

Bio of Margaret Downey

Margaret Downey founded The Freethought Society (FS) and the Anti-Discrimination Support Network (ADSN) in 1993. In 1994, Margaret founded the Thomas Paine Memorial Committee.

She has been published in three books, *Parenting Beyond Belief*, *A Better Life*, and *50 Voices of Disbelief*.

Margaret has represented the interest of the nontheist community, since 1995, at several United Nations' conferences.

She is a past board member of the American Humanist Association, The Humanist Institute, and the Thomas Paine National Historical Association. She is a current board member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Scouting For All, and Reason Rally 2016. She is also a member of the Advisory Board Member of the Robert Green Ingersoll Museum.

In 1996, Margaret created a well-loved Skeptic event entitled "The Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center" and to date has hosted parties in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and California.

In the year 2002, Margaret became the first Secular Humanist Celebrant in Pennsylvania.

Margaret created the Richard Dawkins Award in 2003. She served as president of the Atheist Alliance International for two years.

In 2007, Margaret designed the *Tree of Knowledge*. It is fast becoming a national Secular Winter Holiday symbol.

Margaret has been a guest on United States' National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* and *Radio Times*. Television appearances include features on local news stations as well as ABC's *Nightline*, PBS, and Fox News. She also appears in the fourth season of Penn and Teller's *Bullshit*.

Media Training Worldwide has endorsed Margaret to conduct media training and public relations for the nontheist community.

Two notable lawsuits have been initiated by Margaret. Prior to the Boy Scouts of America declaring itself a private organization, Margaret filed a discrimination complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission that became the case *COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, MARGARET DOWNEY-SCHOTTMILLER v. CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA* (DOCKET NO. P-3986). In 2001, Margaret represented the interests of the nontheist community in the case *Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia v. Chester County*.

Margaret Downey
P.O. Box 242
Pocopson, PA 19366

Phone:
(610) 793-2737
Cell:
(610) 357-9432

Email:
Margaret@FtSociety.org

Wesites:
www.FtSociety.org
www.Friggatriskaidekaphobia.com
www.Secular-Celebrations.com