

AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

April 2008

Special Points of Interest

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Sunday, April 13, 1:30-4:00PM

The Big Three:

Reporting on religion and ethics in a diverse community

A Christian, a Jew and a Muslim are quoted in a news article.

So what's wrong with that? And why are the mainstream media - and mainstream religion reporters - so obsessed with the "Big Three" when reporting on issues that affect the lives of millions of people who don't believe in (a) Moses, (b) Jesus, or (c) Mohammed?

What does "fairness" mean when writing about religion and belief? Can belief systems be treated both respectfully and critically? What do people need to know about how religious beliefs are altering the political landscape, and how can we report those issues without stirring up prejudice? And finally, what about religious beliefs and ethical systems that fall outside the "Big Three"?

Two writers from the Sacramento News & Review, an alternative news weekly, will discuss how they approach fairness, accuracy and diversity when reporting on issues that involve religion, spirituality and ethics.

Keleigh Friedrich has an English degree from UC Berkeley and is working on an MFA in *(Continued on page 3)*

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Save the Date! 15th Anniversary Party Set for Weekend of May 10-11

It's a party! On Saturday May 10 & Sunday, May 11, AOF celebrates 15 years of service to the community. Two celebratory events allow members coming in from out-of-town both a relaxed and a more structured environment in which to socialize.

An informal social event on Saturday will feature food, drink, and music. A general meeting on Sunday will feature a retrospective of AOF's 15 year history and an opportunity for members to share their views on AOF.

Everything's still in the planning stages—stay tuned for additional announcements, times, and locations. If you'd like to help participate in planning, please send an e-mail to

aofboard@aofonline.org.



Reason House Project Revival

AOF Line

By Don Knutson

Several years ago, the AOF Board assembled a committee to study the idea of the secular community of Sacramento founding a "Reason House" where local naturalist groups could store their materials with sufficient space for meetings. I recall we made a couple of fundraising efforts and even visited a couple of area sites. Ultimately, land prices discouraged us and the committee was dissolved. There is still a fund of several hundred dollars sitting in a bank waiting for us to pick up the ball and run with it. I think it is time for us to resume this effort.

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

I was reminded of the need for something like "Reason House" when Gordy Slack, the Bay Area journalist, spoke at last June's AOF general meeting. He said the chasm that exists between those of a naturalist orientation and those who dwell in delusion of everlasting life is incredibly expansive. It is amazing that we can relate at all with those steeped in supernaturalism.

Clearly, we need a place for ourselves consecrated upon understanding the empirical world free of mysticism and the supernatural.

I have been involved in the annual Sacramento Earth Day celebration in April since we resumed it five years ago. To me, it is a matter of civic pride that the area have such

an important occasion. Similarly, that same pride should apply and be shared by the local secular community for a common property. I have just heard in the last year of a functioning Secular House in Atlanta and another

in the final planning stages in Austin, Texas.

The precipitous fall in area land prices recently suggests that perhaps the time has come for us to resume the search for some property within our collective means. I would be among the first to volunteer to participate in a revived "Reason House Search & Acquisition Committee".

Mike Davis Remembered

By Kevin Schultz

A remembrance for long-time community member Mike Davis occurred at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento on March 2. Jillian Stanley, Mike's companion, writes, "Anyone who wants to put their thoughts into writing can visit the SacBee's online guestbook: <http://www.legacy.com/SacBee/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=104541063>. I would be MOST appreciative, as eventually I can print these comments out and keep them." From the SacBee obitu-



Zazie (Jillian Stanley) and Romy (Mike Davis)

(Continued on page 7)

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. 15, 2009:
 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 Voluntariat

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

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Members Share Personal Stories of Leaving Religion March Meeting Write-Up

By Paul Storey

Dave grew up without a father in a very religious home with seven siblings. As a teen he entered a fundamentalist cult whose mission was to convert, and extended shelter to the homeless. His roommates sometimes left lice in their bedding, which spread to Dave's bed. Dave was taught that prayer could cure any problem, but it did not seem to stop the lice, but an atheist doctor could. Dave had a traumatic break with his superiors, his faith and his emotions. Dave's search for better answers culminated in his becoming an atheist at an age of 20.

Michael was taught to think critically and to read the Bible. His observations of good people in other religions which he was taught were false caused cognitive dissonance. An omniscient God who deliberately made the world so people could not prove He existed did not jive. Michael broke away from his teachings about 14, and became agnostic. Two decades later he realized he was an atheist. He could see through the illusion.

Tom was raised in a devout family where exposure to anything except Christian ideas was forbidden. He attended church and catechism classes every Sunday, and was confirmed at the age of 12. Philosophy class in college offered the first glimpse of other than Christian ideas. At the age of 22, his father, a deacon at the church, asked if Tom would read a passage from the Bible at mass. He answered "Yes, but afterwards I will have to ask the congregation if they believe this stuff". His parents were quite shocked. Tom's break with his parent's dogma became an example to his younger brother.

Matt noticed his older siblings dropping out of church as they reached 18. He also noticed friends who were 49ers fans not being in church when there was a home game. He began to look upon religion as a lot like drugs for people who can't deal with reality. He didn't need drugs, so why did he need religion? He left religion without a lot of emotional stress. It bothers him when religious people bring their religion into his government. How does this make us any better than Islamic countries that judge people by their religion?

Chris was raised as a Missouri Lutheran. He read widely and found books which presented ideas other ideas other than Christianity. He became familiar with religious contradictions. He turned away from belief at an age of 16. Later, his participation in AA required him to admit to being powerlessness and to turn his life over to a greater power than himself, which he could not do.

In mid life, Bret began to search for deeper answers than he was finding in his faith. He determined to search for better answers in all the churches he found in the yellow pages. Sometimes he attended 5 different churches in one day. He came to an AOF event and got into discussions with a few atheists. He is still undergoing the shock of leaving the security of everlasting happiness and the social standings offered by religion.

An audio recording of this panel is available at <http://media.aofonline.org/2008-03-march-aof-general-meeting-leaving-religion.mp3>. A DVD is available via president@aofonline.org.

(Continued from page 1)

Creative Writing from Mills College. A native Californian, she has long been interested in the issues surrounding spirituality, religious beliefs and ethics. Keleigh is a freelance columnist for SN&R, where she writes the Higher Ground and Sacreligious columns.

Kel Munger's degrees are in medieval British literature (with a minor in religion). She's also been a baker, waitress, maid, meat-packer and cop--and now she's a jill of all trades for SN&R, where she edits and writes about news, opinion, theater, music and books. A political junkie, a recovering Jehovah's Witness (it wasn't her fault; her mother did it to her), and an all-around nerdy girl, she has read a book a day for the last 41 years.

**Save the Date: 14th Annual 2008
Atheist Alliance International Convention, Sep 25-28: <http://atheistalliance.org/conventions/2008/>**

Calendar of Events for Sacramento Community 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.

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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

The Knights Templar: Rise and Fall

By Ken Nahigian

This is about Jacques deMolay and the Knights Templar, a romantic tale with a certain mystique, but mostly a story of bad luck, of being in the wrong place and wrong time, with the wrong people owing you money. It begins with the First Crusade.

The Crusade was a boondoggle, but a successful boondoggle. After killing nearly everyone in the city, Jew, Muslim and Coptic Christian alike, the Crusaders won control of Jerusalem for about 88 years, from 1099 to 1187. Thus they planted the seeds for centuries of Muslim resentment—a long, wet path of blood which we are following to this day.

They also began a new industry: pilgrimage. European Christians were suddenly keen on visiting the Holy City. Waystops such as Constantinople, and Antioch and Tripoli (the “Crusader States”), saw the opportunity for profit. So did bandits, who made a good living preying on travelers. Muslim raiders saw a chance for revenge. Everyone had a great time—except the pilgrims.

In 1119 two veterans of the Crusade decided to try to protect them. A helpful Jerusalem king set them up in the captured Temple Mount within the *Al Aqsa* Mosque. This place had a mythology, built as it supposedly was atop the chips and ruins of Solomon's Temple. To illustrate their vow of poverty, they took the official name of the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, or “Knights Templar,” and adopted the emblem of two decrepit-looking knights riding a single horse.

Poverty soon ended. After the Church blessed them, the Templars were awash in gifts of land, money, business interests and sons from noble families eager to help. They prospered. In 1139 the Pope exempted the Templars from local laws. Now they could freely pass borders, were immune from taxes, and were above all authority save the Pope. It was good to be a Templar.

By 1150 the Order was less military, more like a bank—in fact arguably the first international corporation. It had fleets of ships. It loaned money, managed farms, built castles, imported, exported, manufactured goods, and at one point even owned the entire island of Cyprus.

A pilgrim could put his estate under Templar control in return for a letter of credit, an encoded document showing the value, to redeem later in the Holy Land. In this way, some historians say, the Templars invented deposit accounts and chequing.

But when Islam recaptured Jerusalem (1187), they lost their headquarters, and fortune shifted. Popular support faded as campaigns floundered. The Pope began looking into charges (probably trumped up) of corruption. Jealous of Templar wealth, and deeply in debt to them after borrowing for his war with England, King Philip the Fair of France hatched a plan.

Jacques deMolay was the unfortunate Templar Grand Master who came to France to answer the charges. Seizing on the most bizarre rumors, the king arrested deMolay and his entourage for heresy and blasphemy. He bullied the pope into going along with the inquiry, which consisted mostly of torture. By thumbscrew, by rack, by boot and hot iron, for the next seven years, Philip drew lavish confessions from his hapless Templar prisoners: stories of blasphemous rituals, magic, sodomy or whatever else might shock the papal court. Some recanted, only to be handed back to their gentle inquisitors. Jacques recanted, confessed again, took a stand of silence, then recanted again when he saw that even Pope Clement V opposed him, and all was lost. The king called for a sentence of death. On March 18, 1314, on an island in the River Seine, Jacques and another Templar dignitary were led to the stake, and burned.

Descriptions vary. Most are horrific. Nearly all describe how deMolay cursed both King Philip and Pope Clement at the end: “Let evil swiftly befall those who have wrongly condemned us—God will avenge ...” Interestingly, they both died soon after: Clement V a month later, likely from bowel cancer, and Philip later that year from a strange hunting accident.

Over years the story has engaged romantic historians and conspiracy buffs, by layers forming a rich alluvial humus of the imagination, a soil for mystery and myth. Fleeing Templar knights were said to have joined with Robert Bruce in Scotland, helping to repel the English invasion of King Edward. Semi-secret groups like the Freemasons and Rosicrucians still appropriate the Templar name, teasing history to prove a connection (the “Demolay” is the Masonic version of the Boy Scouts). The pseudo-historical *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* relates a strange scene from the French Revolution: “... the king's head fell beneath the guillotine [and] an unknown man is reported to have leaped onto the scaffold ... dipped his hand in the monarch's blood, flung it out over the surrounding throng and cried, *Jacques deMolay, thou art avenged!*” (p. 80).

A common thread is that the Templar Order never died—it still exists, transformed or subsumed, benign or malevolent, saintly or satanic, heroic or occult: somewhere wrapped in shadow, it works to protect or control us. Such empire and influence could never end with a mere Papal pen stroke.

It is a homage, really, a kind of song or poem, not just to lost Templar power, but to human imagination, how we seek patterns in the white noise and random scribblings of history.

Or perhaps the patterns are real. Ah, who can say?

Current Events

Is AOF Getting Off Track?

By Paul Geisert

I recently read an advertisement for an AOF meeting that struck me as incongruous with the AOF I have known. I couldn't imagine how the board had gone so astray as to place a Sacramento News and Review ad mocking religious beliefs. To understand my dismay, one must know the origins of AOF.

At Easter in 1993, Madelyn Murray O'Hair gave a talk at the American Atheists conference in Sacramento. Out of curiosity, I attended her talk and linked up with a number of others who had attended. We decided to start a local group.

The initial meeting of perhaps fifteen people met in May and almost immediately broke into two camps – the Madelyn “anti-religious” group and the “want people to understand and accept us” group. To make the story short, that summer the positive atheist group “won” and the anti-religious contingent withdrew.

From that day until this year, AOF has been a community organization dedicated to fostering a positive social view of atheism, and of atheists as fellow citizens. The following is the AOF statement of purpose in the bylaws, a legal document whereby it gained status as a non-profit educational organization:

“The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be: to promote the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism through educational programs, projects, and publications, extending atheistic perspectives concerning the separation of church and state and the

right to think and speak freely on these perspectives.”

I have serious concerns that the current board of directors either does not understand or does not care to support AOF's legal purpose. The intent is civic. Nowhere in the bylaws is policy concerned with thwarting religious beliefs, or of “winning over” others to atheism.

The advertisement I read has this headline “Having doubts about Religion?” The last paragraph invites readers to a meeting about “Leaving Religion,” which makes sense, given the topic.

But the larger text presents what I consider to be a series of anti-religious concepts, such as “Mary being a virgin when she was spending every night with Joseph? “Eve out of Adams rib? Etc.

Since when has AOF's purpose migrated from being a positive voice of pluralism to converting doubting Christians?

With all due respect to the panelists at the meeting (all well-intentioned), I felt I had wandered into an AA type meeting on Catholicism.

It is my belief that the AOF Board has to seriously reconsider the long-established purposes of the organization, to which people have over time donated their funds, and to conscientiously walk the positive pathway established by the bylaws.

—Paul Geisert (a co-founder and Second President of AOF).

Poetry Nook

HER PROBLEM, of course

By Cleo Fellers Kocol

When her Promise Keeper husband arrived from his God-Centered office, sometimes she forgot her submissive role. Wearing apologies like an old gown, she groveled on currents of his forgiveness. Still...at odd moments, she imagined men in board rooms and parish halls pondering ways to punish her for her apostasy. Blaming herself, she managed to bury such ungodly, traitorous thoughts until a beacon of right-think guided her. God's blessing, she was told. So why did she feel so ungodly sad?

Letters to the Editor

As a retired astronomer, I wish to mention a few considerations omitted from the otherwise interesting and entertaining talk given on the SETI project by Dr. Seth Shostak at the recent Darwin Day Event. I have been following the various SETI programs since my graduate days in the 1970s and like many others I hope they are successful. However, there are a number of reasons to worry that we will not find life "out there"; here are a few. Perhaps the most prominent reason is that they should have already been here, given the number and lifetimes of solar-type stars in the galaxy and the apparent frequency of planetary systems; this is the "Fermi Paradox". There is the possibility that spontaneous occurrence of the biochemical building blocks of DNA, the strand of nucleic acid, is extremely low. And from a Darwinian standpoint, noting how our species seems to "evolve" large scale destructive military tools as public policy, and noting the failure - so far - to reverse the increasing destruction of the natural systems of our planet, of our spaceship Earth, then perhaps evolutionary forces ultimately become self-destructive. For an easy introduction to the many sides of this problem I recommend the topic "SETI" at www.wikipedia.com. Personally, I hope SETI is successful, but it may take a very long time.

—Stephen L. Knapp, Ph.D.



AOF Subscription / Membership Form

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

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E-mail address (print legibly!) _____

Check your preference:

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

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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 (e-mail address required).

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

Tidbits, News, and Events of Interest

AOF Family News

- The Bee ran recent in-depth articles on AOF members **Jerry Bachman and Richard Langley**. See: <http://www.sacbee.com/107/story/748734.html> (Jerry Bachman, March 1st) and <http://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/story/738435.html> (Richard Langley, Feb 26).
- AOF member **Denis de Luchi** has just published his first novel: *The Purple and the Orange: A Tale of Defoliation*, a Vietnam war story. It's a huge paperback, 580 pages. See: <http://www.amazon.com/Purple-Orange-Tale-Defoliation/dp/0805976221/>. Denis kindly sent a copy for the AOF library. Ken Nahigian reports: "Wow, can he can write! It has a

smooth-flowing narrative, multi-thread plot, intriguing characters, some great sex scenes (more difficult to write than you might think). I would like to browse it a bit before I turn it over."

- Member **Mort Lasnik** has developed a **membership card** for AOF members. Members will receive membership cards as part of their next renewal.
- **Mynga Futrell and Paul Geisert** are featured in the spring evening lecture program of the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, University of California-Chico. The series of invited lectures promotes "ethical reflection about issues of concern," and this lecture addresses the question: "Is Faith Language Unraveling America's Civic Fabric?"

Community Events of Interest

Featured April Event:

- **Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Sacramento, Sunday, Apr 6, 2-4PM**—Mikey Weinstein on "Coercive Evangelizing in the US Military." California State Capitol, Room 4203. More info: <http://au-sac.org>.
- **Humanists of Sun City, Apr 6, 1PM**: Norman Eade on "The Miraculous Years: 1895-1905" when scientific achievements were made by Einstein, Alzheimer, Freud, Curie, Roentgen, Lindsteiner, Pavlov, and Ehrlich. 7600 Whistle Stop Way in Sun City Roseville. More info: healthphys@aol.com.
- **First Amendmism Church of True Science (FACTS), Apr 6, 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, Apr 4, 7-9PM and Sunday, Mar 20, 3-6 PM**: More info: <http://hagsa.org>
- **Sacramento Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT), Tuesday, Apr 29, 7:30-9PM**. Topic to be announced. More info: <http://home.surewest.net/kitrav/>

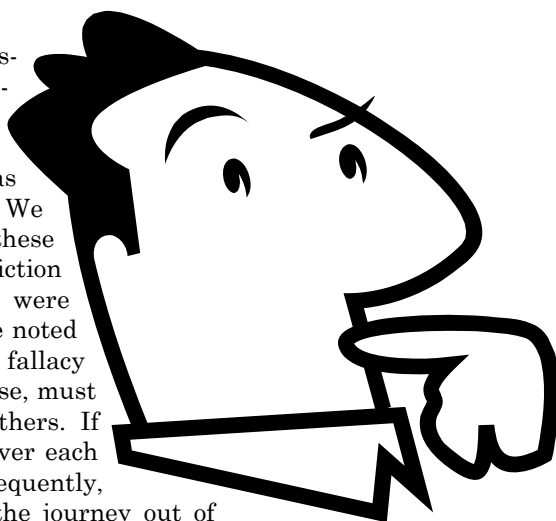
Do you have any family info that you'd like to share or showcase to AOF members? Please submit items to: newsletter@aofonline.org and specify in the e-mail that you'd like to announce the information in the Family News section.

The Path to Leaving Religion, and Why to Popularize It

By Paul Storey

Because religion is so pervasive in our society, most children are indoctrinated into the belief systems of their parents before they reach the age of reason. In order for us to live in a society guided by science, not ancient dogma, we must clearly understand the process a person must go through to overcome their religious upbringings. We must chart the steps that we took in our minds as we grappled through the grips of our beliefs, out of a spiritual world of invisible angels, devils, saints, all seeing god, grace, sins and everlasting paradise or torment. This requires reaching a state of education and intellectual maturity to decide that the cherished ideas one was taught when growing up are wrong.

Those of us who have successfully risen above spiritual doctrine can help others to enable them to progress through the mass of ideas clamoring for their souls. We then must communicate these steps to others. Each contradiction we saw in the doctrine we were taught, each inconsistency we noted and could not resolve, each fallacy that violated our common sense, must be made readily available to others. If not, others will have to discover each fallacy themselves. Consequently, fewer will be able to make the journey out of faith and we will be living amongst more believers and less disbelievers.



Others within the atheist community dislike giving attention to religion and prefer to focus on the positive aspects of living a life based upon reason. To them, pointing out errors in religious beliefs falls into the category of 'attacking religion', or offending sensitivities of religious people. Conversely, many evangelicals do not refrain from depicting atheists in negative terms. My understanding of history is that peaceful coexistence with wrongful ideas is not how society advances. If Galileo did not fight the Biblical based doctrines of his time, we would still be living at the center of the universe. If Darwin did not challenge religious concepts, creationism would be the logical explanation of life.

The boundaries between science and religion are continually clashing. We in the rational community must be vocal about the enormous differences in evidence, explanatory power and technological achievements of rational thinking and repeatable observable, independently verifiable data. Similarly, we must clearly point out the strengths and weaknesses of both sides, including the numerous contradictions and shortfalls in religious doctrines.

This is not 'attacking religion', it is advancing science and society.

—Paul Storey, AOF President

Newsletter Submissions

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

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.

(Continued from page 2)

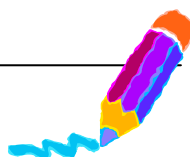
ary: "Michael Andrew Davis
Born: June 27, 1952 Died: February 22, 2008

A lifelong resident of the Sacramento area, Mike was known for his brilliant mind and kind heart. Passionate from childhood about both art and science, Mike obtained degrees in chemistry and manufacturing engineering and worked in those fields for many years before starting his own business in nutrition supplements. His enthusiasms ranged from falconry and volleyball to recumbent bicycles and genealogy. An active member of the Sacramento freethought community, and staunchly uncompromising in his rational view of life, Mike was remarkable for his fortitude and resourcefulness in dealing with deteriorating health, as well as for his generous spirit and sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him."

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!

Want the latest AOF board minutes?
E-mail aofboard@aofonline.org





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

We're on the Web!
aofonline.org

April Calendar of Events

April AOF General Meeting **Sunday, April 13, 1:30-4 PM**

Joint AOF-HAGSA Movie Night (see web site for details) Friday, April 11, 7-9 PM

Davis Community Meals Event Tuesday, April 29, 4-7 PM

Save the Date! AOF's 15th Anniversary Celebration Sat & Sun, May 10 & 11

Save the Date: 14th Atheist Alliance Intl. (AAI) Convention Sep. 26-28, on the Queen Mary 2

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" (2009-02-15). 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.

