A Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation

The Freethought Society News

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

FS is an educational nonprofit organization (EIN Number 23-2738574). All donations to FS are tax-deductible.

Freethought Society Submits "Right to Know" Request to Chester County Commissioners

by Margaret Downey

The Freethought Society's (FS) *Tree of Knowledge* display was excluded from the winter holiday display at the Chester County Courthouse during the 2010/2011 season. The exclusion was the result of a resolution created by Republican Commissioner **Terrance Farrell**. The resolution passed, with only Democratic Commissioner **Kathi Cozzone** objecting and voting against it.

On February 20, 2011, I sent a letter to the Chester County Solicitor's office requesting "all documents that show the ownership and source of the components (Santa Claus, sleigh, wire train, crèche, tree, menorah, and veteran's wreath) comprising the 2010 Winter Holiday Display, including correspondence and emails with anyone who lent pieces of the display to the office of the Chester County Commissioners."

This request for information was filed under the Pennsylvania "Right to Know" laws. This action brings FS closer to understanding the connection between the Chester County Commissioners' office and the organizations privileged to obtain a place of recognition on the grounds of the Chester County Courthouse during the 2010/2011 winter holiday season.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney **Mary Catherine Roper** stated that there are no legal challenges that would force the County to reopen the free speech zone on the Courthouse lawn, but there may be a challenge to the Commissioners' endorsed display. The answers FS receives from the Right to Know inquiry will determine if there are any legal remedies to pursue. Roper cautions that the result of a successful challenge could lead to no display at all and may not force the inclusion of FS's *Tree of Knowledge*.

I also consulted with **Ian Smith**, staff attorney for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Smith said that the Chester County Commissioners' office was "within its rights" to pass the resolution.

Smith went on to say that "Generally speaking, the government may choose to close a forum that has previously been available to private parties. They are not legally obliged to maintain a public forum in the courthouse. Once the county has closed the forum, however, under the terms of the resolution, the county will be legally responsible for whatever is put up as a holiday display. Thus, they will have to be careful that their display does not violate the Establishment Clause."

At first glance it would appear that the Commissioners' office did not step outside constitutional boundaries, but some questions have not been fully answered. FS's Right to Know letter questions whether or not the Commissioners' office allowed religious groups an exemption to the Resolution (which revoked the right of all parties to post private unattended displays).

Smith and Roper complimented FS on having conducted the December 5, 2010 "Shining a Light on Bigotry Rally." Smith stated that in some situations "Demonstrations and public outreach activities can often be more effective in changing public opinion than a lawsuit."

The legal departments of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the American Humanist Association are also waiting to see what FS's Right to Know inquiry reveals. They stand ready to be of assistance as FS continues the fight for freedom of expression and the right to participate in community activities equally with religious groups. ◆

FS's 2011 Anti-Superstition Bash Information

The Freethought Society's (FS) next Anti-Superstition Bash will be held on **Friday, May 13, 2011** from **7:00 PM to 11:00 PM** in the beautiful **Corinthian Yacht Club**. The Club is located at **300 West 2nd Street, Essington, PA 19029**. FS will host a "Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center," which will be equipped to assist party attendees in getting over all their superstitions and start the process of ending magical thinking. The general admission (includes light fare) is **$10** with **$5** discounts available for students and seniors. Cash bar only. No BYOB. There is no charge for children under the age of 13.

Top 13 Reasons to Attend the Bash

13. Can you think of a better way to spend your evening on Friday-the-Thirteenth?
12. Earn a "Clean Bill of Mental Health" certificate from a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Nurse or a Friggatriskaidekaphobia Doctor, with complimentary photos.
11. You could be the "lucky" person selected to break a mirror.
10. Earn a souvenir "Trash Your Horoscope" certificate.
9. Participate in a door prize raffle and book give-away.
8. Network with other Freethinkers and skeptics.
7. Dance all night long to the sounds of a DJ spinning anti-superstition-themed music.
6. Participate in games that will make you laugh out loud.
5. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres/light fare.
4. Toast your accomplishment at the cash bar.
3. Be there when the **mystery guest** is revealed.
2. Purchase discounted anti-superstition books for your library.

And the number one top reason to attend the 2011 FS Anti-Superstition Bash is (drum roll, please):

1. This party marks the 14th Anniversary of FS's hosting an Anti-Superstition Party! Let's celebrate our "good fortune" together!!

Anti-Superstition Bash 2011 RSVP Form

*(Email RSVP to: **Tickets@FtSociety.org** or return this form to the address below by **May 1, 2011.**)*

☐ Yes! I will be attending.

Number of tickets: _____ (at $10 each or student/senior price of $5 each) Total enclosed: $_____

(Please make checks payable to the Freethought Society.)

Please list your guests' names here: _____

_____

☐ I would be interested in volunteering before, during or after the event (details and a list of jobs will be sent to you).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mail or fax this form to the FS Event Coordinator, Margaret Downey:

FS's May 13th Party
P. O. Box 242
Pocopson, PA 19366

FAX: (610) 793-2569
Phone: (610) 793-2737
Cell: (610) 357-9432

2011 Anti-Superstition Bash Hotel Information

Please plan to attend the Freethought Society's (FS) Anti-Superstition Bash scheduled for Friday, **May 13, 2011** and enjoy food, dancing, drinking and camaraderie from **7:00 PM** until **11:00 PM**. To encourage people to not drink and drive, FS is providing the following hotel information (many more Essington area hotels can be found on the Internet). Volunteer designated drivers are available upon request.

The Ramada Airport Hotel
76 Industrial Highway/Route 291
Essington, PA 19029
Phone: (610) 521-9600
Email: info@ramadaphl.com

Average room price is $199 (single or double occupancy)

The Ramada offers their guests 24 Hour Complimentary Shuttle Service; Complimentary Wireless High Speed Internet; Exercise Room; Full Service Restaurant and Lounge (with Limited Room Service); Handicapped & Non-Smoking Rooms/Facilities; Heated Seasonal Outdoor Pool; Laundry/Valet Services; Secured Parking Available (free Parking while registered and staying in the hotel); Pay Per View Movies & HBO; Safe Deposit Box; *USA TODAY* Newspaper; Coffeemaker, Iron and Hairdryers in all rooms. A typical Ramada room is pictured below.

No Pets Allowed

Wyndham Garden Hotel
45 Industrial Highway (Route 291)
Essington, PA 19029
Phone: (610) 521-2400
Website: www.wyndham.com

Average room prices range from $89- $149

The Wyndham Garden Hotel is conveniently located just 3 miles from Philadelphia International Airport and 12 miles from downtown Philadelphia. The hotel is minutes from Harrah's Casino & Racetrack, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and a wide variety of attractions and activities sure to make your stay more enjoyable.

Offering 106 newly renovated, spacious accommodations, The Wyndham Hotel also offers their guests complimentary shuttle service to and from the Philadelphia Airport between the hours of 4:00 AM and 1:00 AM, complimentary parking, a professional fully-appointed fitness center, seasonal heated outdoor pool and a business center. Complimentary high-speed Internet service is available in both guest rooms and public areas. Room service is available upon request, but guests can enjoy a lounge and restaurant on the premises. A typical room at the Wyndham is pictured below.

My Journey: At First I Listened

by Marilyn LaCourt

In the 1930s when my parents referred to their children with endearing nicknames, I listened. My brother, five years my senior was "the professor." They called me "dupis." Don't bother looking it up. The word dupis is not in the dictionary, but I knew what it meant. Boys are smart. Girls are stupid. I was not expected to achieve any more than a high school education. I listened.

We were an upwardly mobile working-class family. No one in our family had ever gone to college. In my parents' generation no one even went to high school. My brother was destined to break the mold. He would be the first to get a college degree. My parents, like all good hard-working upwardly-mobile parents pre- and post-World War II, wanted a better life for their children. And like all good parents they gave support and advice to their children.

Well, I was the one to break the mold. I, "the dupis," the girl child, was the first in my generation to actually achieve a college degree, and a post-graduate degree at that. So the myth of "the dupis" and the "professor" bit the dust.

My parents' marriage was what was referred to in those days as "mixed." Mom was Catholic and Dad was Lutheran. Neither of them went to church on a regular basis. Mom sent me to church with whatever neighbor was going. I remember singing "Yes Jesus Loves Me." I did not enthusiastically sing along, but I listened.

My father told me to choose a husband wisely, one who would succeed in life, one who would be able to support me well. He told me to arm myself with job skills, job skills appropriate for a girl, just in case. I listened.

I know my parents loved me. That was not the problem. They did their best, considering the culture into which they were born.

They were hard-working and loyal people. My dad was drafted at age thirty-eight. During the two years he served in the United States Navy, he sent most of his earnings home to my mother. She in turn worked three jobs while he was gone. She worked in the bottle house at Schlitz Brewery, full-time during the day and worked as a waitress weeknights in a neighborhood restaurant. She also worked on the weekends waitressing at another restaurant. She saved as much as she could. When my father returned after the War, they pooled their resources and bought a tavern.

I didn't really become a Catholic until I married a Catholic man. Oh, yes, I did go to a Catholic high school. The public high school in our area was considered a dangerous place. My father, and my mother too, told me to play it safe. And while I was in that Catholic school, I listened. I also began to rebel, in small, adolescent, superficial ways. This was before the word feminism rolled off tongues. *The Feminine Mystique* had not yet been published. Before I understood the sense of it, I began to smell the stench of hypocrisy.

I was only seventeen, a recent high school graduate, when my brother took me to a bar and introduced me to my first husband. He was twenty-five and the teaching principal in a two room rural school. My brother pretended that I was his date, and obviously old enough to be drinking in a bar. When my brother "accidentally" let it slip that I was his sister, the man who would become my first husband suddenly became very interested in me.

Later I discovered my brother's intent in taking me to that bar was to play cupid, or you could say to take on the parental responsibility to arrange my marriage. The first chapter in my novel, "The Almost Brother," is based on that experience. When I protested an arranged date with my future husband, my brother threatened to deny me the use of his car if I didn't go out with this fellow. Being a girl who thought her options were limited, I complied. My brother meant well.

On our first date, a Sunday afternoon, following our Saturday night introduction, he arrived to pick me up a little before noon. He asked if I had been to mass and I answered honestly, "No. I thought I'd skip it today." He replied, "You still have time to catch the noon mass. I'll wait for you here."

I went to mass. He planted himself in the easy chair in my parent's living room where he sat, Sunday paper held at arms length until I returned.

Wow, I thought, here's a guy who means business. He knows what's right and what's not. As the dupis, the girl child, the stupid one, what more could I ask for, a professional man. Strangely enough, he did not think I was stupid, or if he did, he didn't show it.

The first date didn't go well. I was quiet, and pining for the boyfriend that had stood me up in favor of dating my best girlfriend. I didn't hear from the guy my brother arranged for me until months later when I needed a date for a party sponsored by my employer. I had the choice of three guys who could escort me to the party. Those days, girls didn't go to parties unescorted. My mom suggested I draw straws to determine who I would ask to go to the dance. The first drawing didn't turn out to her liking. She suggested two out of three. Well, you guessed it. It was my brother's match for me. An embarrassed teenager called the "good catch" and asked him to be my date.

As I look back, I feel fortunate that I didn't have the religious indoctrination, the brain washing, that many of my peers had. At least when I was seriously introduced to religion I had already reached the age of reason. I could listen, but I could also begin to reason. I was still listening, and I was still shy and insecure.

I followed my father's advice. I had typing skills and I knew the alphabet well enough to file papers. I also married a Catholic man with a very promising future. He came along when I was just seventeen, but I was finished with high school, and well, I thought, what's next? What's next for a girl, that is.

People mistook my shyness for maturity. My father used to look at me in that sort of special way, and he would say, "still waters run deep." But I was just listening. People like good listeners. I discovered that if I encouraged others to speak, I didn't have to.

At first, it was a cover for my shyness, and for the fact that I had nothing to say.

Just before my nineteenth birthday, I married the man my father would have chosen for me. He was a college graduate, he was moving up in his teaching career. He could provide me with security, and he was, still is, a good man, a kind and caring man.

Because of him, I went to the Catholic Church, and I listened. My mom was quite pleased. She thought I had achieved the perfect marriage. I remember her saying, if anything ever happened between Marilyn and Chet I will cease to believe in anything.

That all changed as time went on. My mom was my greatest ally, and my greatest support in the subsequent divorce between Chet and me. I gave her a copy of *The Feminine Mystique* and she read it. We talked about it. She understood my dilemma. In a funny sort of way, mother and daughter became friends. The generation gap was overcome.

I went to church, and I listened. The Pope said the pill is "a no no." I concluded that I could not be a Catholic and go against the Church. I didn't know how to be what is called today a moderate, and I had an intense distaste for hypocrisy.

By the time I reached my twenty-fourth birthday, we had four children. I either had to quit the church or keep having babies. My first husband, to his credit, was not against birth control. He was, alas, a moderate.

Ten years of marriage and five children later, still a Catholic, I stopped listening, at least I stopped listening to the sermons. Actually I stopped going to mass if I could avoid it. My husband and I took turns going to mass. He took the older children, while I stayed home with the very young ones. When my turn came to go to mass, I went to the local coffee shop instead. I returned home at the proper time and nobody was the wiser.

I knew my body would give out and my mind would turn to mush if I continued to have more children. By this time I knew I should have had only two children but I couldn't say which two. I loved them all.

Ah, but I found another option, another Catholic church, one that was more interested in social justice than in denying its members the use of condoms. I enthusiastically dragged my family to this church. There were four years between my fourth and fifth child. I had her on purpose.

Below is a photo of what Marilyn refers to as the "perfect little Catholic family."

I wanted to have the luxury of rearing one baby without having to be distracted by the needs of so many other babies. Honesty bodes me to admit that I was scared to death of having to enter a work force for which I was ill prepared. A fifth child would buy me a little more time.

I took a side trip, a journey into religion's seductive promise and I got hooked deep, real deep. I guess you could say I had the faith and the enthusiasm of a convert.

When my youngest daughter was to receive first communion, I proudly provided a ceramic chalice, a chalice made by my own hands and fired in my own kiln to be used for the ceremony. The chalice was to be passed for everyone present to sip the wine. When my mother-in-law, a traditional Catholic, objected, stating it would spread germs if everyone sipped from the same cup, I self-righteously sputtered at her, "I would drink from a toilet if that's what it took to get the blood of Christ." I tell this story occasionally because it keeps me humble, and reminds me not to be too harsh in my criticism of the credulity of others.

I had found a home. As a member of the liturgy committee at this church where it was not unusual to hear parishioners singing, "Jeremiah Was a Bull Frog" during mass, I was able to satisfy my hunger for spiritual connection and community. My membership on the adult education committee put me in the inner circle of the thinkers in this progressive church and gently nudged my sleepy brain to wake up.

And wake up I did. I read and discussed Catholic Theology with the best of them. I sat in on a couple courses, at Marquette University, became friends with a Jesuit priest, and at age thirty-four I enrolled as a college freshman in a junior college, later transferring to University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where I earned my Bachelor's degree in secondary education and my Master's in communication.

I became put off by the fact that the things clergy discussed with me were things they didn't say from the pulpit. There was an elitism that didn't respect the parishioners enough to stop sugar-coating theology. I educated myself right out of the church that had provided me with a parking lot on my way to enlightenment.

Am I pissed off at organized religion? You bet. Of all the crimes against humanity, and there are many, one that is close to the top of my list is one that is not so easily detectable.

It is insidious and subtle. I'm talking about hypocrisy, knowingly believing one thing and preaching another from a position of authority as well as its cousin, dissimulation

(concealing or disguising one's thoughts, feelings or character).

I read and studied psychology, philosophy, communication theory, theology, and, yes, **C.S. Lewis** and other apologists.

The taste of freedom is far sweeter than the stale comfort of naivety. I am seventy-six-years-old and I still abhor unfairness and hypocrisy. I simply cannot be a "moderate."

Ultimately, after twenty years of marriage, we divorced, my children's father and I. I still care for him, and I believe he cares for me, too.

I feel fortunate to have traveled with him for a very important part of my life. He had a very positive impact on who I am today. I continue to travel with him. He is like a brother to me.

The financial security he provided while we were married and I was a stay-at-home mother allowed me the luxury to find my voice, without the restriction of having to do battle with the politics of the "real world," and the pressure of having to be the breadwinner. I was free while he was encumbered with having to conform in order to provide for his family. With his encouragement, I became a liberal protesting hypocrisy and injustice everywhere I encountered unfairness.

He wanted a peaceful existence. He wanted to avoid conflict. He was, after all, a moderate. My voice got too loud for his comfort. He was threatened by my passionate rebellion. I was angry about his lack of passion. It was his financial support, the security he provided that allowed me to "think outside the nine dots."

I didn't see it that way at the time. I felt like I was the only victim. I had sold out my freedom to pursue my destiny for the security he could provide. I wrote this poem:

To weave this blanket took me many years
of discipline with dreams to overcome.
I wear it as a hood to cover ears
to keep from hearing lies told me by some
who mean no harm. I wear it as a mask
to cover eyes to keep from seeing all
unanswered questions urging me to ask.

Oh blanket meant to comfort me
I've made you far too well.
If only just to feel love's pain,
security I'd gladly sell.
But now it's done. My blanket's over head
I may as well lie down you see, I'm dead

I find it ironic that the man who provided me with the security to seek my own path is the one with whom I could not spend the rest of my life.

When we divorced I divested myself of stuff, meaningless stuff, to me. I spent all that I had in order to achieve my independence. Every material possession I had would fit in a van. And I was able to afford my college tuition.

I felt free at last. I was thirty-eight when I transferred from a Junior College to a university where I attended classes with two of my daughters, and I listened. I soaked it all in. I felt betrayed by the high school courses that fed me trickle down history and downright lies. Oh my. My brain was on fire. I was still young and I wanted to fight every cause.

Years later, I went back to that church on two occasions after I had finally figured things out. It was to attend the retirement ceremony of one of the church members, and to bid farewell to a member who was leaving the community. The first time I was embarrassed when I could not control my stream of tears and the noises of my gut-retching sobs. I was sitting in the front of the church and made a spectacle when I got up and walked past all these people who had been so important to me.

On the second occasion for my return to this place where I had experienced all those warm fuzzies, I sat in the back of the church and steeled myself against the potential for a repeat performance. As it turned out, once again the tears would not stay hidden behind my eyeballs. This time, however, I was able to leave without disrupting the whole congregation of people who'd come there to participate in the fond farewell to a good friend.

So, what happened? It took a while, but I finally figured it out. I was overwhelmed and weeping over my own loss of naivety.

The very first college paper I wrote began thus: "Man created god in his own image and then structured the institutions to contain him."

I am free at last. I still listen, but with a critical ear.

But wait, it hasn't been all bad. As I look back I have no regrets. I got to have it all, just not all at once.

Perhaps my childhood wasn't idyllic, but I knew my parents loved me. I was married to a really good man for twenty years and raised five wonderful kids. I got to be a stay-at-home mom when my kids were little. I was a Den Mother, and Girl Scout leader, I had coffee with my neighbors in the morning, and there were block parties. I swam and water-skied with my kids, and celebrated their many achievements. And then I got to go to college, with my daughters no less. I got to have a career I loved. I excelled in my field. I was part of a very creative process in the marriage and family therapy world. I made a good living.

I am currently married to a man with whom I am very much in love. A man with whom I have had passionate, wonderful, and challenging experiences. We have traveled from immediate attraction, through feisty conflict, to the acceptance of our differences.

My husband is an artist who has shown me how to look at shadows on a sidewalk and reflections in a window to see wonders I had been blind to before we met. He is a man with whom I have danced and laughed. We have shared our deepest thoughts through all-night conversations, even though sometimes we have conflicting points of view. He is willing and able to call me on my faults, but listens to my reasons. He accepts me for who I am, and I accept him with all his insecurities and flaws.

I have a comfortable life and all the time I need to write

and to read, to travel with my daughter and my granddaughter, to spend time with my children and my grandchildren, and have stimulating discussions with my neighbors and friends.

Who could possible expect more from one lifetime?

This sketch would not be complete without including the hardest things I have had to experience. Those who know me would find this writing disingenuous if I didn't include the tragedies.

The first was my oldest son's loss of his right eye in a car accident at the age of seventeen.

My mother died when I was fifty. She was seventy-four. I'm older than her now. Don't ask me how, but I always knew she loved me and my children. Here is what I wrote to her on her birthday shortly before she died.

When I was a little girl, I loved you,
like a little girl loves her mother, like a little girl should.
But I grew up, and am growing still and I do my thing as you knew I would.
I love you now, not because I should.
I'm not that good.
There's a warm and giving person inside my mother,
a person, whom I love.

My oldest son died at the age of forty-one, a tragic death, more tragic than just the fact that he was young — more tragic than the fact that he left a wife to raise two small daughters on her own. To this day, some say it was murder, others insist it was suicide. We will never know. Eleven years later when my daughter died, at the age of forty-eight, the circumstances were equally as tragic. Her death was determined by autopsy as a clear suicide. She left three children who are at the very beginning of their adult lives. I worry about the affect of their mother's death on them.

Have I cried? Oh yes. Do I still cry? Oh my, yes.

The usual questions are, do I fault myself in some ways? Sure. I'm human. I'm a mom. Could I have stopped them? I did see it coming. I tried.

Did my "help" hasten their demise?

I blame the mental health system for their deaths. I blame myself for trying to rescue them from that system before their demise. This gets complicated.

In times of tragedy, many turn to god. Some take comfort by pleading ignorance. God acts in mysterious ways. He will heal me. My pain is worthy of offering up for the suffering of, of well, I don't know, of something. Others curse god. They become angry with god and bitter about life.

None of that is true for me. Since I don't believe in a supernatural, much less one who micromanages my puny little life, I neither curse and blame god nor rationalize about anything that would make me, or my life, special.

It has been my good fortune to travel my life's journey with some beautiful people who no longer exist, my mother, my two children, and some friends along the way.

I live for today, and the good people with whom I continue to travel, and I thank my good fortune for having had the privilege of traveling with some good people in my yesterdays. They, yesterday people, have a special place in my memory. They have affected the person I call me today, and my current fellow travelers will continue to affect my personal evolution, hopefully into a better person.

I appreciate my good fortune to have been born into a country where religion and government are not one and the same, a country that, so far anyway, bloody religious wars are not being fought in my back yard. I have the luxury of being able to mourn the death of one loved one at a time.

There is another chapter, another loss.

Mid-life, when many are starting to contemplate their retirement or to sit on their accomplishments, I was just beginning to have accomplishments, in my own right.

I am proud to say I was on the cutting edge of the development of a kind of therapy that sought to help people solve problems, "conflicts" within themselves, between them and others, and between them and the larger social system. I was one of the founders of the "Brief Family Therapy Center," where the much-respected "Solution Focus Therapy" was conceived and developed.

I fought diligently to change the mental health delivery system from one that is dependent on psychiatrists diagnoses of mental illness, drugs, drug companies, and managed care systems. I lost that battle.

I developed a bully prevention program based on sound scientific principles. My program was not adopted in our schools.

I wrote a novel based on the program. Some educators have used it to encourage discussions about bullying with their students. However, the book did not sell well.

I wrote a screenplay based on the book. To date I have not found a producer.

Well, I did not change the world. I would, however, not change my experience of the journey. ◆

Pictured above is **Marilyn LaCourt**, M.A. She is a retired clinical member and approved supervisor of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, a licensed and Certified Independent Clinical Social Worker, and one of the founders of the "Brief Family Therapy Center."

LaCourt, a freelance writer, has written numerous articles for trade journals, over 100 essays for a community newspaper, two novels, a bully prevention program for middle school students and a screenplay.

She writes poetry and has submitted more articles for printing in future Freethought Society newsletters.

Free Thinkers of Haiti — Doing Good Without God

by Margaret Downey

The Freethought Society (FS) adopted the Free Thinkers of Haiti (FTH) as a sister group in March of 2010 (see article "Update on the Freethought Society's Sister in Haiti" in the March/April 2010 newsletter). FS supporters have donated money and goods to the group and FTH has been able to provide many community services in the name of "good."

Haitians are suffering. They live in poverty without enough food and clean water. When people suffer, they turn to religion and a belief in a god to ease the pain of their existence. Surely there is a "better afterlife" most think, and they wonder if God has "a plan" for them.

Even under these conditions, FTH continues to say that there is no God and that the circumstances in the here-and-now can only be remedied by human endeavors. They advocate hard work to overcome poverty in this, their one and only life. Members of FTH travel from village to village presenting a rational point of view and they do not hesitate to espouse the fact that the earthquake was a natural occurrence. "Haitians were not punished by a God," they tell villagers. "We must get off our knees and help each other."

Now FTH needs more FS help. In their travels they have witnessed the effects of cholera and starvation. Not only do they want to speak about rationality and science, they also desire to problem-solve along the way.

I have connected FTH with Solarbox Cookers International (SCI) to arrange for them to receive a training package and tool kit in order to promote solar energy cooking and water purification. To learn about this wonderful solar box cooking organization, please see:

http://www.solarcookers.org/programs/educres.html

SCI distributes two newsletters — the *Solar Cooker Review* and the *SuNews*. In those publications, SCI shares stories of solar cooking and solar cooker promotion from across the globe. The newsletters update readers about SCI's projects, as well as projects conducted by others. The newsletter also provides insight into strategies for successfully spreading the knowledge of solar cooking. Readers of the SCI newsletter are kept up to date about solar cooker manufacturers and new products. FTH now receives a complimentary newsletter from SCI.

SCI has helped tens of thousands of people to learn how to make and use solar cookers for cooking and water pasteurization. FTH was also sent a copy of SCI's publications that includes a step-by-step construction plan for panel-type and box-type solar cookers ("Solar Cookers: How to Make, Use and Enjoy").

FTH will also receive a copy of "Spreading Solar Cooking" (solar cooking projects) and a copy of "Teaching Solar Cooking," which will help solar cooking instructors stay on task and monitor their students' progress.

The entire package from SCI cost FS only $60 (includes shipping and handling). It is imperative that FTH receives more than one kit. There are eight members of FTH who desire to learn about and educate fellow citizens about solar box cooking. It is hugely important for each of the FTH eight members to have their own kit. With current budget restrictions, FS could only afford to send one solar box cooking kit to serve as a training tool and example. Pease earmark a donation to FS for this effort so that FTH can begin this important community service project.

The following members of FTH have volunteered for this project:

Billy Almoza
Marie Serge Jean Jacques
Louis Marc Pierre
Ramson Cadeau
Johnny Exantus
Bernard Telfort
Pierre Esnor Pierre
Roody Othelo
Stanley Larosiliere

These brave freethinkers deserve our support and encouragement. It's a shame FS could provide only one solar box cooker. Each FTH volunteer should have their own kit in order to do the most good for their community. Once again I ask readers to please earmark a donation as soon as possible. The goal is to send eight solar box cookers to FTH within the next few months.

I now want to tell you about FTH member **Roody Othelo** (pictured below). He was trapped in earthquake rubble for four hours before help arrived. He lost his arm and leg during the ordeal. As he waited for help, he did not pray nor did he wonder if God had a "plan" for him. Then and now, he advocates rational thinking and scientific advancements. As a member of FTH, Othelo promotes doing good without God and he does not let his disability stop him from volunteering.

He is pictured wearing a T-shirt made by EvolveFish for FTH. The message on the front of the shirt is "Bon Sans Dieu" which in English is "Good Without God" (also printed on the front of the T-shirt).

The name of the group "Free Thinkers of Haiti" is printed on the back of the shirt. Members of FTH plan to wear the T-shirts when they teach others about solar box cooking.

Here is an opportunity for FS to help our sister organization FTH to become a well respected group in Haiti. The FTH solar box cooker project can make us all proud! FS agrees with the FTH message, "Only humans can solve human problems." ◆

Freedom From Religion Foundation's Philadelphia Region Billboard Campaign

The Freethought Society (FS) is a chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF). One of the benefits of the affiliation is that FS is included in FFRF's national advertisement efforts. FFRF has invited FS to participate in their latest billboard campaign. The "Come Out of the Closet" billboard campaign parameters and details are highlighted in this article.

The face of about six FS supporters will appear on a digital billboard which will be located on a predominant highway in the Philadelphia area. Images and words will rotate.

A team of FS volunteers is needed to locate a good digital billboard in the Philadelphia area that will accept our campaign. Once a board location is found, FS and FFRF will work with the billboard artist directly.

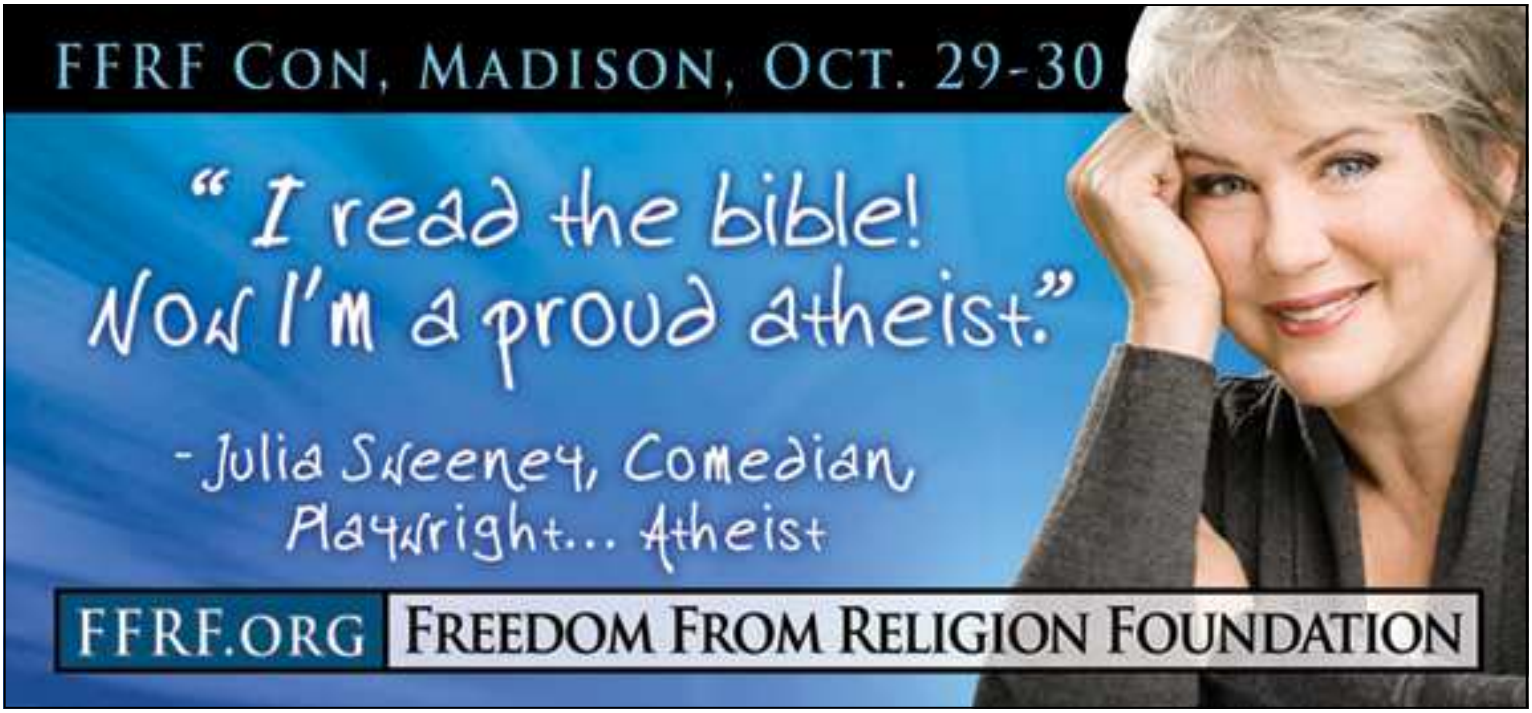
A special photo technique will be used and FS is fortunate to have **Carol Everhart Roper** involved in the project. She is a professional photographer and will be able to meet the standards required. Roper has volunteered to photograph billboard participants at no charge. She is prepared to take high-resolution head & shoulders photos using a white background. Roper's volunteer photography work saves participants approximately $70 each.

FS and FFRF are looking for monetary donations for this campaign. Leasing of the digital billboard is costly, but the campaign is sure to be a success. FFRF states that they want to have local members to both participate and help pay for the costs. FFRF is hopeful that some FS supporters will want to do both!

If a digital billboard is not feasible, the "Come Out of the Closet" campaign can be applied to an eco-friendly vinyl. If there are large donations earmarked for this campaign, billboards can be placed in more than one location.

A clever, insightful, humorous or profound 3-8 word statement would appear with the image of an FS supporter. A sample is printed below.

Please think of what your statement would be and make a donation to this wonderful project. Roper will photograph you at no charge and soon your image and words will be featured on a billboard. For your convenience a donation form is printed on the next to the last page of this newsletter. ◆



Yes! I want to donate to the Freethought Society/Freedom From Religion Foundation's "Come Out of the Closet" billboard campaign. Enclosed is my donation of $_____.

Name: _____Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____Phone: _____Email: _____

☐ Please keep my donation anonymous. ☐ You may publish my name as a donor.

Some Not So Trivial Un-Godly Facts

by Dennis Middlebrooks

We are all familiar with the claim that the United States was founded on "Judeo-Christian principles."

I suppose this is true if you are talking about slavery, genocide (of Native Americans) and subordination of women. All have deep "Judeo-Christian" roots and were instrumental in the development of the United States of America.

It is not true, however, if you are talking about democracy, philosophy, geometry, the stage drama, poetry, the field of history, the Latin alphabet, concrete, aqueducts and the classical architecture found in so many of our government buildings, museums and universities. These were all developed in pagan Greece and Rome centuries before the Christ cult displaced the deities of Mount Olympus.

It is not true if you consider the influence of pagan Roman Law on western jurisprudence, including that of the United States, to this very day.

It is not true that the United States was founded on "Judeo-Christian" principles if you consider the existence of a body called the Senate in our national and state governments. The Senate does not come from the Bible but from pagan Rome, which borrowed the idea from the pagan Etruscans.

It is not true if you consider that in the early years of the United States, it was common to immortalize prominent men like Washington and Franklin with Roman tunics, not Christian halos.

It is not true if you consider the immense influence of non-Christian Enlightenment thinkers such as **John Locke**, **Baron de Montesquieu**, **Thomas Paine**, **David Hume** and **Denis Diderot** on many of the Founders, especially **Thomas Jefferson**, **Benjamin Franklin** and **James Madison**.

It is not true if you consider the complete absence of democratic governments in Europe in the 1,500 years that elapsed between the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire and the Declaration of Independence.

It is not true if you consider that Great Britain, the nation that we fought for eight long years to achieve independence, rightly considered its monarchical and aristocratic form of government to be based on biblical principles.

It is not true if you consider the harsh criticism of Christianity and the *Holy Bible* by such men as Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and **James Madison**, the "Father of the Constitution."

It is not true that the United States was founded on "Judeo-Christian" principles if you consider that the Treaty of Tripoli, signed in 1797 by President **John Adams** and passed unanimously by the Senate, explicitly declared that government of the United States "is in no sense founded on the Christian religion."

It is not true if you consider that the harshest critics of the Founding Fathers and the secular constitutional government they created were not atheists, but prominent members of the Christian clergy, who rightly pointed out that the foundation of our national government was "un-Christian" and afforded no privileged place for the Protestant churches. These irate men of God also lamented the fact that the most prominent Founding Fathers were not Christians, but Deists.

It is not true if you consider the complete absence of any mention of Christianity or God in the text of the Constitution.

It is not true if you consider that for the first 180 years of our history, our national motto was the secular "e pluribus unum" (from many, one), and not "In God We Trust," which replaced the original motto in 1956 due to Cold War hysteria.

It is not true if you consider there was no reference to a deity on our national currency until the 20th Century, but there was a reference to a "Novus Ordo Seclorum," i.e., "A New Order of the World," along with Freemason imagery, right from the beginning.

It is not true if you consider that when the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was drafted in 1861, the Southern delegates placed "God" in the preamble in order to contrast it with the godless United States Constitution. That godly preamble was immediately followed by the clauses protecting the divine institution of slavery in perpetuity.

It is also not true when you consider that the phrase "Under God" was not placed in the Pledge of Allegiance until 1954, 62 years after it was written. Even today, we can say that for most of the Pledge's history, it was godless.

The roots of our country are Greco-Roman and European Enlightenment. What we have achieved is in spite of "Judeo-Christian" civilization, and not because of it. Let's not be afraid to point this out! ◆

About the author:

Dennis Middlebrooks is a life-long native of Brooklyn, New York. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History and an MBA in International Finance. Middlebrooks works for an international bank in Manhattan as a loan examiner.

Middlebrooks was raised Catholic even though his father was Protestant. He has been an atheist since high school when he became interested in astronomy and realized that the Universe was far more wondrous than any silly story from some "holy book."

He is a member of practically all the major freethought groups in the United States, along with some smaller ones. "Freeing myself from religion and superstition was the smartest thing I ever did!"

Freethought Society (FS)
Officers and Board of Directors
2011 Election Form

Officers Slate:

President
Margaret Downey
Vice-President
Sally Flynn

Secretary
Julie Gannaway
Treasurer
Dan Hoffman

☐ I approve of the above slate of officers.

☐ I propose the following additions, deletions and/or substitutions:

_____

_____

_____

Board of Directors Slate:

Andrew Barrett
Charlotte Carney
Sue O'Connell
Robert Kay

Michael Judge
Glen Loev
Javier Pavos
Carol Everhart Roper

☐ I approve of the above slate of FS Board of Directors.

☐ I propose the following additions, deletions and/or substitutions:

_____

_____

_____

FS supporters, please forward your approval of the above slate of officers and board members, or submit your comments as soon as possible. Additional suggestions are welcomed. Mail this form to:

FS 2011 Election
P.O. Box 242
Pocopson, PA 19366

This form can also be faxed to: (610) 793-2569 or a vote can be emailed to: Vote@FtSociety.org

Signed: _____

A Special Limited Time Offer!
You Save and the Freethought Society Benefits

by Glen Loev and Youval Balistra

We are pleased to announce a new offer for the benefit of FS: 1-week stays for up to 8 guests at Villa Mango, or up to 14 guests in both Villa Mango and Casa Amigos, at *"Paradise Costa Rica,"* a vacation rental property on Costa Rica's beautiful central Pacific coast.

"Paradise Costa Rica," nestled in the rainforest, on a mountainside overlooking the ocean, is a wonderful place to stay for families, couples, and friends who love the beach, tropical adventures, and luxurious yet comfortable accommodations.

Wonderful panoramic ocean and rainforest views are yours from every room and you'll enjoy the villa's private 45 foot (13.5 m.) "chlorine free" lap-sized swimming pool. A gas barbeque grill is located on the large wrap-around balcony. Each villa has a full-sized clothes washer and dryer for guests' use, a TV/DVD player and wide selection of DVD's in our movie library. Bring a laptop and stay "connected" with free wireless high speed Internet (24/7).

If you are among the first three parties to take advantage of this special offer, and make a reservation for Villa Mango by April 30, 2011, your total **rental will be discounted by $1,000 – *AND* – the owners will donate $1,000 to the Freethought Society (FS)!**

Villa Mango is a 3 bedroom 3½ bath home and has a California King size bed in the master bedroom and Queen size beds in the other bedrooms. Each bed (imported from Switzerland, orthopedic) can be separated and made up as two singles, and "luxury" quality linens are provided. There is also a (high quality) sofa bed for parties of 7 or 8 guests.

Casa Amigos, the other 3 bedroom/3 bath villa on the property, is also available. It is similar to Villa Mango, just a bit smaller, with all the amenities of Villa Mango, its own private lap pool, and comfortably accommodates up to 6 guests. Reserve *both together* and make it a reunion (up to 14 guests) destination!

If you rent both villas, your total **rental will be discounted by $1,500 – *AND* – the owners will donate $1,500 to FS!**

It is a quick drive from the villas to local beaches, restaurants, and many area activities, including nature tours, horseback riding, deep sea fishing, surfing, bird watching, ziplines through the rainforest, ultra-light tours, and much more.

Jeannina, the *on-site* property manager, is available to make recommendations and reservations – it's like having your own private concierge!

Each villa has a fully-equipped modern kitchen, free local telephone calling and there is no surcharge for long distance communication. Housekeeping, a referral for discounted vehicle rental, a welcome basket of tropical fruits and wine, plus many other amenities are all included.

Sounds great, doesn't it? Grab this win-win opportunity while it lasts, to benefit **FS** while treating yourself, your family and friends to the vacation of a lifetime!

For more information, photos, an availability calendar, rates, and a video tour, visit the property website:

www.ParadiseCostaRica.com

For additional details about the property and for reservations, please contact Glen at: **Info@ParadiseCostaRica.com**
(Be sure to mention the **$1,000 or $1,500 discount and the matching $1,000 or $1,500 donation to FS**!)

Please Note:
The *reservation* must be made by April 30, 2011. The vacation can be taken at any time.

DJ Dance Party featuring Ladder Limbo, Horoscope Trashing, Open-Your-Umbrellas to fast and slow dances, Mirror Breaking Ceremony, Piñata, and other Anti-Superstition games. Cash Bar and free Hors d'Oeuvres.
Door prizes and free educational literature!
Are you
SUPERSTITIOUS
...or not?
The 2011
Friggatriskaidekaphobia*
Treatment Center Soirée
Get rid of your secret superstitions!
Anti-superstition "nurses" and "doctors"
will be on hand to cure you.
Hosted by The Freethought Society
Friday May 13th, from 7pm until 11pm
Admission: $10 - Seniors/Students: $5
Free admission for children under 13.
Corinthian Yacht Club
300 West 2nd Street,
Essington, PA 19029
Just minutes from the Philadelphia Airport
Visit www.Friggatriskaidekaphobia.com, and www.FtSociety.org
*Frigga-triska-ideka-phobia is an unreasonable fear of Friday-the-Thirteenth.

The Freethought Society's (FS) 2010-2011 Four-Month Activities Calendar

March 28

On **Monday**, **March 28, 2011** the Freethought Society (FS) will host **Jill McDevitt** in the auditorium of the Free **Library of Philadelphia**. The presentation and FS monthly business meeting will begin promptly at **7:00 PM**. The address of the library is **1901 Vine Street**, **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**.

Take an attractive young blonde, a sex shop, a political candidate, and add a Catholic Church for good measure, and you have the recipe for a riveting controversy that riddled a wealthy Philadelphia suburb and divided a community.

McDevitt is a recent college graduate with a degree in sexuality. She enjoys "pushing the envelope." After opening a sex shop and education center with a focus on female pleasure at just 21 years old, McDevitt and her shop *Feminique Boutique* quickly became the center of a firestorm in conservative West Chester, Pennsylvania.

McDevitt's presentation "The Crusade Against Sex" is a compelling story that exposes our culture's archaic shame of sexuality, the dangerous ability of the self-righteous to control the law, and the power of the American entrepreneurial spirit.

April 16

Alan Gold, a generous FS supporter, has donated money for the group to host a table for the **Spring Festival** in Lansdale, Pennsylvania at the **North Penn High School** located at **1340 Valley Forge Road, Lansdale, Pennsylvania**. The festival will be held on **Saturday, April 16**, **2011**. Details can be found at:

http://www.internationalspringfestival.com/

During the Spring Festival, **Margaret Downey** will deliver a presentation in a classroom or auditorium. She will highlight what it is like to be a nontheist in America and answer questions about the atheist worldview. The Festival advocates "diversity" so FS should be there to represent a fast-growing minority.

FS is in need of about ten volunteers. Staff is needed for set-up, meeting and greeting passersby and break-down duties. Volunteers will be asked to wear a nontheist themed T-shirt provided by FS and will need to arrive at approximately **10:00 AM** The event ends at **5:00 PM**. Volunteers should bring their own lunch, but FS will purchase dinner for those who work until closing time. Volunteers are welcome to work a few hours or as many hours as they like. To volunteer contact: **Margaret@FtSociety.org**

If you cannot volunteer, please consider donating to this effort. Even with the donation of the table, many other expenses will be incurred (T-shirts, literature, signs, etc.).

May 13

Please plan to attend the re-opening of FS's Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatement Center on Friday, May 13, 2011. The 2011 Friggariskaidekaphobia Treatment Center will open at 7:00 PM. This year the FS Anti-Superstition Bash will take place at the **Corinthian Yacht Club** located at **300 West 2nd Street, Essington, PA 19029**

Volunteers are needed to do a wide variety of jobs. Please see the checklist below and contact the event coordinator listed below to volunteer:

☐ **Make copies of the poster on page 13 of this newsletter and post in public areas, distribute at meetings and mail to friends and family** (Anyone can easily do this, now!)

☐ Load party supplies from storage unit located in West Chester on the afternoon of Thursday, May 12, 2011

☐ Unload van at the Corinthian Yacht Club no later than 3:00 PM

☐ Post direction signs from Highway to Yacht Club

☐ Set up the Friggatriskaidekaphobia Treatment Center/anti-superstition games, museum, and party layout between 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM

☐ Meet and greet party attendees dressed as a nurse or doctor and coordinate entries for games and certificates (costumes will be provided)

☐ Staff welcome table and sell tickets (FS event T-shirt will be provided)

☐ Break down party/museum displays (11:00 PM)

☐ Load party items into van (11:00 PM-Midnight)

☐ Remove direction signs

To volunteer, please contact **Margaret Downey** at: Margaret@ftsociety.org or (610) 793-2737. Registered volunteers will be provided dinner at 5:00 PM both Thursday and Friday.

Please see the full page ad in this newsletter for complete party information. Hotel information is also included in a full page ad in this newsletter.

June 2

Please save the date! FS is pleased to host **Robert Kurzban**, PhD on **Thursday**, **June 2, 2011**. His speech "Why Everyone (Else) is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind" will explore human inconsistency, including hypocrisy from an evolutionary perspective. Emphasizing how modularity helps to explain various features of human behavior, Kurzban will cover "self deception," "self control," "self esteem" and many other aspects of social behavior. This speech is based on Kurzban's book of the same title. The time will be **7:00 PM**. The location will be announced in the next newsletter.

Recent Donations

Youval Balistra	$20
Margaret Downey	$400
Alan Gold	$100
Larry Hothem	$100
Bob Kay	$100
Glen Love	$100
Marshall Martin	$50

Please note:

If you cannot make a financial contribution to the Freethought Society, please lend us a hand by volunteering to do work. Volunteers are needed to do typing, phone calling, bookkeeping, outreaching, event planning and many other jobs.

Most of the tasks can be done conveniently at home. Detailed instructions will make every job — big or small — easy to do. Please send your name and contact information to:

Volunteers@FtSociety.org

Why I Donated to the Haiti Solar Box Cooker Project

by Tom Schottmiller

When my wife, the founder and president of the Freethought Society (FS), **Margaret Downey** shared details of the new FS project to supply eight solar box cookers to the Free Thinkers of Haiti (FTH), I decided to write this open letter to the readers of "The Freethought News." While FS is able to kick off the project with the donation of one solar box cooker kit and instructional materials, the members of the FTH are in need of more kits and literature. I have purchased two solar box cooker kits at $60 each and I challenge others to do the same.

Pictured below is **Tom Schottmiller**

The process is easy. Just earmark a donation of $60 (or more) and send it to FS. Margaret will do the rest and she will send you an acknowledgement of your *tax-deductible* donation.

Haiti is in dire need of assistance and sending solar box cooking tools to FTH not only helps to solve energy and sterilization problems, a donation enables rational thinking to spread. While solar box cooking is an ancient technique, the science behind the process can be used to prove that the sun's energy (and not a god) can purify water and cook food. FTH volunteers deserve a chance to show that humans can solve human problems. More of us should give them the tools and encouragement they need.

I am confident that readers of this newsletter will help FS meet the goal of sending eight solar box cookers to FTH by the time the next FS newsletter is printed in June 2011. Only five more kits to go!

Why I Donate Every Month to the Freethought Society

by Marshall Martin

There is an old African saying that fits what I am advocating in this message:

"When one comes to the fire, you should bring some wood!"

As a supporter of free thinking I have set up an automatic monthly contribution to be sent directly from my bank on the first of each month. I discovered years ago when I was a volunteer in several political and progressive activities it was the early and steady money that gave both the donor and benefactor more bang for the buck. While bake sales, auctions, and other activities are excellent ways to raise funds (and to have a lot of fun), day-to-day expenses will not wait until a fund drive is completed.

The Freethought Society (FS) should be able to count on a certain amount of money each month. With assurance of steady donations, the effort needed for proper planning and execution of activities would be far easier. Most banks now offer free Internet checking and automatic payments. The automatic donation set-up only takes a few minutes.

I urge everyone to make a monthly donation commitment — no matter how small — to help promote free thinking and the efforts of FS. Let's continue the work that needs to be done, together!

Pictured above is **Marshall Martin**

Freethought Society Committee Reports

The Freethought Society (FS) offers many volunteer opportunities. Please see the FS website for a list of committees. You can volunteer by contacting FS at: **volunteers@FtSociety.org**. If you cannot volunteer, please considering earmarking a donation to a committee you want to support. Highlighted below are just a few FS committees and a brief description of recent activities:

The Anti-Discrimination Support Network (ADSN)

Carl H. Silverman from Camp Hill, Pennsylvania filed a discrimination narrative concerning a malicious destructive act to his van. On November 23, 2010 as Silverman returned to his van from a brief shopping stop, he noticed that it had been "van-dalized" by someone who sprayed black paint on several bumper stickers and an atheist-themed emblem located on the rear of his vehicle. The black paint extended onto the green painted surface of the vehicle in several areas. Silverman filed a hate-crime report with the Camp Hill, Pennsylvania police department. The office filed the report in order to take note should a similar future event occur. The word "atheism" on a van bumper sticker was selectively marked out. Using a rag and some mineral spirits, Silverman was able to easily remove all of the black paint.

The Thomas Paine Memorial Committee (TPMC)

Margaret Downey represented TPMC at an "Evening Headstrong Club" event held in Pasadena, California on January 29, 2010. This event was a celebration of the birth of **Thomas Paine**. The event was sponsored by the Thomas Paine Society headquartered in Pasadena, California. Downey was one of three prize winners who competed to deliver the most interesting and "headstrong" debate issue to the attendees. TPMC would like to host a similar event in Pennsylvania in 2012.

The Freethought Society (FS) is a chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and a member organization of the Atheist Alliance International (AAI). FS strives to improve society by promoting freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom from religious intrusion in public affairs, and advocates separation of religion and government. FS activities and services depend on the financial contributions of supporters. Please donate generously. 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.

Yes, I want to:

( ) become a supporter of FS (includes email PDF newsletter): **$30** individual supporter, **$35** family supporter, **$20** student. Please enclose checks payable to **The Freethought Society**.

( ) become an **FS 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** $____ (other) per month.

( ) join FFRF: **$40** individual membership or **$50** family membership. Please enclose checks payable to the **Freedom From Religion Foundation**.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____Cell: _____

( ) Check here if you want your sponsorship to be anonymous.

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

Name _____

Email Address_____

Clip and mail to: Freethought Society, P.O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366-0242