

AMERICAN ATHEISTS, INC.

<http://www.atheists.org>

<http://www.americanatheist.org>

For more information, please contact:

Ellen Johnson, President (908) 276-7300

Dave Silverman, Communications Director (732) 648-9333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 14, 2006

It's Not Just "Christmas" -- Winter Solstice Celebrations a Growing Tradition With Millions of Americans

Late December...

It's a time of year that is no longer just for Christians and the religious rituals of Christmas. Millions of Atheists, Freethinkers and other Americans are taking time to celebrate a natural holiday, the Winter Solstice. This will occur on Thursday, December 21, 2006 at 7:22 PM EST, and in the Northern Hemisphere marks the Sun's lowest point in its annual journey across the sky.

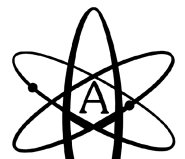
Ellen Johnson, President of American Atheists, said that Solstice-related events are rapidly growing in popularity as more people seek alternatives to sectarian religion. "People are looking for a celebration that they can relate to. The Solstice is one of the great astronomical events during the year that are common to human beings everywhere."

Johnson added, "Different cultures throughout history have celebrated this time of year as one of renewal. We know exactly when it occurs and we enjoy the fact that the days get longer again."

Dave Silverman, Communications Director for American Atheists said that Atheists celebrate Winter Solstice with parties, gift-giving and even some traditional seasonal trappings that were appropriated by Christianity and Christmas. "You'll see Winter Solstice trees festooned with lights, lots of hearty eating, drinking and partying. People who go to Solstice parties are celebrating the season, not a religious tale about a messiah."

American Atheists can put your news organization in touch with local people who celebrate this Solstice season.

AMERICAN ATHEISTS is a nationwide movement that defends civil rights for Atheists; works for the total separation of church and state; and addresses issues of First Amendment public policy.



American Atheists, Inc. P. O. Box 5733 Parsippany, NJ 07054-6733
Tel.: (908) 276-7300 Fax: (908) 276-7402