

# Society of Edmonton Atheists Monthly Newsletter

[www.edmontonatheists.ca/](http://www.edmontonatheists.ca/)

Volume 5 - Issue 1 - January, 2015

@EdmontonAtheist

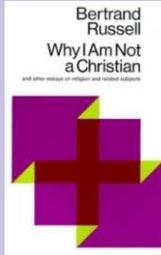
/groups/EdmontonAtheists/

The Society of Edmonton Atheists fosters a community among atheists, agnostics and freethinkers through discussion, constructive activism, education and philanthropy.

## UPCOMING SEA EVENTS

### Book Club

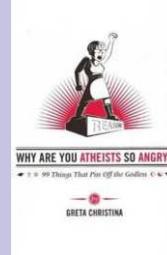
Second Cup  
9236 - Oliver Square  
11640 - 104 Ave.



**Why I Am Not a Christian:**  
And Other Essays on Religion  
and Related Subjects  
by Bertrand Russell

Jan 4  
7pm

We will be discussing  
the entire main essay



**Why Are You Atheists So Angry:**  
99 Things That Piss Off the Godless  
by Greta Christina

Jan 18  
7pm

We will be discussing  
the entire book

February (Feb 1 and 15): "Inside Scientology: The History of America's Secretive Religion" - Janet Reitman

*We would like to thank those who have been coming out and enjoying our Book Club, and hope that more will participate in 2015.*

### Monthly Roundtable

## Video/Discussion Night

TED Talks or other videos - TBA - Watch and discuss

Jan. 6  
7-9pm

Karen will be choosing some interesting TED Talks or other videos for the group to watch and discuss. This should be interesting, as it will be a surprise on what she will choose.

Stanley Milner EPL - 7 Sir Winston Churchill Sq. - Centennial Room (basement)

Afterwards we head to [Rose and Crown Pub](#) for a more informal chat. Hope to see you there!

### SEA Social Event

## Kerri's Going Away Party

Jan 10  
5-11pm



Our beloved Kerri is travelling around the world for a year and is not sure where she'll land for work after that.

Come say goodbye at [Rose and Crown Pub](#) (10235 - 101 St.) we have the back room (where we go after roundtable) booked for us.

Dinner or drinks, stop by when you can.

### Sunday Brunch

## Albert's Family Restaurant Bonnie Doon Mall

Jan 25  
9am



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Sunday morning, and everyone you know who's up at this time is going to church. Why not come eat some bacon with a bunch of atheists at Bonnie Doon Mall?

# Renew Your SEA Membership or Become an SEA Member!

**ONLY \$20/year!**



## GET INVOLVED!

Memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2015

It's that time of year again ... time to renew your SEA Membership!

Or for those that aren't already members, NOW is the time to join our ridiculously affordable Non-Profit (non-prophet) Organization!

We offer:

- **COOL Membership Cards** (become a card-carrying Atheist)
- Allowed to **vote at the AGM**, and run for **Board positions**
- **Discounts** on SEA Swag
- **Discounts** on SEA funded events (we bring in some top speakers)
- **Volunteering** opportunities (Highway Clean-Up, Habitat for Humanity)
- **Roundtables** and **Sunday Brunches**
- A bi-weekly **Book Club**
- **Just hanging** with like-minded people in the 'community'
- And ... **so much more!!!!**

Society of Edmonton Atheists

Donate a toonie towards SEA event costs

**TOONIE and a TIN**

Bring a non-perishable donation

FOOD BANK

Society of Edmonton Atheists

**BLOOD DRIVE**

If you are a member or friend of the SEA and have given blood lately, **Count Yourself In** at our website [edmontonatheists.ca](http://edmontonatheists.ca)

**GODLESS IS GOOD!**

JOIN US:

[www.EdmontonAtheists.ca](http://www.EdmontonAtheists.ca)

## SEA ETS Bus Ads

**We are in the final stretch!**

We are slowly getting to our goal of \$8000. So far we have raised just over \$7600 and would like to thank all of those that have generously donated toward this.

Donations can be made on our website **Membership and Merchandise** page (available for Paypal users), or at one of our functions.

Help us make this happen. The bus ads will run for a month on many ETS buses.



**CREATING A COMMUNITY OF ACCEPTANCE**

## Quote(s) of the Month

"History does not record anywhere at any time a religion that has any rational basis. Religion is a crutch for people not strong enough to stand up to the unknown without help. But, like dandruff, most people do have a religion and spend time and money on it and seem to derive considerable pleasure from fiddling with it."  
- Robert A. Heinlein, *Time Enough for Love*

"Science can destroy religion by ignoring it as well as by disproving its tenets. No one ever demonstrated, so far as I am aware, the non-existence of Zeus or Thor - but they have few followers now."  
- Arthur C. Clarke, *Childhood's End*

"They won't listen. Do you know why? Because they have certain fixed notions about the past. Any change would be blasphemy in their eyes, even if it were the truth. They don't want the truth; they want their traditions."  
- Isaac Asimov, *Pebble in the Sky*



**DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?**

Follow along with the **Atheist Bible Study** group! From June 2014 - November 2015, they are reading the Bible objectively as a work of literary and historical significance, not as a sacred text. Feel free to ask questions, ponder interpretation, share information, suggest resources and links, and generally support one other as they tackle this challenging task. Read along with the weekly assigned passages, or just follow the comments and postings. It's fun and educational.

**From the Board of Directors of SEA:**

We are looking forward to providing our members and friends many more great opportunities in 2015. We will continue bringing in some great guest speakers and topics at our Roundtables, volunteering in our community (Habitat for Humanity and Highway Clean-up), family-friendly social events (Sunday Brunch, Solstice Potlucks, museums and galleries, and local amusement attractions), and adult social events providing fellowship and comradery.

Some of the exciting new things being planned for 2015:

- bus ad campaign
- hosting a conference in Red Deer in the fall (similar to INR)
- more guest speakers (last year we had David Silverman and Richard Carrier)

Cheers

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**2014-2015 SEA Board of Directors**

President - <b>Karen Lumley Kerr</b>	Past President - <b>Marion Kilgour</b>
Vice Pres. - <b>Allan Bassil</b>	Director - <b>Robert Chamberlain</b>
Treasurer - <b>Jeffrey Van Alstine</b>	Director - <b>Luke Fevin</b>
Secretary - <b>Richard Robinson</b>	Director - <b>Kerri Hildebrandt</b>
Rec-Secretary - <b>Maryna Goncharenko</b>	Director - <b>Harriet Huestis</b>



**Member Submission**  
**Kat McLeod**

Kat loves photography, and has a real passion for taking great shots in cemeteries. These are some Victorian markers that she has creatively sepia-toned and vignettted.



**Call Out for Talent**

We are looking for talented members (or non-members) who would be willing to take the time to write a short essay, story, poem, photos, or original artwork for our SEA Newsletters. These must be **original** works created by the individual, not taken from the web or other sources.

The submissions need not be religious/atheist based, we would just like to highlight some of the talented people within our community.

*Thank you to all who submitted during the year.*

**Atheist Humour Comix Section**

1. Philson Airlines: "Any baggage, Sir?" "What, no, actually." "Thought old at the time."

2. Snowman: "Look! Stem cells!"

3. A man at a podium: "You were a believer, yes. But you skipped the not-being-a-jerk-about-it part."