

Upcoming Events

AOF dates in black

- Wed Aug 7—observe [World Friendship Day](#)
- Sat Aug 11—observe [Ingersoll Day](#)
- **Thu Aug 16 @06:15PM** [Freethought Dinner Social](#)
- **Sat Aug 18** Jerry Sloan Birthday Party (see back page)
- **Sat Aug 25 @09:00AM - 11:00AM** [Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup](#)
- **Sun Sep 9 @02:00PM - 05:00PM** General Meeting [Topic TBD](#)
- **Mon Sep 17 @07:00PM - 08:30PM** Planning Meeting [Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- Wed Sep 19—observe [Talk Like A Pirate Day](#)
- Sat Sep 22—observe [Equinox \(September\)](#)
- Sun Sep 23—observe [Banned Book Week](#)
- **Fri Oct 5**-Sac Freethought Day Festival-General Meeting

[Online Atheist Events Calendar:](#)
tinyurl.com/714afyc

GORE VIDAL DIES

Gore Vidal, a prolific and provocative author and long-time laureate of the International Academy of Humanism, has died at the age of eighty-six. Over his long career, Vidal produced twenty-five novels, two memoirs, several volumes of essays, plays, screenplays, and television dramas. He also acted and ran for Congress twice. He expressed hostility to religion, especially Christianity, almost from the beginning; some of his most noteworthy works in this regard were published in 1992—the essay “Monotheism and Its Discontents” and the novel *Live From Golgotha: The Gospel According to Gore Vidal*, a spoof of the New Testament. (via [Center for Inquiry](#))

AOF News & Views

August 2012

Katherine Stewart: [The Good News Club](#)

By Dave Flanders

Writer Katherine Stewart was AOF's July speaker. Stewart became aware of religious bullies in action at her daughter's elementary school in California, and later at the school district in her new home in New York. Stewart discovered that the U.S. Supreme Court, led by re-borns Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, had been "interpreting" the Constitution to mandate taxpayer-financed public schools to open their buildings to promote a thought control religion. The thought control advocates said their methodology would increase freedom of speech... Following the orders of Jesus, the promoters of the Good News Club felt it would be good for young children in public schools to bow down to their sacred sky-God and help make America a Christian nation. It does appear to some that a formerly positive fabric of student-teacher-administrator-parent cooperation has been lost at many schools across America, courtesy of the Good News Club. Many who came to the meeting asked questions and were pleased with Stewart's presentation. Stewart indicated she wrote the book *The Good News Club* to sound an alarm that the Good News Club is bad news for those who value free thought in the land of the free. <http://www.thegoodnewsclub.com/book>



Remembering Past AOF Member Gene Sproul

By Ken Nahigian

Some may remember Gene C. Sproul, from Orangevale, active in AOF and HAGSA until about 1993. He dropped out due to declining health (spinal & bulbar muscular atrophy), but kept in touch, a lively mind with much to say. He was active on the old Sacra-Mentals/SAITA discussion list. His heartfelt issues were abortion rights, voluntary euthanasia, and slapping down the Islamofascists.

I last heard from Gene in 2007 -- a medication change was helping, he wrote, until he could walk again and even drive a car. He hoped to hear from old friends. I meant to call, but time slipped away, as it does. Now I regret that.

This obituary appeared in the *Sacramento Bee* on January 15: *Gene C. Sproul Died in his sleep on December 29, 2011 after battling a long illness. Gene retired from his Southern California law career to Orangevale in 1979. He is survived by his wife Virginia, daughter Vicki, son Greg, grandson Mat, granddaughter Kelley and 3 great grandchildren, Nathaniel, Gideon and Adelaide. He was a veteran of WWII, President of the Norwalk Democratic Club in 1955 and an avid Jazz musician.*

A loss. Those who remember Gene can send a card to his family at 8326 Fox-fire Dr, Orangevale 95662-3813.

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New Editing Team! Expect the look to change as our new AOF editors continue to develop and construct the monthly newsletter. To submit articles, news, or other content please send to newsletter@aofonline.org. All submissions welcome!

AOF meetings are open to the public at the Sierra 2 Community Center, Room 10. Next [General Meeting](#) is Sunday, Sep. 9, 2:00-5:00.

AOF [Planning Meeting](#) Sep 17 open to public, 3001 J St, upstairs, 7:00-8:30pm, 916-447-3589

Jerry Sloan's Epic 75th Birthday Bash!

Join us all for celebration of Jerry's birthday at Headhunters Restaurant, 20th and K Streets, 2:00—4:00 pm, August 18.

Headhunters: 1930 K Street
(916) 492-2922



AOF Board

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

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