

Atheists and Other Freethinkers

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

Monthly

January 2012

Sunday, February 12, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

## Darwin Day 2012: "Evolution and Modern Religious Thought"



Mark your calendars now for **February 12, 2012, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm** (doors open at 2:00 p.m.) for the Sacramento Darwin Day Event that will celebrate Darwin's 203rd birthday. It will be held at the **John Smith Hall in the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA.**

**Dr. Peter M. J. Hess** is the Director for Religious Community Outreach at the **National Center for Science Education**. An engaging speaker, Dr. Hess offers stimulating and thought-provoking lectures and workshops where he addresses religious, philosophical, and historical aspects of the controversy surrounding evolution and creation. He teaches liberal studies at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. He is the author, with Paul L. Allen, of *Catholicism and Science*.

Tickets are \$7.50 in advance (must be purchased before February 8), \$10.00 at the door; tickets for students with ID are \$5.00.

Please visit <http://sacdarwinday.info> to purchase tickets and for more information, or call AOF at 916-447-3589 to speak with someone about the event.

## Next AOF General Meeting: March

*In the mean time....*

The AOF board will host the first of four 2012 meetings in **March**, with full details scheduled for the February newsletter.

**Please consider an alternative event in lieu of AOF's cancelation of the Sunday, January 8 meeting.**

The Sacramento Coalition of Reason (**Sac COR**) suggests two possibilities for January 8 on their web site, <http://j.mp/s5x20T> : (1) a "**Blasphemy Brunch**" at the Fox and Goose Public House (1001 R Street) at 11:00 a.m.; and (2) an "**Ancient Christian Study Group**" at Shine Café (1400 E Street), from noon-2:00 p.m.

AOF will also continue to host events in-between 2012 quarterly meetings—see the back page for details!

## Changes to the AOF Newsletter

By Kevin Schultz

In 2012, AOF will produce a traditional eight-page quarterly newsletter in step with the new meeting schedule.

In between, AOF will produce a four-page monthly newsletter with information about upcoming events in the local area.

This represents a work-in-progress, so please expect changes in the coming months as we work through the mechanics of change.

As always, you may provide feedback about the newsletter to [newsletter@aofonline.org](mailto:newsletter@aofonline.org). Thank you!



## AOF Line

### By President Vincent Wales

Everything is changing.

It's a new year, and with it a new AOF Board President. I'm honored to have been elected to the position, and hope I can do justice to it.

This year will indeed be one of change. In the months to come, we will be seriously evaluating the function and purpose of AOF, and whether we would be of better use to the community by concentrating our energies on something such as Reason House, our long-anticipated freethought library/meeting hall/refuge.

Ultimately, AOF's future is in the hands of its members. Therefore, I urge each of you to share your suggestions, concerns, or questions with me. You can reach me via email at [president@aofonline.org](mailto:president@aofonline.org).

Thanks, and have a wonderful 2012!

## 2011 AOF President Jerry Sloan Recognized

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center (formerly The Lambda Community Center) noted its 25th year of operation by having 2011 AOF president **Jerry Sloan** as a **guest of honor**.

Over the years Sloan has been considered the principle co-founder of the center because of his **successful lawsuit against the late homophobic Rev. Jerry Falwell**.

He was presented a beautifully framed resolution from the California Assembly outlining his nearly 40 years of activism signed by **Speaker John Perez, the first openly gay Speaker of the California Assembly**.

Congratulations, Jerry!



## AOF Board (2012)

**President: Vincent Wales**

**Vice President: Mynga Futrell**

**Secretary: Jillian Stanley**

**Treasurer: Ken Nahigian**

**2012 AOF Board of Directors:** Kristi Craven, David Flanders, Mynga Futrell, Ken Nahigian, Mario Sandri, Jerry Sloan, Vincent Wales

## AOF Standing Committees

All AOF members are urged to volunteer in the organization. There are openings in every committee listed here. Please contact the chair or coordinator of any area of interest to you to learn details of getting involved. We would love to have your participation! Phone AOF 916-447-3589 or e-mail [aofboard@aofonline.org](mailto:aofboard@aofonline.org) for direct contact to relevant personnel.

### Building / Reason House Committee

*Vacant, Chair*

Paul Geisert, Mynga Futrell, Mario Sandri

### Freethought Day 2012: October 13 and 14

*Vacant, Chair.* (Save the date! – It's a celebration of reason and church/state separation)

### Darwin Day 2012: February 12

Mynga Futrell and Bronda Silva, Co-Chairs

(Save the date! – It's a celebration of science and humanity)

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

## AOF Voluntariat

### Affiliation Liaisons

Mynga Futrell, Atheist Alliance of America (AAA),

<http://atheistallianceamerica.org>

Jerry Sloan: American Atheists (AA), <http://atheists.org>; American Humanist Association (AHA), <http://americanhumanist.org>; Council for Secular Humanism (CSH), <http://secularhumanism.org>; and the Sacramento Coalition of Reason (Sac COR), <http://sacramento.unitedcor.org>

### AOF News Team

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Schultz

Postmaster: Jerry Sloan

Webpeoples: Pat Kelley (Webmistress); Ken Nahigian (Deputy Webmaster)

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# Your New Year's Resolution: Volunteer with AOF!

## Starting strong in 2012

Start your new year off right—volunteer several hours of your time each month to supporting AOF!

Check the standing committees list on page two for existing possibilities, or contact the AOF board at [aofboard@aofonline.org](mailto:aofboard@aofonline.org) with your suggestions and ideas for new initiatives (for example, we currently would like to explore a social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and/or other sites).

Thanks—and happy new year!



*Attendees of the 2011 winter solstice/HumanLight party clap and laugh in reaction to Sacramento's first atheist choir, "The Mockingbirds." (David Diskin)*

*Join AOF Today!*

[aofonline.org/join.html](http://aofonline.org/join.html)

### Atheists and Other Freethinkers



AOF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. It is one of 50 member societies of the **Atheist Alliance of America** ("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 of atheism and the acceptance of atheists in our community. Through educational programs, projects, and publications, AOF will extend secular perspectives, including the separation of religion and government 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.



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*We're on the Web!*  
**aofonline.org**

## January/February Calendar of Events

Freethought Dinner Social: **Pronto Restaurant**, 1501 16th Street. Contact: 419-2105 or [shastaseer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shastaseer@sbcglobal.net).

More info: <http://j.mp/tGutbi>

Thu, Jan 5, 6:30 p.m.

### **AOF January General Meeting**

**CANCELED (AOF will hold four quarterly meetings in 2012)**

**Board of Directors Meeting:** An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to all interested members.

Location to-be-determined. More info: <http://j.mp/rA89gl>

**Mon, Jan 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**AOF Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup:** CalTrans Park-and-Ride parking lot, west of the Elkhorn Hwy 99 exit. Contact : 916-447-3589 or 916-447-2169 (Don Knutson). Rain cancels.

More info: <http://j.mp/rwJqzc>

**Sat, Jan 28, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**AOF Davis Community Meal Feed the Hungry Event:**  
Location : St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA. Contact : tel. 916-447-3589.

More info: <http://j.mp/udPOS3>

**Tue, Jan 31, 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

### **DARWIN DAY BIRTHDAY GALA (Page one)**

More info: <http://j.mp/skMUPs>

**Sun, Feb 12, 2:00 p.m.**