

# AOF News & Views

Sacramento, California

April 2006

## Sunday, March 12 (God) What's the Mystery?

### Special Points of Interest

- Brand New Camp for Our Free-thinking Youngsters (page 1)
- AOF Placing SSA Newsracks on College Campuses (page 2)
- Beefing Up AOF's Publicity (page 4)
- Freethought Poets, Past and Present (page 7)
- West Coast Atheist Conference in the Works (page 7)

The April AOF meeting features **Matt McCormick** of the Department of Philosophy at California State University Sacramento (CSUS). Professor McCormick has spoken to AOF in the past. This time, he will discuss, **"What Should We Think about the Mysteries of God?"**

Matt got his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Rochester in New York, where his primary work was on Immanuel Kant's theory of mind. His other major area of research interest is philosophy of religion. His publications in that area include: "Why God Cannot Think," "The Paradox of Divine Agency," and "Against the Immortality of the Soul."

Matt is currently working on a paper on faith.  
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"Mystery Puzzle" (from www.luanaart.net)

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## Foothills Location Selected for Secularist Camp New "Camp Quest" Is Nearby! By Dwain Deets

Yes! Youngsters from Sacramento's freethinking families have a great place to spend a week. The latest Camp Quest begins operations this summer right here on the West Coast! Under the name, Camp Quest West (CQW), the inaugural camping week will be July 15–21, 2006. CQW has contracted with Camp Watanda in the Gold Country, about 70 miles north of Sacramento for the exclusive use of their facilities during that week.

CQW was recently awarded a grant of \$5,000 by Institute for Humanist Studies (HIS) to help the new organization get up and running. They are operating officially as Atheist Alliance, an IRS 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, and can accept checks under the Camp Quest West name.

CQW is affiliated with National Camp Quest (Ohio), the first secular

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reaching Out to Secular Students in Sacramento

# AOF Partners with the Secular Student Alliance

### By Kevin Schultz

#### *The Planting of a Seed of an Idea*

A few years ago fellow AOF board member Tina Burgess confided that she felt concerned and frustrated that AOF did not do more outreach to young people. I agreed, with the understanding that the routine bits of running an organization often consume all of the resources of the active members. This leaves only crumbs of time and energy left-over for strategic growth, outreach, and publicity.

#### *The Idea Begins to Take Root*

At Freethought Day 2004, I met James Israel, publisher and editor of the local *Comic Press News*. I emailed him in Dec 2004 and asked if he might be willing and able to donate extra *CPN* racks to AOF. Happily, he agreed to do so, in return for AOF recognition of the donation for tax purposes.

For the next eight months, the project was put on the back burner in want of a suitable publication.

#### *The Idea Grows -- The Secular Student Alliance*

In Aug 2005, I contacted August Brunsman IV, Executive Director of the Secular Student Alliance (SSA), and DJ Grothe, Director of the Center for Inquiry—On Campus (CFI On Campus). August returned my email and mailed me a SSA new group start-up package.

Through the SSA Outreach Director (Lisa Swinehart), I learned that the SSA produced the *SSA Quarterly*, just the publication we were looking for. They provided the file to us,

and we printed an initial run of 500 full-color copies of this eight-page newsletter, as well as 500 inserts listing local Sacramento area as well as national organizations of likely interest to young freethinkers.

#### *The Idea Blooms*

Preparing the racks and getting approval for the publications turned out to be an unexpected hurdle. Painting, creating the signage, adding paper-weight “arms” to the racks took time and experimentation.

I still remember the elation I felt after receiving a phone call from Robert Allegre at American River College, telling me the publication was approved for distribution. The vision of outreach on campuses in the Sacramento area was becoming a reality.

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

Since Nov 2005, we have installed three racks on Sacramento-area campuses: American River College (ARC), Sacramento City College (SCC), and California

State University Sacramento (CSUS). AOF member Jerry Sloan also installed a rack at the Lambda Community Center, a midtown Sacramento location frequented by young people often receptive to atheism and freethought.

Thanks to everyone in the membership for their support and to Tina for the stimulus of the idea.

## AOF Board (2005-6)

**President:** Don Knutson

**Vice President:** Mynga Futrell

**Secretary:** Kevin Schultz

**Treasurer:** Ken Nahigian

**Directors at large:**

Carla Corbett, Beverly Church

Dave Flanders, Vincent Wales

## AOF Committees

**Newsletter:** Mynga Futrell (Editor)

Kay Dickey (Submissions Editor)

Tom Nicolette (Mailing)

**Freethought Day, Oct. 8, 2006:**

Beverly Church, Mynga Futrell, Carla Corbett, Kay Dickey, Jerry Sloan, Tom Ikelman, Kevin Schultz, Brian Krofchok

**Darwin Day, Feb. 11, 2007:**

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, Kevin Schultz); AOF Finances Evaluation (Carla Corbett, Beverly Church, Ken Nahigian)

**Archive:** Jody Craig, 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, Carla Corbett

**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**

## Author of *Skeptic's Dictionary* Draws Audience A Skeptical Sort of Fellow By Dave Flanders

Bob Carroll, speaker at AOF's March meeting, indicated that things are not always entirely clear – *critical thinking* is needed to get as close as possible to the truth.

In his younger days he was an altar boy. He outgrew his childhood credulity to a greater extent than most adults ever do.

To assist his students in 1994, Bob started a website that promoted processing information, rather than simply absorbing it. He recognizes that his website enterprise, [www.skeptdic.com](http://www.skeptdic.com), (*The Skeptic's Dictionary*), has no sacred cows. He regards orthodoxies as the mortal enemy of critical thought), and that his website is an ongoing exercise in revision.

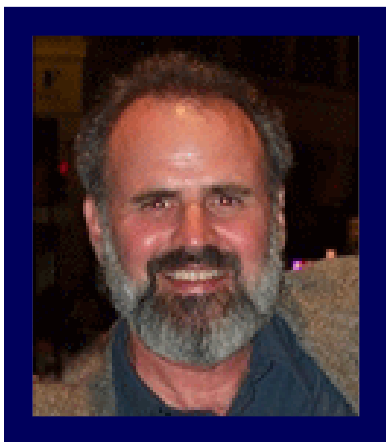
Over the years Bob's website and his book, *The Skeptic's Dictionary* (version in print: 2003) have increased in popularity. He said his

job in class is to teach critical thinking—not *what* to think.

Bob was impressed with an irony: regarding his life: altar boy later becomes an atheist known worldwide!

Bob said a number of true believers logged onto his website and became dismayed that he was hurting their feelings and expressed sadness regarding his mechanistic worldview.

Bob thinks that people who are careful about the truth are less likely to be fooled by ideologies that justify illiberal practices or promise simple solutions. Critical thinking is the best counterweight to true believers of all stripes.



Bob Carroll, who has developed a marvelous resource for those who want to engage in some critical thinking

### Camp Quest West

(Continued from page 1)

summer camp for youth in the United States. Camp Quest was specifically designed for children of “brights of all stripes”—agnostics, atheists, freethinkers, humanists, Unitarians, or whatever terms might be applied to those who maintain a naturalistic, not supernaturalistic, worldview. Our campers are girls and boys ages 8-17.

Camp Quest's purpose is to build a strong, healthy community among the youth participants. In addition to fun camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, campfires, stargazing, and outdoor sports, Camp Quest's knowledgeable counselors will lead the youth about freethought and humanist principals. Activities cover critical thinking, science, history, civics, and ethics.

CQW's plan this first year is to have at least 20 campers, and 10 counselors. They are currently offering early registration at \$360 per camper. Early registration ends April 30 if the camp hasn't been filled before then. The price will be \$460 thereafter.

The steering group includes eager volunteers from several freethought groups here in California. The members of this group, and their

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### 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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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.

## New Strategy Underway Garnering Publicity for AOF

By Carla Corbett

In an effort to enhance AOF's visibility in our community and attract new members, the AOF Board recently implemented a new publicity strategy. The roots of this strategy go back to last summer, when a group of four AOF members compiled a listing of possible publicity sources.

In January we refined the listing by selecting the most appropriate sources. These vary in regards to submission format (online, email, snail mail) and submission deadlines (the length of time before the event or publication that an item must be submitted).

In February, we created a semi-automated tool that allows us to schedule event submission for any given meeting and reflects these different formats and deadlines.

Taking into consideration the limitations of AOF's current meeting room at Sierra 2 Community Cen-



ter, we will gradually increase the number of new publicity sources we submit meeting notices to each month. To evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts, at each meeting our "greeter" asks attendees whether it is their first time attending an AOF meeting, and if so, how

they learned about the event. This will allow us to monitor the number of new members our publicity generates, as well as focus our efforts to most efficiently reach our target audience. Depending on how successful this publicity strategy proves in increasing attendance, the Board may reconsider the need for a larger meeting space.

If you have questions or comments about AOF's publicity strategy - or if you would like to suggest online or print publications in which we can publish our meeting notices - please contact Carla Corbett at [Carla@aofonline.org](mailto:Carla@aofonline.org).

### It's a Mystery!

(Continued from page 1)

Regarding the upcoming talk to AOF, he writes:

"There are, no doubt, many things that are mysteries to each of us as individuals, and to the whole scientific establishment, and certainly to the religious community. And there are circumstances where it is reasonable to draw a conclusion even though all of the relevant information is not in. The question is, if we don't have the means to resolve the mystery soon, what should we think about it in the meantime? And more importantly, what if something we believe, such as a belief in God depends upon mysteries. Or put another way, when you believe something is true, such as the existence or love of God, how reasonable is it to address puzzles about the claim with the response: 'It's a mystery.'?"

Do you find the idea of God mysterious? You're not alone. The mysteries surrounding the Christian God have existed for thousands of years, prompting a steady stream of apologists to explain and interpret the mysteries of yesterday to contemporary church-goers.

In January, AOFers heard Dave Fitzgerald examine the ambiguity surrounding the historicity of Jesus. In April, McCormick illuminates the mysteries surrounding Jesus' father (or perhaps, his twin?).

So if you wish and can, please mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, April 9 to hear Dr. McCormick's talk, which will

### Camp Quest West

(Continued from page 3)

affiliations, are as follows:

**Chris Lindstrom**, *Camp Director*, also Humanist Community Board member

**Jennifer Hallman**, *Camp Treasurer*, also San Francisco Atheists Steering Committee

**Blair Johnson**, *Program Development*, also Round Earth Society Cal Poly Pomona

**Lydia Rice**, *Fundraising Director*, also Humanists Community member

**Dwain Deets**, *Marketing Director*, also layout editor for Atheists United

This group of volunteers can't do it

alone. They are looking for help from others in a number of areas. Here are a few tasks that could use some good, eager volunteers:

- *Get the word out to families with camp-age kids*
- *Create or assist in publishing a Camp Quest West Newsletter*
- *Distribute fliers at area fairs, or post in libraries*
- *Volunteer as a Counselor or Assistant at the camp*
- *Get involved with the Steering Committee, bring in new ideas*

Camp Watanda is on a gorgeous 38 acre site on Lake Vera. Lake Vera, at 2,500 ft altitude, is a private 15

acre lake shared with three other groups. More information is available at the CQW website, at [www.campquestwest.org](http://www.campquestwest.org). The website also includes application forms for prospective campers, means for inquiring about or applying for volunteer activities, and for making donations to the camp online.

**FREETHOUGHT DAY!**  
**2006 PLANNING—APRIL 29**

**Want to join the Committee?**

**Contact Bev at 359-5423**

## Financial Health Committee Report AOF in “Fiscal Fitness” Room By Carla Corbett

The Financial Health Committee has begun analyzing AOF membership and financial data to get a clear picture of our organization’s “fiscal fitness.”

As previously reported, after the Committee interprets the findings from these analyses, it will brainstorm ideas to improve our financial health and then recommend the most feasible of those ideas to the AOF Board for consideration.

In an initial analysis, we focused on describing membership trends since AOF’s inception in 1993. In the next Committee report in *AOF News & Views*, we will include some graphs of what we have learned. Overall, we can say that the general overview data indicates that while AOF

has been rather successful in *maintaining* membership over the past several years, *growth* has been stagnant.

As you have read in this and previous issues of News & Views, AOF is already involved in outreach and publicity strategies aimed at bringing new members to the group.

Subsequent analyses will look at operating cost trends for the past five years and how these relate to membership levels - stay tuned for the findings.

If you would like more information on the work of the Financial Health Committee or would like to contribute to the Committee’s efforts, contact [Carla@aofonline.org](mailto:Carla@aofonline.org).

### AOF Board Meeting Minutes Summary

March 19, 2006  
Home of Carla Corbett

With Don in China, Mynga presided.

February minutes and treasurer’s report were approved by consensus.

Reports from Committees: Financial Health, Publicity, Student Racks, Business Cards, Member Recognition, Library

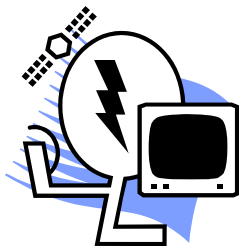
Mynga proposed AOF give some sort of monetary support to new Camp Quest West; action postponed to April.

No one has yet volunteered to take up the reins of Newsletter Editor. May issue will be Mynga’s final. She seeks at least 6 month’s sabbatical.

Carla suggested 3-month trial of new weeknight rather than weekend board meeting time. which was accepted.

**Next BOD meeting:** Sunday, April 17, 2006, 6:30 PM, at home of Beverly Church

Next Up  
For  
Movie  
Night



### And Just How Were You Planning to Spend That “Good Friday” Night?

Here’s a Very Viable  
Option For You

Depending on discussion and interest, the HAGSA/AOF movie night upcoming may turn into a double feature.

First up is the Charlie Rose Show, in which he talks with **Edward O. Wilson and James Watson** (the latter of Watson and Crick fame). It will be shown on DVD in 16:9 widescreen mode. (Of course, the dialog is far more interesting than the format.) Time: *just under one hour*

Available in addition to the Charlie Rose Show will be the first two hours (“**Darwin’s Dangerous Idea**”) of the 8-hour WGBH/PBS series, *Evolution*. It’s also widescreen, so the picture will be much better than it was when the series was originally broadcast in 2001.

[Note: The remaining six one-hour episodes will be available for showing at subsequent movie nights. How many shown on a given movie night will depend on interest and whatever else is showing on that occasion.]



### On Science and Religion

**Edward O. Wilson**, the distinguished Harvard biologist, argues in his book *Consilience* (Knopf, 1998):

*All tangible phenomena, from the birth of stars to the workings of social institutions, are based on material processes that are ultimately reducible, however long and tortuous the sequences, to the laws of physics.*

The insights of neuroscience and evolution, Dr. Wilson, wrote, increasingly can illuminate even morality and ethics, with the scientific findings potentially leading more directly and safely to stable moral codes than do the dictates of God’s will or the findings of transcendentalism.



**April’s Movie Night:** The films will be shown **Friday, April 14**, at the home of Bill and Elaine Potts, 1848 **Hidden Hills Drive in Roseville**, beginning at **7 PM**. Their phone number is **773-3865**. Note: The hosts can better plan for the number of guests if each person who plans to go will phone a couple of days ahead of time. (If you decide at the last minute, though, do feel free to come ahead; bring along your favorite microwave popcorn and beverage.)

# 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.

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

## Movie Night Report

### A Review of DOGMA

By Ken Nahigian

*A View Askew Production, November 1998, directed by Kevin Smith, distributed by Lions Gate Films—Starring: Ben Affleck, George Carlin, Matt Damon, Alan Rickman, Linda Fiorentino, and "Jay and Silent Bob" It was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay as well as a Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America honor for Best Screenplay.*

*Dogma*, a "supernatural" comedy, is the fourth movie by cult-film director Kevin Smith.

Like his others, this film takes place in the "ViewAskewniverse," the world of Jay and Silent Bob, two clueless stoners reminiscent of Cheech & Chong (except Jay is more foul-mouthed), the McKenzie Brothers (but not quite *that* clueless), or Penn & Teller (*only* in the sense that Silent Bob is...well...*silent*).

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon play two outcast renegade angels—not exactly Fallen, more like Vaguely Sauntering Downward—who find a loop hole to return to heaven. One catch: if they succeed, the universe evaporates. God, meanwhile, has gone missing. Heaven scrambles to stop the cosmic holocaust. An angel

visits the Last Scion, the many-times-great-grandniece of Jesus (Linda Fiorentino), who happens to be a lapsed Catholic working for an abortion clinic. He sends her to stop the renegades, appointing two "prophets" (Jay and Silent Bob) to

help. Reluctantly she sets out, garnering other supernatural help and adversity on the way—including two retired Muses, the 13<sup>th</sup> Apostle, and the Golgotha, a demon made of... hmm, let's skip that part.

The satire of the Catholic Church triggered organized protests and over 300,000 pieces of hate mail, including death threats against the director (himself a practicing

Catholic). Smith, having a sense of humor, subsequently joined a protest at the Sony Multiplex in Eatontown, New Jersey, carrying a sign reading "Dogma is Dogshit." News crews spotted him, gave him a prime-time interview, and generated much extra

publicity for his film.

Dialog manages to be both clever and wooden, acting just adequate, and special effects a long walk from cutting edge.

Even so *Dogma* has a sturdy cult following. It is an "idea movie" — the key idea being the danger

of confusing faith with dogma, or using faith to justify greed, war, racism or homophobia. And the end, involving a Biblical-scaled holocaust of flying body parts, with the answer to the One Cosmic Question you always wanted to ask God, is pure popcorn.



Two Other Fallen Angels

## West Coast Regional Atheist Meeting

By Dave Kong

*Saturday, June 24, 2006, 9 - 5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - San Francisco Mid-Peninsula (1221 Chess Drive Foster City, CA)*

Atheists across California and from the surrounding states will get together for an exciting day of nationally renowned speakers, networking, strategizing, and of course fun!

The lineup of speakers is being finalized, but currently includes: - *Ellen Johnson*, president of American Atheists, *Conrad Goeringer*, the irreverent editor of the online AANEWS, *Eddie Tabash*, constitutional attorney and board

member of the Council for Secular Humanism, Bay Area historian *Richard Carrier*, doctoral student in ancient history, *David Fitzgerald*, Bay Area activist and amateur historian; and *Don Havis*, Bay Area archivist and longtime human rights activist.

Sponsored by: American Atheists California and Northern California affiliates: San Francisco Atheists, East Bay Atheists, Atheists of Silicon Valley.

*Note: A limited block of rooms at the hotel has been reserved to make rooms available at a special rate. Information on hotel reservations and event registration will be distributed soon.*

### Newsletter Submissions

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

[frethnkr@mindspring.com](mailto: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.



## Did You Know? Freethought Poets of the Past By Cleo Kocol

Carl Sandburg's poetry is recognized by most everyone. Born in 1878 he worked as a day laborer, was a soldier, a secretary, a newspaperman, and a poet. His biographies of Lincoln covered six volumes and won critical acclaim. His poems about Chicago, so rich with images and descriptions, helped pinpoint a city and its workers.

What most people don't know is that he also wrote children's poems, stories, a novel, and an autobiography as well as an obscure poem, "Manufactured Gods." Published in

1918, the poem begins:

*They put up big wooden gods,  
Then they burned the big wooden  
gods and put up brass gods and  
changing their minds suddenly  
Knocked down the brass gods and  
put up...*

But Sandburg (or Sandberg as it's sometimes written) is not the only famous poet of freethought verse. Edgar Lee Masters, a freethinker, son of a freethinker, famous for his *Spoon River Anthology*, wrote freethought poetry, and Percy Bysshe Shelley, mentioned in this column previously, affirmed his non-theist beliefs in every way. Robert Browning, well-known for his relationship to Elizabeth Barrett, isn't known for his freethought or atheistic poetry, but he penned a few, such as "The Confessional" which begins:

*It is a lie, their priests, their pope,  
their saints...*

Rudyard Kipling, Lord Byron, Thomas Hardy, and Swineburne also indulged their beliefs in freethought verse. Today's Lawrence Ferlinghetti, born in 1920, cast a satirical eye on society and wrote the atheist poem, "A Coney Island of the Mind."

But the most famous example of freethought poetry is William Ernest Henley's. His poem "Invictus" ends with the immortal lines:

*I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul.*

*Editor's Note:* AOF member Cleo Kocol, of Roseville, is herself both a freethinker and poet (of the present) and was one of two featured readers at the first Lincoln Poets Club's Open Mic of 2006. A local newspaper article reporting on that event notes that Cleo "...has been plying her craft for more than 25 years, and in that time has penned three novels, traveled widely presenting her one-woman show, seen her work published in more anthologies and magazines than she can count and filled many notebooks with poetry." One of Cleo's poems was choreographed and set to music as the winning entry in a San Francisco competition.

### 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!*  
**aofonline.org**

## March Calendar of Events

<b>AOF General Meeting</b>	<b>Sunday, April 9, 2:30 - 5 PM</b>
Movie Night Social	Friday, April 14, 7 - 8:30 PM <i>(longer if interested)</i>
AOF Board meeting	Monday, April 17, 6:30 PM
Davis Dinner for the Needy	Tuesday, April 18, 4:00 - 6:15 PM
Highway Cleanup	Sunday, April 23, 8 - 10 AM
AOF General Meeting	Sunday, May 14, 2:30 - 5 PM

AOF meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the second Sunday of the month, from 2:30 - 5 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" (10-8-06), and (2) a science and humanity celebration - Sacramento's "Darwin Day Educational Gala" (2-11-07). 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.

