



Arkansas Society of Freethinkers

Official Newsletter May 2011 Vol 1 Iss 5

May Calendar

- May 2 [Monday Night Supper Club](#)
8 PM Ruby Tuesday
- May 3 [First Tuesday Pizza](#)
7 PM @ Vino's
- May 7 [Recovering From Religion](#)
6 PM Monthly Meeting
- May 8 **Mother's day**
- May 11 [Socrates Cafe](#)
6 PM Fletcher Library
- May 14 [New Member Pot Luck Shindig](#)
6 PM See Meet-Up for details
- May 15 [Monthly Meeting](#)
1:30 PM Main Library - The Apocalypse
- May 17 [Skeptics in the Pub](#)
7 PM Hibernia Irish Tavern
- May 20 [Freethinkers Camping River Retreat](#)
- May 24 [Science Cafe](#)
7 PM The Afterthought
- May 25 [Socrates Cafe](#)
6 PM Fletcher Library
- May 27 **Riverfest Starts**
- May 28 [Sinner's Cinema](#)
7 PM TBA
- May 30 **Memorial Day**
- June 11 **Pot Luck in Arkadelphia (Planning)**

Christopher Hitchens loses voice, but remains defiantly atheist in the face of death - excerpt

Christopher Hitchens disclosed to his atheist comrades on Friday that he has now lost his voice to esophageal cancer but his atheistic beliefs remain stronger than ever.

Full article can be found here:

Source: [Christian Today](#)

Hello Everyone,

ASF had many fun April events. I just wish I would have had time to attend them all, though I'll admit I missed a few, because the weather at the time looked too threatening.

The turnout for the ASF Annual Meeting brought in a lot of new faces. The membership approved the By-Laws and elected its officers.

I'm sure we all want to congratulate our newly elected President Dave Bentley and returning VP Susan Kent, and to thank them, including our past President Todd Billings and Leewood Thomas for all the hard work they have already done for the ASF and its members.

The membership also elected the Board Members and a list can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

We added another 23 members to our rolls, and now have 159 members. Keep on Non-believing - G. Sterpka, Editor

Favorite Atheist Quotes

"Why should I allow that same God to tell me how to raise my kids, who had to drown His own?"
"Every (religious) sect is a certificate that God has not plainly revealed his will to man."
Robert Ingersol "Some Mistakes of Moses"

The following are by Christopher Hitchens

"When Maimonides says that the Messiah will come but that 'he may tarry,' we see the origin of every Jewish shrug from Spinoza to Woody Allen."

"The noble title of "dissident" must be earned rather than claimed; it connotes sacrifice and risk rather than mere disagreement."

"The essence of the independent mind lies not in what it thinks, but in how it thinks."

— Christopher Hitchens (Above three quotes are from Letters to a Young Contrarian)

"What can be asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence."

The Sins of Scripture.

By John Shelby Spong

Bishop Spong fearlessly takes apart a good portion of the Bible and lays bare the hate, bigotry and just plain foolishness in it.

Did I say Bishop? Yes. Spong, an Episcopalian Bishop for over twenty years, spent most of his adult life in service to his church in Newark, NJ, until his retirement in 2000.

Spong explains how the Bible was pieced together and why. He shows the parallels of the Bible to those of the epic myths written by the ancient Greeks and Romans. He states the Bible is all myth, including the Jesus stories. But from his Christian perspective, the myth that has some redeeming qualities, if we face the facts about it first, and then look beyond its shortcomings.

The abuse caused by people using the Bible as the word of god seems to be his main focus and he gives good evidence for not accepting or professing the Bible as such.

He also seems to suggest that certain texts be removed.

Spong leads the reader with clear and logical evidence to accept his premise. I enjoyed this book as much as *This Hebrew Lord*, another book of his I read recently.

I recommend this book to anyone who wants to get some solid ideas to defend the position that the Bible is NOT the Word of God.

Even so, Spong holds fast to his Christianity, but it is not a Christianity I would recognize. I could almost say, I like Spong's type of Christianity, almost. I definitely like his style of writing and subject matter.

My copies of *The Sins of Scripture* and *This Hebrew Lord* are available to borrow.
Peace - George Sterpka

May 5th - National Prayer Day Approaching

Godless ads to blanket Washington DC on National Day of Prayer

Read Article: [Los Angeles Athesit Examiner](#)

Interested in Donating Blood?

The Red Cross needs blood for those injured in the recent storms.

I am planning on making an appointment to give blood and would like to know if anyone else is interested. I would like to go as a group if possible.

Contact me at: sterpka@cebridge.net or 628-7122

Officers

President	Dave Bentley
Past President	Todd Billings
Vice President	Susan Kent
Secretary	Anne Orsi
Treasurer	Mark Love

Board Members

Kirk Dixon
Susan Kent
Mark Love
Anne Orsi
Kyle Sanders
George Sterpka
Leewood Thomas

Polling creationism and evolution around the world - excerpt.

A new poll conducted by Ipsos for Reuters News in twenty-four countries found that 41% of respondents identified themselves as "evolutionists" and 28% as "creationists," with 31% indicating that they "simply don't know what to believe," according to a press release issued by Ipsos on April 25, 2011.

The "evolutionist" view was most popular in Sweden (68%), Germany (65%), and China (64%), with the United States ranking 18th (28%).

The "creationist" view was most popular in Saudi Arabia (75%), Turkey (60%), and Indonesia (57%), with the United States ranking 6th (40%).

Full article can be found here:

Source: [National Center for Science Education](#)

Insane Right-Wing Organization Invents Lies To Smear Planned Parenthood - excerpt

In case you thought that the lying documentary hoax was invented by James O'Keefe, here's a reminder that it has been a thriving wingnut industry for years. (Remember The Clinton Chronicles?) Here's a new one coming from the infamous Coral Ridge Ministries featuring a couple of alleged ex-employees from Planned Parenthood who say the clinics routinely give out defective condoms and weak birth control pills to girls so they can meet their abortion quota and become millionaires. Apparently, it's something like selling Mary Kay or Tupperware.

Full article can be found here: [AlterNet](#)