

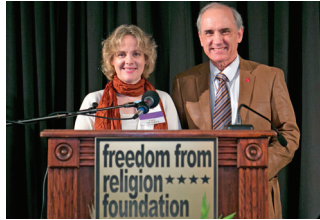
Freedom From Religion Foundation

2013 Year in Review

STOP THE PRESS! FFRF WINS MAJOR 'PARISH EXEMPTION' SUIT IN FEDERAL COURT NOV. 22!

FFRF closes in on 20,000 members in our 35th year!

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, which began with 3 original members in 1976 and was incorporated nationally in 1978, has grown to nearly 20,000 members nationwide. Help FFRF reach and surpass that 20,000 mark! Please let freethinking friends and family know about FFRF. The curious may request a sample packet, including a free issue of Freethought Today, at: ffrf.org, or phone 1-800-335-4021.



Wing (name to be unveiled), **Rose Zerwick** (in memoriam) Courtyard and Garden. All donors' names will be memorialized in a keepsake book on display. Thank you, everyone!

Public relations/educational campaigns

Steven Pinker accepts new Honorary President position

Harvard experimental psychologist Steven Pinker, a leading intellectual, author and committed state/church separationist, has accepted FFRF's invitation to serve as FFRF's first Honorary President. He was named one of "The 100 Most Influential People in the World Today" by Time. We're grateful to work with him.



"Godless Constitution" campaign. FFRF unveiled a Founding Fathers full-page ad to counter Religious Right disinformation by Hobby Lobby, promoting our "Godless Constitution" in 24 newspapers on July 4, including The New York Times. (The Oklahoma City daily, where Hobby Lobby is based, censored our ad.) Several kind FFRF members have since placed a version of this ad for Constitution Day (Sept. 17) and Bill of Rights Day (Dec. 15). Lies by the Religious Right should never go uncorrected.

Making news, making progress

FFRF activism, litigation, public relations campaigns and state/church victories generated more than **1,172 bonafide news stories** about FFRF in daily newspapers or TV news through mid-November 2013. Check out media coverage or sign up to get coverage delivered to your inbox at: ffrf.org/news/media/. View videos at ffrf.org/news/video or on FFRF's YouTube channel.

Scientific American ads. Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from **Lester Goldstein**, matched by donors, FFRF is advertising every month in Scientific American. These one-third page ads concentrate on one threat a month posed by the Religious Right, including creationism, reproductive rights attacks and IRS favors to preachers. FFRF also ran a full-page ad on the back cover of the November issue, featuring illustrious nonreligious scientists, historic and contemporary. We're grateful to **Steven Pinker, Richard Dawkins** and **Donald C. Johanson**, for lending their names and faces, and to **Ann Druyan** (for giving us permission to include **Carl Sagan**).

Building expansion well underway

Construction's started on FFRF's 4-story addition to Freethought Hall, FFRF's 1855 building in Madison, Wis. The 2-part project will be completed in fall 2014. We're tremendously grateful to all members who've donated. We'd particularly like to recognize the amazingly generous donors with "naming rights": **Very Kind Donor, Florida** — Auditorium (name unveiled upon completion); **Very Kind Donor, Wis.** (cupola, name unveiled upon completion), **Joel B. Landon & Wanda Y. Beers** — Freethought Library; **Steve and Diane Uhl** — Studio, Legal Wing and Medium Grand Piano; **Brian Bolton** — Executive Wing; **Very Kind Donor** — Public Relations



Sacramento Out of the Closet billboard blitz! In December, FFRF is unveiling its most ambitious "Out of the Closet" mass media campaign — featuring the appealing, diverse faces, and witty and wise sayings of more than FIFTY-FIVE (55) Sacramento-area freethinkers, atheists and agnostics on their own billboards. In conjunction with our new chapter, FFRF Sacramento, and its director, Judy Saint, FFRF billboards are blanketing the city with good will and reason. As we like to say at FFRF: "Many faces make Enlightenment work." We encourage you to visit the gallery of images (sac.ffrf.org). It'll make you proud to be a nonbeliever!



Other mass media. When a creationist group this fall put up a digital billboard in Times Square ("To all of our atheist friends: Thank God you're wrong"), FFRF got a rejoinder up the same week on the same rotating



“cube” billboard. We thank **“Letting Go of God” playwright and comedian Julia Sweeney** for agreeing to let us place her smiling face and a line from her play,

“Letting Go of God,” on the digital cube: “OMG, there is no god!” We also thank octogenarian Wisconsin Lifetime Member **Wayne Hensler** for donating placement of a billboard, “Enjoy Life Now: There Is NO Afterlife,” in Janesville, Wis., as a “legacy for my grandchildren.” This billboard’s fourth appearance in four years received national media exposure.



FFRF generates own media. FFRF continues to publish Freethought Today, our newspaper, 10 times a year, edited by **Bill Dunn**. FFRF will produce 52 new radio shows in 2013, hosted by FFRF Co-Presidents **Dan Barker** and **Annie Laurie Gaylor**. The radio show broadcasts weekly from about 8 stations in 5 states, and has 15,000 weekly podcast downloads. By year’s end, FFRF will have produced exactly 400 radio shows! Listen at: ffrf.org/radio/.

\$33,000 awarded freethinking students for essays

In 2013, FFRF gave a total of \$33,000 to 48 student recipients in scholarships in its three student essay competitions: college-bound high school seniors, currently enrolled college students and grad/older students. Twenty-four students received major prizes (with several ties), and 24 students received \$200 “Honorable Mentions.” Lifetime Member **Professor Brian Bolton** continues to sponsor the new graduate student essay competition, which had 6 major winners and 3 honorable mentions. The college competition is a memorial to **Michael Ha-keem**, who chaired FFRF’s governing body for years. Eight students won major awards and 11 were honorable mentions. The competition for college-bound high school seniors is newly named for the late **William J. Schultz**, who left a major bequest. The high school essays this year, with 10 major winners and 10 honorable mentions, were particularly memorable. Retired teacher **John Moe** provided \$2,000 to cover high school honorable mention winners. **Dorea and Dean Schramm** also provided each winning student with a very kind \$50 bonus!

\$10,000 awarded to deserving student activists

FFRF, thanks to many new donors, awarded 7 student activists through mid-November 2013. They include **Zack Kopplin**, debut winner of **Richard and Beverly Herm- sen’s** significant \$5,000 student activist award. Zack, 20, has taken on his Louisiana legislature, fighting stealth

creationism. Other awards of \$1,000 each went to: **Daniel Koster**, **Thomas W. Jendrock Student Activist Award**, for fighting bible distribution at his Florida high school; **Gage Pulliam, Strong Backbone Student Activist Award** (by a New York member, age 80); **Calli Miller**, a volunteer legal intern, **Catherine Fahringer Memorial Student Activist Award**; **Nicole M. Jacobsen, Paul J. Gaylor Student Activist Award**. Nicole, one of 2 little girls who helped FFRF win *Doe v. Porter* at the 6th Circuit, endured harassment without knowing why. Sharing a \$1,000 **James S. Schiller Memorial Student Activist**



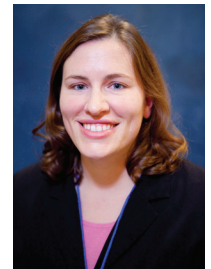
Award were **Michael Thorpe and Luis Lucas-Tzun**, seniors in North Carolina who got their school to remove prayer from their graduation program.



Legal work

130+ state/church victories in first half of

2013. From January to Sept. 15, 2013, FFRF’s staff attorneys impressively had won more than 130 significant legal victories without going to court, nearly doubling victories from 2 years ago as our legal staff has grown. We currently have 4 staff attorneys at work this fall, with Rebecca Markert returning in 2014 from maternity leave. The most common complaints involve religion in public schools. A representative sampling of state/church victories follows:



- Halting graduation prayers from Louisiana State University A&M.
- Removing 10 Commandments postings from 4 school districts: Randolph, NC; Breathitt County Schools, KY; Blytheville Public Schools, AR; and Durham Public Schools, NC. Preventing a group from distributing 10 Commandment plaques to graduating students, Fostoria City Schools, OH.
- Halting use of church for public school graduation, North Canton, OH; stopping 8th grade graduation at a Salvation Army, Louisville.
- Removing multiple Latin crosses from government property, including: framed cross in elementary school in Brock, TX; cross on water tower in Alsip, IL; Latin cross Xmas decoration atop a police department in San Angelo, TX; crosses on the façade of a city building in Stratton, OH; cross posted in Dawson County Schools, GA; cross posted on the website of Wood County Court, TX.
- Ensuring bibles won’t be forced on school children riding bus in Medford, WI, in Cascade

School District, WA, and at Johnston County Schools, NC, and at an Erie Community College in Orchard Park, NY.

- Halting Lord's Prayer before Board of Supervisors in Newberry Township, PA, and helping persuade City Council of Onalaska, WI, not to start praying.
- Stopping city sponsorship of mayor prayer breakfasts in Springfield, IL, and Columbus, OH.
- Removing Jesus fish display from Municipal Court Office, Rolla City Hall, MO.
- Forcing Ball State University, IN, to investigate astronomy prof injecting "intelligent design" as fact into courses on Intro to Astronomy and Boundaries of Science. Thanks also to FFRF Honorary Director Jerry Coyne.
- Securing right of probationers and parolees in Tennessee to be free from religious substance abuse programming.
- Removing bible verse from waiting room wall of V.A. medical center in Lake City, FL.
- Getting struck the US Office of Customs and Immigration Services' unconstitutional requirement for religious documentation that would have barred atheist Margaret Doughty from becoming a citizen.
- Removing nativity scenes from the Quincy Veteran's Home, IL.
- Getting "so help me God" removed from oath in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin for attorney admission.
- Removing religious posters from public school classroom in McPherson, KS, and elementary school in Moreno Valley, CA.
- Stopping creationist instruction at Mead School District, WA.
- Halting Brunswick City Schools, OH, from allowing priests onto campuses to put ashes on students on Ash Wednesday.

Dozen lawsuits in 2013



Court victory! This fall FFRF victoriously settled its federal lawsuit filed jointly with the ACLU of Ohio, removing "The Head of Christ" portrait from a public school in Jackson, Ohio. The case was filed in February, and concluded in October — a resounding victory against the Liberty Institute. FFRF has won nearly 30 lawsuits since our founding.

Newly filed lawsuits: *FFRF and Dr. Dworkin v. City of Pismo Beach* (CA), filed Nov. 4, challenging official Christian prayers to open city meetings, all but one since 2008 addressed to a Christian god. Filed in state court with pro bono representation by **Pamela Koslyn**. FFRF

also filed a strong friend of the court brief before the Supreme Court in the *Town of Greece* suit. *FFRF v. Orange Co. School Board*, was filed in June in U.S. District Court over censorship of freethought materials after allowing unfettered distribution of the Christian bible. Plaintiffs include **David Williamson**, FFRF chapter, Central Florida Freethought Community, with pro bono representation by **Jerry Jeffreys** and **Steven Brady**.

Ongoing litigation: Two federal challenges of Ten Commandments in front of Pennsylvania public schools; an appeal of a federal judge's ruling approving a "shrine to our Lord Jesus Christ" on federal property in the Rockies; a case before the Colorado State Supreme Court, hearing an appeals court decision agreeing with FFRF that a Colorado Day of Prayer is unconstitutional; a challenge of prayer at graduations and before school boards in a school district in South Carolina, with pro bono representation by **Aaron Kozloski**. FFRF has both a civil rights action and a state case against Rhode Island florists who refused to deliver flowers to student plaintiff **Jessica Ahlquist**, with pro bono representation by **Katherine Godin**.



IRS cases: Awaiting a decision by a federal judge is *FFRF v. Geithner*, challenging tax benefits for "ministers of the gospel" known as "the parsonage exemption." The 1954 law rewards ministers for fighting "godlessness" by allowing churches to pay "housing allowances" which ministers may deduct from taxable income. FFRF has won preliminary right to pursue its two other challenges against the IRS for failure to enforce electioneering restrictions against churches (a biggie), and our suit, with our chapter, Triangle Freethought Society, NC, to sue the IRS for exempting churches from filing annual accountability Form 990s, which all other charities must file. FFRF is represented in all three cases by **attorney Richard L. Bolton**.

FFRF staff attorneys play significant roles in many FFRF lawsuits. FFRF lists its current lawsuits at our website: <http://ffrf.org/legal/challenges/ongoing-lawsuits>

Outreach – campus events

FFRF Co-President **Dan Barker** spoke on 20 campuses and at 15 other events, including 8 debates. Debate opponents: a Hindu — a Vedic astrologer in Toronto; a Muslim imam in Orlando, a Catholic theologian in California, a young-earth creationist in Wisconsin, the provost of Houston Baptist University, and the dean of Moody Bible Institute's department of theology. He addressed

the national Secular Student Alliance, Wisconsin's Free-thought Festival, several Unitarian societies, the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago and Houston Oasis, as well as speaking at several chapters. Dan spoke in Canada, Ireland and Mexico.

FFRF Co-President **Annie Laurie Gaylor** had 10 formal speaking engagements, including 5 campuses. Highlights included the Empowering Women Through Secularism conference in Dublin, sponsored by Atheist Ireland, Vermont Law School, Sacramento Freethought Day, talking about women freethinkers at the Sexy Secular Conference (OH), and Kentucky Freethought Convention. She spoke at a commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the *McCullum* decision at the University of Illinois-Champaign, and to FFRF chapters in Raleigh and Cleveland.

FFRF Staff Attorney **Andrew Seidel** spoke at 8 conventions around the country, including Reason on the Bayou, Tri-State-Freethinkers and other Kentucky and Ohio events, Secular Student Alliance Conference, Freethought Festival, before a new chapter in Grand Rapids, MN, and to several classes and a State Department symposium. His presentations included "The Greatest Story Ever Sold: America's Judeo-Christian Foundations," and "Sweat the Small Stuff: Why we must fight every violation of the First Amendment." Staff Attorney **Patrick Elliott** testified twice against unconstitutional bills in the Wisconsin legislature, spoke to the South Carolina School Boards Association,



to FFRF's chapter in Superior, Wis., and before two Wisconsin college clubs or law school classes, including a voucher debate. Senior Staff Attorney **Rebecca Markert** addressed the Texas State Bar on state/church issues in schools. Staff Attorney **Liz Cavell** joined Patrick in a convention workshop reporting FFRF legal work.

FFRF staff spoke in these states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Chapters and partnerships: FFRF welcomed 6 new chapters in 2013, joining current chapters for a total of 17: Denver Chapter FFRF, FFRF Kentucky, FFRF Portland (OR) Area, Grand Rapids Atheists and Freethinkers, Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF and Northern Ohio Freethought Society (Cleveland). FFRF is partner-

ing with the **Secular Student Alliance** to defend non-believing students' legal rights. FFRF is part of **Atheist Alliance International**, and has joined **Secular Coalition for America** and participates in its weekly briefings. Check out chapters in your area here: <http://ffrf.org/about/ffrf-chapters>.

Office growth!

FFRF added the capable **Lisa Strand** as Director of Operations, wooing her away from the Wisconsin Library Association where she served as Executive Director for 15 years. We've kept Lisa busy overseeing much of the building expansion, finances, database/website issues and managing our growing staff. We welcomed **Liz Cavell** in January as intake attorney, **Sam Grover** as constitutional consult in October, **Lauryn Seering** as publicist and **Dayna Long** as Office Assistant. **Steve Salemsen**, **Phyllis Rose**, **Dan Kettner** and new Board Member **Todd Peissig** are regular and appreciated volunteers. FFRF appreciates the hard work this year of its 14 full-time employees.



Legal Interns. FFRF spring legal interns were **Maddy Ziegler**, **Jarvis Idowu** and **Travis Bohn**, all University of Wisconsin Law School students. Undergrad **Calli Miller** worked through Spring 2013 assisting legal staff. Summer law interns were **Josh Glasgow**, Drake University School of Law; **Chuck Roslof**, Harvard Law School, **Aaron Loudenslager** and **Ryan Dwyer**, both from UW Law School. Maddy and Jarvis remain fall law clerks. **Sarah Eucalano** was our productive journalism intern through last summer, until she moved to Guatemala to volunteer this semester. In December, **Yuna Choi** will join us for a month-long writing internship, "on loan" from Carleton College (thanks to FFRF Member **Dr. Paul Redleaf**).



36th convention in Madison, Wis.

FFRF held its 36th annual national convention in Madison, Wis., in late September, with about 600 participants from some 40 states and 4 countries, featuring authors, entertainers and state/church activists, including Lifetime Members and Supreme Court victors **Ellery Schempp** and **Jim McCollum**, celebrating with us respectively their cases' 50th and 65th anniversaries.

Mark your calendar now for the 37th annual FFRF convention at the **Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles**, the weekend of **Oct. 24-25, 2014**. See you there!