



The Voice of Reason

March 2012

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March @ a Glance

- Freethinking Parenting, Sunday March 4th, 3:00 P.M. @ a Private Residence
- Drinking With Atheists (DWA), Friday March 9th, 7:00 P.M. @ Kilkenny's Pub
- Bible Babble, Sunday March 11th, 2:00 P.M. @ a Private Residence
- The Thinking Atheist, Wednesday March 14th, 7:00 P.M. @ OSU Stillwater, Classroom 313

Countdown to FreeOK

I am pleased to announce that we are both growing *and* showing this year! The Atheist Community of Tulsa added our 600th member on Meetup on February 4, our 400th member on Facebook on February 16, and became official affiliates of the Atheist Alliance of America on February 24! As if that wasn't enough, we have also been working alongside the Oklahoma Atheists, our friends in OKC, to make sure that [FreeOK2012](#) is even bigger and better. We have secured a list of seven incredible speakers, announced on February 17, and are gearing up for a donation and sponsorship drive. The list of speakers this year will include David Silverman (President of American Atheists and the Dark Lord's brother from another mother), Hemant Mehta (the Friendly Atheist), Greta Christina, Eddie Tabash, and our own Abbie Smith and Caleb Lack. If that isn't temptation enough for you heathens, the amazing Seth Andrews, a.k.a. "The Thinking Atheist", will be returning to the FreeOK stage!



The convention is set for Saturday, June 23, 2012, and will be an all-day event. In order to keep ticket costs low and secure transportation and hotel accommodations for our speakers, we will be sending out donation and sponsorship letters this month. Please visit our website at www.freeok.org for more information on the location, speakers, schedule, and donation opportunities.

- Party in Ponca, Saturday March 17th, @ a Private Lakeside Residence in Ponca City
- Mid-Month Social Dinner, Wednesday March 21st, 7:00 P.M. @ Elote Café and Catering
- Secular Friends and Family Day, Saturday March 24th, 2:00 P.M. @ the OK Aquarium in Jenks
- Official Meeting, Sunday March 25th, 1:00 P.M. @ Agora Coffee House
- Post-Meeting Dinner, Sunday March 25th, 3:30 P.M., location TBA
- Unholy Rollers Bowling, Sunday March 25th, 7:00 P.M. @ Sheridan Lanes
- Food and Coat Drive is ongoing through the month of March. Please bring your donations to any event you attend and an ACT representative will make sure your items make it to those in need.

Get Connected

[Official ACT Webpage](#)

[Yahoo ACT Meetup Group](#)

[ACT on Facebook](#)

Community Outreach - Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma



The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma (also known by its equally large acronym, CFBEO) is our featured community outreach project for the month of March. The Food Bank serves as the largest private hunger-relief organization in Eastern Oklahoma, providing meals to over 60,000 people each week in 24 counties. They rely very heavily on donations and contributions from local groups and individuals, and make sure that 98% of their resources are directly applied to their programs to fight hunger.

The Community Food Bank has a warehouse in Tulsa that can store up to three million pounds of food at any time. However, since hunger is so prevalent in our area, even this giant warehouse would be empty in less than three months without continuous donations of food! This is both an opportunity to help those among us who are most in need and clear out some cabinet space at the same time. (We all have accidentally bought creamed corn at one point, so why not donate it?) Their most needed items include canned foods (meats, fruits, vegetables, soup), boxed meals, pastas and rice, peanut butter, breakfast cereals, fruit juice, and baby formula. The Food Bank works with 450 partner programs to distribute food to homeless shelters, senior citizen centers, after school programs, emergency food pantries, and soup kitchens. For every dollar received, they are able to distribute 7 meals to those in need. So the next time you attend one of our many ACT events, remember to bring a bag of non-perishable food. We will conclude our food drive in May, just in time for the National Day of Reason. Don't forget that every little bit helps. Let's try to top last year's donation of 603lbs. of love!

Last Month's Featured Event - Astronomy for Atheists

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2012

Meeting began at 1:15 P.M.

Announced ACT Evolvefish merchandise for fundraising

Announced FreeOK 2012 speakers

Discussion topic, "Interfaith and Atheist Relationships"

Presentation by Camp Quest

Meeting ended at 3:00 P.M.

Contact Us

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We finally made it, and the evening was awesome!! On February 24, 2012, some of the bravest among us drove many miles down a gravel road to meet with the Astronomy Club of Tulsa. (They are also ACT. Coincidence? I think not.) With no clouds to mention and very little wind, the night couldn't have been more perfect for stargazing. In fact, I would go so far as to say it was a stellar event. (Trust me – that hurt more to write than it does to read.) We had a bigger turnout than expected, despite the chilly conditions. There were a ton of kiddos running around, "discovering" planets and making friends. We would like to give special thanks to ACT Facilities Manager (and ACT member) Christopher Proctor for hosting such an incredible and informative event, and

to the Observatory staff for being so accommodating and welcoming. It was a wonderful evening for all ages, and absolutely worth the drive. I think this comment sums up a lot of our experiences: "I thought I had a real telescope.... Until I saw THAT!!" There is no doubt that this will become one of our most popular events. To quote the beloved Carl Sagan: "Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark." But isn't it a wonderful vantage point?