

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

Upcoming Events

Oct 1 [Book Club, Ceres](#)
2 [New Member Coffee & Meetup](#)
3 [Sing with the Mockingbirds](#)
4 [Red Robin and Gravity, Manteca](#)
5 [Brunch and Atheism, Tracy](#)
6 [Lodi Street Faire and Booth](#)
6 [Secular Family Day, Lodi Street Faire](#)
7 [FSM Prayer Opens City Council Mtg](#)
7 [Richard Dawkins & Adam Savage, SF](#)
10 [Sing with the Mockingbirds](#)
11 [Lobby Training and Lobbying](#)
11 [Freethought Day Fundraiser Reception](#)
11 [Game Night, Oakdale](#)
12 [Freethought Day at Wm Land Park](#)
12 [Brunch and Atheism, Stockton](#)
13 [Vegan Heathens, Stockton](#)
18 [Freethought Dinner Social](#)

Continued on Pg. 5

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

Subscribe

Volume 1, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Free Thinkers

October 2013

Presenting Sacramento's 12th Annual

Freethought Day

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



Jason Frye



Shelley Segal



Sean Faircloth



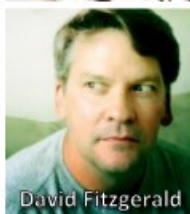
Annie Laurie Gaylor



Victor Harris



Richard Carrier



David Fitzgerald



Greta Christina



Keith Jensen



Heina Dadabhoy

Sacramento Freethought Day is October 12 at William Land Park. Experience the fun and atmosphere of a **fair** with the education and activism of a **conference**. Invite friends and family. Get them thinking - get them freethinking!

It's family-friendly in a beautiful park amphitheater, with community groups, exhibitors, fun activities, and an amazing lineup of over 20 well-known speakers, authors, and entertainers.

We have contests and door prizes, but **you have to register!** It's free! Registration includes a free program when you arrive. You can also donate and get priority seating, a keepsake button, or admission to our **very special reception** on Friday evening with wine, appetizers, desserts, live entertainment, and the intimate company of our speakers and other guests.

New this year is our first **Secular Lobby Day**. If you want to change the face of California's politics, join us for this historical day on Friday October 11!

Check out our [website](#) for all the details, including information about lodging, carpooling, directions, and more. Or [click here](#) to watch our promotional video.

Register today (it's **free** and you might win door prizes)! Consider **supporting**, too, and joining us at our **fundraising reception**.



Really?

In honor of Free Thinkers, this issue's theme, we have a guest entry this month: "You believe in a book that has talking animals, wizards, witches, demons, sticks turning into snakes, burning bushes, food falling from the sky, people walking on water, and all sorts of magical, absurd and primitive stories, and you say that we are the ones that need help?" Really?

- quote by Mark Twain

Secular Coalition of Calif.

Everyone is invited to the [California Secular Coalition conference call](#).

This is the group allowed to lobby!
Dial this number each 1st Saturday 10:00 AM to listen to all our CA news.

(530) 881-1400

When prompted, punch in participant code 978895.

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>

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

As Freethought Day in Sacramento draws near I'm thinking about what it means to be a Freethinker. More specifically, I'm thinking about how Freethinkers can communicate as a group more efficiently. Since I'm no fan of reinventing the wheel, I looked at other groups for what has worked for them and if any of their ideas could word for us as well.

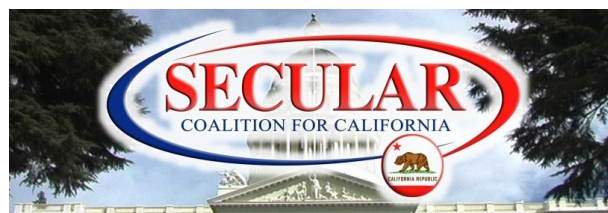
One of the greatest achievements of the "Religious Right" was getting many different small groups that believed in similar ideology to come together under one name: Christianity. They convinced the Protestants, Catholics, Baptists, and even the Mormons to self-identify as "Christian" when it came to politics. Suddenly they weren't this group or that group; they were collectively a force with which to be reckoned.

Most Protestants still don't consider Catholics to be "Christian" because of their differing views on the Bible and the church. I grew up in a non-denominational church and even they "warned" us that Catholics were not Christian. However, when it comes to politics, the church leaders made the smart move and agreed that any religion that at least recognizes Jesus as God, a god, or even just a son of a god, could be called Christian in order to gain a stronghold in the voting system.

Many of us self-identify as atheist, agnostic, Humanist, freethinkers, nonreligious, or something else that tells the world we are not following a dogmatic religion. Here's the thing: if we could get each smaller group to identify as "atheist" for the purpose of finding our collective voice, we could be The Force.

I'm sure there are Freethinkers who do believe in a god, but most don't. Even agnostics don't believe in a god. Imagine what the polls would look like if every non-believer checked "atheist". We'd be The Force!

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



Learn how to represent secular Californians at our State Capitol. Register for Secular Lobby Day, including training. **Sign up before Oct. 3** so organizers can pair you with the appropriate offices after training. [Learn more here.](#)

Lobby Day: Friday, October 11, the day before Freethought Day.



New Member Meeting

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. Great sandwiches and coffee drinks, too. *Every 1st Wednesday, 6:30p - 9:00p. Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento* [Details here.](#)

Book Clubs

Sacramento

Unholy Night. [2013 book list is here.](#)

Open to everyone,
[Coffee Garden,](#)
[2904 Franklin Blvd.](#)
Oct. 21 at 6:30PM.

Ceres

Breaking the Spell
[See website](#) for
location. Oct. 1

Book Recommendations from Richard Dawkins

The author of *The God Delusion* and *An Appetite for Wonder* doesn't care for *Pride and Prejudice*: "I can't get excited about who is going to marry whom, and how rich they are... The world's leaders should all be locked up and not released until they have read *The Evolution of Cooperation*. This would be a pleasure to them and might save the rest of us. [It] deserves to replace the Gideon Bible."

[See his entire interview about his favorite books here.](#)

Finally!

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible is
in Print!

[Buy it here.](#)

Volume 1, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Free Thinkers

Page 3

AU Presents:

God Loves Uganda - Important Movie Nov. 6

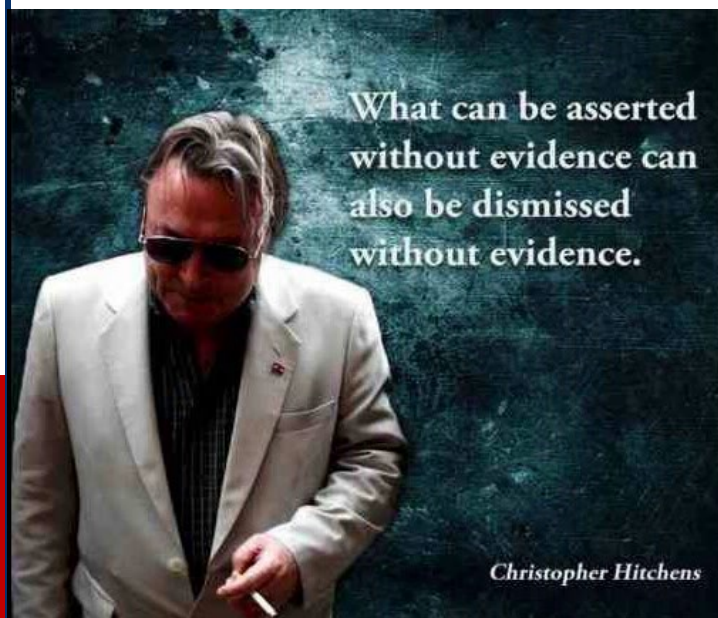
The film follows Evangelical leaders in America and Uganda, as well as politicians, as they attempt the radical task of eliminating "sexual sin" and converting Ugandans to fundamentalist Christianity. Interviews and hidden camera footage give unprecedented access into the rising influence of the evangelical movement in Uganda and the dangerous repercussions of intolerance. It's more than sexual sin they're after - it's a means to control the population, and politicians know it.

Our Sacramento chapter of AU will host a FREE screening of the film, *God Loves Uganda* on Wednesday, November 6th, at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento, 95814. The program begins at 7:00 PM. NOTE: Doors open at 6:00 PM for reserved seats; unclaimed seats will be released at 6:45 PM and filled on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Senator Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tem, will address the audience and lead an interactive discussion about this powerful documentary.

Please use this link to RSVP for your seat(s) and parking information: ausac-godlovesuganda.eventbrite.com. You can watch the trailer: [click here.](#)

We hope you are able to join us. Please [contact Carol Velarde](#) if you have any questions or comments.



Atheists Who Changed The World



The Thinking Atheist talk show: "Atheists Who Changed the World". Listen in (76 minute audio show.)

<http://blogtalkradio.com/thethink-ingatheist/2013/09/10/atheists-who-changed-the-world>

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

Oct 2 6:30 pm New Member Orientation and Coffee, Coffee Garden [Map here](#)

Oct 5 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)

Oct 18 6:00 pm Freethought Dinner, Hoppy Brewing Company [Map here](#)

Oct 20 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)

HAGSA

Rob Tannenbaum, new General Director of the Sacramento Region Performing Arts Alliance, will speak Oct. 20, 3:00 PM, at Fahs Room of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento (UUSS) at 2425 Sierra Boulevard, Sacramento 95825. Such a treat for music lovers.



Butte County Atheist Meetup

A new Meetup is forming in Chico to provide members with meaningful social, educational, voluntary and advocacy activities.

[Click here to check out their Meetup home page.](#)

Page 4

Sacramento Reason

Big, Local Church Hosts "The Great Debate"

Please come show your support!

When: 12 October - 5:00 pm

Location: Adventure Church, Main Auditorium, 6401 Stanford Ranch Rd, Roseville, CA 95678

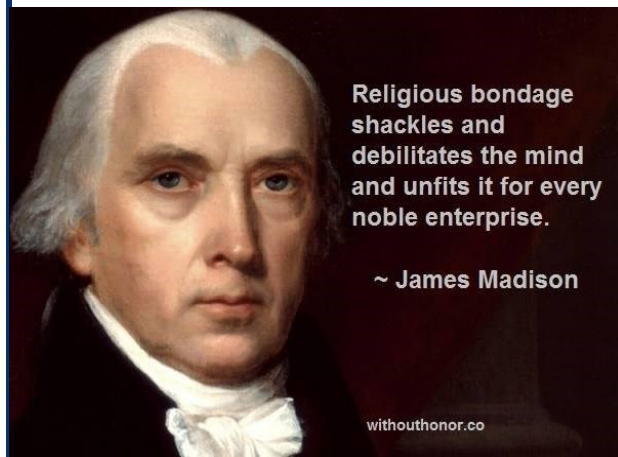
"Does Christianity or secular humanism provide a better foundation for civil society?" That is the question that is going to be addressed as Adventure Church hosts a debate on this very topic between two scholars, Dr. David Marshall and Dr. Phillip Zuckerman; a Christian and an atheist. David Marshall is the founder and director of the Kuai Mu Institute for Christianity and World Cultures, and the author of four books, including *The Truth Behind the New Atheism: Responding to the Emerging Challenges to God and Christianity*. Phil Zuckerman is a professor of sociology and secular studies at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. He is the author most recently of *Faith No More: Why People Reject Religion and Society Without God*. This debate is co-sponsored by Adventure Church and William Jessup University, and will be moderated by David Timms, PhD.

Flying Spaghetti Monster Prayer Opens City Council

Come support FSM Prayer! [Sac Bee Article - Read It Here](#)

Join us October 7, 5:30 pm, at the Rancho Cordova City Council meeting to witness the opening prayer given by a member of the Sacramento Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. City Council chambers, 2729 Prospect Park Dr.

The City of Rancho Cordova recently was caught mixing church and state by hosting a "Celebration of Faith", mingling church activity and prayers with a local government event. Sac Chapter of FFRF notified the local AU Chapter, and both



of these legal guardians swooped in quickly with letters from attorneys educating the city officials. In the brief aftermath of that, a Rancho citizen became tired of Christian prayers before Council meetings, so he applied to give a FSM prayer - and was accepted!

Please be quiet observers, there just to witness and support our grander goal of separating church and state. Thanks.

Freethought Dinner—Friday Oct 18, 6:00 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 Hoppy Brewing Co., for good food, good drink and sparkling conversation about all things freethoughty! Yummy sports-style food selections. [Map here.](#) [Details here.](#)



Calendar cont'd.

18 [Drinking Skeptically, Stockton](#)

20 [Blasphemy Breakfast, Rocklin](#)

20 [Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)

20 [Blasphemy Brunch, Arden/Arcade](#)

20 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)

20 [Little Free Library Grand Opening](#)

21 [Book Club: Unholy Night](#)

21 [Q&A Sex & God author Darrel Ray](#)

25 [Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)

25 [Godless Game Night, Lodi](#)

25 [Karaoke at Torii's, Modesto](#)

26 [Light the Night Walk for LLS](#)

27 [Freethought Movie Night, Lodi](#)

Save the Date

Dec 22 HumanLight



Volume 1, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Free Thinkers

Page 5

Family Day! Bring the kids!

Sunday, Oct. 6, 10:00 AM

Lodi Street Faire, School Street, Lodi

Parking and admission are free.

Secular Family Day falls on the same day as the Lodi Street Faire. Since SAAF already has a booth at the faire, let's combine the events! Bring the family to Downtown Lodi and enjoy all of the great things that the Faire has to offer -- antiques, arts and crafts, live music, and more!

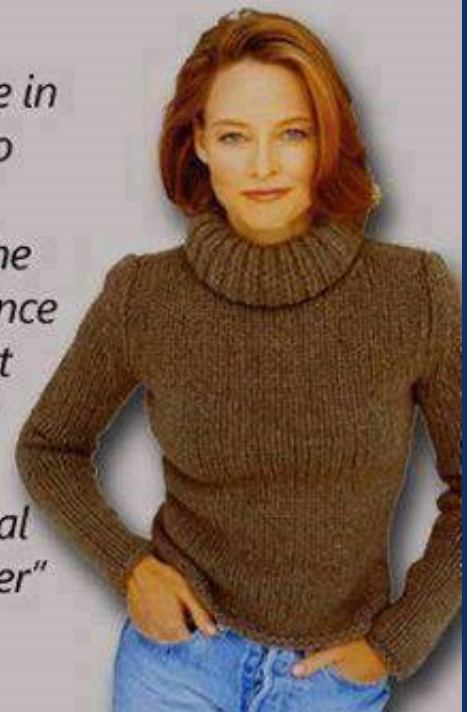
The Street Faire takes up a 10-square block area of Lodi, and over 75,000 residents and visitors attend this event every year. More than 600 vendors participate, including 25 food vendors!

We'll walk around the event as a large group and have exponential fun. All ages are invited, including those without kids, too! [More details here.](#)

Each first Sunday is "Secular Family Day" – a day for the whole family to get out and meet other secular families in fun places all over the Central Valley.



*"How could you ask me to believe in God when there's absolutely no evidence that I can see?
I do believe in the beauty and the awe-inspiring mystery of the science that's out there that we haven't discovered yet, that there are scientific explanations for phenomena that we call mystical because we don't know any better"*
~ Jodie Foster ~



Game Nights

Atheists and theists are all welcome. Bring a friend, roommate or honeypie. Chatting, eating, playing, laughing. Sound good? Three to choose from. Be sure to check the calendar for updates.

Sacramento third Saturday 7:00 pm, or Lodi Oct. 25 at 7:00 pm, or Oakdale Oct. 11 at 7:00 pm



Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, Oct. 20 at noon. Meet at the Shine Cafe, 1400 E St, Sacramento.

History of Rome, religions of the Empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, Christian persecutions, biographies, the Bible and other related topics. If you ever wanted a new perspective on the old ways, then this group is for you.

Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate or listen.

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

Page 6

Sacramento Reason

Activist Corner By Julie Wedge

"Never let a religious right revisionist myth, misquote or disinformation go uncorrected. Write those letters to the editor, make comments at online news sources to counter such revisionism, including myths such as that 'God' was always on our money, that 'In God We Trust' was always our motto, that the US is a 'Christian nation,' etc. You can find lots of information to debunk all of this at: <http://ffrf.org/news/timely-topics>." -Annie Laurie Gaylor (Co-Pres of FFRF)

Wise words from a wise woman, and as we embark on a lobby day, and as we reflect on our responsibilities in a democracy I am also reminded of our founding fathers and their clarity on the issue of separation. Unlike the bible, our founding fathers created a legislative history. Want to know how a particular framer of the constitution felt about a particular issue? Look it up! And with today's technology you don't even have to have access to the Library of Congress; you can just search it yourself, online, in your pajamas. As most of us know, a majority of the framers of the constitution were non-theists. Which clearly debunks the argument that the United States is a "Christian" nation.

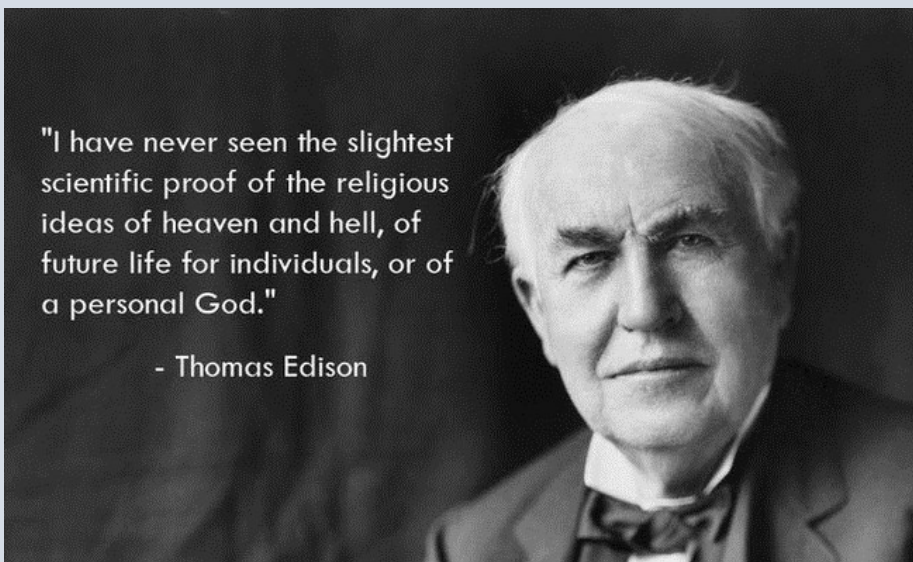
"Religious institutions that use government power in support of themselves and force their views on persons of other faiths, or of no faith, undermine all our civil rights. Moreover, state support of an established religion tends to make the clergy unresponsive to their own people, and leads to corruption within religion itself. Erecting the 'wall of separation between church and state,' therefore, is absolutely essential in a free society." – Thomas Jefferson

I always find Jefferson to be most clear on the subject, but please do look up how others felt as well.

Because it is important. Because it is relevant. Because October 12 is right around the corner, and we can all use a boost.

"I have never seen the slightest scientific proof of the religious ideas of heaven and hell, of future life for individuals, or of a personal God."

- Thomas Edison

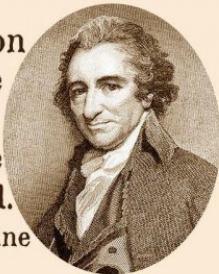


Local Groups to Visit or Join

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

To argue with a person
who has renounced the
use of reason is like
administering medicine
to the dead.

• Thomas Paine



Sacramento Reason

“Ask an Atheist” Running Jerseys

Order yours!

Email Rich at
[64spokes@gmail.c
om](mailto:64spokes@gmail.com) for more de-
tails. Wear yours
proudly when you
run on your own,
or in a race.



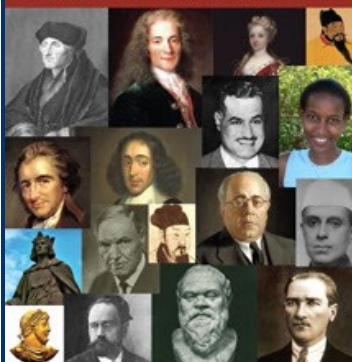
“I’m an atheist, and
I don’t have any be-
lief in an afterlife.
You could say that
I’m resigned to the
fact that this won-
derful life that we
get here is it. And
having hit 60, it’s a
good time to get
resigned to these
things and not be
too nervous or up-
set, and just enjoy
the great times one
can have.”

- David Gilmour of
Pink Floyd

DAMNED GOOD COMPANY

LUIS GRANADOS

TWENTY REBELS WHO BUCKED THE GOD EXPERTS



Book of Freethinkers - Buy it in print or e-reader

[http://www.humanistpress.com/damned-good-
company.html](http://www.humanistpress.com/damned-good-company.html)

Damned Good Company: Twenty Rebels Who Bucked the God Experts, author Luis Granados explores twenty cases, from Socrates to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, of brave challenges against those claiming a special au-
thority from God.

Damned Good Company is a book about people, not about God. People who have preached about God, taken money for sharing what they say they know about God, and ordered others about to enforce what they claim to be God’s will—and a small band of heroes who stood up to them. In short, *Damned Good Company* is a Profiles in Courage for Humanists. Available in print or electronic.

How Do I Find My Representatives?

U.S. Senate: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_infor
mation/
senators_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

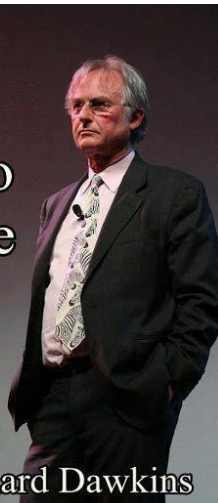
House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

State Senate/Assembly: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Local representatives can always be found on your City or County Website under the Government tab.

It is absolutely safe
to say that if you
meet somebody who
claims not to believe
in evolution, that
person is ignorant,
stupid or insane.

Richard Dawkins



Live Skype Talk with Sex & God Author

Discuss the new book *Sex & God* with the author, Darrel Ray, in a live Skype interview. Speak up if you’ve read the book, or come observe if not.

**Coffee Garden, 2904
Franklin Blvd , Oct 21
at 7:00 PM.** [Map here.](#)
[Details here.](#)



NATIONAL SECULAR NEWS - EVERY WEEK

Call (559) 726-1300 every Thursday at 9:00 AM Enter Code: 953064. Or, if you prefer getting your national secular updates by email, then [sign up here](#).

FFRF Lunch with Annie Laurie

When you get your [FREE ticket](#) to hear all the great speakers at Freethought Day, be sure to buy the box lunch!

No food is available in the nearby area, so order the box lunch. Then come join us in the FFRF tent where Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF members and their guests will have a special lunch with our Co-President, Annie Laurie Gaylor, who will have just finished her talk in front of the entire crowd.

Annie Laurie will gladly answer your questions, give us a little talk just for us, and introduce your Board members who are present.

Order the box lunch, don't forget. I won't have enough cookies to share. :-)

Volume 1, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Free Thinkers

Page 9

Richard Dawkins In SF October 7

In his book *The God Delusion* Richard Dawkins offered a stunning critique of religion and promoted scientific principles over creationism and intelligent design. This best seller helped atheism break into mainstream.

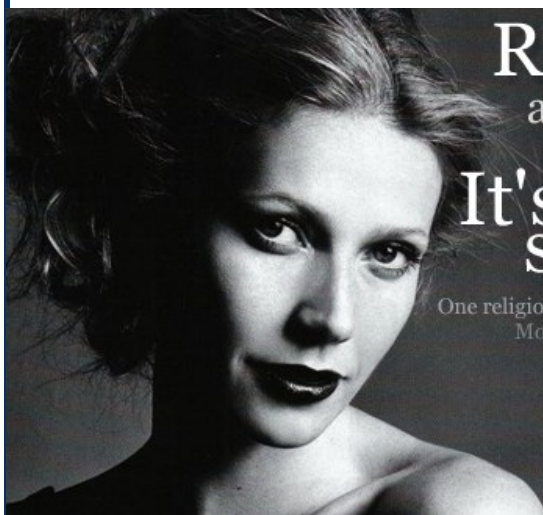
His most recent book, *An Appetite for Wonder* is a memoir covering his early life in colonial Kenya, his intellectual awakening at Oxford, and the creation of his ground-breaking books and philosophy. First of all a scientist and premier biologist, Dawkins has recently been at the forefront of uninhibited conversations about atheism. He also originated the word "meme", by the way, which began in a biological sense.

Hear two beacons of reason, Richard Dawkins and Adam Savage of the TV show *Myth Busters*, in discussion, live, on stage together.

See more details and Buy Tickets (\$17 and \$27) [at this website](#).



"It is told that the great Angelo, in decorating a church, painted some angels wearing sandals. A cardinal looking at the picture said to the artist: 'Whoever saw angels with sandals?' Angelo answered with another question: 'Whoever saw an angel barefooted?'" - Robert Ingersoll



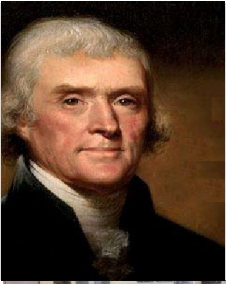
Religion is the cause of
all the problems in the world.

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN ORGANISED RELIGION AT ALL.

It's what
separates people.

One religion just represents fragments, it causes war.
More people have died
because of RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
than any other reason.

-GWYNETH PALTROW



"Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blindfolded fear."
- Thomas Jefferson



Blaspheming With Food Every '3rd Sunday'!

Happy heathens on a fine Sunday morning! Every 3rd Sunday of the month, in various locations, 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.

"I have respect for everybody as a human being but intellectual respect, I'm sorry - if you believe in the talking snake, you can't have my intellectual respect."
- Bill Maher

Page 10

Sacramento Reason

SF Annual Atheist Film Festival - Review

Well done, film makers! This year we experienced seven mainstream feature films plus a cute short. *Creation*, a docudrama about Darwin's struggles; *The Revisionaries* about the Texas School Board that is still embarrassing Texas today; *Kúmáré*, which showed how sheepish people love to be; *Hug an Atheist*, great if you brought believers with you; *Magdalene Sisters* about the horrific conditions imposed on young women by the Catholic Church; and more. Sacramento was well represented, as 8 of us shared breakfast overlooking the ocean before finding seats together. All movies were in the same theater this year, with plenty of restaurants nearby. Next year be sure to carpool - you'll make new friends and the driving will be a pleasure that ends too soon!



Our Steve Thoreson to Speak in SF

Sacramento's Steve Thoreson presents "Bigger than Jesus," an examination of Early Christianity and how it by chance managed to dominate the world for centuries.

The explanation of this success from the Christian perspective is simple: God, who is real, wanted it that way. For the atheist, who appreciates the coincidences and political expedencies of these times, you can appreciate the great 'what ifs' of history. If things had happened a little differently, we'd be talking about the unlikely success of Sol Invictus and not Jesus.

When: Sunday, October 6th at 3:00 PM. (Meeting will start promptly at 3:00.)

Location: Audre Lorde Room (Upstairs), Women's Building, 3543 18th (at Valencia), San Francisco

Cost: \$6 to help cover room rental.

Directions: The Women's Building is three blocks from the Mission 16th St. BART. If you don't know the neighborhood we suggest that as you reach the top of the stairs from BART, turn right and walk a few yards to 16th. Then turn left on 16th Street and walk to Valencia, then turn left on Valencia to 18th St.

Parking: Garage at 3255 21st Street (at Lexington)

WHEN I DO GOOD, I FEEL GOOD
WHEN I DO BAD, I FEEL BAD
THAT'S MY RELIGION

Abraham Lincoln



celebquote.com



"I'm an atheist, and Christianity appears to me to be the most absurd imposture of all the religions, and I'm puzzled that so many people can't see through a religion that encourages irresponsibility and bigotry." - Butterfly McQueen

Oakland Zoo Commandmts Removed Just Ahead of Protest

"[Atheist Advocates of San Francisco](#), along with [East Bay Atheists](#), spearheads atheist political activism in the Bay Area. In July we called for a protest at the Oakland Zoo, demanding the removal of a Ten Commandments monument on city property. Several days before our protest, the Commandments were removed." "It is insulting to the constitutional choice and lifestyle of alternative beliefs of any other citizens who are not adherents to Christianity and its Bible."--- Way to go, Bay Area!

"It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it's the parts that I do understand."

Mark Twain

THE COMPTON LABS

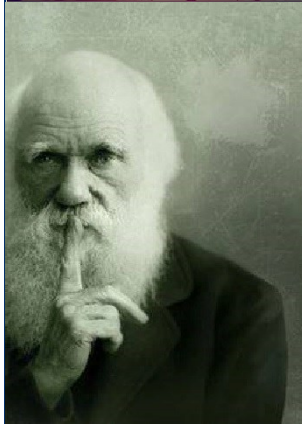
Volume 1, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Free Thinkers

Page 11



"I'm an atheist, and that's it. I believe there's nothing we can know except that we should be kind to each other and do what we can for each other." - Katherine Hepburn

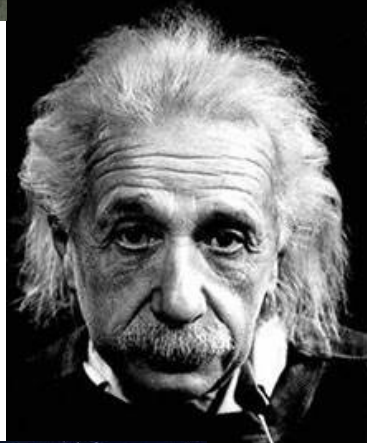


"Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge."

- Darwin

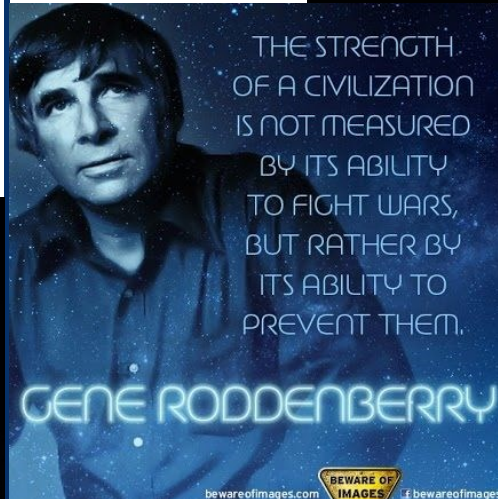
"Morality is doing right, no matter what you are told. Religion is doing what you are told, no matter what is right."

- H. L. Mencken



A man's ethical behavior should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death.

- Albert Einstein



THE STRENGTH OF A CIVILIZATION IS NOT MEASURED BY ITS ABILITY TO FIGHT WARS, BUT RATHER BY ITS ABILITY TO PREVENT THEM.

GENE RODDENBERRY

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"If you want to assert a truth, first make sure it's not just an opinion that you desperately want to be true."

Neil deGrasse Tyson



Brights' Little Free Library Grand Opening



Sunday, October 20

1136 Santa Barbara Court, Sac. [map here](#)

Come celebrate our secular Little Free Library. Witness the Ribbon Cutting! Bring your family and friends. There will be neighbors and Brights of every variety in support of the community of reason. Perhaps even media.

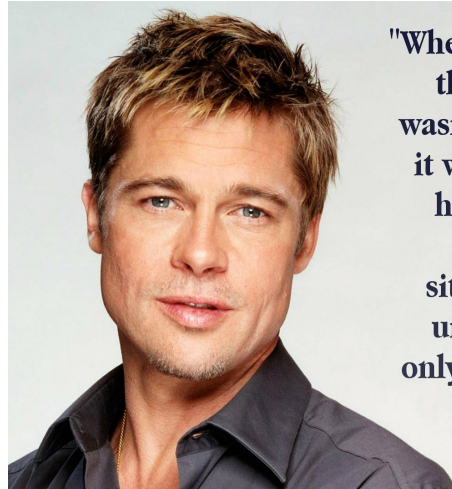
We'll have cookies, a very short [we promise] speech. Even dog treats for your pal. (If rain is predicted, there will be a tent.)

Perhaps you'd like to bring a favorite book of yours to donate? Not necessary, but if you do bring a book (new or gently used), it will go on the shelf as one of the "celebrated charter books" of the brand new library. Especially desired are books that you wish every youngster out there could have an opportunity to read. (Shown in photos are another little free library and the Brights mock-up.)



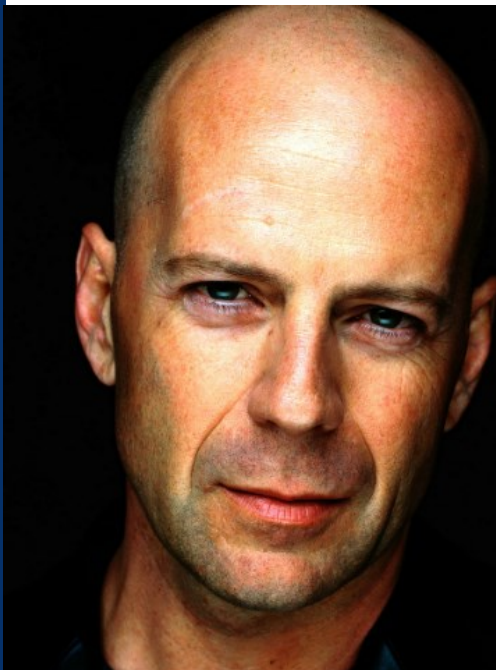
"It's almost as if The Bible was written by racist, sexist, homophobic, violent, sexually frustrated men, instead of a loving God. Weird."

- Ricky Gervais



"When I got untethered from the comfort of religion, it wasn't a loss of faith for me, it was a discovery of self. I had faith that I'm capable enough to handle any situation. There's peace in understanding that I have only one life, here and now, and I'm responsible."

-Brad Pitt



"Organized religions in general, in my opinion, are dying forms. They were all very important when we didn't know why the sun moved, why weather changed, why hurricanes occurred, or volcanoes happened. Modern religion is the end trail of modern mythology. But there are people who interpret the Bible literally. Literally!"

- Bruce Willis

"I believe in you and me. I believe in nature, in the birds, the sea, the sky, in everything I can see or that there is real evidence for. But I don't believe in a personal god to whom I look for comfort or for a natural on the next roll of the dice."

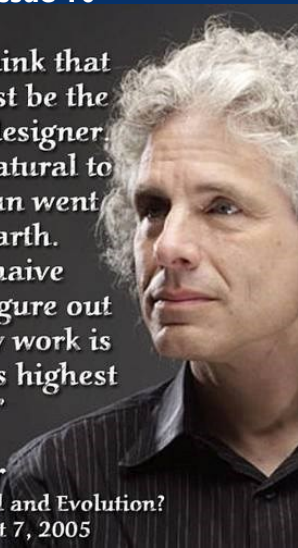
- Frank Sinatra

"It's natural to think that living things must be the handiwork of a designer. But it was also natural to think that the sun went around the earth.

Overcoming naive impressions to figure out how things really work is one of humanity's highest callings."

~Steven Pinker

Can You Believe in God and Evolution?
Time Magazine, August 7, 2005



Dinner and Movie in Manteca

Red Robin, Lifestyle Rd, Manteca, then walk to movie.

Come join us! Have a great time catching up with friends, and make some new ones! We'll start the evening with dinner, drinks, and dessert at Red Robin.

Show up when you can. I'll try to reserve a room or a large table. We'll pay our bills and leave at 8:00 to walk over to the movie theatre.

We'll be watching *Gravity* at AMC Showplace 16, starring Sandra Bullock, George Clooney, Ed Harris. Join us! [Details here.](#)



FFRF 2013 Convention - Review

What is called the largest freethought organization in the country, with 20,000 paid members, Freedom From Religion Foundation held it's 36th Annual Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, their home base.



Perhaps 700 - 800 people came, by my calculation, from 48 states and 4 countries.

We saw Dan Savage go off script, fighting tears, as he remembered the moment he knew he had to do something. We heard Julia Sweeney and others deliver hilarious anecdotes from real life. We applauded our young people who spoke so valiantly about separation of church and state, including the 27 year old legislator from Arizona who defied custom in his legislature by giving a secular opening prayer. We awarded role models with "The Emperor Has No Clothes" Awards for saying it like it is with impact.

We heard from two now-aged icons of this movement who 50 years

ago and 65 years ago set Supreme Court precedent upon which all our lawsuits rely today. Needless to say, they received standing ovations.



Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF
President, Judy Saint, is seen here with Australian musician Shelley Segal, who performed at the event.

Chapter leaders compared notes. Members voted on legal matters. Food was abundant and of chef quality. The Co-Presidents were casual and approachable, with Dan Barker at the piano, of course.

Next year is in Los Angeles. See you there.

[More about FFRF here.](#)

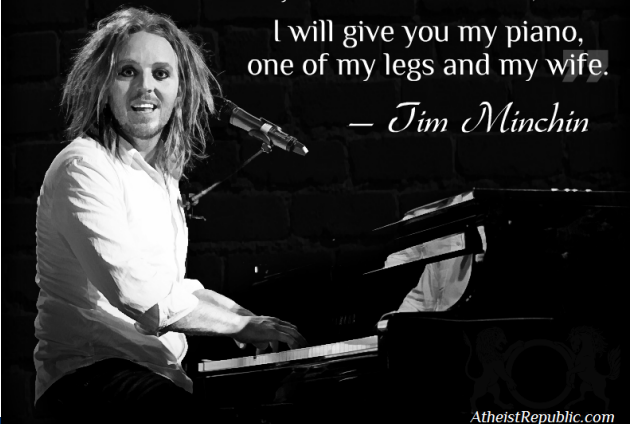


Our view from the convention hotel room.

If anyone can show me one example in the history of the world of a single spiritual person who has been able to show either empirically or logically the existence of a higher power with any consciousness or interest in the human race or ability to punish or reward humans for their moral choices or that there is any reason other than fear to believe in any version of an afterlife,

I will give you my piano,
one of my legs and my wife.

— *Jim Minchin*



Anti-Superstition Team Wants You!

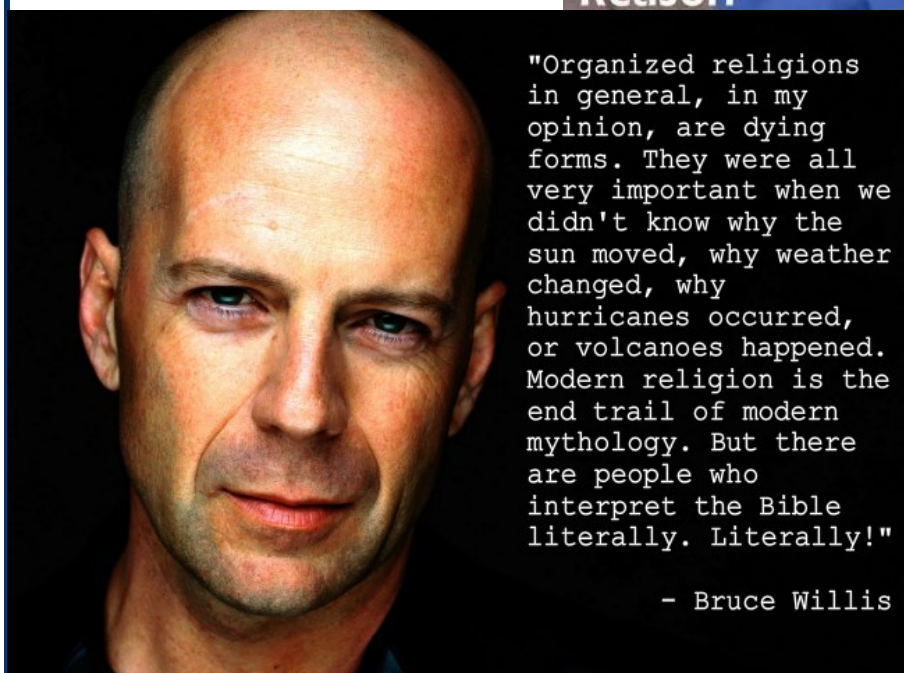
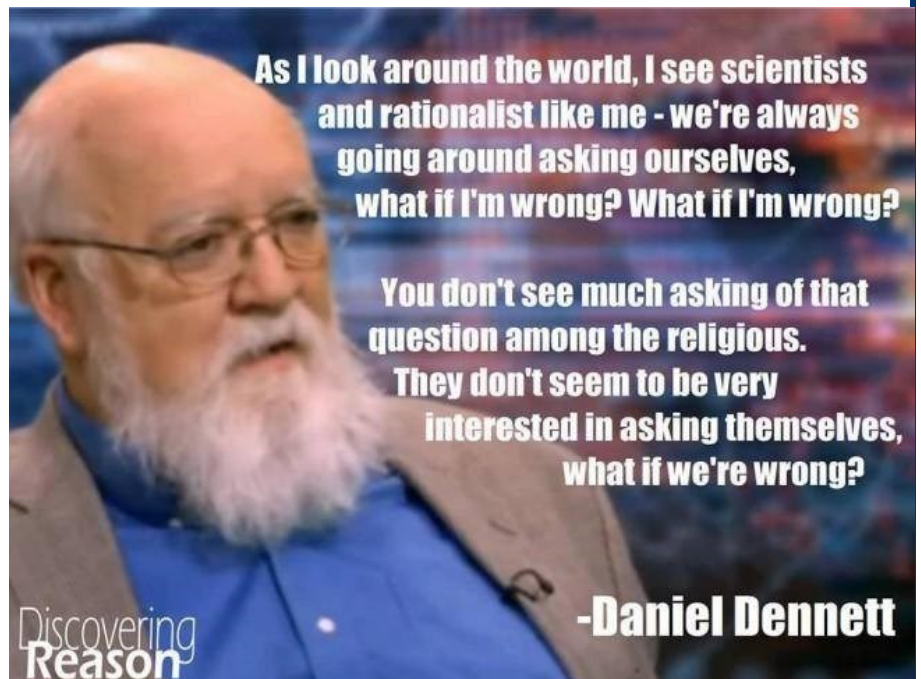
Round Table Pizza **Oct. 19**
 4885 Granite Dr. **6:15 PM**
 Rocklin ([map](#))

Just off Hwy 80
 at Rocklin Rd. exit.

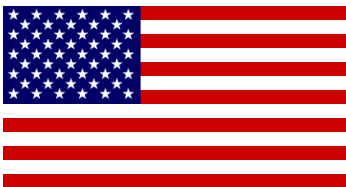
Ultimately our goal is to publicly undermine the lies and fallacies apologists use to coerce their targets. Come join the planning of our first scrimmage debate!

We will plant the banner of reason in enemy territory. Learn to arm yourselves, and train others. Let's take this debate to the gates of the evolution-deniers, dominionists and the merely superstitious. Be armed. Be trained. Be ready. This is where you begin.

(Newly named Counter-Apologetics Group.)



"I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do because I notice it always coincides with their own desires."- Susan B. Anthony



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".

This Month's Theme: Free Thinkers

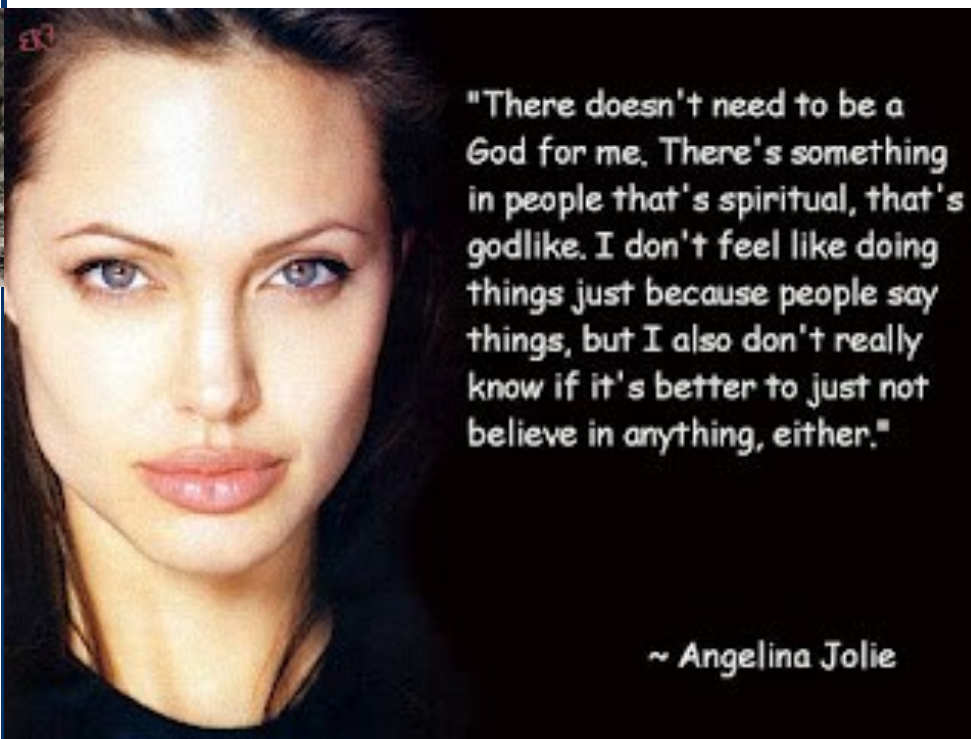
"Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking; where it is absent, discussion is apt to become worse than useless." - Leo Tolstoy

Freethinkers will change their minds, given evidence, and that's the difference.



Can I make tax deductible donations?
Yes! Many freethinking groups are 501c3.
See Page 7 for details.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



Sacramento's Freethinking Calendar

Sacramento has its own event calendar for atheists, skeptics, humanists, and all other freethinkers. Sacramento Area groups love to cooperate and mingle, all supporting each other in these times of religious zeal. The Sac Coalition of Reason, which maintains this automatically-updated calendar, is not a club or group with a Board, or rules, but is a resource directing anyone interested to find local freethinking groups that suit them. Bookmark this calendar on your devices. It's a handy one-stop reference for almost everything going on up and down the valley.

<http://unitedcor.org/sacramento/page/events>



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COALITION OF
REASON**

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