

Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

Progressive Atheists Inc. OpenMeeting

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held at 12 pm on **Saturday, 27th August 2016** at the Melbourne Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002. All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/232838589/>

*Reminder for September Open Meeting: **Saturday, 24th September 2016***

Progressive Atheists PurposeStatement:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/purpose-statement/>

Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group | EventCalendar

Keep in touch with atheists around Melbourne via the Melbourne MeetUp:

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/>

Membership Term 2015 | 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum / \$10 concession.

JOIN US | Purchase New Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/product-category/membership/>

For other methods to renew and join please see our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/>

Email our Membership Officer:

membership@progressiveatheists.org

OR ASK the person who gave you this bulletin

Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

Order your t-shirt or badge on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/products-for-sale/>

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: sales@progressiveatheists.org

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"Your participation is PA's future"



August 2016

... we seek to go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.

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Membership Renewal Term 2016: 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

MEMBERSHIP

Term 2016: 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

***** ONLY \$20 Annually *****

Purchase Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/product-category/membership/>

CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.

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Secretary: secretary@progressiveatheists.org

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc

Twitter: twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc

Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

Report: Religious instruction to remain in Queensland schools

The Palaszczuk Government is expected to announce reforms to religious instruction in Queensland state schools - but won't be removing it from the curriculum.

Sources close to the process have told Fairfax Media the government intends on changing enrolment forms to ensure only students whose parents explicitly give permission for their child to attend religious instruction take part in the classes.

Education Minister Kate Jones would not comment, only saying the review was on-going.

But it's understood the review, which started with a focus on a particular



program being taught in schools, has revealed wider issues with religious instruction as a whole, prompting a call for more transparency in what is being taught, to who, and how.

Currently, parents write down their child's religion at the time of enrolment.

READ MORE HERE:

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/religious-instruction-to-remain-in-queensland-schools-20160817-gqv4hs.html>

Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in Melbourne. At the meeting an Annual Report will be presented. The Term 2016 will step down and a new committee will be elected for Term 2017.

We are currently inviting expressions of interest to stand for the Committee Term 2017.

Roles to fill are:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

6 places for Ordinary Members

If you are interested to find out more about what these roles entail please contact the current committee. Contact details can be found on the website: <http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/committee/> otherwise you can send an email to contact@progressiveatheists.org

Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

Monday 31 October 2016

Dinner from 6.00 pm

Meeting 7.30 pm

La Notte Restaurant

140 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053

Join the Facebook Event - Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

<https://www.facebook.com/events/305415766515291/>

Report: Zuists Icelanders

A new religion, Zuism, based on the worship of the ancient Sumeran gods promises a refund for government religion taxes for everyone registering with their religious group in Iceland.

On the Zuist website in Iceland it was advertised that anyone over the age of 16 registering with the religion (and thus unregistering from the National Church of Iceland) would get a refund for these fees called parish fees. However, tax authorities have responded to questions from news organizations explaining that if Zuists go ahead to refund parish fees to their members they will have to



pay income tax from these funds.

Zuists would like to abolish government funding to religious organisations in the form of parish fees and believe that the "state should stop gathering data on the personal religious beliefs of Icelanders."

In recent years there has been increasing pressure from over half of the Icelandic public, according to polls, to separate church and state.

In the last few weeks, hundreds of Icelanders have signed up as members of the Zuist religion.

READ MORE HERE: <https://atheistalliance.org/regional-reports/western-europe/1201-icelanders-flocking-to-the-zuist-religion.html>

Report: Can Islam and Liberalism co-exist?

One of the hopes that grew out of the Arab Spring was that a relatively moderate strain of Islamist politics could thrive in the region. Given the widespread prevalence of dictators and military-led regimes, and the violent radicals who oppose them in mirrored gruesomeness, groups like Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood were seen as potential alternatives. Five years later, however, the Arab Spring has devolved into a collection of bloody failures everywhere from Egypt to Syria. Another proposed model of Islamism—Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey—was already giving way to autocracy well before a quashed coup attempt further entrenched Erdogan's demagoguery.

These failures have raised the fraught question of whether Islam itself is partially to blame. Shadi Hamid, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, is the author of a new book, *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam Is Reshaping the World*. The title gives some hint of his provocative analysis. As he writes, "If Islam is, in fact, distinctive in how it relates to politics, then the foundational divides that have torn the Middle East apart will persist, and for a long time to come."

I recently spoke by phone with Hamid. During the course of our conversation, which has been edited and condensed for clarity, we discussed why liberals have trouble taking religion seriously, the future of Islamist politics in Turkey and Egypt, and what the rise of Donald Trump has meant for American Muslims.

READ THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE HERE :
http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/interrogation/2016/08/shadi_hamid_on_islamic_exceptionalism.html?wpsrc=sh_all_mob_tw_top

A look back into history:

In 1963 a third of schools in the US had to change their rules on Bible reading after a Supreme Court decision. It all began when a teenager refused to read the Bible in class. Sixteen-year-old Ellery Schempp took his school to court accusing them of violating the first amendment by forcing him to read the Bible at the start of every school day. It challenged the principle of a separation of church and state enshrined in the US Constitution. Claire Bowes has been speaking to him for Witness.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST HERE;

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0442g2m>

Survey: Atheism and LGBT rights

Surveys have long shown that non-religious Americans overwhelmingly support LGBT rights even though, on the surface, those two topics don't necessarily overlap. (Both, of course, fight against traditional religious beliefs. But is there more to it?)

We're working on a long-term project for this site that involves digging deeper into that topic and we could use your help.

TO TAKE THE SURVEY, VISIT:

http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2016/08/17/please-help-us-out-by-taking-this-short-survey-about-atheism-and-lgbt-rights/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing

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Report: Anjem Choudary convicted

One of the UK's most notorious radical clerics has been convicted of inviting others to support the so-called Islamic State, it can now be reported.

Police said Anjem Choudary, 49, had stayed "just within the law" for years, but was arrested in 2014 after pledging allegiance to the militant group.

Many people tried for serious terror offences were influenced by his lectures and speeches, police said. Choudary was convicted alongside confidant Mohammed Mizanur Rahman. Counter-terrorism chiefs have spent almost 20 years trying to bring Choudary, a father of five, to trial, blaming him, and the proscribed organisations which he helped to run, for radicalising young men and women.

READ MORE HERE:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/how-anjem-choudary-used-free-speech-recruit-isis-n633376>



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