 **Weekly Free Speech Forum** established Jan. 6, 1951

#####  College of Complexes

 **The Playground for People Who Think**

sustaining the academic tradition of **“One Fool at a Time”**

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**Every Saturday Main Page**

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March 6th **Celebrate Women**

**International Women's Day is Celebrated the World Over in Style: Why Not Here?**

​Meeting # 3,606 - seasoned activist Janice Gintzler

March 13th **Second Thoughts on Atheism**

Meeting # 3,607 - David Ramsay Steele, author of "Atheism Explained"

 David Ramsay Steele wrote the book Atheism Explained, a popular outline of all the most important arguments for and against the existence of God. In this talk for the College of Complexes, David will present some interesting aspects of the God question which are often overlooked.

 God is defined as a spirit, but which came first, God or spirits in general? David will maintain that the more fundamental question is the existence of spirits in general, and the question of whether there is one big boss spirit is much less important.

 The Tanach (the Old Testament) is, practically speaking, the foundation of both Christianity and Islam. If we read the Old Testament we meet a God who is an active and passionate person, a dynamic being with ambitious plans which don’t always work out, swayed by strong emotions and changes of mind. But the God of the theologians, or most of them, is a static entity which feels no emotion, does not act within time, and perhaps cannot even think.

 The theologians have a point: someone who was indestructible, eternal, all-knowing and all-powerful could not develop emotions or any feeling of affection, and would be unable to give his life a serious meaning. Hence the common view that God has committed suicide. From God’s point of view, what’s the point of it all?

 If there is a God, it’s absurd to suppose that this God would care whether people believed in him or worshipped him. Do you care what ants think of you? Obviously, a super-intelligent, super-powerful being would be way beyond vanity or pride.

 The most popular argument for God’s existence is the claim that the natural world must have been designed. However, David shows that if there were a design input into nature, this would do little to provide evidence for God. The designer couldn’t have had a coherent plan, nor any clear idea of what he was doing, but must have been extremely limited in both knowledge and power. Therefore the hypothesized designer (or more likely, several squabbling designers acting at cross-purposes) could not qualify as God.

David Ramsay Steele, PhD, has often spoken at the College of Complexes. As well as Atheism Explained: From Folly to Philosophy (2008), David has written The Mystery of Fascism: David Ramsay Steele’s Greatest Hits (2019), Orwell Your Orwell: A Worldview on the Slab (2017), and From Marx to Mises: Post-Capitalist Society and the Challenge of Economic Calculation (1992). He also co-authored, with Dr. Michael Edelstein, Therapy Breakthrough: Why Some Psychotherapies Work Better than Others (2013) and Three Minute Therapy: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life (1997; second edition 2019)

March 20th **Citizen Advocacy Center**

Meeting # 3,608 - Mr. Ben Silver, Community Lawyer, who assists clients with legal questions, monitors local governments, and ensures public access to government.

The CAC is a non-profit, non-partisan community legal organization democracy for the 21st century. Founded in 1994, community lawyers doing pro bono work to assist individuals, community groups, students, and volunteers to take matters of public concern to the street, to the airwaves, to the electronic networks, and to the courts. CAC’s mission is to strengthen the citizenry’s capacities, resources, and institutions for self governance. Our community lawyers train individuals and community groups in how to use the law and democratic participatory tools through individual assistance, citizen guides, workshops, and monitoring government entities for abuse of power. All CAC services are free.

****March 27th **Chicago Area Peace Action**

**US Crimes and War Planning**

**American Aggression in Yemen**

​Meeting # 3,609 - Alex Haft

 Peace Action is the nation’s largest grassroots peace network with chapters and affiliates in states across the country. We organize our network to place pressure on Congress and the administration through write-in campaigns, internet actions, grassroots lobbying and direct action. Through a close relationship with progressive members of Congress, we play a key role in devising strategies to move forward peace legislation. As a leading member of various coalitions, we lend our expertise and large network to achieving common goals.

 For over 60 years, Peace Action has worked for an environment where all are free from violence and war. We understand that long-standing global conflicts require long-term solutions and that US foreign policy has a lasting effect on the world. We are working to promote a new U.S. foreign policy that is based on peaceful support for human rights and democracy, eliminating the threat of weapons of mass destruction, and cooperation with the world community. We organize against pre-emptive wars, and advocate for the withdrawal of American troops and contractors from the endless wars across the Middle East.

April 3rd **The Progressive Mind**

**Where Progressive Policy Meets The World**

Meeting # 3,610 – “Brought on during the Covid 19 pandemic, The Progressive Mind is a personal response to the excesses and greed of the system that has caused so much pain for the working class. I want to bridge a cultural divide that hurts us in many ways. We, as a society are different from each other in many ways, but we all have some things in common."

**Categories**

Climate Change Progressive economics

Corruption Progressive Groups

Media bias resources

Mind Control social justice

Political Ideologies Uncategorized

progressive activism Vulture Capitalism

April 10th **Open**

 Meeting # 3,611 - contact the Program Coordinator Charles Paidock if you

would like to speak at (312) 842-5036, (312) 714-7790 cell, or by email to

cpaidock@hotmail.com

April 17th **Special Earth Day Speaker I**

**Expand Nuclear Power Now!**

Meeting # 3,612 - Nancy Bradeen Spannaus, Author of Hamilton Versus Wall Street: The Core Principles of the American System of Economics

 Speaker states that: "It is not only necessary, but urgent that the new Administration and U.S. Congress act immediately to expand investment in nuclear power. Such an investment conforms perfectly with Alexander Hamilton’s principles for the American System in two crucial ways. First, it puts the “mechanical genius” of the American people to work in the most advanced, efficient, and safe means of producing energy yet invented. Second, it fulfills the responsibility of the Federal government to stimulate technological progress and prosperity for our nation today, and its posterity."

April 24th **Special Earth Day Speaker II**

**What is Eco-Socialism?**

**Organizing to Replace Capitalism with the Solidarity Economy**

****Meeting # 3,613 - Rich Whitney, Green Eco-Socialist Network

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May 1st **Special May Day Speaker**

**The Entire History of Work**

**in ½ Hour**

Meeting # 3,614 - labor activist Charles Paidock

the story of the human activity termed labor from the cavemen to computers, from working for yourself on the farm, to working for another in a factory

****May 8th **Kathy Kelly, Peace Activist and Pacifist**

**The Wounds of War:**

**Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen - U.S. Accountability and a Call for Reparations**

Meetings # 3,615 - Kathy Kelly is an American peace activist, pacifist and author. As part of peace team work in several countries, she has traveled to Iraq twenty-six times, notably remaining in combat zones during the early days of both US–Iraq wars.

May 15 **Open**

22, 29 Meeting # 3,616+- contact the Program Coordinator Charles Paidock if you

would like to speak at (312) 842-5036, (312) 714-7790 cell, or by email to

cpaidock@hotmail.com

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