



## AOF News & Views – Newsletter for June 2021

### Video of Recent Online Meeting

Did you miss our May 30 presentation, the [Many Facets of Steve Hill](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/fx5xcAPDLMKIhyJ8z6SjLO55wcMzwMyMoluln-a8M-bpLRolcRSEgd3jfbJwBw4T.Nw8NcNGGCCo95ash)? Lucky you, it is available to view or review at link <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/fx5xcAPDLMKIhyJ8z6SjLO55wcMzwMyMoluln-a8M-bpLRolcRSEgd3jfbJwBw4T.Nw8NcNGGCCo95ash>, passcode “^5+Xb@0e”. Note, the good part begins at about the 16 min. mark, so you might want to skip ahead. Someday we’ll learn how to delete the preliminary nattering. Thanks to all who joined us.

### Mayday for Humanity

And if you missed the [2021 Mayday for Humanity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBdaS9fe8IE) event (May 6), the combined Day of Reason celebration & fundraiser by five major freethought groups, enjoy it on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBdaS9fe8IE>. The event raised \$25,000 for homeless shelters and food banks, and included appearances by Ann Druyan, Keith Lowell Jensen, Penn & Teller, Shelley Segal, Julia Sweeney, and other luminaries.

## ✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

### ➤ Free Movie Nights

**Two Fridays, June 4 and June 18, 7pm – 10pm**

Twice a month, Reason Center (RC) and AOF join host a **Free Movie Night** under an excellent [MPLC License](#). We can’t tell you the movie titles, but we can hint.

The first (Jun 4) is a 2019 American crime action thriller about a man who awakens with amnesia after a corpse is found in the trunk of his car. Directed by Aleksandr Chernyaev and starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Francesca Eastwood, Malik Yoba and William Forsythe. The second (Jun 18) is still undecided.

How can you attend? You’ll need a personal Netflix account + a laptop or desktop computer with the [Google Chrome web browser](#). If you don’t have these we apologize -- please be patient until we can find a physical movie venue. Else, here are details:

1. Open your Chrome web browser right now and install the Netflix TeleParty Extension. Get it at: <https://www.netflixparty.com/>. (Really, do it *now*, don’t wait till movie night!)
2. Just before show time, fire up the Chrome browser again and go to the very special Netflix Movie Teleparty link, which will appear on the [AOF events calendar](#) about a half hour before showtime.
3. **Click that link.** The Movie Tele party page will open. Log into Netflix (if not logged in already). At the top right of the browser frame check your “Extensions” list. Find the letters **TP** in red. You may need to click on the letters.
4. The Netflix movie party should begin. You’ll be watching it along with the rest of us. As it plays we can chat on the side of the screen and make silly, snarky comments.

Free Movie Night was created for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a small (voluntary) donation to cover costs. How to donate? Join Reason Center at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. The measly \$5 a month is tax deductible if you itemize. And the perks (like this one) just keep rolling in.

**Location:** A Netflix TeleParty link, see above.

**Contact:** See <https://reasoncenter.com/contact>.

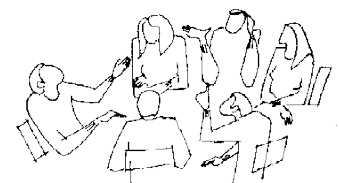
*Free Movie Nights generally occur two Friday evenings each month. You can suggest your own fave flick for next time, how cool is that?*

### ➤ Special Meeting – Support Student Secular Alliance (SSA)

**Friday, June 11, 2021, 7 pm – 8 pm**

It’s a planning meeting, mainly for AOF directors & officers but open to all, to discuss how AOF will redesign itself to support the [Secular Student Alliance](#). A “hybrid” meeting, it will occur both virtually (via Zoom) and in person. If you opt to attend in person, please RSVP (and be sure your vaccinations are current, or wear a mask). A phone call will do.

Join us, meet the Board, keep an eye on the shenanigans. We’ll have cold drinks, and maybe you’ll have some good ideas.



**Location:** Home of Ken Nahigian & Ruth Rezos, 9570 Harvest View Wy, map: <https://goo.gl/maps/e2s3igXYVcif47Q67>  
**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83894798456?pwd=M01GbVVEZGxqd1BYbXFjQjJPOVhYZz09> (for virtual attendees) (click and follow the directions).

**Contact:** ph. 916-366-7061, or see <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

*Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your suggestions for events and activities -- most of all, your volunteerism. Helping hands are wonderful. Snacks are also nice.*

## Something is Missing ...

AOF will have *no general member meeting* in June. What? Why?

Because on May 13th, Evan Clark of [Atheists United](#) made a presentation to the Atheist Community of San Jose, "How to Develop an Exciting and Youthful Atheist Movement" (see it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUIqfA0ngZI>). Inspired by it, AOF's Program Coordinator hopes to direct our attention to community development among the Sacramento's own Secular Student Association chapters. She advocates redirecting part of the AOF Speaker Series budget to support monthly meetings at two local SSA groups. (This is what the special June 11 meeting will be about.)

"Young adulthood is a time of introspection and questioning," writes our Program Coordinator, "yet it is also a time of life when people are not fully independent. Young adults who decide to separate from religion risk losing their lifelong religious connections, family connections, housing, employment, and more. It's important for them to know they have a community of like-minded people who share their concerns, and SSA is one way for that to happen."

Consequently the AOF Speaker Series will take a break as we mull this idea. Never fear, it will be back on July 25 with the Executive Director of the Secular Student Association, Kevin Bolling (see next issue for details). Meanwhile, to learn more about SSA, please visit <https://secularstudents.org/>.

## ✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

### ➤ Sacramento-area Online Meetings

Other local groups are also meeting online. Join for free and share the fun!

- **Wednesdays, Jun 2, 16 & 30, 7pm – 8pm: Black Lives Matter and Me.** Talk, read, watch videos; discuss social justice, reforms, privilege and power. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82590278514?pwd=K1pzaXA0dGVESzlvS1UcEs4RnE2UT09>.
- **Sundays, June 6 & Jun 20, 10:30am – noon: Online Coffee & Community.** Join us for coffee (BYOC) and conversation. New folks welcome. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84984111659?pwd=cThkaGdTK0FCdXJpWnB3MVZ1R213Zz09>.
- **Monday, Jun 7, 5pm: The Negative Impact of Purity Culture.** Counselor Christy Lanterman will join Recovery From Religion Sacramento to discuss the harmful Christian cult of "Purity". Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/186729414>, or see <https://www.meetup.com/RfR-Sacramento-CA/events/278516077/> for details.
- **Wednesdays, June 9 & 23, 7pm – 9pm: What's Your Story?** Meet other freethinkers, atheists, agnostics, nonbelievers and humanists in the Sacramento area; discuss beliefs and philosophy, and what led you to this place. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489607519?pwd=a1V2eEVKb3hnWXhZMVZRMm04Wk5BQT09>.
- **Tuesdays, Jun 15 & 29, 7pm – 9pm: Porch Talk.** A gathering on a virtual front porch, a chat about topics of the day. Topic ideas are welcome. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86401692746?pwd=NWhrdHpEellNblRiR0w4RGtmQ2ZLUT09>.
- **Monday, Jun 21, 6:30pm – 8:30pm: Book Club.** Discussing *Double Whammy* by Carl Hiaasen. Bring a few thoughts/ideas about the book to discuss. See details at: <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/276329674/>.
- **Friday, Jun 25, 6:30pm – 9:30pm, Virtual Skeptics in the Pub.** A social meeting for the Sacramento Area Skeptics, welcoming new skeptics and like-minded friends. Details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/events/tsvpxyccjbhc/>.
- **Saturday, Jun 26, 7pm – 9pm: Wine, Cheese, and Litera-cheer.** Share thoughts about any book of choice, one you like or one you hate, one read recently or long ago. Just be nice (focus on the "cheer"), and BYO wine & cheese. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84805276575?pwd=V2ZJekhhd2JGY2kvZkZrWk1ybDISUT09>.
- **Thursday, Jun 17, 7pm – 9pm: Recovering from Religion Virtual Support Group.** Providing personal support to individuals as they let go of religious beliefs. Share your story or just listen. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268955990>.

### ➤ Morning Hikes

**Saturdays, June 5, 12, 19 & 26, and July 3**

Let's get moving again! Join freethinker friends for easy hikes in the area, locations to be announced (and suggestions are welcome). For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/calendar/> and click a one of the Saturday Morning listings, or send ideas to Nancy at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/members/13951445/>.

### ➤ New Blasphemy Breakfast in Folsom

**Sunday, June 12, 2021, 10am - 11:30am**

Come join like-minded friends for a Saturday breakfast in the Folsom area. Just walk into the restaurant look for smiling faces in the far back area on the right.

**Location:** Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, ph. 916-985-7337.

See map at <https://goo.gl/maps/9JU8WiBYrflNwHN7>.

**Details:** See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/278394664/>.



Todd 'Papi' Carlos  
@TheToddWilliams

[Jerusalem]

MARY: They've taken Jesus from his tomb

SIMON: Maybe they gave him Upjesus

MARY: What's Upjesus?

JESUS {risen}: Not much, w—

## ➤ Blasphemy Breakfast in Rocklin

**Sunday, June 20, 2021, 9:30am - 11:00am**

Join Rocklin-area freethinkers at Mel's Diner for a "Blasphemy Breakfast" (not that they blaspheme that much, but topics come up at times). This is a great starter event if you haven't been to freethinker gatherings before. Also a great group of people to answer any questions you might have, help you learn more about all the goings-on in the region, or help you any way we can. Recommended: the malts, omelets, biscuits 'n' gravy, and grilled cheese. And everyone's friendly.

**Location:** Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, ph. 916-772-6357, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/x62J3w1tDqZ47CVP9>.

**Details:** See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/278223276/>.

## ➤ More is happening!

Other freethought events pop up all the time, faster than we can print them. Keep checking the Sacramento Coalition of Reason global calendar at <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>, and your dance-card will be full.

### *You can help us.*

#### **Support Reason Center**

You know about [Reason Center](#). It opened in July 2014 and closed in 2020. During its tenure, it hosted hundreds of events. Its mission was (is!) to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers, and uphold the separation of religion and government. All good work.

If "RC" will reopen, it requires support from members and donors. Please stand up for Reason Center because it stands up for *you*. To set up a monthly or one-time donation, visit [ReasonCenter.org](https://ReasonCenter.org).

#### **Support AOF**

You can support AOF *without spending a dime*. How? When you purchase goods at Amazon.com, simply use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service will be the same, but AOF will receive a small kickback for whatever you purchase. Sweet!

#### **Suggest a Meeting**

Know a compelling speaker, have a great meeting idea? Tell the AOF Program Committee! Go to <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, click "Program Committee" in the drop-down line, and enter your thoughtful suggestion. (Reasonable honorariums paid to speakers.)

#### **Volunteer?**

We suggest it meekly. See <http://www.aofonline.org/learn/committees.html>.

## ✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

### ➤ Hug an Atheist Day

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

In 2009, freethinker William Bermudez started [Hug an Atheist Day](#) (June 1st) to poke fun at other groups popping up at the time to encouraged hugging. He called for people to run up and hug atheists or nonbelievers in general, whether agnostic, skeptic, secular humanist, or with other heretical views. As one blogger wrote:

It doesn't matter what your worldview is, practice a little tolerance. Find your nearest Atheist, Absurdist, Agnostic, Anti-Religionist, Antitheist, Apatheist, Deist, Dystheist, Existentialist, Freethinker, Gropaga, Ignostic, Mahayana, Marxist, Misotheist, Naturalistic Pantheist, Nihilist, Nontheist, Pastafarian, Secular Humanist, Skeptic, Spagnostic, Structuralist, Buddhist, Zen Buddhist, or anyone else who doubts the existence of a god, and & give him/her the biggest hug ever!

But use common sense, because not everyone appreciates uninvited hugs.



### ➤ World Environment Day

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

The goal of **World Environment Day** is to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues, and to generate action for conservation. The United Nations General Assembly established [World Environment Day](#) in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Each year World Environment Day celebrations occur at a different location around the globe. To find a location for this year, see <https://www.unep.org/events>.



World Environment Day gives environmental issues a human face, one with which we can identify. The philosophy of the Day has changed little over the last three decades; it still strives to associate faces with environmental issues and empower people to be advocates of sustainable and equitable development. By promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing the attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnerships, World Environment Day strives to ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safe, clean, healthy, and more prosperous future.

In the words of the United Nations Environment Programme, "On this World Environment Day, let us not despair but instead examine the state of our environment. Let us consider carefully the actions which each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on earth in a mood of sober resolution and quiet confidence."

Groups around the world hold activities to acknowledge and celebrate this day. Find an activity near you, and join the fun!



## ➤ Juneteenth

**Saturday, June 19, 2021**

[Juneteenth](#), an unofficial American secular holiday but official in Texas, commemorates a major milestone: slavery's end in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war was over and the enslaved were now free. This was *two and a half years* after the Emancipation Proclamation (official on Jan 1, 1863). The Proclamation had had little impact in Texas due to a lack of federal troops to enforce it - but with General Granger's arrival, Union forces were finally strong enough to overcome resistance.

Why the delay? Variant stories try to explain this. One tells of a messenger murdered on his way to Texas with the news. Another, that enslavers deliberately suppressed the news to maintain the labor force on their plantations. Another, that federal troops waited for slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas. For some, very likely, President Lincoln's authority over the rebel states was still in question. Whatever the truth, conditions in Texas sadly remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

The celebration of June 19th, coined "Juneteenth" but also called "Freedom Day," "Liberation Day" and "Jubilee Day," began the next year and grew yearly with participation from abolitionists and family of former slaves. The Juneteenth celebration became a time to reassure each other, to gather with family, and to hear speakers recount the abuses of the past. Decades after Emancipation, Juneteenth continued to be revered in Texas with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on the date.

Modern American secularists can mark this day by educating themselves about this stain on our history. A good starting point is [The Middle Passage by Dr. John Henrick Clarke](#).



## ➤ Solstice (June)

**Sunday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

Called Summer Solstice in the northern hemisphere, Winter Solstice in the southern, people have marked the **June Solstice** in some way or another for thousands of years. Many religions have seasonal holy days linked to this day. It is the day when the Northern Hemisphere has more daylight than at any other time of the year. In the Southern Hemisphere, the least daylight occurs this day in June.



The precise date of the June Solstice varies from year to year, but usually it is between the 20th and 23rd of June.

"Solstice" comes from two Latin words: *sol* (meaning sun) and *sistere* (to cause to stand still). At noon in either hemisphere the sun will be high in the sky during summer, low during winter. On the day with the greatest number of daylight hours, the sun reaches its maximum elevation; we call this the Summer Solstice. Likewise, the day with the least daylight is the Winter Solstice.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the June Solstice is officially the first day of summer, also called Midsummer because it comes roughly during the midst of the growing season in Europe.

## ➤ World Humanist Day

**Monday, June 21, 2021**

**World Humanist Day** is a day to spread information and combat misinformation about humanism as a life-philosophy and a means to affect change in the world. This secular holiday dates back to the 1980s, when several local state chapters of the [American Humanist Association](#) (AHA) began celebrating World Humanist Day. Different chapters had different ideas

as to when that day should be. But in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the AHA and then the International Humanist Ethical Union passed resolutions declaring the Summer Solstice to be World Humanist Day.

The [American Humanist Association](#), the [International Humanist and Ethical Union](#), the [Council for Secular Humanism](#), the [Campus Freethought Alliance](#) and the [Secular Student Alliance](#) currently celebrate World Humanist Day.

Use this day to educate the public in your area about humanism, and to gather and celebrate as a humanist community that continues to contribute to the progress and education of the world. A picnic is a particularly good way to celebrate World Humanist Day. Read your favorite humanist texts aloud; spend time socializing with your fellow humanists in a relaxed, natural environment.



## ➤ Torture Victims' Day

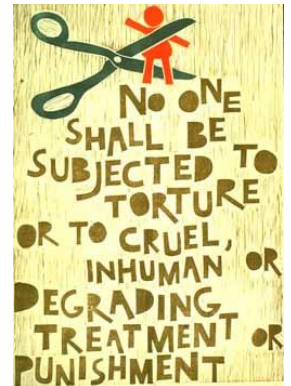
**Saturday, June 26, 2021**

In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution **52/149**, establishing June 26 as the United Nations [International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#).

The goal is the eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46, annex, 26 June 1987). This day gives us all an opportunity to stand united against cruelty, and remind the world that torture is a violation of basic human rights.

Clearly the abolition of torture is an issue to freethinkers and humanists, and too often the worst perpetrators are highly religious societies. But secular societies have been far from innocent. This is a cause where we can often join hands with our religious brothers and sisters.

Take a moment on this day to visit the [United Nations webpage](#) for this secular holiday, and also to view the [Interactive World Map of torture](#).



"At a time when the legitimate aspirations of people in many regions of the world for greater freedom, dignity and a better life are too often met with violence and repression, I urge States to respect the fundamental rights of all people. Torture and other forms of cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment and punishment, wherever they occur and whatever the circumstances, can never be justified."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Message for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 2011

## American Freethought

A major new documentary exploring the history of secularism and censorship in America, produced by the Center for Inquiry with funding from the James Hervey Johnson Foundation. Directed by Roderick Bradford.

Preview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxT4INaDEnk>

Watch all four episodes:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oN8PL53EDf8>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7YwsvxH31k>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CF4zv5YuKnk>

Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wiSiXi5Uvo>

I got kicked out of flat earth Facebook group for asking if six-foot social distancing had pushed anyone over the edge yet.

I saw a microbiologist in person today. He was bigger in real life.

I stared at the frozen orange juice for almost an hour because it said "Concentrate."

Two priests were out for a drive when a police officer pulled them over. "Sorry to bother you, fathers, but we're looking for a couple of child molesters."

The priests conferred quietly for a moment, then one turned back to the cop. "Alright officer, we'll do it."

Walking home after a party, two men took a shortcut through the cemetery. Soon they heard an ominous tapping coming from the shadows. Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at a tombstone.

"Holy cow, dude," one said, "you scared us half to death. What are you doing here so late at night?"

"Those idiots!" the old man grumbled. "They misspelled my name!"



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f / t / i : @darknoodlecomic



► **Save the date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 3:45 PM PST.**

Join the Freethought Society (FS), Thomas Paine National Historical Association (TPNHA), Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), Center for Inquiry (CFI) and American Humanist Association (AHA) in celebrating the 2021 **Thomas Paine Day**. Register at the below link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OAX2WWk3S0CpEVO\\_i4n5yw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OAX2WWk3S0CpEVO_i4n5yw)

The program will start with a Paine-themed concert. Then after a welcome from co-sponsors, a summary of the life and work of Paine by co-sponsor representatives: **Mandisa Thomas** (AHA), **Tom Flynn** (CFI), **Andrew Siedel** (FFRF), **Margaret Downey** (FS) and **Gary Berton** (TPNHA).

For the fabulous details, see <https://www.ftsociety.org/2021/05/25/the-2021-thomas-paine-day-event-details/>, or contact Margaret Downey of the Freethought Society, ph. 610-793-2737 (Office), 610-357-9432 (Cell). Or simply email "Margaret (at) FtSociety (dot) org".



Register now for the American Humanist Association 80th Annual Conference, July 24-25, 2021.

<https://conference.americanhumanist.org/>



## No heaven, no hell, no morals... yes, it's the *Ranters*!

**M**OST DENOMINATIONS HAVE LITTLE say in what name they are called by, and the Ranters are no exception. But if that name suggests tub-thumping street preachers going on about hell, nothing could be more wrong.

Originating during the English Revolution in 1649 (and lasting till around 1651), no two Ranters believed the same thing. Some were atheists. Some just denied life after death. Some believed all people will be saved whatever they do. Some believed that only Ranters would be saved – and because of their perfect inner holiness could indulge the flesh without the spirit being soiled.

They agreed on one thing though: Ranters could do whatever the hell they liked.

They did not neglect fellowship, but met together in taverns. The main focus of their meetings seems to have been smoking and swearing. They celebrated Holy Communion with beer and steak and sang psalms with rude words. Naked dancing was the exception rather than the rule.

Lawrence Clarkson toured the country preaching that no one could be pure till they indulged in adultery and drunkenness "in pureness of spirit". And to give him credit, he practiced what he preached.

Most deviant sects have to be savagely persecuted into the ground with torture and burning, but the Ranters were much less trouble. In August 1650, Ranterism was outlawed on pain of a six-month gaol sentence (loosely enforced). Within a year it had petered out.

It was a faith to go to the pub for, not to prison for.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranter>)



# AOF

Atheists and Other Freethinkers

## Not yet an AOF member? Please join us!

**Atheists and Other Freethinkers** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762, incorporated in 1993. Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movies and parties! See what awaits you at [www.aofonline.org](http://www.aofonline.org).

AOF President: Prolific Pamella Rivers  
Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell  
Secretary: Rapid Ruth Rezos  
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian  
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley  
Program chair: Super Susan McLean  
Facebook page: Keen Kaeleigh Pontif  
Directors at large:

Roger Zabkie, Fran Evanisko, Christine Tweet,  
Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta), Kaeleigh Pontif

### How to Contact AOF:

- Call 916-304-3796 (voicemail)
  - Or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182
- Or visit <http://www.aofonline.org/contact> to e-message us

### How to Join AOF:

Visit <http://www.aofonline.org/join>, or come to a meeting. We have forms.

### AOF's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Atheists-and-Other-Freethinkers/533365556831322>

### AOF Mission Statement:

"The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) 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."

*What is a Freethinker?* One striving to form opinions of life, religion, politics and philosophy on the grounds of reason and experience, rather than tradition, authority or custom. He or she need not be an atheist, though in a religious society most atheists do tend to be freethinkers.

AOF supports a benign separation of Church and State as the best means to protect the liberty and intellectual commerce of citizens. "... to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries" (James Madison, 1803).

Our vision: to be a venue where secular and unchurched citizens can socialize, dialog, develop friendships and enjoy shared company. AOF does not discriminate on such grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, physical debility or (\*cough\*) religion. We welcome the fair-minded of all political persuasions and preferences. Be respectful, and you may join.

Donations to AOF are tax deductible, and the newsletter is free by email. Please share with sympathetic friends.

Letters, submissions? We love them! See: <http://www.aofonline.org/read/submission-guide.html>.