

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

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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A Matter of FACT & The Voice

November 2008

November Meeting

In reading the diatribes of the religious right on the subject of the relation of science and religion, it becomes clear that there is a wide-spread misunderstanding of the basic principles of science. "Doing science" entails exploring natural phenomena in a systematic manner and arriving at rational conclusions. At the November General Meeting of FACT, Jim Evans will present what he styles as "a delightful romp through the simplicity of scientific investigation."

Also at the November meeting:

Two of the FACT Officer positions are up for election this year. During the November General Meeting, formal elections will be held for Treasurer and for Public Relations Officer.

As described in the organization By-Laws, the Treasurer has charge of the general accounting of the Association, maintaining accurate financial records, receiving and dispensing funds, maintaining tax records, and maintaining up-to-date lists of paid members.

The Public Relations Officer is responsible for issuing periodic press releases regarding the activities of FACT, informing local media of events and other items of interest, and generally publicizing the Association to local print and broadcast media.

All FACT members are urged to attend the November meeting to participate in this important election of Officers. Only current, paid-up members of FACT will be eligible to vote.

General Meeting, Saturday, November 15th @ 1pm
Community Unitarian Universalist Church

Let's Party in December!

FACT Members will soon be receiving their formal invitations to the annual Winter Solstice party on December 13th. The committee has firmed up plans for a spectacular celebration.

This year the party will at the Pompeii Italian Grill, 16109 Nacogdoches Road, where we have a private party room reserved from noon to 3:00. The cost of \$18 per person includes a selection of menu items: Chicken Parmesan, Grilled Chicken Breast, Lasagna (Meat Sauce), and Lasagna (Eggplant/Vegetarian). A cash bar will be available.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Kimberly Bilica, an Assistant Professor of Curriculum Development at UTSA. In that capacity, she has been active in advising the Texas Education Agency on methods of teaching science in Texas public schools.

Invitations will be initially sent to FACT members who will have a limited time to RSVP before other Friends of FACT are given the opportunity to attend. So, act quickly! Advance payment is preferred, but may also be made at the door.

There will be no General Meeting in December, to make room on your calendar for this festive event.

Elected Positions:

President, Nick Lee
 Vice President, Jane Tuck
 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.

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

No 'Virgin' at FACT

Having been raised as a Catholic, Mary Beth Romeo received an early indoctrination into the elevated status given to the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus. Later in life, however, she began to challenge the concepts, and noticed that the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) contained clues to the development of Mary's image contained in the New Testament. Romeo presented the results of her extensive study to the October General Meeting of FACT.

The characteristics attributed to Mary are based on several female characters in the Jewish tradition, and the authors of the gospels have simply re-told those stories with variations. Even the term 'virgin' is not sacrosanct, as at least three Old Testament heroines gave birth to sons, although they were not married, so that the original meaning of the Hebrew term which was translated as 'virgin' refers simply to a maiden or unmarried female.

The significance of this mistranslation is that when early Christians absconded with the term, they used it to support their restrictive views of women.

Nick Lee

TFC Convention a Roaring Success

Several members of FACT journeyed to Austin in October to attend the Texas Freethought Convention. This event, the first such state-wide gathering of freethinkers, humanists, agnostics, and atheists in a long time, if not the first such comprehensive meeting, drew about 130 attendees from Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, and Austin and many smaller towns in between.

Featured speakers included Zachary Moore of the North Texas Church of Freethought, Matt Dillahunty of the Atheist Community of Austin, Kathleen Johnson of the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers, Blair Scott from American Atheists, Terry MacDonald of the Dallas/Ft Worth Metroplex Atheists, Clare Wuellner from the Center for Inquiry, and Geoff Henley, author of "Beyond Reasonable Doubt". In addition, San Antonio actress Anna DeLuna performed her one-woman skit "¿Chicana Atheist?", and there were musical performances by two musical groups, including a massed band finale of John Lennon's "Imagine".

This was a family-friendly event, with ages ranging from newborn to 80-somethings. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to network and share ideas for community outreach programs.

Plans are already underway for a bigger, more spectacular annual event, to be held in San Antonio in the Fall of 2009. FACT members are encouraged to volunteer to help with the planning, hosting and logistics for this event. Contact Nick Lee for more information.

Nick Lee

Every Monday at 12:30 and 8:30 PM

Time Warner Digital Cable Channel 20

FREETHOUGHT FORUM

Hosted by Hugh Henry

Atheists Sue over NDOP

by Nick Lee

San Antonio Atheist Patrick Greene has filed suit in Federal court regarding the City of San Antonio's support and endorsement of the annual National Day of Prayer. Named as the prime defendant is Mayor Phil Hardberger.

The suit maintains that the participation of city officials in this annual event is a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Greene also notes that, although the NDOP was originally established as an ecumenical event by Presidential proclamation in 1952, the event has, in recent years been dominated by the sectarian, fundamentalist Focus on Family organization, and dominated by James Dobson's wife, Shirley. Locally, the San Antonio observance has been managed by "Soapy" and Suzanne Dollar. Because of the narrow world-view of these organizers, Greene maintains that the city's support and the Mayor's participation indicates to an objective observer that the Mayor prefers and endorses the religious principles of fundamentalist Christianity over all other faiths .

The relief requested in the suit is for the Mayoral proclamation to comply with Federal law and that the Mayor and City Council Members refrain from joining the observance on the steps of City Hall. At press time, Greene had received no response from the U.S. Attorney's office as to whether they will pursue the issue.

This local legal action comes on the heels of a national effort by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which filed suit in Federal court, naming President George W. Bush, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and Shirley Dobson. The point of this suit is to stop the official observance of the NDOP, altogether. According to FFRF, "Designations of an official Day of Prayer by presidential and gubernatorial proclamations ... create a hostile environment for nonbelievers," and violates the First Amendment's prohibition against an official establishment of religion.

FFRF Billboards

The FFRF organization is in the midst of its push to get a billboard (or two) put up in cities across the nation. You can read about it here: <http://www.ffrf.org/action/2008/billboard.php>. Also, on FFRF's website, there are links to local news stories about the banners/billboards. The URL for that page is <http://www.ffrf.org/media/>.

Joe LaBonte is soliciting support from FACT and its members to put up a billboard here in San Antonio. The billboard should be located in a high profile location, such as US 281, I 10 or I 35 going into the city.

To obtain more information and find out how you can help, please contact Joe at joecooljoecool@gmail.com.



I don't have anything against organized religion per se. We all need something in our lives. I personally just have not accepted that belief. But I'm one of the few.

Lance Armstrong, Time, Sept. 29, 2003

Temple College v. Nietzsche By Nick Lee

Late last month, an e-mail was received at the FACT web-site from Misti Kennaire, who described herself as an honors student at Temple College, a two-year institution in Temple TX. She was asking for advice on a situation involving a controversy over Friedrich Nietzsche's famous quote "Gott ist Tod." It seems that a popular professor had posted that quote on the door to his office, along with many other literary quotes. (He is an untenured English Instructor.) The college administration told him to remove that particular quote because they had received complaints that some students were offended.

As an atheist/agnostic, Misti was outraged at what she considered to be a breach of academic freedom. She had an e-mail exchange with the school Vice President, wherein she pointed out that most Professors decorate their doors and many of them have religious quotes which might offend her. The school's response was that "the quote can be considered very controversial and offensive to others," although the instructor was free to include Nietzsche within the context of a classroom discussion.

My advice to her was weak, noting that she does not have any 'legal standing' in the battle between the Instructor and the Administration, but commending her on raising the voice of student protest. I referred her to a national student organization which might have more useful advice.

Mirabile dictu, Misti's efforts at shining the light of the First Amendment on this issue has borne fruit. As one national organization noted in a letter to the Temple College President: "The principle of freedom of speech does not exist to protect only non-controversial speech; indeed, it exists precisely to protect speech that some members of a community may find 'controversial' or 'offensive.'" The President quickly responded by reversing the ban on the use of the Nietzsche quote on the Instructor's door.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* Margaret Mead**

If there were an annual Mead Award, I would nominate Misti Kennaire.

Julie Fisher comments on the recent election:

"Sarah Palin told James Dobson that God would get them (McCain/Palin) elected. I wonder how she's explaining what happened? "

Sent to San Antonio Express News Friday, October 31, 2008. Not published.

Re. Identifying grave evil

Right on Dr. McNabb regarding identifying grave evil. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, and all clergy for that matter, should stay away from politics and political issues and do what they were ordained to do--church business. Bishop Gomez criticized the Express-News voters' guide for not including "fundamental life issues," in order words abortion, euthanasia, stem cell research, etc. As for abortion, it is legal at this time, and shouldn't be an issue for government to decide in the first place.

Issues in the Catholic church should be about sex abuse by priests. How many lives (life issues) have they ruined? Do you think that money can undo the harm that priests have done to children? No, it cannot, they will live with this problem all their lives. How many exposed pedophile priests (grave evil) has the church sheltered all the way to the Vatican? Many, but one would be too many.

I disagree with you, Bishop Gomez, that the media should report the position of candidates in relation to, as you put it, key issues that protect the right to life....Leave those issues to people's own conscience.

Sally Chizek, San Antonio, TX

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 with the date that they were submitted.

Send them to: FACT.newsletter@FreethinkersACT.org or PO Box 160881, San Antonio, TX 78280

Jesus Kicked Out of School!

A middle school in New Jersey invited students to come to classes in their Halloween costumes, but apparently one costume was too scary for school officials. One 13-year old came to school dressed as Jesus: in sandals, long robe, long hair and beard, and with a crown of thorns. The principal promptly sent him home, but defended her decision by saying the costume was a disruption to the education process because it attracted too much attention. She denied that the costume's religious nature had anything to do with her decision. The student, whose mother is Catholic while his father is Jewish, said he created the costume because his friends had told him his long hair made him look like Jesus.

All was not lost, however – the student used the same costume for trick-or-treating. There is no report on whether anyone offered him shelter.



Source: <http://undojesus.org/>

Call to Renewal Keynote (Part I)

by Marc Janssens

On Wednesday, June 28, 2006 Senator, now President-elect Obama spoke at the Call to Renewal Conference sponsored by Sojourners, a Christian social justice organization based in Washington DC. He spoke of the role of religion in politics.

Here is an arguably biased selection of excerpts from this 40 min speech. The complete transcript can be found at http://obama.senate.gov/podcast/060628-call_to_renewal_1/ and a video can be found on Richard Dawkins' web site (<http://www.richarddawkins.net/article,3309,Obama-the-Secularist,Barack-Obama-Yoismorg>). You may not totally agree with everything the President-elect said, but one has to admit that a breath of fresh, more freethinker-friendly air will flow through the White House on January 20, 2009.

...

I think that we should put more of our tax dollars into educating poor girls and boys. I think that the work that Marian Wright Edelman has done all her life is absolutely how we should prioritize our resources in the wealthiest nation on earth. I also think that we should give them the information about contraception that can prevent unwanted pregnancies, lower abortion rates, and help assure that that every child is loved and cherished.

...

In fact, because I do not believe that religious people have a monopoly on morality, I would rather have someone who is grounded in morality and ethics, and who is also secular, affirm their morality and ethics and values without pretending that they're something they're not [(religious)]. They don't need to do that. None of us need to do that.

...

While I've already laid out some of the work that progressive leaders need to do, I want to talk a little bit about what conservative leaders need to do -- some truths they need to acknowledge.

For one, they need to understand the critical role that the separation of church and state has played in preserving not only our democracy, but the robustness of our religious practice. Folks tend to forget that during our founding, it wasn't the atheists or the civil libertarians who were the most effective champions of the First Amendment. It was the persecuted minorities, it was Baptists like John Leland who didn't want the established churches to impose their views on folks who were getting happy out in the fields and teaching the scripture to slaves. It was the forbearers of the evangelicals who were the most adamant about not mingling government with religious, because they did not want state-sponsored religion hindering their ability to practice their faith as they understood it.

Moreover, given the increasing diversity of America's population, the dangers of sectarianism have never been greater. Whatever we once were, we are no longer just a Christian nation; we are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers.

And even if we did have only Christians in our midst, if we expelled every non-Christian from the United States of America, whose Christianity would we teach in the schools? Would we go with James Dobson's, or Al Sharpton's? Which passages of Scripture should guide our public policy? Should we go with Leviticus, which suggests slavery is ok and that eating shellfish is abomination? How about Deuteronomy, which suggests stoning your child if he strays from the faith? Or should we just stick to the Sermon on the Mount - a passage that is so radical that it's doubtful that our own Defense Department would survive its application? So before we get carried away, let's read our bibles. Folks haven't been reading their bibles.

This brings me to my second point. Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific, values. It requires that their proposals be subject to argument, and amenable to reason. I may be opposed to abortion for religious reasons, but if I seek to pass a law banning the practice, I cannot simply point to the teachings of my church or evoke God's will. I have to explain why abortion violates some principle that is accessible to people of all faiths, including those with no faith at all.

Continued on the next page ...

Call to Renewal Keynote (Part II)

by Marc Janssens

Now this is going to be difficult for some who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as many evangelicals do. But in a pluralistic democracy, we have no choice. Politics depends on our ability to persuade each other of common aims based on a common reality. It involves the compromise, the art of what's possible. At some fundamental level, religion does not allow for compromise. It's the art of the impossible. If God has spoken, then followers are expected to live up to God's edicts, regardless of the consequences. To base one's life on such uncompromising commitments may be sublime, but to base our policy making on such commitments would be a dangerous thing. And if you doubt that, let me give you an example.

We all know the story of Abraham and Isaac. Abraham is ordered by God to offer up his only son, and without argument, he takes Isaac to the mountaintop, binds him to an altar, and raises his knife, prepared to act as God has commanded.

Of course, in the end God sends down an angel to intercede at the very last minute, and Abraham passes God's test of devotion.

But it's fair to say that if any of us leaving this church saw Abraham on a roof of a building raising his knife, we would, at the very least, call the police and expect the Department of Children and Family Services to take Isaac away from Abraham. We would do so because we do not hear what Abraham hears, do not see what Abraham sees, true as those experiences may be. So the best we can do is act in accordance with those things that we all see, and that we all hear, be it common laws or basic reason.

Finally, any reconciliation between faith and democratic pluralism requires some sense of proportion.

This goes for both sides.

Even those who claim the Bible's inerrancy make distinctions between Scriptural edicts, sensing that some passages - the Ten Commandments, say, or a belief in Christ's divinity - are central to Christian faith, while others are more culturally specific and may be modified to accommodate modern life.

The American people intuitively understand this, which is why the majority of Catholics practice birth control and some of those opposed to gay marriage nevertheless are opposed to a Constitutional amendment to ban it. Religious leadership need not accept such wisdom in counseling their flocks, but they should recognize this wisdom in their politics.

Wanted: Your Input

The FACT Newsletter is published eleven times a year, with 12 pages per month, 132 pages per year!. It serves to bring to your attention current news, opinion and announcements of interest to freethinkers, atheists, agnostics and secular humanists. The Editor, Marc Janssens continues to do a remarkable job of filling those 132 pages every year, in spite of his grueling work schedule and extensive travel (he is in London as this is written), and family responsibilities. "Matter of FACT" has received effusive praise from our sister organizations around the country.

You can help ease Marc's burden by submitting news items, op-ed type thought pieces, jokes, or personal experiences for publication. All of you receive hundreds of emails and/or scan news items every month that are of interest to the Freethought community. Please share these with the rest of us. Proposed articles don't have to be professionally written, and Marc reserves the right to edit for space, but all submissions will be considered.

Nick Lee

Pew Says Monotheism is Not Monolithic

A major survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that most Americans have a non-dogmatic approach to faith. A majority of those who are affiliated with a religion, for instance, do not believe their religion is the only way to salvation. And almost the same number believes that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion. This openness to a range of religious viewpoints is in line with the great diversity of religious affiliation, belief and practice that exists in the United States, as documented in a survey of more than 35,000 Americans that comprehensively examines the country's religious landscape.

Most Americans agree with the statement that many religions – not just their own – can lead to eternal life. Among those who are affiliated with a religious tradition, seven-in-ten say many religions can lead to eternal life. This view is shared by a majority of adherents in nearly all religious traditions, including more than half of members of evangelical Protestant churches (57%). Only among Mormons (57%) and Jehovah's Witnesses (80%) do majorities say that their own religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life.

The lack of dogmatism in American religion may well reflect the great diversity of religious affiliation, beliefs and practices in the U.S. For example, while more than nine-in-ten Americans (92%) believe in the existence of God or a universal spirit, there is considerable variation in the nature and certainty of this belief. Six-in-ten adults believe that God is a person with whom people can have a relationship; but one-in-four – including about half of Jews and Hindus – see God as an impersonal force. And while roughly seven-in-ten Americans say they are absolutely certain of God's existence, more than one-in-five (22%) are less certain in their belief.

The diversity in religious beliefs and practices in the U.S. in part reflects the great variety of religious groups that populate the American religious landscape. The survey finds, for example, that some religious groups – including Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and members of historically black and evangelical Protestant churches – tend to be more likely to report high levels of religious engagement on questions such as the importance of religion in their lives, certainty of belief in God and frequency of attendance at religious services. Other Christian groups – notably members of mainline Protestant churches and Catholics – are less likely to report such attitudes, beliefs and practices. And still other faiths – including Jews, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims – exhibit their own special mix of religious beliefs and practices.

These are among the key findings of a major survey on religion and American life conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life between May 8 and Aug. 13, 2007, among a representative sample of more than 35,000 Americans. The first report based on the *U.S. Religious Landscape Survey* was issued in February 2008 and focused on the religious affiliation of the American people, including the impact of immigration and changes in affiliation. This report provides information on the core religious beliefs and practices as well as the basic social and political views of the various religious traditions in the U.S. as well as people who are not affiliated with a particular religion.

Source: [The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life](#)

Trouble in Texas

The Texas Board of Education has named the six people who will be on a committee to review science curriculum standards. Texas, you've got trouble. The people are:

David Hillis, professor of integrative biology and director of the Center of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics at the University of Texas at Austin;

Ronald K. Wetherington, professor of anthropology at Southern Methodist University and director of the Center for Teaching Excellence;

Gerald Skoog, professor and dean emeritus of the College of Education at Texas Tech and co-director of the Center for Integration of Science Education and Research;

Stephen Meyer, vice-frakkin'-president of the odious Discovery Institute in Washington state;

Ralph Seelke, a pro-ID creationist and biologist from Wisconsin;

Charles Garner, a chemist from Baylor who is also a pro-ID creationist.

Note that Meyer and Seelke are co-authors of that ghastly new ID textbook, *Explore Evolution*, and would no doubt love to tweak the curriculum to make their book marketable in Texas. Conflict of interest? Nah.

So, three good guys and three ignorant ideologues, with the overall head of the board of education being Don McLeroy, the creationist dentist. It's going to get ugly.

Source: http://scienceblogs.com/pharyngula/2008/10/prepare_for_an_ugly_battle_in.php

More Texas Trouble

Cynthia Dunbar, a conservative member of the Texas State Board of Education, has published her political views on a religious blog. Of Presidential Candidate Obama's position statements, she has said: "Shared sacrifice and social responsibility' smack of Marxist Communism and redistribution of wealth. This is a completely anti-American, anti-Constitutional view of the role of Federal Government." And later, "I sincerely believe that an Obama Administration would ultimately mean one thing: the end of America as we know her."

If she were not a public employee, Ms. Dunbar's opinions would be of little note. Problem is, they are a reflection of her extreme views which she brings to deliberations of the SBOE. A graduate of Pat Robertson's Regent Law School, she has attacked the teaching of evolution in science classes (classes her home-schooled children don't attend) and appointed the director of a creationist institute to the task force looking at the state's science curriculum.



Be Loud! Be Proud! Wear Your FACT T-Shirt!

They come in Grey with the FACT Logo in Black. Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2X, and 3X,Also available as a Red tie-down vest. **All sizes — \$15.00**

To order or for further information, contact Sally Chizek at Sally.Chizek@FreethinkersACT.org, or call (210) 656-3796

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

Which Word is God's Word?

Christians who believe the Bible is the literal, inerrant word of God are in deep trouble when faced with the various translations and transmutations the text has been subjected to. (What language did God speak?) It was bad enough that the New Testament was translated from Greek to Latin to English. As anyone who is multilingual will tell you, it is impossible to convey the exact meaning from one language to another. The English version has since been given fresh translations every few years or so to modernize the language and make it more accessible to readers. But to what injury to the text?

Here is a minor example describing a relatively minor event. It is from the Book of Acts, where Paul and Barnabas are on a road tour trying to convert people to Christianity. As they preached through Asia Minor, they encountered opposition from Jews. This is how the familiar King James version describes the action in one town: Acts 14:2: "***But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.***" (The underlying Greek word that KJV has mistranslated as "***evil***" above is best translated as "***irritated.***")

Here are some of the variations:

Acts 14:2 :: New International Version (NIV) "*But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.*"

Acts 14:2 :: New American Standard Bible (NASB) "*But (1) the Jews who (2) disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against (3) the brethren.*"

Acts 14:2 :: The Message (MSG) "*But the unbelieving Jews worked up a whispering campaign against Paul and Barnabas, sowing mistrust and suspicion in the minds of the people in the street.*"

Acts 14:2 :: Amplified Bible (AMP) "*But the unbelieving Jews [who rejected their message] aroused the Gentiles and embittered their minds against the brethren.*"

Acts 14:2 :: New Living Translation (NLT) "*But the Jews who spurned God's message stirred up distrust among the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas, saying all sorts of evil things about them.*"

Acts 14:2 :: New Life Version (NLV) "*But the Jews who did not want to believe worked against those who were not Jews. They made them turn against the Christians.*"

Acts 14:2 :: English Standard Version (ESV) "*But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.*"

Acts 14:2 :: Contemporary English Version (CEV) "*But the Jews who did not have faith in him made the other Gentiles angry and turned them against the Lord's followers.*"

Etc. Etc. Etc. Will the REAL words of God please stand up?

The World's Need

So many Gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind,
When just the art of being kind
Is all this sad world needs.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1815—1919)

November Events

November 4th - THCF First Tuesday Lunch

1:00 pm: Meet other Freethinkers at the Texas Hill Country Freethinkers' First Tuesday Lunch (held monthly)

Host: Julie Fisher

Discussion Topic: "TBA"

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

November 12th – THCF Northwest Lunch

1:00 pm - Meet other Freethinkers at the Texas Hill Country Freethinkers' Lunch (held monthly)

Host: Julie Fisher

Discussion Topic: "TBA"

Cha Cha's, 2026 Babcock Rd

November 15th – The Lunch Bunch

11:30 am: Join us for good food before the Meeting

Sarika's Thai Restaurant

4319 Medical Dr (Near Fredericksburg Rd)

November 15th – FACT General Meeting

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

Speaker: Jim Evans

Title of Presentation: "Scientific Method for Theists"

After the Break: Election of Officers!

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

November 29th – FACT Discussion Brunch

9:00 am - Join us for a brunch and discussion the last Saturday of every month.

Host: Jane Tuck

Topic: "TBD"

DENNY'S Back Room
4510 Fredericksburg Rd
(South of Crossroads Mall)

December 13th – Winter Solstice Party !!

12:00 p.m.—Our annual secular festival
(See article on page 1.)

Pompeii Italian Grill
16109 Nacogdoches Road

November Events

November 4th—THCF First Tuesday Lunch

November 12th—THCF Lunch in the Northwest

November 15th—General Meeting

November 29th—FACT Discussion Brunch

November 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						

December 2008						
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
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28	29	30	31			

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

www.FreethinkersACT.org

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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 1st 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.