

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

*Monthly*

February 2012

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

**It's Here!**

## **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.

## **AOF Meeting in March: Margaret Downey, on the history of freethought activism in the USA**

Atheists and Other Freethinkers is proud to announce **internationally known atheist and freethought leader, Margaret Downey**, as our special guest speaker at our March meeting. Margaret has been a leader in the freethought movement for more than two decades, with an impressive list of accomplishments.

She has served on the boards of many national organizations and has represented the interests of the non-theist community at United Nations conferences from New York to Madrid. She was president of Atheist Alliance International for two years, which included organizing two annual conventions and the creation of the Richard Dawkins Award, given annually by AAI since 2003. She also founded the Anti-Discrimination Support Net-



*(Continued on page 2)*

# AOF Line

## By President Vincent Wales

This February, I felt it appropriate to discuss matters of the heart. Freethinkers, as we all know, have big hearts. We're compassionate folks and this year, we will see AOF stressing the idea that freethinkers should expand their community involvement, to give back to our fellow humans, to make the world a better place for all.

This could be in the form of something simple, such as mowing a neighbor's lawn, or something really big, such as bequeathing an estate to one's charity of choice. Again, being February, I thought it appropriate to bring this up. February 14 is, after all...National Donor Day.

In the end, the biggest gift we can give is the gift of life. Organ donation saves lives, and lots of them. In fact, just a single organ donor can save or improve the lives of up to eight other people.

Becoming a donor begins with a simple registration. But that's not the end of it, because the truth is, even if you're a donor, the wishes of your surviving family can override your desires. So it's important to inform relatives and loved ones of your wishes, and to explain them, if necessary.

As freethinkers, we know we'll have no need of our organs once we're gone, and most likely have no qualms whatsoever of dividing our bodies up so that others can benefit. So please, if you haven't already, register to be an organ donor. Visit <http://organdonor.gov> to get started.

*(Continued from page 1)*

work (for atheists), the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia, and the Thomas Paine Memorial Committee. Margaret has also contested a number of religious intrusions into government via demonstrations, protests, and contributions to lawsuits.

All this, and much more, will be a part of Margaret's presentation, discussing her history of freethought activism, which begins at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, in Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento.**

Admission to this AOF-sponsored event is **free**. Everyone who wants to make a difference for atheists and freethinkers should be sure to attend! Whether a freethinker or a friend and supporter of civic equality and justice for freethinkers, Margaret Downey will be sure to inspire all with her brand of activism!

## 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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## AOF Family News

# In Memoriam: Alvin Bernstein (1925-2012)

By Ken Nahigian

**Editors Note:** All of us at AOF are saddened by the loss of Alvin; our hearts and condolences go out to Elizabeth.

Alvin Bernstein, longtime AOF member & supporter, died early New Year's day. His wife Elizabeth survives. Al & Elizabeth joined AOF in Oct 1995, and were a AOF feature for years, traveling down regularly from Paradise, CA.

For additional detail of Alvin's remarkable life, please contact AOF and/or read the January the HAGSA bulletin.

## 2012 Conventions Calendar

### Reason Rally—plus AA and CSH conventions in March

Mar 1-4: Council for Secular Humanism, *Orlando, Florida*.  
<http://orlandocon.secularhumanism.org/>

Mar 24: Reason Rally, *Washington D.C.* . <http://reasonrally.org/>

Mar 25-26: American Atheists convention, *Bethesda, Maryland*.  
<http://j.mp/aa2012convention>

Apr 13-15: Global Atheist Convention, *Melbourne, Australia*.  
<http://www.atheistconvention.org.au/>

May 18-20: AAI North American Convention, *Kamloops, BC, Canada*.  
<http://j.mp/aa-na-2012convention>

Jun 7-10: American Humanist Association, *New Orleans, Louisiana*. <http://j.mp/aha2012convention>

Oct 12-13: Freedom From Religion Foundation, *Portland, Oregon*. <http://ffrf.org/outreach/convention/>



*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**

## February/March Calendar of Events

Freethought Dinner Social: **Rubicon Brewing Company**,  
2004 Capitol Ave. Contact: [info@aofonline.org](mailto:info@aofonline.org) or  
<http://sacfan.org>. More info: <http://j.mp/tGutbi>

Thu, Feb 2, 6:30 p.m.

### **AOF February General Meeting**

**CANCELED** in lieu of Darwin Day  
(AOF will next meet in March  
2012)

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

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

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

**Board of Directors Meeting:** An AOF planning meeting for  
AOF Directors & officers, but open to all interested members.  
Location: Hoppy Brewing Company, 6300 Folsom Boulevard.

More info: <http://j.mp/w0CVLL>

Mon, Mar 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.