

July 2011

# Seattle Atheists

A 501(c)3 serving the Seattle freethought community since 2003

Seattle Atheists Presents, our biggest event of the year...

## Greta Christina

Seattle Atheists is excited to present Greta Christina, a nationally acclaimed writer, blogger, and public speaker. Greta's work explores atheism, sexuality, and LGBT issues, and her blog never fails to deliver fresh insights with panache. You can read more about her work here: [www.gretachristina.typepad.com](http://www.gretachristina.typepad.com). Many of her writings appear on Alternet. The whole crop, encompassing all these issues, is worth reading, including "[Are all religions equally crazy?](#)," "[Atheists and Anger](#)," and "[Why religious believers are so desperate for the Atheist Seal of Approval](#)."

**The topic: What can the atheist movement learn from the gay movement?**

The atheist movement is already modeling itself on the LGBT movement in many ways — most obviously with its focus on coming out of the closet. What else can the atheist movement learn from the LGBT movement . . . both from its successes and its failures?

Afterwards, Greta will have Q&A and participate in a panel on Women in Atheism.

Light refreshments will be provided. Childcare will also be available in a room upstairs, Please contact [secretary@seattleatheists.org](mailto:secretary@seattleatheists.org) if you plan on utilizing childcare so we can get an accurate headcount. Thanks!

Saturday August 6, 2011  
1:00-4:00pm  
2100 Building  
2100 24th Avenue South,  
Seattle, WA 98144



### Upcoming events

August 6	SA Event – Greta Christina
August 13	Donate Blood with SA
August 18	SA monthly meetup
September 1	Donate Blood with SA
September 15	SA monthly meetup
September 17	SA board elections and event
October 16	SA board retreat
October 20	SA monthly meetup
November 3	Donate blood with SA
November 12	SA Event – Rich & Deanna Lyons
November 17	SA monthly meetup
December 10	Board Meeting

Seattle Atheists is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to serving the atheist community in the Seattle area. We strive to promote understanding and respect toward all freethinkers by providing information, creating a sense of fellowship, actively opposing discrimination, and above all, emphasizing reason and critical thinking over supernaturalism.

# Secular Summer Camp Comes to Seattle

*Camp Quest NorthWest is a camp for the rest of us...*



In the summer of 2012, Camp Quest NorthWest is bringing a new kind of summer camp to the Pacific Northwest. With science experiments and s'mores, campfires and critical thinking, Camp Quest NorthWest provides a secular twist on the time-honored summer camp experience for campers aged 8-17.

On August 20, 2011, Camp Quest NorthWest will host a half-day "Taste of Camp Quest NorthWest" Potluck event at Cottage Lake Park from noon - 6:00pm. The event is open to everyone including parents, children and volunteers. "We want to serve campers a slice of the camp experience," says Chuck Wolber, Camp Director.

In many ways, Camp Quest NorthWest is a traditional sleepaway summer camp, with camp activities like sports, crafts, games, swimming and campfires. But the camp also has an important intellectual side, says Wolber. "Camp Quest provides the opportunity for inquisitive children to explore the boundaries of their *minds*. That's why we have educational activities like Socrates Cafe and code-breaking. We put a focus on the important stuff like critical thinking, ethics, scientific inquiry, philosophy, and comparative religion."

Excitement is high among Seattle area freethinkers, who are pitching in to help the fledgling camp. The Humanists of North Puget Sound have offered to match all donations up \$10,000 until the end of 2011, which will be used for facilities, speakers, supplies, and "camperships." And earlier this year, Seattle Atheists raised \$2700 for the camp with its "Rapture Relief" campaign.

Camp Quest NorthWest is a chapter of Camp Quest Inc., a fast-growing 501c3 secular summer camp organization based in Columbus, Ohio. There are currently 13 active Camp Quest chapters across the United States, Canada, the UK, Ireland and Norway.

For more information about camp registration and upcoming events, and how to volunteer, Camp Quest NorthWest's website is at <http://campquestnorthwest.org>.

## A Letter from SA President, Shellie Brighton

The Seattle Atheists participated in three street fairs this year: University District Street Fair, Fremont Fair, and PrideFest. The Flying Spaghetti Monster was willing to take time from his busy schedule to join us in parades at Fremont and PrideFest. We had what we consider a wildly successful summer participating in the three fairs. I wanted to give special thanks to those members who dedicated great amounts of time and effort into both ensuring that our great Flying Spaghetti Monster successfully completed his journey through the parades, and taking care that our booth was well set up and stocked, and then taken down.

Particularly I owe thanks to Jami Blackann, Kyle Hepworth, Jerry Schifflbein, Mary Keiser, John Keiser, and Randy Rumley. Without their hard work and dedication the FSM would not have been able to touch people with his noodley appendages, and our booth would have been a flop. Jami was instrumental in coordinating the efforts of the board and volunteers, ensuring we had enough mini FSM's to sell, and keeping the booths stocked. We are especially grateful for her time and work.

Additional thanks to people who took shifts to work the booths helping spread the good word about Atheism, including Meg Winston, Silas Ray, Liz Frost, Eliza Sutton, Michael Santovec, and Megan Spielbusch. Another thank you goes out to the other various volunteers who dressed in pirate costumes and helped the FSM touch so many in the community. There are too many to thank by name, but all of you are appreciated by the board. Each year we count on volunteers to help with these tasks, and the volunteers never disappoint.

We also had a very successful fundraising campaign for Rapture Relief. We were able to raise almost \$2500 that will be used either to help with victims of the Rapture in October, or will be (much more likely) donated to Camp Quest NorthWest. Thank you John Keiser, Jerry Schifflbein, Kyle Hepworth, Eileen Cabalo, Steve Jones, Bob Seidensticker, Rebecca Friedman and Sam Mulvey for all your hard work and dedication in helping this fundraising campaign be such a success. If I've missed anyone, I greatly apologize.

As a reminder, we have elections coming in September. We always want to see more people, and different faces participating on the board. Please consider running for one of the positions that will be open this year: Secretary and Treasurer (two year terms) and 5 Members at Large (one year terms). More information is later in this newsletter, and will also be sent separately.

On a sad note, my condolences go out to the family of long term member Steve Brown, who passed away recently after a very long struggle with cancer. Steve was close to many of our members, and will be missed by anyone that knew him.

## 2011 Board Elections are Around the Corner!

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Seattle Atheists board? Come and make a difference in this amazing organization and help us get the word out about being an Atheist in Seattle! We love new ideas and new energy and have 7 open board positions this year; Secretary, Treasurer and 5 Members at Large. If you are interested please e-mail a candidate statement to [secretary@seattleatheists.org](mailto:secretary@seattleatheists.org) all statements will be posted on the SA website so that members can get to know who is running. Elections are on September 17, all candidates for offices need to attend the elections. For those of you who do not plan on running for an office don't forget to come out and vote!

## Become A Card-Carrying Atheist!

Becoming a member is a very economical way to become an advocate and promote atheism and the separation of church and state in the Seattle area. Your \$25 (individual) helps us bring in more engaging speakers, set up bigger events, and expand the reach of our atheist awareness campaigns like the bus advertisements.

To become a member, talk to Jerry or Shellie at any meeting, or go online at <http://www.seattleatheists.org/membership/join-us>

## Ask an Atheist

Check out this entertaining and popular atheist call-in radio show, now in its 5th season! You can listen or call in live on Tacoma's KLAY AM 1180 every Sunday at 3PM, or listen to their podcast (including back episodes, both radio and TV) at <http://askanatheist.tv>.

## Clear Pages

We would like to create the "Clear Pages," a listing of atheist and atheist-friendly businesses. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to be included, please contact Shellie at [president@seattleatheists.org](mailto:president@seattleatheists.org).

### Seasonless Food Drive

Bring five non-perishable food items to any of our events for our year-round SeasonLESS Food Drive. We will donate the food to Family Works, Northwest Harvest, or Volunteers of America food banks in the name of Seattle Atheists. Bring items such as whole grain pasta, tomato sauce or paste, brown rice, oatmeal, canned fruits, powdered milk, baby formula and food, infant cereals, and baby diapers.

### Used paperback books wanted

We are collecting books for Operation Paperback for our troops overseas. Seattle Atheists stickers let the soldiers know who donated the books. Troops have requested action, bestsellers, biographies and memoirs, fantasy, history, horror, mysteries, science fiction, and true crime (please, no romance novels). Thanks to Kevin for collecting and shipping the books.

## Childcare at SA Events

### Volunteers Needed For On Site Babysitting During Events/Meetings.

In order to make it easier for our members with children to attend our meetings and events, we would like to start offering babysitting. If you would like to volunteer to babysit, please contact us at [seattleatheists@seattleatheists.org](mailto:seattleatheists@seattleatheists.org). Those volunteering will be subject to a Washington State Patrol background check.

## Living After Faith

Members Rich and Deanna Lyons have begun an engaging and increasingly popular podcast called Living After Faith, where ex-believers share stories about their journey. Check it out at [livingafterfaith.blogspot.com](http://livingafterfaith.blogspot.com)!

## Meetup

Get updates for all our events on our [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) group "Seattle Atheists/Agnostics Meetup Group"

## Yelp us, friend us

Seattle Atheists is on Twitter, Yelp and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/seattleatheists)! Check us out!

## Contact us

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Seattle, WA 98111-0283

Call us at (206) 826-0770

Or, you can e-mail us at [seattleatheists@seattleatheists.org](mailto:seattleatheists@seattleatheists.org).