

# Society of Edmonton Atheists Monthly Newsletter

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

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@EdmontonAtheist

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

## UPCOMING SEA EVENTS

### SEA Monthly ROUNDTABLE

**Stanley Milner EPL**  
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Room 5, 6th Floor

This month we will hear from SEA attendee **Jean Bodie** about **The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF)**, which works with community-level organizations which are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa by providing care and support to women, orphaned children, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, the foundation has funded over 700 initiatives, partnering with 300 community-based organizations in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the pandemic. Find out what Stephen Lewis's Foundation (he's an atheist) is doing about this.

**June 4**  
7-9pm

Come join our monthly discussion group at the downtown library. Everyone is welcome to attend. After the discussion, we move over the **Rose & Crown Pub** at 9:00 pm, 10235 - 101 St.

## Atheists at Pride

**JUNE 8**  
11am-7pm

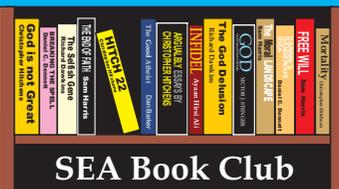
The SEA will be participating in the **Edmonton Pride Parade** again this year, and have a booth in Churchill Square afterwards.

We'll need people to help out with various things leading up to the event, and the day of, so keep a look out for requests for help with organizing, making, building, marching, and generally being friendly to the public. :)

Staging for the parade will be near 107 St and 102 Ave. The booth, and activities for after the parade will be at Churchill Square.

The official Edmonton Pride Festival information is here: <http://www.edmontonpride.ca/>

Please note: our theme this year is **RAINBOW!!!** Please don colourful gear and as much feathers and glitter as you can! Wait until you see what the **Flying Spaghetti Monster** is wearing! It will be fabulous!!!



### SEA Book Club

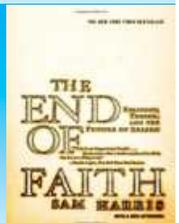
**Second Cup**  
Stanley Milner EPL  
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

**JUNE 9**  
7pm

**The End of Faith:**  
Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason  
- Sam Harris  
Discussing Chapters 1 - 3

**JUNE 23**  
7pm

**The End of Faith:**  
Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason  
- Sam Harris  
Discussing Chapters 4 - End



### SEA COMMUNITY EVENT

**Getting Involved!**

### Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Project

**70 Arlington Blvd, St. Albert**

Come help **landscape** the new builds at the **St. Albert Habitat for Humanity site**. There may still be things to do on the build – paint touch-ups, finishing, construction cleanup, etc. - Lunch is provided (specific dietary needs, please bring your own lunch).

**JUNE 15**  
9:30am - 5:30pm

### SUMMER SOLSTICE POTLUCK PICNIC

**Coronation Park**  
Blue Canopy (Site #2)

The annual family-friendly summer solstice picnic is back again this year! Bring along a dish/snack/dessert to share, and beverages for yourself (no alcohol is permitted in city parks). We have access to wood-burning BBQs and a fire pit, so, burgers, marshmallows, and anything else requiring cooking are fine to bring.

Please also bring any park-appropriate summer games that you have. Bubbles, giant balls, Frisbee, and jump rope have all been popular with the kids in the past. (Well, let's be honest, the giant bubbles were a hit with everyone.)

We will need to organize a few people closer to the actual event to help bring some firewood, coolers with ice (for beverages, meat, etc.), and to set up a scavenger hunt for the kids (of all sizes).

**JUNE 22**  
4-7pm



### Blasphemous Brunch

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?

**Albert's Family Restaurant**  
Bonnie Doon Mall  
Everyone is welcome!

**JUNE 30**  
9am



Donate a toonie towards SEA event costs

# TOONIE and a TIN

Bring a non-perishable donation



### The SEA is introducing a new initiative at our Roundtables and events.

As a non-profit organization, with funds only coming from memberships, we are encouraging members and non-members who attend these functions to help us offer more and better SEA events. These are strictly voluntary, but we encourage everyone to contribute to the SEA and Edmonton Food Bank.

**TOONIE** - Rental for the library rooms and other event venues, entertainment and games for the kids, and other additional costs cut into our meager general revenues. We would like to hold bigger and better family-friendly functions, but this takes money! Please give a Toonie (or more) to help offset our expenses.

**TIN** - of course, is to help the **Edmonton Food Bank** by donating non-perishable food items for Edmonton and area's needy. Help US Help THEM!

**Not a member yet?** Annual dues are only \$20 and entitle you to discounts on merchandise, events, and more.



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)



"This was the third year for the conference, which is held in Kamloops during May each year. It is more intimate than other conferences that are of the same sort; playing host to about 200-250 people each time, which gives you a chance to mingle with the speakers in a smaller atmosphere. Centre For Inquiry (CFI) members also enjoyed a more private lunch and dinner with the speakers giving plenty of opportunity to chat. A book signing on the Saturday afternoon was a great opportunity to meet and greet the speakers also. I'm the proud owner of a book signed by Richard Carrier.

This year the speaker line up included Daniel Dennett who is considered one of the Four Horsemen of Atheism (Dawkins, Harris, Hitchens being the other three). The speakers had a wide range of topics, from personal stories of escaping violence to science and historically related information. I would have a hard time choosing a favourite speaker as quite a few had me nodding my head in agreement, or crying tears of pain along with them, or scribbling down notes as I learned new things. There was passion, compassion, humour and motivation...everything I expected and more.

"I want everyone to try their best to attend next year...it's a must not miss event for Western Canada!"

- Karen Lumley-Kerr



Karen, Mr. Deity (Brian Keith Dalton) and Allan Bassil

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

The SEA invites everyone to our Roundtables and social events. These provide an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded people from all walks of life, faiths, and backgrounds. Some are lifelong non-believers, most come from a variety of faiths and have interesting stories about their journey of enlightenment into Atheism, Agnosticism or Humanism. Many are just looking for a group where they can 'come out' and relax, leaving (for a while) the pressures of religious family and friends. "Coming out" can be very traumatic and frightening, but the SEA tries to provide a safe haven and support group for those seeking help and friendship.

### Or just Curious?

Many believers have joined us at our Roundtables to find out more about us. They are usually very amiable and non-confrontational, just curious about our (non)beliefs. Our Roundtables usually have a 'topic for the night' where we may invite a guest speaker to tell us about their 'topic', then there is an open conversation amongst the group with many questions, personal experiences, and comments. Most newcomers have given very positive feedback on their experience with the group, and are impressed by the intellectual dialogue during the session.

### Post-discussion libation.

After the Roundtables, we convene to the **Elephant & Castle Pub** for libations and socialization; carrying the discussion of the night on or just talking about...whatever.

### We are curious too!

Some of us have attended inter-faith symposiums, faith services and other faith-based talks to find out more about religions and their beliefs. We respect the hosts, and sometimes are invited to comment or discuss our experience with them. Some of us are always curious about religions and, through interaction with these groups, try to grasp a better understanding of them. It is said that "most atheists know more about religions than the religious", probably because of our thirst for knowledge and understanding through open-minded inquiry.

## Atheist Humour Comix Section

