

A U S T I N

Atheist

March–April 2009 • Newsletter of the Atheist Community of Austin



Volume 2 • Issue 8–9

Philanthropic Atheism Needs You

—by Lisa Mais

In an effort to give back to the community and promote the compassionate side of atheism that the public does not often see in this religious vision society, the ACA is opening the pantries of its members and collecting food and clothing donations to distribute to the Capitol Area Food Bank and throughout future community projects. We would like to welcome all members of the ACA and their friends to bring these items to any ACA event. Those items will get to the group's members who are heading this committee, namely Chuck Clark and Lisa Mais. Mike Swift is also a contact person to whom items can be given to be handed onwards to Chuck or Lisa.

As little as picking up a couple nonperishable food items—beans, pasta, rice, vegetables, or tuna—at the grocery while shopping for yourselves can help out. These items will be taken to the Capitol

Area Food Bank. The donations will be passed onward to one or more of the 355 Partner Agencies across 21 Central Texas counties. Partner Agencies including soup kitchens, pantries and shelters then provide food to hungry Central Texans.

Clothing donations as well will be used by distributing directly to the homeless and domestic abuse victims' shelters. Lisa Mais has a personal ongoing effort to prepare homeless persons' backpacks for direct distribution. She also has intentions on preparing the same for women and children of domestic abuse. Their need for day-to-day items is overwhelming. Clothing and personal care items as well as small toys and books for children are the most pressing needs that these shelters have.

Consider that most churches and other religious organizations are supporters of fundraisers and other philanthropic efforts throughout our nation and our own local



"As little as picking up a couple nonperishable food items—beans, pasta, rice, vegetables, or tuna—at the grocery while shopping for yourselves can help out."

community. We in the ACA would like to show that same community that there are nonreligious support groups, humanitarian groups, and secular groups here at least in the Austin area. We also can offer aid and compassion without the obligation to do it so that our sins may be erased. We do it because it is the right thing to do. We do it because if our community benefits we all can benefit. We do it because we are helping our fellow

human being. We do it because altruism may exist without the dangling carrot of heaven.

Please help out in our efforts by donating simple items from your pantries and your closets. Please contact Chuck Clark or Lisa Mais for suggestions, questions, or to get involved. See <atheist-community.org/community/> for more information. ■

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About ACA

ACA provides opportunities for socializing and friendship, promotes atheistic viewpoints, encourages positive atheist culture, defends the First Amendment principle of state/church separation, opposes discrimination against atheists, provides outreach to atheists in the greater Austin area, and works with other organizations in pursuit of common goals.

ACA produces a live cable access TV show and Internet radio show, presents a monthly lecture series, maintains a library of Freethought books, protests in support of civil liberties, and participates in various community service activities.

ACA operates in an open and democratic manner to provide a community of like-minded people for social interaction and support.

ACA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation made up of volunteers. The membership is restricted to atheists, but does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, or disability.

ACA Board of Directors

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Submission Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Jan. _____	Dec. 1
Feb. _____	Jan. 1
March _____	Feb. 1
April _____	March 1
May _____	April 1
June _____	May 1
July _____	June 1
Aug. _____	July 1
Sept. _____	Aug. 1
Oct. _____	Sept. 1
Nov. _____	Oct. 1
Dec. _____	Nov. 1

ACA Godless Pub Crawl Recap

—by Lisa Mais & Shilling Cadena

The second annual Atheist Community of Austin pub crawl occurred on March 6th. The crawl began at Dog & Duck pub, the home of the ACA Thursday happy hour, and included three other stops. About 35 people attended the event with most attendees sporting the new “Imbibe like an Infidel” t-shirts designed by Zyoo Sun. Others wore the “Pubs, not Popes” shirts from last year. The latter shirt design provoked the only encounter of the night: a patron at Fado’s informed a his tablemates, “This lady is not Catholic!”, as if they weren’t already aware. While he wasn’t hostile, he just said he believes in spirituality, but didn’t elaborate. The sight of so many black t-shirts gave pause to many other patrons—at least long enough to read the t-shirts. Generally speaking, the reaction from the other pub patrons was pretty subdued. The event drew many

new faces and out-of-town guests who came just for the experience. The turnout was the best yet with several attendees joining the ACA. Feedback for future pub crawls is welcome so we can keep improving. Many thanks to Shilling Cadena who organized the event. ■



Happy crawlers show off their colors.

Calendar Notes...

Women’s Interests Subcommittee

With an increased interest in forming a women’s group as part of, or separate from, the ACA for socialization and support, Lisa Mais has offered to help organize this group and requests suggestions for where and when to meet, activities, and discussion topics. The group would be open to women of all ages, lifestyles, careers, and family obligations, interested in friendship, network opportunities, and simple relaxation. If interested, contact Lisa Mais via <atheist-community.org/activism/board.php>.

Membership Renewal Time

The ACA membership year begins March 1, which means it’s time to renew your membership. See the membership renewal form on page 3.

Jennifer Peeples elected to the ACA Board

ACA member Jennifer Peeples will fill an at-large board member seat vacated by Mark Loewe. Jen was confirmed at the March 8 membership meeting. Jen will serve until May, when all board seats come up for election. Thanks to Mark Loewe for his years of service on the board.

Debate Committee

Russell Glasser chairs a new committee for ACA participation in formal debates on atheist-related topics. The committee will study videotaped debates, find interesting debate topics and formats, research positions, and host formal debates for citywide audiences. To get involved in this effort, e-mail <debate-interest@atheist-community.org>.

No April Lecture

There will be no ACA Lecture Series lecture in April due to construction at the Austin History Center. We will return to the venue on May 3 when we hold our election meeting. ■

Renew your ACA Membership

Membership fees are \$24/year for individuals, \$12/year for students and retirees, and \$36/year for a family. Lifetime membership is \$1000. Our membership year begins on March 1st.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for the ATHEIST COMMUNITY of AUSTIN, INC.

Please fill out the information below if your information has changed or make corrections to your mailing label, as necessary, on the opposite side of this form.

Last Name

First Name

Companion's Name (for family membership):

Last Name

First Name

Street

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

Please make your check out to ACA in the amount above depending on your membership type. Any amount over the membership fee will be considered a tax deductible contribution to the ACA.

New members must complete the following membership affirmation:

This is to certify that I am a non-theist, that I have read the Purpose Statement of the Atheist Community of Austin, Inc. (appearing on Page 2), and that I am in agreement with the principles stated therein. I understand that membership is only open to non-theists.

Signature

Date

Signature (Companion)

Date

Please return this form and payment to: Atheist Community of Austin, Inc., P. O. Box 3798, Austin, TX 78764 or bring it to any ACA event and give it to an ACA board member.

ACA CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

• **11 a.m.-12 p.m.:** *Adopt-a-street Clean Up (South Location: Old Alligator Grill)*

• **2-3:30 p.m.:** *Non-Prophets Internet Radio Show (See Web site for details)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** *Regular Sunday Meeting (Romeo's)*

• **4:30-6 p.m.:** *The Atheist Experience (Channel 16)*

• **6:30 p.m.-?:** *Meet-up after The Atheist Experience (Threadgill's)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

• **7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.:** *CFI Austin Food for Thought Lecture (Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr.) Dr. Jay Banner on "Reconstructing past climate change – examples from Texas"; Free.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** *Regular Sunday Meeting (Romeo's)*

• **12:30-1:30 p.m.:** *Board Meeting (Romeo's (outside))*

• **4:30-6 p.m.:** *The Atheist Experience (Channel 16)*

• **6:30 p.m.-?:** *Meet-up after The Atheist Experience (Threadgill's)*

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

• **2-3:30 p.m.:** *Non-Prophets Internet Radio Show (See Web site for details)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** *Regular Sunday Meeting (Romeo's)*

• **4:30-6 p.m.:** *The Atheist Experience (Channel 16)*

• **6:30 p.m.-?:** *Meet-up after The Atheist Experience (Threadgill's)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

• **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.:** *Regular Sunday Meeting (Romeo's)*

• **4:30-6 p.m.:** *The Atheist Experience (Channel 16)*

• **6:30 p.m.-?:** *Meet-up after The Atheist Experience (Threadgill's)*

REGULAR LOCATIONS:

- **Austin History Center**, 9th and Guadalupe. Building opens at noon. Lectures are free and open to the public.
- **Dog & Duck Pub**, North of the Capitol, 406 W. 17th at Guadalupe, 512.479.0598. Informal gathering; food available.
- **Romeo's**, 1500 Barton Springs Rd. South of Town Lake.
- **Threadgill's**, 301 West Riverside Drive (at Barton Springs Rd.)

Unless otherwise indicated, events are open to all atheist and atheist friendly people, regardless of ACA membership status. Check the calendar on the Web site <www.atheist-community.org/calendar> for last minute changes.



Atheist Community of Austin

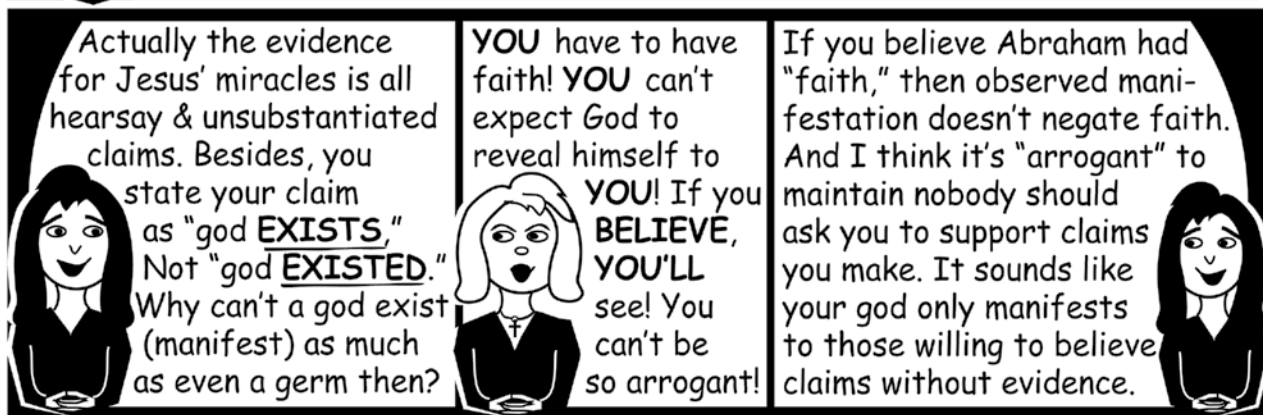
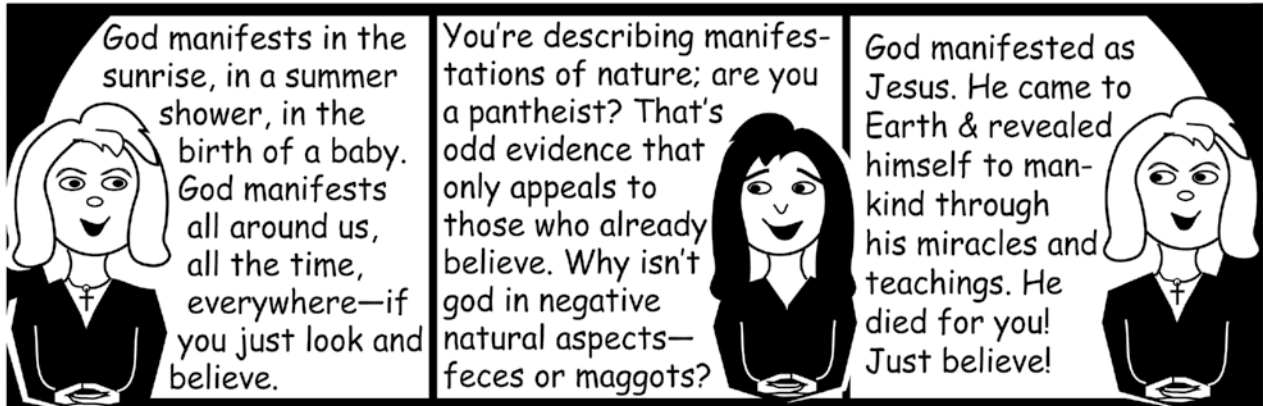
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ATHEIST EVE

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