

BLASPHEMY?

On The Dangers of Privileging Religious Beliefs

The
**36th National Convention
of AMERICAN ATHEISTS**

2-4 APRIL 2010 CE

Elizabeth/Newark/New York City

AMERICAN ATHEISTS will hold its 36th National Convention April 2-4, 2010 (pre-registration plus a special event starts on the evening of Thursday the 1st) in Elizabeth/ Newark, NJ—right across the river from The Big Apple, New York! The theme— **“BLASPHEMY?—On The Dangers of Privileging Religious Beliefs”**—is one that most speakers will touch on in one way or another. As Atheists, we reject all or almost all theistic beliefs all the time, and we stand ready to debate religious vs. irreligious beliefs in any fair forum. But the greatest dangers of religion--to scientific progress, to rational thinking, to democratic governance, politics, and protections for free individuals, to human rights, to educational growth, to peace, and to ethical progress for humanity--come when religion is cloaked with special rights and special protections, when critiquing religious belief is called “blasphemy” or beliefs are held to be “sacred.” Any idea, religious or otherwise, that cannot withstand untrammled scrutiny in the marketplace of ideas should be rejected without further ado.

SPEAKERS

We'll have a blockbuster line-up! Confirmed:

DAN BARKER author; co-president, Freedom From Religion Foundation

CECIL BOTHWELL Atheist city councilman from Asheville, NC, investigative journalist, author of the Prince of War

ED BUCKNER president of American Atheists
JOHN R. BUTLER musician, special guest of the president

SEAN FAIRCLOTH exec. dir., Secular Coalition for America

TOM FLYNN editor, Free Inquiry & exec. dir., Council for Secular Humanism

EDWIN F. KAGIN American Atheists National Legal Dir., author, poet, blasphemy king

WENDY KAMINER author, lawyer and social critic; writes about law, liberty, feminism, religion, and popular culture

PAUL KURTZ philosopher; author; founder, Council for Secular Humanism; Newark native

MARTIN LEWISON professor of business, wit, former Wall Street executive

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI author, philosopher, advocate for science

DARREL RAY author, psychologist, theorist on religion's power to infect society

TERRY SANDERSON president, National Secular Society (United Kingdom)

JEFF SHARLET author, The Family, original investigator & exposé of the Christian Right's ongoing attempt to run government & operate a famous C Street apt. house

TODD STIEFEL entrepreneur & freethought leader (& member of American Atheists development committee)

EDDIE TABASH attorney, debater, fierce Atheist advocate

ANDY THOMSON psychiatrist; interests include evolutionary psychology, suicide terrorism, & the cognitive neuroscience of religious belief

PORTEOUS WOOD (KEITH) exec. dir., National Secular Society (United Kingdom)

INDRA ZUNO linguist born & raised in Mexico. Actor in Mexican theater & TV; Spanish Court Interpreter for the US District Court and for the Los Angeles Superior Court. Her talk will be offered in both Spanish and English; she may also translate simultaneously one other talk into Spanish

REGISTRATION

Sign up at www.atheists.org or mail in your registration to American Atheists. Space is limited, so please register now.

POST- OR END-OF-CONFERENCE EVENTS

- We have plans for organizing a creative burst of marketing energy on Sunday morning (“Easter”) called “Resurrection Bytes, Renaissance Lights” featuring dozens of our best minds and talkers. Free. Stay tuned.
- On Sunday afternoon we will have a bus tour into Manhattan and the American Museum of Natural History, to include commentary from biologist/philosopher Massimo Pigliucci. Very limited seating, so you must register for this by March 15th. Handicapped accessible bus(es). (\$60 per person, including an optional but strongly recommended \$15 lunch voucher at the museum.)

Students can get special rates and other benefits by registering directly through our convention partner, Secular Student Alliance, <http://www.secularstudents.org/>

The following discounts apply

(more than one can be taken; may be applied to either the conference registration or to the total combo; cannot be applied separately to banquets or Sunday afternoon tour; apply only if registering by Monday, March 15th (deadline has been extended); maximum total discount is \$50):

- \$30 off for being a Member, American Atheists (and Yes you can join at the same time you register—just \$20!)
- \$40 off for being a Life Member, American Atheists (and Yes you can join at the same time you register—just \$1,200!)
- \$10 off for being a Senior/Distinguished Citizen
- \$15 off for Early Registration (convention registration by 15 March 2010 CE)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS ONLY \$149!

(Includes all events except banquets Thursday night through Sunday a.m.; this includes beverage-and-eats breaks on Friday and Saturday)

Friday evening banquet	\$44
Saturday evening banquet	\$49
Total combo	just \$235

Total combo includes banquets but not the Sunday afternoon event—(must be paid by March 15th).

THE VENUE!

Book your room now! (Not included in registration for convention.) The Convention will take place at one of the premier meeting venues in the NJ-NYC region—The Magnificent Newark Liberty Renaissance Hotel at Newark Airport (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ewnrn-renaissance-newark-airport-hotel/>) 1000 Spring St., Elizabeth, New Jersey. Make your reservations promptly with the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel by calling 1-866-234-7535. To qualify for the special room rate, you must ask for the special American Atheists Convention rate of \$84 (plus tax) for 1 to 4 people in the room. The same low rate can be had for a day or two on either side of the convention—but you have to ask for it. This allows you and family/friends to make a “mini-vacation” of the Convention weekend, and visit all the great tourism sites in the area, including New York City. There is free parking for those staying at the hotel, along with free internet and other amenities. The hotel is non-smoking throughout--smokers can call our office about a nearby (easy walking distance) motel with smoking-permitted bedrooms (higher rates, alas). The Newark Liberty Renaissance Hotel has free shuttle service to and from the Newark Airport, AMTRAK (www.amtrak.com), and NJ Transit stop at the Newark Airport station.



FORM FOR THOSE WANTING TO REGISTER BY MAIL:

Name(s) _____

 Address _____

 E-mail _____
 Telephone _____

Registration(s)	_____ x \$149 = _____
Friday banquet(s)	_____ x \$44 = _____
Saturday banquet(s)	_____ x \$49 = _____
(OR) Combos	_____ x \$235 = _____
	(registration and both banquets)
Sunday afternoon tour	_____ x \$60 = _____
LESS discounts	= -- _____
(see above; maximum discount \$50 per participant)	
Total	= _____
(please enclose check, money order, or credit card details)	



AMERICAN ATHEISTS, INC.

American Atheists Convention 2010 Credit Card Payment Form
Credit Card orders only: Fill out, print, and mail to
P.O. Box 158, Cranford, NJ 07016
Or FAX to 908-276-7402

BE SURE TO RETURN THIS FORM AND THE ORDER FORM!

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I authorize American Atheists to charge my credit card for the specified amount for the 2010 Annual Convention:

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Credit Card #

Exp Security Code

Name on card

Billing Address

City

State Zip

Billing Phone #

Bank Name on Card

Total Amt to be charged \$

Cardholder Signature _____ **Date** _____