The Freethought Society News
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The Freethought News is delivered as an ezine newsletter only and is complimentary to supporters, donors and like-minded individuals.

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A limited number of hard copies are produced for meetings and special events.

The newsletter is published by the Freethought Society (FS) and offers information written specifically for the nontheist community. Articles in this newsletter, however, do not necessarily represent the opinions of the FS Board of Directors.

Attention writers!
Interesting articles about freethought issues are welcomed.

Submissions will be reviewed and approved for publication by the FS Editorial Board. Article word count maximum is 5,000.
Please submit articles with a bio and photo, a suggested title, and relevant photos/clip art to:

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Donation and financial support information is located on the last page of this newsletter.

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What did you think of the 2012 Reason Rally?

by Margaret Downey

There is no doubt that the Saturday, March 24, 2012 Reason Rally was a success and that the event made many people very happy. Huge events carry with them many problems, unexpected difficulties and differences of opinion. What the Reason Rally Board and sponsors had in mind when the project was launched was to provide an event that would bring pride and joy to as many people as possible. The Reason Rally Board is in the process of compiling a "How To" manual that can provide future organizers with advice and guidance so that future Reason Rallies will not be as difficult and challenging to implement. With the help of my project partner, **Amy Jones Glen**, I will contribute a "Reason Rally Bus Project How-To" section for the manual. The bus effort was a completely new venture and lessons were learned. While many people were able to enjoy worry-free bus rides to and from the Reason Rally, several bus routes were cancelled. In order to save other bus routes, emergency grants were solicited and we have **Todd Stiefel** and **Steve Rade** to thank for their generous support.

Feedback from Reason Rally participants is also important for future planning efforts. Some participants have already provided opinions and suggestions. Below is what the Charlotte Atheists and Agnostics sent to each Reason Rally Sponsor (reprinted with permission):

> *The Charlotte Atheists and Agnostics (CAA) would like to thank the Freethought Society for being a sponsor for the 2012 Reason Rally on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Despite the rain and the wind, we thought it was an amazing success. We recognize that organizing the Reason Rally involved a tremendous amount of time, effort, energy, and money into making this the world's largest gathering of freethinkers in history. We wish to express our deepest appreciation.*
>
> *Of CAA's 1,200-plus membership, not all could attend, but from those who did there was almost universal positive feedback, and many regrets from those who could not. Many of our members were energized by the rally and returned with a sense of jubilation and astonishment that so many freethinkers came out to celebrate reason. It motivated many of our members to be more active in the freethought movement both locally and at large. The rally has positively impacted our group and member involvement. Again, we thank you.*
>
> *However, to fully and fairly represent all the members of our group, we would be less than honest if we failed to mention that some of our members objected to the strong language used (especially Tim Minchin's "Pope Song"). The National Mall is a public space and the event was billed as family friendly. They felt the harsh language violated an implied contract and wasn't the best representation of freethinkers. To be clear, we do not wish this one criticism to discourage your involvement and/or sponsorship of similar events in the future. We merely ask that greater care is taken in the planning of events going forward.*
>
> *We feel that being a nonbeliever is not something to be ashamed of or*

quiet about. To the contrary, we wish to be more open and vocal. We want to send a message to those who wish break down the wall that divides church and state, and to those who wish to teach pseudoscience in public classrooms. We shall not be marginalized any longer. We shall be heard, and the political forces of this country would do well to listen. We look forward to a day when science, reason, and critical thinking win out in the free marketplace of ideas. We think that these are some of the key virtues of an advanced civilization, and that it is vital to the survival of our species that they be treated as such. We also believe that the Reason Rally was a significant step towards those goals.

We realize the Reason Rally was not meant to be repeated on an annual basis, but we look forward to the next event, whenever that may be. Given the success of this year's rally, we are confident that future events would be even larger successes.

Shawn Murphy
President
Charlotte Atheists and Agnostics

An unofficial survey of Freethought Society (FS) supporters reveals very similar sentiments as highlighted in the Charlotte Atheists and Agnostics letter. While we cannot undo the things that were not liked, we can commit to doing better next time. That opportunity may not present itself soon, however. Events such as the Reason Rally are extremely costly and difficult to implement. The 2012 Reason Rally was a learning experience. I was proud to be involved and to have tried hard to make it all work out.

In preparation for any future event, the Reason Rally Board published an online survey/questionnaire. Please visit: www.reasonrally.org (link to survey) to answer questions. Online survey questions include the following:

What did you like about the Reason Rally?

What did you dislike about the Reason Rally?

How could the Reason Rally have been better?

A rating system was designed for other questions regarding location, diversity of the event, the Reason Rally message, toilet facilities, products, and entertainment. Rating categories are "very satisfied," "satisfied," "neutral," "unsatisfied" and "very unsatisfied." The Reason Rally survey site also has a designated area for commentary. Survey participants are asked:

What was your favorite part of the Reason Rally?

What was your least favorite part of the Reason Rally?

What would you like the organizers to know?

Did you visit the Sponsors' Tent? If so, was it informative and enjoyable?

Would you like to hear from any of the Reason Rally sponsors?

American Atheists
American Humanist Association
Atheist Alliance of America
Atheist Nexus
Camp Quest
Center for Inquiry
Foundation Beyond Belief
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Freethought Society
James Randi Educational Foundation
Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers
National Atheist Party
Secular Coalition for America
Secular Student Alliance
Society for Humanistic Judaism
Stiefel Freethought Foundation
The Brights
The Richard Dawkins Foundation
United Coalition of Reason
Washington Area Secular Humanists

Should people express interest in FS, we are prepared to send complimentary newsletters and supporter information.

FS vice-president **Carol Everhart Roper** has worked hard on the FS website and we are prepared to welcome visitors. Exciting future events are being planned and save-the-date information will be provided.

On September 13, 2013, FS will re-open the very popular Friday the 13th Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center at a hotel location near the Philadelphia International Airport.

There are many exciting plans being made by groups all around the country. The celebration of reason continues and FS will do its part to keep the level of energy high. After all, as stated in the "so-true" sign highlighted in the photo below:

Some Great 2012 Reason Rally Photos

(A photo collage of unknown people and signs/placards taken by unknown photographers.)

Center for Inquiry 2012 Women's Conference

By Margaret Downey

When I became active in the nontheist community, almost three decades ago, I noticed a predominance of males. Conferences were attended mostly by older folks who had waited for retirement to "come out" as nontheists. The subjects of a lack of women involved within the movement and the realization that most nontheists were of retirement age became conversation topics at conferences. The issue was considered a problem, and I was often involved in brain-storming sessions to come up with a solution.

Creating a safe social environment for nontheists was one approach, but it was a daunting task 30 years ago. Most of us were convinced that there could be more social acceptability if we just increased our numbers. It was also thought that if more celebrities would disclose their own lack of religious beliefs, nontheism could gain acceptability.

We often talked about supporting the Center for Inquiry (CFI) "National Coming Out Day" and helping to organize student groups at high schools and colleges. While all those efforts eventually came to fruition and have evolved into very successful campaigns, the major advancement for increasing the visibility of nontheists arrived in the form of book publications. When books written by **Richard Dawkins**, **Sam Harris**, **Daniel Dennett** and **Christopher Hitchens** landed on the best seller lists, many things changed for the better.

Suddenly, it became fashionable to declare oneself as a nontheist (in a wide variety of labels such as humanist, freethinker, atheist, agnostic, skeptic, rationalist, naturalist, secularist, Bright, etc.). The Richard Dawkins Foundation's "Out Campaign" took off thanks to the Internet and large investments of time and money. More and more people started wearing the red letter "A" on clothing. I have witnessed a wonderful turn of events over the last 30 years, indeed. Even with all the positive and observable advancements of nontheism, the same question continues to mystify us — where are all the women?

Church pews are filled with women and it is a mystery to me how the Bible can be held as a holy text by females. The Bible decrees in the New Testament that "women learn in silence with all subjection." Timothy *2:11-14* goes on to state, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in transgression."

Brave women who have dared to speak about bigotry, civil rights, equality and self-respect have historically been deemed unfit to live. Exodus *22:18* "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" is directly responsible for the deaths of millions of women.

It is in spite of Bible teachings that medical advancements have been made in regards to childbirth. The Bible states that women must suffer in childbirth. Genesis *3:16* declares: "To the woman He [the so-called 'God' of man] said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

How could any self-respecting woman agree with even one of the above-mentioned examples of religious doctrine? The theory is that most women ignore the dictates and cling to the emotional ties that are created through a church community. There appears to be more of an emotional bond to religion rather than a thoughtful educated analysis of its mandates. The emotional connection is not limited to women, however. Many men cling to the emotional connection as well.

Important questions are: How can women be educated about the harms of biblical dictates? What can the nontheist community do to replace the community connection? My presentation at the Women in Secularism conference, held May 18-20, 2012, addressed the latter question.

I was honored to be the last speaker of the conference. My subject, "Celebrating a Secular Life," was often a topic for panelists and audience members throughout the weekend. I realized on Saturday night that my job would be to tie together what I heard into a nice package and advocate for the adoption of more and more secular events and celebrations.

Late Saturday night, I changed my planned PowerPoint slide show and rewrote the speech to make sure that the subject was presented according to what the audience had contributed throughout the weekend. The extra work was worth it. Many people agreed with me that nontheists must provide secular weddings, baby naming ceremonies, recognition of life passages, and funerals. My premise that this type of activity could draw more women to the community was very well accepted by the audience. I received more secular holiday ideas and the experience has reinvigorated me to continue advocating secular celebrations.

I brought **Linda LaScola** to the stage. She was able to answer questions regarding the Clergy Project. I recently added a former pastor to my business *Secular Celebrations*. I plan to provide former clergy (who have denounced their religious beliefs) a place to continue their careers in conducting needed life celebrations.

Reba Boyd Wooden also joined me on stage to talk about a recent CFI lawsuit in Indiana that demands equality for Secular Officiants. CFI offers a wonderful training program, yet many states do not recognize the certified graduates. CFI Secular Officiants are denied rights given to representatives of religious organizations. Wooden is the lead plaintiff.

The very first secular humanist conference dedicated to women was a huge success thanks to the support of CFI and all the passionate and devoted volunteers, speakers and participants (especially **Melody Hensley**). I hope this is the first of many conferences dedicated to increasing the number of women involved in the secular movement. ●

Photos From the 2012 Women's Conference

Pictured above (left to right) are **Jamila Bey** (journalist and radio personality), **Jennifer McCreight** (blogger), **Greta Christina** (blogger and activist) and **Susan Jacoby** (author). Photos on this page courtesy of **Brian Engler**.

Annie Laurie Gaylor (Co-President at Freedom From Religion Foundation) and **Sikivu Hutchinson** (activist and author).

Pictured above (left to right) are **Margaret Downey** (President of the Freethought Society) and **Reba Boyd Wooden** (Executive Director at CFI Indiana).

Pictured right are **Wafa Sultan** (physician and author) and in the far right photo is **Lauren Becker** (co-host of the Women's Conference and Vice-President of the Center For Inquiry's Outreach Department).

Freethought Society's Sister Group in Haiti (New Name, New Projects and New Members)

by Billy Almoza

The Freethinkers of Haiti are now recognized by the Haiti government as an educational organization, but the original name of the group was found to be unacceptable by Haitian authorities. The new name of the group in English is The Youth Movement for Freethought in Haiti. The French name is Mouvement de la Jeunesse pour la Liberté de la Pensée en Haiti (MOJELIPH).

The first educational program conducted by the new group took place in the city of Alazar, located about 90 miles north of Port-au-Prince. In order to promote rationality, we conducted a class for a group of young people who live in the area. The emphasis was on science and environmental protection. MOJELIPH member **Lorcy Valcaint Dieumaitre** conducted the class at a school in the West Department/ region. The class was attended by many youths. I assisted Dieumaitre with the solar box cooker presentation and we demonstrated the many ways in which solar box cookers could be used.

"Solar box cookers," we said, "are one of the most important tools we have to fight against deforestation in Haiti."

It is very important to raise awareness about the environmental protection issues in Haiti. We realize that we must unite with young people in the environmental protection cause. It is a struggle to reach theses youths, however.

In Alazar we also took the opportunity to talk about peace, tolerance, acceptance and understanding of all beliefs (and non-God belief systems). We encouraged the students and the residents we met to develop their minds to view the world in a rational way — without superstitions and dogma.

Dieumaitre told the audience, "This is not just about me. This is not just about you. Deforestation is a struggle for all of humanity. We must stop deforestation. It is our duty to repair the environment that has been destroyed and prevent more damage from occurring."

The fact is that many species are endangered because of humans. Mountain deforestation has been the cause of many other disasters, especially during the rainy seasons. In all of Haiti, there is less than 2% of forest cover on the ground. The 2004 catastrophe in Gonaives claimed the lives of over 3,000 people. Hurricane Jeanne hit Gonaives hard and the resulting floods could not be stopped due to a lack of plant life. Even six years later, the region is still affected by flooding, which causes property and agricultural damage.

The need to use wood for cooking causes even small trees to be cut down. The land is eroded away due to a lack of vegetation, and soil is carried into the sea with each rainfall. Rain water has no canal or drainage ditch to follow, consequently the water seeps into houses. The wayward water flow causes enormous damage to property and is a health hazard for people.

Other areas of Haiti have deforestation to blame for drought. Trees normally extract ground water through their roots and that moisture is released into the atmosphere. The few remaining trees no longer evaporate enough water, resulting in a much drier climate. Deforestation reduces soil cohesion so that erosion, flooding and landslides occur.

The use of solar box cookers can help Haiti find a solution to problems related to deforestation. One can also use solar box cookers — in addition to preparing food — to purify water. Purified water will prevent cholera, which has been killing many people in Haiti.

MOJELIPH thanks the Freethought Society for sending the eight solar box samples that we use for our presentations. We will continue our educational pursuits near and far.

Pictured below are the newest members of MOJELIPH. We are very proud to welcome young members to our group and to be formally recognized by the government of Haiti. ☼

Pictured left to right are **Marie Carmelle Joseph**, **Joanne Jn-Baptiste**, **Marie Serge Jean Jacques**, **Claudine Almoza,** and **Rose Michelle Pierre**. Joseph is a longtime member of the group and serves as a mentor. The other young women have recently joined the efforts of The Youth Movement for Freethought in Haiti which is also known as Mouvement de la Jeunesse pour la Liberté de la Pensée en Haiti (MOJELIPH).

Photos of the Haiti Solar Box Cooker Project

Pictured left is **Billy Almoza**, President of the Youth Movement for Freethought in Haiti (AKA Mouvement de la Jeunesse pour la Liberté de la Pensée en Haiti), visiting a local woman to demonstrate how to use a solar box cooker.

In the right photo, **Lorcy Valcaint Dieumaitre** (standing) is teaching young people in Alazar, Haiti about rational thinking and environmentalism. The students listened intensely as Dieumaitre delivers facts — not fiction.

The photos above and right were taken during the Youth Movement for Freethought in Haiti's visit to the Artibonite Department/region in Haiti.

Residents enjoyed learning about solar box cooking and progress was made to enlighten them about the advantage of using solar energy to purify water as well as to cook food. The cookers were provided by Freethought Society supporters. Financial donations earmarked for this ongoing project would be appreciated. All donations are tax-deductable and will be sent directly to Haiti for use in educational programming.

Reflections of a "Polyg Kid"

by Terry Block

"So I hear you guys are polyg kids," Paul says as he sits down. I'd never heard it abbreviated, and it sounds almost funny. "Pole-Igg-Kids."

Paul is a work acquaintance of my brother and has a particular last name. We live in a large city, but there are two last names that, for those in the know, indicate a possible link to the two large polygamous families who populated much of the rural areas north of us. These families practice a form of fundamentalist Mormonism that still condones multiple wives ("spiritual wives" if not legal ones). Paul has one of the last names. I have the other.

"'A polyg kid.' Hmm. I've never thought of myself that way, really," I said.

We are enjoying after-dinner coffee with some family and friends at my brother's new house, and my mother overhears the conversation starting. She makes a face as she leaves the room — it is not a pleasant topic for her, and she doesn't want anyone knowing her business. It is for her benefit that I am writing this under a false name and not specifying where we live. But Paul seems to know some of our history already.

"I'm a polyg kid too. Did you grow up with multiple moms? The whole sister-wife thing?" he asks.

"No," I answer. Though I am trying to be polite, the tone of my 'no' sounded like how I might answer someone if they asked whether I had bleeding hemorrhoids.

Paul asked, "Ah, then I'm guessing your dad took a lot of 'business trips' when you were growing up, right?"

"Well, yes, he sure did," I smile. My initial surprise wore off quickly. Paul knew what he was talking about.

"And you guys have how many siblings?" he asks.

"Four full ones. Counting half-siblings it's thirty-four, possibly thirty-five. I've heard different numbers," I answer honestly.

Paul looked impressed.

"Dad was a charismatic guy," my brother adds.

"Yeah, you're polyg kids." Paul chuckles.

I am usually not so open about how many siblings I have, especially not with someone I've just met. But circumstances are unique. My brother knows this fellow and has obviously told him some things. There is a queer sort of instant camaraderie between the three of us, like members of a rare subset who have managed to find each other in the wild. We had given the "secret handshake," so to speak. There was no reason for any of us to disavow the facts.

It turns out that Paul grew up in a "compound" of sorts — not like the enormous fortresses one sees on news reports from time to time, but rather a few mobile homes parked near one another and sharing a common yard. He came from a relatively small Mormon family, only eight kids altogether.

The location sounded remarkably similar to a place I remembered visiting. I had foggy pictures in my head of a run-down group of trailers with a fenced area that housed a few goats and a concrete slab that served as a very tiny, cracked basketball court. I barely remembered the older kids I played with there — kids I only found out years later were my half-siblings.

Our exposure to that kind of compound life was brief and confusing, as was my parents' marriage. Paul, on the other hand, had grown up in the thick of a situation like that. He didn't just visit the compound, he lived there. He said one of his father's wives eventually had a nervous breakdown, and the other two (including his mother) left soon after. No one had been happy. I listened, rapt, to Paul's tale of how stressful such a family situation can be for all members involved.

So I suppose I was at a (relative) advantage in my upbringing. I was not raised to think such an arrangement was normal, nor was I surrounded by it 24/7. And when my father did talk of his fundamentalist Mormon views, they stood out as utter bullshit to me even as a young child. I recall how he lectured us on the rare moments we spent time with him. He told me dinosaurs never existed; those bones had been placed in the ground by Satan, to "fool people."

I remember realizing, at age 7 or 8, "Holy cow, I know more than my dad." Egotistical thought for a kid, yes, but I LOVED dinosaurs.

I would pore through a bunch of dinosaur books at my school library. And I realized right there that I knew more about them, and could speak with more authority on dinosaurs , than the old man driving the car. Of course, I also knew the old man driving the car had a belt and used it often. Part of being a good skeptic is realizing when it's not beneficial to argue your point.

The four of us came late in my father's life, and my mother either wasn't aware of his vast array of other progeny or she only learned about it in bits and pieces. Either way, she kicked him out once she discovered his old habits weren't over with. I've since discovered there are a couple of half-siblings exactly the age of me and my brother, so my father definitely hadn't "turned monogamous" even for that brief span of years he was with her. The almighty commanded him to go forth and multiply, and multiply he did. His belief system enabled his predatory side to flourish, a story all too common in religious sects.

I've heard many ex-Catholics and ex-Jews complain that their religion burdens people with unnecessary guilt, but my biggest complaint against this brand of Mormonism is that it removes guilt — guilt that should, by rights, be present in any man who fathers a huge number of children he cannot support financially, emotionally, or otherwise. Such guilt was apparently removed from our father's psyche, replaced with a

heavenly mandate and an absolute certainty that some apocalypse was surely around the corner. He was never too involved as a parent, but in my early childhood he got me comfortable with riding horses and signed me and my brothers up for archery lessons at a local recreational center. We would need to be familiar with a bow and arrow, he told us, if we were going to survive the End Times, when civilization would stop evolving and return to a primitive state. We nodded our little heads and all had the same thought: "Blah, blah, blah, hellfire, blah. Wait — we get archery lessons? COOL!"

My mother was raised Catholic, which my father brought up on occasion in order to assert that she would be purged in fire as the Earth burned and we might burn with her if we weren't careful. I remember asking once, "If Catholics are so bad, why did you marry one?" He was quiet for a while then changed the subject. Perhaps it was her temperament, or perhaps it was her experiences with my father, but mom grew out of any sort of religion pretty quickly. She dressed us kids up and hauled us to a few Catholic masses when my grandmother visited. The masses were somber and pretty and had plenty of candles and stained glass and incense, but we saw it as a different flavor of the same bullshit.

Not that my mother ever called it bullshit, not outright. While she had (and still has) definite, outspoken opinions on many things, she always answered her children's religious questions with a variation of "I don't know, what do you think?" She would also say, "Why do you think that?" My mother answered me this way when I asked if Santa was real, and she answered the same way when I asked if God was real. I had a harder time letting go of Santa and the Easter Bunny, really, as each year there was real, tangible evidence that they had visited our home.

The idea of God seemed way more far-fetched than those two characters. With that simple act of asking me what I thought and why, my mother shut down a whole world of authority figures and opened up the gates to real, honest inquiry. Not surprisingly, all of us became atheists pretty early. I went on to study about religions, and always asked questions, but we all grew into people who never took "because I said so" as a rationale for anything.

I asked my father questions, too, as I got a little older. We didn't see him much, but there were times. And, during one of those times, I asked him how many children he had, exactly. He puffed up and rattled off a list of names — it took him a while, and his memory wasn't perfect. But he clearly took pride in how many there were, like children were a high score on some video game. He was proud, and I was mortified.

With each new name, the 13-year-old me wilted a bit more, embarrassed to be connected to such a long and sordid tale of fecundity. Though I had vague memories of visits when I was four or five, I hadn't really met these siblings, so they didn't have any personal meaning to me. I just knew that my father's sexual history somehow meant we were "different" from other kids. And different is the last thing a 13-year-old girl wants to be. I never told anyone how many half-siblings I had. I didn't remember the names, and as time went on we had less and less to do with my father. His rambling Mormon rhetoric still bubbled up whenever he was around. We heard about why blacks were inferior, why women should ***never*** be educated, and why he was special because he could trace his lineage to Joseph Smith.

But my father's voice became even less influential, if that was possible, as he entered the ranks of "deadbeat dad." Who are kids likely to trust more? The skeptic ex-Catholic parent who works a ton of odd jobs and makes sure they are fed, educated, and have a place to live even if it's low-income housing — or the guy who drops by every now and then, only to insult the hard-working parent and tell the kids that they will soon burn in a cleansing fire when Earth is scorched by a vengeful God? The critical thinking skills our mother had vaccinated us with at an early age prevented us from ever truly fearing his prophesies. Dad talked his crazy talk, we shrugged, tried our best to extract some grocery money out of him, and that was that.

Though the fiery apocalypse my father warned of still hasn't happened, some of those half siblings have popped up. My mother and I ran into a woman at a restaurant who turned out to be a half-sister.

One day I got an email saying "I'm your long lost brother, we share a father, and I'm guessing this isn't the first time you've heard that?"

A gentleman in his 40s who was browsing at a computer store looked at my brother's name badge and said, "Young man, is so-and-so your father?"

My brother said yes, and the fellow laughed and said, "Guess what, kiddo, he's my dad too! Any family discount?"

Another day a phone call came over my business line, from a man almost thirty years my senior, saying he was the oldest of the very first litter. These encounters were always friendly, if awkward. I learned dribs and drabs from these moments of contact. All of my father's children grew to resent him, and most thought he was mentally unbalanced at best, criminally pathological at worst. While I remember him as being quick to pull out the belt, I found out he had abused some of these earlier kids quite brutally. None of them had any sort of parent-child relationship with the man now. Some had moved far away, others stayed in the metropolitan area and had families of their own.

I found out from a half-brother that a cousin of mine had worked at my store the previous year. She hadn't been a great employee, however, and had disappeared without either of us ever realizing we were kin. My other brother discovered that one of his interns was in fact his nephew, and they had a good laugh (especially as the nephew shared that he, his mother, and all her full siblings ended up atheists too).

If these moments — so many of them — seem like wild coincidences, think again. Chances of running into a relative rise exponentially when you consider that my father had a slew of brothers who also practiced polygamy and had healthy sperm counts. Most of the people leaving the rural areas and that particular lifestyle settle in this city. You can imagine the pitfalls of having that many people who share your chromosomes. All of us were extra careful to discreetly

vet anyone we dated, asking just the right small-talk questions to make sure we could verify lineage beforehand. In fact, my husband bears a slight physical resemblance to my brothers — so when I first introduced him around as my new boyfriend, all three of my siblings pulled me aside, separately, and implored me with some variation of "You are absolutely sure we aren't related to this guy, right?" And yes, I'd done my homework first, of course.

None of us kept in touch with our father, and so little moments of connection like these were seeming more and more like an anthropological dig, where we learned bits and pieces of a bygone era — a twisted, superstition-filled era that is hopefully dying off as young members of the community reject the dogma under which they are indoctrinated. And now, as I sit drinking coffee with Paul, this work acquaintance of my brother's, this fellow polyg kid, I am learning more.

As we go through names, I find out Paul's elder half-brother had married one of my elder half-sisters. I'd never met her, but Paul says she's very nice and looks like an older version of me. He asks if I want to meet her, and takes out his phone to look through his numbers. I wave him off, saying it's all right. I feel no need to connect, and I don't wish to complicate her life either. He says both she and her husband renounced polygamy and the "old ways of the church" long ago. None of the children in Paul's immediate family had followed their parents' footsteps either. This gives me hope.

Perhaps in this modern day and age, it just isn't as easy to brainwash children into a backward way of life dictated by religious authoritarianism.

"I'm glad to hear none of your siblings have continued in that lifestyle," I say to Paul. "Lifestyle isn't the word I want. Cult is the word. It's really a cult."

"It is a damn cult, absolutely," Paul states as he nods his head in agreement.

Paul continues, "We saw through it pretty quickly as adults. It was just so plainly wrong. I can't see how anyone would fall for some of that ridiculous garbage. Besides, I've found so much peace with my new way of thinking."

Paul smiles at me with bright, wide eyes and says, in all seriousness, "My wife and I are scientologists now."

To my credit, I managed to keep the coffee from coming out of my nose.

The above cartoon is printed with permission from artist **Dan Piraro**. Become a fan by logging on to the following:

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Secular Celebrations

Secular Ceremonies for the 21st Century

Secular Celebrant **Mike Aus** is available to design and provide secular ceremonies to honor, celebrate and recognize life's passages, such as unions, marriages, births, coming of age, death, divorce, and many others.

Discounts are available to supporters of the Freethought Society.

Contact Information

Secular Celebrations
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Houston, Texas 77269

Phone:
(832) 493-2174

Email:
ausmike@rocketmail.com

Secular-Celebrations.com

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Sigmund A. Dybalski	$300
Larry Hothem	$125
Stuart Jordan	$50
Robert E. Kay, MD	$100
George C. Marks	$50
Marshall Martin	$45
Susan O'Connell	$50
Bill Paci	$40
Brian and Kristine Parkes	$35
Stephen Rade	$2,500
Susan Rade	$2,500
Katy Roussos	$20
Malcolm and Leone Schoenberg	$100
Barbara Ziv	$100

Enjoying FS's St. Croix Cottage on the Beach

by Michael DeLaurentis

St. Croix is one of the three American Virgin Islands (St. John and St. Thomas being the other two). It would never have occurred to us to vacation there had it not been for the opportunity presented to us by the Freethought Society's (FS) donated timeshare. **Margaret Downey** asked if I knew anyone who might be interested, and after scoping out the island offerings, my wife and I decided we would take it ourselves. What a good decision that turned out to be! We had possibly our best vacation ever in St. Croix!

Frankly, that is not what I expected or would have predicted even as we were driving from the airport to the timeshare in our rented compact car. First impressions can be quite wrong.

My past island experience has been that there is a limited posh area buoyed by the tourist trade, possibly one reasonably modern urban area. Often gambling opportunities are offered to visitors. Not so in St. Croix. Christiansted, located on the eastern end of the island, is the main city. The city of Frederiksted is located further west near the "rain forest." Outside those two areas and several resort places, the island is largely raw and undeveloped. Even Christiansted, outside the compact merchant and restaurant part, is stunningly poor and undeveloped.

Yet, almost immediately, we discovered a vibrant, friendly, surprisingly American atmosphere. That ambiance made it easy and comfortable for us to visit new places. It was a hospitable place in which we could make small and large talk. We enjoyed unexpectedly good meals and absolutely great wines by the glass. It still amazes me that even the self-proclaimed haute wine bars of my hometown of Philadelphia would find competition from the wines we enjoyed drinking at multiple unpretentious restaurants in St. Croix.

Our week at the timeshare was March 17-24, 2012. The weather forecasts year-round for St. Croix are remarkably predictable and boring: low to mid 80s, mostly sunny, chance of a brief spritz or two from an occasional unfriendly passing cloud. March has the lowest rainfall of any month on the island. But I checked the prospects for our week anyway: thunderstorms all day, every day! Every other week hewed close to the pattern forecast: sun with a chance of even more, high the same as yesterday, low nearly the same as the high. I thought this was a really bad cosmic joke being played on us. I was banking on a really interesting Christiansted and reliable umbrellas.

Our flight from Philadelphia to Christiansted by way of San Juan, Puerto Rico, got us to the island at around 6:00 pm. It was a pleasant day and maybe a bit overcast. We found our way to the timeshare at Chenay Bay as I quickly mastered driving on the left side of the road with an American-style automobile. We looked over the resort quickly, and rushed out to dinner fearing that everything might be shut down. Turns out, things do stay open late on the island.

Duggan's Reef was the closest real restaurant. It had received good reviews when I did my pre-trip restaurant search. The locals gave Duggan's Reef a strong thumbs-up. Good and fun, it was! We met the owner, Duggy, who had set up shop 30-some years earlier and never turned back. We asked why the pennants of our alma matres, Amherst and Mt. Holyoke, were not among the dozens lining the open-air, informal setting. There was an acceptable explanation that included the fact that Duggy himself was an undergrad at UMass Amherst. We instantly loved the place. It had a bustling and friendly atmosphere. They serve cold beer and gourmet yet homey food without any pretense. We definitely wanted to return, possibly for the touted brunch, before our time was up. Sadly, we never did get back to Duggan's Reef, but for good reason. There were just so many other restaurants to enjoy that we simply did not have enough time to visit the same ones over again. Difficult choices had to be made — none painful.

In the next three days we got so much sun we had to hide. We heard from the locals the week we were there was probably was the worst weather week of the month, if not year.

Below are some brief observations of St. Croix:

Travel:

I arranged our flights online. There was a bit of difficulty getting the humans at the airlines to confirm that the flights I found online really existed. Eventually it all worked out. We departed from the Philadelphia International Airport at about 11:00 AM on a Saturday, flew direct to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Readers of this article should note that the airports in Miami, Florida had the most often-scheduled connections to St. Croix. Charlotte, North Carolina has the second most, but San Juan, Puerto Rico is most efficient to get to St. Croix.

A small craft on Cape Airlines will take you to the city of Christiansted. Cape Airlines reservations had disclaimers that gave us serious pause as to whether the booked flights would in fact fly. I called and was assured they would. There was no problem with the flight to St. Croix, but on the way back torrential weather skewed the Cape Airlines schedule. Personnel problems mixed with weather difficulties caused a schedule delay and we barely made our flight back from San Juan. We departed and arrived to and from exactly on time, however. I still can't believe it! In fact, the flights down to St. Croix went as smoothly as any I've had. On the return Cape Airline flight, I was able to sit in the cockpit — right next to the pilot! It was the only available seat! I considered it a small bonus thrill.

Restaurants:

The island food available to us was a very pleasant surprise. I did not expect a wealth of fine food offerings in a still-largely -undeveloped island.

Every dinner we had was at least very good, and there were promising restaurants we didn't even have a chance to sample. In addition to the relaxed, open-air, fun environment at Duggan's Reef, we sampled the old-line, traditional haute Kendrick's; an upstart with an Asian flair, Galangal; quick American-style lunch at Nate's on the water; the very charming Savant; Tutto Bene, obviously Italian; and the Terrace at the elegant Buccaneer Resort. Each restaurant had, at the very least, very good wines by the glass, which surprised me even more than the fine food. Dress everywhere is casual. I don't recall seeing anyone wearing a tie, ever!

Sights and Outings:

St. Croix has been ruled under six flags in its storied history: Spain, the Netherlands, France, England, Denmark, and finally the United States. St. Croix was purchased by the United States for $25 million to serve as a naval base during the First World War. The base is still there to visit, along with a scale house, customs house, Government House, the Lutheran Church, Steeple Building, and many other historic buildings. All of this is within easy walking distance of each other in downtown Christiansted. For a slight change of scenery, you can head over to the boardwalk on the water, watch the tour boats leave and the fishing boats come in. For me, watching large fish hung and cleaned is quite an eye-opener. I ordered meat that night for my dinner.

We visited the rain forest on the west end of the island, which is not quite like what I'd imagine you'd see along the Amazon. The rain forest is very, very different from the east end of the island, which is generally more developed. We got caught in a series of torrential downpours on one trip to the west end, even though the weather forecast only warned of a passing spritz or two.

Rum was the source of revenue for the island for both free and enslaved people alike. The Whim Estate on the west end was an afternoon visit and well worthwhile.

At the other extreme of the island is the gorgeous Point Udall, a bit of Marin County replicated, only with mesmerizing shades of blue, turquoise, green, and aquamarine water. We have never seen colors like this even at this most easterly point of the United States. Hidden isolated beaches can be found at the end of long, winding trails which make for an invigorating hike up and down hillsides. The trails can be easily traveled upon even by urban dwellers such as us. We saw gorgeous, white-sand beaches with names I can't remember and shared our time there by only a few or no other humanoids at all. We stopped at a Northside Resort, and enjoyed some time on their private beach. These meandering day trips alone made the trip worthwhile.

We did try something new… for us city folk: snorkeling. We purchased space on a charter boat that took us to an even more gorgeous beach on Buck Island. The water hues were enthralling. We took the literal plunge, adapted to the snorkeling gear and enjoyed the scene with only the occasional gulps of water. There we saw amazing reefs, barracuda, beautiful rainbow fish, and an array of sea creatures.

There was some down time on the beach for food, rest, sun, and nature intoxication before we enjoyed the boat ride back with Captain Heinz, a 30-year veteran. We made instant acquaintances and had easy conversation on the boat, meaningful enough to evoke email trading. This day of snorkeling at Buck Island was fabulous.

During our trip we purchased art as a souvenir. Reminders of the gorgeous setting are captured in colorful renderings.

Chenay Bay:

Chenay Bay is not the most luxurious resort on the island, and the timeshare is not a luxury condo — and we did not expect them to be. Both are adequate, have their own low-key charm, and offer a very affordable way to get introduced to this island gem. The FS unit (Number 6) sits right next to the pool, which has obvious advantages and potential disadvantages. We expected early morning noise, but that never occurred. We enjoyed sipping coffee poolside before heading to the beach, which is only a few yards further. What a great place to catch early morning sun and catch up on some reading. There we planned our daily afternoon jaunts around the island.

Everyone in St. Croix was so friendly, and the number of mainland transplants is amazing. Relatives of friends from home had us over for drinks at their gorgeous home in the Buccaneer Resort. They told of their initially temporary visits that led to their moving to the island permanently. We wondered out loud what they did for "culture." We were told that they enjoyed socializing and volunteer activities.

We didn't know what to expect from St. Croix, about which we knew nothing. We have visited Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, the Antilles, and Hawaii. Much as we enjoyed most of those sojourns, St. Croix comes out on top. It is a friendly, charming, lovable, gorgeous bit of earth that welcomes its many visitors without ruining its native allure. I hope we get to return — and I am immensely gratified that we enjoyed this memorable experience while benefiting FS. All supporters of FS should consider using the cottage in St. Croix. Below is a photo of one of the beautiful sunsets we saw during our trip. ●

The Anti-Discrimination Support Network is 17 Years Strong

Adapted from a *Freethought Examiner* article by Carol Everhart Roper

In 1995, the United Nations (UN) Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief asked Freethought Society (FS) President **Margaret Downey** to submit information to them regarding discrimination against nontheists by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Thus began a 17-year quest to fight discrimination by recording the details of specific instances when BSA actively discriminated against a youth or an adult due to his or her lack of religious beliefs. The project quickly grew to include all forms of discrimination suffered by those within the nontheist community. The project is entitled the Anti-Discrimination Support Network (ADSN).

Downey recently spoke at the 2012 Rock Beyond Belief event at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Her speech covered BSA's long history of discrimination, and suggested actions that could be taken to change their policies. If no changes in membership policies happen, BSA should abide by their now "private" status, in particularly being exempt from using taxpayer dollars to support their programs. The Fort Bragg event inspired numerous soldiers to publicly renounce BSA and withdraw their support and membership.

Unfortunately, discrimination by BSA continues in full force, against nontheists, gays, and even the disabled. There is a petition circulating on the Internet detailing the case of a mother who was recently removed as volunteer only because she is a lesbian. This action was taken despite the fact that her work with BSA had been highly praised by the young scouts as well as their parents. Learn more about **Jennifer Tyrell**'s story, and support her efforts to be reinstated by signing the petition at:

http://www.change.org/petitions/boy-scouts-of-america-reinstate-cub-scout-leader-who-was-removed-for-being-gay/

Downey's work was welcomed by the UN and they continued to request her assistance in documenting "All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief." The UN issued a Declaration of the same name in 1981. Downey was given the title of "Expert" after attending UN Freedom of Religion and Belief conferences in London, England and later in Madrid, Spain. Downey also spoke about discrimination against the nontheist community at the UN in New York on the invitation of the Special Rapporteur from the UN Freedom of Religion or Belief Committee.

There are numerous studies about the attitudes and views of Americans towards minorities. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life has determined that 66% of Americans view nontheists unfavorably – double the number who profess hatred of Muslims. In 2010 the Pew Research Center reported that fully 43% of Americans do not want a family member to marry a nontheist!

To further continue her research and to make reporting discrimination easier, Downey developed the "Discrimination Narrative Collection Form." Reports started coming in and the Freethought Society (FS), founded by Downey in 1993, continues to maintain a confidential database.

Many are willing to "tell" their stories, but some have resisted. Discrimination has a wide and intimidating reach. Many nontheists are afraid that if they report their incidents, they would become seen as "whistleblowers" and bring to themselves and their families even more harassment. This is why ADSN files are completely confidential; no one has access to the names and contact information other than Downey and the committee chair.

Working from her West Chester, Pennsylvania office, Downey will always obtain permission to share contact information with researchers and the media. Slowly, in spite of the widespread reluctance to speak out, Downey compiled her database. The database in comprised of hundreds of reports as of 2012.

ADSN case summaries are available to the general public. No names or identifying information are used in case summaries. It can take years to establish trust with victims of discrimination and ADSN has worked tirelessly to maintain a safe and secure environment for those willing to disclose their experiences.

ADSN will only accept first-hand reports, and the simple, easy-to-use narrative report form is available by request or through the FS website. See:

http://www.ftsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/ADSN-Narrative-Form-2010.pdf

Once a report is filed, Downey follows up with personal outreach. She sends an acknowledgment card and extends further assistance to the victim of prejudice by asking if they need further help. ADSN offers to help connect a victim to a counselor. ADSN will also help locate legal guidance to further pursue the complaint, if need be. Depending on the complaint, ADSN may offer to write letters in pursuit of justice for victims of discrimination. With permission, people with similar circumstances are connected to one another. The name of the effort says it all: "Anti-Discrimination Support Net-work."

A compilation of reported incidents can be viewed and downloaded at this link:

http://www.ftsociety.org/menu/anti-discrimination-support-network/adsn-report/

An ADSN "Media Watch Form" makes it easy to report incidents of discrimination against nontheists published or broadcasted by the media. Much more information can be found at the FS website:

http://www.ftsociety.org/menu/anti-discrimination-support-network/

FS is looking for additional volunteers. Parts of the United States need to be covered by ADSN representatives who would collect, catalog and track down case information. Volunteer and donation information is also available at the FS website link mentioned above. ●

The Life of Joe Fox

by Margaret Downey

On Friday, June 16, 2012, my friend and longtime associate, **Joe Fox**, took his own life. Joe was loved by many and his self-directed end of life remains unexplained. While those whose lives he touched grieve, the question of "Why?" dominates our thoughts. Some things in our natural world are just too complicated and scientific answers elude us. The mind is a natural world in of itself.

I recommend the following link to those who might need assistance with life's difficulties:

http://www.suicidology.org/home

The above link can also help those who need assistance with coming to grips with the effects of suicide. For those who want to talk, I recommend 1-800-273-8255.

Let's remember the great accomplishments Joe had as a leader, father, husband, worker and fellow human being. Our mutual friend **Harley Brown** describes Joe as "gregarious and passionate."

Gary Brill and Joe co-created the Humanist winter holiday HumanLight. Joe and Gary wanted Humanists to have a special time set aside to celebrate the light that humans bring into each other's lives.

Joe was born in the Bronx, New York on February 19, 1959. His parents were Irish immigrants. Joe and I shared a similar family lineage and I proudly delivered a lapel pin to him from a trip I took to Ireland. I placed the pin on Joe's suit at an American Humanist Association (AHA) conference and told him that the Fox "Coat of Arms" looked great on him. Joe was so proud of his Irish roots.

Because Joe was such a good leader, some thought that Humanism was his job! Actually, he was an operating engineer, controlling heavy equipment on construction sites.

Joe had many friends at work and through AHA. **Patrick Colucci** met Joe through AHA and became such a good friend that he was a regular guest at Joe's house for Thanksgiving. **Martha Knox** recently conveyed a story about a time when she was suffering from bad migraines. On one such occasion, she heard a knock on her door and there stood Joe. He had traveled miles out of his way just to bring her a meal from a luncheon that she was too ill to attend.

Steve Rade has many fond memories of Joe and sent the following in tribute to Joe:

It's hard for me to express how saddened I was to hear the news about Joe Fox. For me Joe represented the best traits of a Humanist. He was rock steady, consistent and dependable. I marveled at the way he could keep going week after week leading humanist meetings, and always in the most positive way.

It was Joe that got me involved in the secular movement 4 years ago. I was at a point in my life where I wanted to learn new things, meet new people, and share my thoughts with other truth seekers.

I called the national office of the AHA and was given Joe's phone number to contact. Within days of meeting Joe by phone we were having dinner and I was learning all about the secular movement both locally in Philadelphia and nationally.

When I asked Joe to give me some ideas as to how I could help grow Humanism, it was he who suggested inviting all the local leaders together for dinner. That is how the United Coalition of Reason (UnitedCoR) was born.

It was Joe who drove up and down Route 95 in Philadelphia with me looking for the best spot to put up a billboard.. It was Joe who I could bounce ideas off of to make UnitedCoR a reality.

In addition to his leading role in our movement, I marveled at his work ethic when he got up every morning to drive 2 hours to North Jersey to operate a crane. I also appreciated Joe's dedication as a father, the way he juggled family life, work and the leadership duties of our movement. Humanism has lost a great leader and I, a good friend.

One night during a conference, I took a group of people to explore New York City. Joe was with us and enjoyed seeing the place where the great Founding Father **Thomas Paine** once debated anyone interested in arguing against his positions on politics and religion.

Like me, Joe enjoyed reading Paine's *The Age of Reason*. Visiting Marie's Crisis Café in the Village was almost like a pilgrimage. It was a truly special excursion because of Joe's enthusiasm at seeing a mirrored mural and a secret wood carving of his hero (patrons must ask to see the carving and are directed to an upstairs location). Joe's philosophy was similar to that of Paine. Joe thought of the world as his country and his religion was to do good.

Joe accomplished so much in his life. He was the co-founder and president of the Lehigh Valley Humanists, past president of the Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia and past vice-president and board member of the New Jersey Humanist Network.

Joe and I always enjoyed working together and in 2006, we hosted the first ever "Unity Picnic." Another Unity Picnic will take place on Sunday, July 29, 2012. Please attend and plan to share some special memories you might have of Joe.

A notice of Joe's death can be found on-line at:

www.lifecelebration.com

The Freethought Society's (FS) 2012 Four-Month Activities Calendar

July 29

The Philadelphia Coalition of Reason (PhillyCoR) is pleased to announce plans for the 2012 picnic. This "Unity" event has become an annual tradition. Please plan to attend on **Sunday**, **July 29**, **2012** at the **Fort Washington State Park** located at **6199 West Mill Road, Flourtown, Pennsylvania 19031**. The picnic will start at **1:00 PM** and will end at **5:00 PM**.

The Flourtown Pavilion is very large and will provide ample cover in the event of rain. Please look for directional signs to the pavilion once you are inside the park.

The suggested minimum donation of **$10** per adult will help to cover the cost of beverages, hamburger fixings, hot dogs, and vegetarian alternatives for the grill. There is no charge for children. Please bring a side dish according to the following guide using the first letter of your last name:

A-G
salad or vegetable
H-P
fruit or dessert
Q-Z
bread, potato or rice dish

Please RSVP, so an estimate of food and beverages needed can be determined. Call in your reservation to the picnic organizer **Staks Rosch** at: **(610) 772-1324** or send an email to: PhillyReason@gmail.com

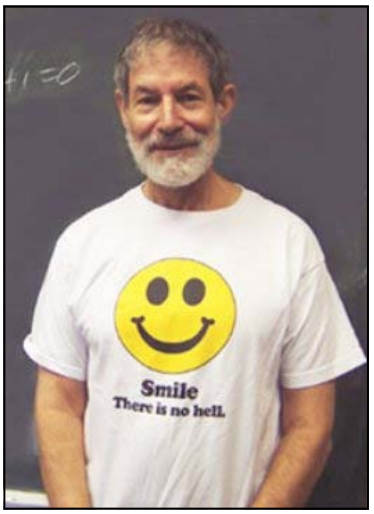
August 20

On **Monday, August 20, 2012** FS will proudly host NASA scientist **Jennifer Kalmanson**. Her **7:00 PM** presentation, "The Case for Space," will address the end of the Space Shuttle program and the uncertain future for NASA. She will address the question, "What can freethinkers do to keep space exploration alive and well?"

Kalmanson has worked in the space industry since 1998. As a Senior Principal Engineer she worked the Robotic Refueling Mission, is currently aboard the International Space Station, with operations that began earlier this year.

This presentation will be held at the **Free Library of Philadelphia** (**1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**) in the **Skyline Room** located on the second floor of the building. Use the elevator located at the right side in the back of the library foyer to enter the Skyline Room.

September 28



Professor, author and activist **Herb Silverman** will be traveling through Pennsylvania the last week in September. He will be in the Philadelphia area and surrounding area on **Friday**, **September 28, 2012**.

FS and the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia (EHSP) will co-host an event featuring Silverman as the special guest and speaker.

Silverman's presentation will begin at **7:00 PM** at the EHSP building located at **1906 South Rittenhouse Square**, **Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania 19103**. Please note the suggested donation of **$5** at the door.

Silverman's speech, "Candidate Without a Prayer," will highlight excerpts from his book of the same name. Books will be sold for $20 each and Silverman will inscribe them as time permits.

October 23

Did you miss the Saturday, March 24, 2012 Reason Rally? Don't despair. The event was captured on film. FS is pleased to show the DVD in a free and open-to-the-public event on **Tuesday**, **October 23**, **2012** at the **Norristown Public Library**. The Norristown Public Library is located at **1001 Powell Street**, **Norristown, Pennsylvania**.

This event will be in the format of "Dinner and a Movie." Please arrive at the library Community Room around **5:30 PM** with your own dinner and vote on which segments of the Reason Rally will be shown. The DVD captures an entire day of speeches, music, comedy acts and so much more. It would impossible to view the entire DVD since the library only allows the use of the room for two hours. FS will provide water, napkins, paper plates and cups. For information about public transportation to the library visit:

www.septa.org/stations/rail/norristown.html

The Freethought Society (FS) promotes freedom of thought, expression and choice. FS also advocates separation of religion and government. FS publishes a newsletter every other month, *The Freethought Society News.* The newsletter is delivered as an ezine via email only. The newsletter is complimentary to supporters, donors, like-minded individuals and those who are interested in learning more about freedom of thought.

Monthly events take place in many locations across the nation, with emphasis in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. FS activities and services depend on the financial contributions of supporters. Funds may be sent using this form or via the FS website (www.FtSociety.org). All contributions to FS are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law (EIN Number: 23-2738574). Please donate generously.

Yes! I want to:

( ) become a supporter of FS (Please enclose checks payable to the Freethought Society):
$30 Individual Supporter **$35** Family Supporter **$20** Student **$1,000** Supporter for a Lifetime

( ) become a "Freethought Star" by setting up an automatic monthly donation to FS from my bank or through PayPal in the amount of (circle one): **$5 $10 $15 $20 $25 $30 $35 $40 $45** $_____(other per month)

( ) earmark a donation to (insert project, event or committee name): _____

_____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____Cell: _____

( ) Check here if you prefer your sponsorship to remain anonymous.

FS will email a complimentary newsletter to potential supporters. Please provide contact information for anyone who might be interested in receiving an FS newsletter.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Use this same form to bid on the use of FS's St. Croix Cottage

FS's cottage in St. Croix is available for use the 11th week of each year. In 2013, the week offered will be March 16-23 (Saturday-Saturday). The yearly maintenance fee for the beachside cottage at Chenay Bay Beach Resort is $900. The lowest bid FS can accept must meet that cost.

If you are interested in placing a bid on the use of this property, please return this form to the address below or bid via email at:

St.Croix@FtSociety.org

The bid is for a one-week stay in cottage number 6 and does not include travel, rental car or food expenses. For additional information see:

www.FtSociety.org

Mail this form to:

Freethought Society, P.O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366-0242 or email a bid to: newsletter@FtSociety.org