Major Changes Develop in California
After Freethought Society Prison Reform Conference

The November 12, 2023 Life Behind Bars: Compassion and Reform one-day conference opened with a greeting from comedian Adam Conover, who has become a hero to incarcerated people by raising awareness of inhumane prison conditions, mistreatment, and traumatizing punishments.

On December 21, 2023, Conover sat down with Los Angeles, California District Attorney George Gascón to discuss the nationwide backlash against criminal justice reform, and how to balance the needs of the people most affected by over-policing with the demands of those fearful of crime. The full Conover one-hour and fifteen-minute podcast “Factually!” can be heard at the below link:


During the Life Behind Bars: Compassion and Reform conference, speakers Gina Clark and Jordon Hyatt talked about the Scandinavian model of rehabilitation located in the State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Chester, Pennsylvania. Little Scandinavia is an experimental rehabilitation that is modeled after Northern European (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark) systems of incarceration. The goal is to eventually release people who can be good citizens, neighbors, and family members. The Clark and Hyatt presentations can be seen at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV8MenB8HOU&list=PL35ouskyG7G0C23Z1vRL3kXRwWUxrQ1nY&index=7

The success of the Little Scandinavian model at SCI Chester was noticed by many lawmakers and reformers. California Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced that the 171-year-old San Quentin penitentiary is being converted into a Scandinavian model rehabilitation facility. Newsom said:

“By 2025, California’s first and most infamous penitentiary, where criminals including Charles Manson and Scott Peterson have done time, will become something entirely different: the largest center of rehabilitation, education, and training in the California prison system, and maybe the nation. No longer will it be a maximum security facility. Instead, it will be a place for turning out good neighbors, incorporating Scandinavian methods.

“The vision for a new San Quentin includes job training for careers that can pay six figures, trades such as plumbers, electricians, or truck drivers, and using the complex as a last stop of incarceration before release.

“The plan for San Quentin is ‘not just about reform, but about innovation,’ a chance to ‘hold ourselves to a higher level of ambition and look to completely reimagine what prison means.’”

The 2023-24 California budget now includes a $20 million expense line to jump-start the Scandinavian model of rehabilitation. The effort would lead to ten times the amount of programming currently offered at the facility, including converting an underutilized 81,000-square-foot building on the prison grounds. Prison reformers are hopeful that more and more states will follow Newsom’s lead.

Newsom’s administration demonstrated the success of the Norwegian model by pointing to a Coastal Carolina University study that found three out of four formerly incarcerated
people in Norway do not re-offend. California’s recidivism rates remain in excess of 50% to 60%. According to reporting by the Detroit News, a study by the United States Department of Justice estimated national recidivism rates are even higher, at over 75%. By contrast, a study commissioned by the Norwegian Correctional Service found recidivism rates at around 20%. This percentage is among the lowest in the world.

At SCI Chester, Little Scandinavia is considered medium-security. The program features amenities common in Norway, but not commonly available in United States prisons. Inmates have single cells, a communal kitchen, and a fresh grocery program. The communal areas are enhanced with live plants and a colorful fish tank that serves as a focal point for people to gather.

The Little Scandinavia program assigns one officer for every eight residents. Other prison units have ratios of one to one-hundred and twenty-eight.

Residents manage their own schedules for work, school, and treatment programs. According to researchers, there have been no acts of violence, even with access to potentially dangerous kitchen equipment.

Critics, however, have belittled this “soft” approach, claiming that it doesn’t punish criminals enough. Critics also claim that the Scandinavian model won’t work in the United States due to the many cultural differences within the population. Some are concerned that the costs would be too high given the larger number of people incarcerated in the United States compared to Northern European countries. The United States currently incarcerates nearly two million people in its prisons, jails, and detention centers.

The program was put on hold due to Covid-19, but twenty-nine more residents were added to the unit in May 2022. They were selected by lottery from the general population of the prison. The success of the experiment will not be known for many years, but for now the SCI Chester facility is very proud of the benefits observed so far.

During the Life Behind Bars: Compassion and Reform conference, Freethought Society (FS) President Margaret Downey spoke about the difficulties of shelving freethought, humanist, skeptic, and atheist materials in prison libraries. Her presentation can be found in the one-day conference video collection. The direct link to Downey’s presentation can be found at:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgvsQolQj7M&list=PL35ouksyG7G0C23Z1vRL3kXRwWUxQ1nY&index=9

The presentation highlighted prison literature restrictions FS has had to deal with when sending books, magazines, and newsletters. No literature that includes acts of violence, rape, incest, pillaging, and killing can be sent to an incarcerated person. Downey is bewildered how it is possible, given these restrictions, that the “Holy” Bible is shelved in every prison library. In her presentation she stated:

“Prisons have a large stack of Bibles to lend and some prisons even hand out bibles to newly arriving inmates! The Bible is filled with stories of violence, rape, incest, pillaging, tribalism, and killing, yet it is revered, honored, and condoned.

“The legal system creates vulnerable and susceptible people and inmates are looking for moral guidance. The Bible does not offer that at all. What is most needed is a dose of reality, a possible truth-filled philosophical home, and education about the natural world!

“Why is a so-called ‘holy book’ exempt from the rules and regulations of appropriate prison library literature? In my opinion, all holy books that advocate and describe violence, rape, incest, pillaging, and killing should be bared from prison libraries. They are confusing at best and immoral at worse.

“….we should be filling the shelves of prison libraries with books that promote humanism, reason, reality, and science. Our goal should be to offer a counter to delusions, fantasies, and irrational belief systems.”

While not much progress has been made in the FS placement of freethought literature in prison libraries project, on March 9, 2023, the Davis School District located in Farmington, Utah received a request from a parent who petitioned for a book review of the Bible. The request asked for an expedited response, which was denied.

The parent cited a Utah law passed in 2022 to ban any books containing “pornographic or indecent” content from Utah schools, both in libraries and in the classroom. That law passed after outcries from conservative parent groups pushed to have some titles they did not like removed.

Frustrated by the large amount of books being removed from school libraries, the Utah parent said that the Bible contains porn and should be removed from school libraries. The request for review indicated inappropriate content including incest, onanism, bestiality, prostitution, genital mutilation, rape, and even infanticide. The complaint concluded with the comment, “You’ll no doubt find that the Bible, under Utah Code Ann. § 76-10-1227, has ‘no serious values for minors’ because it’s pornographic by our new definition.”

FS supports the Utah parent and would like to see more parents, librarians, organizations, and others shine a light on the contents of the Bible to hold it to the same standards as the so-called “inappropriate” books deemed so by conservatives.

Volunteers are needed to pursue similar complaints. Please contact FS if interested in pursuing a legal complaint similar to that of the Utah parents: into@Fsociety.org.
“Social improvement and advancement” is the answer to the title question I proposed. Reform of the prison system will impact society in many positive ways.

Statistically speaking, atheists make up only 0.1% of the federal prison population. See the factual numbers and charts at: bit.ly/FreedomOfInformationAct

The Freethought Society (FS) thanks Hemant Mehta for using the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the official prison records found at the above link.

The nontheist philosophical designation is often kept secret since prisons are notoriously promoting religious affiliations as a way to prove that an inmate has “found” so-called “morality.” At times, to be considered for parole, an inmate must ask for “forgiveness” for “sins” they have committed. This is an inappropriate religious perspective. Nontheists, on the other hand, would likely acknowledge their crime, seek to repair the damage, commit to reformation for a better life, make better choices, and understand life consequences. Nontheists do not seek forgiveness from a made-up god. A truthful disclosure of such a life-stance is not easily accepted by prison authorities, however. Respect for a nontheist lifeline is long overdue.

In a 2015 agreement between the American Humanist Association (AHA) and federal prisons, inmates were authorized to identify with a “Humanist” label. The agreement also allowed Humanist inmates to receive the same perks enjoyed by religious inmates. For the first time, meeting space and the freedom to discuss their beliefs with large groups were afforded to inmates who identified as Humanists. Atheists and freethinkers, however, did not receive the same equal opportunities.

AHA's agreement was a result of a lawsuit brought on behalf of inmate Jason Holden. Holden requested legal help when he was denied the right to form a Humanist study group and identify as a Humanist for official assignment purposes. Consequently, the Federal Bureau of Prisons was forced to acknowledge Humanism as a recognized worldview.

“Humanism” was added to The Manual on Inmate Beliefs and Practices for official assignment purposes. Humanist inmates across the country were permitted to organize Humanist study groups and to annually observe Darwin Day (celebrated on February 12th each year).

FS hopes to see atheists and freethinkers given the same constitutional rights (Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and the Equal Protection mandate of the Fifth Amendment) equally with religious inmates. As an atheist and freethought organization, FS will work towards that end.

To change the system and encourage inmates to learn more about a life without religion, we must provide literature by shelving freethought books in prison libraries.

Nontheist inmates with an atheist and/or freethinking viewpoint should be able to use those particular worldview designations/labels rather than be counted as “Humanists” in order to achieve equality with religious inmates. We seek to reach a time when atheists and freethinkers will not endure discrimination within the prison system based simply on their lack of belief in a god/gods.

Freethought and atheist literature advocates the mindset that each person has only one life and that choices must be carefully considered. Life choices can be negative or positive in the natural world. A nontheist mindset will help people understand how choices will impact someone’s one and only life. This “only one life” mindset would be beneficial and should be taught in early adolescence. Would crime rates go down? Based on the already low amount of proclaimed nontheists in prison, the chances are high that crime rates would, indeed, go down.

So, what can FS, and you as a reader of this article, do to help? Providing nontheist education and literature to inmates may reduce recidivism and may very well influence the reformation of criminals overall.

The adoption of a Scandinavian model rehabilitation facility, as highlighted in the FS 2022 Life Behind Bars: Compassion and Reform conference, would create low recidivism. Please view the Scandinavian Prison Model conference speakers at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV8MenB8HOU&t=13s
(Gina Clark and Jordan Hyatt)

Another way to help is to send freethought literature donations directly to the two prison facilities and one incarcerated person that FS has been working with for several years. Below are the mailing addresses, but please note that donations must not contain literature that includes acts of violence, rape, incest, pillaging, or killing. The donation package must be handwritten in both the “to” and “from” areas. No labels. Also, the from information must contain only the name and address of FS. To save money a donation box can be sent as “media mail.” Below is the complete FS address information:

**Freethought Society**
P. O. Box 242
Pocopson, PA 19366

Below are the names and mailing addresses of those willing to accept freethought literature:

**Crossroads Correctional Center**
Attention Chaplain Johnson
50 Crossroads Drive
Shelby, MT 59474

**Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp**
Attention Chaplain Ken Pitlick
P. O. Box 160
Newcastle, WY 82701

**Jeff Price — 17044-026**
Federal Correctional Institution Milan
P. O. Box 1000
Milan, MI 48160

If you send FS your receipt indicating the cost incurred for shipping the literature, FS will send you a thank you letter that can be used as proof of your tax-deductible expense/donation. Email receipt scans to: margaret@FtSociety.org

Please also consider earmarking a monetary donation to FS so that the organization can continue its work. Donations can be mailed, or accepted here: [https://www.ftsource.org/donate/](https://www.ftsource.org/donate/)
Thanks for the meme-ories!
This centerfold presentation of popular memes highlights items found on the Internet that are not attributed to a particular designer, organization, or individual.

Jesus drove a Honda but didn’t talk about it, “For I did not speak of my own accord” -John 12:49

TECHNICALLY, MOSES
WAS THE FIRST PERSON WITH A TABLET DOWNLOADING DATA FROM THE CLOUD

CREATIONISM
The belief that we are not related to apes no matter how many genes we share, but are in fact descended from dirt

21 trillion unread messages

Good news! We don’t need to operate on you. All your injuries have been healed by your family’s prayers!

*deletes*

Said no doctor ever

- look, you're going to hell
- omg you too
Never trust a person who can clear their conscience of any immoral act by asking forgiveness from their imaginary friend.

Jesus: It's been over 2000 years. We should show ourselves
GOD: Good idea! Let's appear on some toast.

Father, I know you created the heavens and the earth, but I can't stop wondering, who created you?

Secular Suggestions
1. Love not hate.
2. Courage, not fear.
3. Reason, not superstition.
4. Respect, not worship.
5. Good, not God.
6. Fact, not myth.
7. Morality, not religion.
8. Skepticism, not cynicism.
9. Reason, not irrationality.
10. Empathy, not selfishness.

The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

I'm sorry, I stopped listening after, "The donkey said..."
Commandments
by Herb Silverman

Jesus allegedly said in Mark 12:29-31:

“The first of all commandments is to love thy God, and the second is to love thy neighbor as thyself. No commandments are greater than these.”

I think the second of these commandments is an excellent one and should be the foundation of our morality. We need to distinguish between crimes against humanity and crimes against “God.” Murder is a crime against humanity and universally condemned by everyone, regardless of religious belief. On the other hand, some religious believers commit crimes against humanity by following the first commandment when their “holy” book tells them to do so. Some will argue that the Crusades represented misguided Christianity and that true Christians would never do such a thing. However, at the time, it was easy for Christians to justify Crusades with their holy book. It’s terrifying to see how much evil can be justified in the name of God’s teaching in holy books. Bottom line: Commandment two is excellent, Commandment one sucks.

When it comes to commandments, the Hebrew Bible has 613 of them. More about that later. The most popular commandments, found in Exodus 20, are the familiar ten promoted by the mythical Moses and by Cecil B. DeMille’s movie The Ten Commandments.

The first commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me,” conflicts with the First Amendment to our United States Constitution guaranteeing freedom of religion — the right to worship one, several, or no gods.

The next three commandments (no graven images, not taking God’s name in vain, keeping the Sabbath day holy) refer to specific kinds of worship directed toward a God who punishes children even “unto the third and fourth generation” because their fathers could not believe. These first four commandments are religious edicts that have nothing to do with ethical behavior. They describe how to worship and pay homage to a jealous and vindictive God.

The fifth commandment, about honoring parents, should not be so unconditional as to condone abusive parenting. Unfortunately, there is no commandment about parents honoring their children or treating them humanely.

The next four (proscriptions against murder, adultery, stealing and lying) obviously have merit, and existed in cultures long before Moses. Yet even these are open to interpretation. Is abortion murder? What about euthanasia? War? Capital punishment? Reasonable people can disagree and respect other opinions, unless convinced they are acting as God’s messenger.

The tenth commandment, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, wife, slaves, ox, donkey, or any other property,” condones slavery and treats women as property. And, by the way, the American system of merchandising is based on coveting our neighbor’s possessions.

The biblical penalty for violating most of the religious commandments is death.

These Ten Commandments, meant to be the cornerstone of an ethical and moral life, are notable for what they omit. Instead of condemning covetousness and threatening to punish children if their parents do not worship in the correct way, why not condemn slavery, racism, sexual assault, child and spousal abuse, and torture?

While these are the best known of the 613 commandments in the Hebrew Bible, an angry Moses smashed them according to Exodus 32:19.

Religions don’t promote the anachronistic replacements found in Exodus 34, which is the only place (Exodus 34:28) that the Hebrew Bible actually refers to the Ten Commandments. Its sage advice includes: “Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven, the firstborn of a donkey shalt thou redeem with a lamb, the sacrifice of the festival of the Passover shall not be left until the morning, and (my personal favorite) Thou shalt not boil a kid (a goat) in its mother’s milk.”

However puzzling these commandments in Exodus 34 may seem, I think we can all recognize that it is better to refrain from boiling a kid in its mother’s milk than to justify owning slaves or treating women as property (Exodus 20).

I think most atheists and secular humanists agree with what is referred to as Jesus’s second commandment: “Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself.” However, I seem to spend most of my secular writing time critiquing religious doctrine. It sounds like my goal is to Invalidate Thy Neighbor’s Belief in God. While I admit I enjoy doing this, it is often counterproductive. To love our (religious) neighbor, we need to learn better how to empathize with him or her.

Religion is no longer as important to many people as it used to be. Does this mean nonbelievers are winning? Yes, to some extent, but we often wonder how religionists can be so wrong in their theology yet remain part of their religious flock.

What appeals to a lot of religious folks is not theological beliefs but feelings of social connectedness. People don’t necessarily go to houses of worship to worship, but to connect with friends, plan outings, and create business opportunities. Whether religious or not, we all need social connections. Fortunately, many secular humanist organizations have formed to fulfill this need, but we are not as well known or as effective as our religious counterparts. We need to continue to grow.

I think to attract religious people to our causes, and change stereotypes, we should put more emphasis on what we do and what we believe rather than harping endlessly on what we don’t believe. We might try to point out the good works we do as individuals or as part of community organizations.

Religious believers may never give up their religion, but perhaps some of them will better understand and respect what we do. Rather than showing religious people the obvious flaws in their “holy” books, we might be more productive working together with our progressive religious neighbors on causes we have in common. And we may learn a lot from them, too.

About the author:
Herb Silverman is a regular contributor to The Freethought Society News. His past submissions, bio, and contact information can be found at the below link to The Freethought Society website page:

Freethought Society Three-Month Calendar

To receive notices about Zoom events, become a member of The Freethought Society Meetup group. Join at: https://www.meetup.com/Freethought-Society-Meetup/. Each listing will have a unique Zoom link listed in the description of the event. FS meetings will include security features and will be recorded for replay on social media. Those who join the meeting consent to be recorded and agree to abide by the FS Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policy found at the FS webpage: https://www.ftsociety.org/freethought-society-code-of-conduct/.

June 8

The Thursday, June 8, 2023 Thomas Paine Day event will take place via Zoom at 4:00 PM PDT/7:00 PM EDT. This will allow as many people to attend as possible. The Zoom link is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89579106529?pwd=OGMyaks4cTIvWHdhcHBPU2VLZjRTUT09

Thomas Paine was a Deist, like many of the Founders of the United States of America. Deism is an intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries that accepted the existence of a creator on the basis of reason, but rejected belief in a supernatural deity who interacts with humankind.

Thomas Paine’s book The Age of Reason was written to explain Deism and in that book he states, “One good schoolmaster is of more use than a hundred priests.” An interactive discussion about The Age of Reason will be included in the social hour at the end of the formal program.

There is much more to learn about Deism and how it relates to the modern world. The speaker for the 2023 Thomas Paine Day is Amber Quitno. She is representing the World Union of Deists (WUD). For more information about WUD, please visit: https://www.deism.com/

Thomas Paine Day proclamations have been requested from several cities in Pennsylvania. During the event, we hope to highlight mayors and/or other city representatives who will be presenting Thomas Paine Day proclamations.

Please join us for an educational and entertaining time as we also celebrate the signing into law of the Thomas Paine Washington, D.C. Monument project. There will be an exciting announcement about Congressman Jamie Raskin’s connection to the project.

This event is cosponsoried by the Freethought Society, the Thomas Paine Memorial Association, the Center for Inquiry, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

August 12

On Saturday, August 12, 2023 the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the museum’s opening under the auspices of the Center For Inquiry (CFI). The address of the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum is:

Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum
61 Main Street
Dresden, NY 14441

The Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum is the only museum in the United States dedicated to Freethought. It is also the place to find the largest collection of artifacts related to life of Robert Green Ingersoll, who is best known as “The Great Agnostic.” Ingersoll orations were collected and published, many of which are on display in the Museum.

Ingersoll’s life story is filled with examples of his high moral standards, sense of humor, knowledge of religious beliefs, and his determination to promote equal rights.

The first opening of the Museum took place in the 1920s. The second opening took place in the 1950s. Each time the museum closed, related collections were dispersed. Under CFI’s leadership, the Museum recovered items, repaired the house, and added many collectible items related to the time period and the life of Ingersoll.

The Museum is located on the west shore of Seneca Lake in the heart of New York’s Finger Lakes area. The beautiful location and surrounding areas are the perfect place to vacation. There are many very nice hotels in the area. Below are the names and phone numbers of the hotels that we can highly recommend:

Dresden Hotel
Phone: (315) 299-2310

Belhurst Castle and Winery
Phone: (315) 781-0201

Best Western Plus Vineyard Inn & Suites
Phone: (315) 536-8473

If you plan a trip to participate in the CFI Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum anniversary event, please view more information about this historic location at the following website: https://freethought-trail.org/

The celebration will start at 11:00 AM with museum tours featuring new and expanded displays. A complementary sit-down lunch will be provided and a new gazebo will be dedicated to long-time museum director and editor of Free Inquiry magazine Tom Flynn.

Freethought Society President Margaret Downey will unveil a surprise gift to the museum, which will also be dedicated to the memory of Flynn.

The keynote speaker is Seth Andrews. He is an award-winning podcaster and author. Andrews frequently quotes Ingersoll and his career as “The Thinking Atheist” has been as exemplary as Ingersoll’s legacy.

To reserve a seat and a lunch, please contact Jeff Ingersoll at: jingersoll@me.com

Seating at the museum may be limited. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

October 1 – 7

The Freethought Society is looking for volunteers who will help place a Tree of Knowledge at the Chester County Free Speech Zone (Old Courthouse, 2 North High Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380) during Banned Book Week. The Tree will be decorated with laminated color copies of the covers of banned books. There is much work to do. Contact FS for details about the project at: info@FtSociety.org

Donations are also being sought for this project. Costs include the purchase and delivery of a tree (will be donated after Banned Book Week), signage, and the creation of ornaments. If a total of $1,000 is not raised, the project will be abandoned. Please earmark a donation at this link: https://www.ftsociety.org/donate/
The Freethought Society (FS) promotes freedom of thought, expression, and choice. FS also advocates for separation of religion and government. We assist nontheists, educate the public about nontheism, and provide social opportunities where like-minded individuals can meet, socialize and share ideas.

FS publishes *The Freethought Society News* every other month. The publication is delivered as an ezine via email and is complimentary to supporters, donors, and those who are interested in learning more about freedom of thought.

Monthly events take place in locations across the United States via Zoom or in-person when possible. 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/](http://www.FtSociety.org/donate/)). All contributions to FS are tax-deductible (Tax ID Number: 23-2738574). Donations can be earmarked for use in a committee (see list below), project, and/or an event. Non-earmarked donations will be applied to a general fund which finances office related expenses. Please donate generously.

Yes! I would like to:

( ) become a supporter / renew support of FS (Please enclose checks payable to The Freethought Society):

- $30 Individual Supporter
- $40 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   $50   $55   $_____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 send a complimentary ezine to potential supporters. Please provide contact information for anyone who might be interested in receiving an FS publication. FS will never share or sell a subscribers contact information.

Name: ________________________________________Email: ________________________________________________

Mail this form to: Freethought Society, P.O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366 or scan and email this form to: Ezine@FtSociety.org

**Volunteer Opportunities Through The Freethought Society**

Supporters of FS often want to do more than just make a financial contribution. Listed below are committees designed to fulfill the mission, goals, and vision of FS. Volunteers are needed in all committees listed. Please contact FS to volunteer at: volunteers@FtSociety.org

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

**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 in emergency situations)

**Jump into the Jean Pool**  
(collection of jeans for donations)

**Literature Placement for Prisoners**  
(providing literature to prison libraries)

**Meetup Committee**  
(planning events)

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

**Secular Celebrations**  
(develop new nontheist celebrations)

**Southern California Secular Coalition**  
(connect, share, and grow together)

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

**Special Events**  
(coordinate unique events of interest to nontheists)

**Sole Searching**  
(collection of athletic shoes for donations)

**Thomas Paine Memorial Committee**  
(work on themed events)

**Tree of Knowledge/Winter Display Committee**  
(promote and support the concept nationwide)