

**FACT**  
**P.O. Box**  
**160881**  
**San Antonio,**  
**TX 78280**

# A Matter of *FACT* & *The Voice*

October 2007

## FACT

is an association of atheists, freethinkers, agnostics, secular humanists, rationalists, skeptics, and other non-theists serving the purpose of preserving the separation of church and state and promoting Freethought through education.

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## October General Meeting

At the October 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, Nick Lee will lead a discussion of the life and philosophy of Ayn Rand, the Russian-born U.S. writer. Rand used her novels (*The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*) to illustrate and popularize her radical philosophy of Objectivism. Although she was an able presenter of her arguments, her concepts are today considered too extreme, by any but the most radical Libertarians.

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After the refreshment break, the floor will be open for nominations for Vice President and Secretary. Then Jim Evans will lead a discussion on business cards and member roster.

General Meeting, Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm  
Community Unitarian Universalist Church

## Winter Solstice Party

**Mark your day-planner !**

**Put an X on your calendar !**

**Update your PDA !**

The FACT Solstice Party will be held in the afternoon of Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be catered food, music, a special guest speaker and all-around general merriment as we celebrate the Winter Solstice. We will have a private party room all to ourselves. Details, cost and location will be announced later, but for now, just be sure to set that date aside.

**Every Monday at 12:30 and 8:30 PM**

Time Warner Digital Cable Channel 20

**FREETHOUGHT FORUM**

Hosted by Hugh Henry

# September Meeting Review

## Elected Positions:

President, Nick Lee  
 Vice President, OPEN  
 Secretary, Jim Evans  
 Treasurer, Cathy Howard  
 Publicity, OPEN

## Appointed Positions:

### Newsletter

Publisher/Editor, Marc Janssens  
 Webmaster, Jim Evans  
 Discussion Group Host, OPEN  
 Librarian, Jimmie Barnes

## Texas Hill Country Freethinkers

(No Officers)

For Information contact

Julie Fisher:

zoezappa@hughes.net

## FACT MEMBERS:

FACT wants your participation in communicating through our newsletter. Please contribute letters, articles, book reviews, highlights and comments on church/state separation, quotes, drawings, cartoons, etc. Please send contributions to [FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org](mailto:FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org).

All submissions are subject to editorial revisions at the discretion of the publisher.

During the General Meeting on September 15 we viewed "The Virus of Faith," the second part of Richard Dawkins' 2-DVD set "Root of All Evil?" In this two-part documentary, Oxford Professor Richard Dawkins examines how religious faith is gaining ground in the face of rational, scientific truth. The program takes you to some of the world's religious hot-spots, both in America and the Middle East. Dawkins meets with religious leaders and their followers, as well as scientists and skeptics to examine the power of religion.

After the break Patrick Green presented a proposal to counter the Christian Right's hijacking of next year's National Day of Prayer.

## It's Time for YOU to Step Forward!

By Nick Lee

As a non-profit organization, FACT runs on fuel provided by volunteers. As in most organizations, there are never enough volunteers to get the job done, which means that a few hearty souls struggle to keep things moving.

In addition to the FACT officers listed on the masthead every month., FACT relies on project officers for the newsletter (Marc Janssens), the web-site (Jim Evans), and the library (Jimmie Barnes). There are also such volunteers as Sally Chezik, who comes in early before the General Meeting each month, to arrange the chairs and drop off coffee and donuts. Sally and Jane Tuck were instrumental this summer in arranging for guest speakers. Len Wheeler took the lead in locating a new venue for our Sunday Discussion Brunch. Others support FACT with extra cash: Denny Law has paid for a monthly ad in the San Antonio Current during 2007, to reach a wider audience of potential members. Many other members have served in multiple officer roles in the past, and have certainly "paid their dues".

Now I'm asking YOU to step forward and lend a hand to keep the FACT programs and activities on target. At the October meeting we will be taking nominations for the offices of Vice President and Secretary. We will also accept nominations by e-mail. Voting of the membership will take place in November.

The duties of the Vice President include planning and coordination of meetings, scheduling guest speakers or other programs, and issuing reminders of meetings and events to FACT members and friends.

The Secretary maintains the corporate records, prepares and certifies official minutes, maintains membership lists, and distributes copies of the by-laws.

These tasks may occupy only a few hours per month, if we have a full slate of officers. Won't you please step forward and place your name in nomination for one of these positions?

In addition, we are in dire need of a Public Affairs Officer to publicize our activities, and for a videographer for Freethought Forum, who would develop new content for airing on public access television. Training and assistance is available for each of these positions.

If we want to continue to enjoy the programs and activities for which FACT was created, we must look to a broader involvement by the membership. Please forward your nominations to [FACT.secretary@FreethinkersACT.org](mailto:FACT.secretary@FreethinkersACT.org).

# What Was the Question?

by Julie Fisher

One of the fun things about the Hill Country discussion lunches is how everyone approaches the topic differently. If you'd just heard the answers at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch, you'd have a hard time coming up with the question asked!

Rogers Spotswood, who couldn't be there, had suggested the topic: "What do we have in common besides atheism? What do you believe?" Attendees were: Heidi and Marc, Carol, Mary Beth, Ruth, Lou, Frank, Sally, Hugh, and Julie. Can you guess who said what?

Some of us gave personal philosophies such as "Live and let live," "Give people a break," "I believe in the goodness of man," "Things are always more complex than they seem," "Mind your own business," and the Golden Rule.

One person told about growing up in the Depression, working hard for very little money, and now focused on making all the money he can.

Another commented that the focus of her life is finding her place in the community of life and how she relates to other living things.

The point was made that what people in the city choose to eat is related to how we use the land.

One person said her interest is in finding a better way to help good people figure out what a con religion is.

One quoted Charles Fort: "I conceive of nothing in religion, science or philosophy, that is more than the proper thing to wear, for a while."

Several people expressed appreciation for our freethinker group. One said that if it wasn't for atheism, such a diverse group would never have come together and we wouldn't be having these interesting discussions. We'd have to listen to relatives talking about nail polish and soap stars.

Instead, we discuss interesting and sometimes odd subjects and learn a lot from each other. Someone else said she found instant friends in the group since she moved here. Another said he appreciated being able to "fly his freak flag" in the group and observed that most of us probably feel like square pegs in general society.

Another attendee quoted Wendell Berry, that "how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used," and Barbara Kingsolver's reaction that Americans attitudes toward farmers seems to be "Let them eat dirt."

We segued into a review of general American values. As G. B. Shaw said, "A person's creed consists not of what he says but of the assumptions upon which he habitually acts."

Someone remarked that "this is not necessarily something you know about yourself and others may know more about it than you do." Here is a modified list of these values, some paradoxical, some possibly delusional!

1. Achievement and success
2. Activity and work
3. Moral orientation
4. Humanitarian mores
5. Efficiency and practicality
6. Progress
7. Material comfort
8. Equality
9. Freedom
10. External conformity
11. Science and secular rationality
12. Nationalism-patriotism
13. Democracy
14. Individual personality
15. Racism and related group-superiority themes

## ATHEISTS RALLY FOR SEPARATION

***On September 8, 2007, the American Atheists sponsored a Texas Rally for the Separation of Church and State, on the steps of the State Capitol in Austin. The purpose of the Rally was to speak out for the civil rights of non-religious Americans, to vocally support the separation of government from religion, to show support for the family in Carrollton who have sued over the “moment of silence”, and to protest the flurry of religious legislation from the recent session.***

***The organizer estimates a total of 150 people attended the Rally. Among the people who addressed the crowd was FACT President Nick Lee. Following is an extract from the conclusion to his 15-minute presentation:***

“What do we have to do to ensure that we can continue to worship, or not to worship, according to our own conscience?”

“The first thing we have to do is to speak out, just as we are today. Every one of you here today must raise your voice in objection whenever you feel imposed upon by the religious fanatics. No more hiding in the closet! You must talk to the mainstream press, radio and TV and let them know there is an alternative voice. You must let the people who work in this building behind me, as well as your local representatives, let them know that we will defend our civil rights and liberties at the ballot box. You must engage in dialog with people around you everyday and let them see non-believers as compassionate, caring, thoughtful human beings, worthy of their respect.

“The second thing we have to do is to join with liberal religious groups into a coalition of rational citizens. Liberal Christians, Jews, Catholics, Buddhists, and Wiccans should all feel as threatened as we do about these affronts to our civil liberties. We are all progressive and compassionate in our social philosophies, and our humanity transcends the differences in our beliefs. There are millions of Americans whose belief in God does not dominate their daily lives, and who are comfortable in the modern world. We must reach out to those people and emphasize the common ground between us and build bridges with them so that they no longer feel embarrassed to stand beside us in this new struggle for civil rights.

“Thirdly, we must re-frame the argument. We should stop accepting the negative image that has been cast upon non-believers -- indeed, the negative self-image we have cast upon ourselves. We must join the debate in terms of what we stand for, instead of what we stand against.

“We stand for a morality based on our humanity.

“We stand for rational solutions to the problems of society.

“We stand for using the unblinking eye of science in the exploration of the natural world.

“We stand for tolerance for all the varieties of human expression and experience.

“This is our positive message, and we share these values with the majority of Americans, including moderate Christians and those of other faiths.

“So, I challenge each of you, as you walk away from this rally, to take these three steps in your personal lives, and stand tall against intolerance and bigotry, and stand for reason and civility. Stand for the separation of church and state, and keep religious dogma out of the halls of this legislature!”

# FACT MEMBERS AT AUSTIN RALLY



L to R: Vibeke Mendonca, Nick Lee, Jean Clelland-Morin, Cathy Howard, Len Wheeler, Marcelle Howard, Jimmie Barnes

## DEATH NOTICE

FACT regrets to note the passing of member Ed Verner at age 92. A West Point graduate, COL Verner had a distinguished career including service as Project Manager for several technologically complex programs for the Pentagon: the Distant Early Warning Line of radar and communication, a Semi-Automatic Control System for aircraft interception, and development of a major Air Force communication in Alaska.

A FACT member since 1999, Ed is survived by his wife, Grace.



### FACT T-Shirts for Sale (Grey w/Black Logo)

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Small-XLarge.....\$12.00 | 3X.....\$15.00          |
| 2X.....\$14.00           | Vests (Red).....\$17.00 |

To order or for further information, contact Catherine Howard  
catherine.j.howard@jci.com (210) 545-4235

## Scornful Bashing or Bashful Scorning?

Excerpt from Article by Gene Madeo in HNN, August 1, 2007

We may well end up winning some major battles, but end up losing the war (again), because we are not likely going to win this ideological war with criticism, argument, attack, and anger. Still, I give Sam Harris and others a lot of credit for forcing the issue with powerful arguments. But if powerful arguments were all that was needed, atheists and agnostics would not be the small minority they are today.

There have been powerful arguments in the past as well. Yes, we need scientists, theologians, philosophers, and other professionals to defend atheism and argue effectively in academic circles concerning the defects of religion. At the same time, most people are not receptive, but instead react negatively, to attacks against their beliefs.

I suggest that the only way atheists and agnostics will ever reach believers is by offering people a joyful, wonderful alternative to religion. To do so, we need to understand why religions are so successful. We are not doing this, and this is where our energy should be directed. We need to change peoples' minds with the same message of hope, peace, and love that religions offer. (They do offer it, even if they often fall short.)

We need to satisfy the same wants, needs, and desires that religion does. But if all we offer is criticism, argument, and anger, very few will listen to us. Unless atheists and agnostics somehow can satisfy the same needs, wants, and desires that are satisfied by religion, we will always be a very small minority.

When the believer asks, "What does the Atheistic and Agnostic life offer me and why is your way of life better?" we should have some great answers. We need to distance ourselves from the usual answer: "It's a more sensible, intelligent view of life, and a better way of life" — because it is not necessarily so.

In my own quest over many years, I have been disappointed in what I've found as an alternative to religion, whether it was a group of atheists, humanists, secular humanists, freethinkers, or others. They always seemed angry, spending most of their time defending atheism, and criticizing religion and a belief in God.

Believers, in contrast, usually had pleasant dispositions and were involved in all kinds of enjoyable, and uplifting community activities. Adding to the contrast was the fact that you could drive around on any day and see tons of cars in church parking lots, yet you had a difficult time getting 30 atheists to attend a monthly meeting. Atheism may be right, but it was losing the battle with religion. "Why?" I asked myself.

My answer is that most non-believers 1) have failed to understand that religions satisfy very important needs, wants, and desires, 2) don't study and analyze how and why religions satisfy those needs, wants, and desires, and 3) do not work conscientiously to come up with a viable alternative that can satisfy most or all of those needs, wants, and desires that religion fulfills.

In general terms, my plan for the future of atheism is to embark on local, national, and international campaigns to present people with a viable alternative to religion that focuses on love and reverence for all human beings.

Leave the arguing to the theologians and scientists. In everyday life and in our campaign to elevate atheism to a higher position of respect in society, renounce all criticisms of religion and belief in God, and focus primarily on presenting a viable alternative to religion.

Formulate a joyful, uplifting, passionate, and powerful message about atheism. Build a headquarters, and throughout the country and the world, support the movement with structures and purposes similar to churches. Satisfy the same needs, wants, and desires that religions do, even if in a different form.

I would like nothing better than to be able to report on atheism's joyful, uplifting message... and to catalog the retail humanism outlets burgeoning throughout the country (how about adjacent to the walk-in clinics in WalMarts?). . . and to explain how atheism is replacing religion 's guarantees of eternal life and assurances of Jesus' love (my Darwin loves you bumper sticker hasn't produced any converts that I know of).

## LETTERS

Published in the Austin American Statesman 9/15.

### Re. Apology

I participated in a demonstration Sept. 8 on the Capitol steps. Behind me was a woman holding a sign, "Christian mom for separation of church and state."

I thanked her for coming. Too often, I heard the speakers (fellow non-believers) say what was the equivalent of: "If you believe in a god, you're stupid."

She left abruptly at the end of the program. I ran after her. I apologized, but she was not in the mood to accept the apology.

So, Christian mom for the separation of church and state, thank you again, and I am sorry you did not get the respect you deserved.

Jean Clelland-Morin  
San Antonio, TX

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E-mail response to Jean's letter in the Austin American Statesman.

### Re. Apology

Whatever happened, it's a shame.

It is sad that people who believe are called stupid by non-believers.

But I think what is worse is when secularists are denigrated by people of faith. People like Bill O'Reilly make a living on castigating the dreaded Secular-Progressives.

The most shameful aspects, though, of many Christians, is that they feel they have a monopoly on morals and ethics. We all know that if Jesus came back today he would convulse at the lavish, multi-million dollar, extravagant shrines built in His name while millions starve.

I consider myself a Christian only in that I believe in the Words and Teachings of Jesus Christ. I am an atheist in that I strongly disavow the mockery that Man has made of his words in order to gain power and riches.

Tim Bishop  
Austin, TX

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Jean's e-mail response to Tim.

Hi Tim. I love Christians who treat me with respect. Yeah, if all Christians would make an attempt to live a Christ-like life, wouldn't this planet be in great shape? I appreciate who you are. Jean

## HEY, LETTER WRITERS!

**We're looking for well-crafted letters having to do with the separation of church and state, atheism, or any other relevant topic. Members are encouraged to forward published letters, or ones which were rejected by the mainstream media, for publication.**

**Send them to: [FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org](mailto:FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org) or PO Box 160881, San Antonio, TX 78280**

## ATHEIST VALUES: DO WE HAVE A MORAL COMPASS?

by Marie Alena Castle

Here is an excerpt of comments received on the Atheists for Human Rights web site. The sender is Andrew Quah, a 22-year-old man from Sydney, Australia.

"I find some of what this site proposes to be offensive - specifically the notion that supporting "gay rights" is a position that all sensible atheists would hold. I have many gay friends, including my best friend, yet I can never support them marrying or adopting children because it is cruel to willingly deny a child a mother and a father—and that two mothers or two fathers is not a substitute. I also believe that the unborn child is as much deserving of protection from murder as one carried to term, and I believe that abortion should be illegal except under the most strict conditions. If we, as a society, cannot value human life itself, what CAN we value?"

This is the response that was published in the July-August 2007 Atheists For Human Rights newsletter.

As the Lutheran theologian Martin Marty said: "It is the role of unbelievers to force religions to be benign." We've made good progress on that in the last 200 or so years. The small percent of atheists, such as Andrew Quah, who side with the remaining holdouts in oppressing women and gays, may lack a god belief but they also lack a moral compass.

It is instructive that atheistic arguments against abortion and gay rights are identical to the supposedly "secular" arguments of the religious right. None of these arguments have factual support and only serve to hide the real reasons. For the religious right, it's a desire to have the word of the "inerrant" Bible or the "infallible" pope written into law. For the atheists, it's—what? A primitive male need to control women? Homophobia? Clueless ignorance? Either way, both groups are immoral in their willingness to hurt people.

Yes, the Chinese, and all other societies (with small, admirable exceptions) have historically had the same "family values" as the religious right. The most salient aspect of those "values" is that women, in all times and places, have been oppressed and controlled by men as their property, and that homosexuals have been persecuted. If not justified as the will of a god, it was the will of the ruler or the ancestral spirits. Whatever it took.

Would Quah like to see foot-binding, widow-burning, wife-beating, child beating, and the many other forms of traditional family values reinstated? How about stoning disobedient teenagers to death, and doing the same to that other biblical "abomination"—homosexuals?

Or how about a return to illegal "back-alley" abortions in which hundreds of desperate women died every year? Only morally compromised atheists such as Quah would welcome this. Moral atheists stop religion from doing harm, not join in it.

Thanks to the Enlightenment, which rejected god-centered values for human-centered, the secularized part of the world now has a functioning moral compass. Most of us—atheists and liberal religionists—are intelligent and decent enough to know that homosexuality is a natural orientation—part of the highly varied evolutionary process. Since it does no harm, it is stupid and cruel to treat it differently from heterosexuality. And children do not necessarily need parents of both genders. What they need are people who love them. Countless children throughout history have been raised by mothers and grandmothers when fathers abandoned the family or died or were gone on extended tribal hunting forays.

As for abortion, it has no moral dimension. No harm is done, but much is prevented. Nature discards embryos and fetuses by the thousands in miscarriages. There is nothing close to personhood at stake until the third trimester, when abortions are not done (by then, one can either induce labor or do a C-section). Almost all abortions are performed well within the first half of the pregnancy. Late abortions (near the end of the sixth month) are always and only done for serious medical reasons.

Human life is dishonored, devalued and disrespected when a woman is forced to endure an unwanted pregnancy that has severe, life-changing implications for her in many ways— economic, social, physical and emotional. Respect for life should, first of all, respect the life of the actual, sentient, fully living and self-aware woman. She is not a public utility, nor is she any man's property. But that is a relatively recent social development that the religious right and their atheist cohorts haven't grasped yet. We urge Quah to read and think more.

## CNN Crosses the Line

by Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor (Freedom From Religion Foundation)

The implications of CNN-TV's recent presidential forum on "faith and values," ("The Situation Room," June 4, 2007) are deeply dismaying. If this is a sign of the media's pandering to come, the secular values of our nation are in worse trouble than we thought. As the New York Times coverage pointed out, such a faith-infused candidate spectacle would have been unthinkable even two years ago.

The three current top-tier Democratic candidates, former Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton, were summoned to a political baptism by Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics. Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*. Wallis' mantra is that the Democrats must get religion in order to win. This unprecedented partnership between a religious entity and a secular broadcasting station opens a can of worms. What's to keep James Dobson of Focus on the Family from demanding the same opportunity? Wallis, with a reputation as a liberal, is a Protestant evangelist who does not in fact differ greatly from the religious right on such questions as abortion.

Katha Pollitt, a columnist for *The Nation*, has pointed out: With the exception of several appropriate questions on policy, much of the aggressive questioning by moderator Soledad O'Brien verged on sophomoric to downright embarrassing. Her undignified question to Hillary Clinton, "How did your faith get you through your husband's public infidelity?" was not just prying, it was leading. Edwards was grilled over evolution as if he had committed a faux pas for saying he accepted this scientific fact. Under O'Brien's manipulative and relentless interrogation, Edwards was forced to offer professions of piety as if to propitiate creationists. (Although he was very comfortable with the language of born-againism, Edwards was the only candidate to volunteer support for state/church separation.) It had to be a new low for journalism when Ms. O'Brien made her illiterate reference to "man coming from Adam's rib." (Woman, in the sexist second version of the Genesis creation story, was said to come from man's rib.) When Ms. O'Brien asked Edwards to reveal his worst "sin," she was the one committing a transgression--against reputable journalism.

The CNN faith forum is a symptom of the deterioration of our nation's respect for its precious heritage of separation between church and state, and its respect for freedom of conscience. These politicians are running for commander in chief, not reverend in chief. It is the qualifications of the candidates, not their private views, that matter. Faith is irrelevant.

As a presidential candidate in 1960, Kennedy was forced (by clergy, no less) to do the opposite of candidates today. Kennedy was expected to pledge allegiance to the secular Constitution, not his church. Why aren't media asking candidates to second JFK'S ringing state/church creed:

"I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute; where no Catholic prelate would tell the President — should he be Catholic — how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote; where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference, and where no man is denied public office merely because his religion differs from the President who might appoint him, or the people who might elect him."

"I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish; where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source; where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials..."

We don't need FOX TV when we've got CNN trying to outfox FOX. It looks like we don't even need a religious-right lobby — when we have the media taking over the religious agenda.

Source: *The Humanist Monthly*, July 2007, a publication of the Capital District Humanist Society

"The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg."

Thomas Jefferson's notes on the State of Virginia, 1781 – 1785

## Our Trust in God Somewhat Spotty

The day that secular humanists have been waiting for has finally arrived: the phrase “In God We Trust” has been deleted from our currency! Okay, well, the omission occurred only on selected coins, but still, it’s enough to give opponents of the phrase a good chuckle and open up the hope that someday all of our money will purposely lack the dictum.

The coins in question, the George Washington dollar coins, were released February 15, 2007. It is unknown exactly how many coins were minted without the motto, but estimates are that around fifty thousand went into circulation. The new dollar coin has only been struck at two of the four U.S. mints (Philadelphia and Denver). and the issuance of the heathen coins has only been traced to the Philadelphia branch.

Conservative Christians were up in arms over the new coin even before it was released. The design of the new coin relegates the “In God We Trust” motto to the edge of the coin rather than on the face, where it is found on all other U.S. coins. Christian groups argued that the mint was trying to “hide” God, most likely in an attempt to phase out the motto. The mint denies any such motive behind the design change and has said that it was done to allow more room on the face for the president’s portrait.

The other inscriptions on the edge of the coin, “E Pluribus Unum,” the date of the coin’s manufacture, and the mark of the mint where it had been pressed, were also missing from the error coins. This makes it obvious that, far from being part of a “conspiracy,” the omitted lettering was a result of a skipped step in the manufacturing process and an oversight in quality control. Still, the whole affair is pretty amusing from a secular humanist’s perspective.

Source: Secular Humanist Bulletin, Summer 2007

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## A Dose of Their Own Medicine

One of the oft-employed arguments against gay marriage put forth by social conservatives is that, since marriage is for the purpose of procreation and gay and lesbian couples are incapable of having biological children together, they should not be allowed to marry. This, of course, makes absolutely no sense in light of the fact that there are millions of heterosexual married couples who are childless either due to medical barrenness or by choice—in the United States.

Initiative 957, filed by the Washington (State) Defense of Marriage Alliance, is in part a reaction to the *Andersen v. King County* decision, which stated that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples is in the state’s interest because it encourages reproduction. If passed, the ballot initiative would require all married couples to have children. Proof of fertility would have to be presented in order to obtain a marriage license, and, once married, the couple would be required to show effective results.

Source: Secular Humanist Bulletin, Summer 2007

**READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY? TELL US ABOUT IT.**

**Send your book reviews, recommendations, critiques, or top 10 list to:**

**FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org**

**Or P.O. Box 160881, San Antonio, TX 78280**

## October Events

### October 2<sup>nd</sup> - THCF First Tuesday Lunch

1:00 pm – Meet other Freethinkers at the Texas Hill Country

Freethinkers' First Tuesday Lunch (held monthly)

Discussion Topic: TBD

**Ping's Restaurant**  
**(by the HEB in Leon Springs)**  
**24165 W IH 10 # 221**

### October 20<sup>th</sup> – The Lunch Bunch

11:30 am: Join the “Lunch Bunch” for good food and great conversation before the General Meeting

**Sarika's Thai Restaurant**  
**4319 Medical Dr, Near Fredericksburg Rd**

### October 20<sup>th</sup> – FACT General Meeting

1:00 pm: General meetings occur on the 3rd Saturday of every month (unless otherwise announced)

Speaker: Nick Lee

Title of Presentation:

“Ayn Rand: Atheist and Capitalist Extremist.”

After-break discussion: Nomination of Officers

**Community Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**4818 Beverly Mae East (off Babcock)**

### October 28<sup>th</sup> – FACT Discussion Brunch

10:00 am - Join us for breakfast and discussion the last Sunday of every month.

Topic: Comparison of Health Care Plans from Political Candidates

Leader: Vibeke Mendonca

**Grady's BBQ**  
**6510 San Pedro (Near Jackson-Keller)**

## November Events

### Nov 6<sup>th</sup> — THCF First Tuesday Lunch

### Nov 17<sup>th</sup> — FACT General Meeting

### Nov 25<sup>th</sup> — FACT Discussion Brunch

October 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**FACT**  
P.O. Box 160881  
San Antonio, TX 78280  
(210) 767-0769

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*Opinions and statements made by authors, contained herein may not reflect the position of FACT and are, therefore, not the responsibility of FACT, its officers, directors, or editors.*



## FACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to :** FACT, P.O. Box 160881, San Antonio, TX 78280-3081

### ANNUAL DUES (Jan-Dec)

A. Individual Paying Member	\$30
B. Family (2 or more members)	\$42
C. Active Duty Military/Full-time Student (non-voting)	\$18

- Membership dues are due in January.
- Dues are non-refundable.
- New members who join after the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the year will pay a prorated amount for the remainder of the year.
- Members who paid dues the previous year, but who are paying late, will be liable for the entire year.
- Donations in addition to dues are always welcome.