

### **January – Is There a God for Atheists?**

It depends on how one defines “god” and how one defines “atheist”. Steve Andersen explores the philosophy of Baruch Spinoza. Einstein had a famous quote: “I believe in Spinoza’s God, who reveals himself in the lawful harmony of all that exists, but not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and the doings of mankind.”

### **February - Personal Liberty vs. Public Health**

There has been tension between personal liberty and public health measures for as long as there have been public health measures. The recent Covid pandemic is a good example of how this tension can become politicized, to the detriment of public health and our society as a whole. Join us ONLINE as Café Inquiry takes a look at this conflict between personal freedoms and public health. We’ll touch on some of the historical battles and discuss some means by which we might reduce this conflict.

### **March - Gambling Addiction**

Gambling has been called a hidden addiction because it can go on for years without showing any visible signs. Yet millions of Americans develop serious gambling disorders. Fortunately, awareness of the problem is growing. March is “Problem Gambling Awareness Month”. In honor of this, we will discuss Gambling Addiction at our next Café Inquiry.

### **April - Ethical Objections to Charity**

Charity is seen as a selfless act of kindness and compassion motivated by a desire to improve the lives of others. But some people argue that charity is sometimes carried out badly, and some think it brings bad results even if it is done well. Join us **ONLINE** at the next Café Inquiry as we explore some of the ethical objections to charity. As time permits, we will also take a look at some of the potential pitfalls of government assistance.

### **May - When Was America Great?**

We keep hearing that we are returning to the days when America was great. But when was that? At the next Cafe Inquiry we will explore what qualities make a nation great, and look back at American history to identify the era when our country most embodied those qualities.

### **June - Guaranteed Basic Income: A Closer Look**

Guaranteed basic income is a topic that we have touched on peripherally in the course of a couple of recent discussions about other issues. At the next Café Inquiry Online we’ll take a deeper dive into guaranteed basic income – how it works, what it tries to accomplish, why some think it might be necessary, and what the various pilot programs have demonstrated.

### **July - Trust in Science**

In the United States there seems to be a decrease in the trust we have for scientists and science. Is this true? If so, why? And if not, why does it seem that there is? Is the current level of trust appropriate? At the next Cafe Inquiry ONLINE, we will discuss what we know about trust in science in the U.S. and around the world.

### **August - Nuclear Power: Fission vs. Fusion**

Fusion power is probably at least 20-30 years away – as has been the case for the past 50-60 years or so. It's touted as eventually being able to provide clean, practically unlimited energy. This would be great, given that fighting climate change is going to necessitate a greater reliance on nuclear energy. But is it true that fusion power will be so much cleaner and safer than the fission power we currently use, especially considering the cutting-edge fission reactor designs that are in development? Join us ONLINE as we discuss the pros and cons of fission vs. fusion, as well as why we will likely need some form of nuclear power in our fight against global warming.

### **September - Free Speech**

On Sept 16, NBC News reported that "Attorney General [Pam Bondi](#) said the Trump administration will be 'targeting' hate speech, which she differentiated from free speech..." Many people have expressed concern about these and similar remarks by members of the current administration, and about their implications for our first amendment rights. At the next Cafe Inquiry Online we will discuss the "abridging the freedom of speech" part of the First Amendment, its interpretation and effects over the years, and current concerns about the protection it provides.

### **October - Should We Consider Owning a Gun...**

Should We Consider Owning a Gun... to protect ourselves and our families? Steve Andersen is considering purchasing a firearm – something that never dawned on him before. Join us ONLINE as Steve takes us through the various questions he's seeking answers to – should it be concealed carry? Just in his home? It's not a decision he takes lightly, and we'd love to have you share your thoughts. If you already own a gun, your perspective will be especially valuable. This should be a fascinating discussion as we probe the pros and cons of gun ownership and all it entails.

### **November - The U.S. in Latin America**

The Trump administration has, according to news reports, "developed a range of options for military action in Venezuela". Over the years the U.S. has intervened in Latin America many times, both overtly and covertly. At the next Café Inquiry Online we'll take a look at some of this history and its consequences, and we'll explore the current situation as regards Venezuela.