

# FREETHINKER



CENTER FOR INQUIRY  
Michigan

Spring 2008



## Join us for the Second Annual Long Lake Retreat

We invite you to join us for the second annual weekend retreat at Long Lake Outdoor Center near Hastings, MI (located only forty minutes south of Grand Rapids). We have rented the entire campground just for CFI Michigan members, families and friends. Come and enjoy the company of fellow freethinkers and the beauty of summer in Michigan.



This beautiful campground on Long Lake offers a variety of family and group-size cabins, and a large dining hall with a giant fireplace. We also have access to Long Lake for boating and Yankee Springs Recreation Area for hiking and mountain biking trails. Retreat activities include hiking, biking, group sports and activities, canoeing and kayaking (canoes provided). Swimming and motorized boating are available at neighboring Gun Lake.

Sign up today to reserve your place at this year's retreat! The registration fee includes lodging, facility rental, and meals for the entire weekend! Early registration prices (by May 1): families are only \$150, couples are \$85, and individuals are \$45. There is an additional 10% discount for Friends of the Center. If you can't come for the entire weekend, we encourage you to join us for the day on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Cost for the day is \$20 for individuals and \$50 for families.

Registration is available online at [www.cfimichigan.org/longlake08](http://www.cfimichigan.org/longlake08). You can also register at any CFI event or request a registration form by calling 616-698-2342.



## Issue Highlights...

- Women's Group Retreat, April 25-27
- Long Lake Retreat, June 20-22
- New CFI Michigan Chapters
- CFI Institute Summer Session
- Camp Inquiry 08
- How to Get Involved
- Fund Drive Update

## Our Mission

The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to promote and defend reason, science and secular values. We offer rational, ethical and affirmative alternatives to reigning paranormal and religious belief systems and develop communities where like-minded individuals can meet to explore ideas from a non-theistic perspective.

POINT  
OF  
INQUIRY

## Point of Inquiry Podcast

Point of Inquiry is the premier podcast of the Center for Inquiry, featuring the leading minds of the day including Nobel Prize-winning scientists, public intellectuals, social critics and thinkers, and renowned entertainers. Each episode combines incisive interviews and commentary focusing on religion, human values and science. Subscribe to Point of Inquiry through iTunes or at [www.pointofinquiry.org](http://www.pointofinquiry.org).

## Three-Year Fund Drive Update

Help us to promote science, reason, free inquiry, and separation of church and state right here in Michigan! A pledge of as little as \$28 per month adds up to more than \$1000 over three years. Generous supporters like you have already pledged and donated over \$134,000 towards our \$156,000 three-year fund drive goal. To obtain a pledge form, call 616-698-2342, e-mail [info@cfimichigan.org](mailto:info@cfimichigan.org) or visit [www.cfimichigan.org](http://www.cfimichigan.org). Thanks for your support!

## How Can I Get Involved?

We're glad you asked! There are many ways you can get involved with CFI Michigan. Here are a few:

- Become a Friend of the Center and start receiving benefits today while helping sustain our programs and goals.
- Host an event! Many of our social events are held at the homes of our members. Becoming a host is a great way to meet other CFI members.
- Volunteer your time and help fill one of the many volunteer positions that are available.

Visit the "Get Involved" page on our website for current opportunities and more information. You can also contact Jennifer Beahan at 616-698-2342 or email [jennifer@cfimichigan.org](mailto:jennifer@cfimichigan.org).

## CFI Summer Institute 2008

*The Journey from Religion to Science*  
July 20–August 10: CFI Amherst

Join other CFI members to explore the human journey from a reality based on religious beliefs to a reality that relies on evidence, inquiry and evaluation. Examine the 'future' of the Enlightenment, secular and religious dominion in public policy, and other relevant topics in three weeklong continuing education sessions. For information visit [www.centerforinquiry.net/education/summer\\_session/](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/education/summer_session/)

## Camp Inquiry 2008

*Think. Question. Grow.*  
July 13–19: Holland, New York.

Are you looking for a summer camp experience for your children that promotes reason, and encourages critical thinking and character development?

Introducing Camp Inquiry, a summer camp hosted by Center for Inquiry. Camp Inquiry invites campers from ages 7-16 to think, question, and grow in this week-long camping experience. To register contact [channy@centerforinquiry.net](mailto:channy@centerforinquiry.net) or visit [www.campinquiry.org](http://www.campinquiry.org)

## CFI Freethought TV

CFI Michigan lectures are rebroadcast on GRTV Cable Channel 25 every Wednesday at 10:30pm.

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday Coffee Talks

**April 8, May 6 and June 3, 10:00 am**  
CFI Office: 3777 44th Street SE, Kentwood. Join us for an informal discussion of news and current events. Coffee is provided. If you are interested in leading a discussion, contact Jennifer: 616-698-2342 or [info@cfimichigan.org](mailto:info@cfimichigan.org).

### Special Two-Part Movie Night Featuring "The Four Horsemen"

**April 9 and 16, 7:00pm:** 740 Lockwood St. NE. Please BYOB and a snack to share. RSVP to Jason: 616-634-2471 or [jason@cfimichigan.org](mailto:jason@cfimichigan.org).

### 3 Beer Discussion at Founders

**April 18, 5:00-8:00pm:** 235 Grandville Ave. SW, GR. Beer, sandwiches and snacks are available for purchase.

### Austin Dacey at CFI | MI Southeast

**April 24, 2008 6:30pm:** Barnes & Noble, 2800 S. Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills, MI. Austin Dacey will be speaking on *The Secular Conscience: Why Belief Belongs in Public Life*. A book signing begins at 6:30pm and the presentation at 7:00pm.

### Women's Group Weekend Retreat

**April 25 at 5:00pm - April 27 at 12:00pm**  
VanOosterhout's cottage: 2767 N Jewell Rd., Mears, MI. Cost \$15. RSVP by April 20th to [jennifer@cfimichigan.org](mailto:jennifer@cfimichigan.org) or 616-706-2029. See back page for details.



Yes! I'd like to support Center for Inquiry | Michigan

- I'd like to become a Friend of the Center!  
 Individual \$60    Student \$20    Family \$80
- Yes, I'd like to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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 Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. Membership dues are not tax-deductible.  
 Please make checks payable to: Center for Inquiry | Michigan, 3777 44th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49512

# 2008 Spring Calendar

[www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan)

## CFI Michigan Board Meeting

**May 4, 2008, 10:00am:** CFI Office, 3777 44th St. SE. 616-698-2342.

We invite you to join us at the next CFI Michigan Board meeting to help plan for the future of our group as we begin to revise our long term plan.

## Game Night and Potluck at the Freethought Commune

**May 7, 6:00-9:00pm:** 736 Lockwood St. NE, GR. Join us for an old-fashioned game night. This is a family and youth friendly event. Bring a potluck dish to share, BYOB and your favorite board/card games. Questions: contact [jennifer@cfimichigan.org](mailto:jennifer@cfimichigan.org) or call 616-706-2029.

## Knitting Event at City Knitting

**May 18, 10:00-1:00pm:** 423 Norwood SE, GR. Come one, come all and learn to knit! Bring your needles & yarn if you have them. Supplies will also be available at the event. Open to all members, and children are welcome. Join us afterwards at the Greenwell Restaurant for lunch.

## Spring Fling at Seaver Farm

**May 24, 4:00pm-12:00am:** 10721 52nd Ave, Allendale. Please BYOB and a dish to pass. Also bring your swimsuit and towel, water toys to use in the pond, sports equipment and games! Questions: contact Jeff at [info@cfimichigan.org](mailto:info@cfimichigan.org) or call 616-892-9300.

## Cookout at Freethought Commune

**June 4, 6:00pm-9:00pm:** 740 Lockwood St. NE. Bring whatever you'd like to throw on the grill, a side dish or dessert to pass and BYOB. You are also welcome to bring games, sports equipment.

## Second Annual Long Lake Retreat

**June 20 4:00pm - June 22, 12:00pm-9:00pm:** Long Lake Outdoor Center, Hastings, Michigan. We hope you will join us for this year's retreat. See the front page for details. Register before May 1st for reduced prices! You can register today at: [www.cfimichigan.org/longlake08](http://www.cfimichigan.org/longlake08).

## Featured Events

Featured Events are held at the Women's City Club, 254 Fulton Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

\$6.00 suggested donation or free for Friends of the Center. Learn more at [www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan)



April 23, 2008 7:00pm

### The Secular Conscience: Why Belief Belongs in Public Life

Presented by Austin Dacey, Ph.D., representative to the United Nations for Center for Inquiry, associate editor of *Skeptical Inquirer* and *Free Inquiry*.



May 28, 2008 7:00pm

### Evolution Now: A Message of Moral Responsibility

Presented by Karel Rogers, Ph.D., retired Professor of Biology and former Department Chair of Biology at Grand Valley State University.



May 10, 2008 7:00pm

### Standing up to the Madness

Sponsored by Media Mouse with support from CFI Michigan Presented by Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! Co-author of *Standing up to the Madness*.



June 11, 2008 7:00pm

### Nothing: Something to Believe In

Presented by Nica Lalli, Art Educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York Author of *Nothing: Something to Believe In*.



May 14, 2008 7:00pm

### Darwin vs. the Art Critic: Evolutionary Psychology's Challenge to Aesthetics

Presented by Jeremy Beahan, Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy and Aesthetics at Kendall College, Producer of Reasonable Doubts.



June 25, 2008 7:00pm

### Models of Reality

Presented by Karen Gipson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physics and Chair of the Physics Department at Grand Valley State University.



## CFI Women's Group Weekend Retreat

Freethinking ladies, we invite you to join us for the second annual Women's Group Weekend Retreat at the VanOosterhout Cottage on beautiful Lake Michigan (near Mears, MI) April 25-27, 2008. This relaxing, casual retreat is organized by those attending, so let us know your ideas for activities and the menu. We can hike on the beach, arts and crafts, discussions, cooking, and whatever else sounds like fun! Cost for this retreat is only \$15.00. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Jennifer Beahan at 616-706-2029 or [jennifer@cfimichigan.org](mailto:jennifer@cfimichigan.org) by April 20th.

## Announcing CFI Southeast Michigan and New Campus Groups

We're excited to announce that a chapter of CFI Michigan has been formed in Southeast Michigan. Thanks to the assistance of several dedicated volunteers in the greater Detroit area, we have begun to organize regular events for our members located there. We invite you attend *The Secular Conscience* with author Austin Dacey on April 24th, 6:30pm at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 2800 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, MI. (Note: Austin Dacey will also speak in Grand Rapids on April 23.) Efforts are underway to develop discussion groups in Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Traverse City, and elsewhere.

Additionally, we'd like to welcome new campus groups to CFI Michigan including Michigan State University, Grand Rapids Community College, and Kendall College. These schools join our already established groups at Grand Valley State University and Aquinas College. Interested students can connect with any of our campus groups on Facebook.com.



616-698-2342 • [info@cfimichigan.org](mailto:info@cfimichigan.org) • [www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan)

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