

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

April 2005

*Sunday, April 10*

## A Different Kind of Faith

### *Special Points of Interest*

- Report of Atheist Alliance (page 1)
- "Clarence Darrow" Review (page 3)
- Actor and Author, Paul Hauck (page 4)
- Charity Auction Set for May (page 5)
- Candidates for AOF's Board Election (page 7)

At AOF's April membership meeting, Darien De Lu will speak on "Faith in the Human Power for Good: The Key to Endurance in Hard Times".

Ms. De Lu - a life-long activist in peace, justice, environmental, and feminist politics - is the former Co-President of US Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). She left her Co-President position last August to become the US WILPF representative to the Executive Committee of the *International* WILPF.

The WILPF organization was founded in 1915 at the onset of World War I, still years before American women acquired the right to vote. The impetus for its founding by Jane Addams, a Nobel Laureate, and hundreds of other American and European women, was resistance to what they saw as the white male's irrational hunger for war. It stands today as the world's oldest international secular peace organization.

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## Atheist Alliance Gathering in L.A. *Conventioneers Combine Learning with Fun*

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Four AOFers attended the tenth annual Atheist Alliance International conference March 25-27 (AOF is a member society of the Alliance.) Also traveling south were three University of California-Davis students whose travel expenses were sponsored by AOF.

Beverly Church, Kay Dickey, Mynga Futrell, and Don Knutson made the trek to the star-studded "Stars of Freethought Convention" in Los Angeles, CA to see what they could see, and had an absolute blast!

The program for this year's annual

*(Continued on page 6)*



On Easter Sunday at the AAI convention, renowned atheist and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins chuckles at the presentation of a "resurrected" Thomas Jefferson.

# The AOF Line

By Kevin Schultz

This month's column will focus on the topic of fundraising, from the American Humanist Association's Grassroots Manual (AHAGM). The manual lists broad areas of fundraising: membership dues, fundraising drives, major donors, grants, fundraising events, and forming a development committee.

AOF takes in money primarily from members' tax-deductible donations, membership renewals, sales item purchases, and raffle sales. AOF primarily expends money through its programs and monthly mailings, although we occasionally support events like HeartStrong (<http://www.heartstrong.org/>), and subsidizing the trips of students to attend Atheist Alliance International conventions.

AOF's membership dues structure aligns with the AHAGM recommended policy of more members at lower dues, instead of fewer members at higher dues. The manual recommends setting the dues lower and asking for more money after the renewal date.

The AHAGM is very blunt about the purpose of fundraising drives (appeal mailings) – "they are the key to making-up the difference between what your membership dues raise and what you need to meet your basic needs."

Recommended levels of special appeals per year are *at least two*. Some ideas: create a fundraising drive to benefit children and students in the group. Also, ask for higher contributions, and vary the appeals to see what works.

With respect to major donors, the AHAGM suggests that while fundraising drives can make up the difference between membership dues and what the group needs to meet basic needs, "major donations can help the group expand programs to reach

the true potential." To define how much a major donation would be for AOF, the AHAGM suggests taking the top 10 donors, and using the smallest donation as the cut-off point for a major donation. It also lists a number of strategies for contacting and asking for money, and how to reward major donors through special events.

Grants constitute another potential source of income. Sources for grants include the AHA, the Institute for Humanist Studies, and institutions listed in the "Foundation Directory" at the local library. The AHAGM lists three similarities to all grant proposals: Applications, Time lines, and Contacts.

Fundraising events are the fourth type of fundraising source. The AHAGM warns risks may outweigh the benefits -- although if successful, the event can be a source of significant income. Events are typically labor intensive, and incur costs for food, facility, entertainment, and invites. It recommends low donor events (e.g., bake sales) as a more appropriate form of fundraising, getting people involved, and recruiting volunteers.

Finally, forming a development committee with leaders who can talk readily about the strengths of an organization will go a long way toward "soliciting for grants, donations, holding house parties, identifying large donors, and/or sponsoring events." The finance chair will work with the committee to develop the budget and fundraising plan.

Do these ideas for fundraising get your brain humming? Would you like to get involved with helping AOF raise money? We surely would love to work with you! Let us know if you are willing and able to help out. See you next month!

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

## 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 (Submissions Editor)  
 Jerry Sloan (Mailing)

Freethought Day, Oct. 9, 2005:  
 Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell,  
 KenNahigian, Kay Dickey, Jerry Sloan,  
 Tom Ikelman

Darwin Day, Feb. 12, 2006:  
 Bronda Silva, Mynga Futrell,  
 Dave Henderson, Ed McConnell, Kay  
 Dickey, KenNahigian,

### Ad Hoc:

Web Portal (Kevin Schultz, Richard Langley); Alternate Meeting Place/ Time (Jerry Sloan, Ken Nahigian, Kevin Schultz); Youth Outreach (Kevin Schultz, Jerry Sloan, Tina Burgess); Connections (Kevin Schultz, Betty Simonsma); Growing AOF Membership (Tina Burgess, Jerry Sloan, Kevin Schultz)

Archive: Jody Craig, Kay Dickey,  
 Mynga Futrell, Ken Nahigian,  
 Betty Simonsma

## AOF's Voluntariat

### Affiliation Liaisons:

Mynga Futrell, Kay Dickey (AAI),  
 Hank Kocol (CSH),  
 Ed McConnell (AA),  
 Beverly Church (AHA/HAGSA)

### Community Service Projects:

Don Knutson

Internet Website: Pat Kelley

Meetings: Dave Flanders, Ken Nahigian  
 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 at 447-3589 if you can help us out. Or, send an e-mail to us at [aofboard@rthoughtsrfree.org](mailto:aofboard@rthoughtsrfree.org)

## Review of a Dramatic Presentation

# Paul Hauck Does Clarence Darrow

By Hank Kocol

On Sunday, March 13, lucky AOFers who attended the monthly meeting at Sierra II Community Center were regaled by a very intriguing presentation.

Mr. Paul Hauck brought to life probably the best-known "people's attorney" of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Clarence Darrow. Mr. Hauck derived his characterization of Darrow from the writings and speeches of that attorney. His portrayal was set realistically in the milieu of the American society of those times.

Probably the most famous case tried by Mr. Darrow was that of John Scopes, the science teacher from Rhea County High School in Dayton, Tennessee. Mr. Scopes was tried for the teaching of evolution, a crime under Tennessee state law at the time.

Mr. Hauck portrayed Darrow's attempts to get testimony from several expert scientific witnesses, all attempts denied by the court since the judge had determined that the issue was not the truth of evolution but the question of whether state law was in fact violated. As those of us who read the book and/or

watched the movie "Inherit the Wind" know, Mr. Darrow took advantage of the arrogance of the prosecuting attorney, William Jennings Bryan, in allowing himself to be questioned concerning the biblical story of creation. As we also know, Mr. Scopes was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of one hundred dollars.

We were also reminded that Mr. Darrow was involved in many of the social issues of the day, such as free speech, worker rights, issues of the rich versus the poor, and capital punishment, such as the Leopold-Loeb murder case.

The acting ability of Mr. Hauck was flawless, making the audience ready to believe that we had really seen and heard Clarence Darrow. The depth of the research he did in order to portray the character and events was very evident in the show.

This meeting was another reminder that we should all try our best to attend AOF meetings. The Program Committee is to be lauded for its fine job in obtaining speakers for our group.

## Brief Play Recap

By Dave Flanders



For the March AOF meeting, actor Paul Hauck performed his play "The Trials of Clarence Darrow." Paul began by taking on Darrow's character and recounting his early days as a lawyer. He spoke of the injustice of the Pullman railroad company—how management exploited the workers and how it propelled him into a career defending the working man against the corporations. Here are a few highlights portrayed during the afternoon.

- Darrow fought for labor rights of coal miners who wanted an 8 hour work day and wanted to make more than starvation wages. He achieved success in helping them get an eight hour day.
- He defended activist Bill Haywood. Clarence saw him as a foe of corporate power and helped Bill get acquitted.

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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.



## Paul Hauck, Actor

Paul's first stage experience was in high school. He was cast as Murray in *A Thousand Clowns* – mostly because he was the only boy willing to appear on stage in his underwear.

After a thirty year hiatus to pursue a career and raise a family, he returned to community theater as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* with the St. Michael's Actors Guild.



Paul Hauck as Darrow

Photo by Mynga

In the intervening five years he has been seen with the T Street Players in such roles as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Prof. Von Helsing in

*Dracula*, Mr. Green in *Visiting Mr. Green*, John Ruffing in *Ravenscroft*, and most recently as Nick Flanagan in *The Guys*.

Paul returned to St. Michael's to play Detective Trotter in *Mousetrap* and Samuel in *The Curious Savage*. He has also appeared as Porter Milgram in the Main Street Theater Works production of *Deathtrap*. This is Paul's first attempt at writing for the stage. In his spare time Paul works as

a child clinical psychologist and maintains a vintage thirty-three year marriage.

(Continued from page 3)

- Over the years, fighting the oppressive corporations wore him down. Workers all over America considered Clarence Darrow to be their hero.
- Later, Clarence was charged with bribing two jurists. He was acquitted. He told the prosecutor that if he was thrown in jail, 10,000 more men more eloquent than he will continue the fight for the little guy and/or woman.
- Darrow then defended biology teacher, John Scopes. Clarence recounted that the judge forbade any scientist to testify. Due to the celebrated anti intellectualism that he experienced at that trial, he was not surprised that he lost that case.
- He defended Dr. Sweet--a black doctor who experienced threats when he attempted to move into a white neighborhood. A racist crowd threatened the family, throwing rocks at the house. A white man was shot. Sweet was accused of killing the white man. At first Sweet was found guilty; the second time he was acquitted.
- In another case, Darrow pleaded that Dicky Loeb and his brother be spared the death penalty. Clarence succeeded in getting them life sentences.

## Paul Hauck, Author (Play Notes)

I can still remember being a young boy and being excited when I would read in the TV Guide that "Inherit the Wind" would be on. I can still see Spencer Tracy taunting Fredric March with "Brady, Brady, Brady!" as he paced the courtroom on our black and white set. That image returned frequently as I worked on this script. But my reading of Darrow's life and work revealed a far more complex figure – greater and more flawed – than the theatrical, somewhat cynical character Tracy portrayed.

I hope that in this telling I have captured some of the development of this man – this paradox. An atheist who one jurist described as "the most Christ-like man I have ever known." A man who saw injustice so clearly yet could lose his way so utterly.

As I have lived with the stories of this man's life I have been awed at the resonance of the issues of his era and ours. The continuous tension between labor and management as they compete for resources. The relationship of industrial wealth and government power. The constant effects of racism. The struggle to protect individual rights when national security is threatened. The debate over what our children should be taught in school and how society should respond to the perpetrators of the most unspeakable crimes.

I hope this play in some small measure serves to further Darrow's goals; in his words: "to improve human understanding, to temper justice with mercy, to overcome hate with love."

During the question and answer period, Paul commented that much of what Clarence fought in his day resonates yet today--racism, worker exploitation, etc. Paul said he edited the dialogue to present the legal and sometimes shady side of Clarence Darrow. It appeared that everyone at the meeting thoroughly enjoyed both the play and the question and answer period.

*It was unfortunate that space limitations in our March newsletter prevented our including the above information on Paul Hauck (and by Paul Hauck) prior to his presentation. He will perform the material again for the Sun City Humanists in Roseville on Sunday, June 5 (1 PM). If you would like to attend that presentation, phone Hank at 771-5231 for more information and directions..*

## Freethought Fun(d\$)

Look out! — AOF's May 8 meeting will be quite *different!* It promises to be one of the most enjoyable events of the year for our members. No program or speaker on May 8. Rather, we plan to combine charity with fun - and lots of both!! [It's not only religious people who can be altruistic, and we hope to prove it.] The May newsletter will describe in some detail both aspects - the charity and the planned frivolity.

At the last board meeting, the Board voted to turn our May meeting into a means for AOF to *visibly raise funds for a cause in our community*. Planning is also in the works for our traditional "Freethought Potpourri and Auction" (AOF's annual fundraiser) to incorporate some entertainment!

For the auction portion, we encourage all members to bring *at least three items* to donate. (More will surely be welcomed, but this is *not* a garage sale, so please keep the concepts of quality, aesthetics and/or usefulness

to others in mind.) Suggestions include books, music, artwork, gift certificates to local eateries or museums. A donor may assign a minimum bid to items of value. Donors will need to take home afterwards any items not purchased. (In previous years, freethought items have proved quite popular.) It's not too early to start thinking up donation possibilities for the auction.

Proceeds will be going to a specific charitable (or educational) purpose, not into the general treasury. *We plan to get some publicity for how we spend these proceeds.*

The Board has some ideas of its own, but perhaps your idea for a worthy recipient or cause in our community is even better. Please take time to phone the voice mail (447-3589) in the next week or so with your suggestion. The selected "cause" will be announced in the May newsletter.

## A Different Kind of Faith

*(Continued from page 1)*

After nearly forty years as an activist and organizer, Ms. De Lu has had ample experience with the necessity of endurance in the face of political setbacks. However, WILPF has shown even greater endurance through its mission of "eliminating war and the causes of war": this year WILPF groups in over 40 countries will celebrate WILPF's 90th anniversary.

In addition to honoring 90 years of commitment, US WILPF will focus on Middle-East peacemaking and global water politics at the national triennial Congress in San Francisco this summer. (All like-minded people are invited to the Congress, August 10-14 at California State University, San Francisco.)

Ms. De Lu will use song as well as more traditional speech to elaborate on the her theme of faith in the potentials of humanity (along with enjoyment of life!) as a foundation to political perseverance.

## AOF in Action! — Get in on it!

### Friday Night Movie - Fun! April 16 Highway Cleanup

Who: Spencer Tracy as Clarence Darrow, Frederic March as William Jennings Bryan, Gene Kelly as H.L. Mencken in a courtroom drama on the 1930's "Scopes Monkey Trial."

What: *Inherit the Wind*

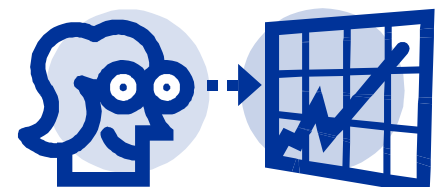
When: Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM

Where: Beverly Church's place, 24 Adkinson Ct., Sacramento, 95835

Why: It's an opportunity to get together in a social setting, watch a great movie, and have some fun and lively conversation. There's been some talk about making this (or a discussion group) a regular thing - every month or two. So, come on out and let's see how it goes! Bring your favorite microwaveable popcorn and call Bev at 916-359-5423 to let her know you'll be attending. —BC

Unfortunately, our March 19 cleanup venture was rained out. Consequently, volunteers will be heading out at 8 AM on Saturday, April 16 for 2 hours of scooping up trash on our stretch of Highway 99.

This may provide an opportunity for you to get our endeavor in the paper as it is possible that a *Sacramento Bee* reporter will be joining us for this outing. Tony Bidjak, who writes on transportation for the *Bee*, is planning a piece on the CalTrans Adopt-A-Highway program, and so I offered the opportunity for him to see it firsthand. Whether or not he shows, it would be nice if some of the "old hands" from years past could show up for this pickup; we can take a picture of ourselves and share stories of our "anthropology collections" over time. —MF



### Freethought Day 2005 Planning Begins

Sacramento's Fourth Annual Freethought Day will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2005. The Freethought Day Committee begins its planning of the event soon. Some new ideas are already in the works.

Last year's planning committee produced an outstanding event and had a great time doing so. We are now offering others an opportunity to get in on the fun! So, if you would like a chance to be creative and to assist with this worthy effort, call Beverly Church, Committee Chair, at 916-359-5423.

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

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

## Atheist Alliance Convention

(Continued from page 1)

event included world-renowned evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, who outlined the concepts he plans for his next book and presented an award to media celebrities (and atheists) Penn & Teller for their outstanding work in the cause of atheism. Andrew Bradley, who created the humorous website "Betty Bowers, America's Best Christian" was just hilarious, as was Michael Newdow, who regaled the audience with an American history summary in which almost every word he used began with the letter, "c".

Dr. Bruce Flamm, who was quoted in *Time* magazine as the man whose persistent inquiry proved the Korean-Columbia University prayer fertility study to be fatally flawed, described his challenge and the stonewalling of both the University's Medical School and the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*. Saturday Night

Live alumna Julia Sweeney gave a humorous yet stirring speech on "Why Care about Science." Easter Sunday morning brought the "resurrection" of Thomas Jefferson, ably performed by Dale Reynolds. "TJ" answered a barrage of questions from the audience.

After the event, all four AOFers carpoled across town to attend an invitation-only performance of Julia's one-woman show "Letting Go of

God" which has been drawing rave reviews. It surely is earning its sold-out performances. The show is a unique combination of poignant feeling and genuine jollity while taking the audience on a long journey from a serious Catholic upbringing to atheist activism. Anyone headed to L.A. should plan to take in the show before it closes in early May (extended from February). You won't regret it!



In the center (post-show) is actress Julia Sweeney surrounded by her brand new "AOF fan club" (left to right): Don Knutson, Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell, and Kay Dickey



## Tsunami Report

The final count of donations from AOFers to the Atheist Centre in India is \$845. (More money came in last month, and so we postponed sending the check as long as donations were flowing in.) Transfer of the funds to the India relief effort is now in the works. The AOF Board appreciates all those who enabled our organization to show concern for fellow human beings. Special thanks go to: Ute Yates, Lydia Sheridan, and Kenton Bradley for their extraordinary generosity in contributing to this worthy cause.

### Offer a Ride?

We know that AOF members are some of the kindest people on earth, so we are hoping someone can help a fellow member make it to a future meeting. An AOF member requires transportation

from the Campus Commons apartment complex on Cadillac Drive. If you are willing and able to help transport this member to a future AOF meeting, please call the AOF voice-mail and we will provide your contact information to the member. Thank you!"

### Letter to the Editor

*Most of our members missed an excellent performance at our March meeting. Paul Hauck gave us a play "The Trials of Clarence Darrow" with superb acting and a lot of history.*

*I had meant to leave at Intermission but I simply couldn't; it was just too good — my company could wait.*

—Betty Simonsma

## 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.)

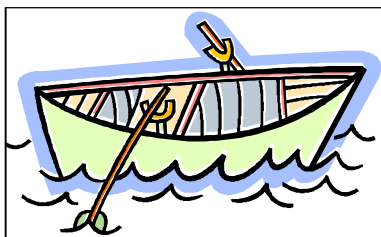
AOF also welcomes succinct and substantive letters to the editor. Note: All letters are prioritized by AOF 's publishing criteria deriving from the organization's Statement of Purpose.

## 2005-6 Nominations Committee Report

# Many Talented Folks Coming Forward to Run for Board

By Mynga Futrell

Last month in this space I took note of the fact that the annual elections for the AOF are coming up in May, and I put in a plea for anyone having an interest and willingness to work for



Ready to pick up the oars and row!

the organization to run for the AOF Board, which can have up to 9 members. The election takes place at the May general membership meeting, and nominees are accepted through the April meeting. (Note: there is still time to add your name!)

Thanks to the marvelous work of our 2005 nominations committee, Chair Ken Nahigian reports that several interested and qualified folks have expressed willingness to run and, if elected or re-elected, to take an active role in carrying on and furthering the AOF organization.

Two current board members (Tina Burgess and Kay Dickey) are deciding to take a break from board duties, and one (Betty Simonsma) has said, "it's time to retire." Tina has a new baby, while Kay, who drives in from Placer-

ville for the Freethought Day and Darwin Day planning, general meetings, and board meetings, seeks to "cut down on the number of meetings" for a while.

Fortunately for all of us, there is a goodly number of folks from the 2004-5 board willing to stay on (Beverly Church, Kevin Schultz, Ken Nahigian, Mynga Futrell, Dave Flanders, and Don Knutson) and an even greater number of new folks willing to step up to the plate to take on some board duties (Jerry Bachman, Carla Corbett, Pat Kelley, Phil Lazier, Rena Lowry, Tom

Nicolette, Kay Stinson, Paul Storey, and Vincent Wales).

This promises to be a very lively election! Each candidate is (I hope) drawing up his/her one-paragraph candidate statement and will submit it for the May newsletter. Plan to come to the May meeting to cast your vote and enjoy the activities that will surround our annual fundraising auction. This year we hope to offer some entertainment to spice up that event for all attendees!

### 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.rthoughtsrfree.org/aof.htm](http://www.rthoughtsrfree.org/aof.htm)

## April Calendar of Events

Popcorn and Movie Social (see page 5)	Friday April 8, 7 PM
AOF General Meeting	Sunday April 10, 2:30 PM
AOF Highway Cleanup	Saturday, April 16, 8 AM
AOF Board Meeting (open to members)	Sunday, April 17, 9:30 AM
AOF General Meeting	Sunday, May 8, 2:30 PM

*AOF meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the second Sunday of the month, from 2:30 - 5 PM at the Sierra 2 Community Center, Room 10. Note: The months of February and October are exceptions, since AOF co-produces two public education events: (1) an outdoor faire in October - "Sacramento's Freethought Day" (10/9/05), and (2) a science and humanity celebration - Sacramento's "Darwin Day Educational Gala" (2/12/06). Watch the newsletter for details.*

### Directions to AOF's General Meetings

The Sierra 2 Center is located at 2791 24th Street in Sacramento, just south of Broadway and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Visitors are welcome. Parking is available on the street or in the rear, off 4th Avenue. AOF Board meetings are held at alternating sites, so please inquire about the location. For AOF's 24-hour recorder, call 447-3589. Leave your name and a number (please repeat for clarity) and someone will phone back to answer your questions about AOF.

