

# Freethought solstice display up in Chicago

FFRF and its Metropolitan Chicago chapter unveiled a unique “winter solstice” display the last week of November in Daley Plaza to balance the traditional and divisive nativity scene there.

The 8½-foot-tall lighted “A” stands for “atheist” and “agnostic” and is one of Richard Dawkins’ inspirations.

Beside it is a colorful, irreverent banner depicting a different kind of nativity scene: the birth of the Bill of Rights. It depicts Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and the

Statue of Liberty. A copy of the Bill of Rights, which was adopted on Dec. 15, 1791, is in a manger.

A life-sized nativity scene was first placed in Daley Plaza, at Dearborn and Washington streets, in 1985 by the so-called “God Squad.” After ACLU litigation, a federal judge ruled the plaza a public forum in 1989.

Look for the “A” display on Dearborn Street near the menorah and crèche.



Freethinkers gathered by the unveiled banner Nov. 26 in Daley Plaza.



“A” for atheist, agnostic and effort in Daley Plaza.



Bob Hunter (left) and Tom Cara of the FFRF Metropolitan Chicago Chapter with the solstice banner at North School Park in Arlington Heights. The disclaimer was required this year by the Park District under its newly adopted public forum guidelines. The chapter’s “founding fathers” sign also went up in front of the Niles Village Hall just before Thanksgiving.

“At this season of the Winter Solstice, we celebrate the birth of the Unconquered Sun — the TRUE reason for the season. As Americans, let us also honor the birth of our Bill of Rights, which reminds us there can be no freedom OF religion, without having freedom FROM religion in government.”

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For related information (or to request a bequest brochure), please phone Annie Laurie Gaylor at (608) 256-8900.

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*Freedom Depends on Freethinkers*



It was a special day for another reason for Alexa Kane (left), who turned 14 on Nov. 26 and came with her dad, Evan, who is chapter vice president.



FFRF supporter Kathi Wise lives up to her surname, without a doubt.



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

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## What is the Freedom From Religion Foundation?

Founded in 1978 as a national organization of freethinkers (atheists and agnostics), the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc., works to keep state and church separate and to educate the public about the views of nontheists.

The Foundation’s e-mail address is [info@ffrf.org](mailto:info@ffrf.org). Please include your name and physical mailing address with all e-mail correspondence.

Foundation members wishing to receive online news releases, “action alerts” and “Freethought of the Day” should contact [info@ffrf.org](mailto:info@ffrf.org).

**Reminder**  
**January/February is a combined issue to be received in February**