

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

February 2008

## Special Points of Interest

Save the Date—11th Annual Sacramento Darwin Day (page 1)

Can You Help Staff AOF's Refreshment Table? (page 2)

Paul Storey Travels Back in Time in Search of Roots of Religious Tolerance (page 3)

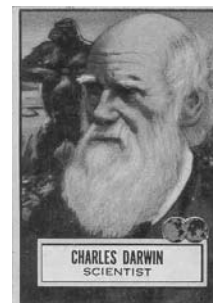
Ken Nahigian Analyzes Oliver Cromwell (page 4)

Center For Inquiry's Civic Days in Washington DC (page 5)

Inherit The Wind Playing Through Feb 10 (page 6)

Susan Sackett of Star Trek fame to Speak in March at Humanist Association of Greater Sacramento Area (HAGSA) special event (page 7)

## Sunday, Feb 10, 2:00-4:30PM Joint Darwin Day Event: "Could Aliens Be As Common As Phone Poles?"



Come join us on Sunday February 10 for a gala birthday celebration of Charles Darwin's 199th birthday. **Please note: this event replaces the AOF February general meeting.** Doors open at 2:00 PM, event begins at 2:30 PM (with musical entertainment from 2:00-2:30 PM).

This year, guest speaker Seth Shostak from the SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Life) will present "Could Aliens Be As Common As Phone Poles?"

In addition to his work in the research program (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), Dr. Shostak is involved in the Institute's outreach, giving talks and writing articles about SETI. He is host for the Institute's weekly radio program, *Are We Alone?* and science editor of *The Explorer*.

The location is the same as in recent years, at the **La Sierra Community Center John Smith Hall, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA.**

Tickets are \$10 at the door for general seating (students with ID, \$5).

(Continued on page 3)

## Standard Fare

Adopt-A-Highway Event 1

Movie Night Announcement 2

Membership Form 6

Selected Community Events 6

AOF Volunteer Opportunities 7



*Lots of love and hugs to everyone who keeps the organization going. Thanks!*

## Sunday, February 3, 8-10 AM

### AOF Adopt-A-Highway Event By Don Knutson

Start off the New Year right by doing a favor for the environment and join us Sunday, February 3 @ 8 a.m. when we clean our 2-mile stretch of Highway 99 north of Elkhorn Blvd. (one mile north of the 99, I-5 split). We meet at the Elkhorn Park & Ride west of 99. We provide hard hat, orange vest, gloves, picker and trash bags. It is a good idea to bring a backpack or fanny pack so that you can carry 3 or 4 trash bags with you along with some libation. We haven't had a chance to go out for a while and so there is certain to be much to discover and collect along the highway. **Rain or wet conditions cancel.** Any questions can be addressed to 447-2169.



## Joint Feb. 8 Movie, 7PM: *Instinct*

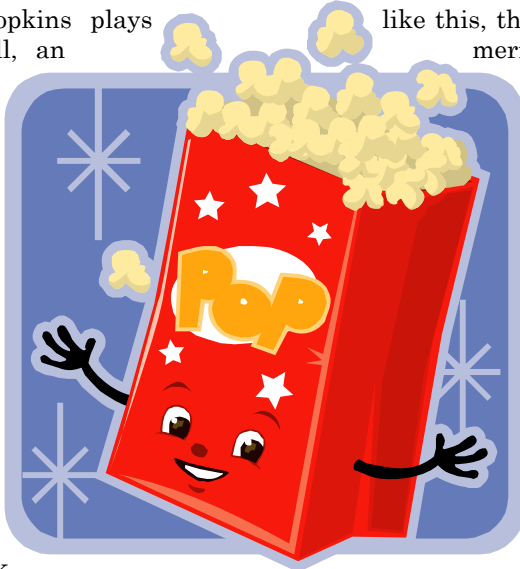
By Brian Jones

What does it mean to be human? What is freedom? What is family? These questions and more are explored artistically and powerfully in the 1999 movie "Instinct" starring Sir Anthony Hopkins, Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Donald Sutherland. Hopkins plays

Ethan Powell, an anthropologist imprisoned for murder. The alleged murders occurred in Africa while Powell was living in the forest with the gorillas he was studying. Nobody has heard Powell speak

since the murders. Gooding, as Theo Caulder, a young psychiatrist looking to make a name for himself, takes on the challenge of getting Powell to speak. The resulting interaction between the two is very well-acted as one might expect from these two. Sutherland plays Gooding's academic mentor. Some reviews of this film have criticized it

for cribbing from a variety of movies such as "Gorillas in the Mist," "Silence of the Lambs" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Sometimes, when you combine quality ingredients, the result is a Frankenstein, but other times, like this, the result is a decent meritage.



*Directions: 44669 S El Macero Drive, El Macero, CA (just south of Davis). Turnoff of Mace Blvd at the first left where there is no traffic control of any kind on Mace. There will also not be a 4-way stop at the correct intersection. Usually people mistakenly turn at the previous intersection (El Macero Dr. to the right and N. El Macero Dr. to the left) where there is a flashing red light and a 4-way stop, and then because the street numbers are roughly parallel to my street they get real confused, even people that right-smart educated.*

Lost? Call (530) 756-8570

## AOF Hospitality Table Host(s)/Hostess(es) Needed

Betty Simonsma no longer can continue to assist AOF with providing munchies and coffee for post-meeting socializing. Please do thank her for her years of help. Her stepping down is a giant hole to fill. If you or someone you know is willing and able, please let us know if you'd be willing to volunteer, or perhaps co-volunteer. Duties include: transportation of one or two boxes of materials to and from meetings; counting donations made by socializers, arranging the materials on the food table; brewing coffee. We're more than willing to hear from people willing to do one or more of these activities. 916-447-3589. AOF reimburses costs of refreshments.

### AOF Board (2007-2008)

**President:** Paul Storey  
**Vice President:** Mynga Futrell  
**Secretary:** Nancy Gilbert  
**Treasurer:** Ken Nahigian  
**Directors at large:**

Alice Corley, Kay Dickey,  
Don Knutson, Kevin Schultz,  
Debora Smith

### AOF Committees

**Newsletter:** Kevin Schultz (Editor)  
Tom Nicolette (Mailing)

#### Freethought Day, Oct. 5, 2008

Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell, Carla Corbett, Kay Dickey, Jerry Sloan, Tom Ikelman, Kevin Schultz, Brian Krofchok

#### Darwin Day, Feb. 10, 2008:

Bronda Silva, Mynga Futrell,  
Dave Henderson, Ed McConnell,  
Kay Dickey, Ken Nahigian,

#### Ad Hoc Committees:

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:** Kay Dickey, Mynga Futrell,  
Ken Nahigian, Betty Simonsma

### AOF's Voluntary

#### Affiliation Liaisons:

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

#### Community Service Projects:

Don Knutson

#### Internet Website:

Kevin Schultz  
**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)

ISSN: 1936-4229

AOF BloodSource ID#: 4857

AOF Federal Tax ID#: 68-0325762

## Out of Violence Comes Desire for Coexistence

# Religious Neutrality and War

### By Paul Storey

Recent holidays in Paris taught me respect for their people, culture, and history. Perhaps the secular atmosphere has to do with the history of the region's religious conflict.

In Germany in 1517 Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral protesting the sale of indulgences to forgive sins. The printing press disseminated his views, beginning the Protestant Revolt, often accompanied by political upheaval and bloodshed. The Peace of Augsburg (1555) allowed each German ruler the right to choose their own state religion.

In France, tolerance by the Catholics to Calvin's followers, called the Huguenots, oscillated from massacres, riots, and clashes of armies to uneasy truces. Kings acted as arbiters of religious freedoms. In reaction, a policy of religious war was practiced to try and bring the French Huguenots back under Roman rule (1538), resulting in eight wars between 1559 and 1598.

In order to restore civil unity, Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598, giving the Huguenots rights greater than those of mere heretics. It offered amnesty, civil rights safe-

guarded by the King, and 150 forts to protect themselves from the Catholics. Such an act of toleration was unusual in Western Europe, where standard practice forced subjects to follow the religion of their ruler. The Edict also guaranteed to protect French Protestants traveling abroad from the horrors of the Inquisition. Upon hearing of the Edict, Pope Clement VIII cried "This crucifies me." The Edict made no mention of Jews or Muslims, who still had no legal rights and were given only limited tolerance.

Louis the 14th rescinded the edict in 1685, declaring Protestantism illegal. The result was the exodus from France of many intelligentsia and skilled craftsmen, costing France the loss of economy and prestige, and making the Protestant nations bordering France even more hostile to his regime.

In America, Pilgrims, Puritans, Anglicans and Quakers wanted religious freedom, but each wanted their own variety. The only religion the 13 colonies could agree upon was a state with no religion. So when people say the USA was formed as a Christian nation, they plainly do not know history.

(Continued from page 1)

This year Darwin Day Sacramento features the musical talent of Terry Dye, a vocalist focusing on a Science and Astronomy Interactive. Terry's formerly of "The Big Bang Band" from Santa Rosa, California.

In addition to the educational program, the event features literature tables, merchandise, refreshments (including a birthday cake), and camaraderie.

The event is presented by: California State University Anthropology and Biology Departments, the National Center for Science Education, Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area (HAGSA), Atheists and Other Freethinkers - Sacramento (AOF), The Skeptic's Dictionary, Sacramento Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT), Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Society - Sacramento, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Sacramento.

Additional speaker Info: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seth\\_Shostak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seth_Shostak)

### Sacramento Community Events Calendar for Freethinkers



<http://sacportal.humanists.net/calendar>

Subscribe to all the local happenings online!

### 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.*

**AOF News & Views:** Copyright © 2008 by *Atheists and Other Freethinkers*, PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. The contents of News & Views are informational and educational. Views expressed via the articles in this publication are not necessarily those of Atheists and Other Freethinkers.

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.

## Historical Figures Series

# Oliver Cromwell

By Ken Nahigian

Oliver Cromwell came from ambitious stock, and it brought him to a bad end—two ends, in fact. His great-great granduncle, Thomas Cromwell, was chief advisor to old King Henry VIII, the one with the wives. When Henry broke with the Roman Church (1534), Thomas egged him on, even inciting the arrest and execution of his old friend Sir Thomas More, who remained loyal to Pope Clement. See “A Man for All Seasons,” a wonderful movie, for that particular story.

But Henry never wanted a real break with the Church. He considered himself a staunch Catholic, only wishing to rule the Church in England. By contrast, the Cromwells were reformers at heart. By the 1560s they were stern Puritans; by the 1640s, the Puritans controlled Parliament.

Oliver, a young MP, was with the most ardent Puritans, who reveled in apocalyptic prophecies and insisted it was wrong “to coin metaphor of Scripture,” that the Bible must be taken literally. Inspired by his theology, Parliament outlawed Christmas celebration: pagan-derived customs such as decorated trees, feasting and caroling. It banned Nativity scenes as idol-worship. It even discouraged the word “Christmas” as taking the Lord’s name in vain. So some historians have called Cromwell “the original Grinch who stole Christmas” (until Charles Dickens kindly returned it 200 years later).

The hard-Puritans foresaw the near return of Christ, once they bleached out the “Episcopal stain.” Like modern evangelicals, they saw signs of it everywhere. One wrote, “all the teetering and tumbling affairs on earth (which is universally shaking into a new Creation) are an History of

Christ’s coming to reign.” Another mused of these “overturning, overturning, overturning days.”

But King Charles I was a problem—he had Catholic sympathies. This led to two bloody civil wars, Royalists vs. Parliament, Cavaliers vs. Roundheads. As commander in several battles, Cromwell crushed the



royal forces, then urged Parliament to behead King Charles for treason. His signature was third on the execution warrant.

Turning his gentle attention to the Catholics and royalists in Ireland, he then seized land, burned homes, and killed civilians like insects. After taking Drogheda, his army massacred nearly 3,500 people, including all men carrying arms, civilians, prisoners and captured priests. If you wonder why the Irish resent the English, now you have a clue.

The Puritans exulted. At the so-called Barebones Parliament (1653) they announced that God had raised up Cromwell “to destroy Antichrist in his Dragoical and Priestly power, with their appendancies, and to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ,” not just in England, but every-

where. Cromwell must march against Europe and Rome, they said, and seize the Holy Land.

Weary of blood perhaps, Cromwell declined. He did accept the title for life of Lord Protector of England, with a lot of executive power, and moved into the old palace. Through the 1650s he worked to reorganize the Church and persecute Quakers, who annoyed him. By bits he took royal trappings—addressed as “Your Highness,” he even bestowed knighthoods. But when Parliament offered the formal title of King, Cromwell declined. “I will not build Jericho again,” he said.

Eventually he paid for all the bloodshed; or his body did. The Lord Protector died of malaria in September 1658 (enemies said a violent storm that night was the Devil carrying off his soul). 18 months later the old monarchy was back. Hungry for revenge, royalists exhumed his corpse from Westminster Abbey and dragged it through the London streets. They hanged it, beheaded it, and finally stuck the head on a spike atop Westminster Hall. It was on display for 20 years.

What then? No one is sure, exactly. After 1684, the head either fell or was taken down. In 1710 it may have been in a private museum in London. A hard-up actor manager, Samuel Russell, may have had the head in the early 1770’s, and was trying to sell it. From there the story grows convoluted and weird.

We don’t have room for it, but you may read of the long, long journey of Cromwell’s head at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/museums/cromwell/online/>

Take that, Oliver.

## Current Events

# CFI Civic Days in Washington, DC, Feb. 22-25

*Note: AOF is a loose affiliate of the Center For Inquiry. From time to time we announce upcoming events of interest to our membership.*

From a recent CFI press release:

We need you in Washington D.C.!

It's election year - finally!

It's time to let our representatives know that their constituents support science and reason.

It's up to us to represent secular values, so join us for

### CFI Civic Days at the Capital

- a time to learn about science and secular issues
- an opportunity to become politically active
- a chance to walk the halls of Congress with your fellow free-thinkers and Friends of the Center
- a time to talk to your representative about the issues that are important to you.

**Friday, Feb. 22 - Monday, Feb. 25**

Center For Inquiry - Office of Public Policy  
621 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C.

Tentative Schedule of Events  
(Subject to change according to the Congressional schedule.)

Feb. 22 Friday: Arrival and Welcome

- Arrivals, Welcome, and Social hosted by Elizabeth Daerr, Executive Director, CFI/DC. Join us at the Center for Inquiry,

621 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, to meet the rest of your CFI Civic Days team.

Feb. 23 Saturday: Cultural Excursions

- Trip to the Global Warming Exhibit at the Marion Koshland Science Museum, the museum of the National Academy of Sciences.
- Tour of the Library of Congress.
- "Ingersoll's Life in DC" 1.5 mile, 2 hour afternoon walking tour. (Bring your favorite Ingersoll quotation to share. Weather permitting, alternate museum visit.)
- Evening walking tour of the D.C. memorials (weather permitting)
- Alternate museum visits of your choice - Air and Space, American Indian, Natural History, etc.

Feb. 24 Sunday: Seminar Briefings

- Separation of church and state and current state of CFI legal cases ~ Ron Lindsay, Director, CFI Legal Affairs.
- Climate change and global warming bills in Congress ~ Dr. Stuart Jordan, emeritus senior staff scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.
- Lobbying how-to and briefing on current legislation ~ Toni Van Pelt, Director Government Affairs
- Working at home on the state and federal level ~ DJ Grothe.

Feb. 25 Monday: On the Hill and in the Halls

- Meetings with legislators, attendance of congressional briefing or hearing. If time al-

lows, a tour of the Capitol building. Return home tonight.

### Registration

The registration fee for this event is \$100. If you wish to register online, you may visit our website and pay via PayPal.

Please RSVP to Toni Van Pelt, [tvanpelt@cfidc.org](mailto:tvanpelt@cfidc.org), or call 800-398-7571 or 202-546-2330.

### Hotel Reservations

The Holiday Inn at 550 C Street SW is offering us a special rate. The hotel is one block from the L'Enfant Plaza Metro, orange/blue lines. The Center is 3 stops from the hotel on the same lines. There are three ways you may confirm your room:

1. Visit a special reservation page at Holiday Inn's website. Simply click "Check Availability" and make your online reservation; the dates and CFI code are already filled-in for you.
2. Call 800-Holiday (465-4329) and mention the code CFI
3. Call the hotel directly (202-479-4000) and mention the code CFI

Be sure to use the CFI code in all cases for our low rate of \$119 for single or double occupancy. This special rate is only good until January 23 and depends upon room availability.

### Please, join us this February!

Lend your voice to CFI Civic Days so science and reason will once again be heard on Capitol Hill!

For complete details and current information, visit <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/dc>.

# 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.

We can arrange to deliver your monthly newsletter electronically via the e-mail address you print above. Please check the mode you prefer.     E-mail     Postal mail

## Supporting Local Theater "Inherit The Wind" Playing Through Feb 10

A play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee.

Plays **Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 2pm**

Jan. 10 through Feb. 10

at The Space, R Street between 25 and 26 Streets, Sacramento

Adults \$15  
Kids \$10

For tickets and reservations call 916-456-7066

**Inherit the Wind** is a fictionalized account of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial, which resulted in John T. Scopes' conviction for

teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution to a high school science class, contrary to a Tennessee state law that proscribed the teaching of anything besides creationism. The fictional characters Matthew Harrison Brady, Henry Drummond, Bertram Cates and E. K. Hornbeck correspond to the historical figures of William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow, John Scopes, and H. L. Mencken, respectively. --from Wikipedia

Print out the advertisement online at [http://www.actinsac.com/html/now\\_showing.html](http://www.actinsac.com/html/now_showing.html) and receive \$2 off the regular admission ticket price.



## Community Events of Interest to AOF Members

- **Humanists of Sun City, Feb 3, 1PM:** The February meeting features Bruce Joplin who will speak about Pakistan. In March, they will host Bob Schmidt who will discuss current media issues.
- **First Amendmist Church of True Science (FACTS), Feb 8, 7-9PM:** General Meeting. Home of AOF board member Bev Church, 120 Eastbrook Circle, Sacramento. More info: <http://restorethepledge.com/FACTS/>
- **Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area (HAGSA), Friday, Feb 1, 7-9PM:** Book reviews, Lobby Lounge, Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento (UUS), at 2425 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento. More info: <http://hagsa.org>
- **Sacramento Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT), Tuesday, Feb 26, 7:30-9PM.** Topic to be announced. More info: <http://home.surewest.net/kitray/>

*Do you have any family info that you'd like to share or showcase to AOF members? Please submit items to: [newsletter@aofonline.org](mailto:newsletter@aofonline.org) and specify in the e-mail that you'd like to announce the information in the Family News section.*

## Save the Date! HAGSA Special Event

# Star Trek's Susan Sackett to Speak: Friday, Mar 7 @ CSUS

Friday, March 7, from 7-9 PM at the Sacramento State Alumni Center, **Susan Sackett** will present *Humanism in Star Trek*.

From the HAGSA web site (<http://hagsa.org>):

Susan Sackett is the president of the Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix, a member of the American Humanist Association board, and the author of several books.

Susan spent about twenty-six years in Hollywood, during seventeen of which she worked with **Gene Roddenberry** on the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" TV series, including writing two of the scripts, and on "Star Trek: The Motion Picture."

Through her presentation and several illustrative film clips, Susan will discuss Gene Roddenberry's philosophy and humanistic outlook, and how he was able to present this through a television series.

This meeting is very special, in that it is expected to draw a fair number of young people, including Sacramento State students. The room being used will accommodate up to 250 people. This is one that is not to be missed.

### Driving Directions and Parking

This information is provided by the Sacramento State Alumni Center.

#### From the West

Proceed east on Hwy 50. Exit at Howe/Power Inn Road. Stay in the right lane, and turn right at first opportunity, before reaching Power Inn Road. Go under the freeway on Hornet Drive, get into the left lane. Make a left turn on College Town Drive. Proceed west to the campus. The Alumni Center is on the right just before the stadium.

#### From the East

Proceed west on Hwy 50. Exit at Howe/Power Inn Road. Go straight at the signal light onto College Town Drive. Proceed west to the campus. The Alumni Center is on the right just before the stadium.

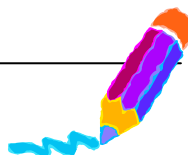
#### Parking

Ample and convenient parking surrounds the Alumni Center. Daily parking permits can be purchased for \$5 at kiosks surrounding the campus.

## AOF January Meeting Audio

<http://media.aofonline.org/2008-01-january-aof-general-meeting-health-care.mp3>  
(~110MB)

<http://media.aofonline.org/2008-01-january-aof-general-meeting-health-care.m3u>  
(streaming audio)



Want the latest AOF board minutes?  
E-mail [aofboard@aofonline.org](mailto:aofboard@aofonline.org)

### Newsletter Submissions

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

[newsletter@aofonline.org](mailto:newsletter@aofonline.org)

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

Preference is given to material 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.

## Volunteer Openings

Calling all volunteers! Send us your ideas for projects and/or volunteer using the contact info on page two. Open positions:

- *Post-meeting lunch coordinator*
- *General Meeting Greeter*
- *AOF Librarian*
- *Program Committee Volunteer(s)*
- *Caring Committee Volunteer(s)*
- *Publicity Volunteer*
- *Freethought Day/Darwin Day*

Interested? Call 916-447-3589! Thanks

### 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!*  
**aofonline.org**

## February Calendar of Events

AOF Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event	Sunday, February 3, 8-10 AM
Joint AOF-HAGSA February Movie Night— <i>Instinct</i> (page 2)	Friday, February 8, 7-9 PM
<b>Joint 2008 Darwin Day Gala Celebration (page 1)</b>	<b>Sunday, February 10, 2:00 PM</b>
HAGSA Semi-Monthly Meeting ( <a href="http://hagsa.org">http://hagsa.org</a> )	Friday, February 1, 7-9 PM
SORT Monthly Meeting ( <a href="http://home.surewest.net/kitray">http://home.surewest.net/kitray</a> )	Tuesday, February 26, 7:30-9PM
<b>March AOF General Meeting</b>	<b>Sunday, March 9, 1:30-4 PM</b>
<b>American Atheists National Convention (<a href="http://atheists.org">atheists.org</a>)</b>	<b>March 21-23, Minneapolis, MN</b>

AOF meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the second Sunday of the month, from 1:30 - 4 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 fair in October - "Sacramento's Freethought Day" (2008-10-05), and (2) a science and humanity celebration - Sacramento's "Darwin Day Educational Gala" (2008-02-10). 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.

