

AMERICA'S FUTURE FOUNDATION

Liberty TelegrAFF

The Essence of Personal Responsibility

Promoting Freedom in America's Most Progressive State



Eighty young professionals gathered in San Francisco and Sacramento to hear about the story of Frederick Douglass. Here, Timothy Sandefur of the Goldwater Institute signs copies of his new book for attendees.

A prolific author and catalyst for social change, his public orations inspired thousands to embrace the ideas of freedom. His travels catapulted him to international stardom, and his willingness to engage opposing points of view awarded him an audience with two American presidents. How did a man who was born into slavery accomplish so much?

A champion of personal responsibility, Frederick Douglass revered those who relied on grit and determination to prosper. His life and teachings serve as powerful reminders for politically active Millennials, that immutable characteristics, such as race, cannot predetermine societal outcomes. In an era plagued by identity politics, Douglass proves that self-governance is the most effective way to flourish.

That's why, in March, you hosted Timothy Sandefur of the Goldwater Institute in Sacramento and San Francisco, where he discussed his newest book, *Frederick Douglass: Self-Made Man*. You gathered 80 young professionals for two intimate discussions on the important role of personal responsibility in society.

At a time when conservatives and libertarians feel isolated because of their beliefs, events like these provide a community in which ideas can be shared without fear of retribution. By hosting them, you're empowering attendees to become ambassadors for liberty, to take what they learn at AFF events and bring them to bear in their lives. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Look Inside to Read These AFF Highlights

The Great Millennial Migration Page 3

Liberty Cannot Be Silenced Page 5

Bridging the Gap on Divisive Issues Page 6





America's Future Foundation
3434 Washington Blvd 1st Floor
Arlington, VA 22201
202-331-2261
americasfuture.org
Twitter: @AFF

Board of Directors

Richard Lorenc, Chairman
Kathleen O'Hearn, Vice Chair
Chaz Cirame, Treasurer
Daniel Rothschild, Secretary
Carl Helstrom
Jeff Berkowitz
Roger Ream
David Riggs
John Tillman

Advisory Board

Arthur Brooks
Edwin Feulner
Michael Gleba
Robert Levy
Christopher Malagisi
Edwin Meese
Gene Meyer
Grover Norquist
Chad Thevenot

*Liberty TelegrAFF is the
quarterly newsletter of
America's Future Foundation. To
receive more frequent updates
via email, please sign up at
americasfuture.org.*

You Can Change the World

From the Desk of Cindy Cerquitella

I was fortunate enough to live in Budapest, Hungary when I was younger. My family and I moved there when I was in eighth grade. My parents ran an international school in the city, and for four years, I watched a country struggle to overcome its communist past. My parents fostered in me a tremendous appreciation for liberty, and as I walked the streets of Budapest as an American, the faces of those wonderful people are what I remember most. They've served as constant reminders – all of us deserve to live free.

Eleven years ago, I moved to Washington, DC. I had recently graduated from Hillsdale College, and I was living on my own for the first time in a new city. I remember feeling overwhelmed – I needed new friends and professional connections, and I needed to develop my skills and continue my education. Luckily, AFF offered a ready-made community for people like me, people who were driven by the principles of free enterprise, limited government, and personal responsibility.

Because of the skills I developed with AFF, and thanks to the network I built through AFF programs and events, I turned my first job with the Atlas Network into a career. I spent the last 11 years at the Atlas Network, traveling the globe and promoting freedom. I loved my job, but I never forgot that AFF gave me the foundation that I needed to succeed. And that's why I accepted the role of executive director: to give back, to ensure that young professionals are afforded the same opportunities that I was when I graduated from college.

AFF is a lot bigger now, 11 years later, but its commitment to fostering community and training the next generation of leaders hasn't changed. As executive director, I will leverage my experiences to truly inspire Millennials with our message. AFF is uniquely positioned to offer an outlet that merges the unique values, professions, and creative pursuits of young professionals in a way that builds a cultural movement. I truly believe that, with your continued help and support, we can inspire a societal shift towards liberty by growing AFF's presence in the states and reaching new, diverse audiences with the simple belief that all of us are capable of changing the world.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you over the coming years, as we empower the next generation to advance freedom.

In liberty,

Cindy Cerquitella
Executive Director



Empowering Young Leaders to Take Responsibility (continued)

That's why AFF members, like Matt in Sacramento, are grateful for your support. Matt reports:

"In a heavily bureaucratic and government-centric city like Sacramento, it's not very easy to meet people who care about liberty. That's why I'm happy to have found [AFF]. It's a breath of fresh air, to mingle with people and hear from amazing speakers like Tim, who can understand what I see firsthand — government is incompetent, and there is virtually no accountability or oversight in many cases."

Thank you for giving young people, like Matt, the opportunities they so desperately need. Because of you, the essence of personal responsibility is alive and well among liberty-minded Millennials.



You're equipping Millennials with pivotal talking points, which will allow them to effectively articulate the message of freedom to their peers.

Washington, DC: The Millennial Exodus and AFF's Transfer to the States

Community. It's vitally important, especially to young people. According to the Pew Research Center, Millennials value strong interpersonal networks – this desire to belong, to interact, and to form lasting relationships is what drives their behavior. And it's what will secure the future of freedom in America.

Millennials are optimistic about the future. So, it should come as no surprise that they're constantly searching for new opportunities. They want to start businesses, develop connections, and grow their network to affect positive change in their communities.

Recently, American University's Kogod School of Business released its annual *Millennial Index*, and the findings were surprising. For the first time in years, Millennials are leaving Washington, DC. They're going to cities like San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Houston.

By supporting AFF, you're making their transition an easy one. You're connecting young professionals and growing supportive communities for liberty-minded Millennials by investing in chapters across the country. That's why young leaders, like Laurel Buckley of Grand Rapids, are so grateful to have your help:



"I first started attending AFF events in DC because a friend was involved and encouraged me to go. I stayed because I liked the professional development opportunities. When I moved away from DC it seemed like a natural fit to help launch an AFF chapter here. I missed the networking opportunities and policy discussions. I'm glad I can continue with those benefits beyond Capitol Hill."

- Laurel Buckley, AFF-Grand Rapids

Thank you for reassuring liberty-minded Millennials that they are not alone. With your help, we can build a nationwide community by providing opportunities that, before now, were only available in Washington, DC.

Meet Some of Your Spring 2018 Writing Fellows

It's no secret that American media overwhelmingly support Big Government. According to The Center for Public Integrity, a progressive media watchdog organization, 96% of all political donations made by journalists, reporters, editors, news personalities, and media executives ended up in Hillary Clinton's campaign coffers in 2016. It should come as no surprise, then, that only 41% of Americans trust that the media will report the news "fully, accurately, and fairly," per a 2017 Gallup poll.

This year's news coverage has given us the clearest indication yet of just how disconnected and untrustworthy the mainstream media actually has become. Thankfully, you're addressing media bias directly by supporting America's Future Foundation and its mission to inspire Millennials, America's largest demographic, with the ideas of freedom.

In March, 16 freedom-friendly writers from across the country completed AFF's Writing Fellows Program, following in the footsteps of alumni like Jason Russell, who now oversees the program. As contributors editor at the *Washington Examiner*, Jason leveraged his experience in

AFF's Writing Fellows Program to jump-start his career. He reports:

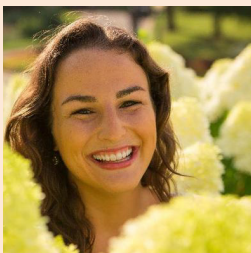
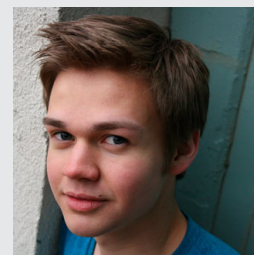
"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for AFF's Writing Fellows Program. Thanks to a connection I made while networking in the program, I was hired as a commentary writer at the Washington Examiner. Within two years, I was promoted to an editor's role. AFF's Writing Fellows Program helped me develop the skills and confidence necessary to write better, more persuasive pieces."

This year, because of a generous grant from the Rising Tide Foundation, as well as continued investment from the Ronald A. Krieger Charitable Foundation and supporters like you, AFF's Writing Fellows Program will become a full-time, year-round endeavor. Long-term, this means that you will train more aspiring journalists, like Jason, to promote the principles of a free society across media. You made it possible for these talented young people to graduate from the most recent session:



Deshani Gunathilake serves as academic talent development coordinator at the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University. Before joining IHS, she worked as a social media manager and an internship coordinator at Good of All, a human rights non-profit. Originally from Sri Lanka, she graduated from Lynn University in Florida with a degree in political science and a minor in international business management. Deshani writes about culture and international affairs, and her work has been featured in the *Washington Examiner*, *Real Clear World*, *Rare*, and *FEE Online*. Deshani grew up in Sri Lanka and lived in Britain before coming to the United States.

Billy Binion is a freelance journalist, as well as editor and content director of AllSides.com, where he writes about politics and media. Previously, Billy worked as a communications consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in support of NATO. In that capacity, he served as a writer and editor for several publications and assisted with media and video design efforts for multiple international exercises. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia with degrees in global development studies and music.



Brennan Hoban is a communications coordinator at the Brookings Institution, where she produces the 5 on 45 podcast, manages the Unpacked video series, writes for the Brookings Now blog, and assists with communications strategy and outreach. She has a degree in international relations and political science from American University, where she graduated from the University Honors Program. Brennan is originally from New York. She is passionate about finding engaging, creative ways to share complex data and public policy ideas.

The Left's Silencing Act

Making Noise for Liberty in Rhode Island



You are empowering young leaders to battle censorship and champion free speech in Rhode Island, one of America's most progressive states.

At America's Future Foundation, we believe that everyone should be afforded equal opportunity to prosper. We envision a society that values free markets, limited government, and personal responsibility – values that enhance the quality of life for all Americans. Currently with chapters in 27 cities, we host events to foster an open dialogue about policy ideas and larger social issues. By welcoming all people and points of view to join in our discussions, we are a positive space for change at a time when free speech is threatened.

In 2017, we launched our Rhode Island chapter, led by individuals who care deeply about the direction of government in their state. With monthly events that celebrate the ideas of liberty, AFF-Rhode Island has become one of AFF's most active and inclusive chapters. That's why we were saddened by a venue's decision to cancel February's event in Rhode Island, called "Advocating Liberty in Your Community."

While the owner of the venue has the absolute right to do this, and while we celebrate and will defend that right, it doesn't take away from the fact that it was a disappointing decision. Truly, it's indicative of a larger social problem, one that allows viral misinformation to inform rash decisions that directly affect good-natured and well-intentioned young people. The cancellation of the event, for instance, was caused by an anonymous post on social media, one that had no basis in fact.

In an inspiring twist, however, the blossoming community of AFF-Rhode Island took the spirit of their in-person events online, where they collectively engaged the venue's owner and other residents in a civil dialogue. Their courteous defense of the ideas we hold dearly diffused what could have been a volatile situation. What's more, residents of Rhode Island took notice.

Because of the way AFF leaders handled the event, we were able to gain new followers on Facebook. More importantly, we showed Millennials in Rhode Island that we're an effective ally for open and constructive conversation. With new followers and new friends, we're truly building a movement in the Ocean State - with the ideas of liberty as the focus.

The venue's owner apologized for his mistake, and an alternative venue was booked for the event. AFF fully accepts his apology. With that said, this series of events was impacting: it illustrated why AFF is so important, and why we need it now, more than ever. In a world divided, AFF can help bring the next generation together by providing a platform for civil discussion about the ideas that will engender human flourishing. That's exactly what happened in February, and it's a testament to what you're accomplishing across the United States by supporting AFF.



Just unliked [redacted] and liked AFF. With events like this what's not to like.



The leaders you've empowered on the ground channeled their passion for good, converting new fans to AFF's cause in the process.

Your Support Tackles the Big Issues

Finding Common Ground on Immigration

If you've watched the news, you've heard about it. If you've opened a newspaper, you've read about it. And if you've stepped outside, you've talked about it.

If there's one political issue dominating discourse these days, it's immigration. Everyone has an opinion on it, and when it's discussed, the conversation can turn rancorous very quickly. For these conversations to be productive, they must remain civil. And for that to happen, all parties need to be well-informed.

By supporting America's Future Foundation, you're leading that charge.

In February, you partnered with the Center for the Study of Liberty and the Bastiat Society in Nashville to host an intimate discussion on immigration in America. At an event that featured Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute and Hans von Spakovsky of The Heritage Foundation, 31 young professionals gathered to learn more about this important issue. Attendees were able to directly engage the speakers and dissect both sides to what is often a contentious debate.

Events like these are important, as the mainstream media, Hollywood, academia, and even some of our friends and neighbors often insist on transforming this complex issue into an emotionally charged crusade against civic understanding. What makes your work so special is your ability to convene eager young professionals who are interested in finding common ground.



The value of AFF's programming rests not only in its content, but also in its interactive nature. Here, young professionals from Nashville engage the speakers during the question-and-answer period.

Thank you for providing a civil voice of reason in an all too rancorous world, and for promoting greater understanding and mutual respect among the Millennial generation. Without you, these young people would feel all alone in a world dominated by directionless noise.



By partnering with the Center for the Study of Liberty and the Bastiat Society in Nashville, you hosted Hans von Spakovsky of The Heritage Foundation (far left) and Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute (far right) for an intimate discussion on immigration in America.



You are providing public speaking opportunities for young professionals, including Hannah Cox, chapter leader of AFF-Nashville (pictured here). These opportunities allow young professionals to develop the skills they need to effectively advocate liberty.

Wading Through the Noise: Gun Control

Is there any room for gray in an increasingly black-and-white world? If you listen to political pundits, the answer is unequivocally “no.” But we know, as Americans, that the fabric of a free society is predicated on the open exchange of ideas, no matter how divisive the topic may be. Take gun control, for example. Mass shootings continue to occur in the United States, and there is no disputing that this is a very real problem. Unfortunately, however, we spend too much time focusing on the nature of this problem, rather than the practical solutions needed to fix it.

That’s where you come in, and that’s where AFF is providing hope in communities that need it the most. In March, you hosted a robust debate on gun control in Chicago, where young leaders discussed policy calibration vis-à-vis the Second Amendment, including the effects of mandating age minimums, as well as institutional safeguards to prevent future mass shootings.

Open to the public, this event drew an eclectic mix of young professionals. One attendee, Kayla Weems, said, “As someone who is undecided on gun policies, it was great to hear two sides in a debate about the next steps for America’s safety — not emotional, but with facts, history, and legal standing.” Another attendee, John



Can gun control stop mass shootings? Because of you, Millennials in Chicago were able to dissect this timely question in-person via a lively and informative debate.

Giokaris, reported that the event provided a “thought-provoking, intellectual conversation and well-argued debate between two great speakers that left [him] thinking well after the event.”

By supporting AFF, you are providing the civil outlet that Millennials desperately need in cities across America. Topics like gun control are oftentimes difficult to discuss openly in a seemingly dichotomous world. Thanks to you, that’s no longer a concern.

What Will Your Legacy Be? Leave a Legacy of Liberty with a Gift to AFF in Your Will

What kind of legacy will you leave for future generations? How can you preserve liberty for your children and grandchildren, so that they have the same or more opportunity than you did?

One way is to consider a planned gift to America’s Future Foundation. By leaving part of your estate to AFF, you will ensure that young professionals nationwide will be educated about the ideas of liberty.

Your support will ensure, for decades to come, that the principles of free markets, limited government, and personal liberty are defended.

To make AFF a beneficiary in your will, simply contact your attorney and insert the following language: “I give, advise, and bequeath to America’s Future Foundation, tax identification number 52-1928321, 3434 Washington Blvd 1st Floor, Arlington, VA 22201 (insert percentage, amount or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for educational purposes.”

Please notify Cindy Cerquitella, at (202) 331-2261 or cindy@americasfuture.org, when you decide to make a legacy gift, so you can receive special recognition in AFF’s Legacy for Liberty Society.



America's Future Foundation
3434 Washington Blvd, 1st Floor
Arlington, VA 22201
americasfuture.org
(202) 331-2261

PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 4205
SOUTHERN, MD



In February, you closed out CPAC weekend in style by hosting the 14th annual Reaganpalooza on Capitol Hill, where young professionals celebrated liberty, grew their professional networks, and honored the legacy of the 40th President of the United States.

America's Future Foundation's mission is to recruit and cultivate young professionals to become effective, lifelong advocates for liberty.

All gifts are tax-deductible because AFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.