

# **2007 AAI Convention Schedule**

Discounted hotel rates are available beginning **Wednesday, September 26, 2007** and are extended to **Tuesday, October 2, 2007**. Mention "Atheist Alliance International" to receive the low rate of \$129 (single or double) per night. Reservations must be made by August 31, 2007 to get the discounted rate.

## **Hotel Information:**

### **Crowne Plaza Hotel**

1480 Crystal Drive

Arlington, Virginia 22202

Phone: (703) 416-1600 and (800) 465-4329

Fax: (703) 416-1615

Web: <http://events.ichotelsgroup.com/DPRD-6YSNJR/WASNA/website/>

A short taxi ride from the airport will cost less than \$10. However, you can arrange for free shuttle van pick-up when you arrive by calling the hotel and pressing option #7.

AAI has arranged for overflow accommodations at the Holiday Inn should the Crowne Plaza Hotel become sold out. Remember to mention "Atheist Alliance International" to receive the discounted rate of **\$129** (single or double) per night at the overflow hotel.

## **Overflow hotel information:**

### **Holiday Inn**

2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy.

Arlington, Virginia 22202

Phone: (703) 684-7200 and (800) 972-3159

Fax: (703) 527-2677

Web: [www.hinationaairport.com](http://www.hinationaairport.com)

A short taxi ride from the airport will cost less than \$10. However, you can arrange for free shuttle van pick-up when you arrive by calling the hotel. Please note that a free shuttle van from the Holiday Inn to the Crowne Plaza is available at any time.

## **Air Travel**

Please consider using the AAI Travel Club (see: AAI website-[www.atheistalliance.org](http://www.atheistalliance.org)) or see the following site (created just for AAI) for more travel discounts:

<http://www.suzidavis.com/aa>

## **Pre-Convention Event**

**Get “SAVED”**

**Secular Activist Voices to Educate Day**

**Thursday, September 27, 2007**

Please arrive early to enjoy this pre-convention activity. Contact **Lori Lipman Brown** at the Secular Coalition for America to set up an appointment to lobby the office of your Congress member. Contact Lori at least one-month in advance at:

Phone: (202) 299-1091

Email: [Lori@secular.org](mailto:Lori@secular.org)

After a long day of lobbying, relax at one of 12 restaurants in the area, but save room for dessert Thursday night!

## **Pre-Convention Thursday Night Event**

**8:00 – 10:00 PM**

The Secular Coalition for America and the Atheist Alliance International will host a fund-raising Dessert Extravaganza in the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Special guests are **Ayaan Hirsi Ali**, **Christopher Hitchens** and the great-great grandson of Charles Darwin, **Matthew Chapman**. They will be available for book signing, photos and intimate chats.

The cost of this fund-raiser is \$50 a person. Please make your donation payable to AAI and be assured that \$40 of your contribution is tax-deductible.

## **Friday, September 28, 2007**

### **9:00 AM**

The **Evolve Fish** store opens in the mezzanine.

### **3:00 – 9:00 PM**

Registration table opens.

*(The **Rational Response Squad** will be on hand throughout the convention to conduct interviews and to film anyone interested in participating in their “Blasphemy Challenge.” Please visit them in the Mt. Vernon Room and sign up for a specific appointment time.)*

## **Friday Evening Reception**

### **5:00 – 7:00 PM**

Reception with international hors d’oeuvres in the Veranda Café (cash bar)

## **Friday Evening Plenary Session**

### **7:00 PM**

Welcome Ceremony with Herb Silverman, Margaret Downey and Pastor Deacon Fred

### **7:45 – 8:30 PM**

Richard Dawkins

### **8:30 – 9:15 PM**

Sam Harris

**Note:** Arrive early to guarantee Arlington Ballroom seating as seating is limited to 300. Additional seating available in auxiliary rooms with live video feed.

## **Friday Night Movie & Hospitality Room**

### **9:30 PM**

Late Night Movie “The Life of Brian” hosted by Gary Smith. Free popcorn for everyone!

The AAI Hospitality Room is open for those wanting to skip the movie and just socialize.

## *Saturday, September 29, 2007*

Please plan to have breakfast on your own. The Veranda Café and Starbucks at the Crowne Plaza opens at 7:00 AM.

### *Saturday Morning Workshops*

**9:00 – 11:00 AM** (two-hour sessions)

“From Media Zero to Media Hero” hosted by **Shannon Cherry** in the Arlington Ballroom

“Secular Parenting – Panel Discussion” hosted by **Dale McGowan** in Alexandria 1 and 2

**9:00 – 10:00 AM** (one-hour sessions)

“Legislative Outreach” hosted by **Lori Lipman Brown** and **Rick Wingrove** in the Monticello Room

“How to Organize, Develop, and Maintain an Atheist Meet-Up” hosted by **Janice Rael** and **Clark Adams** in the Jefferson Room

**10:00 – 11:00 AM** (one-hour sessions)

“Secular Student Alliance” with **August Brunsman** and **Neil Polzin** in the Monticello Room

“Snappy Answers to Religious Questions: How to Combat Common Questions Posed to Atheists in Formal and Informal Settings” with **Dave Silverman** in the Jefferson Room

Lunch on your own. Choose from 12 nearby restaurants located in an underground shopping mall within walking distance. A list of restaurant names and exact locations will be included in the convention packet.

## *Saturday Afternoon Plenary Session*

Arrive early to guarantee Arlington Ballroom seating as seating is limited to 300. Additional seating available in auxiliary rooms with live video feed.

**12:30 – 1:15 PM**

“The Importance of Church State Separation” with **Eddie Tabash**

**1:15 – 2:00 PM**

“Atheists and Freethinkers in the Civil Rights Movement, 1940-1950” with **Mike Estes**

**2:00 – 2:45 PM**

“Dover, Over and Over” with **Eugenie Scott**

**2:45 – 3:00 PM**

**Break**

**3:00 – 3:45 PM**

“Forty Days and Forty Nights” with **Matthew Chapman**

**3:45 – 4:30 PM**

“God is Not Great” with **Christopher Hitchens**

**4:30 – 5:15 PM**

“Infidel” with **Ayaan Hirsi Ali**

## *Saturday Evening Events*

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Cocktail party with hors d’oeuvres in the Veranda Café (cash bar)

**7:00 – 10:00 PM**

Awards Banquet with **Richard Dawkins** and **Daniel Dennett**

**Note:** Separate admission is required for the Awards Banquet (see registration form). Preferred seating in the Arlington Ballroom will be guaranteed to the first 200 full-convention and banquet registrants. Auxiliary rooms will have live video feed to accommodate overflow.

## **Sunday, September 30, 2007**

### **8:00 – 10:00 AM**

Continental breakfast of cherry and mixed danish will be served in the Arlington Ballroom and the auxiliary overflow area (Jefferson Room).

### **9:00 – 9:45 AM**

“Why Secular Celebrations are Important” with **Margaret Downey** in the Arlington Ballroom with live video feed available in the Jefferson Room (next to Veranda Café).

## **Sunday Morning Choices**

### **9:45 – 10:45 AM**

“Welcome to the World – Secular Naming Ceremony” for **Lyra Morgan Cherry** and **Sophia Victoria Cherry**, the twin daughters of **Matt Cherry** and **Shannon Cherry** in the Arlington Ballroom (with live video feed to the Jefferson Room if needed). Presenters to be announced.

### **9:45 – 11:00 AM**

“Group Roundtable Discussion for Learning, Sharing and Networking” (topics of interest will be included in convention registration package) facilitated by **Steve Lowe** in Alexandria 1 and 2.

## **Convention Wrap-up**

### **11:00 AM – Noon**

Convention concludes at noon. Please join us in the Arlington Ballroom for closing ceremonies with Herb Silverman, Pastor Deacon Fred and Margaret Downey.

## *Convention and Banquet Prices*

Early Bird Convention Price (AAI dues paying member)	<b>\$160</b>
Early Bird Convention Price (non-member)	<b>\$170</b>
Convention Price on/after September 1, 2007 (AAI dues paying member)	<b>\$170</b>
Convention Price on/after September 1, 2007 (non-member)	<b>\$180</b>
Students (must have current student ID)	<b>\$130</b>
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Saturday Night Awards Banquet (AAI dues paying member)	<b>\$50</b>
Saturday Night Awards Banquet (non-member)	<b>\$55</b>
Students (must have current student ID)	<b>\$40</b>

The first 200 people who register for the Convention and purchase banquet tickets will receive preferred Arlington Ballroom seating for Saturday night. All other registrations (including the banquet) will receive a convention souvenir book to make up for the inconvenience of sitting in auxiliary rooms with live video feed during the Saturday night banquet. The souvenir book artist, **Gary Smith** will be on-site to draw caricatures at \$15 each. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to AAI.

### **Convention prices include the following:**

- Friday evening cocktail party with cash bar and free food
- Friday night welcome ceremony, plenary session and late night movie
- Saturday morning workshops (choice of six workshops)
- Saturday afternoon plenary session (featuring six speakers)
- Saturday evening cocktail party with cash bar and free food
- Sunday morning speaker with continental danish breakfast and choice of attending a Secular Naming Ceremony or a roundtable discussion group
- Sunday convention wrap-up

***The Saturday Night Awards Banquet, featuring dinner and presentations by Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett, is by separate admission only. (See above.)***

Tickets to the Friday night events, Saturday workshops, Saturday plenary session and Sunday morning event will be sold separately *only* if this convention is not a sell-out event. Prices for these individual sessions will be announced after September 1, 2007. Please watch the AAI website for changes and other announcements.

## **Post-Convention Activity**

Please let AAI know if you plan to stay for a day or two longer. Depending on how many people express interest, AAI may plan trips to monuments, museums, or other points of interest in the Washington, D.C. area. Please check the appropriate box to reserve a spot for any post-convention activity:

- Sunday Afternoon
- Sunday Night
- Monday Morning
- Monday Afternoon
- Monday Night

### **Registration:**

To register on-line and to join AAI, please visit the Atheist Alliance International website at:

[www.atheistalliance.org](http://www.atheistalliance.org)

To register via mail, please complete both the Post-Convention Activity questionnaire (directly above) and the following/attached registration form.

**Atheist Alliance International 2007 Convention Registration Form**

Names of all registrants: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Convention Price (AAI dues paying member)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$160** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Convention Price (non-member)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$170** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Students (must have current student ID)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$130** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Price after September 1, 2007 (AAI dues paying member)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$170** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Price at September 1, 2007 (non-member)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$180** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Awards Banquet (AAI dues paying member)  
*Indicate meal preference(s):* \_\_\_Chicken \_\_\_Beef \_\_\_Fish \_\_\_Vegetarian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$50** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Awards Banquet (non-member)  
*Indicate meal preference(s):* \_\_\_Chicken \_\_\_Beef \_\_\_Fish \_\_\_Vegetarian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$55** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Awards Banquet (Students / must have current student ID) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Indicate meal preference(s):* \_\_\_Chicken \_\_\_Beef \_\_\_Fish \_\_\_Vegetarian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets at **\$40** each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fund Raiser \$50 at \_\_\_\_\_ tickets Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** (paid with check # \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Atheist Alliance International, Convention Registration  
P. O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366