



Freethought Oasis Newsletter March 2011

What's Happening at FTO

- **Coming soon!** The FTO website overhaul is coming along nicely. Many new features are being added, including a message board and a members page.
- The Meetup site has been taken down. Members unanimously voted to remove it in early February because of rising dues and frequent format changes. The main FTO website will soon be capable of all the functions the Meetup site served, and at a fraction of the cost.
- We have a new recipient of the FTO Book Fund. The head librarian at Tascosa High School has graciously accepted all of the books on our list. Her response after receiving the list was *"We would LOVE to have your donation. Thank you so much for thinking about our library. We do appreciate the gift."* No wonder Tascosa does so well at the science competitions! Randall's loss. We have enough in the fund for eight of the ten books. If you like to purchase one of the books on the list, you can do so through our Amazon wish list at <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&type=wishlist&id=2ZWD2C5CHZAUU>. If you purchase through the wish list, it will ship to us, and we'll deliver it to the Tascosa library. New hardcover only please.
- FTO needs a slogan! If you have an idea, something catchy in ten words or less, shoot an email to Tracy at tracyb@freethoughtoasis.org.
- February saw the addition of three new voting members. Welcome aboard!
- Our Sunday meetings at Roasters are now listed in the Amarillo Globe News "Our Town" event calendar. The listing will appear in the Wednesday papers.

FTO Editorial

Freethought Oasis

Past, Present, Future

We have been a very loosely organized group over the last year and are slowly and methodically forming into a cohesive organization.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to let other freethinkers in our geographical area know that they are not alone in their beliefs or more importantly, their lack of belief.

How we accomplish this mission: hosting a Meet-up.com site; holding regular weekly meetings; volunteering with ASPCA and High Plains Food Bank; hosting a freethoughtoasis.org web site. There are other types of events planned in the future for example: Jr. Freethinkers Club; hosting guest speakers; joining the Texas Adopt a Highway program; volunteering with other local charities.

Date of Birth:

Our first meet-up, as the Panhandle Pastafarians, was at Red Robin Restaurant May 9th, 2009. It was awkward at first but very invigorating by the end of our first meeting. We have held a weekly meeting ever since that time and have plans to do the same far into the future.

Our Future

We have filed for and are now recognized in the State of Texas as a non-profit corporation as of June 28th, 2010. We are currently in the process of filling out form 1023 with the IRS to receive tax-exempt status and hope to have this in place by the end of 2010 at which time we will be considered a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity.

WHY are we forming this group and going to all this trouble -the best way to explain that is to reread the mission statement. For me personally, I have never felt freer in my entire life as I do right now knowing that I am working with a great group of extremely intelligent and courageous people. I readily call these freethinkers my friends and an even more profound statement would be -"my best friends are atheists".

In my opinion, our mission was accomplished at our first meeting as we stepped out into the open and found that we were not alone. ☺

We welcome all freethinkers to join our group in our mission to let others know "they are not alone".

Rodney D. Hinds
President - Freethought Oasis

February in Review

Feb. 4-

Our first movie night was a great success. We saw "God on Trial" about Jews in a Nazi concentration camp who held a mock trial for God. An excellent movie with great conversation afterward.

Feb. 12-

Our Darwin Day party went over great! A special thanks goes to our members who drove all the way from Clarendon to attend.

Feb. 15-

Local News-Hide your BBQ grills and Santa pinatas, Repent Amarillo's David Grisham is running for mayor!

<http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-02-15/grisham-files-mayoral-contest>. From the comment section: *"I'm thinking when election day comes to a close someone will lean over to Mr. Grisham and whisper, "Dude, you have no votes..."*"

Feb. 18-

Local News-The "Burn a Koran Day" Florida pastor endorses Grisham's candidacy for mayor. <http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-02-18/controversial-pastor-endorses-candidate>. No surprises there.

Feb. 20-

Pro-lifers decry family-planning clinic funding. <http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-02-20/pro-lifers-decry-clinic-funding> The whole "pro-life" strategy still seems to be that we'll reduce the number of abortions by limiting access to birth control. Brilliant.

Feb. 25-

Local News-Amarillo now has a transgender candidate for mayor. <http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-02-25/transgender-woman-runs-mayor>. A very courageous woman.

Upcoming Events

March 11 at 7:00pm-

Movie Night-We'll be watching *The Bible's Buried Secrets*, an archeological detective story that traces the origins of the Hebrew Bible. For location, please email your RSVP to admin@freethoughtoasis.org.

April 2 at 1:00pm-

Adopt-a-Highway Annual Trash-Off-Please let us know if you can attend this event. We need to know how many are coming so that we can order the safety vests.

This is a special event for the Texas Department of Transportation called "Trash Off". Texas DOT has set April 2nd as the "trash off" date for all participants in their "Adopt a Highway" campaign.

Please join us for this special event at 1:00 PM, April 2, 2011. We will meet at the Freethought Oasis "Adopt a Highway" sign on South Washington (FM 1541) - located 2.6 miles south of Hollywood Road (Loop 335). We will actually be meeting at the middle between the North sign and the South sign. Hope to see you there.

For event details, please visit our Meetup site at <http://www.meetup.com/Freethought-Oasis/>

About Us

Freethought Oasis provides community and connection for agnostics, atheists, skeptics, secularists, and freethinkers in Amarillo, the Texas panhandle, and the surrounding area.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this list, please email admin@freethoughtoasis.org

Freethought Oasis

PO Box 30664 Amarillo, Tx 79120

www.freethoughtoasis.org ;