The Historic 2017 Women’s March
by Margaret Downey

Even with the writing of the United States of America’s Constitution and Bill of Rights, women have been treated unfairly in this country. The phrase “all men are created equal” may have been the acceptable and normal language of the time, but women were keenly aware that equality was not to be theirs in the newly founded secular nation.

In 1776, women did not have equal rights in matters of property ownership, voting, working, birth control and much more. Efforts to end inequality started in the homes of those who knew that a mobilized effort was the only way to gain respect and rights. A mass movement was needed to end women being treated as second-class citizens. Such was the story behind the women’s suffrage movement. It took 72 years from the date of the Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention for women to obtain full national voting rights in 1920. Struggles for equality continued, and there are still today instances where women must take their equality battles into courts of law and the court of public opinion.

The great national Women’s March of 2017 took place on Saturday, January 21, 2017 — one day after the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States. The idea for the “Women’s March on Washington” began in the home of a retired attorney living in Hawaii (Teresa Shook). The idea quickly became a movement that spread across the country. Thanks to social media, a spontaneous groundswell of concerned women and men made plans to participate in what would turn out to be a huge show of support for women’s rights, a demand for respect, and a call for President Trump to change his rhetoric. There were 2.5 million participants around the world.

Politics has always been a factor in the fight for women’s equality. In 1917, suffragists picketed the White House. They held signs and stood at the White House gates in every type of weather condition, demanding that President Woodrow Wilson support an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee women the right to vote. Suffragist signs infuriated many men, who considered the women unpatriotic. The simple statement “Democracy Begins at Home” resulted in physical attacks upon the suffragists. It was the suffragists, not their attackers, who were repeatedly jailed for causing public disturbances.

Some people claimed that the signs being held at the 2017 Women’s March were vulgar and inappropriate. The groundswell of activism, however, brought together a variety of sentiments that needed to be expressed. All signs were welcome and “freedom of expression” ruled the day. The Women’s March was an obvious grassroots effort with men and women of all ages and ethnicities, all conveying their concerns as best they could.

Placards at the 2017 march varied from professional quality to pieces of cardboard with freehand and hastily-written messages. Some participants expressed anti-Trump sentiments. Other signs highlighted issues of concern, in particular, the Trump administration’s racism, sexism and bigotry, along with the consistent use of hate speech, as well as his attacks on blacks, women, immigrants, Latinos, Muslims, and the LGBTQ community. I also saw many signs expressing concerns such as Trump’s hidden tax records and signs that were critical of his newly-named team of billionaires, bigots, and Wall Street bankers. There was more, of course, but the space for this article is simply not enough to describe all the issues that were the focus of placards. An observer would not and could not view any of the marchers as being “nonpartisan” as a result of the messages on the placards. Participants in the Women’s March were concerned overall about what policy changes lie ahead. I was proud to exercise my right to peaceably assemble and
petition the government. It is, after all, needed to safeguard a democracy.

My husband, Tom Schottmiller, and I participated in the Women’s March that took place in Santa Ana, California at 10:00 AM — synchronizing with the time that the Washington, D.C. Women’s March took place. As I looked around at the people gathered with me on the corner of French and 4th Streets, it was obvious that the common thread bringing us all together that day was our need to have our voices heard. Whether or not it was for political reasons, I was surrounded by approximately 24,000 people who refused to remain silent.

People came from near and far, spending hard-earned money on bus, train and taxi fare. I stood with the young and the old. Some were obviously wealthy and some were poor. There were families, couples, groups of friends, lovers, and lone strangers. We chanted simple statements that conveyed our displeasure, our hopes, and our determination. Our voices rose together with chants such as “love, not hate, makes America great” and “women’s rights are human rights.”

While detractors viewed the 2017 Women’s March as disorganized and without a clear and unified message, I was overjoyed at being with passionate people who had dropped everything to participate. They picked their own issues and I was honored to be with those who did not need to be directed or instructed to have a single purpose or message. Our messages were unique to our passions and our concerns. Specific issues addressed included health care, funding for Planned Parenthood, global warming, immigration, President Trump’s financial accountability, his vile and disrespectful comments, and the list goes on and on.

Below is a photo of me with my placard. As a Skeptic, I wanted my placard to promote fact finding. I hope people will take my advice. My suffragist heroes did not have to work with modern-day spin doctors, fake news circulating on the Internet, “alternative facts,” Russian hacking and 30-second sound bites. Those things distract from the real issues. In today’s world, a suffragist would need to be a diligent fact checker above and beyond confirmation biases. Welcome to the modern-day Suffrage Movement.

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**Patti Butcheck’s Experience at the Women’s March**

I didn’t know what to expect from the Women’s March on Philadelphia. Although my friends and I had started planning months prior, it seemed so many things were working against our plans. It started with the stomach bug that was making the rounds in Philadelphia. The week prior to the event, friends and co-workers were sick or caring for sick kids. The day before the march we all watched as violence erupted in Washington, D.C. and some of us grew concerned that our march would be infiltrated by trouble-makers with the goal of tarnishing the event with violence. The night before the march I heard that the I-95 turnpike bridge connecting Pennsylvania to New Jersey was shut down due to a crack. The morning of the march, a dense fog settled over the region and created a dismal, misty day. When I arrived at the train platform, I was alone.

It didn’t seem like a promising start to an uncertain day. I began to doubt the march’s success, between the bad weather and riots, I was certain everyone decided to stay home. After a few minutes, however, the platform was crowded with women and men carrying signs, wearing pink, and sporting the classic pink pussycat knitted caps. As each new group arrived, a fresh round of introductions was made. It was quickly turning into a festive event!

Unfortunately we ran into more challenges. SEPTA failed to properly plan for this weekend event. They operated their reduced weekend schedule and shortened train cars, resulting in overcrowding. The train wasn’t going to stop at our station. It was a mix of good and bad news. The good news was that this event wasn’t going to be a sparsely attended affair. The bad news was that people, wanting to attend, would have difficulty getting into the city.

I had my truck at the train station, so I invited anyone who needed a ride to join me. We packed as many individuals into my truck that would legally fit. Together we enjoyed a drive into the city, full of introductions, friendly chatter, and eager anticipation. With a heaping dose of good fortune, I was able to find a parking spot right near Logan Circle. We arrived to see a city already packed with people. Despite the bridge closure, poor planning by SEPTA, and the terrible weather, there were tens of thousands of people gathered under the banner of women’s rights to speak out against a government that no longer represented its people but instead embraced special interests and profits. It was a sea of pink caps and clever, powerful signs. I felt a surge of camaraderie as we joined arms with strangers, who quickly became friends and allies. And, as allies, we marched.

I saw families walking with strollers and carrying toddlers. Dads had their young daughters on their shoulders. Moms walking with their mothers and their own young daughters. Entire families were present. Men were there with their girlfriends, wives and daughters. One man walked past me — seemingly by himself — carrying a sign that stated “Beards for Reproductive Rights.”

The air was charged with excitement and filled with laughter. It was a cathartic day, full of positivity and acceptance. I was so glad to have attended this event. It was a bonding experience shared with new and longtime friends.

This march was the beginning of something more. I felt
reinvigorated, energized, and determined. I knew great challenges lay ahead of us, but we were many and we were active.

Mary, one of the women who joined me in the truck, had knitted several pink caps. Dolores also made pink caps and gave me a pink cap to wear. We all had cute cat ears on our pink caps, and we each donned them with pride.

As we made our way to the Art Museum, we took a moment to capture some fun photos. We placed a pink cap on the Native American statue that we felt was symbolic of our present-day struggles. After taking our photos, we noticed other people had lined up to capture photos of the statue now wearing a pink cap. The lines of photographers never ended. Dozens of people wanted a photo. We left the cap behind for the enjoyment of others. Mary was proud that her humble, homemade cap was suddenly the focus of everyone’s admiration. Below is a photo of me in front of the statue.

The stage for the march was surrounded by happy and excited people. You would hear a song rise up from crowd, grow in volume and then fade away. Clapping with the music would be occasionally interrupted by spontaneous chants. People stopped strangers to ask for photos of them and their signs. Everywhere you turned, friends discovered friends amongst the crowds. It was amazing.

On the center stage school girls danced, and people delivered fantastic speeches. I was happy to meet Linda, the local organizer, and heard Mayor Jim Kenney address a roaring audience. It was a day with mixed poignancy, humor, seriousness, satire, and hope. An abundance of hope.

Walking in the misty rain on the familiar streets of Philadelphia, I had no awareness of the size and scope of the marches that were taking place all over the planet. This Woman’s March was epic in scale and powerful in its message. We have witnessed a groundswell of something not yet fully-formed. Our government has made activists of millions and given purpose to our future. It is time we embrace this movement and organize for a better tomorrow.

Catherine Hillery’s Experience at the Women’s March

I went to Washington, D.C. with a few friends to participate in the historical Women’s March event. I liked our sign because the sentiment conveyed a message asking for calm and encouraged people to get involved. There are many groups/organizations to join that promote calm, yet forceful actions.

Pictured below from left to right are Mary Pat Donelan (Maryland), Patricia Levay (Maryland), Arlynne Lloyd (Maryland), Deborah Lennon (Rhode Island), me (Rhode Island), and Hilary Stookey (Rhode Island).

All seven of us are retired and are active members of the off-shoot group of Bernie Sanders’ campaign called “Our Revolution.” Sanders’ rally, “Our First Stand,” took place on January 15, 2017. We were called to action by Sanders in order to save healthcare. There were synchronized rallies all over the country on that date and I can assure you that there will be more and more demonstrations sparked by Sanders and many others. I know of another rally that will take place on April 15, 2017. That rally is intended to put pressure on President Trump to release his tax returns. I hope there will be a rally I can attend that focuses on Trump’s denial of climate change. The planet is in dire jeopardy with the signing of fossil fuel contracts, man-made pollution run amok, etc., etc. A “March for Science” is already being talked about.

The Women’s March was started by Teresa Shook. She is a retired attorney and grandmother living in Hawaii. Her idea for a mass demonstration of women spread. It only took two months for organizers to plan the largest post-inauguration demonstration in history.

One of the chants at the Women’s March I really liked was, “We want a leader, not a creepy tweeter!” Another chant I liked got started when someone simply shouted “What does democracy look like?” We responded “This is what democracy looks like.”

We could not believe the crowds of people: men, women, boomers, millennials, children, infants—all colors, all religions and all ages. It was an amazing day of solidarity. No problems whatsoever. Well, it did take us 11 1/2 hours to get home from Washington, D.C., but the traffic was caused for a very good reason—a determination to make a difference now and in the future.
Larry Hotham’s Experience at the Women’s March
I attended the Women’s March on Washington with The Secular Coalition of America (SCA). It was an unbelievable day to be among an estimated million people, mostly women, but a good portion were men. Due to the large number of people, it was a day where everyone needed to be patient and deal with the consequences of being among a very, very large crowd. Fortunately, there were no reported arrests for any reason in the area of the Women’s March.

I arrived at about 7:30 AM, and, at about 9:30 AM the SCA group moved to the march site. By then several hundred thousand people had assembled. The closest we could get to the speaker’s stand was almost three blocks away. We could see the Capitol Building and the site of the previous day’s inauguration. High-resolution video display screens and an excellent speaker system allowed us to have an opportunity to see and hear what was happening.

At about 2:00 PM, the march started and that was when we ran into many more hundreds of thousands of diverse people. Since the number of people attending was far more than the original estimate of about 200,000, the march had to be redirected to proceed along Pennsylvania Avenue. I experienced being squeezed in among those who were waiting to take their place for the march. We stood for over three hours, but, finally, there I was walking for the first time in my life down the center of Pennsylvania Avenue. As we moved to the march area, with many, many thousands of people around, it was easy to become separated from others. Below is a photo of a few of us who managed to stay somewhat together. Left to right are (an unknown woman in the hooded jacket), Samantha McGuire, me, Mike Reid, Heatherly Hodges and Carly Lundmark.

After the march, a huge number of people needed to take the Metro. I waited nearly an hour before I could board the overcrowded Metro. Everyone was patient and Metro officials were on hand to help. Many march participants had no previous experience riding the Metro subway system. It was a long day, but a very worthwhile and memorable experience.

So what is next? Here is what I’m expecting: In the next few days, weeks, months and years, something that has never happened before will change politics forever. There will be more progressive political activism on many issues and confrontations with bad administration’s policies will be the norm. No more apathy. No more compliance and acceptance of terrible legislative actions!

Lisa Pedersen’s Experience at the Women’s March
In response to President Donald Trump taking office, several million people gathered nationwide throughout various cities to peacefully march together on Saturday, January 21, 2017 in what is known as the “Women’s March.” Our goal was to send a message to our new president and his incoming administration that women’s rights are human rights. The Women’s March was the first step towards further unifying our communities to make our voices heard.

Through various social media websites, I organized a Humanist group of about 52 people to participate in the Women’s March in Santa Ana, California, where an estimated 20,000-25,000 people were reported to have participated. Not only were we able to proudly display our Humanist logos and statements on parade signs during the march, I also was able to carry a Humanist parade banner. The banner was carried towards the front of the march where it could be easily viewed by onlookers and the media. Below is a photo of me holding up the left end of the banner and Bruce Gleason (founder and president of Backyard Skeptics) holding the right side.

Our group was registered under the name of “Humanists of the World” because I felt it was important to work together in solidarity with our community, represent Humanists who were unable to attend, and to spread the word about Humanism. At the march I was asked “What is a Humanist?” My response was, “Humanists love diversity, value critical thinking, and do good without a god.”

There was an array of different messages displayed on parade posters. Although some individuals had their own personal agenda, we all shared common ground — we stand united with one another demanding respect and equality. The courtesy I witnessed amongst my community members who participated on Saturday was inspiring.

I look forward to continuing the momentum with them and those all around the world for equality in the name of humanity and Humanism. I also look forward to exercising my freedom of expression at future rallies and marches. I’m sure there will be many.
2017 Women’s March Sign Collage

BUILD a WALL AROUND TRUMP I’LL PAY FOR IT

TWEET WOMEN WITH RESPECT

A WOMAN’S PLACE IS IN THE RESISTANCE

Love Not Hate Makes America Great

Feminism back by Popular Demand

HATRED DISGUISED AS POLICY IS STILL HATRED

“OUR LIVES BEGAN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER.” —MLK

SUPER CALLOUS FASCIST RACIST EXTRA BRAGGADOICIOUS!

Trump Lies Matter!
Anti-Superstition Friday-the-Thirteenth Kicks Off 2017 LogiCal-LA Conference

The Freethought Society’s (FS) Anti-Superstition Bash, Friday-the-Thirteenth, Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center theme was put into play on Friday, January 13, 2017 to kick off the first annual Skeptics and freethinker’s conference entitled “LogiCal-LA.”

“The Friday night party was a terrific way to premier the fun, yet educational program that was to happen over the weekend,” said Bruce Gleason, the director of LogiCal-LA. He went on to say, “It’s too bad we can’t always open LogiCal-LA with a Friday-the-Thirteenth party.”

LogiCal-LA will be an annual Los Angeles, California event that is set to take place every January.

Most years, only two Friday-the-Thirteenth dates appear on the calendar, making it rare that a conference kick-off Anti-Superstition bash can take place. In 2017 the LogiCal-LA conference date matched up well and so will the date of the Pennsylvania State Atheist/Humanist conference. The next opening of a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center is scheduled for October 13, 2017 at the Embassy Suites ballroom located at 900 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Watch for more details about the conference and the Anti-Superstition Bash in this publication. You can also find more conference, hotel, speaker, and ticket information at the following website:

http://atheistpa.org/events/2017pastahcon/

In 2014, Margaret Downey (founder and president of FS), built a team of California volunteers to host a West Coast Anti-Superstition Bash. A Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center opened in February of 2015 in Fullerton, California to rave reviews. That event was a success thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, many of whom helped with the 2017 event. FS acknowledges and thanks the following 2017 volunteers:

**Buck Bowen:** Bowen was the emcee for the Friday night party. He also worked as the DJ, and entertained us with his original rap *Zodiacroba.* The song poked fun at those who consult horoscope predictions to make decisions. Bowen also designed the Friday-the-Thirteenth flyer that was used in this publication and on social media to advertise the event.

**Liz Bujan:** The pre-event ticket sales were handled by Bujan and she also worked the sales table at the Friday night event. Bujan participated in decorating the room and also helped to clean-up party paraphernalia.

**Dave DeLuca:** While DeLuca is an extraordinary comedian, he also performs as a singer. DeLuca wowed the crowd with his rendition of three Frank Sinatra songs.

**Susan Fink:** Setting up and taking down a party such as this one involves a lot of work. Fink arrived early and stayed late to help with those daunting tasks.

**Sophia Giang:** Giang is actually a third-year medical student, so it was fitting that she would portray a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Doctor. She was delayed with lab work to complete the day of the event, but did a fabulous job once she arrived. With her energy and sense of humor, she will make a terrific doctor someday.

**Heather Henderson:** Every Anti-Superstition Bash must have a “Miss Fortune Teller” and Henderson was perfect in the part. Her terrifying predictions made for many laughs.

**Melina and Stevieann Hill:** These two adorable sisters dressed as black cats to purposely cross paths with party attendees. They also offered CAT scans as part of the cures advocated by the Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center.

**Steve Hill:** Hill portrayed a doctor and prescribed dancing and entering for the games as a cure to any superstitions held.

**Christine Jones:** Posing as a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Nurse, Jones was able to help people register for games and supervised the mirror smash. She also danced and sang a closing number with Lead Nurse Margaret Downey.

**Jeff Maggy:** Maggy was a volunteer for LogiCal-LA preparations, but somehow managed to find time to help with the bash. He took many photos of the event.

**Lisa Pedersen:** Pedersen portrayed a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Doctor and she assisted with the games conducted throughout the party.

**Dave Richards:** Richards staffed the T-shirt sales table and acted as the T-shirt model in that job.

**Tom Schottmiller:** There were many balloons to inflate with helium in preparation for the party. Schottmiller worked tirelessly with the balloons to create a festive atmosphere for the party. He also portrayed a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Doctor and hosted the Ladder Limbo contest.
Omar Young: The clean-up of the party paraphernalia was made easier with Young’s help but during the party he acted as a T-shirt model and he was able to get many people on their feet to dance.

Celestia Ward: Ward is a world-renowned caricature artist and cartoonist. She drew caricatures during the party. She and Schottmiller worked on the pre-party balloon task together until its completion.

As with every Friday-the-Thirteenth/Anti-Superstition Bash, there was dancing, several live performers, games and prizes. The 2017 crowd enthusiastically participated in the party and it set the happy atmosphere for the first LogiCal-LA conference.

FS is now searching for volunteers to do the same jobs as described above for the October 13, 2017 Friday-the-13th Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center’s Anti-Superstition Bash. The October kick-off Anti-Superstition Bash will be attended by honored conference guest, Lawrence Krauss. Please take another look at the job descriptions and contact FS at:

Volunteers@FtSociety.org

Below are a few photos from the January 2017 event. Please see the next two pages for additional photos of the Anti-Superstition Bash. Imagine yourself in a volunteer role or just having as much fun as the party attendees who are pictured.

In preparation for the October event, please visit the FS store to purchase your own Anti-Superstition T-shirt. See:

http://is.gd/FTSociety

Pictured in the upper left photo are Buck Bowen (kneeling at the DJ computer) and Dave DeLuca (singing a Frank Sinatra song at the microphone). DeLuca sang “Luck Be a Lady Tonight,” and “Witchcraft.” To view more of Bowen’s work as an entertainer see: https://buck Bowen.bandcamp.com. To view DeLuca’s work as a comedian see:

https://www.facebook.com/TheArmchairQuarterback/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf

In the lower left photo Seth Andrews (“The Thinking Atheist” podcaster) is pictured with Christine Jones who is dressed as a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Nurse.

Pictured below is a photo of couples enjoying a one-umbrella slow dance to the song, “Stormy Weather.”
Pictured left is Steve Hill flanked by his daughters Melina and Stevieann. The Hill family enjoyed playing important roles at the Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center. The young ladies gave cat scans and Dr. Hill put guests through an anti-superstition obstacle course.

Below left, Celestia Ward is creating one of many popular party caricatures.

Below right are volunteers Susan Fink (left) Lisa Pedersen (right).

In the bottom right photo, Dave Richards is pictured selling event t-shirts and he is also wearing one.
2017 LogiCal-LA Skeptics Conference Photos
(There were many other speakers, entertainers and attendees at LogiCal-LA. Visit www.LogicalLa.com for more information)

In the right photo, Eugenie Scott is hugged by Ryan Bell at the LogiCal-LA Saturday luncheon. Scott appears in the new movie A Year Without God, which is about Bell’s journey when he left his church to learn more about the nontheist community. Scott had a great influence with Bell, as he describes in the film. The film was screened at LogiCal-LA and Bell participated in a question/answer panel that included the producer of the film, Emery Emery.

Pictured left is Dan Barker as he sings at the Sunday night secular concert sponsored by LogiCal-LA. He performed with Shelley Segal, Buck Bowen, and Roy Zimmerman.

Pictured at the far left is Jerry Coyne delivering his presentation, “Why Evolution is True.”

Theoretical physicist Sean Carroll was the keynote speaker at LogiCal-LA on Saturday night. He delivered a speech entitled “The Big Picture: On the Origins of Life, Meaning and the Universe Itself.”

While the photo below was taken at the Friday night Anti-Superstition Bash, it captured the emcee of the LogiCal-LA conference, George Hrab (left), speaker Brian Dunning (middle) and attendee Melissa Krawczyk (right).
March 20

On Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM, The Freethought Society (FS) and the Philadelphia Ethical Humanist Society will host Lawrence Krauss as an honored speaker. He will discuss his newest book, The Greatest Story Ever Told — So Far, which is scheduled for release just a few days before his appearance. In this book, Krauss connects the world we know with the invisible world all around us. Krauss explains our current understanding of nature and the struggle to construct the greatest theoretical edifice ever assembled — the Standard Model of Particle Physics — and then to comprehend its implications for our existence.

Krauss is a teacher, physicist, television and film personality, and is a much-in-demand lecturer because of his ability to clearly convey complex ideas to the general public. He is a professor at the School of Earth and Space Exploration and in the physics department at Arizona State University. He is also the inaugural director of The Origins Project.

Whether you already understand this cutting-edge science, or just want to understand it, there’s no doubt you will learn from his presentation. There are several options available to enjoy “An Evening with Lawrence Krauss” being held at 1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

VIP Full Party Pass 5:00 PM-6:45 PM
$100
Ticket includes VIP seating, open wine bar, food service, meeting Krauss, photo opportunities, his new book, a private autograph session and beverage service at the reserved seat.

VIP Reserved Seating Without a Party Pass (arrive by 6:45 PM, please) $50
Ticket includes beverage service at the reserved seat, a book and a guaranteed private autograph session at the end of the evening with photo opportunities.

Reserved Seat Only $10
A seat in the auditorium is guaranteed.

Open Seating $5
Suggested Donation

Please make your choice of reservation at the below site as soon as possible. Seating is limited. No VIP Full Party Passes/reservations taken after March 19, 2017. See: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-lawrence-krauss-tickets-30498140760

April 3

Please attend the Monday, April 3, 2017 FS meeting being held at 7:00 PM in the community room at the Ludington Library located at 5 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. A SEPTA stop is located across the street from the library.

The speaker will be Phil Ferguson. He is an investment advisor representative and is the president of Polaris Financial Planning LLC.

Ferguson is a longtime activist in the secular movement. He has been on the board of The Secular Student Alliance and Atheist Alliance International. He is an active member of many of the national organizations and has helped start three local groups in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois.

Ferguson’s presentation “Breaking the Cycle: Helping Children Out of Religion,” will highlight how his children were reared in a fundamentalist church that promoted young earth creationism and how he, as a closeted atheist, helped his children leave religion behind — just as he did.

April 6

The Delaware Valley Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (DV AU) and the Freethought Society (FS) are pleased to present “Invoking Greece v. Galloway.” This event will take place on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at The Free Library of Philadelphia (1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). The welcome and introductions begin promptly at 7:00 PM in Room 108.

Americans United (AU) recently filed a lawsuit against officials of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives challenging the House’s policy of allowing only people who believe in a theistic god to present invocations to open its daily sessions. Through this legal action nontheists seek to obtain equal rights to present solemnizing messages to open governmental meetings. AU contends that the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Greece v. Galloway paved the way for nontheists to have the right to present opening words on an equal basis with theistic invocation speakers.

This presentation will be done as a panel discussion with panelists answering questions posed by moderators and audience members. Panelists include two of the three plaintiffs in this lawsuit and AU’s Associate Legal Director Alex Luchenitser. Plaintiffs Brian Fields, president of Pennsylvania Nonbelievers, and Scott Rhoades, president of Lancaster Freethought Society, will be on the panel. Hosts and moderators are DV AU president Janice Rael and FS president Margaret Downey.
Freethought Society products now available!

The Freethought Society has partnered with EvolveFish to help you show support for freedom of thought. Buy items for yourself and/or gifts for your family and friends.

Mousepad: $11  
Mug: $12  
Magnet: $4

Tote Bag: $16  
T-Shirt: $23  
Water Bottle: $11

Sales taxes will apply to Colorado orders. Buyer pays shipping.

Use the link below to see more products and to order today!

Shop online today at: https://is.gd/FtSociety

Anti-Superstition merchandise is now available. Proudly proclaim every Friday the 13th that you are not a superstitious person!
Support the efforts of the Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center by wearing or displaying our merchandise.

Double-sided T-Shirt is available in white with black lettering or black with white lettering: $28

Complete your Friday the 13th outfit with your Friggatriskaidekaphobia accessories!

Double-sided Tote bag: $16

Mug: $12

Water Bottle: $11

Glass: $10

Use the link below to see more products and to order today!
Sales Tax added for Colorado addresses. Buyer pays shipping.

Shop online today at: https://is.gd/FtSociety
The Freethought Society (FS) promotes freedom of thought, expression, and choice. FS also advocates separation of religion and government. FS publishes *The Freethought Society News* every other month. The publication is delivered as an ezine via email and 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 United States, with emphasis in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey as well as Southern California. FS activities and services depend on financial contributions from supporters. Funds may be sent using this form or via the FS website (www.FtSociety.org/donate/). All contributions to FS are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law (Tax ID Number: 23-2738574). Please donate generously.

Yes! I want to:

( ) become a supporter / renew support of FS (Please enclose checks payable to the Freethought Society):
- $30 Individual Supporter
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FS will send a complimentary ezine (or hard copy upon request) to potential supporters. Please provide contact information for anyone who might be interested in receiving an FS publication.

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Mail this form to: Freethought Society, P.O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366
This form can be scanned and emailed to: Ezine@FtSociety.org

**Volunteer Opportunities Through the Freethought Society**
Supporters of the Freethought Society (FS) often want to do more than just donate. Listed below are various committees organized by FS. The committees are designed to fulfill the mission, goals and vision of FS. We seek to be of assistance to nontheists, educate the public about nontheism, and provide social opportunities where like-minded individuals can meet, socialize and share ideas. Please see the FS website or contact FS to volunteer at: volunteers@FtSociety.org.

**Anti-Discrimination Educational Committee**
*(nontheism explained in classroom settings)*

**Anti-Discrimination Support Network**
*(assist Secular Coalition for America gathering reports)*

**Community Outreach**
*(locate tabling opportunities)*

**Diversity Outreach Committee**
*(brainstorming about and developing programs to appeal to minorities)*

**Free Speech Zone Committee**
*(research and implement displays in public venues)*

**Helping Hands**
*(provides helpers to seniors and in emergency situations)*

**Jump Into the Jean Pool**
*(collection of jeans for the homeless)*

**Meetup Committee**
*(social events and improving online communications)*

**Monthly Meeting Coordinators**
*(schedule and manage speakers and venues)*

**Secular Celebrations**
*(develop, organize, and implement new nontheist celebrations)*

**Speakers Bureau**
*(provide FS a resume, photo and speech subjects/titles)*

**Special Events**
*(coordinate interesting and unique nontheist events)*

**Sole Searching**
*(collection of athletic shoes for donating to the homeless)*

**Thomas Paine Memorial Committee**
*(assist with assemblies, city proclamations, and work on themed events)*

**Tree of Knowledge/Winter Display Committee**
*(make ornaments, find venues, write articles, and support the winter symbol concept nationwide)*