council for Secular Humanism.*

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President's Report

Josh CruverKibi

Cognitive Balance through giving Yourself Time for Contemplation

Cognitive balance is achieved by giving yourself time for contemplation to improve your ability to assess, reinterpret, and gain perspective on your lived experience. Having a balanced cognitive state relative to your biological brain and lived experiences would increase your overall cognitive health and resilience. One could just let life happen to them, reactively allowing their mind to evolve into a combination of socialized assumptions, neurobiological reactions, and personal first impressions of lived experiences. Or we could choose to allow ourselves time to contemplate and potentially achieve more balanced cognitive perceptions and interpretations.

But where do we start and what areas of our cognitive functioning should we focus on? How do I increase my cognitive resilience? Am I framing the problem with my boss abductively, deductively, or inductively? Do I take on too much personal responsibility in my life? Am I confident because I know enough about a topic, or do I feel confident because I do not know enough about the topic? Do I want to confirm my bias with what the corporate news show presented to me or am I sensing a slight feeling of cognitive dissonance for how they presented the information? Do I feel purpose from my job because I like what I do at my job or am I waiting for recognition from others for the job I have done? Did I allow myself enough time? What would I like to learn about next? Am I truly alone in the universe? How do I know what is real? What is the possibility that something bad will happen? What happens when I die?

The question of cognitive balance could feel overwhelming if you take on all your potential concerns at once, but that is quite the opposite of the goal. May I suggest focusing on one question at a time and on smaller topics, ideas, and goals with the expectation of steadily exploring, familiarizing, and improving your cognitive functioning over your lifetime? All cognitions and or acts of critical thinking are processes in the moment and are potentially processes for improving cognitive and critical thinking skills over your lifetime.

It is also essential to regularly give yourself time for intentional contemplation without distractions. Engaging in distractive or avoidant behaviors could count as play, exploration, engaging your curiosity, or reducing your stress. However, if all you engage in during your down or extra time is say, scrolling social media, watching digital programs, or playing games, then you are not engaging in balanced cognitive behaviors. You would be avoiding and neglecting your other cognitive needs.

A hypothetical example of steady balanced cognitive progression. As your metacognition, or awareness for how you think increases, you may become aware of gender biases you learned in Sunday school at 5 years old. You may then choose to give yourself time to educate yourself and use the scientific method reading and exploring the current and past research on the topic of gender. Through

exploring and contemplating the learned scientific knowledge, observing societal norms and traditions, and increasing your understanding of how biases might persist in your mind and the minds of others, you may begin to understand how the perceptions of reality may be relative to learned experiences. On another day, giving yourself time to think, you see the hopeful possibility of a society, if educated or aware of their biases causing harm to others, may evolve over time away from biased religious tradition to an inclusive society. As you contemplate and expand your awareness and acceptance of others you may determine that you get a sense of purpose by: taking personal responsibility for changing your harmful biases, decreasing your potential harm to a community, and from working on educating and changing the attitudes of those around you on the topic of gender. You may then later, while giving yourself time to contemplate, perceive that you do not feel as alone when you participate and work together with others on mutual goals to educate and positively influence society. Through this balanced cognitive progression, you even find enjoyment in new experiences and new ways to play during your downtime attending pride events, drag shows, and new friendships.

What if you had not given yourself time to unlearn, or cognitively evolve past, the gender biased traditions you learned as a 5-year-old in Sunday school? You may not have, hypothetically speaking, achieved a steady progression towards a cognitively balanced perspective on gender, as well as missed many potential opportunities for cognitive and self-improvement.

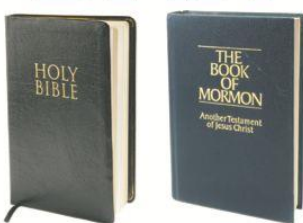
PAN's booth, where the action was, at Jubilee Day



Atheist News in Pennsylvania– The Nation – The World!

Paid for by the Freedom From Religion Foundation

BAN



THESE BOOKS

If the State of Utah and its school boards insist on censoring "sensitive" material in our public schools, then they must start with the bible and Book of Mormon.

Replete with violent, graphic, degrading descriptions as well as age-inappropriate stories, the bible meets the very definition provided in H.B. 374 of being "pornographic" and "obscene." Descriptions of sperm, menstruation, intercourse, rape, incest, masturbation, homosexuality, fornication, adultery, sadism, sexual mutilation and "harlots" and "whores" abound. Sordid tales of incest, rape, voyeurism, pimping, plural marriages, concubinage and more are told, often approvingly, within its covers. Beyond-lewd descriptions, such as found in Ezekiel 23:20-21 and Revelation, Chapter 17, among other passages, cannot even be printed in a family-friendly newspaper. Likewise the Book of Mormon in Moroni 9 describes Nephites raping and murdering prisoners of war, as well as mention of polygamy and concubinage (Jacob 2).

Find documentation of the many X-rated biblical passages in ffrf.org/X-rated and disturbing passages about the biblical deity's violence, genocides, infanticides, obscenity, racism, sexism, slavemongering and sadism at unpleasantgod.ffrf.org.

BAN THESE BOOKS OR ELSE REPEAL H.B. 374

Thoughtful people abhor the banning of books, as does the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Utah cannot adopt one standard for so-called "holy books" and another for all other books. Since public school districts cannot engage in viewpoint discrimination they must carry out Utah's misguided, dangerous "Sensitive Materials" law in a content-neutral way. If books are being removed for graphic and sexual content, so must the X-rated bible and Book of Mormon be pulled from school libraries. Instead, the Utah Legislature should stop the folly of book banning. The freedom to read and judge for oneself is an inherent part of the First Amendment and a bedrock principle of education.

Join the Freedom From Religion Foundation
 FFRF is the nation's largest association of freethinkers (atheists and agnostics) with more than 40,000 members, and works as a state/church watchdog

ffrf.us/bans 1.800.335.4021

Or ask for information, including a sample of our newspaper, Freethought Today

FFRF - Salt Lake City Ad - PO Box 750 - Madison, WI 53701 - 800.335.4021 - FFRF.org

I would like to become a member (includes 10 issues of Freethought Today newspaper).

I would like to donate to FFRF's Legal Fund. \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Phone / Email _____

Annual Membership Dues

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Group (5-10)	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Spasming	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> After Life	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond After Life	\$10,000

Make checks payable to "FFRF". Dues & donations are tax-deductible for income tax purposes. FFRF protects membership confidentiality and does not change, rent, sell or give away its mailing list.

Freedom depends on freethinkers!

FFRF.ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

So You Want to Ban "Inappropriate" Books?

The Freedom From Religion Foundation has started a campaign against Utah's decision to ban books it, and its school boards, find offensive.

The good news is that the effort to underscore the hypocrisy of ignoring the truly horrifying parts of the Bible and the Book of Mormon isn't just the work of outside secularists; it includes Utah parents.

The Salt Lake *Tribune*, saltlaketribune.com, reports that a parent filed a challenge to remove the Bible from Utah's Davis School District libraries. Following the law, the district reviewed the Bible. The reviewing committee decided that the Bible could remain in high school libraries, but was removed from elementary and middle schools because of its "vulgarity or violence."

The protesting parent's request said it was time to remove "one of the most sex-ridden books around." He listed some of the topics covered in the Bible: "Incest, onanism, bestiality, prostitution, genital mutilation, fellatio, dildos, rape, and even infanticide." The parent helpfully pointed out that the Bible is pornographic, "as defined under the new law."

The law is clear that books are not to be considered as a whole; if there is a scene with sexual arousal, stimulation, masturbation, intercourse, sodomy or fondling, it is supposed to be immediately removed, regardless of any other consideration.

Another parent appealed the decision to limit the availability of the Bible. The Davis School District's Board of Education formed a committee to review the original complaint and make a recommendation for the whole Board to vote on. And, a few days later, another parent filed a complaint about the Book of Mormon, complaining about the violence it contains.

Of course it was too good to last. The Davis School District Board voted again and decided unanimously to reinstate the Bible in lower school libraries. It was fun while it lasted!

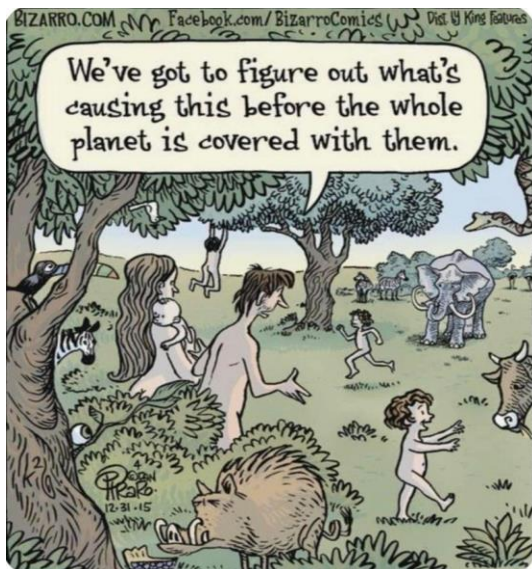
Religious Charter School

In more school board religious news, a state school board in Oklahoma has voted to fund a charter school application from a Catholic school.

Apnews.com reports the Statewide Virtual Charter Board voted 3-2 to approve the application from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma to establish the St. Isidore of Seville Virtual Charter school. It would cover kindergarten to grade 12, and would be available to students throughout across the state.

Oklahoma’s Attorney General Gentner Drummond issued a statement warning that the decision violates the Oklahoma Constitution: “The approval of any publicly funded religious school is contrary to Oklahoma law and not in the best interest of taxpayers. It’s extremely disappointing that board members violated their oath in order to fund religious schools with our tax dollars. In doing so, these members have exposed themselves and the state to potential legal action that could be costly.”

The Archdiocese is clear about its intent. Under “vision and purpose of the organization” in the application, it said “The Catholic school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out.”



Oklahoma’s governor, Kevin Stitt, disagreed with his attorney general. He had previously signed a bill that provides a tax incentive for parents sending children to private, including religious, schools, and he was happy about the Catholic school’s approval. He notes, “This is a win for religious liberty and education freedom in our great state, and I am encouraged by these efforts to give parents more options when it comes to their child’s education.”

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State (au.org) filed statements with the Charter Board opposing the approval of the religious school, and is preparing to take legal action against it. Rachel Laser, AU’s president and CEO, issued a statement which said in part:

“State and federal law are clear: Charter schools are public schools that must be secular and open to all students. No public-school family should fear that their child will be required by charter schools to take theology classes or be expelled for failing to conform to religious doctrines. And the government should never force anyone to fund religious education. In a country built on the principle of separation of church and state, public schools must never be allowed to become Sunday schools.”

Pennsylvania Methodists Fall Apart

260 members of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church – out of approximately 800 members - have voted to leave the denomination. The reason? The thing that has been causing the Methodists distress for several years: fights over same-sex marriage, and gay pastors.

According to Triblive.com in Pittsburgh, the breakaway churches have been encouraged by the establishment of a new, more conservative organization, the Global Methodist church. Member churches

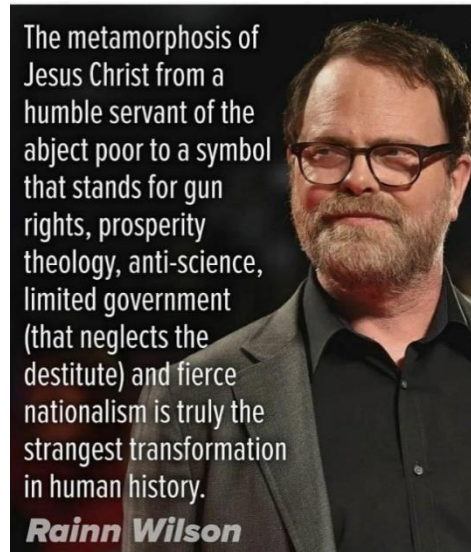
have formed steering committees to decide whether they will stay or go, and if they go, where they will land. Having a specific destination organization has made these steps more palatable.

Christianity Today, christianitytoday.com, explains that United Methodist Bishops have proposed a General Conference in May 2026. This General Conference would try to re-establish connections within the church, “lamenting, healing and recasting the mission and vision for the mainline denomination after years of strife over the ordination and marriage of its LGBT members,” a press release explained. It seems odd the conference couldn’t happen sooner, given that plans for the conference were announced after the Council of Bishops’ spring meeting this year, when hundreds of Methodist churches in the US left the denomination.

The General Conference would also discuss a more regional type of organization, which, it is thought, might better relate to the 30,000 remaining churches. The Methodists have been struggling with LGBT issues for years, and some bishops are concerned that the focus on those issues has led the church to ignore other issues and problems the remaining churches have.

A General Conference had been scheduled for 2020, during which the Methodists had expected to consider splitting the church, and creating the more conservative Global Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church could then have rewritten its Book of Discipline so that same-sex marriage and LGBT clergy would be allowed. But the 2020 meeting was postponed three times because of COVID, and the Global Methodist Church launched in 2022 anyway.



Since 2019, at least 2,804 churches have left the United Methodist Church. In 2019 the General Conference approved a plan to allow churches to leave for “reasons of conscience” related to LGBT issues, while keeping their property, if they agree to certain financial arrangements.

Discrimination Against Atheists

Colleen Dzwonczyk

Many American atheists hide their nonbelief because of fear of discrimination. The religiously unaffiliated, including atheists, are the fastest-growing (non)religious population in the United States. But the social stigma associated with atheism leaves this population vulnerable to isolation and poor mental health outcomes.

In 2021 a year-long study was conducted by Deana Abbott, an assistant professor of counseling psychology at the University of Nebraska. She conducted research into the psychological well-being of rural atheists and women identifying as atheists in the context of anti-atheist discrimination in the United States. Her research revealed that because atheists continue to experience a variety of social challenges, many are uncomfortable about disclosing their non-belief.

Stu Who? Wordpress.com



Data shows that for many women raised in or around Christianity, they found atheism to be “liberating” from the general expectations of women rooted in faith. While they reported frequently experiencing anti-atheist discrimination was uncommon, they cited Christian authority and the expectation to adapt to Christian norms as more distressing than individual acts of anti-atheist discrimination. One stereotype frequently reported by women atheists was that they often were viewed by non-atheists as “sexually immoral.” Atheists living in small towns — which tend to be more religious and politically conservative — often reported experiencing a heightened sense of danger because of their non-

belief,” Abbott said. “Rural atheists talked about a fear of violence more than urban atheists did.” Although few experienced violence or hate crimes some did experience threats. One atheist who wrote a secular opinion column for a local paper reported receiving death threats while at a local restaurant. Rural atheists also reported a lack of secular health care, particularly in the area of mental health. Many reported that mental health care was religiously based.

Not surprisingly both rural residing and women atheists are cautious about sharing their world view with others.

Source: <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/study-shows-many-american-atheists-hide-their-non-belief/>

Saudi Arabia’s New Tourists

In 2019 Saudi Arabia opened its borders to leisure tourists. The kingdom expected their visitors to include experienced travelers looking for something new, or yacht owners taking advantage of luxurious resorts being built on the Red Sea Coast.

Well, that’s not what they got, according to the New York *Times*, [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com). Christians, conservative, Bible-believing Christians, were among the first to come. It seems that a significant minority of fundamentalists believe that Saudi Arabia, not Egypt, is the site of Mount Sinai, where God is supposed to have revealed the Ten Commandments. A Roman historian, Flavius Josephus, proposed Jebel al-Lawz, a mountain in northwest Saudi Arabia, as the actual Mount Sinai. In 2002 Saudi Arabian archaeologists wrote that there was no “historical or archaeological evidence supports these stories.”

Until recently, most tourists were going to Mecca; the kingdom was hostile to other religions. Christmas trees had to be smuggled in; atheists, and even Muslims who express mild doubts, could be imprisoned. These barriers are coming down. There were Buddhist monks at an interfaith gathering last year, and Jewish visitors planted date palm trees in Medina.

Saudi Arabia is changing so quickly that it is sometimes not clear what is approved. Government officials did not respond to the *Times*’ request for comment about this story. Off the record, the article stated that Saudi officials are bemused at the influx of Christians. It’s okay with them, though; they want to diversify their economy through increased tourism, and they see it as a way to change the narrative about their country and introduce people to their culture.

It's a Miracle!

Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster, founder of the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles (whew) died in 2019. She was buried, her unembalmed corpse placed into a cracked wooden coffin. Her body was exhumed in 2023 so it could be placed in a monastery chapel. That's when the fun started!

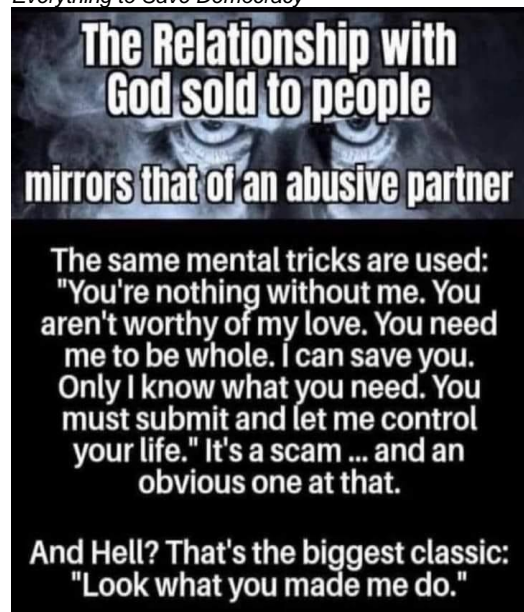
The Guardian, theguardian.com, explains. The cemetery told her fellow nuns that her they would probably just find bones in the coffin. But they were wrong. Sister Wilhelmina was intact, with almost no signs of decay, just a layer of mold over the body.

Of course there's only one explanation: It's a miracle. Hundreds of people made the pilgrimage to the monastery in Gower, Missouri (near Kansas City, if anyone's thinking of going) to view her body. The Catholic church calls undecomposed bodies "incorrupt," which can be used as an indication of sainthood. The process of having someone declared a saint, which is complicated, has not been started for Sister Wilhelmina. The article quotes the Catholic News Agency as saying there have been around 100 incorrupt bodies found, but what makes this case a bit more compelling is that Sister Wilhelmina is almost certainly the first Black person found incorrupt.

Actually, her condition isn't all that surprising. Nicholas Passalacqua, associate professor and director of forensic anthropology at Western Carolina University explained to *Newsweek*: "In general, when we bury a body at our human decomposition facility, we expect it will take roughly five years for the body to become skeletonized. That is without a coffin or any other container or wrapping surrounding the remains. So for this body, which was buried in a coffin, I personally don't find it too surprising that the remains are well preserved after only four years." Another commentator mentioned that bodies are not often dug up and caskets opened, so we really don't know exactly what is typical for decomposition.

Believers are undiscouraged. The body has been moved and encased in glass in the monastery's chapel, where visitors can gaze upon it. One pilgrim commented, "I think God is giving us little graces to remind us of what is to come and what's waiting for us." Death and burial, with or without decomposition, doesn't seem all that cheery.

Everything to Save Democracy



Atheist Assassination

Ally Consoli

In the international community, earlier this year there was an attempted atheist assassination while in police custody. Bairi Naresh, president of the Atheist Society of India, was in the custody of state police when an attacker assaulted him through the vehicle in what was later discovered to be an attempt on his life. Naresh was traveling through Hanamkonda in southern India through the town of Telagana. He was there at an event on a college campus when he had received word that he was being targeted by right-wing workers. This was likely still in retaliation to some of Naresh's disparaging remarks against the Hindu god Ayappa last December, poking fun at the god's origins, which led to his current parole. Naresh, fearing for his safety, arranged for police escort himself.

Videos of the attack had become a viral sensation. Police officers attempted to break up the attack as more people stepped forward. By the end, all of the assailants were detained.

Naresh is currently pleading for a gun license and trying to set up his own protection so that he can keep presenting his feelings and lack of beliefs without being threatened with violence and nearly being beaten to death.

About Time

The Connecticut Senate voted to absolve the 12 men and women who were convicted of witchcraft (11 were executed) almost 400 years ago, apologizing for the “miscarriage of justice.”

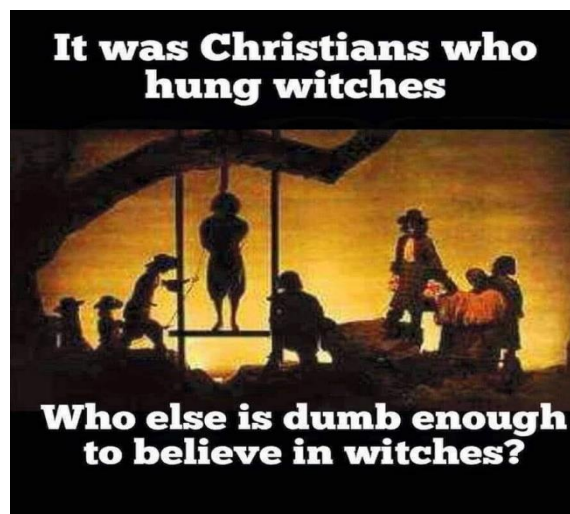
AP News reports that this vote occurred because of the efforts of the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project, comprised of history buffs, and descendants of the convicted witches.

There was some criticism of the resolution, but Sen. John Kissel explained “People can say we’re wasting our time this afternoon, maybe we could be doing other things. But I think it’s a small step to acknowledge our history and move forward together, Democrat, Republican, men and women into a brighter future.”

Only one senator voted against the resolution, Sen. Rob Sampson. His reasons? “I don’t want to see bills that rightfully or wrongfully attempt to paint America as a bad place with a bad history. I want us to focus on where we’re going, which is a brighter and better future. And I don’t want to see anyone try and put a stain on the country that I love.” Sen. Sampson is the sponsor of a bill that would, among many other things, forbid the teaching of anything from grades 3 through twelve “make any individual feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex.”

Another senator pointed out that lawmakers heard testimony about witch trials still happening in other parts of the world, which necessitates drawing attention to the problem.

Other states and countries have also tried to atone for the persecution of so-called witches. Scotland’s prime minister apologized to the descendants of about 4,000 Scots who were accused of witchcraft; about 2,500 were executed. Massachusetts has exonerated many of the alleged witches; in 2022, the Massachusetts legislature formally set aside the conviction of Elizabeth Johnson, Jr.



Okay, not just Christians – any type of fundamentalist.

The article notes that the extremely difficult living conditions of the early settlers (epidemics, floods, cold winters, starvation) may have led them to believe that they were being cursed. It pointed out that poor single, mothers made up a large part of the executed witches.

Nuns v. Bishop

Rumors about priests and nuns having sex have been around for years. Well, now a bishop is spreading them.

Fort Worth, TX's Bishop Michael Olson publicly accused Reverend Mother Superior Teresa Agnes Gerlach of having sex with a priest, according to insider.com. The nun's religious order, the Discaled Carmelite Nuns of Arlington, claim the bishop showed up at their convent, interrogated the nuns for an hour, confiscated their phones and computers, read their texts, and made copies of documents he found on their computers. The convent is suing the bishop for \$1,000,000, for invasion of privacy.

The nuns "vehemently" denied the bishop's allegations. Their attorney states that Sister Agnes is in extremely poor health, uses a wheelchair and a feeding tube, and probably hasn't even talked to more than five men in the last 25 years.

Bishop Olson closed the monastery to its parishioners, canceling daily Mass and confession, which the nuns and parishioners find quite upsetting. Olson is angry that the nuns have publicized his accusations by filing the lawsuit against him. He has refused to reinstate the religious practices, saying the nuns have started "a false narrative relative to the pending investigation, which has led to local, national, and international media coverage and has incited hatred and animosity against me." He stated that he would not allow the nuns to participate in Mass and confessions until the nuns withdraw the lawsuit, and "cease this behavior which is contrary to and unbecoming of their religious state and demonstrate love for and obedience to Holy Church." The nuns' attorney points out this punishes not just the nuns, but the parishioners, too.

According to CBSnews.com, the nuns point out that technically their convent does not fall under the jurisdiction of the bishop; they are under the direction of the Vatican. A group of parishioners, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Discaled Carmelite Nuns, notes that it strongly supports the nuns.

By the way – the bishop has never named the priest with whom Sister Agnes supposedly had sex.



Employee Confessions

The Department of Labor has seen a lot of bad behavior by employers, but a recent news release from the DOL (www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases) describes an activity it calls "shameless."

An employee of Che Garibaldi Inc., operator of Taqueria Garibaldi, testified the restaurant employed a "priest" to hear confessions during work hours. The so-called priest encouraged the workers to come clean about their sins, and asked them if they stole from their employer, or been late for work, or done anything at all to hurt the employer.

The DOL's investigation found the restaurant did not pay overtime, took money from the employees' tip pool, fired an employee who it thought had complained to the DOL, and threatened employees with retaliation, including causing problems with their immigration status. The employer agreed to a consent judgment, and was ordered to pay \$140,000 in back wages and damages to 35 employees.

Good Without God

Ally Consoli

Well, it's official. We really are good without god(s). Thanks, Prof. Speed!

For those who aren't sure what I'm talking about, David Speed is an associate professor at UNB in psychology. He used data from over eight thousand Canadians from the 2011/12 Community Health Survey to see if there was any validity to the long-held claim that religious people are happier, healthier, and fuller of life than those in the non-religious community. Verdict? Nope, no differences in health, emotional well-being, or psychological health. The only advantage that the religious majority have is being the majority. Atheists do suffer in their social well-being, but we see this a lot in any other out-group. Family or society rejecting a person, or even a person having a fear of being rejected, is torture. It can lead to problems of acting out, including increased substance abuse and mental health trauma like suicidal ideation and attempts. Yet, in this particular case, none of this happened. None of the social problems got bad enough to produce differences in psychological, physiological, or emotional changes.

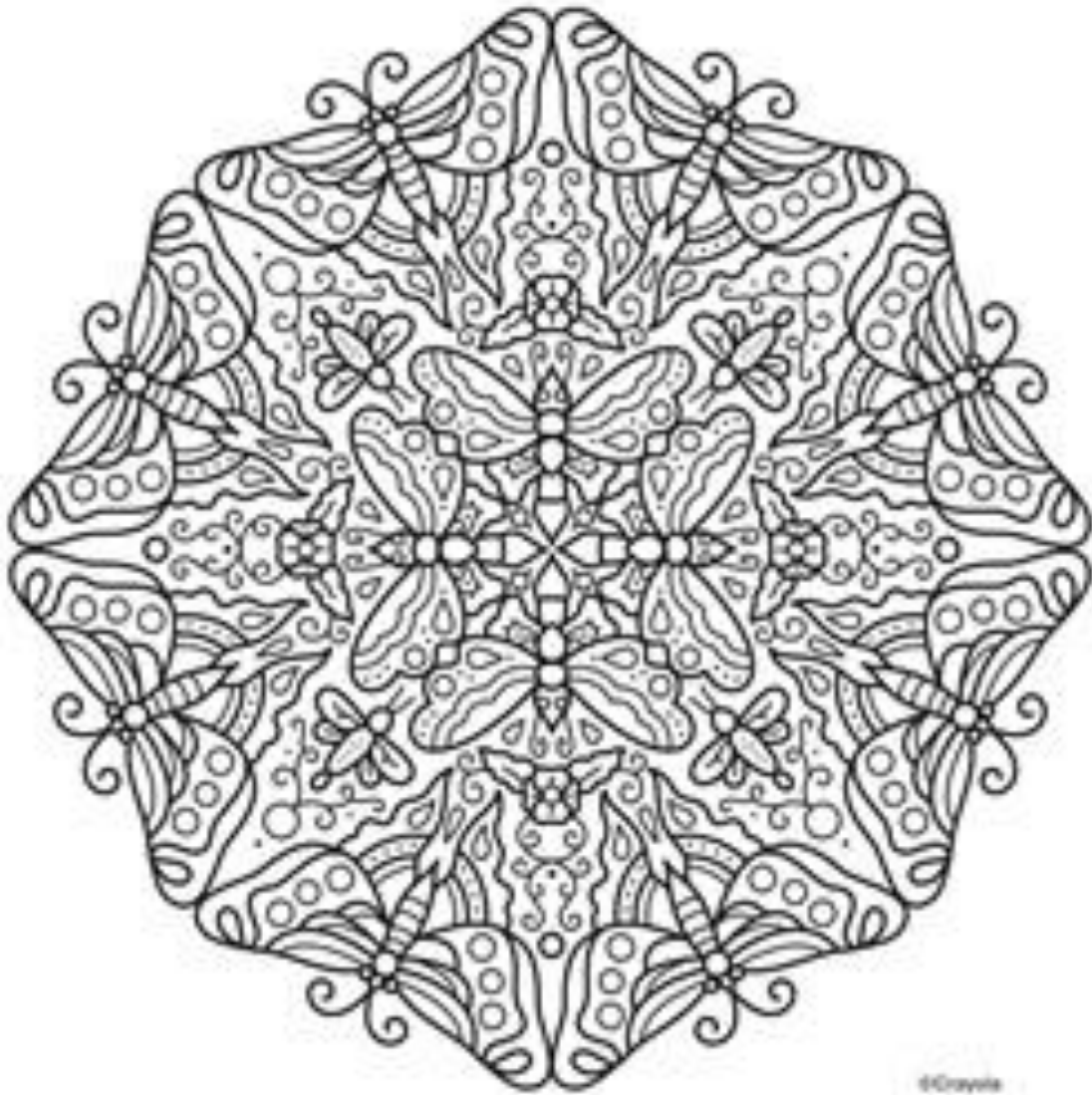
So, the next time someone tells you that, "You need Jesus," or, "You need saved," remind them that for all of the most important reasons, you really don't.



Words used differently by the public and scientists

TERM	PUBLIC	SCIENTISTS
Skepticism	Cynicism, negativity, contrarianism, denial	Basing acceptance of a claim on the strength and quality of the evidence
Opinion	Subjective preferences, tastes, or viewpoints	Judgements, insights, and interpretations grounded in expertise and based on evidence
Theory	Speculation, hunch, guess	A broad explanation that's been rigorously tested, is supported by multiple lines of evidence, and has high predictive power
Consensus	A popular opinion or belief in a group of people	A broad agreement in the scientific community based on an extensive body of evidence
Fact	Has been proven true; Unchanging	Has been extensively confirmed and is widely accepted by the scientific community; Provisional
Uncertainty	Ignorance	Measured range of confidence in findings

FUN!



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Fourth Of July

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.

Solution at the end of PANViews.

L B C E L G A E D L A B N T H L O D S
 A E S E F E W P A T R I O T I C E N T
 V N H O L D E S N E A Y G B I C O H R
 I F S F O E R T K T E A E N O O O E E
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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BALD EAGLE | CONCERTS | HOLIDAY | PATRIOTIC |
| BALLOONS | DECORATIONS | HOT DOGS | PHILADELPHIA |
| BARBECUE | DEMOCRACY | INDEPENDENCE | PICNIC |
| BASEBALL | FIREWORKS | JOHN ADAMS | RED WHITE BLUE |
| BEN FRANKLIN | FLAG | LIBERTY | STARS AND STRIPES |
| BETSY ROSS | FLOATS | NATIONAL ANTHEM | STREAMERS |
| CAKE | FREEDOM | NATIONHOOD | THOMAS JEFFERSON |
| CARNIVAL | GREAT BRITAIN | PARADE | USA |
| CELEBRATION | HAMBURGERS | PARTY | WHITE HOUSE |
| COLONIES | HISTORY | | |

Member Submissions

PAN Member Eileen Wolf sent in this correspondence with the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce regarding her experience at Jubilee Day.

Eileen, to the Chamber of Commerce:

I really enjoyed Jubilee Day this year; a nice variety of vendors and age groups in attendance. I have a big concern, however, that I would like to bring to your attention. A religious group had several volunteers standing right in the ongoing path of traffic on both sides and literally shoving small orange Christian bibles in everyone's faces. I found this to be extremely rude and intrusive since many of us in attendance do not follow the Christian faith. This should not be allowed, and I am asking your organization to be more empathetic and understanding in the future by banning this kind of activity. It's fine for people to approach the booth and ask for information but NOT the other way around. I hope I don't see this happen in subsequent years.

Thank you.
Eileen Wolf

Chamber of Commerce response:

Good afternoon, Ms. Wolf.

I am pleased that you enjoyed the event. A lot of hours (days & weeks) go into producing such an event for the enjoyment of all.

Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention. By the application, vendors are not permitted to solicit or perform outside of their assigned booth area, so what you encountered runs against how we run the show. This will be noted and addressed with the non-compliant group. At the time, if they would have been found to be doing this or if it was pointed out, it would have been addressed immediately.

As you can imagine, it can be like herding cats in trying to keep everyone in their space and not encroach in the traveling area. It is our best intent to produce an event that is safe and friendly for all to attend.

Thank you for your support and participation.

Jeff Palm
Executive Director

PAN News & Updates

Meetings – PAN holds in-person and online meetings. Locations, times, and dates below.

Online meeting: Fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. We hope to split the meeting into an hour of

chat and an hour of presentation or more structured discussion. Anyone with a book/movie review, discussion topic, or potential guest speaker should contact Dietrich Dellinger @ guyinnagorillasuit@gmail.com

Chambersburg – Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm, Volcano Japanese Restaurant
955 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg

Cumberland/Mechanicsburg - Third Wednesday of the month, Hops and Barley, 6:00 pm, 398 N. York Street ,_Mechanicsburg, PA

Harrisburg– First Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Zeroday Brewing Company Taproom, 923 North 3rd Street.

Lancaster – Fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:00 pm, Centerville Diner, 100 S. Centerville Rd.

Lebanon - Second Wednesday of the month, 6:00 pm, Plaza Azteca in Myerstown.

Reading – Third Thursdays at 7:15pm, 3rd & Spruce Drafthaus, 238 S 3rd Ave, Reading, PA 19611

York Meeting – First Sunday at noon, Mexitaly Brick Oven Brewhouse, 2440 East Market St.

How to Contribute to PAN

Giant Cards - We will have Giant grocery store cards available for purchase at PAN meetings. You pay face value for the card and use the face value at the store, but Giant lets PAN have 5% of that face value. If you shop at Giant, anyway, use the cards in lieu of cash and help PAN. What could be easier?

Pennies for PAN - Finally, we are happy to take money the old-fashioned way. You can give your tax-deductible contribution to a Board Member at one of our meetings or events, you can donate via PayPal on our website, www.panonbelievers.org, or you can mail a check to us at PA Nonbelievers, Inc. PO Box 702, York, PA 17405. Remember when you donate you can indicate what fund you want your donation to go to, you can find the list of our funds on the PAN website in the Donate section.

PAN Board of Directors

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Puzzle solution is on the next page. The hidden quote is: THOSE WHO DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS, DESERVE IT NOT FOR THEMSELVES

