

# San Francisco Atheists

This month we are pleased to present **Rebecca Hensler**, founder of secular grief support network [Grief Beyond Belief](#).

Following the death of her infant son, Rebecca recognized a need for grief support services free of the references to heaven, God, angels, spirits, and signs that dominate mainstream grief support. When she did not find the kind of community she needed among the myriad grief support sites on the internet, Rebecca created *Grief Beyond Belief*, a Facebook page at which grieving nonbelievers gather to share their memories, experiences, and emotions, including their anger and frustration with religious and spiritual "comfort." Though currently only a Facebook page, the project continues to grow as Rebecca plans for its expansion both online and off.

Rebecca will speak on:

- the need for faith-free grief support and how it differs from faith-based comfort
- the difference between replicating religious institutions and creating secular community
- the benefits and limitations of an online grief network and the future of *Grief Beyond Belief*
- how secular grief support fits into the growing secular support movement

Following her talk, Rebecca welcomes your questions about surviving and healing from grief as an atheist as well as about *Grief Beyond Belief*.

Rebecca has a BA in Political Activism and an MS in Counseling, and works as a middle school counselor in the San Francisco Unified School District.

**Saturday October 27**

**4:30 pm, socialize/eat/drink; program begins 5 pm**

**Schroeder's restaurant, rear dining room**

**240 Front St., San Francisco**

**Near the Embarcadero MUNI/BART station**

**Free, cash donations welcome**

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Also of interest:

**Bay Area Science Festival, October 27- November 3**, over 60 events around the Bay Area, including Discovery Days at AT&T Park. For schedule and details: <http://www.bayareascience.org/>

**San Jose Repertory Theatre** presents "Freud's Last Session", an imagined debate between legendary psychoanalyst and atheist, Dr. Sigmund Freud, and atheist-turned-Christian author, C.S. Lewis. They clash over religion, love, war, and the overall meaning of life. Running through November

4th. <http://www.sjrep.com/plays/1213/freud/index.php>

The **Godless Perverts Story Hour!** Featuring our friends Dave Fitzgerald, Dana Fredsti, Greta Christina, and more, for an evening of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and performance. November 17, 7 pm, The Center for Sex and Culture: <http://www.godlessperverts.com/story-hour/>

Newly published e-book available-- ***Dear Editor: a common man's (not so common) opinion***, a collection of letters to the editor submitted by Bay Area atheist Jorg Aadahl to various newspapers, expressing strong opinions on issues including religion, the war on women, health care for all, and gay and lesbian rights. Available to check out or download: <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/236040>