

AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

June 2004

Sunday, June 13

Bridging Our Divides

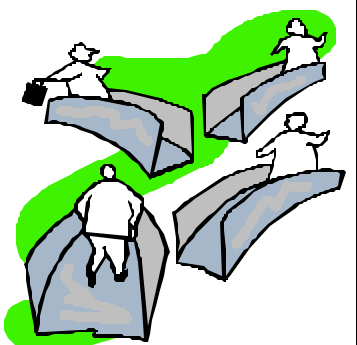
Panel: Faithful and Faith-Free Talk Together

Special Points of Interest

- Moderated Panel (page 1)
- New President's Message (pages 2)
- Presentation Report on Visit by Author-Editor, Kim Blaker, (page 3)
- "Is Atheism a Religion?" — Three different answers (page 4)
- Scenic but Puny Highway Cleanup (page 7)

Might our society benefit from a more civil discourse between the majority Christian religious (whose core understandings embrace supernatural explanations), and the minority who live their lives absent such beliefs (and, to great degree, in opposition to them)? Examples of disparagement are plentiful, from "you nonbelievers are going to hell" dispensed from pulpits to the name-calling (e.g., "fundies") from some atheist quarters. *Bridging religion and atheism—Is it possible? Should it happen?* AOF is assembling a distinguished panel representative of deep belief differences to address their rights and

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Celebrate & Eat—Thurs. June 17, 7 PM

Awards and Merriment To Round Out AOF's Eleventh Year

By Kay Dickey and Mynga Futrell

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It's been an exciting and productive year for our organization. (We hope you've noticed!) And now it's time to make merry. All AOFers and friends are *warmly* invited to a no-host event—to celebrate, to welcome our new officers and board members, to bid adieu to those departing, etc.

The full agendas at monthly programs and monthly directors' meetings (both of which usually keep our board members busy close to three hours!)—to say nothing of the many activities of planning programs, events, acquiring speakers, newsletter production and mailing, and so on—mean that there isn't much time for relaxation during a year. So, af-

ter the recent election, AOF's directors and officers decided they wanted a time to reflect on and relish their accomplishments and just enjoy everyone's company. There will be a short awards program and reminiscence, but this event is mostly for enjoyment of camaraderie and fare.

The more the merrier, up to a point! **Please sign up at the meeting, or RSVP to the voice mail (447-3589)** so we can tally up and be sure we do not exceed the capacity of the room that we are reserving. Then, come join us at this event! —The place is: Hoppy's (Fireside Room) at 6300 Folsom Blvd. (exit off US50 at 65th).

The AAI Connection

Sweeney and Nasrin Join AAI Advisory Board

By Bobbie Kirkhart

The Atheist Alliance is proud to announce the addition of two distinguished members to our Advisory Board of Leaders and Experts, Julia Sweeney and Taslima Nasrin.

Ms. Sweeney, a writer and actress who was once a regular on Saturday Night Live, and whose more recent credits include *Sex and the City* and *Frazier*, performed her one-woman show, "Letting Go of God", at the convention, and received a standing ovation for an excellent performance.

Dr. Nasrin is a world-renowned author who lives in exile from her

native Bangladesh, where she is under both state criminal sentence and Muslim fatwa for her writings which criticize Islam. Two of her novels, *Shame* and *Mayabela*, have been translated into English, and many of her poems and essays are available in English.

These two exceptional women add an artistic dimension to a board which is composed of the finest minds in freethought: Robert Buckman, Richard Dawkins, Christian Eyschen, and Robert M. Price

The AOF Line

By Kevin Schultz

In my first AOF Line, I would like to recognize the 2004-2005 AOF board members, both old and new.

Many thanks go to Mynga Futrell for her two years of spectacular service as AOF President. She continues on the board as a director-at-large. As former Vice-President, I have accepted the role of President to succeed Mynga. Returning as AOF director is past president Kay Dickey, who assumes the role of Vice-President. Also returning as AOF director is past president David Flanders, who assumes the role of Secretary. Continuing as Treasurer is Ken Nahigian. Also continuing as members of the board are Tina Burgess, past-Secretary Don Knutson, past president Betty Simonsma. Our new board member is Beverly Church.

On behalf of the AOF Board I would also like to thank departing board members Ed McConnell and Don

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

Shirley for their service to AOF. Their presence on the board will be missed.

I would also like to recognize a lot of quiet supporters of AOF – those patrons and members who help support AOF through their monetary contributions, but may not be able to make it to every meeting. Without your support, those of us on the AOF board would not have the funds needed to fulfill our group's purpose. Thank you.

My vision as President is three-fold:

- Provide stimulating intellectual discussion to our membership and the community
- Grow membership of AOF by 20%
- Increase AOF treasury by 20%

Every year brings new opportunities for AOF in the community, and the 2004-2005 year looks to keep us very busy. During the month of June or

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AOF Board

President: Kevin Schultz

Vice President: Kay Dickey

Secretary: Dave Flanders

Treasurer: Ken Nahigian

Directors at large:

Tina Burgess
Beverly Church
Mynga Futrell
Don Knutson
Betty Simonsma

AOF Committees

Newsletter: Kay Dickey (Editor)
Mynga Futrell, Jerry Sloan

Visibility and Impact:

Kay Dickey, Mynga Futrell, Don Knutson, Kevin Schultz, Jerry Sloan, (more members welcome!)

Archive: Jody Craig, Kay Dickey, Mynga Futrell, Ken Nahigian, Betty Simonsma

Connections (ad hoc):

Don Shirley (Caring),
Ken Nahigian,
Tina Burgess (Youth)
Betty Simonsma
Kevin Schultz (E-mail)

Freethought Day 2004:

Beverly Church (Chair), Mynga Futrell (Program), Jerry Sloan (Event Day), Ken Nahigian (Publicity)

AOF's Voluntariat

Affiliation Liaisons:

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

Community Service Projects:

Don Knutson

Internet Website:

Pat Kelley

Meetings:

Dave Flanders,
Jerry Sloan, Betty Simonsma

Membership Database:

Betty Simonsma

We welcome additional involvement from AOF members. What would you like to do? Just phone the voice mail 447-3589 to tell us, or send an e-mail to aofboard@rthoughtsrfree.org

Editor and Author Kimberly Blaker Visits UCD

By Jerry Bachman

Kimberly Blaker, editor and co-author of *The Fundamentals of Extremism, the Christian Right in America*, spoke at UCD last month.

The format of the two-hour program was a three-person panel discussion. The other two speakers, Reverend Kirsten Klepfer and Jennifer Hughes, Christian ministers from the UCD campus, were onsite representing the Christian community. As is typical in such a presentation, the participants each speak in turn before the panel opens to audience comments. The assembly consisted primarily of a healthy turnout of Sacramento area Freethinkers and a group of apparently Christian students. Ms. Blaker, drawing her material directly from her book, was the featured speaker.

Ms. Blaker's speech was well organized and easy to digest. Her ominous message was clear: Christian Fundamentalism is flourishing as it threatens the rights of women, children and minorities. There is a powerful movement in the leadership at the highest levels of government to bring conservative Christianity into the public square. Public education is under assault. In 1995 there were 1700 committees nationwide working to elect local fundamental school board members. A mandate to re-

build society, as god wants it, is espoused by the "reconstructionist" effort of the religious right. The over-magnified focus on symbolic First Amendment violations like school prayer and "under god" in the pledge detracts from public acknowledgment of the significance of substantive issues such as School Vouchers or Charitable Choice. Church-State separation is rapidly eroding as we watch.

Christian Fundamentalism is inextricably associated with violence and sexual maltreatment against women and children. Certain types of religious beliefs relate to spousal abuse and have obvious negative affects on female sexuality. Through such teachings as male dominance and treating sex as a sin, the conservative Christian tradition of patriarchal control over the wife and kids is a story of tyranny by divine right. Anti-abortion rights, physical and emotional oppression, control of women's reproduction ... (even banning sales of vibrators!) these are typical power mechanisms of the self-righteous religious zealots.

Not surprisingly, gays and minorities are also targeted. Among gays raised in a Christian environment, the suicide rate is disproportionately high. Homosexuality is seen as an

abomination. Gays simply cannot live according to god's teachings. As for minorities, (specifically blacks) slavery, segregation and discrimination are hallmarks of Christian Fundamentalism, which is truly the cornerstone of institutional racism. Kimberly Blaker alerts us to the serious societal threat posed by religious extremists.

In their rebuttals, Ms. Klepfer and Ms. Hughes seemed slightly defensive. Understandably, they wished to make it clear that they personally would not condone or affiliate with the religious excesses outlined in Ms. Blaker's talk. To their credit, these two university campus Christian ministers each spoke of seeking solutions. The short Q&A period yielded relevant comments from the audience. Church-State separation and other topics were briefly explored. Unfortunately, time did not allow the crafting of a clear answer to the many problems caused by Christian Fundamentalists, the details of which are thoroughly discussed in Kimberly Blaker's engaging and informative book, *The Fundamentals of Extremism, The Christian Right in America*.

Atheists and Other Freethinkers



AOF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. It is a member society of the Atheist Alliance International. AOF 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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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.

Is Atheism a Religion? (Commentary)



YES, Sometimes! Michael Newdow

Dr. Newdow's commentary was invited, based a prior talk in which he stated "atheism is a religion."

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, a key definition for "religion" is "the service and worship of God or the supernatural." Finding no more reason to believe in a god than to believe in any other unproven entity – and wanting no part of the supernatural – atheists obviously don't consider their creed a "religion" under that definition.

However, other definitions exist. For instance, "religion" can refer to morality, as in "ree certainly has religion." [Here Dr. Newdow uses 'ree' to convey 'he/she' without sexual reference.] Believing themselves at least as moral as their most "god-fearing" neighbors, atheists are certainly "religious" in this context.

In the legal arena, this definitional variability is of special significance. The Bill of Rights, after all, begins, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." If atheism is not deemed "a religion," it might not be covered by this constitutional mandate.

Fortunately, most past Supreme Court justices – recognizing that the Constitution exists to protect all citizens – have not utilized this approach. On the contrary, majority opinions have referenced "religions based on a belief in the existence of God [and] religions founded on different beliefs," and noted that "our Constitution indispensably protects ... the freedom of each of us, be he Jew or Agnostic, Christian or Atheist, Buddhist or Freethinker, to

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No Way! Richard Russell

Mr. Russell 's commentary is drawn from a recent letter he sent to Church & State magazine in reply to a letter C&S had published (May 2004) in which the author had claimed atheism was a religion.

Suppose you're filling out a form and you come to the space labeled "Children". You enter "none". Does this make you a parent? Nobody in her or his right mind would say so. Yet I suspect that Steven Wennerstrom speaks for many when he contends "that atheism is a belief system just like religion".

For once and for all, this is absolutely false! Untrue! Mistaken! Erroneous! Incorrect! Inaccurate! Wrong, wrong, wrong!

Entering "atheist" in the "Religion" box on that form is the same as entering "none". Atheism is not a religious belief, it is the absence of a religious belief. It is no more a religion than bald is a hair color or health is a disease.

And why is this distinction so important? Because if atheism is seen as just another kind of religion, then there's a grain of truth to Wennerstrom's contention that "removing all references to God in government can be reasonably viewed as establishing an atheistic philosophy". Of course, since his premise is utterly without foundation, his conclusion is utterly without merit.

To dramatize this point, imagine the difference between simple silence on goddish matters and active opposition. Come Easter, schoolchildren are invited to tell the class their favorite crucifixion jokes. The pledge of allegiance comes

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Yes or No—So What? Paul Geisert

Dr. Geisert was invited to comment on the two answers given regarding the status of atheism .

Richard Russell and Mike Newdow have agreed – if you look up the word "religion" in your dictionary, then atheism is not a religion. And Newdow is correct in saying that one can say atheism is a religion – as long as you are prepared to knowledgeably defend your statement with various Supreme Court decisions.

Both Russell and Newdow have societal agendas. Russell is committed to nurturing a clear-cut distinction (between religious faith and freedom from same) that sets atheists apart from the cultural mainstream. Newdow is pragmatically arguing that one should say that atheists are religious if one wishes to make sure the religious masses don't convince Supreme Court jurists that they should get a larger dose of fairness than nonbelievers.

Atheism has a long and respected history. For centuries it was a position accepted by philosophers, scholars, politicians, and plebeians alike. Atheism still is appreciated across the Atlantic. But thanks in part to promotion of general fear of aggression by "those godless communistic atheists" and to years of activity by acerbic anti-religious atheists, the word is social anathema in the United States. We need to question whether it is politically rational to continue to employ the term for either Russell's or Newdow's reasons.

I propose we take the spotlight off "theism" and put it onto naturalism. The naturalistic worldview has deep explanations for origins of the universe, the evolution of life, the origins and exercise of morality, and many other critical social concepts.

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June 17 Soiree

Hoppy Brewing's Fireside Room is to be the scene of a casual celebration and short awards program to round out our "AOF-year." It's a no-host dinner. Bring family and friends, but let us know you all are coming by phoning the voice mail to say so. It will last from **7 PM** until (who knows?). Come have fun!

Silent Auction Bargains

By Jerry Bachman

Each year AOFers look forward with tense anticipation to the annual fundraising Silent Auction, which has a reputation as a source for quality items at great prices.

At this year's event, the diversity of merchandise was broad ... from a mint-condition casserole dish to a REAL violin! There were framed antique rose prints, live beneficial insects, electronic equipment, and more. The many topical used books were popular with the well-read AOF membership. Included, as



tongue-in-cheek options, were a survival knife and a "men's" magazine (AOF Highway Cleanup booty.) Myriad bargains marked the event. Among the best deals was the black leather attaché case from Budapest, which went for a mere ten bucks. The treasurer's report indicates that the AOF Annual Silent Auction was a success!

Note: AOF's treasurer reports that the total boost to the treasury in the 2004 Silent Auction event was \$233.50.

Newdow

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believe or disbelieve, to worship or not worship, to pray or keep silent, according to his own conscience, uncoerced and unrestrained by government."

To be sure, the Court has also written that "government should not prefer ... religion to irreligion," thereby demonstrating that atheists can be afforded the First Amendment's protections even without their beliefs being designated "religious." Nevertheless, that construct leaves nonbelievers at risk, since Government can show disapproval of belief systems that are not religious. (Consider, for example, the government's animus towards racism or gender bias.)

In short, atheism as a religion can cut both ways. If the fear is that others won't appreciate that atheists specifically deny the existence of a supreme being, then emphasizing that atheism is not a religion is important. If the loss of constitutional protection is the concern, then including atheism among "religions" should be paramount. Otherwise, "no law respecting an establishment of religion" may ultimately cease to apply to non-theistic beliefs.

Russell

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complete with the phrase "one nation without God". Monuments are erected in public squares saying "Yahweh, God, Allah, Shiva, Buddha, Manitou, and all the rest are just frauds". City council meetings are opened with readings from Bertrand Russell, Mark Twain, and Robert Green Ingersoll ridiculing religious belief.

Needless to say, if the government tried to establish this kind of aggressive atheism, religious believers would justifiably object. Why, then, is it so difficult for them to see the problems that we atheists have when they try to use the very same coercive governmental mechanisms to foist their beliefs off on us? I suspect it's because they've been drilled on the principle that "those who are not with us are against us". This kind of absolutist, good vs. evil, entirely black-and-white mindset is, of course, what causes people to fly jetbombs into tall buildings.

In short, there's absolutely no reason for the government to take any side at all when it comes to religion. It should be neither for it nor against it; it should be — as the Founders intended — scrupulously neutral.

Geisert

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I also proclaim we need to understand that we are never going to bring religious institutions down, and it is quixotic, socially irrational, and quite possibly immoral, to try to do so. Rather than stress the contentious religious vs. nonreligious dichotomy, what we need to do is work for constitutionally and socially recognized freedom of conscience for *all*.

We must be positive when firmly demanding our place in society. We must extend the movements of American social activism—of the 60s (to expunge sexism and racism), and the 70s (to erase "homophobia")—that have engendered major social changes. The task of the "community of reason" is to convince our society to eliminate its "faithism".

I firmly believe the nation could surmount entrenched faithism. To do this, however, would demand that the community of reason be wholly committed to cooperation toward that end. I fear the inability to do this, not religion, is our greatest adversary. (I'm with Pogo on that score.) Without solidarity of purpose, voice, and name, the dominant "faithistic" U.S. society will continue to blithely dismiss these pesky "godless and immoral" people. (Dismiss...or worse.)

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.

Please check your preference. We can deliver your monthly newsletter via an attached pdf file to your e-mail address above. E-mail newsletter Postal mail

Religious Diversity Panel

(Continued from page 1)

responsibilities as citizens together in one nation—a nation whose promise of “freedom of religion” receives quite disparate interpretations. Two ardent atheists and two devout Christians will make up this *superb* panel of discussants, and AOF member Paul Geisert will serve as the moderator. Here is a brief glimpse of the persons who will be coming together for meaningful conversation about core realities of pluralism.

Chris Lindstrom, of San Jose, longtime activist, will provide one of the atheist voices on the panel. She was one of two persons whom I first envisioned (and invited) to come to Sacramento for the panel, and she then jumped in to help me acquire two additional members. Chris is committed to civil discourse between believers and nonbelievers (and she assures me it *is* possible!). As the founder of The Garrison-Martineau Project (a nonprofit dedicated to facilitating such small group dialogue), she clearly is putting her commitment into practice. She is also the former secretary of Atheists of Silicon Valley and, before that, served as the political liaison for Portland-

based United States Atheists where she also ran their “dial-an-atheist” line.

Rev. Kirsten Klepfer, who serves in campus ministries at the University of California-Davis, is the second person I invited. Kirsten is a minister for the Presbyterian Church, USA., a Christian denomination generally characterized as “liberal.” I met Kirsten only recently. It was at a presentation at UCD by Kimberly Blaker, author of *Fundamentals of Extremism: The Christian Right in America*. Kirsten had invited Ms. Blaker to UCD (see article on p.3) to summarize her exposé on the activities of the Religious Right, and had herself served as one of two discussants after the presentation (the other a conservative Christian). I had been impressed by Kirsten’s introduction to the presentation of the “touchy topic,” engendering a climate of thoughtful analysis rather than emotional rancor.

Rev. John Morehead of the Watchman Fellowship (a national non-profit organization devoted to research and education on new religious movements) is familiar to many AOFers for his having engaged in debate with Dan Barker on a couple of occasions. John is a

former member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who is now a licensed Southern Baptist minister. While John’s debates with Dan dealt with topics of atheism vs. Christianity, his research specialty is in the area of religious pluralism in the West. He serves as the associate director of the California office of Watchman Fellowship and does work at the Capitol Bible College as an adjunct instructor.

Steve Nahm is an Objectivist and has since 1985 been studying this philosophy, which was originated by Ayn Rand, the author of *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*. The best summary for the essentials of Objectivism comes from Rand herself (in the Appendix to *Atlas Shrugged*): “My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute.” Steve is the coordinator for the Silicon Valley Objectivists (www.objectivists.org) and a member of The Objectivist Center (www.objectivistcenter.org).

—Submitted by Mynga Futrell

AOF Board Meeting At a Glimpse—May 16

Minutes — The minutes of the 4/18/04 meeting were approved.

Election of Officers — The board elected officers: President-Kevin Schultz; Vice President-Kay Dickey; Treasurer Ken Nahigian; Secretary-Dave Flanders. Directors at large are Tina Burgess, Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell, Don Knutson, and Betty Simonsma.

Treasury— The board approved the April treasury report.

Liaisons Reports - Liaisons to various freethought organizations gave reports. Some shifting of liaison positions (see list, page 2).

Highway Cleanup - Mynga volunteered to captain the May 23 cleanup project.

Freethought Day - Jerry Sloan informed the board a person well known in the freethought community has accepted an invitation to speak on October 10 at Freethought the Day celebration. The subject of paying a small honorarium and transportation costs was discussed and approved.

Newsletter Submissions

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

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

Preference is given to material submitted online 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.

Highway Cleanup Report By Mynga Futrell

We couldn't have asked for better weather on Sunday May 23rd. It was crisp and cool at our 8 AM start, and the temperature continued mild until the end of our two hours' labor.

What more could we have asked for? Well, more people. Besides myself, there was **Kevin Schultz**, **Paul Geisert**, and **Tom Nicolette** — a crew quite insufficient to the task.

We covered perhaps 60 percent of the 2-mile stretch with a lick and a promise. Hardly a success to report. How might I encourage more folks for next time?



Land to the east — Flooded Rice Fields

Well, consider the amenities of the morning. The view this time was simply superb. There were snowy egrets in the western field, and in the opposite direction a gleaming and beautiful glassy pattern of water-filled rice ponds. We could glance occasionally at the acrobatic entertainment from a crop dusting plane that was sprinkling a fungicide over

the rice fields to the east and swooping and landing every little bit.. According to **Kevin**, one of the four intrepid AOF volunteers in our orange vests, the pilot had tipped a wing "hello and thanks" to our crew! Nearby the Park & Ride as we were assembling beforehand, horse training was going on, as a farmer had hitched his team of amateurs to two huge tires for a practice

session along the road. The erratic actions of the "novices" were entertaining. For sure, those two have a ways to go before they are up to hauling the wagon! Then, there were the grazing horses in the south pasture...

striking a chord for Kentucky upbringing. All in all, ignoring the roar of traffic, we had the sights, sounds and smells of rural life in three directions. Even to the southeast, all was still. But one could readily survey the "Sunday-silent" machinery of construction awaiting its Monday endeavor to bring Natomas suburbia ever closer to our stretch of highway.

AOF Line

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early July, the Supreme Court will decide "Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow," a landmark case deciding whether it is constitutional to coerce public schoolchildren to recite a religious pledge. Additionally, this fall, the American people will vote for representatives at the local, state, and federal levels. Regardless of the outcome, AOF will work to uphold the separation of church and state and the rights of atheists as first-class American citizens.

It is truly an honor to serve as the President of such a fine organization. I look forward to a year of shared success, discussion, and happiness with all the members of AOF.

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!
www.rthoughtsrfree.org/aof.htm

Calendar of Events

AOF General Meeting	Sunday, June 13, 2:30 PM
AOF Celebration Party and Awards	Thursday, June 17, 7 PM
AOF Board Meeting (open to members)	Sunday, June 20, 9:30 AM
Freethought Day Committee	Sunday, June 20, 2 PM
Atheist MeetUp (<i>location TBA, phone for Tina at 447-3589</i>)	June 15, 7 PM
Brights MeetUp (<i>location TBA, phone for Paul at 447-3589</i>)	June 28, 7 PM

Directions to AOF's General Meetings

AOF meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the second Sunday of every month, from 2:30 - 5 PM at the Sierra 2 Community Center, Room 10. 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.

