

Atlanta Freethought News

An AFS Publication • Volume 8 Number 2 • February 2002

Our February Meeting

The February 10 AFS meeting will feature AFS member **Reggie Finley**, who will speak on "My Experiences as a Psychic for the Psychic Network." Reggie is well known on the internet as "The Infidel Guy" and has a popular internet radio show called "Live with the Internet Infidel." For details, see <http://www.infidelguy.com>.

Mr. Finley, a 28 year old native Atlantan, is co-founder of The Atheist Network (www.atheistnetwork.com), a site that features a variety of atheist broadcasters discussing topics such as philosophy, science, politics and religion.

The **AFS Center** is at Suite 500, 1170 Grimes Bridge Road, in Roswell, GA. To get there, take I-400 north from Atlanta past I-285 by 8 miles to Exit 7B, which is GA-140. Take GA-140 (Holcomb Bridge Road) west about 1 mile and turn left at Grimes Bridge Road. Go 0.2 miles to 1170 Grimes Bridge Road, which is on the right.

Humanists of Georgia Meeting

The **Humanists of Georgia** will meet at the AFS Center at 12:30 on Feb 24. Dr. Bill Dusenberry will speak on "The Current US Drug Laws — a Menace to Democracy." Their new president for this year is AFS member Stephen Burnett.

Fellowship of Reason Meeting

The **Fellowship of Reason** will meet at 12:30 PM on March 3 at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1025 Mount Vernon Highway in Atlanta. For details, see www.kindreason.com.

Alice Leitner Moves to New Jersey

Alice Leitner, AFS Vice President for Internal Communication has moved to New Jersey! We wish Alice all the best in her new adventures there.

At the January AFS Board Meeting, Tony King was chosen to fill Alice's position. The AFS Hike will now be coordinated by Lew Southern. Steve Yothment will coordinate the AFS Game Night and Discussion Group.

"The idea that God is an oversized white male with a flowing beard who sits in the sky and tallies the fall of every sparrow is ludicrous. But if by 'God' one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God is emotionally unsatisfying... It does not make much sense to pray to the Law of Gravity." — Carl Sagan

AFS Activities

The **AFS Discussion Group** will meet on Sunday, February 17, from 4 to 6 PM at the AFS Center.

The **AFS Game Night** will be on Friday, February 22 at 7:00 PM. This month, we hope to view the film *Blasphemy* at the AFS Center on Game Night.

For info on above activities, call Steve Yothment at 770-339-8394 or email him at SteveYoth@aol.com.

The **AFS Hike** will be on Sunday, March 3, at 10:00 AM at the Island Ford Branch of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. To get there from Atlanta, take I-400 North to the Northridge Road exit; stay in the right lane and cross over I-400, then take an immediate right onto Dunwoody Place. Go right at the second light on Roberts Drive. The park entrance is on the right less than a mile ahead. Meet at the end of the road. For info, call Lew Southern, 770-509-8272.

The AFS Social

The **AFS Social** will be at Rio Bravo Cantina at 3172 Roswell Road NE on Friday, February 15, at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP to Steve Yothment at 770-339-8394 or send email to steveyoth@aol.com.

To get there, get on I-85 and take Exit 101, 14th Street, to the east. Go 0.2 miles to W. Peachtree Street. Turn left (north). Go 4.0 miles on Peachtree Street (which becomes Peachtree Road) to Roswell Road. Turn slightly left onto Roswell Road and go 0.2 miles to Rio Bravo Cantina.

PR Person Needed

The Atlanta Freethought Society is looking for a Public Relations Coordinator. Do you have this skill? Would you like to help? If so, please see Judy Thompson.

Meetings and Activities

- Feb 10: AFS General Meeting at AFS Center, 1:00 PM.
- Feb 15: AFS Social, Rio Bravo Cantina, 7:00 PM.
- Feb 17: AFS Discussion Group at AFS Center, 4:00 PM.
- Feb 22: AFS Game Night at AFS Center, 7:00 PM.
- Feb 24: AFS Board Meeting at AFS Center, 11:00 AM.
- Feb 24: Humanists of Georgia at AFS Center, 12:30 PM.
- Mar 3: AFS Hike, Chattahoochee River, 10:00 AM.
- Mar 3: Fellowship of Reason meets at NUUC, 12:30 PM.

Save money on long distance and help AFS! There is no monthly fee; calls are 40 cents for up to 10 minutes, and 4 cents per minute thereafter. Dial **10-15-335-1**-area code-number. At the prompt, enter the AFS code: **215152**.



Programs and Speakers

All programs are on the second Sunday of each month at the AFS Center, 1170 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 1:00 PM, but feel free to arrive at 12:00 for socializing. Visitors are always welcome.

Feb 10: AFS member Reggie Finley will speak on "My Experiences as a Psychic for the Psychic Network." Reggie is well known as the Internet's "Infidel Guy" and has a popular internet radio show called "Live with the Internet Infidel." For details, see <http://www.infidelguy.com>.

Mar 10: Andrea Lynn Steele, author of *Your Preacher May Not Want You To Read This*, will speak on "Raising Independent Thinkers." (Read about her book at <http://www.yourpreacher.com>.)

Apr 14: TBD

Join the AFS Forum e-mail list by sending a blank message to afs-forum-subscribe@yahoo.com. Join the AFS Announcements list by sending a blank message to afs-announce-subscribe@yahoo.com. To unsubscribe, send a blank email to afs-forum-unsubscribe or afs-announce-unsubscribe@yahoo.com.

The Atlanta Freethought Society is a member-run organization dedicated to advancing freethought and protecting the rights and reputation of freethinkers, agnostics, atheists and humanists. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about the advantages of living life free of religious dogma through speeches, debates, discussions, protests, letters to the editor, broadcast appearances, and any other reasonable and civil means available.

We define freethought as "the forming of opinions about life in general and religion in particular on the basis of reason and the evidence of our senses, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief."

We actively support a strict separation of church and state as the best means to guarantee liberty for all, regardless of religious belief or, especially, lack of belief.

We seek to educate ourselves on many topics but especially on religion and non-religion, primarily through having a series of thought-provoking speakers and programs and by maintaining and using our own extensive library of freethought, religious, and related books, pamphlets, videotapes, and audiotapes.

We provide an organization where freethinkers and non-theists can develop friendships, talk freely, socialize and enjoy each other's company. We do not discriminate against anyone on such irrelevant grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, or physical disability. We welcome members and leaders of all political parties and preferences.

Because we are designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) educational organization, contributions to us are tax deductible.

Any who are like-minded are welcome to join us.

Atlanta Freethought News
an AFS publication

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Steve Yothment

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For membership and subscription
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Freethought News

ACLU OF TN CHALLENGES POSTING OF TEN COMMANDMENTS IN COUNTY BUILDINGS

The ACLU of Tennessee reported on January 29 that they filed a lawsuit challenging the posting of the Ten Commandments in public buildings in Hamilton County.

"The posting of the Ten Commandments in public buildings is divisive to religious diversity," said Hedy Weinberg, Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee. "The role of government is to ensure that individuals have the freedom to choose whether or not they want to adhere to a particular religious faith. However, when government promotes religion, that right to religious freedom is jeopardized."

In the lawsuit, the ACLU argues that the posting of the Ten Commandments violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits government from promoting or supporting religious doctrine. The postings are in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Building, the Hamilton County Chattanooga Courts Building, and the Hamilton County Courthouse.

The ACLU is asking the court to order the removal of the three Ten Commandments displays in order to protect religious freedom for all Hamilton County residents.

"I believe firmly in the moral lessons that we have learned from the Ten Commandments," said local resident and ACLU client Robert Siskin. "However, when the government posts a religious document such as the Ten Commandments, it gives preference to one religious belief over another and threatens religious liberty. This country was founded by people who came seeking religious liberty. Religious liberty means having the right to select the religion you prefer or no religion at all."

Reverend Roland Johnson, Jr., another ACLU client in the case, added, "It is a dangerous thing when politicians attempt to co-opt religion

for their own selfish agenda."

Hugh Hamilton of Chattanooga and Susan Kay of Nashville are acting as ACLU cooperating attorneys in the case.

The ACLU brought the lawsuit at the request of local clergy and concerned residents, Weinberg explained, to ensure that individuals have the right to decide for themselves whether to practice a particular religious faith or to post the Ten Commandments in their homes or businesses.

"Were the government to prohibit the posting of the Ten Commandments in private homes or businesses, the ACLU would fight to protect the peoples' right to promote their religious beliefs and practice their religious faiths. That is what we are here for," she said.

PAC FORMED BY SUPPORTERS OF TEN COMMANDMENTS AMENDMENT

Bob Johnson of the Associated Press reported on January 7 that a political action committee was formed in Montgomery, AL, to fight the reelection of legislators who oppose a constitutional amendment to allow display of the Ten Commandments in Alabama schools.

Dean Young, executive director of the Gadsden-based Christian Family Association, said the amendment will be proposed in the regular session of the Legislature.

Young told a news conference that the amendment, if passed by the Legislature and approved by voters, would give local schools the option of allowing display of the commandments.

The Ten Commandments amendment passed the Senate last year. It died in the House because it did not come up for a vote in the elections committee, chaired by House majority leader Rep. Ken Guin, D-Carbon Hill.

Young said that Guin, and possibly other legislators, would be targeted for defeat in this year's elections by the newly formed PAC if the amendment dies in the elections committee.

"We've stood by far too long and let acknowledgement of God disappear from our schools," Young said. "The Ten Commandments show there is a God."

Young said the newly formed PAC will be active in Guin's rural northwest Alabama district, if the amendment does not come up for a vote in the elections committee.

"If it doesn't come out, we will spend every dime we've got to make sure the people in his district know," Young said. "Ken Guin will be crushed politically."

Guin said he was not worried about being the target of the newly founded political action committee.

BUSH STILL PUSHING VOUCHERS

Congress rejected private-school vouchers last year, but President Bush just won't take "No" for an answer.

In his 2003 budget released Monday, February 4, Bush proposes giving tax dollars to families trying to get their children out of struggling public schools. But rather than give families money for private-school tuition, Bush now wants lawmakers to give a tax credit of up to \$2,500.

The allowance could be collected even by families who don't owe \$2,500 in taxes, as long as they spend at least \$5,000 to send a child from a failing public school to a private school. Families could also recoup the costs of sending a child to a different public school, or of home schooling. Covered expenses would include transportation, textbooks and home computers.

The benefit would cost an estimated \$3.7 billion over five years.

Undersecretary of Education Eugene Hickok said the benefit would be primarily for low-income families, but that wealthier families living near struggling public schools and sending their children to private schools could probably also take advantage of the credit.

In his budget, Bush also asked Congress for \$75 million to help school dis-

Freethought News *(continued)*

tricts research and develop voucher and public-school transfer programs.

When Congress approved Bush's education plan last year, lawmakers modified his voucher proposal, allowing poor families access to tutoring or transportation if their children attend schools with persistently poor student scores on reading and math tests.

The Education Department estimates that 4.5 million children attend schools that need substantial improvement.

ROBERTSON PUSHES BILL ALLOWING CHURCHES TO ENDORSE POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Only a month after Pat Robertson resigned from the Christian Coalition and promised to devote his time to religious ministry, the TV preacher has returned to hardball politics.

On his Christian Broadcasting Network show on January 7, Robertson promoted a House bill that would revise provisions of federal tax law and allow houses of worship to endorse political candidates. The measure, H.R. 2357, has been introduced by Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and has 110 cosponsors, almost all of them Republicans.

Appearing as a guest on Robertson's "700 Club," Jones urged the program's estimated one million viewers to contact their House members and pressure Rep. Bill Thomas, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, to schedule a hearing on the bill in March. Jones said the measure was drafted by the American Center for Law and Justice, the legal arm of Robertson's religio-political empire.

The push for the Jones bill comes in an election year when control of the Congress is up for grabs. In recent weeks, White House political strategists have expressed concern that evangelical Christians did not vote for Bush in 2000 in expected numbers. The Jones bill and Robertson's enthusiastic support for it may be part of a move to spark GOP endorsements by

by conservative churches in the 2002 and 2004 elections.

Robertson made the partisan character of the Jones bill clear. Railing against the "draconian" character of federal tax law, Robertson said on the show, "As it is now, if somebody comes out and says, 'I support George Bush,' theoretically the IRS can come in and take away their tax exemption."

Robertson's attempt to change federal tax law and prod America's churches into partisan politics comes only four weeks after his Dec. 5 announcement that he was quitting as president of the Christian Coalition to push national revival and "focus on those things that will bring forth the greatest spiritual benefit."

Robertson's critics were not surprised at his quick relapse into partisan politics. "This leopard will never change his spots," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Robertson is as interested in winning votes for the Republicans as he is in winning souls."

During today's show, Robertson charged that Americans United has sent a "scare letter out to churches which was filled with misinformation" about involvement in politics. In fact, Americans United has simply provided accurate informational materials to church leaders about the kinds of activities that are allowed and forbidden under federal tax law.

Said AU's Lynn, "Robertson will never give up his dream of forging churches into a partisan political machine. If that dream ever comes true, it will be a nightmare for America. Both religion and government are harmed when the two are recklessly mixed." [From auactivist@au.org.]

RELIGIOUS GROUP EXPECTS COMPROMISE ON DAY-CARE

Sean Mussenden of the Orlando Sentinel reported on January 29 that a Volusia County (Florida) lawmaker is backing off her drive to place church-

run child-care centers under state regulation. State Rep. Evelyn Lynn, R-Ormond Beach, sought to license the roughly 500 facilities statewide after a 2-year-old girl died while attending a faith-based day-care center.

But lobbyists said Lynn has agreed to a compromise that would require church day cares to follow most state standards but let them police themselves. The state also would keep out of hiring practices, discipline matters and teacher training at the centers.

Lynn said that a change was in the works, but nothing was final. "All child-care facilities must be safe," she said.

Her campaign to change the law began with the death of Zaniyah Hinson, who was left for three hours inside a hot minivan in August after a day-care trip. A teacher at the Abundant Life Academy of Learning in Daytona Beach failed to make sure all the children left the van.

Such checks are one of the requirements for state-licensed facilities.

"Making faith-based day cares comply with state regulations is a good first step, but allowing *them* to enforce the regulations renders that step meaningless," said Jack Levine, president of the Center for Florida's Children.

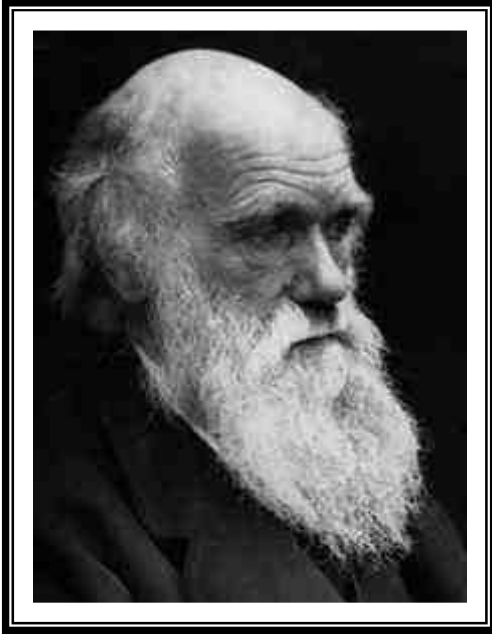
"I don't believe that paper protects children. We can have any kind of statutory guidance, but unless there is a clear and consistent enforcement capacity, even good legislation can hold a false promise," he said.

Benjamin Crump, a Tallahassee lawyer representing the Hinson family, said Zaniyah's death illustrates the shortcomings of having religious groups police themselves. The Abundant Life Academy was accredited by the Florida League of Christian Schools at the time of the child's death.

"You need the power of the state to make sure the rules are followed," Crump said.

The bill still faces obstacles, including four committee stops, before it gets to the House floor.

Charles Darwin



Why Celebrate Darwin Day?

What's behind it?

An explanation from the Darwin Day website.

For more on the subject, go to
www.darwinday.org.

Darwin Day is Tuesday, February 12

Darwin Day is not owned by any individual or organization ~~it~~ is a celebration for one and all.

We encourage all science-enthusiasts to join us in the celebrations, whether as groups, schools, classrooms, organizations, businesses or individuals.

The one defining quality about Darwin Day is that it accepts and defends evolution and science education and challenges the creationist movement. The main focus of the program, however, is not to provide a defense against creationism but instead to promote and celebrate science and humanity. It is also not attached to any religious belief or lack thereof. Both religious and non-religious evolutionists are encouraged to participate.

There are a lot of freethought organizations involved in the Darwin Day Program. Does this mean Darwin Day is non-religious or anti-religious?

No. The Darwin Day Program is neither non-religious nor anti-religious. The topic of religion will undoubtedly come up at events and activities however, largely because the theory of evolution continues to be misinterpreted as a threat to religious belief. The life sciences continue to evoke controversy that fall within the realm of many religions. The creationist movement, being founded on a literal interpretation of the Bible, and having religion and politics as primary agendas, will also increase the likelihood that the topic of religion will surface every now and then, especially if the activity in question is a direct challenge to creationism, such as the popular evolution/creationist debates. In addition, because of the historical battles between religion and science and similar battles and reconciliations that continue to capture our attention and interest today, religion may play a role within the Darwin Day celebrations. The Celebration itself, however, does not promote religion or non-religion and especially not anti-religion. Groups, organizations, and individuals of all religious flavors or lack thereof, are invited to celebrate Darwin Day and the promotion of science and humanity.

Creationists equate evolution with atheism, claiming the theory has an underlying philosophical assumption that is non-religious or even anti-religious. By promoting the Darwin Day Celebrations within the freethought community are you not simply helping them propagate this myth further and adding fuel to the fire that reputable science organizations are attempting to extinguish? In other words, are you not harming science literacy and the defense of evolution and science education by creating this program?

The propaganda and misinformation being spread that evolution is a *belief* or a *religion* stemming from the atheist/naturalist/secular humanist philosophy is false. Who better to help show the fallacies of this claim than the secular community? Regardless, the focus of the Darwin Day Program is not on the religious beliefs of the participants involved and the diversity among the beliefs of program participants should provide evidence for this. To address another issue within the above question, the program has been designed with these concerns and sentiments taken into consideration. Program directors will use careful thought and analyses in all program developments (although this is not to suggest we will eliminate all fun and lighthearted ideas and suggestions.) Advisors for the program have been chosen based on their expertise and will aid in ensuring that the Darwin Day Celebrations help, not hinder, the promotion of science literacy and the defense of evolution and science education in our societies. Program Directors will also continue to welcome and encourage feedback and thoughtful criticism on all aspects of the program.



So, where can I participate in a Darwin Day Celebration?
Celebrate Darwin Day with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 (Sponsored by the Tennessee Darwin Coalition)

Teachers Workshop by Dr. Massimo Pigliucci and Dr. Mitch Cruzan:
Approaching Creationism in Science Classes as an Exercise in Critical Thinking

Keynote Address by Dr. Elliot Sober:
Philosophical Objections to Intelligent Design Theory

For a full schedule, please go to <http://fp.bio.utk.edu/darwin>

AFS Board Meeting Minutes for January

Date/Date/Time: 1/27/02; Sunday;
 11:00 AM

Where: AFS Center

In Attendance: Judy Thompson, Alice Leitner, Bill Burton, Tony King, Mirza Choudhury, Pierce Mahoney, Ram Avtar, Lew Southern, Steve Yothment
 Minutes Prepared By: Bill Burton

- Corrections to December minutes: None. December minutes approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Mirza):

- There has been a significant drop in cash-on-hand due to the refinancing of the Center.
- Shipping Expense was three times Shipping and Handling Income: this was judged due to business with Amazon .com. It is suggested that another outlet (for instance, Chapter 11 Bookstores) should be pursued as an outlet.
- Payments have been made to the Building Loan.
- The collection of financing pledges needs to be improved.
 (Bill agreed to bring up the matter of pledge collection with Ried Crowe, Chair of the Financial Committee.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE REPORT (Bill):

- The Publishing Committee needs volunteers, but the Kagin book is coming along, if slowly.
- Judy agreed to work on the organization of the Kagin book and suggested that Amanda Faulkenberry be contacted for cartoon work.
- The Kagin book height and width are to be the same as that of *Bible Bloopers*.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT (Steve):

- Steve will go to the Condo Association Meeting about the need for a handicap ramp at the AFS Center.
- Steve agreed to contract with a carpet cleaner to clean the AFS Center carpets.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financing of pledges:

- We need to send out renewal notices to those who have pledged. Bill agreed to talk with Ried about sending out notices.

Raising of dues:

- Mirza suggested raising dues to \$25. Bill agreed to talk with Reid about an increase.

Gay/Lesbian Pride application:

- Judy agreed to contact Donna Gore and Kate Miller to find out if they would contract our Gay and Lesbian Pride booth.
- Bill agreed to talk to Ried about selling (something) at the Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival.

Public Relations person:

- Steve agreed to put a notice in the AFS newsletter to solicit a PR person for AFS.

Alice's relocation to New Jersey:

- Alice is moving to New Jersey and can no longer be VP/Internal Communications or lead the AFS Hike or Discussion Group.
- Tony King volunteered for the VP position and the board agreed for Tony to be VP/Internal Communications.
- Lew, with expected help from Donna Gore, agreed to take over the AFS Hikes.
- Steve agreed to run the Discussion Group and Game Night.
- The general consensus was that Donna will make a good addition to the Program Committee. Tony agreed to help Donna.

Board positions:

- The board agreed for Pierce to take over the unexpired portion (one year) of Tony's board term.
- The board agreed for Dave Patterson to fill the unexpired portion of Pierce's term. (Dave Patterson's term as President of the Humanists of Georgia expired on the day of the board meeting and he was not running for re-election.)

Interorganizational E-Mail List:

- Bill has begun a group e-mail list at Atlantasecularistcentral@yahoo.com. The list statement says: "This e-mail group is for members of all secularist organizations in Atlanta. It is intended to facilitate coordinating the work of these organizations." The e-mail addresses of any and all leaders of local secularist organizations should be given to Bill for inclusion on the list. The organizations so far mentioned as candidates for the list are AFS, HGA, Fellowship of Reason, and the Georgia Skeptics.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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8th Annual Atheist Alliance Int'l Convention

■ Hosted by Metroplex Atheists ■

Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas

Friday, March 29 thru Sunday, March 31

Harvey Hotel, DFW Airport

\$69 room rate ■ Free breakfast buffet

4545 John Carpenter Frwy, Irving, Texas. Free airport shuttle.

Call 800-392-7794. To get this discounted room rate, tell 'em you're coming for the convention.

Rate applies from Wednesday night thru length of stay, but ONLY if reservations are made by March 8.

A Great Program

Presenters and entertainers confirmed so far:

Saturday Lunch

Keynote Speaker:

Faye Girsh, president of Hemlock Society USA.

Attorney General Ashcroft, the Vatican, and your duty to suffer for their religion. The national implications.

Saturday Banquet:

Steve Benson & Dan Barker.

"Tunes & Toons" concert, with Steve's award winning cartoons set to Dan's music.

■ ■ ■

See other side for more information and the convention reservation form



SATURDAY LUNCH: Faye Girsh (left) tells of Hemlock's forceful challenge to Ashcroft's end-run around Oregon voters. If he prevails, their groundbreaking right-to-die law will be useless, and hopelessly ill people will be "Vaticanized"—not helped to end their suffering, only (as the Church says) "helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering."

SATURDAY BANQUET: Dan Barker (right), fundamentalist street preacher turned atheist and public relations director for Freedom from Religion Foundation, teams up with Steve Benson (center), Mormon zealot turned atheist and Pulitzer Prize winning political cartoonist, for an evening of irreverent and humorously illustrated songs for secularists.





ANOTHER GREAT DEBATE! Don't miss this popular AAI convention feature. Details are being confirmed for a match between an atheist and a theist.

TIM GORSKI, M.D. - "Unreason: Hazardous to Our Health." Dr. Gorski will give an information-packed account of how Americans are systematically deceived, with the help of tax dollars and government officials, concerning aberrant medical claims and practices usually offered as an "alternative" to science and reason.

DANNY BARNETT - "Patently Phoney: A Humorous Look at Medical Quackery." In conjunction with Dr. Gorski's talk, Danny Barnett, a researcher in religious oddities such as exorcisms and faith healing, will present a humorous tour of America's history of medical quackery, superstition and "patent medicines."

ROB SHERMAN - "How to Win State-Church Separation Battles." Rob is on the Chicago Tribune's A-list as one of the most influential movers and shakers in the Chicago suburbs. A round table strategy session will follow the presentation so you can discuss ways to tailor Sherman's methods to your situation.

MARGARET DOWNEY - "The U.N. and Anti-Atheist Bias" Hear the United Nations' response to Downey's report about her Anti-Discrimination Support Network findings. Will their dismay turn to action to help end discrimination against atheists?

ANDREW LASKA - "Holocaust Denial/History Denial." History is always being written or rewritten by people who don't like what really happened and don't want you to know about it.

RENE HARTMANN - "The Religious Threat in Europe." Mr. Hartmann is from the International League of Non-Religious and Atheists (IBKA) in Germany. Other non-U.S. members are expected. An International Panel is planned.

More speakers are being lined up as this goes to print. If you, or someone you know, can give a good presentation and want to be on the program, there may still be room. **VENDORS:** If you buy at least one hotel sleeping room night AND buy any individual package, you will not be charged space rental. Otherwise it is \$50 per day. Email director@metroplexatheists.org or call 817-577-0824. For convention updates, check the web site at www.metroplexatheists.org/convention2002.htm

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Thursday/Friday, March 28 & 29

Free breakfast for hotel patrons, 8 - 9 a.m.
Atheist Alliance board meeting, 1 - 8 p.m. Thursday, and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday. Observers welcome.

Friday, March 29

Free breakfast for hotel patrons, 8 - 9 a.m.
Convention opens with social hour at 5 p.m.
Dinner and program from 6:00 - 8:45 p.m.
Hospitality suite hosted by Atheists & Agnostics of Wisconsin, 9 - 11 p.m.

Saturday, March 30

Free breakfast for hotel patrons, 8 - 9 a.m.
Open mic session (step up and speak up) from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Speakers from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch: Speaker Faye Girsh, 12:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Speakers from 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

DEBATE: An atheist and a theist face off.

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Social hour, 5 - 6 p.m.

Banquet: Performers Dan Barker & Steve Benson, 6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Hospitality suite, plus games in lobby bar by the God-less Gamers, Atheist Community of Austin, 9 - 11 p.m.

Sunday, March 31

Free breakfast for hotel patrons, 8 - 9 a.m.
Speakers from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Atheist Alliance member society reports from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Convention ends.
Atheist Alliance open board meeting, 1 - 2 p.m.

CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE

YES! I (we) will be there! Choices (how many) are noted, check is enclosed.

- | | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full package (if registering by March 8): | \$175 | Name(s): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full package (if registering AFTER March 8): | \$200 | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday banquet and program only: | \$40 | City/State/Zip: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday lunch and program only: | \$40 | Phone: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday banquet and program only: | \$40 | Email: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday-Sunday speakers & debate only: | \$100 | Amount enclosed: \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday debate only: | \$10 | |

MAIL TO: METROPLEX ATHEISTS, P.O. BOX 48116, WATAUGA TX 76148-0116.

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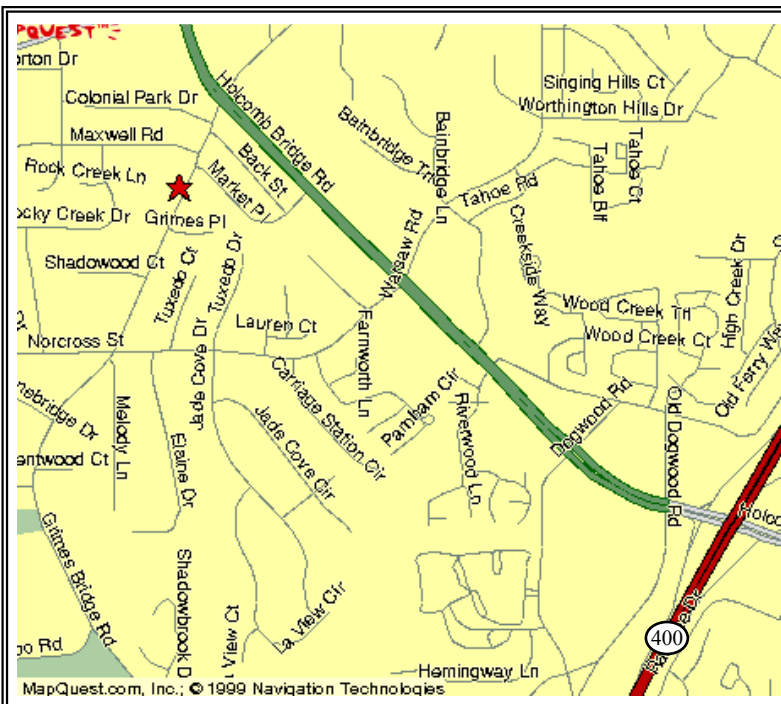
"Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect." - James Madison, 1774

<p>Why I Am Not A Christian — \$9</p> <p>Lucid, comprehensive, engaging answer to Christian apologists by Keith Parsons. Respectful but devastating to all Christian claims. Wonderful follow-up to Bertrand Russell's great essay with the same title.</p>
<p>Tales of the Rational: Skeptical Essays About Nature and Science — \$17</p> <p>Massimo Pigliucci's essays examine and criticize both religion and science. He defends straw men, attacks creationism, and explains why scientists and other skeptics should be nontheists.</p>
<p>An Uppity Old Atheist Woman's Dictionary — \$10</p> <p>By Carol Faulkenberry (illustrated by Amanda Faulkenberry); like Ambrose Bierce's <i>Devil's Dictionary</i>—but better: more biting, funnier. Guaranteed to make you laugh out loud and to challenge at least one idea you hold.</p>
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**The February Meeting:
Sunday, February 10
1:00 PM at the AFS Center
1170 Grimes Bridge Road,
Roswell, GA**

**This Month's Speaker:
Reggie Finley**



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