

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

July Events

2 Tue [Book Club, Ceres](#)
3 Wed [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
3 Wed [New Member Meetup and Coffee](#)
4 Thu [Independence Day BBQ, Stockton](#)
4 Thu [Westercon 66](#)
5 Fri [Monthly Updates & Discussion, Stockton](#)
6 Sat [Brunch and Atheism, Tracy](#)
7 Sun [Secular Family Day, Manteca](#)
8 Mon [Book Club, Stockton](#)
10 Wed [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
10 Wed [Live Radio Show and Talk](#)
12 Fri [Game Night, Oakdale](#)
13 Sat [Brunch and Atheism, Stockton](#)
14 Sat [Constructing Little Free Library](#)
14 Sat [CA State Fair](#)
15 Mon [Book Club](#)
16 Tue [Freethought Roundtable](#)
17 Wed [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
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21 Sun [Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)

Continued on Pg. 5

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

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Volume I, Issue 7

Issue Theme: Humanist & Skeptic Conferences

July 2013

LIVE Radio Show Needs Audience July 10

Be in the audience of a well-known Atheist Radio Show! PLUS, the cast will give a 1/2 hour talk, with Q&A.



The Tacoma cast that [broadcasts](#) the "Ask an Atheist" radio show on KLAY 1180 AM is in Sacramento to tape a show on July 10!

We need an audience! Come to listen, or ask questions! Our own local Tom Ikelman will be

taking the third seat as guest host to talk about our local freethinking scene and provide commentary.

What a fun opportunity to be heard around the world on radio and by their thousands of podcast listeners. Plan to attend - they love a lively audience with questions! It sounds like fun!

**Colonial Heights Library Meeting Room
4799 Stockton Blvd.
July 10 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Camping Trip for Freethinkers!

Sign up now!

**Atheist Adventures: 2nd Annual FANcamp!
Friday to Sunday, Aug. 2 - 4**

Here's a quiet lake where only electric boat motors are allowed; no gas motors are permitted. That makes it ideal for canoeists, rowboaters, and tube floaters who don't like the idea of having to dodge water-skiers. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout; free fishing permits are required and can be obtained at the lake. Big Reservoir (also known as Morning Star Lake) is quite pretty with a nice beach and some lakefront campsites. The elevation is 4,000 feet. Dogs on leashes allowed, but not in the water. Three campsites are reserved, for 6 people each, next to each other.

[Big Reservoir Campground](#), Morning Star Lake, Foresthill, CA. [See details here.](#)





Really?

It appears that gods go to conferences, too. "God standeth in the congregation of the mighty, he judgeth among the gods." Psalm 82:1. Oh, did you think there was only one god? "I will punish the Egyptian gods" - Exodus 12:12. Or, "Have no gods before me ... don't serve them." Exodus 20:3,5 Oop-sie. Did no one edit this thing? I mean it's right there. You thought you had the one, true god? Really?

TAM! 2013
JULY 11-14 | LAS VEGAS
SOUTH POINT HOTEL | CASINO | SPA

FIGHTING THE FAKERS

Join **JAMES RANDI** and emcee **GEORGE HRAB** plus more than 50 PRESENTERS!

FRIDAY KEYNOTE: **SUSAN JACOBY**
AUTHOR, *THE AGE OF AMERICAN UNREASON*

DAN ARIELY | SUSAN BLACKMORE
SUSAN HAACK | MICHAEL SHERMER
CARA SANTA MARIA | JERRY COYNE
AND MANY OTHERS

REGISTER ONLINE:
amazingmeeting.com

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>

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Sacramento Reason

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Dear Social I.Q. Lady,

Why bother going to one of the many atheist conferences? I heard the people who go just like to complain and make fun of believers. -- Sharon

Dear Sharon,

Going to a conference allows one to meet other like-minded people. So often we atheists feel as if we're isolated from society. The camaraderie and support alone is enough to want to attend. These meetings and conferences are also a great way to improve one's communication skills especially when dealing with theists. No matter where you go or with whom you interact, effective communication skills can make you or break you. Conferences are an excellent opportunity to broaden your base of information and learn about new ideas and breakthroughs in science. Decide what is important to you before you attend a conference. Make a list of things you want to learn or questions you want cleared up. See if there are friends you know who will also be going and work out a plan to meet up at some point. Be prepared to purchase books by one of the speakers and have them signed afterwards. Have fun and take pictures! While it's OK to "vent" about religion, don't make it a "bitchfest".

You certainly don't have to attend every conference. Start by choosing those that interest you most and make a goal to attend one a year. You may be interested in the Humanist conferences or perhaps TAM! or Skepticon. In the end, each trip will cost you money and time so make sure you plan for that as well.

If going to a conference doesn't interest you, that's fine. They're not for everyone. Never feel like you have to give in to pressure from peers to go and at the same time, don't knock anyone else for wanting to go.

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

You Can Still March in Support of Separation - JUNE 30

Atheist/Humanist Contingent in the Pride Parade. We are expected to assemble at 11:30 on Beale between Howard & Folsom in downtown SF. Although we know we will wait quite awhile, please be there by 12:00. Our lineup number is 235.

Don't miss the fun, not to mention the significance, of this event. It is important that we be visible as a minority that counts, and it is good to have fun doing it.

Details: <http://atheistadvocatesofsanfrancisco.com/meetings.html>



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., Every 1st Wednesday, 6:30p - 9:00p.*

Book Club in Stockton

The Moral Landscape by Sam Harris. How science determines values, not religion. Open to everyone. [Dante's Pizza & Cafe, 9305 Thornton Rd, Stockton.](#) July 8 7PM.

Book Club in Sacramento

Why Are You Atheists So Angry? By Greta Christina. 99 Things That Piss Off the Godless. Learn how to respond. 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,](#) July 15,

Finally!

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible is in Print!
[Buy it here.](#)

Jennifer Hancock Sees Inroads Using Humanism

Speaking at the AHA Conference, Ms. Hancock inspired the entire audience on the first day by showing how Humanism opens doors, and why. Not that we should hide the word atheist, but rather she encouraged us to open conversations with the Humanist conversation. She pointed out that with so many people disillusioned and falling away from religion, there is a huge, untapped market out there, all wanting something to latch onto. They want to be good people, they want to belong to a community, they want to volunteer, help and support each other, but they don't know how. They do not know how to have morals and ethics without a god.

Seeing this huge market of people wanting what Humanism offers, she encouraged us to go out there spreading the word. We can become Life Celebrants. We can start conversations. We can write about it.

"There is a better way that doesn't involve all the magical nonsense" is a phrase people are desperate to hear, she says. In fact, I found such opportunity a few days later in a car repair shop. She's right. It worked. "Humanism? What's that?" And soon enough, we had another Humanist.

March for Separation of Church and State

Americans United invited supporters to march behind their banner in celebrating the annual Sacramento Pride Parade on June 15th. The crowd lining the route from 2nd Street to the Capitol responded enthusiastically to the banner proclaiming "Separation of Church and State." One sidelines viewer even

shouted, "Yes! Finally, some smart people!"



If you are among those who support our First Amendment principle and would like to know more about how to help, please see contact information on Page 7 for groups supporting this vital cause, including AU.



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

July 3 6:30 pm New Member Orientation and Coffee, Coffee Garden [Map here](#)

July 13 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism: Panera Bread 10718 Trinity Pkwy Stockton [Map here](#)

July 24 6:15 pm Freethought Dinner: Centro Cocina Mexicana [Map here](#)

July 21 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch: Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)

Katherine Stewart Remembers Sacramento

Running into some locals at AHA, Ms. Stewart, author of *The Good News Club*, said, "I remember Sacramento. It was a great group. Lots of groups participated. Everyone had lots of good questions."

NDOR Names New Visibility Coordinator

For the first time ever, National Day of Reason will have a theme, color, slogans, and other visible coordination across the nation. The aim is to be visibly united. Let the media turn on their cameras - we're ready! AND, it's the brainchild of Judy Saint, one of our very own, who has been put in charge of all this by AHA. Once again Sac is cutting edge!

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Ask an Atheist at Sportz Comedy Club

July 19, Friday 8 pm - Mark your calendar!

<http://www.comedysportzsacramento.com/>

Comedy Sportz, 2230 Arden Way. (916) 243-8541

Two teams compete for your laughs and points by making up scenes based on your suggestions. Similar to the hit show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Let it be seen that atheists have a great sense of humor, too - because, well, we do! T-shirts available there from July, \$10. Just be yourself and have a good time! ... Come have fun!



Help Feed the Needy

Atheists will gather once again in Davis at St. Martin's Episcopal Church on Hawthorne near Sycamore, on Tuesday, July 30 to assist Davis Community Meals in feeding about 100 of Davis' indigent. We gather about 4:30p.m. to setup tables and chairs and table service, then about 5:45 serve buffet style. Then about 6:30 we breakdown and cleanup, leaving the hall the way we found it. [Details here.](#)



Blaspheming With Food Every '3rd Sunday' Morning!



Such a pleasant group of happy heathens on a fine Sunday morning! Every 3rd Sunday of the month, in various locations around Sacramento, come sit down to breakfast or brunch with us. Everyone is welcome! It's a nice way to meet like-minded friends. No topics, just have fun. [See the calendar](#) for all locations.

Freethought Dinner—July 24, 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 **Centro Cocina Mexicana**, 2730 J St, for good food, good drink and sparkling conversation about all things freethoughty! We ate here last year and enjoyed it. [Map here](#). [Details](#) here.



Calendar cont'd.

21 Sun [Blasphemy Brunch, Arden/Arcade](#)
21 Sun [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
24 Wed [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
24 Wed [Freethought Dinner Social](#)
25 Thu ["How To Discuss Atheism" wkshp](#)
26 Fri [Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)
26 Fri [Godless Game Night, Lodi](#)
28 Sun [Secular Family Picnic & Event Planning](#)
28 Sun [Freethought Movie Night, Lodi](#)
30 Tue [Feed the Needy](#)
30 Tue [Rational Thinking Discussion](#)
31 Wed [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
Aug 2 [2nd Annual FANcamp, Foresthill](#)
Aug 2 [Monthly mtg and Discussion, Stockton](#)
Aug 3 [Brunch and Atheism, Tracy](#)
Aug 4 [Secular Family Day, Lodi](#)

Freethought Roundtable

Good discussion forum. [July 16, 7:00pm](#). Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd.

Rancho Cordova Backs Down After Challenge

Page not Found

The page you are seeking may have been moved or been deleted. If a link from the website is broken, please use the link below to report it. Thank you!

[Report broken link](#)

[CLICK to go BACK](#)

The "Celebration of Faith" website is no longer found. But that's not enough! As of press time, Rancho Cordova still links to all the religious services and prayer in the park. In a letter to the city, an FFRF attorney writes, "It is therefore grossly illegal and inappropriate for Rancho Cordova to organize, sponsor, or promote a religious event as part of a week of official City celebrations. Such actions have the effect of government endorsement of religion, sending the message that Rancho Cordova prefers religion over nonreligion and Christianity over all other religions, as all the churches advertised on the anniversary website are Christian." The city says it's not them, blame the company they contracted, CCC. CCC says it's not them, blame the churches that showed up. Read the Bee article at [this link](#). It sounds like they're taking a page out of the Adam blaming Eve blaming the snake story. (Last time I checked there were 267 comments!)

How To Discuss Atheism - Workshop #4



Whether you plan to talk with peers, relatives, or others about atheism, or simply want to learn more about how to discuss the subject, come join us as we learn the 'talking points' of being atheist. Too often we are caught off-guard when someone brings up religion or atheism. In this supportive, friendly atmosphere of like-minded people, we will learn the tools of talking atheism. Arcade Library 6:30, July 25.

Local Group Hosts Its 666th Meeting

Our beloved group, SacFAN, has officially held it's 666th Meetup! It happened to be the recent Potluck Game Night. Laura reports they were unaware of any devilish presence. One Facebook commenter suggested the group all jump to another new Meetup so this one could remain forever at 666 Meetings. David Diskin, of Sacramento Coalition of Reason, sent a press release to the Bee with the usual tongue in cheek comments. Congratulations, SacFAN, on then achieving the 667th Meetup in Davis, soon after. I guess the beastly evils were short-lived.

Game Nights

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

[Sacramento third Saturday 6:00 pm](#), or [Lodi July 26 at 7:00 pm](#), or [Oakdale July 12 at 7:00 pm](#)



Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, July 21, noon. Meet at the Shine Cafe, 1400 E St, Sacramento.

Review the history of Rome, religions of the Roman empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, Christian persecutions, biographies, the Bible and other related topics. If you ever wanted to sort out Eusebius from Clement, or Constantine from Diocletian, or if you want a new perspective on the old ways, then this group is for you.

Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate.

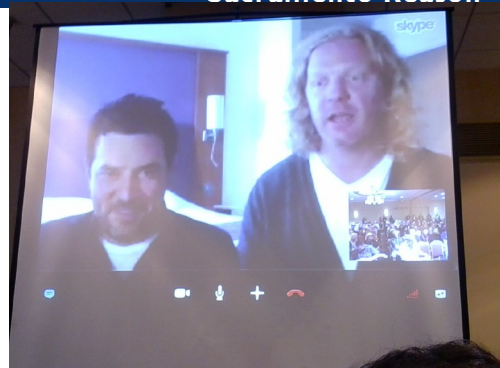
We will be meeting every third Sunday. Each meeting a specific topic will be covered. [Details here.](#)

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Making the James Randi Film

A Kickstarter project, "An Honest Liar" is coming soon. The film-makers Skyped in to SkeptiCal from England to talk about making the film and showed us an exclusive clip. Randi couldn't make it due to health issues. They gave us fun, behind-the-scenes stories about meeting Uri Geller, following Randi, and what's to come.



Quotes from the Conferences...

"There's a difference between ignorance and stupidity - one is curable." .. "To pull off a hoax, claim a cover-up." .. "We're not looking for extraterrestrial intelligence, we're looking for altered environment." .. "The best way to avoid scammers is to ask lots of questions." .. "People are desperate for this." .. "To get over grief, stop looking for meaning." .. "Controlling women keeps church in power in the home." .. "Get angry." .. "I escaped Christian Science when I had a daughter and realized a parent's job was to do all they could to keep that child healthy."



Our David Diskin Gives Camp Quest Talk

Our own David Diskin spoke about Camp Quest at the AHA conference. Many children need financial help to go to this fact-based camp of scientific inquiry and learning.

Sacramento Friends at AHA in San Diego

Gloria and Wayne Luney, Rachael Harrington, Kathy Johnson, Judy Saint, David Diskin, Tom and Wendy Ikelman. We kept running into each other, sharing stories, what we'd heard and which talks we'd attend. This made the trip fun.



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

AOF 20 Year Anniversary





You can see we had a wonderful time with plenty to eat. The Mockingbirds entertained in harmonic delight with witty lyrics, even heard above the din coming from the next room. Mynga and Jerry led ceremonies, with several folks taking the microphone to thank people and reminisce. Take your time looking through these photos. Thanks, AOF veterans and newbies, for making this a great and very successful party and celebration!



Cleo Kocol cuts one of our two cakes (above). Ken and Ruth Nahigian seem to know each other (below). And, of course, Bill with his ever-handy camera!

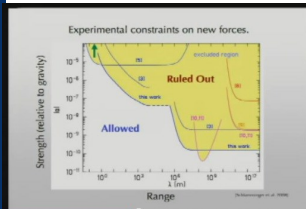


Keynote Speaker Sean Carroll Disproves the Supernatural in 34 Minutes

It's all about waves. Waves make up everything - us, your desk, the sun, light, sugar, and Fido. For something to exert an influence on the real world it has to interact with waves. Well, the big news is that they have now found every possible

wave or force that has any chance at all of influencing the waves that make the world. He shows, very clearly, of course, in the top chart how most waves are simply ruled out

as being able to influence the world. In the next two slides from his talk you can see he is investigating whether any undiscovered particles or forces could still be hiding from us that might change something (which we might call supernatural.) He says, and here is the key, that they have just finished discovering all waves, and any that could be left undiscovered would be too weak or have too short a range to be of any relevance. In short, there is no room left for anything to influence reality. If anything outside the natural exists, then it cannot influence this earth or you or me. That basically proves there is no supernatural possibility left anymore. Did I get that right? You'd better listen to his talk to see if I'm interpreting this correctly. He explains it all simply. Other fun observations are that astrology is impossible, life after death is impossible, and no purpose to life need exist. However, our brains are designed to search for a "reason why" for everything. These searches are higher levels of function where we feel, sense right and wrong, and create stories. And that's good enough. He concludes that science needs our higher searching.



Could new particles hide from our view?

Sure, if either:

1. very weakly interacting,
2. too heavy to create, or
3. too short-lived to detect.

In any of those cases, the new particle would be irrelevant to our everyday lives.

Could there be new forces of nature?

Sure, but they must interact with protons, neutrons, and electrons.

Two ways to hide:

1. weak interactions, or
2. very short ranges.

Experiments are ongoing (torsion balances) to search for new, weak, long-range forces.

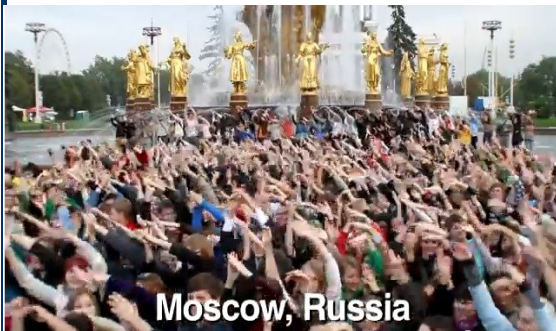
How Can You Tell There is a Non-Believer Conference Going On?

By the car magnets and stickers, of course.



“Where the Hell Is Matt?” ... At the Humanist Conference in San Diego!

Dancing Badly With Matt... And we did. Matt Harding has become a YouTube sensation since he began putting up videos of his bad dancing, as he calls it. Soon he realized that viewers would rather watch others dancing with him than just him dancing by himself, so he began inviting others to join him. He found the means to travel the world filming in the most desperate and lush of locations, always finding people willing to dance badly with him. He says the secret is that his dancing is so bad - it makes others feel welcome to join him. His most difficult was in North Korea (see bottom photo), where the public is so



Moscow, Russia



Al-Muzahmiyya, Saudi Arabia



Oakland, California



Pyongyang, North Korea

of Americans, that no one would dance. They just all stood watching him dance, trying to invite them to join using hand gestures. Finally, one woman was brave enough to come forward in a symbolic joining of cultures and bravery.

After he spoke about his Humanism and how this whole idea began, he played for everyone his current video, taking us all around the world to watch how wonderful people are when seen away from the authorities who try to control them, whether political, religious or economic.

Many eyes teared as we watched his 4 minute video, seeing Palestinians and Jews, seeing Russians and Americans, seeing hot and cold climates, seeing people being wonderful, as we know they all are. Matt is a Humanist. It shows.



Beirut, Lebanon



Poria, Papua New Guinea

Watch Humanists Dance Badly With Matt



Presenting Sacramento's 12th Annual

Freethought Day

A Festival of Reason, Freethought, and Church-State Separation



Live Music and Comedy · Family Friendly Afternoon
Outstanding Speakers · Authors' Panel
Community Groups and Organizations
Contests · Door Prizes · Fundraising Reception

Free Admission · Free Parking · Register Online for Door Prizes
\$20 Suggested Donation

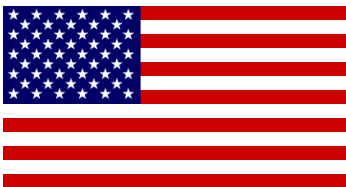
Saturday, October 12, 2012

Location to Be Announced · Sacramento, CA

10am - 7pm · Rain or Shine
Seeking Authors, Donations, and Sponsors

FreethoughtDay.org

**PRESENTED BY THE
SACRAMENTO COR**



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 501c3.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



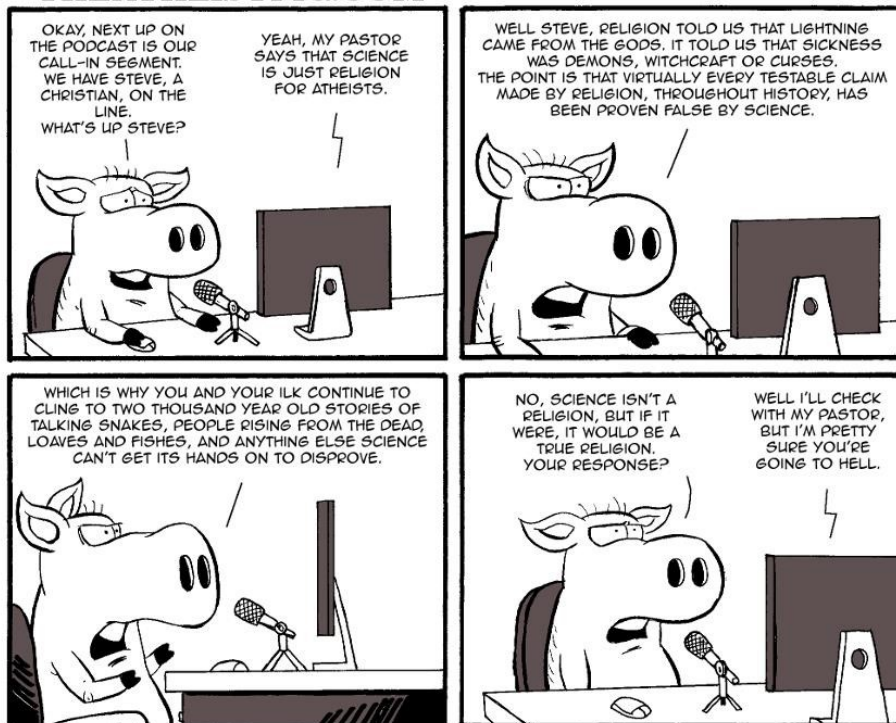
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Camp Quest Volunteers at AHA Conference

Volunteer counselors from Camp Quest West had a blast providing child care to families attending the AHA Conference throughout the weekend.

Six children signed up for the program, with ages ranging from 6 to 11, and coming from all over the country. Activities included arts and crafts, a trip to the San Diego New Children's Museum, playing on the beach, and watching The Golden Compass on a comfy couch in the evening.

Children were also introduced to freethinking exercises such as Primordial Ooze – a card game that simulates the evolutionary lives of amoeba, and The Ten Commandments – a creative discussion that challenges children to come up with their own commandments and to learn about the variety of rules that are a part of our society.

Camp Quest West President David Diskin was present at the conference and organized the weekend's activities. "Partnering with the American Humanist Association was a real honor for us, and I appreciate their efforts to promote our summer program by giving these families a small taste of what we do."