

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

Special Events

See Group websites for regular meetings, page 7

- **Wed Jan 2** [New Member Meetup for SacFAN](#)
- **Fri Jan 4** [Stockton Meetup discussion](#)
- **Sat Jan 5** [TV Show Segment Pitch Mtg](#)
- **Sun Jan 6** Reason Center Committee Mtg
- **Sat Jan 12** [Ask an Atheist at Crocker Art](#)
- **Sat Jan 12** [Stockton Brunch & Atheism](#)
- **Wed Jan 16** [Freethought Dinner Social](#)
- **Fri Jan 18** [Drinking Skeptically](#)
- **Sat Jan 19** [Potluck Game Night](#)
- **Sun Jan 20** [Blasphemy Breakfast - Roseville](#)
- **Sun Jan 20** [Blasphemy Brunch - Howe Ave.](#)
- **Sun Jan 20** [Blasphemy Brunch - El Dorado Hills](#)
- **Sun Jan 20** [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- **Sun Jan 20** [HAGSA Humanist discussion](#)
- **Mon Jan 21** [Book Club](#)
- **Fri Jan 25** [Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)
- **Fri Jan 25** [Stockton Godless Game Night](#)
- **Sun Jan 27** [Stockton Freethought Movie Night](#)
- **Mon Jan 28** [Davis Freethinkers Coffee and Crepes](#)
- **Tue Jan 29** [Feed the Hungry - Davis](#)
- **Fri Feb 1** [Stockton Meetup discussion](#)
- **Feb 17** [Darwin Day](#)

Sac Coalition of Reason Calendar: sacramento.to.unitedcor.org/sacramento/page/events

Subscribe

Volume I, Issue I

Inaugural Issue

January 2013

HumanLight Parties Fun for All

How do secular folks celebrate holidays? Very well, thank you!



All holidays were originally “made up” somewhere by someone. Since 2001 many have celebrated “HumanLight” to remember the ideals of goodness without the superstitions brought by religion. Here around Sacramento many of us gathered to celebrate HumanLight with song, food, donations for food closets and pet supplies, and of course more food! Our

good neighbor, Andi Griffith hosted a HumanLight party at her home, as well as another HumanLight celebration a few days later at the Sierra Community Center.

Here you can see a Mayan cake and snowmen rice krispy treats.



HumanLight is always December 23. The music is secular. The sharing is secular. The decorations are secular. The fun is non-stop.

Candles are traditionally lit for Reason, Compassion, and Hope, followed by the HumanLight candle, a symbol of the day for Humanists especially.

As we freethinkers enter our new year, 2013, may we carry forward our reason, compassion and hope in all we do.



Plenty to Eat and Drink with Like-Minded Friends

Do you like to eat and drink? So do we! Come join us for all sorts of food and drink events where you can mix and mingle with like-minded friends. We have food and pub events in Sacramento, Roseville, Davis, Stockton, and often in even more cities nearby. Keep an eye on the [calendar](#)! Here are just some of our regular monthly food and drink events:

New Member Coffee and Sandwich Meetup

Freethought Dinner (see page 3)

Drinking Skeptically

Blasphemy Breakfast and Brunch

Skeptics in the Pub

Potluck Game Night

Davis Freethinkers Coffee and Crepes

College freethinking groups also meet at mealtime!





Facebook.com search for 'Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason'. 'Like' the Sac CoR Facebook page, where you will find a daily variety of news, humor, insights and tools for every person of reason. Our readers represent 20 countries. 40% live in the Sacto area. Sign up to keep informed! ([Click Here](#)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>



Exodus 33:23 God told Moses, "And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." I'm not sure, but I think someone just got mooned by God! Well, that's a visual I didn't need over morning coffee.

Book Club

"The Greatest Show on Earth" by Richard Dawkins. Come enjoy a lively group discussing the evidence for evolution, plus spin-off topics that are always just as fun! Our [2013 book list is here](#). Open to everyone, Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd, [Jan. 21 at 6:30](#).

Scholarship

Could you use a few more dollars for college? Visit <http://www.atheists.org/2013scholarship> Deadline: February 1, 2013

Coming Out as Humanist to a Religious Sibling

Hello Kid,

I know you are concerned about me and my eternal soul, and that many pray for my soul often. As for my religious views at this time, I am more in line with the Humanist perspective. This is the belief that we are all a part of one humanity and community of human beings. We are interdependent upon one another for survival. Humanists believe that, given the lack of indisputable, scientific proof that God does indeed exist, we live our lives helping others, saving all living creatures from extinction, abuse, etc. and helping sustain our environment and our planet to promote our survival. We each have a responsibility to help one another and protect this planet that we all share and live in together.

I believe that we, as human beings, are intrinsically good and that it is a natural part of our evolution as human beings. I don't believe that our willingness and desire to help others comes from God or some divine entity.

I am also a firm believer in the Separation of Church and State. Our country was forged to be free of religious persecution and the right for all Americans to choose their own faith. If you look at other secular nations of the world where religion does not influence their government, their citizens are happier, more content, there is more personal freedom, total equality, less violence, hate and their countries are much more progressive as cohesive nations.

Religion was never a fundamental part of who I was as a child. I rather went along with Catholicism because of you, and it seemed to fit for awhile. But, I need to say this, the Catholic religion and doctrine is about as far removed from who I am as a human being today than probably any other organized Christian religion, including the Southern Baptists, but they are a close second. I am beginning to take an introspective view of Catholicism and its rituals that you and the other parishioners adopt without questioning it's genuine intent. I paid very close attention on my last visit when Mom died. Carol, I'm sorry to say, but today's Catholicism has all the appearances of a cult.

Anyway, I will always support you and your faith without fail. But, I will continue to lobby our government from a Humanist perspective and petition for Separation of Church and State whenever religion begins to rear its presence in our government. There is a lot to undo. Also, I don't believe that those who don't necessarily believe in a divine spirit are evil, as preachers would have you believe. I have come to know a lot of atheists. They are some of the most compassionate, reasonable, caring, intelligent and embracing individuals I have met and they are doing some of the best humanitarian services on planet Earth.

Take care dear Sis, I think it is important that we both speak honestly and from the heart. I have never been especially good at this, but it is a work in progress. Love and hugs, Kath

Actual letter sent November 17, 2012, printed with permission

Freethought Dinner—January 16, 6:15 pm

A fun dinner social for friends and members of the local community of reason. Feed your mind and feed your body, join your freethinking pals at the **Abyssinia Ethiopian Restaurant** for fine food, good drink and sparkling conversation about all things freethoughty! For menu, map and details: click [here](#).



Reason Center

Sacramento will soon have a Community Center we can use for hospitality and resources for local freethinking groups, also open for public events. Not a small endeavor, we will need everyone's help, beginning here:

**Need:
Commercial
Realtor, and
successful grant
writer.**

**Email here if you
can help: admin@sacramentoreason.org**

Watch for further developments as we move forward with our firm vision to bring all our regional groups of reason together for visibility, acceptance, resources, and a permanent meeting place everyone can use.

Totally upscale, totally appealing, be ready to help as you can.

Fundraiser Win!

SacCoR was the 2nd largest lymphoma fundraiser, thanks to all of you! Good job.

Help Feed our Homeless in Davis

Tuesday, January 29 2013, 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Compassionate Davis citizens have developed a secular solution to the problem of hunger -- and they need our help! Join us in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the hungry, the outcast. Your reward will be the opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethinker friends, a likely free meal, and the warm heart's glow of benevolence. The Davis Community Meals Project core staff will perform all food prep and kitchen work. Our job: simply to set up the chairs & tables, serve, put things away at the end, and clean a bit.



Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't, that is OK, any help is good help! For details, see [Davis Community Meals](#). For a map to the site, see: [Martin's Episcopal Church](#).

Loomis Success Story

In a nearby small town without any atheist organizations, a lone atheist and Planning Commissioner, Janet Thew, saw posters around town for the town's tree lighting event. It included a live manger scene and a puppet show put on by an evangelical church called "A Star to Follow". Janet contacted the mayor and the town attorney. At the next council meeting the town attorney refused to address it, saying, "I'd rather you didn't ask because I'd prefer not to answer". When finally pressed hard enough he admitted the religious aspects would not be a good idea.

Eventually, with more work from Janet, they dropped the manger scene. On the day of the event a new program was put up, now also without the puppet show. Although we almost had a lawsuit crisis for infringement of church into state, all was well in the end, thanks to Janet. Janet had contacted the Sac FAN atheist group in nearby Sacramento, and had 4 atheists present at the event with video cameras ready to (politely) observe and record any infringement. So, although it did cost Janet her goodwill with town officials, including the mayor, Janet saved her town a lot of money in court costs, and kept church out of state, at least this time. Janet said at the event, "You have to start in these little cities." And, you have to start, period. If not you, maybe no one. Thanks, Janet. *(If you are interested in monitoring your local officials, see page 6.)*

Our Favorite 5 Billboards of 2012

**GOD IS AN
IMAGINARY FRIEND.**

**CHOOSE REALITY,
IT WILL BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US.**

The Colorado Coalition Of Reason
www.cocore.org



**Doubts about religion?
You're one of many.**



AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR HUMANISM

**No Blacks Allowed^(Until 1978)
No Gays Allowed^(Current)**

SHAME ON MORMONISM.

atheists.org

**Nobody died for our sins.
Jesus Christ is a myth.**

FFRF.ORG **FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION**

theist Family: Good without a god."

Joshua & Chandra Alto Spokane, WA - Atheists



TS INVADE DENVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND!



AtheistAllianceAmerica.org
Family-Friendly Event Local Hosts: The Boulder Atheists and COCORE

الله You know it's a myth...
and you have a choice.
تعرفون انها خرافة... ولكم أيضا حرية الاختيار.

americanatheists

www.atheists.org

Atheists.

NEPA Freethought
NEPAfreethought.

American Atheists
atheists.org

**Please don't indoctrinate
me with religion. Teach
me to think for myself.**

Atheists.org & MinnesotaAtheists.org



**These
billboards
went up in
2012.**

**The voting is
over.**

**And the 5
winners
are...**

**OUR FAMILIES ARE GREAT
WITHOUT RELIGION.**

www.dfwc.org

DFWCOR
Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

Atheists make better lovers.
(After all, nobody is watching.)



AmericanAtheists.org



BackyardSkeptics.com

MORMONISM:

God Is A Space Alien
Baptizes Dead People
Big Money, Big Bigotry

Atheism: Simply Reasonable



atheists.org

**GODLESS
GOVERNMENT NOW!**

AMERICAN ATHEISTS CONVENTION & PARTY

Overland Park, KS ★ October 5th-7th

Atheists.org/KC

Keep the MERRY!

Dump the MYTH!

americanatheists atheists.org

Kittens are cute.



SKEPTICON
atheist convention
skepticon.org

**I'M GETTING A BIT OLD FOR
IMAGINARY FRIENDS.**



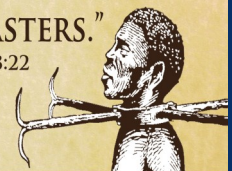
KIDSWITHOUTGOD.COM

AMERICAN
HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION
FOOD WITHOUT A GOD

"SLAVES, OBEY YOUR MASTERS."

- COLOSSIANS 3:22

This lesson in Bronze Age ethics
brought to you by
THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE and
the House of Representatives.



paid for by AmericanAtheists.org • PAnonbelievers.org

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FREETHOUGHTALLIANCE.ORG

BACKYARDSKEPTICS.COM

TV Show Segment Pitch Session—January 5

Let's get together to come up with some segment ideas for the first episode of our locally produced YouTube show, which may go to Cable. We have the equipment, you have the passion for a 5 minute segment—let's put it together!



Ancient Christian Study Group

Join our small band of prophets-in-reverse. They look back at history, and they're so accurate! Often following a book such as *Nailed, Jesus Interrupted, When Jesus Became God, The Origin of Satan, Jesus Wars, or The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*, our local scholars walk us through fascinating perspective and facts. No prior knowledge is needed, just join in and learn with the rest of us! January 20, noon, at Shine Café, 1400 E Street, Sacramento.

Skeptic's Corner

Do you still call it ARCO Arena? Were you embarrassed when that scam power bracelet company bought naming rights? Well, rest assured as Sleep Train now assumes naming rights to what we may always call Arco Arena. A scam is a scam, even if many buy in. OK, it's finally time to change the freeway off ramp signs.

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Butte County Billboards Honor New Local Chapter



To celebrate Butte County forming a local chapter of the United Coalition of Reason, the national mother-organization put up 12 billboards in Chico last month. Three of us, who had discussed the new billboards at the Roseville Blasphemy Breakfast that morning, decided to travel together up to Chico to visit the billboards, in a show of support. Here we are (seen below) with a couple of them, but as you can see, the one billboard located at ground level (picture at right) has been vandalized—totally ripped down, in fact.

This reminds me of the recent destruction of an atheist billboard in New Jersey, where the Mayor of West Milford said publicly that if the atheist billboard should somehow be vandalized or taken away mysteriously, he guaranteed to avert his gaze, leaving the door open for consequence-free destruction of the ground-level sign. Just days later it was totally destroyed, and the police have absolutely no clue who might have done such a thing.



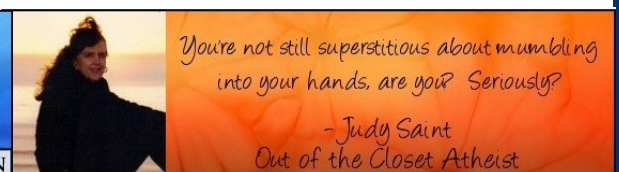
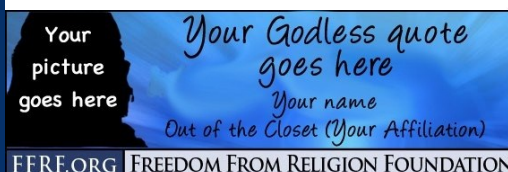
Fred Edwards or UnitedCoR says of the 58 campaigns in 33 states only 5 areas have had trouble—California seeing 3 of the 5 vandalisms. Lesson One: Don't put them at ground level. (Thanks Rachael and Jerry for the heads up)

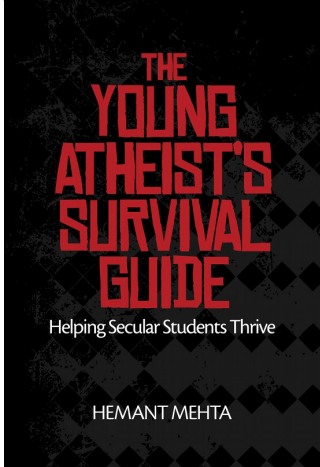
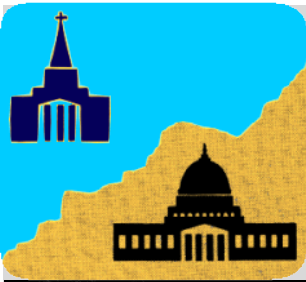


Make your own billboard—From FFRF.org/out/

“Declare and share your nonbelief! Although the nonreligious — including one in six U.S. citizens — are a significant segment of the world population, many Americans have never knowingly met a nonbeliever. You can help dispel myths, educate and promote reason by adding your voice, face and message to FFRF's friendly neighborhood freethinker campaign. FFRF's "Out of the Closet" billboards and bus signs are going up around the country. Although we can't put everyone on a real billboard, every nonbeliever can participate in this unique "cyberboard" campaign. This is your chance to proclaim you're a freethinker and why. It's time for atheists and agnostics to come out of our closet.”

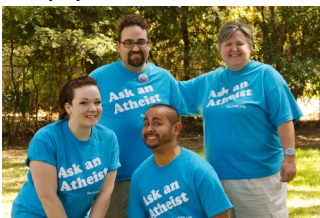
[Click here to generate your own!](http://FFRF.org/out/)





The Young Atheist's Survival Guide,
by Hemant Mehta

Many young Atheists have faced prejudice in their high schools and communities for standing up for their constitutional right of freedom from religion. You'll hear some of their stories in this book. Inspiration for parents, teachers, especially our school age "nones". Available on Kindle or in paperback.



Ask an Atheist at Crocker Art

Show the public that atheists can love Normal Rockwell, too. Join us, buy a \$10 shirt, as we appreciate good art [January 12.](#)

Can you watchdog your local officials?

We're looking for a small group of people dedicated to separation of church and state to monitor, usually online, your local City Council and School Board. admin@sacramentoreason.org for [information](#). Minimal time required. You report, we follow up.

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Sacramento Reason

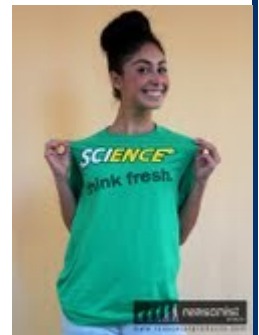
Out Atheist - *Regular Feature*

Local atheist makes good! "We were tired of being looked down upon as atheists. But what about reasonists? Who can object to logic, reason, and critical thinking? So, just like that, the reasonist idea was born. The progress of humanity is being stymied at the hands of dangerous faith-based thinkers. Also, science is under attack in this country. The initial reasonist group felt like it was our moral obligation to stand up for truth.



"Two years later, we continue to receive unyielding support. Our original plan was to help the fastest growing minority continue its ascent up the mountain. We figured that if atheist apparel received more exposure nationwide, that it would be easier for fringe atheists to feel empowered. Much to our surprise, many people write us simply to say 'thank you'. We have begun receiving emails (and getting handshakes from strangers) thanking us for battling the big, bad celestial dictator. Fellow reasonists now sound off on our Facebook

page, beginning to feel more comfortable being part of a culturally-shamed minority. It is touching to hear that inviting people into our network has actually made them feel good. These unexpected intrinsic rewards are part of what keep us motivated. It is why we do what we do."



See Andy's powerful apparel at <http://www.reasonistproducts.com/>

Camp Quest Register Now!

Camp Quest is designed for children from non-religious families. We blend world-class science and critical thinking games with the traditional all-American outdoor camp experience. This the glories of evolution paired with campfires and canoeing! Along the way, we build community, letting kids know that the skeptical community has something special to offer the world and role models to emulate. Northern California camp is July 7—13. Southern California camp is July 21—27. You can [reserve a spot](#) with \$100 now. Some financial aid is available, and healthy [donations](#) from our flesh-and-blood angels among us are so appreciated! You never know how your help may influence our next generations.



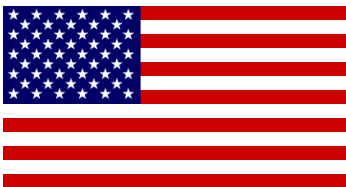
Local Groups to Visit or Join



= member of the Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason. All groups open to everyone.

See more details and calendar at SacramentoCoR.org

Name	Emphasis		Tax Ded		Website
Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA)	UC Davis student group Meets Tuesdays, 6:10 great topics	Y		Y	agasadavis.wordpress.com
Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter)	Promotes individual activism, confronts violations	N	Y	National only	au-sac.org
Atheist Student Organization (ASO)	CSUS student group Meets Fridays at noon.	Y		Y	csusaso.wordpress.com
Brights Action	Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media	Y	Y	N	the-brights.net
FACTS Church	Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form.	Y		N	factschurch.com
Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA)	Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good.	Y		National only	hagsa.org
Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason	Directing the community to the various groups of reason.	Y	N	Y	SacramentoCoR.org
Sac Area Skeptics (SAS)	Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills.	Y		Y	sacskeptics.org
Sac Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF)	Events both social and presented, for growth and fun.	Y	Y	N	aofonline.org
Sac City Freethinkers	Sac City College student group Meets Thursdays at noon.	Y		N	saccityfreethinkers.wordpress.com
Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)	Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects.	Y	N	Y	SacFAN.org
Sac Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT)	Discussions of rational thinking and science over mysticism and anti-rationalism.	Y		N	home.comcast.net/~kitray2/site/?/home
Sac Think Atheist	Events, podcast, and forum to fight anti-atheism and gain tools.	N		N	thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists
Secular Coalition for California	Train to engage media and lobby state politicians. Activist resource.	N	N	Y	Secular.org/states/chapters/california
Secular Student Alliance or Freethinkers of Sierra	Sierra College student group Meets Thursdays at 1:00.	Y		Y	secularstudents.org/sierra
Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)	Meetup events, variety	Y		Y	StocktonAAF.org
Sun City Roseville Humanists	Humanist opportunities for our Sun City residents. Meets 1st Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00.	N		N	scres.org/sub_category_list.asp?category=98



We firmly support the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and Article Six "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States"

Save these 2013 dates:

Feb 17 [Darwin Day](#)
May 4 [Freethought Alliance Conf, Anaheim](#)
May 30 [AHA Conf in San Diego](#)
June 15 [SkeptiCon in Berkeley](#)

Can I make tax deductible donations? **Yes!**
Many freethinking groups are 501c(3) groups, and would well use your deductible offer. See table on previous page.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



**SACRAMENTO
AREA COALITION
OF REASON**

PO Box 15182
Sacramento, CA
95851-0182

E-mail:
admin@sacmentoreason.org
Judy Saint, Editor

Subscribe

About Sacramento Reason—How It All Started

Years ago I saw a billboard (shown below) making the local news. New to my nonbelief in things supernatural, my jaw dropped seeing broad publicity by someone, somewhere who thought as I did. I squinted my eyes to quickly read anything that might be written at the bottom, so I could run to my computer to see who it was. Sacramento-CoR.org it said. Who is that, I thought. The most important thing Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason does is help people like me find other nonbelievers, people who are questioning religion, others who want to help humanity without superstition—basically help any person of reason find a local group to join. Not only have I found like-minded groups of wonderful, friendly people, but I have joined the Coalition's valuable cause by producing this newsletter, so others can also be with like-minded people of reason in the Sacramento area. Welcome to the first issue, published 1/1/2013. (editor)

