

AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

October 2004

Sunday, October 10

Sac “Freethought Day” Bash!

Special Points of Interest

- Freethought Day 2004 Details (page 1 and insert)
- Cost of AAI 2005 Convention (page 2)
- Thoughts on Atheism (page 3)
- Part 2 of Series on History of Sacto Freethought Day (page 6)
- AOF’s “Darrell Lambert Project” (page 7)

There is no regular meeting planned for October because we are all heading downtown to the Freethought Day celebration in Waterfront Park (Old Town, Sacramento; Front & L Streets)! Grab your jacket and hat and come on down. If you can help us set up or staff a table and have not already volunteered to so, let us know. *We need you!* Please phone the AOF recorder at 916-447-3589 and leave your name and number for a call-back.

Notice: This year’s event is going to be *bigger and better than ever*. It runs from 11 - 4 and features live music, other entertainment (a magician, humor, a skit, poetry), a

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Freethought Day Is Recognized! Sacramento Mayor Issues Proclamation By Beverly Church, Event Chair

That’s right!!! The Freethought Day (FTD) 2004 Committee is very proud to announce that Mayor Fargo has proclaimed October 12, 2004 to be **“Freethought Day in the City of Sacramento.”** This is the anniversary of the date in 1692 that Governor William Phipps of Massachusetts Colony declared that spectral (supernatural) evidence would no longer be admissible in court – effectively ending the Salem Witch Trials.

Sacramento’s 3rd Annual Freethought Day Celebration is being held on Sunday, October 10, 2004, in Waterfront Park, Front & L streets, Old Sacramento from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The event is free!

This year a joint effort by Atheists

and Other Freethinkers and the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area has led to what the FTD 2004 Committee considers *a unique opportunity to publicly present the ideas of freethought, reason, and church/state separation in a positive fashion.* And to that end,

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From the look of it in this pic, you just might think our FTD 2004 Event Chair Bev is pretty darn serious about this Freethought Day thing (the camera caught her giving out details). Her overall excitement is plain catching! You can come to the event and hear that for yourself! Do it!



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The AAI Connection

AAI Prices Spring Convention

The 2005 Atheist Alliance convention in Los Angeles promises to be a real bargain! The spring gathering on Easter weekend at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (near LAX airport) will cost \$175. (The price includes breakfasts and the banquet meals.)

This is exactly the price of the AAI's very first convention in LA ten years ago! Imagine that: *ten years* and *no "inflation"*!

Unlike those early AAI conventions, this one will have provisions to entice more families to attend. As has been

the case the last few years, there will be a "Camp Quest" for youngsters throughout the meeting. The program cost is \$75 per child.

If you want further evidence of the price value, consider that the "special hotel rate" for the next Freedom From Religion Foundation convention in Madison Wisconsin for the Halloween FFRF convention is \$119 + tax, which comes out to about \$135 per night. The price in LA? \$75 per night. \$5 per day for parking. Free shuttle to/from LAX.

The AOF Line

Dear AOF Members:

I would like to thank all AOF members who have contributed their time, energy, pocketbooks, and creativity to help produce the most ambitious Freethought Day celebration to date.

I would also like to recognize the members of the 2004 Freethought Day committee, who have pulled everything together for our third annual event: Beverly Church, event chair; Mynga Futrell, program chair; Jerry Sloan, event day chair and proclamation liaison;

Kay Dickey, finance chair; Ken Nahigian and Ron Fegley, publicity chairs; and Jerry Bachman, Tina Burgess, Nancy Gilbert, and Don Knutson, committee

members-at-large. These folks deserve showers of rose petals for their year-long efforts and perseverance.

Last month, I outlined a number of time-tested topics within the 2004 "AHA Grassroots Manual." This month, I will focus on, "Strategic Planning and Budget."

A strategic plan: "allows for identifi-

cation of goals (both short and long term), creates benchmarks to measure progress toward the goals, sheds light on specific steps needed to be taken by your group to reach its goals, and focuses the resources and efforts of a group on achievable goals while allowing flexibility to deal with new variables. (p.II-1)"

Three time-tested steps exist to easily create strategic plans -- 1) Overview/Preparation, 2) Prioritization, and 3) Creation of the Roadmap.

Step one requires group's members to "ask questions which will help guide the entire strategic planning process over the coming year." This phase stimulates ideas through ques-

tions on vision, challenges, opportunities, ongoing issues, community issues, group resources, and current and future financial situation. Members prepare answers to questions in advance, then meet to discuss and submit answers. The more ideas the better.

The purpose of the organization, AOF, is to promote the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community.

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AOF Board

President: Kevin Schultz

Vice President: Kay Dickey

Secretary: Dave Flanders

Treasurer: Ken Nahigian

Directors at large:

Tina Burgess

Beverly Church

Mynga Futrell

Don Knutson

Betty Simonsma

AOF Committees

Newsletter: Mynga Futrell, Editor

Kay Dickey, Asst. Ed. (Submissions),

Jerry Sloan (Mailing)

Visibility and Impact:

Kay Dickey, Mynga Futrell, Don Knutson, Kevin Schultz, Jerry Sloan, (more members welcome!)

Archive: Jody Craig, Kay Dickey,

Mynga Futrell, Ken Nahigian,

Betty Simonsma

Connections (ad hoc):

Don Shirley (Caring),

Ken Nahigian,

Tina Burgess (Youth)

Betty Simonsma

Kevin Schultz (E-mail)

Freethought Day 2004:

Beverly Church (Chair), Mynga Futrell (Program), Jerry Sloan (Event Day), Ken Nahigian (Publicity), Kay Dickey (\$)

AOF's Voluntariat

Affiliation Liaisons:

Mynga Futrell, Kay Dickey (AAI),

Hank Kocol (CSH),

Betty Simonsma (AA),

Beverly Church (AHA/HAGSA)

Community Service Projects:

Don Knutson

Internet Website: Pat Kelley

Meetings: Dave Flanders,

Jerry Sloan, Betty Simonsma

Membership Database:

Betty Simonsma

We welcome additional involvement from AOF members. Right now we need volunteers to perform very small tasks at our meetings. Just phone the voice mail 447-3589 if you can help us out. Or, send an e-mail to us at

aofboard@rthoughtsfree.org

Guest Essay

Thoughts on Atheism

By Shaun P. McGonigal

Editor's note: This article from the newsletter of the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia is reprinted by permission of the author.

Atheism can be argued to be the default position for people—that is, we are atheists until we become socialized otherwise. However, since religion is ubiquitous throughout all cultures, it might also be said that atheism has to be reached one way or another.

For many, atheism is reached after great personal struggle with their religious background. The ideological layers that most people receive as children—when they are most susceptible due to the lack of developed critical thinking skills—takes time, information, and thought to peel away. Due to this difficulty, most people end up remaining religious to some degree. Atheism is, for most, not only incomprehensible but often seems evil or somehow immoral even when it is comprehended.

However, some people don't have to traverse the same religious-oriented psychological, emotional, and epistemological terrain in order to arrive at atheism. For better or for worse, I am one of those people. The consequences of this are twofold. On the

one hand, my thought processes and biases are not as strongly affected by religious ideologies. In this culture, where protestant Christianity is the dominant religious atmosphere, it means that I have never readily looked at the world in the sense of, for example, right and wrong in anything but a rational, logical, or philosophical way. This means that I understand how one can be ethical without relying on divine command. My worldview had to be, due to the lack of any particular religious ideology, thought out and rationalized.

On the other hand, I am not much of an inspiration for people who are in some part of the process of questioning their religious perspective. That is, I cannot share my experiences of my transformation to atheism in the same way as a former missionary, minister, etc can. It also means that I cannot sympathize as well with people who hold religious beliefs—they just seem silly and completely alien to me.

Thus, atheism is, for me, the conclusion of a life spent studying various religious and philosophical perspectives; having always been fascinated by people who live a life of faith. This is not to say that I have a privileged

epistemological perspective on the nature of the universe; I don't have any better a point of view than anyone else. That is, I cannot know whether or not there is some kind of thing we could call "God" than the next person. What I do have, however, is a comprehensive understanding of the development of theism as well as a complex metaphysical outlook that challenges the simplistic theologies that dominate the masses of theists.

I admit that there may be a completely transcendent being that exists. It would be the kind of being that we not only could never know directly, but we could also never hope to understand even if it could communicate some revelation. I am, despite this admitted lack of certainty, unwilling to hold faith in this type of being for complex philosophical reasons that are not fully relevant here. This begs the question of what is relevant here; what is atheism for me in this culture, this political climate, this era of unwarranted religious fundamentalism?

Atheism is the position that denies the existence of God as defined by dominant religious ideologies. The

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Atheists and Other Freethinkers



AOF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. It is a member society of the Atheist Alliance International. AOF maintains affiliations with the Council for Secular Humanism, American Atheists, and the American Humanist Association.

AOF's Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the association, Atheists and Other Freethinkers, is to promote the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community. To accomplish this purpose, AOF will, through educational programs, projects, and publications, extend atheistic perspectives concerning the separation of church and state and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives.

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Subscription \$12 per year (free to members).

Reprinting of original material in this newsletter is granted to atheist, freethought, rationalist, skeptical, and secular humanist groups as long as acknowledgment is given. Exchange of newsletters with aforementioned organizations is solicited.

Mayoral Declaration

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the committee has been working tirelessly (OK, a few of us are kinda tired) to produce an interesting, educational, and fun event. We even have activities for kids. More detailed information is available online at <http://www.rthoughtsrfree.org/aof.htm>

Our hope is that the members of the Freethought organizations in the Sacramento area will feel empowered by this community effort and

**Please Attend
and Support
Freethought Day
2004!**

that others will get a little education that will lead to a better understanding of those who hold a naturalistic worldview. I suppose we have some pretty lofty goals – increasing understanding and position of freethinkers. And, we still need your help. Those interested in volunteering to assist with event day tasks, please call Beverly Church at 916-359-5423, Mynga Futrell at 916-447-

3589, or Jerry Sloan at 916-381-3115.

We hope to see you and your friends at Freethought Day 2004!!!

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“banned books” table (supplied by the Sacramento Public Library), a “freethinker’s bookshelf” display with bibliography, a Freethought Gallery with its own printed program (showing notable independent thinkers from history), freethought celebrities both national and local, children’s critical thinking activities, youth education materials, and more!

Help to spread the word!
Use the flyer insert provided
Give it to a friend
Or, duplicate it for posting

Thoughts on Atheism

plain fact is that most people are too unsophisticated to talk about theology in the way that I—as well as many other atheists—are able to. Thus the political front concerning the issues of the day must be a battle against the discrimination and ignorance derived from sophomoric notions of those that dominate the Christian Right as well as those who manipulate these masses.

The relationship between religion and politics in the United States is complex and wrapped up in public emotions. It is not the place for government to either endorse or denounce our position concerning religious ideology. We, as members of an active society of Freethinkers, generally understand this. Thus, we fight against discrimination against atheists as well as the lack of government neutrality in religious related program activities.

The problem is that those affiliated with theistic movements, particularly the Christian Right, do not understand this and they view our presence as a threat to their worldview. For some, this worldview is a Christian based society; for others, we are just trying to challenge the truth of Christianity’s intimate relationship with our history and cul-

ture. However, I believe that for most people discrimination against atheists is just a reaction to being put in the position of being challenged on their religious belief systems, and wanting us to just go away.

I do not believe it is our place as a group to challenge these individuals’ beliefs directly; no matter how strong our personal desires to do so are. However, I believe we need to continue to fight for our place at the table in order to allow our perspective to be heard.

The simple fact is that most people don’t know much about atheism, and what they do know is often incorrect. For many who are not even practicing theists, atheism will seem somehow demonic, evil, or immoral. The confusion between Atheism and Satanism, for example, is both absurd and a major stumbling block to socio-political understanding that could lead to our having a place at a table not set with knives of discrimination to cut meals of fear on plates of ignorance.

We need to promote the motto of education more than anything now. Not so much the education of why we are right (once again, no matter how strong our personal desires for this are) but the education of why it

is that we have as much of a right to—and a valid opinion in—the debate about religious issues in our culture. Too many people believe that we don’t have this validity, and are thus slow to honor our rights. We cannot allow superstitious beliefs to continue to dominate the public sphere the way it has done for the vast majority of the world’s history. We have, in the USA, a nation based upon principles of religious freedom and neutrality that allow us to challenge theistic and religious worldviews. But this basis is now being challenged by various, primarily Christian, political fronts.

We have an enemy that is more effective than bombs, more elusive than terrorists, and (at least to atheists) scarier than hell. This enemy is a combination of fear, misinformation, and ignorance; they all manifest in defensive behavior at being challenged, the insistence of faith in superstitious beliefs, and a lack of understanding of those they oppose: us.

Their lack of willingness to open themselves to alternative views on the world in anything but a disingenuous manner is a testament to the potential for human foolishness. The irony is that this potential for

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Meeting Reflection: Quality not Quantity

By Dave Flanders

AOF's September speaker, Lou Matz, spoke of John Stuart Mill's "religion." From the presentation, it was clear that democracy, personal liberty, human rights, and social progress has had another champion in John Mill (1806-1873), a British philosopher and moralist.

Determinism is the idea that what happens has to happen as a result of natural laws, a divine plan, or human nature. John Mill emphasized that secular human laws-(don't steal or don't kill) are nothing more than rules that have been set out to ensure the best possible outcome for all of us. Laws against killing have come to pass

over the ages because human beings figured out that killing has bad consequences in the long run; someone dies, a family loses a family member: it results in lawlessness... you get the picture. The saying you



September Speaker, Lou Matz

are probably familiar with, "crime doesn't pay" makes the point here: it becomes a social platitude because people figured out over centuries that it is true.

Mill also claimed that when we are trying to decide what to do, and are choosing between options, then we should let people who have experience of both options make the choices. If you have to choose between higher or lower taxes for the rich, then how are you going to make an informed choice if you don't know what it's like to be poor?

Another example set to modern times: Both the life-long Catholic, Adolph Hitler, and the atheist, Joe Stalin, were raised by brutal, sadistic, fathers. With little experience in compassion, they both became brutal dictators. For them, the psychological scares were so ingrained, the theistic or atheistic

worldviews they had were of little consequence.

Quality not quantity... Mill also promoted his version of utilitarianism. Quality over quantity was Mills' view, in that we shouldn't choose the quantity of pleasure (how much pleasure you get from the act)-but rather the quality of the act. Public television seems to fit Mill's idea of quality. Other example: The pleasure you get at working at the highway cleanup is superior to the act of throwing smut out of a car window on highway 99. After Lou spoke, a lively question and answer period followed.



Stan has a chat with the speaker as Ben listens in and enjoys munching goodies he has found on the refreshment table.

AOF Line

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In step two, the group organizes and prioritizes the answers collected from step one. More priority is given to goals which match the group's statement of purpose and vision, and which seem the most realistic. This determines the list of goals, and what the group wishes to do over the next year. The plan should leave room for flexibility -- situations inside and outside the group can change quickly.

In step three, the group "writes the roadmap." At this point, the group can break up into committees to plan

out how to achieve the goals. E.g., creation of a "backward calendar" for large events such as Darwin Day. To ensure success, a schedule should be set up to review progress of the strategic plan.

An organization's budget is defined as, the "strategic plan expressed in numbers." The group should develop both the strategic plan and the budget simultaneously. As one changes, the other should be updated.

Having a well-considered strategic plan and a budget (AOF has the latter) can help impress charitable or-

ganizations and foundations, as it presents an image of a stable, well-managed organization.

As always, if anyone has any questions or comments regarding AOF, please do not hesitate to submit them to any member of the board of directors. As a transparent organization, we are directly accountable to you as an AOF member, and we encourage active participation by our membership.

AOF Subscription / Membership Form

Mail to: AOF, P O Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)

Name(s) _____ Phone () _____

Street _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (print legibly!) _____

Check your preference:

Newsletter Subscriber Only (\$12) Family Membership (\$30)

Low-income Member (\$10) Patron (\$50)

Single Membership (\$20) Donation (\$ _____)

Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to organizations similar to AOF.

Please check your preference. We can deliver your monthly newsletter via an attached pdf file to your e-mail address above. E-mail newsletter Postal mail

Please check here if you DO want to be on our AOF activist list.

Freethinkers Cooperate for Public Outreach

Might "Meager Beginnings" Lead Toward "Something Big"? — Part 2

By Mynga Futrell

The idea of recounting in *AOF News & Views* some of the history behind our local Freethought Day was stimulated by HAGSA's deciding to partner with AOF to put on the 2004 event. (AOF had produced Freethought Days 1 and 2 on its own.)

Below is the second item in a three-part recollection. Last month's topic: was HEADING TO THE CAMPUS. Coming next month is Part 3: HEADING TO THE PARK.

Part 2:

HEADING TO THE COURTHOUSE

Three autumn seasons of CSUS outreach (volunteers spending 3 days on campus behind literature tables during the Octobers of 1999, 2000, and 2001) had been less than fruitful in terms of gaining additional members for AOF and HAGSA. The alternative hope (to plant seeds of interest in students to establish a campus freethought group) had been equally unsuccessful. No students on the primarily commuter campus had grabbed onto that idea long enough to "go" with it.

As initiator and coordinator of the effort for two years (Jerry Sloan picked up the outreach trips on campus that third year), I was quite ready to throw in the towel.

However, the activist members in both groups were getting rather used to the term "Freethought Week." Copies of our *Proclamation* of Freethought Day had made seasonal appearances on the literature tables. Many more people now had at least a passing acquaintance with the story of how Governor Phips' decision to deny courtroom evidence based on phantoms and specters had brought an end to the Salem Witch Trials. Given that progress, why not shift our focus from garnering new members to a celebration of secular government? As AOF's new president, I proposed we do so, and the board agreed.

It so happened that I had already arranged for Bobbie Kirkhart, President of the Atheist Alliance, to be our speaker at the Sunday, Oct. 13 meeting, and she had said she probably would be arriving in town a bit early to look for antiques. The timing was "just right" to have her be our featured speaker at an event to commemorate the Oct. 12, 1692 decision. Rather late to be locating an indoor venue, we decided to hold our "celebration" outdoors and, after giving consideration to locations, settled on the plaza at the county courthouse. There, relying on locals for the remainder of a program, we would

gather as many as we could to come. Fortunately, another out-of-towner, Henda Lea, who was working to coordinate Bay area groups, agreed to come up and bring a couple of signs to decorate. We put her on our program as "special guest speaker."

To cobble together a program around those two notables, we invited all the local group leaders and a few activists we knew well. I recall some were not impressed by this rather experimental off-the-cuff event. However, trying to remember now those who did come and participate in what we now can safely call Sacramento's "First Annual Freethought Day," I resorted to locating my surviving copy of the little green 1/3 page "event program" (sic) I had printed.

Looking over it, I see listed as "Invited Contributors" Hank Kocol, Paul Geisert, Ron Fegley, Cleo Kocol, Mike Newdow, and Kevin Schultz. I do know that I had thrown Mike's name on in hopes he might show although he had stated when I phoned him, "Maybe, I'll see." He was a no-show that time. [This year he is confirmed!] Also listed is Jerry Sloan, who had volunteered to coordinate and handle the logistics (not my forte). He did a swell job, even to the point of getting a couple of friends to

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AOF Establishes Lambert Fund

Darrell Lambert is the Eagle Scout and Asst. Scout leader who, in late 2002, was "kicked out" of the Boy Scouts of America because he refused to "change his mind" and acknowledge the existence of a deity.

Darrell will be the featured speaker at Freethought Day 2004.

A recent burglary of Darrell's belongings (most everything salable!) so soon after he had moved into a new apartment at the beginning of the school year has left him rather ill-equipped to handle his college requirements as he proceeds with the term (using school computer lab instead of having his own laptop, for example). AOF has set up a grant fund to help Darrell at least get a

new computer—something that no college student can do without these days. If you would like to help this courageous young man, please respond as directed below and spread the word. (Contributions to AOF are tax deductible.)

Please send any donations to:
AOF, Attn: Lambert Fund
P.O. Box 15182
Sacramento CA 95851-0182

Make check payable to AOF. You can use a credit card to make a donation earmarked specifically for the fund. Go to the AOF Web page at <http://www.rthoughtsfree.org/aof.htm> Follow the link and then on down the page to the last PayPal icon.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit your newsletter items to the N&V submissions editor, Kay Dickey, at this e-mail address:

frethnkr@mindspring.com

or mail item to the AOF mailbox: PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182.

Preference is given to material submitted online in a PC-compatible word processing format such as *Word*, *Wordpad*, or *Notepad*. (To submit, attach your file to the e-mail and send.)

AOF also welcomes succinct and substantive letters to the editor. Note: All letters are prioritized by AOF's publishing criteria deriving from the organization's Statement of Purpose.

Highway Cleanup Report We "Finds Jesus" on Hwy 99! By Don Knutson

Only five AOF members turned out for California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18 but small numbers still yielded 20 bags of refuse.

Thomas Nicolette, Mynga Futrell, Michael House, Don Knutson and Kevin Schultz made major progress in making a filthy highway much more presentable.

Among the items found this time: A wallet (empty), sunglasses, a brand new window fan still in the box (!), a couple pairs of men's underwear, and a lovely picture of Jesus. It had a parchment-like effect which appeared to be slightly younger than the Shroud of Turin.

Please note that AOF will return to the scene of the crimes (of littering) on **Saturday, November 6 at 8 AM**. We meet at the Park & Ride west of Highway 99 on Elkhorn Blvd. for two hours of fresh air and meaningful engagement with a segment of our community.

Heading to the Courthouse

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videotape our event. At that event, Jerry read aloud the *Proclamation* wording he had valiantly tried to get City Hall to endorse (no dice), thereby establishing a "Freethought Day tradition" of his being the person to read whatever *Proclamation* we would pen.

Another "tradition" established that day was the singing of the Freethought anthem, *Die Gedanken Sind Frei* ("Our Thoughts Are Free"). I played guitar and Henda "conducted." Never in my own experience, has a group of freethinkers before or since done such a marvelous job of belting out that melody together. (Unfortunately, last year we lapsed back into the traditional half hearted rendering.) The open mike part of the program brought forth others with their remarks. I recall Harvey Tippit, who is now co-president of Atheists United of L.A. (although then he rated only the "Bobbie's husband" title), and also our own Phil Lazier speaking on science education. The weather couldn't have been better: a sunny day; warm and cheerful company, good shade—a superb beginning.

If there was any problem, it was our being a mere handful of folks "doing our thing" in isolation. Our whole celebration was 100% unnoticed by Sacramento. We needed to be more *visible!*

Thoughts on Atheism

(Continued from page 4)

weakness is often the source of the need to believe in something perfect, eternal, and loving to fill in the gaps of their strengths.

Thus, our job is to show theists that even without the belief in or guidance from a deity, humanity has the potential for justice, morality, love, strength, happiness, and even inspiration. Our lives should be the testament for such a perspective, and FSGP one such vehicle for its dissemination. We should be educating by example; if people need an inspirational role model for morality, lifestyle, etc, let them have one that, at least, actually exists.

Newsletter Freebie Policy

We'll be pleased to send one free newsletter to any person upon request, but after that time, please subscribe to AOF's newsletter for only \$12 per year. Or, better yet, why not become a member? That way, you'll get our newsletter FREE as part of your membership!



P.O. Box 15182
 Sacramento, CA 95851-0182

We're on the Web!
www.rthoughtsfree.org/aof.htm

Calendar of Events

Public Celebration of "Freethought Day"	Sunday, Oct. 10, 11 - 4 PM
Freethought Day Planning Committee Recuperation Party	Tuesday, 12, 7 PM
AOF Board Meeting (open to members)	Sunday, Oct. 17, 9:30 AM
Atheist MeetUp (<i>location TBA, phone for Tina at 447-3589</i>)	Oct. 19, 7 PM
Brights MeetUp (<i>location TBA, phone for Paul at 447-3589</i>)	Oct.. 25, 7 PM

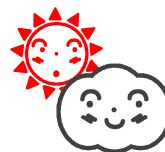
Directions to Freethought Day

You can use RT's #30 bus line. It runs into Old Sac every half hour on Sundays. To find out about the bus routes and schedules to Old Sacramento on Sundays, call 321-2877.

By car, you can reach Old Sacramento by traveling west on Capitol Mall and turning right onto Front Street. When you do, you'll see the multi-level parking garage. (There is no long-term street parking in Old Sacramento.) After parking, leave the garage by the north side pedestrian exit. From there, the walk northward to Waterfront Park is quite short. Save on the cost of the garage with a purchase in Old Town (get your ticket validated for a portion of your time). If you are up for a bit longer walk, just park in *Downtown Sac'to* on the street. Its parking is free on Sundays. (Walk under I-5 from the K Street Mall.)

To get to Capitol Mall from Business 80, take P Street to 5th Street, turn right, drive the three blocks to Capitol Mall and turn left. To get there from I-5 (northbound or southbound), take the J Street exit, go south on 3rd Street (2 blocks) to Capitol Mall and turn right.

Backup Plans



You can call AOF's 24-hour recorder at 447-3589 for last minute details. In the event of a definitive rain cancellation, then we will meet at 2:30 - 5 PM in the Sierra 2 Community Center, Room 10, where an alternate abbreviated program will take place. Don't worry: Darrell Lambert, Mike Newdow, Rena Lowry will be there. The Sierra 2 Center is located at 2791 24th Street in Sacramento, just south of Broadway and the Department of Motor Vehicles.