

December meeting program

2010 Solstice Celebration

Come join with your fellow San Francisco Atheists at the 2010 Solstice Party. It will take place on Saturday, December 18 at 6:30 at Chevys, 201 3rd Street (cross street Howard), BART station Montgomery.

Join your fellow non-believers eating a fajitas buffet that will including sizzling steak, chicken, veggies, enchiladas, Caesar salad, chips, and all manner of fixins' for the low set price \$25 per person. This includes all you can eat, unlimited soft drinks, tax, tip, raffle ticket. It will cost only \$8 for children 12 and under. Enjoy the cash bar for alcoholic drinks. We will collect payment at the door – check or cash only please.

This year we will have a mingle dinner. Sit some, stand some, talk to your fellow solstice celebrators. We will only have table/seats for about 50 if you need to sit all evening do not worry we will have a seat for you.

Please RSVP by December 4 to Larry.kaufman@yahoo.com or to San Francisco Atheists on [Facebook](#).

Look forward to seeing you all there!

What: San Francisco Atheists 2010 Solstice Celebration

When: Saturday, December 18, 2010 6:30 PM

Where: Chevy's Fresh Mex, 201 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 543-8060



Spotlight on our writers

An Atheist's Reaction to War with Iraq

How does the reaction of Atheists to the prospect of war in Iraq differ from that of the Religious? No matter what Pat Robertson tells you, there is no unified world agenda among the godless, for the simple reason that Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics -call them what you will- are free thinkers. We run the gamut from sweet little feisty grandmas to surprisingly thoughtful punk rockers and everything in between. Sometimes we share nothing more than the lack of belief in gods and other imaginary beings. In fact, it might be argued that the majority of Atheists do not even realize that they are Atheists - they simply live religion-free lives. Perhaps they say they consider themselves "spiritual" but they neither worry about gods nor could be bothered to worship any of them.

However, I will risk saying all would agree that Patriotic Atheist Americans cherish life and freedom, and fight fiercely to preserve these values. Yes, there are Atheists in foxholes. There are Atheist Americans in Iraqi foxholes right now. Like most Americans, I support our troops, but like many Atheists, I seriously question whether this war is justified, especially in the name of religion.

In our secular democracy, it is not appropriate for the President of the United States to call the nation to prayer like a star-spangled muezzin. I am wary of President Bush and our tax-supported chaplains assuring our armed forces that God is with them and that He will grant victory against the fanatics of the Middle East, just as their leaders assure terrorists that God is on their side and will ensure victory against the great Satan of America.

We are bombarded with "God Bless America" bumper stickers. We watch this administration and military officials hard-sell fear & test-market war; create, spin

-doctor or bury evidence as it suits them; change their rationales repeatedly; duck questions and bully the press; ignore overwhelming protest; push to curtail the most basic civil rights; alienate our allies; and continue to line up the post-war contracts, all while piously invoking the name of God.

Yet in spite of all this, the question for Atheists remains the same as everyone: Is Bush telling the truth? All the evidence says no. There is neither a connection between Iraq & Al-Qaeda nor are there weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Moreover, all signs make it clear that Iraq was targeted as future scapegoat long before now, even long before 9-11 if we can believe Jay Bookman's report in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. It seems abundantly clear that Bush and his cronies are intent on using the pretext of a war on terrorism to create an Imperial America, sacrificing economic health, international goodwill, peace and security for military hegemony. Bush brings all the Orwellian doublethink to life, American-style: War will be Peace. Ignorance will be Strength. Freedom isn't Free? It is not even Freedom.

As human beings, we need to take responsibility for our own lives, and follow our consciences rather than wait for divine aid or protection. I hope that those who cherish their faith also cherish their reason, such as Missouri GOP Chairman Jack Walters, who recently resigned in protest and gave eloquent and compelling reasons for opposing the Bush administration's hypocritical conniving. Because despite the fundamental disagreements Atheists have with religion, opposition to this unjust war could prove to be what unites believers and nonbelievers alike. **David Fitzgerald , March 19, 2003.**

Atheist News

'Atheist' Oz PM Gillard urged to use more religious terms in condolence speeches

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has been advised by professional speechwriters to make use of more 'religious languages' at times of national grief, despite her professed atheism.

While expressing her, and the nation's heartfelt sympathies for the families of the victims of the Greymouth mine disaster earlier this week, the Prime Minister reportedly avoided the use of religious language in her speech.

[Read more](#)

Atheist Groups Promote a Holiday Message: Join Us

Just in time for the holiday season, Americans are about to be hit with a spate of advertisements promoting the joy and wisdom of atheism.

Four separate and competing national organizations representing various streams of atheists, humanists and freethinkers will soon be spreading their gospel through advertisements on billboards, buses and trains, and in newspapers and magazines.

[Read more](#)

Bay Area Coalition of Reason to Hold Media Workshop on January 9th

On June 12 leaders of 7 Bay Area Freethinker organizations, including San Francisco Atheists, met to form the Bay Area chapter of the Coalition of Reason (COR). According to the parent group's website, "The United Coalition of Reason is a national organization that works to raise the visibility of local groups in the community of reason. Nationally, we do this by conducting campaigns which highlight the fact that non-theists live in every community across America. Locally, we do this by promoting informal cooperation among local groups, hosting a local coalition website, providing group leaders with free public relations training, and funding a publicity campaign. There is no obligation, financial or otherwise, for these services and United COR's efforts are cooperative and supplementary to the work already being done by national and local nontheistic organizations."

In preparation for our advertising campaign early in 2011, our local COR group will host an intensive media workshop, led by COR's Fred Edwards. We expect to receive more media attention from the campaign, along with grassroots interest in our organizations. Edwards will make suggestions on how to deal with the media, distilled from his many years in the humanist movement, and his activities as the organizer for national COR. The workshop is free, and is open to anyone who thinks they can benefit from it.

It will take place at the Fellowship of Humanity in Oakland on Sunday, January 9, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Fellowship is located at 390 27th St., between Telegraph & Broadway. If you would like to attend, please contact Larry Hicok at 510-222-7580 for more information.



American Atheists Solstice Billboard at Entrance to Lincoln Tunnel in Jersey

American Atheists is getting lots of media attention since they paid for a large electronic billboard at the entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel in New Jersey, a major entrance to New York City. Of course the theists are outraged at our bad taste when we don't respect their myths.

[Read more](#)



Quote of the month

John Adams, 2nd President of the United States

"The government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." Treaty of Tripoly, article 11

Find out what is coming up

Click a graphic below to open that calendar



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Joke of the month



East Bay Atheists November Meeting



Annual Solstice Dinner, Sunday, December 12, 1:30 PM

King Dong Chinese Restaurant
2429 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

This year our Solstice dinner will take place at King Dong Restaurant, located in downtown Berkeley, between Haste and Channing, with nearby access to free parking. The food is quite good, the prices are reasonable, and they are able to arrange tables so we can sit together.

Besides as our Jewish friends love to say, Jews usually celebrate Christmas by going out for Chinese food. If it works for them...

Each year we have an informal dinner and pleasant conversation. Tell us what you would like next year's meetings to be like.

Larry Hicok, Coordinator: 510-222-7580
Ski Grabowski, Treasurer: 510-652-8350
info@eastbayatheists.org

Our January meeting will be at the Library on January 16 . Details next month.



[Check out our new updated web site](#)

[See our new video: The Pope in perspective](#)