

Special Events

Wed May 1 [New Member Meetup](#)
Fri May 3 [Stockton SAAF Monthly Meetup](#)
Sat May 4 [Tracy, Brunch & Atheism](#)
May 4 [Freethought Alliance Conf, Anaheim](#)
Sun May 5 [Stockton, Secular Family Day](#)
Sun May 5 [Davis, Cinco de Mayo Lunch](#)
Tue May 7 [Greta Christina Atheism & Sexuality](#)
Tue May 7 [Stockton, Book Club](#)
Thu May 9 [CoExist Comedy Tour Movie](#)
Fri May 10 [Oakdale, Game Night](#)
Sat May 11 [Stockton Brunch and Atheism](#)
Sat May 11 [Ask an Atheist at Celebrate Sacramento](#)
Sun May 12 [Mock It Up on Mother's Day](#)
Mon May 13 [Americans United Meeting](#)
Thu May 16 [Free-thought Dinner Social](#)
Fri May 17 [Stockton Drink Skeptic & Star Trek](#)
Sat May 18 [Potluck Game Night](#)
Sun May 19 [Rocklin, Blasphemy Breakfast](#)

Continued on Pg. 5

Sac Coalition of Reason
 Calendar: [sacramento-unitedcor.org/](http://sacramento.unitedcor.org/)
sacramento/page/events

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Volume 1, Issue 5

Issue Theme: Damage Religion Does to Women

May 2013

Greta Christina - Atheism and Sexuality

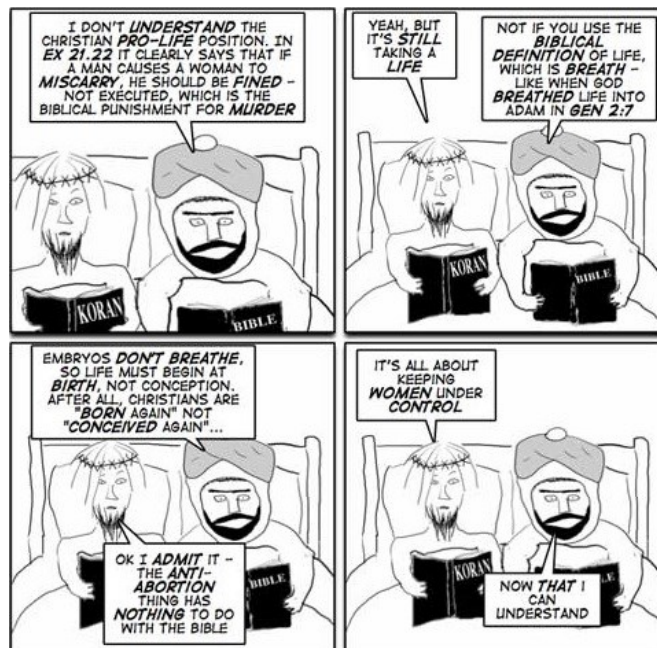
When: May 7, 6:30 pm

Where: UC Davis - Wellman Hall, room 126 ([map](#))

The sexual morality of traditional religion tends to be based, not on solid ethical principles, but on a set of taboos about what kinds of sex God does and doesn't want people to have. And while the sex-positive community offers a more thoughtful view of sexual morality, it still often frames sexuality as positive by seeing it as a spiritual experience.



What are some atheist alternatives to these views? How can atheists view sexual ethics without a belief in God? And how can atheists view sexual transcendence without a belief in the supernatural? Greta Christina has been writing professionally since 1989, on topics including atheism, sexuality and sex-positivity, LGBT issues, politics, culture, and whatever crosses her mind. She is on the speaker's bureaus of the Secular Student Alliance and the Center for Inquiry. She is editor of the "Best Erotic Comics" anthology series, and of "Paying For It: A Guide by Sex Workers for Their Clients." Her writing has appeared in multiple magazines.





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 Sacramento area. Sign up to keep informed! ([Click Here](#)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>



According to scripture, there are only male angels, such as Gabriel and Michael. There are no female angels. God degrades females, as can be witnessed throughout his inspired works. So, let's go shopping! What do we see? You can only buy female angels in gift stores today. They're all females! We think of angels today as our servants and helpers, so they have to be females? *Really?* Where did that get started?

Book Club

[The Year of Living Biblically](#) AJ Jacobs tries to live biblically, but does he really stone adulterers? Funny and profound, reverent and irreverent. Join the discussion even if you haven't finished reading it. ... Our [2013 book list is here.](#)

Open to everyone, [Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd, May 20, 6:30.](#)

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Dear Social I.Q. Lady,

My sister recently joined a Protestant church. She now wants me to go with her, but I'm incredulous to why ANY woman would choose to subjugate herself to a religion that is so harmful to women. I want to keep our relationship, but convince her to shed this insanity. Is there anything I can say to change her mind? -Natalie

Dear Natalie,

Religion is harmful to everyone. It is harmful to one's thinking process and to one's general well-being. There are vast degrees of harm among religions, no doubt, but patriarchal religions are indeed especially harmful to women. Christianity and Islam are probably the worst offenders. They systematically devalue women excluding them from positions of authority and in many cases, treating them as property.

Your sister is free to believe whatever she likes. She may even find comfort that comes from joining a new group. The good news is that more and more women are leaving the church as they gain independence and become the head of household and breadwinner. As we become educated as a whole, religious sects will find fewer women willing to give them their hard-earned money and precious time.

Engage your sister in stimulating discussions about the origins of life, evolution, and positive Humanism. Allow her to talk about her newfound faith and be an ardent listener. You might discover just what it is that she's getting from her religion that she's not getting elsewhere. Most people want to be accepted. Church can do that for them. Accept your sister as she is and introduce her to new friends who are free from the bondage of religious servitude. Next time she asks you to attend a service agree as long as she returns the favor by attending a meeting of your choice.

Andrea Griffith is a Social Intelligence expert. Learn what to say and do to get the results you want.

Are you receiving multiple emails each month for Sacramento Reason? There's a reason for that.... You can help by subscribing, then waiting.

We announce our new issue to every member of every local freethinking group, so if you belong to several groups you will receive several emails. The solution is to Subscribe to the newsletter. When our subscription list covers a certain percentage of all group members we will no longer mail to group lists. Our thanks for Subscribing and for your patience. Subscribe: http://eepurl.com/ss6_D ... Thanks for spreading the word.



New Member Meetup

New to the freethinking community? Come to this casual event for a quick overview of the community and plenty of time to just hang out and get to know each other. *Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd., May 1, 6:30pm - 9:00 pm.*

Mynga Futrell to Speak May 19

Is there hope for the atheist when dealing with an issue like Alzheimer's Disease? Come hear Mynga Futrell discuss her personal and professional experience from the atheist point of view.

Mynga's presentation will incorporate a brief overview of Alzheimer's based on "The Science of Hope," a loosely packaged presentation for general audiences. (It briefly highlights the nature and extent of the disease, and also looks at upcoming demographics and challenges soon to be presented by this disease in California and nationwide.)

Mynga has presented and written extensively on this topic.



Secular Family Day in Modesto

The first Sunday of each month will be "Secular Family Day", featuring different places to bring our families -- all ages invited!

Sunday, May 10, we'll meet in Modesto at Davis Park. Just look for the blue canopy and a sign that says "Secular Families".

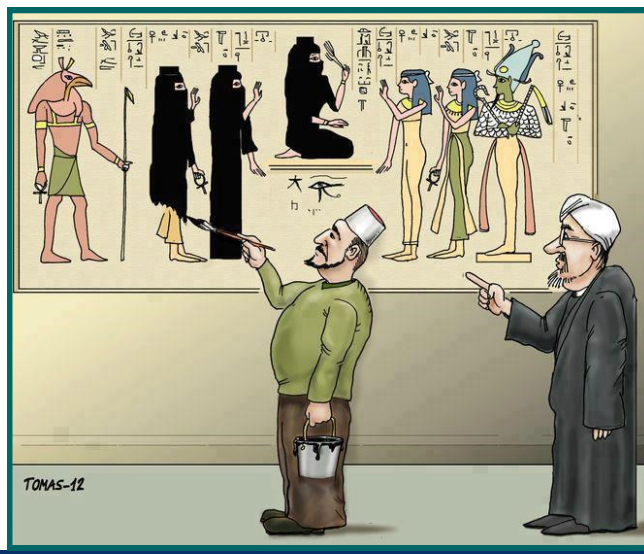
Our first meetup in Modesto will be a family picnic with brainstorming session to plan for future locations.

Where might we go? Help suggest locations in the Central Valley area such as:

- **Parks**
- **Science Museums**
- **Zoos**
- **Your suggestions welcome!**

Join us, and bring the kids, plus food/drink to share, toys and fun activities, and anything else you'd like.

See you there!



Some popular 'Meet, Eat n Drink' Addresses and Maps:

May 11, 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism: Panera Bread 10718 Trinity Pkwy Stockton [Map here](#)

May 16, 6:15 pm Freethought Dinner: Pho Bac Hoa Viet, 1827 Broadway, Sac [Map here](#)

May 19, 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch: Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)

May 24, 6:30 pm Skeptics in the Pub: Hoppy Brewing Company 6300 Folsom Blvd [Map here](#)

SAAF Booth at Stockton Asparagus Festival



Wear an [Ask an Atheist](#) shirt at "Celebrate Sacramento" May 11, 12:30 - 2:00. Buy your shirt there, \$10. Then it's yours to wear anywhere.

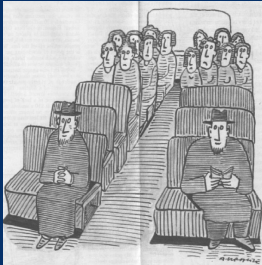


Freethought Roundtable

Good discussion forum. [May 21, 7:00pm. Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd.](#)

They have great sandwiches, too!

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CoExist? Comedy Tour Movie

Thursday, May 19, 7:30PM, Crest Theatre. A Jew, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist, and an atheist take the comedy stage. But when they need to find a Christian, filmmakers head across the country auditioning. What in God's name could possibly go wrong? [More info here.](#)

Game Nights

Atheists and theists all welcome. Bring a friend, roommate or honeypie. Chatting, eating, playing, laughing. Sound good? Three to choose from in May:

[Sacramento, May 18, 6:00 pm](#), or

[Lodi May 24 at 7:00 pm](#), or

[Oakdale May 20 at 7:00 pm](#)

Camp Quest

- Northern CA: July 6-13
- Southern CA: July 20-27

[Register here.](#)

We need 14 volunteers!

[Apply to volunteer here.](#)

[Donate here.](#)

Archery, Canoeing, Freethought Extravaganza, Field Trips, Community Service. Educational activities focused on critical thinking, ethics, scientific inquiry, philosophy, and comparative religion.



Sacramento Reason



Freethought Dinner—May 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 **Pho Bac Hoa Viet**, 1827 Broadway, for good food, good drink and sparkling conversation about all things freethought! [Map click here.](#) [Details click here.](#)



Calendar cont'd.

Sun May 19 [El Dorado Hills, Blasphemy Break-fast](#)

Sun May 19 [Turlock, Brunch and Atheism](#)

Sun May 19 [Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcade](#)

Sun May 19 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)

Sun May 19 [Mynga Futrell on Alzheimer's](#)

Mon May 20 [Book Club](#)

Tue May 21 [Free-thought Roundtable](#)

Thu May 23 [How To Discuss Atheism](#)

Fri May 24 [Skeptics in the Pub](#)

Fri May 24 [Lodi, God-less Game Night](#)

Sun May 26 [Lodi, Freethought Movie Nite](#)

May 30 [AHA Conf in San Diego](#)

Save these 2013 dates:

June 9 [AOF's 20th Anniversary Dinner](#)

June 15 [SkeptiCon in Berkeley](#)

Aug 8-11 [Skeptic's Toolbox, Oregon](#)

Oct 12 [Freethought Day Sacramento](#)

[Women in Secularism 2](#)

May 17-19, 2013
Washington, DC
Presented by the
Center for Inquiry

Volume 1, Issue 5

Issue Theme: Damage Religion Does to Women

Page 5

Review: Unmaking War, Remaking Men - Kathleen Barry

By Roger Zabkie

Dr. Barry opened her presentation with the surprising assertion that “the AHA is about to come out with an atrocious statement” about prostitution, riveting us to our seats for the next hour and a half of a Sunday afternoon.

She pointed out that the Geneva Convention on the Conduct of War contradicts the UN Declaration of Human Rights, in that it allows for the taking of human life – “expendable life” – in warfare.

Referring to the results of her interviews with US Viet Nam War veterans, she said she got an insight into why men fight: “It’s about the ‘protection of wives and children.’” However, she went on to drop another stunner on us with “None of this is biological,” a lead-in to her premise that most of the aggressive behavior of human males is a result of cultural conditioning.

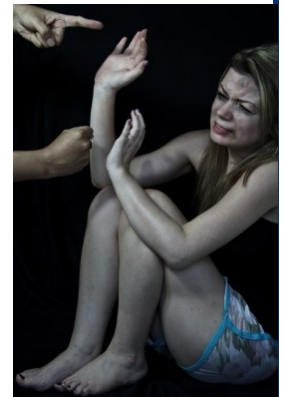
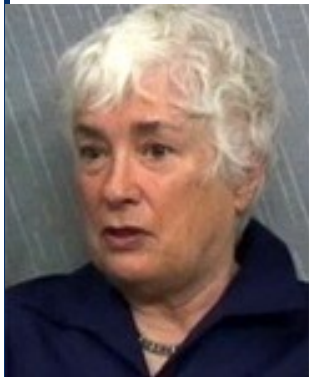
Relative to men’s attitudes toward rape, Dr. Barry told us that, among other statistics, 83.5% of males believe that “some women are asking for it.” Then she

equated violence against women with violence in war. She pointed out that the goal of Army Basic Training is to destroy empathy in the new soldier, and that the Army has revised its training over time in order to make soldiers less empathetic. She said “This is where PTSD begins.”

Dr. Barry believes the solution to our problem of violence is to redefine masculinity to entail *empathy* in place of *violence*. Indeed, the premise of her latest book, *Unmaking War, Remaking Men*, is that we can and should take steps in the direction of increased empathy and reduced emphasis on violence.

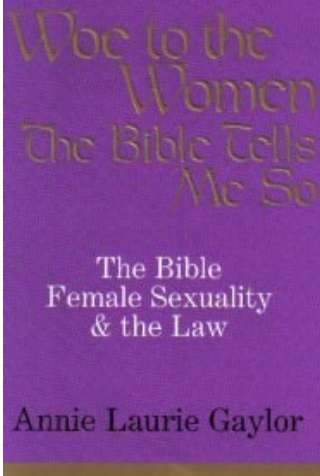
Dr. Barry’s prepared speech was followed by a spirited question and answer session. Thank you, Kathleen Barry, for a very interesting afternoon.

“You’re NOTHING without me. If you even THINK about leaving me... You don’t DESERVE me. You’ll never find ANY-ONE good as me. YOU brought this upon yourself. I know best. You’re a TERRIBLE person and you need me. You’re not WORTHY of my love. I’m only doing this because I LOVE you. Don’t listen to ANYONE who doesn’t understand what we have. Don’t EVEN open your mouth to speak. You will have sex with my friends if I say so, but if you touch them I will cut your hand off. You are FILTHY. You tempt like a WHORE. You bring PAIN to yourself and you DESERVE it. Love, God.”





This can happen anywhere. Afghanistan used to be a popular vacation spot, very Western, with female professors, book store owners, and scientists, wearing very American clothing. And now? The only difference is that religion found a way into their laws.



Documents the bible's punitive rules and attitudes toward women. Exposes the bible's harmful stereotypes about women as sin-inciting temptresses and their treatment as male property. Examines biblical teachings about women's "nature," prostitution, sexual assault and incest, so-called uncleanness, marriage, motherhood, divorce and adultery, grooming, abortion, and homosexuality, as well as "macho" standards for men. A timely warning that the bible is a handbook for the subjugation of women, and that the only true barrier standing between it and women is a secular government. [See on Amazon here.](#)

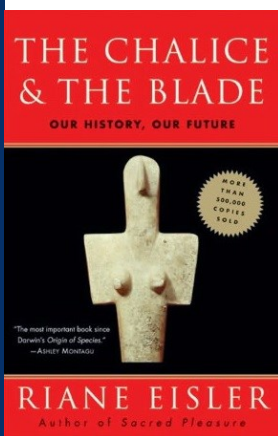
One Pillar in the War on Women *(Special to Sacramento Reason)*

by Cleo Kocol

Rape is the crime that was seldom reported in years past. It is still the crime where the victim is asked what she did to provoke it. Rape is the crime that governmental office holders use as one of their political footballs, tossing around words like legitimate rape, suggesting, that because rape happened, God wanted it. Where did this twisted logic come from?

A cursory look at history will show us that for eons people worshipped goddesses. Goddesses were linked to all that was wise, gentle, and fecund. Then came Christianity and the Bible, and the powers that be had to put the goddesses in their place, put women in their place. Biblical writers turned ancient myths and stories about the goddesses that glorified women into diatribes against them. They preempted and offered these now negative stories as the way to be. Rape happens casually and frequently within the Bible. For example (this occurs in Judges, chapter 9) a father has a high-ranking male guest in his house. Outside is a rowdy gang that objects to the guest. The father says, here is my maiden daughter and my guest's concubine. I give you them to do with as you wish, but do not do any vile thing to my guest.

Is it any wonder that date rape, marital rape, gang rape occurs today in ever increasing and horrendous ways? And that this denigration of women is world wide? While the majority of men do not commit any of these crimes, enough do to make it a societal problem. And the second-class status of women in Hebrew and Muslim nations attest to this ongoing woman hatred. As non-theists, we owe it to society to "out" this history, to point out the misogyny in the Bible. A good start in understanding would be to read Riane Eisler's book, "The Chalice and the Blade." It was published by Harpers in 1987 to wide acclaim from all facets of society. (See below)



The Chalice & The Blade

Eisler convincingly documents the global shift from egalitarian to patriarchal societies, interweaving new archeological evidence and feminist scholarship. In her scenario, as women once venerated were degraded to pawns controlled by men, social cooperation gave way to reliance on violence, hierarchy and authoritarianism. Agrarian villages had no defensive fortifications because there was no war. The Goddess was suppressed and the patriarchy has ruled ever since. [See on Amazon here.](#)

Local Groups to Visit or Join

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
Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF)	Events both social and presented, for growth and fun.	Y	Y	N	aofonline.org
Brights Action	Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media	Y	Y	Internat'l only	the-brights.net/
FACTS Church	Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form.	Y	Y	N	factschurch.com
Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation	Protecting the constitutional principle of separation of state and church.	Y	Y	N	sacffrf@gmail.com
Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA)	Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good.	Y	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	Y	sacskeptics.org
Sac City Freethinkers	Sac City College student group Meets every other Wednesday.	Y		Y	saccityfreethinkers.wordpress.com
Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)	Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism.	Y	N	Y	SacFAN.org
Sac Organization for Rational Thinking (SORT)	Discussions of rational thinking and science over mysticism and anti-rationalism.	Y	N	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	N	scred.org/sub_category_list.asp?category=98

Our Weekend with Dan Barker

Photos by Matt Martin



Dan Barker spoke at Sac State on Saturday, helping raise money for SSA, then joined FFRF members for a brunch on Sunday on the water in Old Sac.

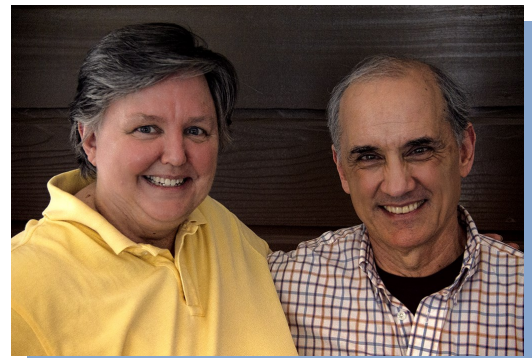
Janet Thew is the first-ever recipient of the “Imagine Award” for keeping religion out of her local government.



The Mockingbirds sing Dan Barker tunes, beautifully.



Dan is quite the musician himself.

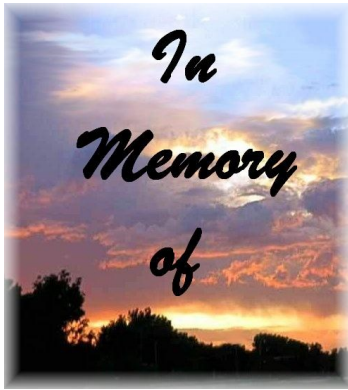


Flying Spaghetti Monster Party 2013

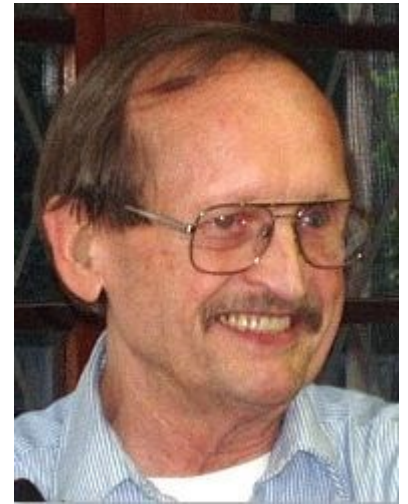
Pirates were on deck aplenty, keeping the day a cheery temperature, as pirates do. No, really, we can show you the graph. Lots of Noodliness and merriment! Aargh!

Photos by David Diskin





Hank Kocol



Hank Kocol died April 20, 2013.

Hank is survived by his wife, Cleo, & sons, Henry Kocol and Steven Hall.

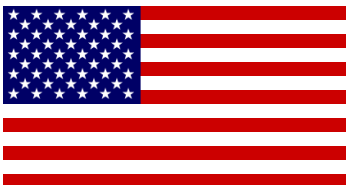
Born July 16, 1937, Hank grew up in Chicago, attended Loyola University, received his Master of Science in Chemistry at Purdue University. He spoke 7 languages, worked for the National Bureau of Standards in Washington DC, for the US Public Health Service labs in Las Vegas, later as a health physicist for State of California Radiologic Health. As a health physicist he worked in radiation protection, giving talks worldwide. He retired in 1997.

He was a member of the Renaissance Society, various local free-thinking organizations, & the Sun City Democrats. He founded the Speakers Club in Sun City. A world traveler, he and Cleo logged 16 trips to Hawaii. He was an inveterate reader, enjoyed skydiving, hiking, the symphony, ballet, theater, and never passed a museum without going in.



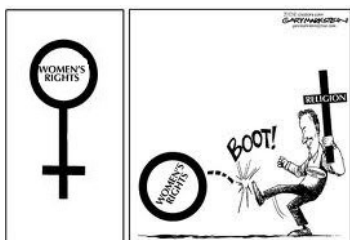
More specifically for our freethinking community, Hank was a Charter Member of AOF, former AOF President, co-founder of the Sun City Humanists, "life member" of FFRF, and a keystone of HAGSA and the humanist community for many years. He spoke several times to the CSUS Renaissance Society, and at one point was a Director for the Council for Secular Humanism.

In lieu of flowers, Cleo suggests memorial donations may be made to the freethinking organization of your choice. *Sacramento Reason* reminds you there is a building fund set aside to someday own a community center in Sacramento which can be used by all local freethinking groups. You can donate to this fund through Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF). Be sure to note that your donation is for the Reason Center fund in memory of Hank. AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182, USA. (Donations made in remembrance of Hank Kocol to this fund are tax-deductible. Thank you for remembering Hank in whatever way you choose.)



This issue's theme - Damage Religion Does to Women

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".



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!



**SACRAMENTO AREA
COALITION OF
REASON**

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Judy Saint, Editor
Photographer, Matt Martin

Subscribe

American attitudes that degrade women today are based on a culture of desert men who lived with rudimentary tools thousands of years ago. Legislation and attitudes that keep women down are all through these old religions. From Genesis to Revelation: Woman is cursed, maternity is a sin, marriage is bondage. Rape virgins instead of male angels. Insulting tenth commandment, females may be sex slaves. Don't let

a witch live. Women must support the tabernacle but not enter it. Women who have daughters are unclean twice as long as those who have sons, menstrual periods are unclean, scourge the woman when she is raped. Only count men in polls, barbaric adulteress test, virgins may be taken as war booty. Deuteronomy is a rape manual. Abomination for women to wear

**THIS IS WHERE I
CANNOT SHOW
YOU A RAPE
VICTIM ABOUT
TO BE STONED
TO DEATH, ONLY
HER HEAD AND
SHOULDERS ABOVE
THE GROUND.**

men's clothes, barbaric tests, rape victim stoned, must marry rapist if he wants, men can divorce but not women, woman's hand to be cut off if she accidentally touches a male part, daughter sacrificed, concubine sacrificed to save man, men had hundreds of wives and concubines, evil women seduce men and cause the men to go to hell. Proverbs is full of put-downs. God scourges and rapes haughty women. Obscene denunciations. Most labels used are whore and harlot. Woe to them with child. Man is the

**THIS IS WHERE I
CANNOT SHOW
YOU THE FED-UP
FEMALES
PROTESTING BY
WRITING "MY
BODY BELONGS TO
ME" ON THEIR
BARE TOP HALVES.**

head of the woman. Women keep silent. Women must learn from men. Wives must submit to husbands, even abusive husbands. Adorned women shame themselves. "The women shall be servants to their men who are their masters."

And Christianity is not alone: Islam - "Men are above the women, because Allah has given the one part a superiority above the other." Confucius - "One hundred girls are not worth as much as one boy." Hinduism - "A woman must never enjoy independence." ... Let's grow up.

**THIS IS WHERE I
CANNOT SHOW YOU
A GIRL'S FACE
AFTER BEING
DRENCHED WITH
ACID AS SHE
WALKED TOWARD
HER SCHOOL ONE
MORNING.**

**THIS IS WHERE I
CANNOT SHOW YOU
THE BURNING BODY
OF A LADY TIED TO
A STAKE BECAUSE
SHE COULD CREATE
LUST IN MEN THAT
THEY COULD NOT
CONTROL.**