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.

Subscribe at:
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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:

newsletter@FtSociety.org

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

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The Successful 2012 Reason Rally

by Margaret Downey

Advertising for the 2012 Reason Rally officially began in September 2011. The pages of the Freethought Society (FS) newsletter were filled with Reason Rally information for four consecutive publications. FS was proud to be the first of seventeen Reason Rally sponsors. FS changed its status from a chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation to an independent national freethought group on January 1, 2012. The Reason Rally sponsorship status provided FS with the opportunity to formally present itself, and as such, FS was provided a large space in the exhibitors' tent.

Opportunities such as the Reason Rally rarely present themselves, so the FS officers, board members and volunteers worked to design an attractive table. The space given was only eight feet by five feet, but FS was also given the use of a banner bar. An impressive eight-foot banner was created through Goshen Signs in West Chester and we thank FS's Vice-President, **Carol Everhart Roper** for the lovely font and format used. FS also thanks volunteer **Patti Butcheck** for creating the QR codes used on the banner.

In February, the National Parks Service announced that they had been monitoring Internet "buzz" referencing the Reason Rally and they estimated that the event would likely draw over 50,000 attendees. Knowing that it would be impossible to print literature for each visitor who might happen to visit the FS table it was decided to convey important information through tabletop displays. I created binders for every FS committee and printed interesting signs inviting passersby to stop, visit and learn more about what FS is doing on a national and international level.

In early March, the National Parks Service issued directives, rules and regulations that caught Reason Rally sponsors by surprise. We were informed that no sales or gifts could be given at tables collecting donations, nor could any of the exhibitors solicit for memberships. Exhibitors would be restricted in regards to the wording of literature and many of the sponsors, including FS had already gone to press. Fortunately, FS only used the word "donation" on business cards. FS board member **Sally Flynn** carefully crossed the offending word off of 1,000 business cards in order to comply with the National Park Service demands. Every business card was taken at the Reason Rally, so we know that at least 1,000 people visited the FS table.

The FS table was beautiful and the staff working there proudly represented FS with smiles and passion. Please see the four page photo spread in this newsletter for more information about this successful event. While the rain prevented us from reaching the National Parks Service estimated number of attendees, it was later determined that the number of people at the National Mall on Saturday, March 24, 2012 was close to 30,000.

The event was considered a huge success by all the sponsors. Email messages poured into the Reason Rally website afterwards and most were queries asking if a Reason Rally was planned for next year. Unfortunately, the cost of putting on such an event is close to $400,000 so a future repeat event is on hold. There is no question that another Reason Rally will happen and that FS will participate again. If you want to help plan and implement another event, contact FS to volunteer now. ◘

Photos From the 2012 Reason Rally Exhibition Tent

Pictured right are (left to right) **Tom Schottmiller**, **Javier Pazos** and **Greg White**. The three volunteers worked all day inside the Reason Rally exhibition tent chatting with people who stopped by the Freethought Society (FS) table. They all wore the new FS t-shirts which are designed to start conversations. The words on the front of the t-shirt are, "I am a Freethinker. You, too?" On the back of the shirt the FS website is highlighted and a QR code can lead those with smart phones directly to the home page of the FS website.

QR codes were also used on the FS banner (see photo below) and on the table cover (see large photo below of the FS table). A team of volunteers created QR codes for every FS committee. FS thanks **Carol Everhart Roper**, **Tracy McPherson** and **Patti Butcheck** for assisting with the table design project.

Miscellaneous Photos From the 2012 Reason Rally

Freethought Society (FS) president **Margaret Downey** is pictured left holding a box of cookies shaped like cats. She greeted people at the exhibition hall opening saying, "The Reason Rally proves that the adage 'organizing atheists is like trying to herd cats,' is wrong. Help yourself to a cookie and thanks for being here."

When the cookies were gone, Downey worked at the FS table with volunteers. She conducted several on-camera interviews and spoke with reporters. Many new and longtime FS supporters stopped by the table. Below is a photo Downey with FS supporter and former board member, **Scotty Pleune**. Behind Downey is one of two "Famous American Freethinker" signs on display at the FS table. The signs were designed by Carol Everhart Roper and really grabbed the attention of passersby.

Pictured left is FS volunteer **Tracy McPherson** (center) with **Phil Mason** AKA "Thunderfoot" (left) and **Seth Andrews** AKA "The Thinking Atheist" (right).

McPherson devoted many hours of her time to help prepare FS for its exhibit at the Reason Rally. She and other volunteers were able to enjoy sitting in the VIP area at the Reason Rally in shifts. FS thanks McPherson, and the other volunteers who were not pictured in this Reason Rally photo layout. **Glen Loev**, FS secretary and **Patti Butcheck** worked at the FS table for many hours.

Butcheck and McPherson both took photos which are highlighted on the "Reason Rally Signs" and "On Stage Talent" photo pages in this newsletter.

Photos of 2012 Reason Rally On Stage Talent

The fabulous photos on this page were taken by Freethought Society volunteer photographers **Patti Butcheck**, **Paul Reitano** and **Tracy McPherson**.

Pictured in the top row above are (left to right): **Shelley Segal**, **Jamila Bey**, **Richard Dawkins**, **Christina Rad** and **Tim Minchin**.

Pictured in the middle row above are (left to right): **Michael Shermer**, **Taslima Nasrin** and **Adam Savage**.

Pictured in the last row are (left to right): **P. Z. Myers**, **Victor Harris**, **Greta Christina**, and **James "The Amazing" Randi**.

Pictured right are **Eddie Izzard** and **Jessica Ahlquist**.

Photos of Some Terrific 2012 Reason Rally Signs

The Great 2012 Rock Beyond Belief Event

by Margaret Downey

When Sgt. **Justin Griffith** enlisted in the United States Army, he wanted to be "Army Strong." The catchy recruitment slogan was not written specifically with Sgt. Griffith in mind, but he certainly proved that the Army can make you the strongest secular soldier in the country! In just one and a half years, Sgt. Griffith demanded equal rights for nontheists, filed a formal discrimination complaint, won a controversial ruling, organized a huge program, and hosted a spectacular gathering on the parade grounds of Fort Bragg located in North Carolina. I volunteered to help Sgt. Griffith the minute he contacted me in 2010. I know a genuine freethought hero when I see one! He was full of passion and energy about countering a Fort Bragg religious event that cost taxpayers at least $30,000. He was absolutely correct that if the United States Army can host an event for Christians, it damn well better be ready to host an event for non-Christians!

Along the way to justice, Sgt. Griffith received legal help and advice from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, American Atheists, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. An impressive flurry of letters back and forth finally produced the results that were sought — equality! Fort Bragg officials initially tried to provide the use of a small auditorium to host **Dr. Richard Dawkins** as a speaker for the atheist and freethinker group Sgt. Griffith organized. The offer was more of an insult to both Sgt. Griffith and Dr. Dawkins. Thousands of people crowd into venues just to hear Dr. Dawkins speak, but Fort Bragg officials wanted to provide a space that could only hold about 150 people. Sgt. Griffith rejected the offer and courageously stood his ground. He would not give up the fight for equality. He demanded the use of the parade grounds — just as the Christians had been given. He demanded that his fellow soldiers work the event — just as the Christians had been given. Sgt. Griffith demanded a stage, a sound system, a jumbotron, vendors, games for children, tents, sky divers and security — just as the Christians had been given. It took a while, but our strong-willed hero finally prevailed and on March 31, 2012, the first Rock Beyond Belief took place.

I was proud and honored to be a part of the event. Sgt. Griffith asked me to address an issue near and dear to my heart — my 20 year discrimination battle with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Because so many soldiers have a history with BSA, the subject was perfect for the Fort Bragg audience. I could not imagine, however, that everyone in attendance would want to hear complicated details about this issue from a 61 year old woman, so I enlisted the help of a brilliant young man. **Daniel Rezler** had recently released an entertaining and informative Youtube video about why he left BSA. View Rezler's video at:

http:www.youtube.com/watchv=a1TqPCy_Bs&list=UU5wxj3rByNit7LO92OxRx8w&index=12&feature=plcp

In less than three minutes Rezler was able to convey many reasons why BSA should not be supported. His excellent video was shown on the jumbotron during our stage appearance at Rock Beyond Belief. Dan and I took turns at the microphone as we pointed out that BSA is given government funding and special gifts/gratuities even though they are now a private organization. We talked about the many ways in which taxpayers' dollars are used to support BSA. At the end of our presentation, we called for action!

Dan and I seek to stop BSA from being allowed to recruit in public schools. We told the audience about the efforts of the non-profit Scouting For All organization and asked any Eagle Scouts in the audience to return their badges to BSA's national office. BSA membership policies are bigoted and bring shame to any Scout who cares deeply about the acceptance and friendship of fellow gay and nontheist citizens.

The most riveting speech of the day was delivered by **Mikey Weinstein**, the founder and president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. He has received so many death threats that he always travels with a body guard. I am proud to say that my dear friend **Anthony Burnside** is Weinstein's body guard. I introduced the two of them to each other in 2008 and they have been working together ever since. Pictured left is Burnside standing directly behind Weinstein.

Fort Bragg regulations for stage performers at a family event specifically forbids the use of any curse words. Weinstein is known for his passion and colorful language, but on this day in March, he charged up the audience by teaching us a protest chant. With Weinstein leading, the audience stood and faced the tent that sheltered all the Fort Bragg officials. As Weinstein shouted out the name of each official he asked the crowd, "What do you want?"

The attendees yelled in unison, "Equal rights!"

Weinstein then asked, "When do you want them?"

The crowd responded by shouting one word, "Now!"

I was overcome with pride at the way Griffith had challenged the status-quo to make sure the event took place, and how Weinstein took on the officials who had originally said "no" to Griffith. Never again will a Christian group be given special treatment without a reaction from the nontheist community. A precedent was set at the 2012 Rock Beyond Belief and as Weinstein said offstage, "This event will show everyone that they can't fuck with us!" ◘

Photos From Rock Beyond Belief

Pictured right are **Margaret Downey** and **Dan Rezler**. They are reviewing their presentation inside the VIP tent waiting to go onstage at the 2012 Rock Beyond Belief.

Below is a photo of **Hemant Mehta** autographing a Rock Beyond Belief t-shirt. Mehta is the author of the book, *I Sold My Sole on eBay*. His website "The Friendly Atheist" is extremely popular and apparently even military officers recognize him in a crowd. The name of the uniformed officer who asked for Mehta's autograph is unknown.

Below left is a photo of political folk singer **Roy Zimmerman**. He unveiled his wonderful new CD *You're Getting Sleepy* at the 2012 Rock Beyond Belief event. To order Zimmerman's CDs visit: www.royzimmerman.com

In the center photo below, performer **Jeffrey Lewis** displays his original artwork which was created to go with his songs and poetry. During his presentation Lewis mentioned the Downey and Rezler speech about the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Hopefully, Lewis will be inspired to create a song and artwork about the BSA issue to help educate others and continue the protest momentum.

In the far right photo below, **Dan Barker** (left), the co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and **Dr. Richard Dawkins** (right) are pictured. Both men were fantastic on stage at the Fort Bragg Rock Beyond Belief event. Barker's presentation included him singing some of his nontheist hits.

Asking "Why" Caused Me to Become a Nontheist

by Dr. David Orenstein

I became an atheist at the age of eight. I think I chose not to believe because I never really thought the supernatural was special in any way. Don't get me wrong, I had and still have an active imagination and I loved reading comic books about the exploits of Superman and his ilk. But religion, religious ritual and god belief never seemed to make sense to me from a practical point of view.

In the end, as I look back on my choice, I think that I've always been a person without religious faith. However, I do have faith in humanity and I remain optimistic even though there is plenty of evidence for great sadness in our world. I believe at its root, this sadness is caused by some form of religious philosophy, sectarian violence or god worship.

Let's get back to my atheist journey. When I was a preteen, I became ill with rheumatic fever. The infection left me with both a damaged mitral and aortic valve. I thought if there was a god and if he was a kind and loving deity, why would he hurt me so? After all, as a child, I never did anything to hurt him or anyone. Why, if god controls all, do I have to suffer, or for that matter, why does *anyone* have to suffer? If god is so powerful, why not just fix everything? Then I realized in my own words, what **Woody Allen** said, "It's not that god isn't all powerful, it's just that he is an underachiever." As a fellow Jew from Brooklyn, I get the joke and the pathos of Allen's comment.

So in 1979 at the age of seventeen, I underwent open-heart surgery to replace my aortic valve. The medical team gave me a porcine valve — a fancy way of saying the valve of a "pig." So while I was no longer Kosher (not that I ever was), at least my short life was extended a little longer. That was, up until 1987, when the porcine valve calcified and a new non-organic valve was put in its place.

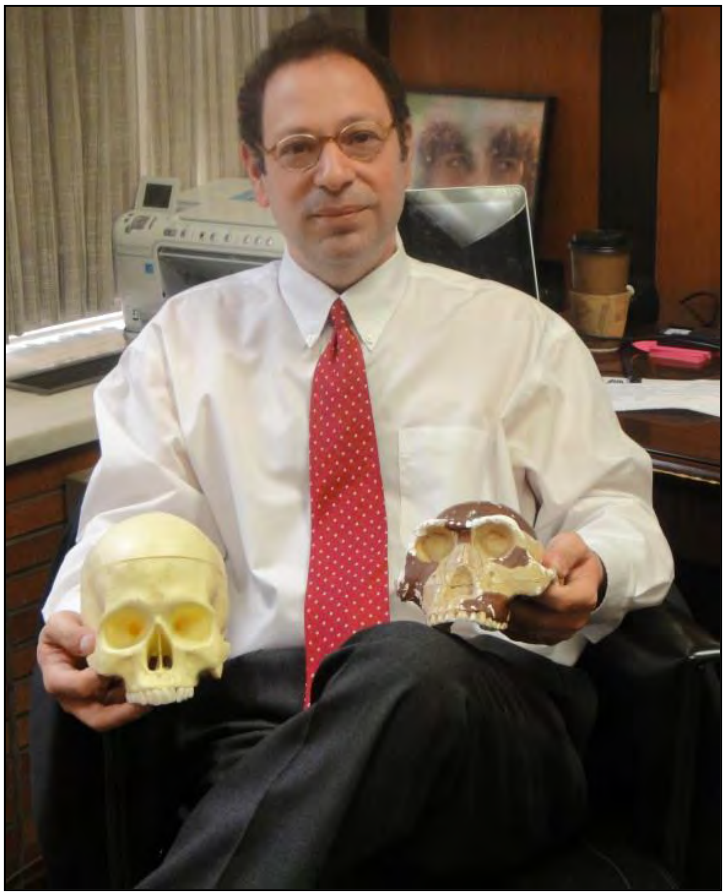
After each surgery I was told that my family and friends prayed for my survival. Each time I went under the knife I neither prayed nor pleaded with "god" to spare me. Frankly, I was more concerned with the job experience of the heart surgeon than with divine intervention and salvation.

I guess you can say that my heart surgeries were a form of "battle." In that context, I can assure you that there are atheists in foxholes. I am now and will always be a non-believer. I choose atheism because I have never seen evidence to contradict my conclusion that there isn't a god. So if god does not exist, it follows that there is no need for a religious or spiritual life. It also follows that one can act morally and with kindness toward others even without the threat or reliance on god or a theistic philosophy. I am not alone, as there are about 1.6 billion people on the planet who share this nontheistic view of life. As atheism and secularism grow, we see that active religious participation is shrinking in almost every nation.

The great **Carl Sagan** is quoted as saying that "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." Without evidence, humans backslide into a Paleolithic set of beliefs which existed long before science could show us that the natural world and the mechanics of the universe are knowable. The physical world is testable and it can be understood through human invention and inquiry. Although there is still so much more to know, science allows us to both explore and expand our knowledge of the natural world and to me, that it is both beautiful and amazing.

New discoveries in all scientific disciplines are being made daily. These new discoveries show us how the world and universe operate without the need for superstition or theistic intervention. At the same time, we have religion which tells us nothing about human nature, except in my opinion that we can be ignorant, sometimes violent and duped into believing the unbelievable through religious faith.

Frankly, what I knew as a little boy I know as an adult man — there is no need for god. We have science and the scientific method to fill in the gaps of our understanding and, more important, to explore what we don't know. So long as we can test the mechanics of the universe, we can ensure that what we do know is valid while at the same time we continue to question and make discoveries to enliven our world. □



Dr. David Orenstein is pictured above relaxing with a few non-talking heads in his office at Warren County Community College in New Jersey where he serves as Dean of Academic Affairs and teaches anthropology.

Update on the "Year of the Bible" Resolution

by Margaret Downey

On January 24, 2012, House Resolution Number 535 (HR 535) declaring 2012 as the "Year of the Bible" was unanimously passed by Pennsylvania legislators (193-0).

Concerns about the crumbling wall of separation of government and religion due to the passage of HR 535 have been expressed by leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Of particular concern are HR 535 statements declaring that the Bible is "the word of God" and that citizens should "study and apply the teachings of the holy scriptures."

While the specifically Christian wording of HR 535 is more symbolic than it is binding, passage of the formal resolution highlights how easily House bills that endorse, support and promote religion can slip through unnoticed until it is too late.

The Freethought Society supports all protests and efforts to repeal and object to HR 535. Please sign an online petition created by FS entitled "Repeal Pennsylvania's House Resolution Number 535 'Year of the Bible'" at:

http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/repeal-or-revoke-house-resolution-535-year-of-the-bible/

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) responded by filing a lawsuit to test the constitutionality of the "Year of the Bible" in the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. FFRF is asking the court to find that HR 535 violates the Establishment Clause. FFRF seeks an order to prevent defendants from continuing further publication and distribution of HR 535, that claims that the government is "Judeo-Christian." FFRF named as defendants Representative **Rick Saccone** (who is the author of the Resolution), Parliamentarian **Clancy Myer** and Chief Clerk **Anthony Frank Barbush** in the lawsuit. Furthermore, FFRF is asking that public officials in Pennsylvania declare that the Bible does not constitute the "official, preferred or endorsed religion" of the state.

Five hundred and ninety-nine FFRF Pennsylvania members who have had direct and unwanted exposure to the "Year of the Bible" are named as opposing the passage of the Resolution.

In eloquent language, the FFRF lawsuit states that individuals in Pennsylvania are made "to feel as if they are political outsiders," with the passage of the Resolution. Kudos and bravo to FFRF for stepping forward to protest against HR 535! **Ryan Foster,** Pennsylvania resident and named plaintiff in the FFRF lawsuit said:

> *The reason I decided to be a plaintiff in this case is because the state legislature is wasting our time and money by introducing a resolution that draws off of people's emotions. I'm sure they expected the overwhelming majority of their citizens to be pleased by this declaration that we should give tribute to a book written thousands of years ago, but I'm pleased to be a part of the minority that find that notion absurd.*
>
> *Not to mention that our current legislators are showing themselves to be more backwards than the politicians in Pennsylvania from 200 years ago! The founders of our nation were aware that religion has no place in our federal or state government. They realized their views were dramatically better than what the Bible proclaimed. I have a good understanding of what the Bible proclaims and I have a hard time thinking what benefits there would be if more people took the Bible literally. I don't think wives should be subservient to their husbands, I don't think we should scare children with illusions of a hell, and I don't think imposing one sectarian view on the public does anything to help advance our society.*
>
> *Instead of wasting our time getting brownie points from the religious majority in our state, our legislators should be concentrating on more important issues like our state's deficit.*

FS sends thanks to all the plaintiffs named in the FFRF lawsuit. It takes a lot of courage to participate in a controversial separation of religion and government issue. FS stands ready to be of assistance in this case. Additional action plans are being developed. Watch for details in future newsletters. In the meantime, FS is looking for donations to pay for protest signs costing $5 each. At least one dozen signs are needed. A protest rally date will be announced only if signs are financed by an earmarked donation. The original cartoon below drawn by Celestia Ward would make a terrific protest sign! □

Supporters and Donations

Walter Antkiewicz	$50
Edward Baker	$30
Carol Blanchard	$10
Margaret Brown	$500
Thomas J. Carroll	$40
Lorne Corley	$300
Paul and Nancy Donohue	$50
Margaret Downey	$500
Jayne M. Edwards	$75
Gwendolyn Elliott	$30
Joseph Hewlett	$20
Bob and Valerie Hoffman	$250
Dan Hoffman	$100
Kirk Hornbeck	$50
Larry Hothem	$100
H. H. Kramer	$25
Glen Loev	$60
Linda Mahan	$50
George Marks	$150
Marshal Martin	$175
Tom Melchiorre	$35
Robert McCurdy	$100
Al Palmer	$100
Laura Rothkopf	$100
Malcolm and Leone Schoenberg	$100
Arthur Silverberg	$25
Nathaniel Smith	$25
Harold Stephens	$1,000
Jim Stix	$100
Teller	$500
Frank Trotta	$100
Lee Vizer	$100
Charles Villa	$100
Marc Ziss	$25

Below is a QR code to make it easy to donate to the Freethought Society. Simply scan this QR code using a Smartphone.

The Reason Rally and Free Thinking

by Glen Loev

The weather was rainy/drizzly and chilly on the day of the Reason Rally, but it didn't put a damper on the excitement of the event that attracted an estimated 30,000 attendees. I found it exhilarating being around so many like-minded people, and wondered how many would have been there if the weather had been nicer.

Sponsoring organizations of the Reason Rally had tables under a large tent, which was always very crowded, with people milling about, checking out informational materials and striking up conversations. I was proud to help staff the The Freethought Society (FS) table. FS was one of the sponsors of the Reason Rally. The FS posters on display listing prominent freethinking Americans were a big attraction and many people stopped to pose for photos in front of them. It was really great to see people enthusiastically signing up to be on the FS newsletter mailing list.

There were many excellent presentations and speeches of all kinds on stage. I found one of the most entertaining to be **Tim Minchin**, who, besides giving a very clever monologue, played piano and sang. Below is a link to a few of my favorite Minchin songs:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wFRBOPTQDc

It would be great if a Reason Rally was an annual event, with growing attendance each time, but what I want to see most is a time when events such as this would not be a necessity. Someday Reason Rallies will be held for fun, not to make a statement. In the meantime, there's still a lot of work to be done and FS is a needed voice to encourage freethought, rational thinking, and doing compassionate work for others. As an organization that represents "freethinkers," FS reaches out to those who have not yet considered a secular world-view. FS offers a safe and supportive environment for those who might be questioning long-held religious beliefs.

FS contributed $1,000 to help sponsor the Reason Rally, but when it was all over the total cost for FS to participate was $3,500. The FS bank account was nearly completely depleted as a result of so much activity above and beyond just the Reason Rally. The cost to maintain FS in a normal year is about $8,000. Well, 2012 has not been a normal year. FS does not charge annual membership dues, but instead relies on the generosity of supporters.

FS president **Margaret Downey** sent out an urgent fund raising appeal recently and a list of those who responded is printed on this page. Please add your name to the growing list of supporters and help FS recover from a very active six months. So much more can be done in the name of freethought — if you donate generously. ◻

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

May 21

Back by popular demand, speaker **Jill McDevitt** returns as the **Monday, May 21, 2012** speaker. This event is co-hosted by the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia (EHSP). The event will begin at **7:00 PM** at the **EHSP building** located at **1901 South Rittenhouse Square**, **Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania 19103**. Please note the suggested donation of **$5** at the door.

While some street parking is available near to the EHSP building, a parking garage is located on Walnut Street between 18th and 19th Streets. Please get your parking ticket validated at the EHSP to receive a discount.

McDevitt's speech, "The Politics of Sexual Oppression," will highlight American sexual oppression laws, politics, and the psychology of oppression as it relates to sex.

June 18

To many believers, Atheists come off as angry. While we may have reasons for our anger in response to arrogance and legal abuse by theists, we sometimes forget that atheism is a form of liberation. This liberation can provide nontheists with daily joy in how we see the world. **Dr. David Orenstein** will talk about these joys and why we must not back away from our positive message of being good without god.

The presentation "The Joy of Free-Thinking," will take place at the **Free Library of Philadelphia** (**1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**) in the Montgomery Auditorium (located in the basement) at **7:00 PM** on **Monday**, **June 18, 2012**. This is a free and open to the public event; however, a donation of **$5** is suggested.

Dr. Orenstein is a professor of anthropology at Warren County Community College. His popular science and atheist themed blog can be found at:

www.paleolibrarian.info

The Freethought Society is honored to host Dr. Orenstein who recently spoke at the first annual Philippine Atheist and Agnostic Society Conference held in Manila the weekend of April 21, 2012. He is writing a book about how atheists can and are making a positive difference in the world.

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 the 6th annual picnic being held 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 was reserved so that this picnic can take place rain or shine. The 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. Her most recent program, 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.

A Center for Inquiry Conference

WOMEN IN SECULARISM

Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20, 2012

Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport, Arlington, Virginia

The Freethought Society (FS) promotes freedom of thought, expression and choice. FS also advocates separation of religion and government. FS publishes a quarterly newsletter, *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: _____

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