

The Atheist Voice

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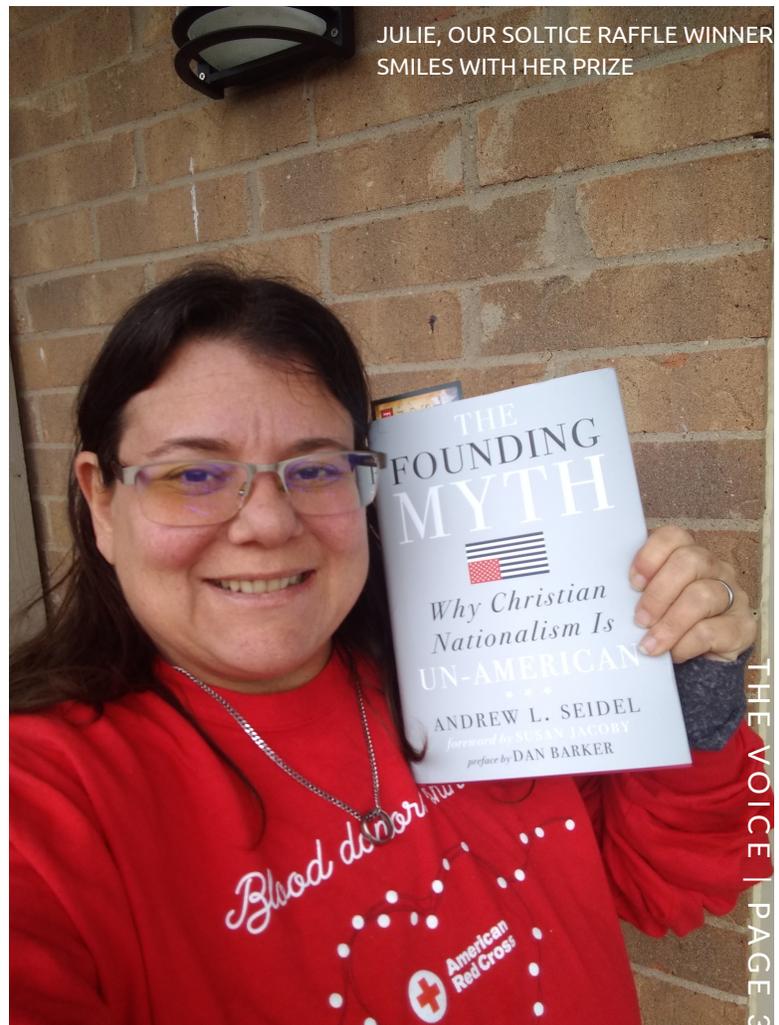
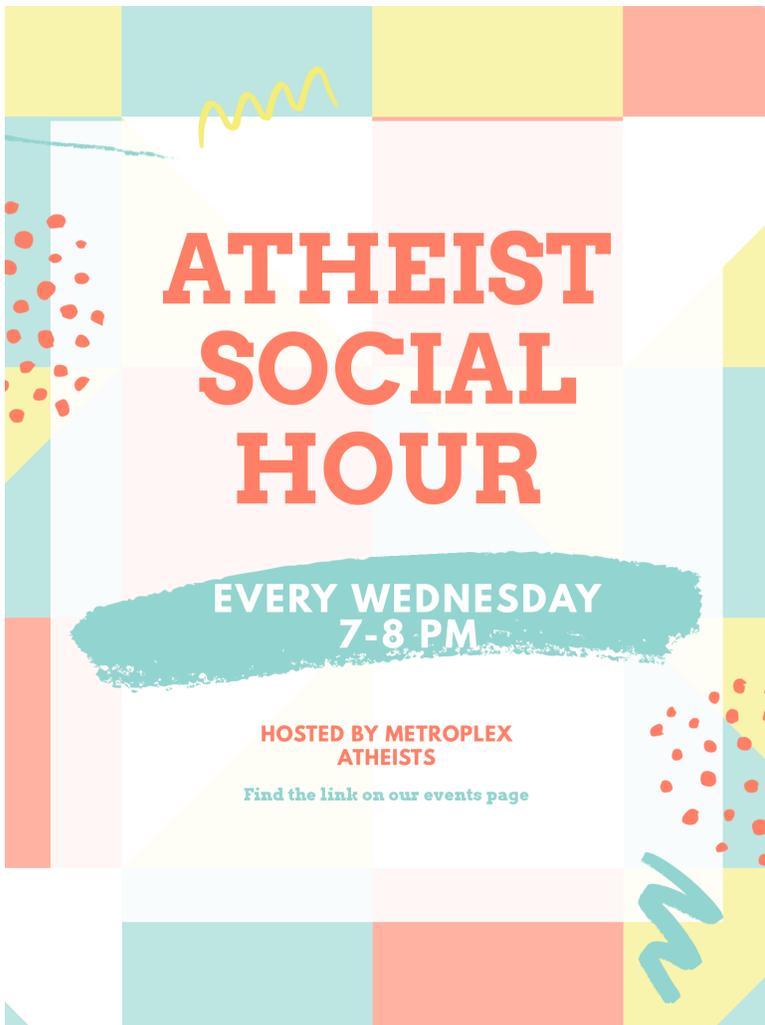
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See how we kept up with our long-standing tradition despite social distancing mandates



JULIE, OUR SOLTICE RAFFLE WINNER SMILES WITH HER PRIZE

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Charlee Vance is the Secretary for Metroplex Atheists and Assistant State Director for American Atheists

Randy Word currently serves on the Board of Directors for Metroplex Atheists

To begin, everyone at Metroplex Atheists would like to extend our deepest condolences to the more than half a million American families who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19. Additionally, we urge everyone to follow the science by adhering to CDC guidelines and getting vaccinated as quickly as possible.

So what has Metroplex Atheist (MA) been doing during the past year? A lot!

We have been continuing our regular Wednesday socials and monthly business meetings via Zoom. We hope to get back to in-person events in the next few months but until then please join us at these on-line get togethers. Dates, times and links are available on our Meetup and Facebook pages.

Like all other events in 2020, our annual solstice event could not take place at the traditional physical location.. But that didn't stop us from holding our first ever Colin Seward Solstice Party- Zoom Edition. We were excited to present Constitutional Lawyer Andrew Seidel of FFRF at our virtual gathering. Andrew spoke about the importance of being able to define our position as secularists. Read more about the event on page 6.

This year we also initiated our first student essay contest. The first place winner is highlighted on page 7.

As far as activism, Brandy Jones spearheaded our "Constitutional Challenge" - see page 4. We have not had any takers so far but that to be expected. However, it did ignite a lot of debate on our [FB page](#).

We are also in the process of planning our next educational advertising campaign. Our goal is to execute a campaign that will match, or eclipse, the "In No God We Trust" campaign we did in 2019. That campaign brought the divisive and exclusionary nature of the current national motto, "In God We Trust" to national attention. Stay tuned for details as they emerge.

MA is a local activist group which provides social activities for like-minded people, continuously educates the general public about atheism and fights violations of the separation of church and state. As a volunteer-run organization, we rely solely on the support of our members. Please consider [becoming a member](#) today. Donations are also appreciated.

Looking forward to a better year
-Charlee and Randy

2021 CONSTITUTION CHALLENGE

BY BRANDY JONES

As President of Metroplex Atheists I try to think of projects which will gain us publicity, engage with the general public and promote thought on topics of interest to Atheists. One of the issues that has intrigued me for years is the claim that the US Constitution is a "Christian document" and contains "Christian principles". This claim is frequently made by various religious authorities and fundamentalist political leaders. As someone who has read the Constitution numerous times and keeps several small copies near at hand, I fail to see any evidence of Christianity or any other religion in the document. Not only are God and Christianity not mentioned, but the two quick mentions of religion are exclusionary in nature stating no establishment of religion and no religious test to hold office.

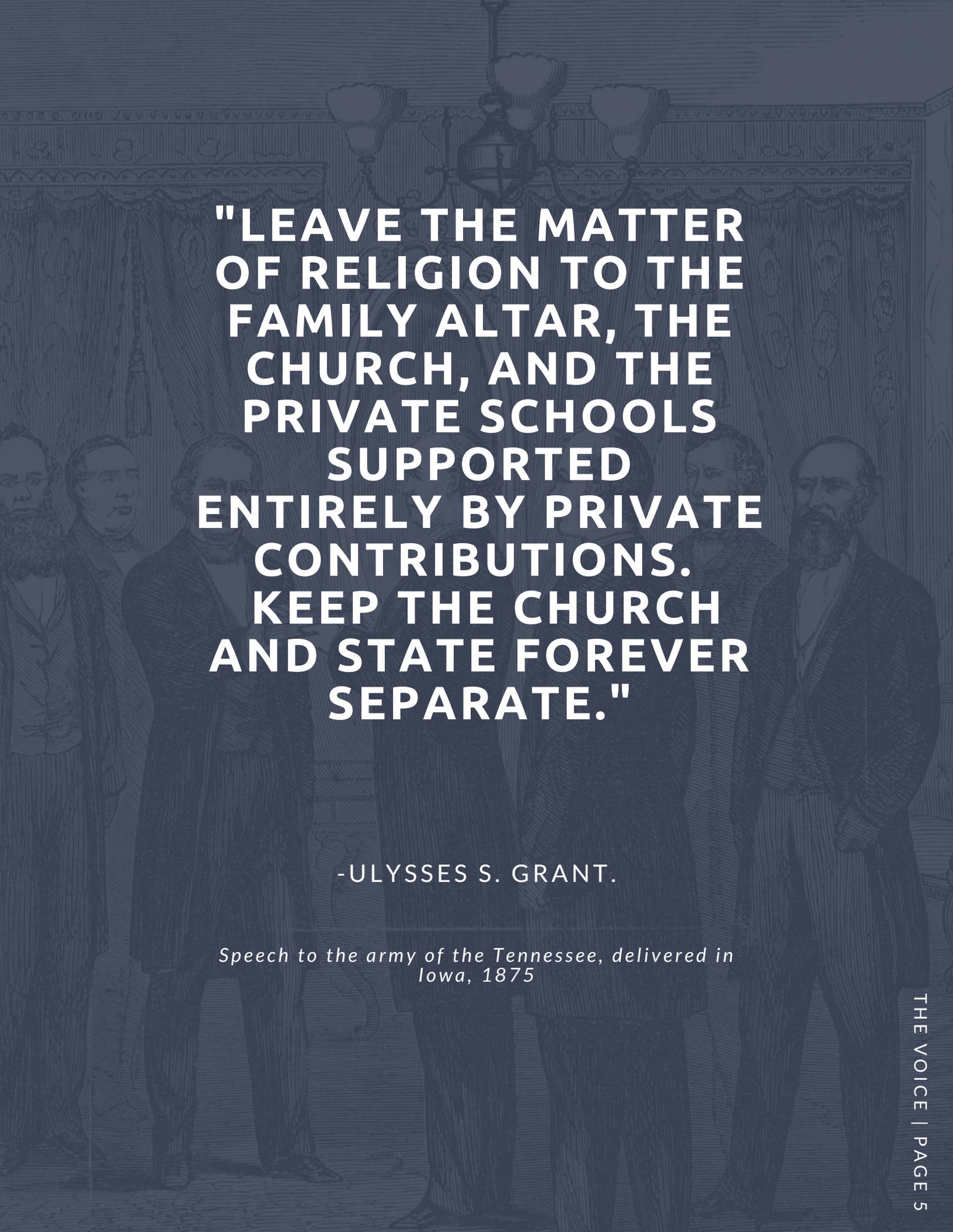
The apologists at this point claim some vague Christian principles as if any establishment of good government must be Christian. The Constitution lays out a form of democratic republic. The father of Democracy is Cleisthenes who set Athens on a democratic footing five centuries before Christianity. Ancient Rome established a republic in 509 BC again five centuries before Christianity. Numerous forms of the Golden Rule predate Christianity. In fact, rather than promoting democracy the Christian Church showed a remarkable ability to cozy up to kings and dictators down through the centuries.

Another indication that Christians recognize the non Christian nature of the Constitution is the incessant push for a Constitutional amendment that would add an endorsement of Christianity to the Constitution. Multiple Protestant denominations pushed for this amendment as well as a Christian Preamble to the Constitution acknowledging "Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Ruler among the nation's....". These efforts began in 1863 and continued to 1882. Similar "Christian America" amendments were introduced in 1961, 1963 and 1965. All these efforts failed.

My question is why are Christian amendments and preambles necessary if the Constitution is as obviously Christian as right wing fundamentalist claim. Also if the founding fathers had wanted to make the Constitution a "Christian document", it would have been simple to just add the words needed at the time it was produced. Our hope is that the challenge will get people to actually read the Constitution, an amazing document of which all Americans should be proud. Our challenge is narrow and specific, pertaining only to the US Constitution. Such subjects as the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the theocratic leanings of early colonial and states; will have to wait to a later date. For further reading on these topics, I would recommend the book "Why the Religious Right is Wrong About Separation of Church and State" by Robert Boston published in 1993 by Prometheus Press. See our website for more details. To learn more about the constitution challenge, please visit our website [here](#).



**Brandy Jones- President
Metroplex Atheists**



**"LEAVE THE MATTER
OF RELIGION TO THE
FAMILY ALTAR, THE
CHURCH, AND THE
PRIVATE SCHOOLS
SUPPORTED
ENTIRELY BY PRIVATE
CONTRIBUTIONS.
KEEP THE CHURCH
AND STATE FOREVER
SEPARATE."**

-ULYSSES S. GRANT.

*Speech to the army of the Tennessee, delivered in
Iowa, 1875*

2020 COLIN SEWARD SOLSTICE PARTY

Many will recall our annual Colin Seward Winter Solstice party that is held each December at the Fort Worth botanical gardens and features a special guest speaker. To maintain social distancing regulations, the event was held via Zoom in 2020.

We were fortunate to host Constitutional Attorney for Freedom From Religion Foundation and Author Andrew Seidel. Seidel outlined arguments in favor of the separation of church and state, noting that the principle benefits religious institutions as well as secular ones. He also discussed the ideas in his recent book *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism is Un-American* (purchase a copy [here](#)). At the end of his lecture, Seidel was able to take questions from our members and open dialog about the implications this issue has on our community.

Metroplex Atheists also raffled two copies of *The Founding Myth* to individuals that pre-registered for the event. To automatically be entered in all future Metroplex Atheists raffle contests, make sure to purchase a [Heretic Membership Level here](#).

We look forward to hosting a limited-capacity Solstice Event for 2021 at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. Follow our social media accounts to stay updated with our latest events.

[Click here to watch a recording of the 2020 Virtual Solstice Party with Andrew Seidel.](#)



ANDREW L. SEIDEL is a constitutional attorney, the Director of Strategic Response at the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and author of *The Founding Myth*.



STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Metroplex Atheists is proud to offer Mariah Hudson the First Prize award of \$150 as part of our first annual student essay contest. Read the winning submission below.

Understanding science isn't a prerequisite for atheism, but it is necessary to avoid being deceived by anti-science arguments. An inquisitive mind is often discouraged by those faithful at risk, and its absence is responsible for society's misguided distrust of the scientific method. Obstinate beliefs that holy scriptures are inerrant leaves no room for emerging naturalistic explanations, no matter the evidence. This is wholly unscientific and illustrates why the denial of science is easier than wading in a pool of cognitive dissonance by accepting both natural and supernatural beliefs. The fact that few absolutes exist in science is perceived as its deficiency while every question surmised absolute from inside the erring word of dogmatic authority is regarded a strength. Until these conflicting and inflexible beliefs become more pliable, science will continue to be denied because it is in opposition to arrogant certainty.

"You believe we came from monkeys?" my older sister exclaimed when I informed her of my disbelief in God. I am not sure if she was more shocked I admitted I was an atheist, or that I responded, "No, I believe in the scientific theory of evolution." Whether I believed her straw-manned description or not, belief in evolution is irrelevant to the disbelief in gods. There is a falsehood that atheists must be experts in biology and the origins of life in order to disbelieve silly propositions.

"Who is demanded the explanation to cavities and baby teeth when they grow out of the belief in the Tooth Fairy? I suspect the honest answer, "I don't know" is unsatisfying to someone who had unquestionably known their entire life. But I cannot blame my sister for her ignorance when scientific theories are bombarded by misrepresentations from science deniers every day.

Science is a threat to theistic religion because it explains the natural world without the appeal to gods. It is erroneous to assume all believers in faith fear science since many ignorantly concur with the assertions religious apologists construct. Authority is chosen instead of skepticism and skepticism is labeled cynicism. Scientific theories are grossly distorted by apologists and presented to believers as perverted truth because they know faith cannot circumvent actual scientific evidence. Scientifically illiterate believers then parrot these false claims in order to affirm their belief. Since all their knowledge of science are dishonest portrayals, many believers never accept real wisdom of a naturalistic world.

Education is probably the best cure to the denial of science apart from dismantling faith-based religion. When absent to studying the evidence and methods implemented by science, believers will continue to subordinately trust authority without question. Inconvenient seeds of doubt must be planted in minds to stir cognitive dissonance. Until steadfast beliefs are permitted substantial inquiry, science will continue to be denied.



**WHY
DO WE
FIGHT?**

**WHO
ARE
WE?**

**WHERE
ARE
WE?**

'Because we must. Because we have the call. Because it is nobler to fight for rationality without winning than to give up in the face of continued defeats. Because whatever true progress humanity makes is through the rationality of the occasional individual and because any one individual we may win for the cause may do more for humanity than a hundred thousand who hug superstition to their breasts.'
-Isaac Asimov when asked why he fights religion with no hope for victory

Metroplex Atheists is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized for the purpose of education, maintaining Constitutional separation of government and religion, protection of atheists' rights and to provide social meetings for those of similar world-views. We are affiliates of American Atheists.

Find Us Online

metroplexatheists.org

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