In January 2017 the Freethought Society (FS) board of directors had a tough decision to make. The dates for the March for Science Philadelphia event and the date for the International Spring Festival were announced, revealing that both events were scheduled to take place on the same day. Each event promised high participation numbers for Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day), but FS had been asked to be of help with the March for Science Philadelphia while the International Spring Festival involved only staffing a table. Since FS could only manage one event at a time, a vote was taken by the Board of Directors as to which event could be managed. The board immediately dived into a three-month effort aimed at making the March for Science Philadelphia a complete success. Perhaps in 2018 there will not be a date conflict.

FS’s 501(c)3 status enabled earmarked March for Science Philadelphia donations to be accepted via checks and PayPal. FS also paid all the bills related to the event and sent “Thank you for your donation” letters. The accounting was made easier thanks to the efforts of March for Science Philadelphia volunteer, Sara Atkins. She carefully logged all the “in” and “out” financial information in separate and comprehensive ledgers. We are proud to announce that donations received paid all the bills to date. We hope that there will be money left over to start efforts for a 2018 March for Science Philadelphia or other such efforts to promote scientific literacy. Thanks to all who donated to this wonderful effort.

In appreciation for all the work I did I was given a 5-minute speaking slot at the event. My remarks were part of the welcome. Lead March for Science Philadelphia organizer Janice Rael introduced me saying, “The March for Science Philadelphia could not have happened without the work of many dedicated volunteers and many generous donors...I’ll now hand the mic to our wonderful sponsor, Margaret Downey of the Freethought Society, to whom we owe many thanks for being this event’s financial partner, and giving you all the opportunity to make tax-deductible donations through the Freethought Society’s March for Science Committee. Here is Margaret to tell you a little about the Freethought Society, and why science is important to the group.”

As I walked to the podium, I was amazed at the huge crowd that had gathered at Penn’s Landing. The Penn’s Landing amphitheater holds approximately 20,000 people. I was told a few minutes earlier that thousands of people were still waiting outside of the grounds hoping to get seated. Penn’s Landing representatives confirmed that our crowd numbered approximately 25,000. When the weather changed drastically to heavy rain, the number dwindled making for lower numbers being reported in newspaper articles.

I was so happy that I had set up a VIP section at the amphitheater specifically for use by the FS group. Thirty FS supporters marched from City Hall to Penn’s Landing an hour earlier. The marching group leaders were FS board members Patti Butcheck and Greg White. The marching group included a very special historical person, Thomas Paine portrayed by Julien Musolino. Waiting for them at Penn’s Landing were 30 reserved seats and volunteer gift bags. Marchers appreciated the bottled water and healthy snacks that they found in the VIP section. Since I was unable to participate in the actual march (I helped with the Penn’s Landing set-up during the morning hours), I made sure each FS participant was greeted and thanked for their participation. I began my speech gazing upon the supportive smiles on the faces of FS supporters and the overwhelming realization that this was the largest crowd I had ever addressed. The following is the speech I delivered at the March for Science Philadelphia:
Welcome scientists, would-be scientists and science enthusiasts.

As the founder and president of the Freethought Society, I thank you all for being here today.

The Freethought Society serves as a forum in which freethinkers can meet, socialize, exchange ideas and promote scientific literacy. We provide educational information about science, philosophy and the natural world through our events, web presence and publications.

As freethinkers, our minds are not restrained by superstitions or prescribed dogmas that tell us what we can and cannot think. Our minds form conclusions based on evidence, facts and reason.

While some today would suppress independent thought, freethinkers know that the free exchange of ideas has been the primary driver of progress. We want science to continue to improve the condition of human suffering, help extend life, and be a respected way of understanding our place in the natural universe.

As freethinkers, we have freed our minds of ancient mythologies and we turn our full attention to scientific explanations, proven facts, and hard evidence for any and all claims. As freethinkers, we want to better ourselves and our community through the unrestrained application of reason. We know that only human endeavors can solve the local and global problems that confront us.

The Freethought Society also advocates separation of religion and government and we are concerned about those who would destroy the Jeffersonian wall completely and forever. We are currently dealing with elected officials who have made it their goal to tear down the wall between religion and government. Our cry to Donald Trump, Mike Pence and Jeff Sessions should be, “Don’t tear down that wall of separation between religion and government!”

It’s that wall of separation that also helps to keep religious-based constraints out of science!

Please visit the Freethought Society free literature table to learn more about how you can help maintain the Jeffersonian Wall of Separation. To learn about events, committees, projects and the activism we sponsor, you can also meet with some of our supporters attending today’s event, and make sure to meet our Thomas Paine to learn why the Freethought Society honors his legacy.

Thomas Paine said, “We have it in our power to begin the world again.”

This is why we are gathered here today honoring science and Earth Day! We are here to demand that our legislators begin the world again and it’s not going to happen with alternative facts, fake news and special interests that ignore sound climate change science research, information provided by respected scientists, and well-established documented facts. Listen to what we are saying Scott Pruitt!

We can begin the world again by funding science, respecting scientific research, and encouraging the use of evidence-based policies. Promoting scientific literacy depends on us all.

We must push back when our president makes a mockery of science and reason by placing into positions of power – people who have anti-science agendas.

Hear this, Betsy DeVos…future generations must be taught critical thinking skills and real science in our public schools. We say, “Make America smart again!”

Thank you all for being a part of this March for Science event and to help convey our vision for beginning the world again.

May we always work together, remain cooperative, supportive individuals and continue building upon the friendships and connections we made today.

I was thrilled the next day when The Philadelphia Inquirer quoted me. The entire article can be viewed at: https://is.gd/PhillyMFS.

Discussions are being held to determine if there will be a 2018 March for Science Philadelphia. Let’s hope that there will not be a need to put on another event, but that will only happen if a majority of people remain concerned, involved, and vocal.

Now, more than ever, it is critically important that you contact your legislators often via letters, email messages and phone calls. Volunteer, donate and participate.
Above left is the Freethought Society marching group making their way to Penn’s Landing from City Hall. Holding the banner are Greg White and Patti Butcheck. Julien Musolino is portraying Thomas Paine holding a sign that was donated to the effort by Goshen Signs (West Chester, PA).

Above right is Michele Capriotti holding her handmade sign. She is standing with Brian Patrick Mulligan, who portrayed Benjamin Franklin throughout the day.

Pictured right is Emily Maties Byrne holding her handmade sign showing Albert Einstein wearing a “Make America Smart Again” hat. Byrne is a well-known artist and a longtime supporter of The Freethought Society.

In the below row of photos, from left to right, are: David Silverman (President of American Atheists) and Hildy Silverman; event speakers Paul Offit and Margaret Downey; Ben Franklin and Janice Rael (Lead Event Organizer).
Shuffle. Step. Pouring rain. Crack a joke with my daughter.

We are standing at the corner of Constitution and 17th Streets in Washington, D.C. for the March for Science, surrounded by thousands of our new best friends as well as dear old ones. There are so many people there that it takes us an hour to shuffle across the intersection. My friend Celestia Ward quipped, “This is how science progresses. Shuffling, halting, but inevitably marches forward.”

We were a little late to the rally held at the base of the Washington Monument because we had stopped to talk to other protesters all along the way. We could hear the sounds of “She Blinded Me With Science” over very loud speakers as we approached the venue in the pouring rain.

It turns out Thomas Dolby was actually singing! I had flashbacks to my teen years of watching the newly-hatched MTV, back when it still played music videos. MTV debuted with images of rockets launching and of humans walking on the moon, and I couldn’t believe that such a bold challenge by a president almost 50 years ago would be contrasted with the proposed gutting of budgets of federal agencies that make such bold steps forward.

Bill Nye gave a pep talk for science that I live-streamed on Facebook. All around us, people laughed and joked, taking pictures of each other’s signs, since we were all on the same team. People were polite and friendly. These were not professional protesters, and most had never attended a rally of this magnitude before. As one sign said, “You know it’s bad when the introverts show up.”

After Nye, Michael Mann of the “Hockey Stick” graph showing increasing global temperatures spoke, as did dozens of others, all carrying the same pro-science message.

The American Humanists, Center for Inquiry, American Atheists, and the Secular Coalition for America had banded together and joined with others to sponsor this showy parade of science enthusiasts. We paraded down the streets of Washington, D.C. waving and showing off our signs. We all walked resolutely towards the Capitol steps. Along the way everyone seemed to enjoy the creativity of the signs being carried all around us.

One noticeable sign included references to the movie The Princess Bride:

Hello.
My name is Science!
You killed my funding!
Prepare to die!

There were also a few signs with Star Trek references that I thought were particularly clever:

Trump is a Ferengi

Don’t mess with science, we have lasers!

Some of the signs were very personal, often including thanks to science for curing their cancer or other medical conditions. My favorite was the sign with a picture of a young lady named Jessica:

Jessica wanted to be here, but she is busy defending her thesis
“Hydrogen evolution catalyzed by a cobalt complex containing an asymmetric Schiff-base ligand.”

There was no single, central signage message for the March for Science, but there were broad themes we could all get behind.

There were short-lived chants to fire particular members of the government, but the passions against individuals were replaced by the passions for science of all kinds. Highlighted during the day were the needs for vaccines, medical research, EPA controls, pure research, physics, geology (which “rocks,” I’ve been told), climate science, support for NASA, the protection of Mother Earth, and so much more.

Will it work? I don’t know. But protests do work, and the larger the better. It helps if there is a specific goal, which this particular march lacked. There were many objectives, which does somewhat dilute the impact of any single message. But we shouldn’t stop. We should march because that can motivate people to remain politically active when they return to their home districts.

Studies show that rally participants are more likely to call and write letters to their elected officials. See: https://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/dshoag/Documents/Political%20Protests%20-%20Evidence%20from%20the%20Tea%20Party.pdf

Letters sent to elected officials are very effective, as are (surprisingly) tweets. If a constituent has a particular expertise and has an established personal relationship with his or her official, that expertise can become a resource in the official shaping of policy.

So I’m going to keep marching, and I hope you will too. Maybe next time, Dr. Jessica will be there.
Can you imagine a March for Science on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City...a town once referred to as “America’s Playground,” and known mostly for its money-wasting casinos? Yet, on Saturday, March 22, 2017, we were gathered at the foot of what will become Stockton College’s Atlantic City campus (under construction).

I am proud to say that this once beautiful area where the Atlantic City High School stood has the promise of renewal and a new direction. I feel positive that the March for Science became part of that renewal and new direction. People from all walks of life and varying educational backgrounds gathered in the rain to have their voices heard in support of SCIENCE.

Marching past the casinos, dodging the passenger push cars and visitors trying to get out of the rain, we chanted to a drumbeat. We felt connected to one another as we made our way to Boardwalk Hall to hear speakers proclaim the virtues and necessity of science in our society.

The entire march was exhilarating, freeing, and comforting all at the same time. Knowing that there were others who held science in the same respectful esteem as I was deeply satisfying. I appreciated every moment.

Just a quarter of a century ago during the casino boom, this is the place where Donald J. Trump proclaimed to have built “the eighth wonder of the world.” Yet in a few short years he had bankrupted all of his Atlantic City casinos.

It’s hard to comprehend but Trump, using his “alternative facts” stance, was able to spin the negative experience in his favor!

During his campaign, Trump boasted of his success at outwitting the Wall Street firms that had financed his casinos. Regardless of the bankruptcies, Trump was still able to make millions — so he claimed. Sadly, his business dealings had successfully ruined many small contractors and businesses in the Atlantic City area.

This March, however, highlighted Trump’s flawed policies concerning science and its impact on our society. The March for Science was just one way for concerned citizens to channel the anger felt by many of the participants. It was a very successful day for all who attended.
THE WASHINGTON SCIENCE MARCH as seen by a skeptic cartoonist

by Celestia Ward

THE REAL EFFECTS OF THE SCIENCE MARCHES, IN TERMS OF POLITICS AND PROGRESS, STILL REMAIN TO BE SEEN. BUT MY IMMEDIATE REACTION IS EASY TO MEASURE... I AM SO GLAD I TOOK THE TIME TO PARTICIPATE ALONGSIDE SO MANY GOOD SCIENCE-MINDED CITIZENS OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

I FLEW TO D.C. BECAUSE I WANTED TO AT LEAST ADD MY ONE WARM BODY AND MY ONE SHOUTING VOICE TO THE WHOLE.

I ALSO WANTED TO OBSERVE. BUT IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO GET A SENSE OF THE OCEAN BY SWIMMING IN A SMALL PATCH. I ONLY CAUGHT SMALL MOMENTS.

HUNDREDS OF CLEVER SIGNS IDENTIFIED THEIR HOLDERS AS PHYSICISTS, DOCTORS, MOTHERS, NERDS, VACCINE NON-RESPONDERS, ORNITHOLOGISTS, ENGINEERS, ATHESISTS, AND EVEN CHRISTIANS!

ONE OF THE CRITICISMS I’D HEARD EARLY ON WAS THAT EXTREMIST SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS, WOO PEDDLERS, AND PSEUDOSCIENCE ADHERENTS WERE INFILTRATING THE MARCH.

INDIEH, IN OUR LITTLE LAGOON WE MOMENTARILY SPOTTED A REAL, LIVE ANTI-VAXXER.

SEARCH VACCINE FRAUD!

SEARCH VACCINE FRAUD!

HE SKULKED OFF QUICKLY THOUGH, SEEMING TO LOSE CONFIDENCE AMID THE GLARES OF THOSE AROUND HIM.

HE PROBABLY REALIZED THIS WAS MUCH MORE INTIMIDATING THAN TYPING ALL CAPS ON A THREAD.

I ALSO MADE A SIGN!

WE HAVE LASERS

SECULAR COALITION

DR. ANGIE AND I LOOKED ON THE BRIGHT SIDE... KOOKS AT LEAST ADDED TO THE HEADCOUNT.

WELL, IF FOLKS LIKE HIM ENLARGE THE CROWD HERE, SO BE IT. ANOTHER WARM BODY FOR SCIENCE!

PITY ABOUT HIS BRAIN, THOUGH.

DONT MESS WITH MY SCIENCE

FUND NASA

MAD SCIENTIST

THIS MARCH WAS ALSO HAILED AS AN EVENT THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BROUGHT OUT A HUGE CONTINGENT OF INTROVERTS...

...THOSE NON-POLITICAL TYPES WHO HAVE, UNTIL NOW, BEEN CONTENT TO STAY IN THEIR LABS BRAVED THE RAIN AND MARCHED!
I noticed a small moment at the end of the march, as we all shuffled away from the Capitol in search of dinner...

It was a middle-aged guy.

A father.

On the phone.

It sounded like he was keeping the peace between his kids, who had been marching with him earlier.

Well he’s a shy kid... so were you.

You got over your shyness... and he will too. Give him time. He did great today, he just pushed beyond his limit.

This march had brought out a lot of (former and current) shy kids.

Maybe not everyone was ready for bold social action, but they felt it was important enough to try.

Sure... Italian sounds great.

How about Italian?

I use narrative to frame and simplify complex issues.

Warning: Of course, these are only small moments, seen through the unreliable eye of a cartoonist... we are notorious for exaggerating and ascribing symbolic importance.

It’s like a bad habit.

But small moments give me hope.

Like individuals in a march, small moments add up.

If dangerous anti-science gets more shaming in the public square...

And if scientists can get a bit less shy and speak out, educating the public and the politicians...

Then, yeah, this whole march is a little moment in history that gives me hope.

CelestiA 5/15/17
For a Philadelphia native like me, I associate my hometown as a City of Firsts. In historical “Olde City” Philadelphia you can’t walk around the block without stumbling upon a historical sign indicating that this place is where the first-of-something happened, was born, was founded, or was built. We are the proud home of the first public library, first fire company, first government mint, and first hospital, just to name a few. We suffer from an abundance of firsts to such a degree that one could easily take them for granted. As a matter of fact, I find that we have such a powerful history that it can water down the personality of this city.

Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and Ben Franklin are ubiquitous with both Philadelphia and the birth of this nation. Under the shadow of such massively important historical times, it is hard to imagine a light shining bright enough to be seen. And yet…

Franklin is Philadelphia’s son, emblazoned almost everywhere in name and/or symbol. The most famous symbols are his bifocal spectacles and the infamous kite and key. Both items are testaments to a man who prided himself on his inventions and scientific endeavors. This is a city that should be known for challenging the status quo, seeking knowledge, and striving towards an unknowable future. Yet today we are more known for our history, and not our desire to reach out and shape the future. We seem to be looking back in time for our pride, instead of into our future. And yet…

Present day politicians are embracing the deep pockets of special interests. We see how the money of special interests and powerful lobbying groups can influence our political leaders. We are watching powerful men making decisions that profit their budget at the costs of their constituents’ well-being. It seems that we are a nation weakened from our ideal and cowering under the influence of greed. And yet…

On Earth Day I found myself compelled to march against the flush of anti-science furor which has swept our country’s leadership. On a cloudy Saturday, I stood before our beautiful City Hall — the world’s tallest masonry structure surrounded by thousands of my fellow citizens. Philadelphia was one amongst dozens of cities to demand better from our government. Many of the participants carried signs declaring the importance of science, logic, and reason. Many more were carrying something more important, their children.

Leading a country into the future is intimidating and requires a blend of courage, self-sacrifice, and imagination. No one knows the path we should take but we NEED a leadership that has the courage to face this task. It is up to us, the motivated citizenry of this country, to make this a priority. Silencing the scientific voices of our nation in favor of political agendas is cowardly and petty. We demanded better on April 22, 2017.

Our voices, our marches, and our votes will influence the direction our nation takes in the coming years. And I hear that call. Unlike anything I’ve seen in my lifetime, citizens have risen up and have taken to the streets. We stand, we march, and we cry out for the future we want our children to inherit. We call for the continuing improvement of our lands, our air, and our water. We call for the development of clean energy, not regressing back to 19th century coal. We call for investment in the scientific community, education, and research that will keep our country current with other nations’ research and development. We demand better.

Which is what the event organizers stated so eloquently on the stage at the completion of the March. Nestled in Penn’s Landing, with the mighty Delaware River as a background, event spokespeople called for a concerned citizenry to rise up and make their voices heard.

I sincerely believe that our voices have been heard. It isn’t enough, however. I want better than cowardly inaction. I want progressive development and an investment in our country’s future.

I will continue fighting. I hope others will join me in any and all efforts we put forward. If you can’t attend a rally or march, contact your legislators (phone calls, emails, letters). Join groups that will lobby on your behalf and push your concerns forward. Promote action through everyday conversations with friends, neighbors and family members. Be vocal and present on this quest for a better world that is based on reason, scientific facts and education.
March for Science Los Angeles, California
by Lisa Pedersen

After a rally in the Los Angeles landmark Pershing Square, an estimated 75,000 people Marched for Science. The rally kicked off at 11:00 AM and led participants to the outside of City Hall. There, speakers voiced the concerns for us all.

Speakers such as Allison Schroeder, Tepring Piquado, and Brad Sherman talked about the crucial roles science plays in driving our economic growth, preserving our environment, and protecting our health. Another speaker, theoretical physicist from Caltech, Sean Carroll, talked about how science and democracy can work together. Carroll stated that science seeks truth and can admit when it is wrong as new facts come to light. Scientists make adjustments accordingly. He went on to say how a democratic society can learn from science that when it is wrong, it should do something different.

After featured speakers concluded their presentations, demonstrators returned to Pershing Square for more information about science. I enjoyed learning how to spot alternative facts on the internet and how science determines air quality.

The March for Science Los Angeles was a somber event compared to the human rights protests and demonstrations I’ve attended in the past. The March for Science was a well-organized demonstration that brought people together, created awareness, and hopefully encouraged participants to take action both locally and globally on matters which are related to science. Many speakers encouraged people to contact government officials, to educate others, and to make a positive difference in the world. This March for Science concept certainly created awareness across our nation. There were hundreds of March for Science events across the county and hundreds more in other countries. Without science, we would continue to live in the dark ages.

Because I am a human rights activist and peace builder, my passion lies with empowering people. The more diverse we are and the more we encourage one another and stand united — the more likely we will overcome the injustices of the few who have control upon the majority. People who didn’t realize that they could make a difference will have the courage to do so if our voices are loud and shouted often in public venues.

Since the event was held on Earth Day, I took a train to and from Los Angeles from Orange County. I was proud to lower my environmental impact in this small way. Although signs are useful to get messages across and I could have used recycled material, I choose not to use one because I did not want to add to our landfill and/or recycling factories.

Environmental concerns will be carried forward for the rest of my life as I wholeheartedly commit to promote scientific literacy and help Mother Earth recover from the damage that has been done so far. My shirt had a design of our planet with various points, which intersected one another. I chose to wear this shirt to show how we are interrelated to everything around us, including our beautiful galaxy and universe.
An Evening With Lawrence Krauss

The Freethought Society (FS) has collaborated with the Philadelphia Ethical Society (PES) for many years to bring quality programs to the area. PES has a lovely venue and FS has many secular celebrity contacts. The combination enables both organizations to fulfill their missions, draw new members/supporters, and expand programing.

On March 20, 2017, FS and PES were pleased to host Lawrence Krauss as he started his The Greatest Story Ever Told — So Far book tour. He notified Simon & Schuster early-on that he wanted to make Philadelphia one of his destinations. Krauss had fond memories of FS and PES hosting him during his A Universe From Nothing book tour.

Krauss was happy, once again, with his stop in Philadelphia. Marty Moss-Coane interviewed him for one hour on her NPR show Fresh Air, and thanks to Zenos Frudakis, Krauss was able to visit a few local sites after the show. Frudakis also took him to his studio in Glenside, Pennsylvania, where Krauss posed for a future bust commission.

The sold-out event was a great success and attendees had nothing but praise for the program, music, food, beverages and gifts.

FS and PES thank volunteers Jeannie Arnold (book sales and ticket taker), Noah Loev Balistra (pianist and set-up assistant), Youval Balistra (usher and bartender), Patti Butcheck (pre-event preparations and photographer), Margaret Downey (event co-organizer), Bill Flynn (book sales and ticket taker), Alan Gold (usher and bartender), Glen Loev (usher and bartender), Hugh Taft-Morales (PES Leader and event co-organizer), Juliene Musolino (usher and bartender), and Janice Rael (co-organizer, ticket taker and book sales).

Please watch this publication for announcements of future FS and PES events. Events are also announced online at the following links:

Discussion Group
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fs-discussion/

Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/The-Freethought-Society-147128532024347/?fref=ts

Twitter
https://twitter.com/FreethoughtScty

Website
www.FtSociety.org

Meetup
https://www.meetup.com/Freethought-Society-Meetup/

Freethought Society founder and president Margaret Downey is pictured left with Lawrence Krauss.

Pictured above is Zenos Frudakis molding a piece of clay to begin the process of creating a bust of Krauss. Krauss is sitting in the portrait chair. This photo was taken at the Frudakis studio.

The beginning of the Krauss bust is pictured right.
An East Coast Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center will open on **Friday, October 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM** in the ballroom of the **Embassy Suites** located at **9000 Bartram Avenue** in **Philadelphia** (near the Philadelphia airport). The Friday-the-Thirteenth party kicks off the Pennsylvania State Atheist/Humanist conference taking place on Saturday and Sunday. See the full details and register for the conference at:

**AtheistPA.org**

**Margaret Downey** (Lead Friggatriskaidekaphobia Nurse) is searching for staff members (doctors and nurses) to work at the Treatment Center. Costumes (white old-fashioned dresses and lab coats) in various sizes are available for loan. Duties including taking party attendees through an easy anti-superstition obstacle course and certifying them for a “Clean Bill of Mental Health” souvenir certificate. Pre-event training is available.

Entertainers are also needed for this event. If you sing and would like to perform a song poking fun at superstitions, we want to hear from you. Lip syncing is also a form of entertainment that can be a lot of fun. If you lip sync, please contact Downey to get placed on the program.

A Friday-the-Thirteenth event is made more special with live shows such as comedy and/or magic. If you have this skill, please contact Downey as soon as possible.

An on-site T-shirt sales table will open during the party, but sales staff is needed. Downey is hoping to hear from at least two people who will volunteer to do this job.

To capture the festivities, a photographer is needed. The photographs will be used in the follow-up article about the event for the Freethought Society ezine and for a historical record of events for the Friggatriskaidekaphobia website.

The most important jobs, however, are the volunteers who will help setup the room (includes a superstition museum, staging, games, centerpieces, balloons and much more) and to take down the party paraphernalia afterwards. Volunteers willing to help with the set-up would need to arrive between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. Downey estimates that about four people are needed for the set-up and the take-down process. The party will end at around 11:30 PM. The ballroom can be cleaned up by midnight with a good crew working together.

All volunteers will be rewarded with a free party pass, a 5:00 PM meal, a complimentary T-shirt and huge amount of appreciation. Please contact Downey either by email or phone as soon as possible to volunteer for one of the jobs mentioned above. Downey’s contact information is listed below:

**Phones:**
610-357-9432 (cell)
and
610-793-2737 (office)

**Email:**
Margaret@FtSociety.org

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**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.**

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

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

**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: **http://www.evolvefish.com/The-Freethought-Society_e_24.html**
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  $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 (or hard copy upon request) to potential supporters. Please provide contact information for anyone who might be interested in receiving an FS publication.

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

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)