

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

June 2005

*Sunday, June 12*

## Is There Freedom for Unpopular Speech?

### *Special Points of Interest*

- New AOF President Pens His First AOF Line (page 2)
- First of Series: AOF Director Self-Intro (page 2)
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The program at AOF's June meeting features Stephen and Virginia Pearcy, the couple that became a lightning rod for national politics in early 2005. Come hear them speak about their experiences, ask questions, and meet them in person.

The roots of the controversy began in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Frustrated with federal administration policies, Stephen and Virginia began communicating their own views to passers by – lawn signs and a rainbow flag supporting Gay Pride Week in June. The Percys felt shocked when a representative of the Sacramento Police Department arrived at their door. The officer threatened to investigate them on a violation of city code if they continued to display the flag. Stephen remarked later, "It was meant to send up a chilling message."

In early 2005, the Percys decided to challenge the threats, assert their right to freedom of speech, and protest the administration's policies in Iraq in one fell swoop. In an act meant to symbolize their opinion that the U.S. government was "hanging our soldiers out to dry" in Iraq, Stephen and Virginia erected a dummy of a soldier with a noose around it's neck and a sign stating, "Your tax dollars at work." The city noticed

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## *Introducing New 2005-6 AOF Board and Officers*

## Some Folks You'll Want to Know

By Kevin Schultz

I am happy to announce the winners of the AOF annual elections.

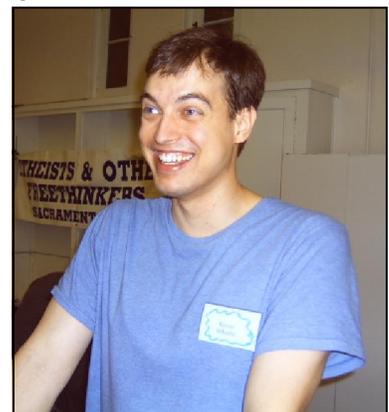
In alphabetical order: Beverly Church, Carla Corbett, David Flanders, Mynga Futrell, Don Knutson, Phil LaZier, Ken Nahigian, Kevin Schultz, and Vincent Wales.

We are delighted to welcome Carla, Phil, and Vince as new board members.

In accord with the AOF by-laws, officers were elected at AOF's May

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Why Is Kevin So Cheerful?



Could it be because of the great load of responsibility just lifted from his shoulders?

# President's Message

By Don Knutson

It was indeed a profound honor to have the AOF Board elect me by acclimation as your new President of the Board at the May Board meeting. I am humbled in succeeding the tireless but cheerful reign of my predecessor, Kevin Schultz, and can only hope to meet his standards in conducting the responsibilities of the office. In my younger years, I held at best a shaky faith in a deity (and it left me neurotic!) but AOF has helped me come to the conclusion that God is a necessary psychological invention of man to deal with the fear, insecurity and suffering experienced in life on Earth. And, correspondingly, established religions today require persecution, whether actual or perceived, to recharge their batteries of zeal. For several years, I have been a Board member of the Sacramento

Vegetarian Society, which has served the local community as a form of support group for vegetarians for two decades effectively providing a means for like-minded folk to gather to socialize and little else. I see freethinkers and vegetarians as having much in common in being relatively small minorities struggling to be heard in main stream society but we are also quite different in that the religious right is on the offensive and determined to abridge the separation of church and state. I see AOF as working in the next year to strengthen our organization as we embark on an overdue scrutinizing of our by-laws to make them more efficient and inclusive and strengthening our alliances with other area freethought groups.

## Meet a New AOF Board Member Carla Corbett

*Editor's Note:* This article is the first of three to introduce readers of *AOF News & Views* to the three directors-at-large who are new to the AOF board. The "introduction articles" for Phil Lazier and Vincent Wales will appear in subsequent issues.

I suppose the appropriate topic for introducing oneself as a new Board member of a freethought organization would be to describe the path that has led one to an atheist/agnostic belief system. Lacking inspiration for what else I might possibly say by way of introduction, I will address "How I Became an Atheist."

Unlike many people I have met through various freethought organizations, I (thankfully) received little religious indoctrination during my formative years. My mother was raised Catholic and attended a Catholic girls' high school, but she did not

foist this religious tradition upon her children beyond our rare attendance at mass for Easter or Christmas. Or, I suppose, when she was feeling especially guilty that her children were receiving no formal religious instruction. I recall after one such occasion

inquiring, "Mom, why was the priest yelling at everyone?" (These were the days before the Catholic church got hip.) My father's thoughts on religion were that one didn't need to go to church to talk with god. So we didn't. Didn't do either, generally. But when my younger sister came down with spinal meningitis, we were admonished to recite the traditional "now I lay me down to sleep" children's prayer. What were they thinking? Pam was in the hospital, which was scary enough, but now we had to contemplate whether we were going to "die before we woke!"

(Continued on page 6)

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

## AOF Board (2005-6)

President: Don Knutson

Vice President: Mynga Futrell

Secretary: Kevin Schultz

Treasurer: Ken Nahigian

Directors at large:

Carla Corbett, Beverly Church

Dave Flanders, Phil Lazier

Vincent Wales

## AOF Committees

Newsletter: Mynga Futrell (Editor)

Kay Dickey (Submissions Editor)

Jerry Sloan (Mailing)

Freethought Day, Oct. 9, 2005:

Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell,

Kay Dickey, Jerry Sloan, Tom Ikelman,

Kevin Schultz, Brian Krofchok

Darwin Day, Feb. 12, 2006:

Bronda Silva, Mynga Futrell,

Dave Henderson, Ed McConnell, Kay

Dickey, Ken Nahigian,

Ad Hoc:

Web Portal (Kevin Schultz, Richard

Langley); Alternate Meeting Place/

Time (Jerry Sloan, Ken Nahigian,

Kevin Schultz); Youth Outreach

(Jerry Sloan, Tina Burgess, Mynga

Futrell); Connections (Kevin

Schultz, Betty Simonsma); Growing

AOF Membership (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:

Ken Nahigian

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@aofonline.org](mailto:aofboard@aofonline.org)

# AOF Conducts Its First Ever "Not-So-Silent" Benefit Auction Auctioneer's Report

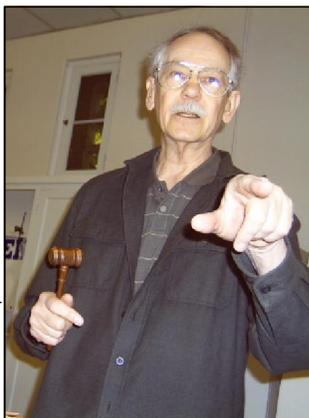
By Paul Geisert

In the main, it was a silent auction, as it has been in years past. However, this year, AOF added an additional feature - *me*, in my first ever role as "live auctioneer" for some items. Why? — to boost donations, of course. This time, funds were flowing in not merely to enhance AOF's treasury, but to enable AOF to donate to a worthy cause in our community, the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento.

So, how does one learn to be an auctioneer? *Of course*: on the Internet. A brief spin around the Web and the rules were simple and clear.

One needs to start off with something like: "What am I bid for this stuffed mouse? Do I hear a dollar; one dollar?" If someone bids, then you enter into a complex chant, such as "Dollar, who will give me two dollar, two dollar, and so forth until some rube —woops, *person*—makes a higher bid.

"Sold to the lady in the hat for two dollars" and the action starts over.



This man wants YOU to bid ... okay, now bid again... okay, this time, even higher! Just "DO IT!"

Need an auctioneer joke? Yep, the Internet again. There was this lady that saw a magnificent parrot in a golden cage and she *knew* she wanted it. The bidding started, and each time she bid, it was raised, until *finally* she won the bid. When she approached the cashier who had the parrot ready for her, the lady thought for a second and noted, "I forgot to ask, can this parrot talk?" Out of the cage came "AWK, lady, who in hell do you think was bidding against you?"

Have I decided to become an auctioneer by profession? Naw— it is a lot more fun *pretending* to be an auctioneer than being one. So I'll see all you rubes next year.

*Editor's Note:* I was out of town for this event, but quite a few of the "rubes" told me later they really enjoyed the live auction portion of AOF's May meeting. Thanks to all the donors and to the bidding audience for their generosity, and to our "pretend auctioneer," AOF is able to send a check for \$300 to the Children's Receiving Home.

## Freethought Potpourri Recap of an Eventful May By Dave Flanders



AOF's May meeting was a potpourri of activity. It featured the AOF board election (see results below), its fundraising auction (this year, both live and silent), and several of the AOF members speaking their minds on various issues.

Paul Geisert did an impressive job as lead auctioneer. Money from the auction is being donated to the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento. Issues discussed included the necessity of separation of church and state, the dangers of a theocracy, and the Brights' web site. Activism is still alive here in Sacramento.

At the first board meeting subsequent to the May general meeting, those elected selected members to the following officer positions: Don Knutson (president), Mynga Futrell (vice president), Kevin Schultz (secretary), Ken Nahigian (treasurer), and the following became the directors at large: Beverly Church, Carla Corbett, Phil Lazier, Dave Flanders, and Vince Wales.

### Atheists and Other Freethinkers



AOF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. It is one of 50 member societies of the Atheist Alliance International ("a positive voice for atheism"). AOF also 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.

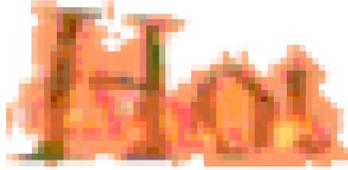
# Hotbed of Faith

By Jerry Bachman

The annual Whole Earth Festival held in Davis last month was a weekend of education and celebration of ecology, social justice, peace, and love. In the open quad area of the university campus, happy hippies of all ages engaged in a free expression of art, music, dance, and homegrown honesty.

There was one event, however, that was a little disconcerting.

At nightfall of the first evening, two hundred people surrounded a large bon fire. A man tended the burning wood with a rake. He was preparing a bed of cedar wood coals for a firewalk. A woman with a microphone, Heather Ash, explained to the crowd that the



firewalker's body must talk to the coals—incredible energy and stillness overcomes the body as it learns to communicate with the spirit of the fire. The flames died down and the red-hot coals were spread to form a pathway. To beating drums and ritualistic chants from the

cheering crowd, six firewalkers hopped, unscathed, across the bed of smoldering embers.

Skeptics in attendance kept quiet, but knew the science of conductivity easily explains firewalking. The coals of cedar wood are poor heat conductors. Ash is a good insulator, allowing bare feet to pass unburned with quick, light steps. Firewalkers do not dally, for continuous contact

rapidly burns soft flesh. Natural phenomenon, not the fire spirit, protects the tissue of the soles. Disbelievers remained silent, even a joyous crowd can instantly turn into an ugly mob if it senses dissension in its ranks.

American culture is a smoldering hotbed of supernatural belief. Faith-free individuals may only cross over the burning embers of intolerance with great care. A religious populace reluctantly allows the fast-stepping Freethinker to traverse unharmed. The doubter must hop across the smoldering cinders of a religion-steeped society. To tarry along the way—stop to demand rational answers from a superstitious majority—may lead to serious burns in the bed of hot coals called faith.

## May Movie Night

By Kevin Schultz

In May we watched the movie, *Contact*, adapted from the book by Carl Sagan of the same name, starring Jodie Foster (Ellie Arroway), Matthew McConaughey (Palmer Joss), and Tom Skerritt (David Drumlin).

This review contains spoilers, so if you wish to watch the movie without knowing a few things in advance, then stop reading now.

The movie's main protagonists are Ellie and Palmer, two young, attractive idealists who strive for truth -- Ellie via science; Palmer via faith. The honesty and sincerity of Ellie and Palmer's idealism fuel their choices and successes and counters the opportunism of the antagonists -- Drumlin, the religious extremists, the governments, and others. This integrity allows Ellie and Palmer to navigate the rocky confluence of science and religion, and emerge as respectful lovers despite their initial misgivings.

## June Movie è

The message of this movie is two-fold. First, like last month's "Inherit The Wind," this month's movie ends with imagery suggesting a respectful co-existence of religion and science is the best of all worlds. Second, in this unimaginably vast universe, life is made bearable through the knowledge that we have each other; that we are not alone.

This was my second viewing of the film. My favorite missed point from the first viewing was the clever portrayal of Ellie's colleagues passing time by casting a line from a fishing pole into an inflatable swimming pool. They were fishing in the desert, just as they fished in the desert (space) for signs of alien life.

I highly recommend this film, and everyone at the movie event seemed to enjoy it too. It pulls no punches with regard to religious extremism, and the special effects are superb.

## Heart of the Beholder

—a freethought film



Many freethinkers have been tracking the progress of this movie (which is independently produced and distributed) almost from the beginning. It's here!

There will be a showing at the home of Bill and Elaine Potts on Friday, June 10, at 7 p.m. The running time is 106 minutes, which leaves time for conversation afterwards.

Bill and Elaine live at 1848 Hidden Hills Drive, Roseville. The phone number is 773-3865. If you plan to go, please call a couple of days ahead of time.

# Intelligent Design Strikes Again at UC-D

By Al Ludtke and Jerry Bachman

Dr. Michael J. Behe visited Davis University last month to promote Intelligent Design, the aggressive religious campaign to bring creationism into the science department of public schools. Author of the bible of the I.D. movement, *Darwin's Black Box* (1998), Dr. Behe is among the most vocal and published sponsors of the Christian quest to misuse science to muddy the waters of established evolutionary theory. Slight of stature, mild of voice and demeanor, Behe's disarming persona, is the picture of sincerity. But beneath that seemingly benign exterior, he skillfully uses innuendo and implication rather than straightforward presentation of facts to subliminally advance his deceitful agenda.

Like the religious crusade he spearheads, Dr. Behe's message is inherently dishonest. As a biologist, Dr. Behe is aware of the mountains of evidence for Darwinian natural selection amongst the fossil record, biogeography, ecology, genetics, and now molecular biology. Dr. Behe asserts

with circular reasoning that the complexity of life demonstrates that Darwinian natural selection does not exist. He never explains how the complexity of life contradicts the reams of data supporting evolutionary theory.

The I.D. battle is rooted in the least inspiring explanation to complex biological structure. A grand omnipotent creator is the lazy path to understanding the universe. The inherent dishonesty of I.D. and its proponents threatens to crack the foundation of science education everywhere. Dr. Behe claims to be open to intelligent designers other than the Christian god, but in the same breath he revealingly offers an alternative intelligent designer that he knows all in his audience, Christian and atheist alike, would find ridiculous, namely "little green men from Mars." Dr. Behe readily admits his belief that Christianity is the one true religion. The most honest portion of the event, which was sponsored by a student Christian group, was that it opened and closed with a prayer.

## Unpopular Speech

*(Continued from page 1)*

and pressured the Pearcys to take the dummy down. They refused. Allowing others to erect Halloween and Christmas displays while not allowing their protest would amount to selective enforcement.

What happened next is best heard in person, so if you are willing and able, come hear it the story told at AOF's Sunday, June 12 meeting.

Stephen and Virginia are Sacramento natives. Stephen has a Juris Doctorate (JD) from Golden Gate University School of Law, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UC-Davis. Virginia also has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UC-Davis and earned her JD from UC-Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, at the age of 20! Those that have heard them speak know that they are excellent public speakers.

This should be a special event and we hope everyone will come. —KS

## Get in on the Action!

## Highway Cleanup and Breakfast!!

**Attention!**  
 Seeking  
*Entertainment Committee*  
 Chairperson



Planning for Freethought Day 2005 (October 9) has begun. We are currently seeking an individual with a yen for managing the entertainment aspect of the event. Anyone interested in this volunteer position will benefit from the previous planning and experience of the committee. Additionally, we have already confirmed two entertainers and others have expressed an interest. Interested individuals should contact Beverly Church at 916-359-5423.

On Sunday, June 19 at 8 a.m., AOFers will gather at the Elkhorn Park & Ride (west of 99). We will be there to clean up our Adopt-A-Highway two-mile stretch of Highway 99 north of Elkhorn Blvd., in this our *10th Anniversary Year* of conducting this worthwhile project. We are trying Sunday instead of Saturday this time to see if there is significantly less traffic to make for a safer work environment. Bring water and durable shoes to wear.

Afterward, all those who wish may retire to Bev Church's nearby home where Jerry Sloan is scheduled to prepare a scrumptious breakfast for everyone. — Free shower with towel provided(!) and so you may bring a change of clothes.

Then, we will commence the monthly Board meeting about 11 a.m. and, of course, AOF members are always welcome to attend. Call Bev at 359-5423 for directions to her home. —DK

# 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

## Meet New Board Member

*(Continued from page 2)*

On a visit to my grandmother, at about the age of 8, I was given a rosary and taught to say the associated prayers. Saying an entire rosary takes some time – too much time for an 8-year-old – and I didn't notice any mystical benefits on the few times I made it all the way through.

As a teenager, I did a very brief exploration of some sort of Christian religion – mostly to hang out with a friend who attended church.

These were the days when you could hear Alan Watts' lectures on the radio, which resonated with me more than the tenets of any Christian religion I'd been exposed to.

In young adulthood, I mostly had vague feelings of inadequacy for the fact that I couldn't feel the holy spirit moving within me or any communion with this elusive "god." What was wrong with me? However, I wasn't sufficiently bothered by it to start attending church services. And it would have been hard to reconcile church-teachings with those halcyon disco nights. Then came marriage and kids, and who had time to think about any-

thing as intangible as god and religion in the face of the daily material realities of child rearing?

It was while taking an introductory sociology course about 15 years ago that I was able to put those feelings of inadequacy to rest. Understanding that religion is a human construct rather than some divinely mandated institution freed me from the unsettling notion that there was something wrong with me because I didn't care to embrace religion or believe in a "god."



Carla, at after-AOF camaraderie.

Since becoming involved with the freethought community a few years ago, I've been amazed by the level of biblical and religious scholarship that exists here. How odd that I'm learning so much about the bible and religion from atheists! I consider myself fortunate to have arrived at a freethought belief system without the struggles endured by many with former religious beliefs. I'm glad AOF is in the Sacramento and Internet communities, to sustain those who are questioning religious beliefs and to be a haven from a culture in which freethinkers are a marginalized minority. I'm pleased to join its Board and look forward to playing a more active role in the organization.

## All-Atheist Weekend a Success

Jim Heldberg of San Francisco Atheists reports that the All-Atheist Weekend of May 20-22 was a resounding success, helping put SFA on the map with atheists and media. Ellen Johnson's multimedia talk about Madalyn Murray O'Hair packed the Commonwealth Club site (about 200 people). David Flemming's movie premiere ("The God Who Wasn't There") and David Fitzgerald's "Evaporating Jesus" talk packed the Off-Market Theater—twice. The media gave unprecedented coverage, including many radio and TV news and talk shows, AP News articles which were carried by hundreds of newspapers from Honolulu to Washington DC, and countless replications across the Internet. The organization got many new members and ripples from this event are still being felt. It was a huge effort, put together in just 50 days from idea to event. It involved hard work, planning and communication by local volunteers.

Might Freethought Day Also Aim High?

### AOF Board Meeting Summary

May 15, 2005 — Home of Betty Simonsma

2005-2006 officers elected by consensus: Motion was made (Kevin) to send a belated \$120 to Atheist Alliance International (AAI) to cover expenses incurred to support a part-time staffer.

Bylaws committee members Mynga Futrell, Paul Geisert, Kevin Schultz, and Jerry Sloan introduced some proposed revisions to existing AOF bylaws. Documents communicating the changes were provided to board members for review. Discussion will resume in June.

Next board meeting will be held on June 19, 2005, at the home of Beverly Church.

## Upcoming Matters — Check 'Em Out

### Strategic Planning for AOF

- Directors of the AOF board plan to hold a strategic planning meeting in the month of June to brainstorm ideas for AOF goals and objectives over the next one to five years. All AOF members are welcome to attend and share their voices. We request you RSVP to ensure we know how many people to expect and to allow us to plan logistics. Please RSVP (aofboard@aofonline.org or the voice mail) by Friday, June 17. Meeting date/time/location will be arranged with those who express interest in attending in the mid-to-late June time-frame.

### AOF's General Meeting for July

- Presenters from the National Organization for Women will focus on current issues and their relation to religion

### 2005 Survey of Nonbelievers

- Darrell Lunsford from the Western North Carolina Atheists writes:  
*I'm currently conducting a survey of non-believers across the US and around the world. No organizations are funding or sponsoring*

*the study. It's an individual project. The survey results will be made freely available to the community of non-believers upon completion.*

*There has unfortunately been pitifully little research conducted regarding non-believers by non-believers. I'm hoping to change that. Assumptions and assertions about non-believers abound, but outside of anecdote or individual experiences and positions, little is known about us. There are numerous further questions that could, and should be asked. We need to know more and assume less.*

This is Lunsford's second such study, following up on a previous survey performed in 2003. To take the survey or for more information, visit: <http://www.wncatheists.com/Survey.html>. For the 2003 results, visit: <http://www.wncatheists.com/NBSurvey2003.htm>.

Mr. Lunsford reports over 1,500 individuals have returned the results as of mid-May. Deadline for submission is June 30. Mr. Lunsford will send you a survey via postal mail if you write to him at: Daniel Lunsford, P.O. Box 62, Franklin, NC 28744. The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. To ask questions, use postal address or e-mail to [darrell@wncatheists.com](mailto:darrell@wncatheists.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

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

[frethnkr@mindspring.com](mailto: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.

## Some Facts about Mike Newdow's F.A.C.T.S. An Invitation to Help

Michael Newdow - the man whose challenge to "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance reached the Supreme Court last year - is seeking to increase the membership of his atheistic church, the First Amendment Church of True Science (FACTS). Believing that

"commandments" are antithetical to the freedom of conscience upon which all religion ought to be based, and that ten of anything is too much to remember, FACTS has three "suggestions:" (1) Question, (2) Be honest, and (3) Do what's right.

If you would like to join and/or support the church, you can sign up at the SORT picnic being held at Cottage

Park (at the intersection of Cottage and Morse Avenue near Kaiser) from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 26, 2005. Alternatively, please contact Mike at FACTS, PO Box 233345, Sacramento, CA 95823.



Huh? A church for atheists to which members cannot contribute since it refuses to accept money? Just what kind of corny idea is this? It looks like Mr. Newdow has something in mind. But what?

By the way, FACTS pens will be available for \$1 each. However, for ease of administration, FACTS does not accept credit cards, checks, or foreign money. The church also refuses to take money that is interlarded with religious dogma contrary to its fundamental tenets. Thus, any U.S. currency or coins that bear the words "In God We Trust" cannot be accepted.

*If you find that these conditions impede your ability to provide financial support, please place that fact in writing and mail your remarks to Mike. Such a blatant interference with the free exercise of religion - in violation of both the Constitution and the United States Code - will be a key issue underlying a federal lawsuit Mike plans to bring this summer. Your written notes - simply stating that the placement of that religious phrase on the money has interfered with your ability to follow your conscience and support this atheistic church - may prove valuable in the case.*

## A New Board and Officers for AOF

*(Continued from page 1)*

board meeting. They are: Don Knutson, President; Mynga Futrell, Vice-President; Ken Nahigian, Treasurer; and Kevin Schultz, Secretary.

Officer elections were passed by consensus, and uncontested. Congratulations to everyone who ran for AOF office.

AOF needs everyone's support, now more than ever, to give atheism a voice; *your* voice. Best wishes to everyone on the 2005-2006 AOF Board.

## 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)

## June Calendar of Events

Movie Social - "Heart of the Beholder" (see page 4)	Friday June 10, 7 PM
AOF General Meeting	Sunday June 12, 2:30 PM
Freethought Day 2005 Planning Committee	Saturday, June 18, 10:30 AM
AOF Highway Cleanup followed by Breakfast	Sunday, June 19, 8 AM
AOF Board Meeting (open to members)	Sunday, June 19, 11 AM
AOF General Meeting	Sunday, July 10, 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 (repeat for clarity) and someone will phone back to answer your questions about AOF.

