

THE HOUSTON CHURCH OF FREETHOUGHT Bulletin

A FELLOWSHIP OF UNBELIEVERS

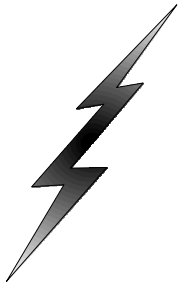
FOUNDED 2000

Vol. VII No.IV

December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month

December 13th, 2009

117TH SERVICE PROGRAM



Welcome and Introduction

Jim Ashmore

"They Think; Therefore They Know?"

Noelle George

Announcements

Adam Hems

FTOTM: Victor Hugo Nancy Fay/Sheila Finch

Solstice Carols Martha and Steve Jordan

Closing Anthony Stott

NEXT SERVICE – JANUARY 10, 2010

As always, your directors Jim Ashmore, Ed Uthman, Anthony Stott, Bennie Matussek, and Nancy Fay welcome your feedback and *participation* in Church Services and Sunday school.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

-Mark Twain

GODLESS BILLBOARDS ARRIVE IN HOUSTON!

From:

<http://spacecityskeptics.wordpress.com/2009/12/07/godless-billboard-now-in-houston/>

By **Daniel Strain**

(Edited for space considerations)

HOUSTON, December 7, 2009 – Many may have heard of the various Godless signs appearing on billboard and buses around the country. Starting today, they've come to

Houston...the billboard appears prominently at I-45 and 1960, near Ella Blvd.

The sign features a blue sky with clouds, and the words "**Don't Believe in God? You are not alone**" and includes the contact information for the Alliance.

This project is part of an active campaign to spread awareness of these organizations. Rather than criticizing others, the message here merely lets those who don't believe in a God know that there are others like them, and gives them a way to make contact with like-minded people if they choose. In a world where the majority are theists, there are many people who feel rather alone in their atheism or agnosticism.

I personally don't find the God/no-God question all that important. I prefer Humanism not because of what I *don't* believe, but rather because it is about what I *do* believe. Humanist values are what's important to me, and that has to do with how we treat one another, being compassionate, and how we live our lives. I think we have a lot in common with our theist friends on those grounds. Having said that, it at least seems like the phrase "Don't Believe in God? You are not alone" is not a bad one.

Of course, there are many theists who find even the billboards as worded offensive or confrontational. In some other cities, similar billboards have already been vandalized more than once. It seems nontheists, merely by making themselves known, are seen as evil or belligerent by some, which is unfortunate. Some of the billboards around the country say things like, "Good without God" or "Good for Goodness' Sake". The general message of all of them has simply been (a) to nontheists: that you are not alone and please contact us, and (b) to everyone else: people who don't believe in God can still be good people.

Fred Edwards, national director of the United Coalition of Reason said, "The point of our national billboard campaign is to reach out to the millions of humanists, atheists and agnostics living in the United States... Nontheists sometimes don't realize there's a community out there for

them because they're inundated with religious messages at every turn. So we hope this will serve as a beacon and let them know they aren't alone."

But reaching out to nontheists isn't the only goal of the campaign. "Our message is also to let people know that we are part of the larger community," added Noelle George, coordinator of the Houston Freethought Alliance. "We're your friends, neighbors, coworkers and family members. We're just like you except that we don't believe in a supreme being. Now we'd like the same opportunity as everyone else to be open about our views."

The United Coalition of Reason has launched a dozen advertising campaigns previously this year. Each involved billboards or public transit ads. They appeared in Boston, Massachusetts; Charleston, South Carolina; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Morgantown, West Virginia; Newark, New Jersey; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; and Portland, Oregon.

MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Fay celebrated her birthday on **December 4th**. We can't reveal the year that this joyous occasion occurred or else we'd have to kill you!

Jennifer Haas is proud to announce that her son **Scott Wiley** is ranked **Number 2 in the Nation** by the **United States Fencing Association** in the **Cadet Men's Epee**.

Jasmine Hems, daughter of Adam and Jade Hems, is celebrating her **14th birthday** today on **December 13th**!

Jade Hems has completed her **6,000th transcription** for the **North American Bird Phenology Program**. It's a project to **enter over 6 million historic migration records** into a **national database** so the **data** can be used to **look for changes in bird migration patterns** over time and **compare this with patterns of climate change**.

ROTATING EVENTS CALENDAR

Information borrowed from the Houston Freethought Alliance Newsletter. If you would like a copy of their newsletter, please e-mail Editor-in-Chief at secularcenterusa@gmail.com

Monday, Weekly | 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Freethought Forum | Starbucks at Louetta and Kuykendahl.

Tuesday, December 15 | 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Central Houston Atheist Meetup | Cafe Express at Woodway and Voss

Saturday, December 19 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Humanists of Houston (HOH) Main Monthly Gathering | at the Bayland Community Center in Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston 77074

Sunday, December 20 | 10:30 am | Coffee Social | at Borders Books & Music in Meyerland Plaza (I-610 W Loop S at Beechnut)

Thursday, December 24 | 11:45 am - 1:00 pm | *Hungry Heathens* | Lunch and informal discussions at various restaurants for those who have time on a weekday | Contact Bob Finch at rdfinch211@comcast.net

Saturday, December 26 | 10:30 am - 12:00 noon | Religion, Ethics, and Society Club | At Dr Louis Daily's family house at 1506 North Boulevard | A moderated group discussion of Religion, Ethics, and Society.

Sunday, December 27 | 10:30 am - 12:00 noon | Ideas Club | At Dr Louis Daily's family house at 1506 North Boulevard.

Sunday, January 3 | 10:00 am - 12:00 noon | Coffee Social | at Borders Books & Music in Meyerland Plaza (I-610 W Loop S at Beechnut) |

Sunday, January 3 | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | West Houston Group Brunch | HEB at The Meeting Room 9710 Katy Freeway at Bunker Hill (NW corner)

Wednesday, January 6 | 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm | North Houston Atheist Meetup | Cafe Express at 5311 FM 1960 W |

Thursday, January 8 | 11:45 am - 1:00 pm | *Hungry Heathens* | Lunch and informal discussions at various restaurants for those who have time on a weekday | Contact Bob Finch at rdfinch211@comcast.net

Saturday, January 9 | 1:00 pm | Montgomery County Humanists Regular Meeting | Montgomery Co. Library in the Woodlands

The Houston Church of Freethought

A Fellowship of Unbelievers

PO Box 721185 • Houston • TX • 77272-1185

A proud member of Houston Freethought Alliance

Support the Secular Center USA:

<http://www.secularcenterusa.org/>

World Wide Web: <http://www.hcof.org>

E-Mail: info@hcof.org

Yahoo Groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCOF-Community>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCOF-announce>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCOF-bulletin>
