 **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”**



November 15th **The Reality of Human-Caused Climate**

**Disruption: The Time to Act Is Now!**

Meeting # 3,299 - Energy-environmental activist Dennis Nelson responds to the climate deniers / delayers



November 22nd **The Future of Democracy**

Meetings 3,300 - college regular Li-Ping Yuan returns, and says that: “I would like to make a few suggestions to take advantage of new technologies, change old mindsets and solve some current political problems.”

November 29th **The Achievements of President Correa's**

**Ecuador and Evo Morales' Bolivia**

Meetings 3,301 - Stanfield Smith reports back with photos of two trips

December 6th **South Korea:  Cutting - Edge Competitor or**

 **Cold War Captive?** Meeting # 3,302 – Peter Pero

December 13th **Who Makes Our Christmas Gifts, and**

 **Who Sells Them to Us** Meeting # 3,303 – a brief look at the commercialization of Christmas, followed by an overview of labor conditions in Asia (Apple, Disney, Mattel), with a look at the retail industry in the US (Walmart) – with recommendations for having an exploitation free holiday. **Program includes a powerpoint presentation.**

December 20th **The Jesus Connection**

**for Us Merry Gentlemen and Ladies**

Meetings 3,304 - ​ Doug Baschiere will present his views on the existential question put by Jesus, Mary’s boy child born on Christmas Day, to his followers “Who do you say I AM?” during His earthly life.

December 27th **ChristMyths: A multi media presentation!**

**Your Holiday Guide to Slogans vs. Reality** Meeting 3,305 - Mike Flores challenges common beliefs and ideas accepted on social networks as reality, such as:

Did our founding fathers really base our country on organized religion?

Were unions instrumental in getting the minimum wage?

Did unions bring us the 40 hour work week?

Did feminism begin in the KKK?

Did voting bring about abortion rights?

Are Christians actually praying to the wrong guy?

Which party supported civil rights?

January 3rd **Good and Bad in Ayn Rand**

Meeting #3,306 - author David Ramsay Steele, author of "Orwell Your Orwell: A Worldview on the Slab" (forthcoming)

Ayn Rand was a [Russian-American novelist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian-American), philosopher, playwright, and screenwriter. She is known for her two best-selling novels, [The Fountainhead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fountainhead) and [Atlas Shrugged](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_Shrugged), and for developing a philosophical system she called [Objectivism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objectivism_%28Ayn_Rand%29).

January 10th **CHANGE Illinois**

**Coalition for Honest and New Government Ethics**

Meeting # 3,307 - Ryan Blitstein, addresses issues such as ballot access, competitive elections, increased citizen participation, government transparency, unethical lobbying and redistricting.

January 17th **Mayor 1%: Rahm Emanuel and the Rise of**

**Chicago's 99%** Meeting # 3,308 - Kari Lydersen,  author, will speak on her book about Chicago politics (Haymarket Books), is a journalist who has covered labor, housing, immigration and other issues in Chicago for 17 years.  She is co-director of the Social Justice New Nexus ([www.sjnnchicago.org](http://www.sjnnchicago.org/)) at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

****January 24th **FAiR Coalition / Allocation of Runways**

Meeting # 3,309 - Jac Charlier – seeks a real voice at O'Hare to secure an equitable distribution of takeoffs and landings, day and night, east and west, and using all existing runways including the diagonals.

The FAiR Coalition seeks to replace the antiquated institutional practice so common in Chicago and Cook County with a democratic approach involving a modern assessment of the risks and rewards for both O'Hare AND our communities. www.fairchicago.org

January 31st **9/11 and Revolution: The Political Implications**

Meeting # 3,310 - In this presentation historian Ted Aranda lays out the facts of the 9/11 events as well as the incident's wider political implications. He asks: "On September 11, 2001, the U.S. government murdered 3,000 perfectly innocent Americans in cold blood, and then diabolically proceeded to use this disguised homicidal act as the pretext to wage endless, utterly unjustified war, and to construct an Orwellian police/surveillance/military state. What are you going to do about it?" 2 **Videos** recommend for viewing have been posted at the our website [www.collegeofcomplexes.org/January.html](http://www.collegeofcomplexes.org/January.html)

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Feb 7th **The Evils of Drug Prohibition**

Meeting # 3,311 - college regular Tracy Phillip McLellan, who says:  According to Abraham Lincoln, "A law of prohibition is against the very principles upon which this country was founded."  Drug prohibition is so wrong on so many counts it's hard to know where to begin.

Feb 14th **Cult-Like Mythology in America**

****Meeting # 3,312 - Andy Anderson, from the Northwest Information Service in Palatine, IL, will provide an evening of discussion of how and why some Americans come to believe certain myths with a cult-like fervor and total resistance to any facts of evidence that dispute these myths.

A very wide range of social, economic, and environmental problems can be rapidly solved if people put aside their present mythology and move forward with reality-based solutions.  Extensive reality-based reference material will be provided throughout the evening for discussion.

February 21st **Cyber Privacy Project (CPP)**

Meeting # 3,313 -  The Cyber Privacy Project (CPP) addresses issues about privacy raised in today's networked world.  In upholding the belief that privacy is essential to democratic society, the CPP calls for implementation of privacy protections based on 1st Amendment rights of privacy and anonymity, 4th Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures, the 5th and 14th Amendment rights to due process and protection of liberty, and 9thAmendment unenumerated rights to privacy. www.cyberprivacyproject.org

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February 28th **Move to Amend Workshop**

**Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice**

Meeting # 3,314 - Allan Lindrup, Karla Chew & Gene Horcher.

The workshop will cover what is in the Amendment and why, the process to amend the Constitution, and Move to Amend strategies and progress.

March 7th **Open**

 Meeting # 3,315 - Contact Program Coordinator Charles Paidock if you would like to speak, or know of an individual or organization we should invite at (**312) 842-5036, (312) 714-7790 cell o**r cpaidock@hotmail.com

 **Saturdays Presentation at 6:00 PM**

**Please Note: New Location + Starting Time $3 Tuition** dinner optional

**Hilltop Restaurant 6-9:00 PM**

**2800 West Foster Ave / at California**

**Free Parking, #92 Foster CTA bus from Jeff Park Blue, Berwyn Red L Stations**

[**www.collegeofcomplexes.org**](http://www.collegeofcomplexes.org)

**Solicitation for Speakers**

If you would like to make a presentation, or know of an individual or organization

we should invite, contact: Charles Paidock, Program Coordinator at **(312) 842-5036**

**or (312) 714-7790** cell, email: **cpaidock@hotmail.com**



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**or go to main page for link**

 **“the legendary forum for free-thinkers and iconoclasts”** Chicago Tribune

 **“the entire spectrum of ideas…to the very far out”** Lerner Newspapers

 **“always ahead of its time, or completely out of step with it”** Chicago Reader

 **“people who have strong opinions on every topic under the sun,**

 **or beyond it”** Chicago Sun-Times

“**a weekly debate group that attracts outsiders and political obsessives”** Chicago Magazine

 **“rabble rousers who argue the pros and cons of everything”** Time Out Chicago

**Statement on Free Speech**

Our constitution and laws encourage the freest possible exchange of opinions, ideas, and information. In part, that recognizes our worth and dignity as human beings. To forbid us to speak our minds demeans us and makes us more like slaves or robots than citizens of a free country. But as important as freedom of expression is for us as individuals, it is perhaps more important to society at large.

**Studia Humanitatis** (“the studies of human things”)

Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494) exhibited an immoderate ambition to study and know everything. He was the Renaissance man *par excellence*. By age twenty-three Pico believed himself the equal in learning of any man alive. In a daunting challenge, perhaps unequaled in history, he proposed to defend a list of nine hundred theses (*Conclusiones* *Nongentae in Omni Genere Scientiarum* – “900 Conclusions in Every Kind of Science”) drawn from various authors. He invited scholars from all of Europe to come to Rome to dispute with him publicly.

The public battle of minds never happened. Unfortunately for Pico, his list of topics came to the attention of the Vatican, which declared thirteen of them heretical. Pico, stunned, issued an immediate recantation. This was insufficient to keep him out of prison. (A History of Knowledge: Past Present and Future – Charles Van Doren)

Were Pico alive today, I believe he would have become a “regular” at the College of Complexes, and participate in our own public battle of minds. Although none of us is as massive an intellect as Pico, each of us has at least a few theses we might like to defend. Nevertheless, if you’re interested in studia humanitatis, join us some Saturday evening. And you won’t be put in prison.

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**To Disquiet the Minds of the People**