

Upcoming Events

Thursdays [Sing with the Mockingbirds](#)

Feb 2 [Secular Family Day at Folsom Zoo](#)

2 [Coffee Church: Anti-Superbowl Edn.](#)

4 [Book Club, Ceres](#)

5 [SacFAN New Member Meetup](#)

6 [Drugs - Legalize or not?](#)

7 [Dinner, Wine and Art Hop, Lodi](#)

8 [Brunch and Atheism, Stockton](#)

9 [Vegan Heathens, Turlock](#)

9 [Darwin Day Birthday Gala](#)

10 [Sex, Love and Health A-Faire](#)

10 [Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp, Arts/Crafts](#)

11 [Gender & Relationships](#)

11 [Neurobiology of Love, Sara Strand](#)

12 [Ask an Atheist, Galleria Mall, Rsvl](#)

12 [Sexual Behaviors, Kink & the Media](#)

13 [Thursday Night Threesome](#)

13 [Let's Talk About Sex \(ala religion\)](#)

14 [Game Night, Oakdale](#)

Continued on Pg. 5

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

Subscribe

Volume 11, Issue 2

Issue Theme: Evolution

February 2014

It's Darwin Day!

Feb. 9, 2:00 - 4:30

John Smith Hall
La Sierra Community Center
5325 Engle Road, Carmichael
[Advance Tickets Click Here](#)

Enjoy various science-related and fun videos displayed for all to view before the event begins. Check out the various tables and displays of sponsoring and other organizations.



"Darwin 101 (Enhanced): From Earth to Space"

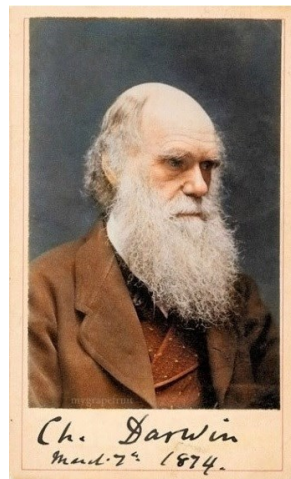
Darwin's great insight was to propose a mechanism that species used to change over time. In this era of genomics and space exploration, these insights can be applied to the age-old question: are we alone?

Dr. Lynn Rothschild is an evolutionary biologist/astrobiologist at NASA Ames. She has broad training in biology, with degrees from Yale, Indiana University, and a Ph.D. from Brown University in Molecular and Cell Biology, and a love for protistan evolution. Since arriv-

ing at NASA Ames in 1987, her research has focused on how life, particularly microbes, has evolved in the context of the physical environment, both here and potentially elsewhere, and how we might tap into "Nature's toolbox" to advance the field of synthetic biology.

In the last few years Rothschild has brought her expertise in evolutionary biology to the field of synthetic biology, addressing how synthetic biology can enhance NASA's missions, particularly human settlement of Mars.

Come join the birthday fun (with cake!)





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>



Dragons!!

The Creation "Museum" has a new exhibit! Plus, kids get in free! If dull dinosaurs don't bring them in anymore, then let's say there used to be dragons! Real, fire-breathing dragons! You will see real, actual paintings and real, actual speculation! You can even "examine armaments that may have been used by valiant dragon slayers." May have been? *REALLY?*

Freethought Dinner Social

Thai Basil

2431 J Street, Sac
[Map here](#)
Wed., Feb. 19
6:15 PM

Please join us for good conversation and good food with good people.

Voted BEST Thai in Sacramento SN&R since 2001.

Street parking along J Street and 25th Street, Sacramento.

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

"People in my church youth group are saying they don't believe in evolution because it goes against belief in God. Are these two beliefs really in conflict? -- Tad"

Dear Tad, Many people believe there is a god or some kind of supernatural force that somehow controls the universe. When we discuss evolution, we must first separate someone's beliefs in the supernatural from scientific fact. Belief in a god should not be in conflict with understanding evolution. It's religion that has impeded and oftentimes stifled curiosity and learning. When explaining evolution, it's important to stay on topic. This is not a 'debate' about a god concept; it is an explanation, backed by science of how the world evolved over millions of years.

The word "theory" gives a lot of people trouble because it has several meanings. In one sense it means a mere hypothesis or idea. This is usually what the public thinks of when they read or hear the phrase "Theory of Evolution". They fail to understand that the word, when used in this context, follows a different definition or meaning. When scientists use the word "theory" in conjunction with evolution, they are using a different sense of the word. In this sense it means a system of ideas or statements held as an explanation or account of a group of facts or phenomena; a hypothesis that has been confirmed or established by observation or experiment, and is propounded or accepted as accounting for the known facts; a statement of what are held to be the general laws, principles, or causes of something known or observed. It's the same sense that they use to describe the Theory of Gravity. In other words, we understand conclusively that both gravity and evolution are factual theories (aka facts). What scientists may differ on are the details of evolution, but not on evolution itself.

Helping each other to understand the world in which we live is vitally important. Understanding how evolution works is a great start.

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

Support the Students - See "The Laramie Project"

Granite Bay HS students are taking a risk by producing "The Laramie Project" - about bullying, torture and murder of a gay teen in Wyoming. "We wanted to do something bigger than ourselves." Bravo, Granite Bay High School! Running thru Feb. 8. [Get Tickets Here.](#)

Thanks to Emily Bender for photo.





Ancient Christian Study Group - Feb. 16, at Noon

Shine Cafe, 1400 E St. [Map here](#). For atheists who want to know the foundations of Christianity better than Christians do. Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate. Review the history of Rome, religions of the Roman empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, history of Christian persecutions, biographies of major Christians, the history of the Bible and many other related topics. Everyone welcome.

Volume 11, Issue 2

Issue Theme: Evolution

Page 3

Announcing "Reason Center"

Promoting Civic Equality and Secular Values

Reason Center

In case you haven't heard, there is a committee working on creating a secular Community Center in the Sacramento area, called Reason Center. We are halfway along the path to becoming an official nonprofit, and we are already looking for locations.

Check out www.ReasonCenter.com to find out more and to stay updated on our progress.

The Reason Center will exist to:

- A. Support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers.
- B. Contribute to society through education and community service.
- C. Advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers.
- D. Uphold the separation of religion and government.

Like Reason Center on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reasoncenter>

This will be a facility for the entire Sacramento Area, for all freethinking groups up and down the valley. We can see weddings and other life celebrations given on these grounds, as well as regular monthly and weekly meetings for each and every one of our wonderful and diverse freethinking groups!

Sex + City (Sex Positive City)

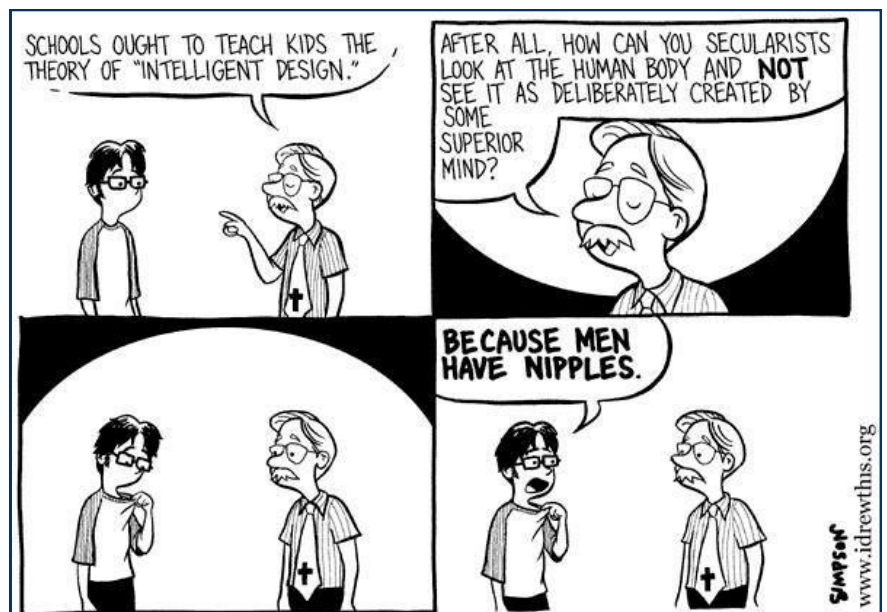
Week-Long Line Up

Speakers - Discussions - Films
Daytime Hours - Evening Hours
Entertaining - Serious - Comedy

It's about time we treated sex as a real topic! Come join whichever of the many events you like.

See Supplemental two pages of information at the back of this newsletter.

<http://SexPositiveCity.com>



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

- Feb 2 3:00 pm Coffee Church, Panera Bread, 2731 Del Paso Rd, Sacramento [Map here](#)
Feb 8 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)
Feb 16 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)
Feb 16 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)



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! No topics, just have fun. [See the calendar](#) for all locations.

Book Clubs

Sacramento

"A Universe From Nothing" by Krauss. Mind-bending, beautiful. [Map here.](#)
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin
Feb 17, 6:30 PM

Ceres

"Doubt" by Hecht. Humanity's greatest doubters changed history.
Private residence.
Feb 4, 7:00 PM
[Details here.](#)

Page 4

Sacramento Reason

NEW! Sunday Assembly in Sacramento

Bob Ueckerlele, a roller derby announcer, is a long-time Sacramento resident who says he has been looking for that sense of "community" for some time. His first Sunday Assembly had ten participants sign up, held at McKinley Park. He encourages family-friendly, pet-welcoming events, and is open to whatever direction his new Meetup should take. How about visiting his Meetup page, and consider joining this new idea?

[Details and Meetup Page here.](#)

Coffee Church

Next Coffee Church is Feb 2, 3:00, and is called "The Anti-Super Bowl Edition". The organizer says, "Let's get together, eat pastries and drink coffee and talk about all the OTHER COOL THINGS on this planet that there are to talk about!" :-)

[Details here.](#)

Panera Bread, 2731 Del Paso Rd, Sacramento. [Map here.](#)

"My Week in Atheism" Movie and Q & A

Feb 15, 7:00 PM, Crest Theater
Movie, then open Q&A with John Christy (film creator) and David Smalley (of Dogma Debate). [Details.](#)

Save These Dates

- March 29** - Light lunch with speaker Andrew Seidel "Greatest Story Ever Sold: America as a Christian Nation"
April 20 - 'Rise and Shine Extravaganza' with Dan Barker, Keith Lowell Jensen, The Mockingbirds and more
April 20 - Annual Flying Spaghetti Monster Party
May 1 - Rally on steps of State Capitol on National Day of Reason
May 31 - SkeptiCal in Berkeley





Buy Your Gear to Support National Day of Reason, May 1

Lots of stuff! T-shirts, mugs, car magnets, mouse pads! Support Reason by [getting your gear now!](#) On May 1 (the government's unconstitutional National Day of Prayer) we will wear yellow! Plan to join us in our rally on the steps of the State Capitol at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM! Watch for more details!

Upcoming Events cont'd from pg 1

- [15 Skeptics in the Park \(Southside\)](#)
- [15 Secular Family Day: Science Day](#)
- [15 "My Week in Atheism" plus Q&A](#)
- [16 Blasphemy Break-fast, Rocklin](#)
- [16 Blasphemy Brunch ArdenArcade](#)
- [16 Coffee Klatch, Modesto](#)
- [16 Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- [16 Freethought Movie Night, Lodi](#)
- [17 Book Club, Universe from Nothing](#)
- [19 Freethought Dinner Social, Thai Basil](#)
- [20 Arguments For & Against God/s](#)
- [21 Drinking Skeptically, Stockton](#)
- [22 Humanist Hikers](#)
- [22 Brights: Brainstorm a New Project](#)
- [23 Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)
- [23 Sunday Sewing Circle](#)
- [24 Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp: Arts/Crafts](#)
- [27 The Education System: discussion](#)
- [28 Godless Game Night, Lodi](#)
- [28 Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)
- [28 Dinner/Karaoke](#)

Volume 11, Issue 2

Issue Theme: Evolution

Page 5

NEW! Sunday Sewing Circle

Feb 23, 1:00 - 3:00. In the Event Center of Raley's Grocery Store
4650 Natomas Blvd., Sacramento, CA [Map here.](#)

Bring those creative projects of yours, and work alongside other freethinking artists. Whether you quilt, knit, crochet, scrapbook, or just like to share ideas, come join us! We're all freethinkers here, so FSM quilts are A-OK!

[Details here.](#)

NEW! Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp - Arts & Crafts Group

Feb 24, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Address to private residence sent to those who RSVP.

This **arts and crafts group** is a biweekly event on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Don't worry about staying the whole time. Come over with your favorite beverage, wine, alcohol, soft drink, maybe a snack... and relax, have fun, gab, and maybe learn a thing or two!

[Details here.](#)

NEW! Humanist Hikers

Feb 22, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

See the details link below for particulars about this month's hike.



Join the humanist hikers the 4th Saturday of each month for an outdoor adventure with like-minded friends in the central valley and surrounding areas. Our activities will range from hiking to kayaking to rock climbing to anything fun and adventurous; we're open to suggestions.

Activity start times vary depending on where we are going and what we are doing.

[Details here.](#)

Game Nights

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

[Sacramento Feb 15 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Lodi Feb 28 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Oakdale Feb 14 at 7:00 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

Feb. 5, 6:30 PM
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Blvd
[Map here.](#)

For new and current members of SacFAN. A casual event with a quick overview of the group and plenty of time to just hang out and get to know each other.

- What SacFAN is
- Recent news and announcements
- Other local, related groups of interest
- Upcoming Events

After that, everyone is invited to continue to socialize and stay as long as you like. Buy some great drinks and snacks, and make some new friends!

Activist Corner By Julie Wedge

I have 2 children in the Rocklin Unified School District and one on the way in this year. I only hear the stories my daughters tell me about all the line crossing in health classes, world history classes; the list goes on and on. For example, my daughter, a Sophomore in High School, had to encounter a health teacher who thought it was just fine to accentuate "abstinence only" in her sex-ed class because that is "what her religion says works best." Wholly unacceptable. Another example recently is a complaint that history books present biblical accounts without adequate warning that they are just stories unlike the rest of the text.

The question, "What can I do?" is something I hear a lot. It's something I think about a lot. We're at a turning point with atheists beginning to speak up, so what we can do can for one person be too risky and for another person not be enough. The first thing that comes to mind is to be vocal. The school board and principals are all publicly held positions, so they do care a lot about citizen complaints - it could cost them their job if they didn't listen. So, I'd say the most important thing is to try to organize as many local voices as you can to be heard as a unified scream. Write letters to the editors of newspapers. Show confidence. Tell everyone when FFRF, AU or ACLU have been notified and have agreed that this is alarming. Just make noise. If people respond to your call to action wanting to help, encourage them to organize, too, or provide whatever skills they bring to the table. Maybe one person knows how to put together an effective meeting about this, and another person is willing to pay for fliers to be handed out, or someone else knows a sympathetic business owner who has a small room for meetings or who might help pass out fliers to customers. You never know where things lead when you start speaking up. Everyone is waiting for that one, brave person to stand up to the bullies. That can be you....

READ ["Five Sneaky Ways They Get Creationism Into Schools"](#)

How Do I Find My Representatives?

US Senate: 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 websites.

Local Groups to Visit or Join

| Name | Emphasis |  | Tax Ded |  | Website |
|--|--|---|---------|---|--|
| Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA) | UC Davis student group Socialize with like-minded students. | Y | | <u>Y</u> | agasadavis.wordpress.com |
| Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter) | Promotes individual activism, confronts violations | N | Y | <u>National only</u> | au-sac.org |
| Secular Student Alliance at Sacramento State University (CSUS) | CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought. | Y | | <u>Y</u> | secularstudents.org/csus |
| 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 | <u>Internat'l only</u> | 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 | sac.ffrf.org |
| Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA) | Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good. | Y | Y | <u>Y</u> | hagsa.org |
| Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason | Directing the community to the various groups of reason. | Y | N | <u>Y</u> | SacramentoCoR.org |
| Sac Area Skeptics (SAS) | Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills. | Y | Y | <u>Y</u> | http://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/ |
| Sac City Freethinkers | Sac City College student group. Meet, question, promote, unite. | Y | | <u>Y</u> | saccityfreethinkers.wordpress.com |
| Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN) | Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism. | Y | N | <u>Y</u> | 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 | <u>Y</u> | Secular.org/states/chapters/california |
| Secular College Student Alliance | Sierra College student and faculty group for non-belief in religion. | Y | | <u>Y</u> | secularstudents.org/sierra |
| Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF) | Meetup events and philanthropy, from Galt to Modesto. | Y | | <u>Y</u> | 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 | scre.org/sub_category_list.asp?category=98 |



Freethought Movie Night

Our Lodi movie nights are the Third Sunday of each Month. Each month features a different movie, shown in a comfortable setting with a projector and large screen at David's Clubhouse. Arrive about 6:30. \$10 to chip in for dinner is appreciated. Bring what you like to drink. [Details here.](#)



All Blue-Eyed People Are Related to a Single Ancestor

From the University of Copenhagen. New research shows that people with blue eyes have a single, common ancestor. Scientists have tracked down a genetic mutation which took place 6,000-10,000 years ago and is the cause of the eye color of all blue-eyed humans alive on the planet today. Variation in the colour of the eyes from brown to green can all be explained by the amount of melanin in the iris, but blue-eyed individuals only have a small degree of variation in the amount of melanin in their eyes.

[ARTICLE HERE](#)

Page 8

< 30

By Sara Lone

Have you seen the Google Glass? Aside from looking like they're straight out of an 80's sci-fi movie (no, really, I think I saw these in... Star Wars?), they're actually kind of cool. You can google anything and get the information instantly, just by saying it. Google Glasses are cool, but let's be real - technology like this has been around for a while now. Sometimes I feel like our generation is looked down on because of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. Do you ever get that vibe? Like, we're less than our forefathers because we didn't have to "walk 15 miles in the snow to get to the library to try and find a book that *might* have the information we need to answer our question". I'm sorry, but I'm not sorry - and you shouldn't be either! We don't have to rely only on what our parents and teachers say anymore, we have information at our fingertips, or in the case of Google Glass, in our eyeballs. The fact of the matter is: 33% of U.S. adults **REJECT** evolution. Even worse, of the 60% who accept evolution as valid, 24% of them say that, "A supreme being guided evolution". Seriously? We have information literally in front of our eyeballs and we still have this many stupid people? The Dude can not abide. Seriously, I met a Mormon girl on the plane back to California and she literally told me she "believes in natural selection, but not evolution." Just, do me a favor. With great technology comes great responsibility. Use your Google Glass or whatever else you have to educate these people, please? You can make a difference! Because if this stupidity keeps spreading, even I might doubt natural selection...

Citation: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/12/Evolution-12-30.pdf>

Sacramento Reason





NATIONAL SECULAR NEWS - LISTEN 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](#).



The Science of Everyday Thinking

-Free Course-

[Enroll here.](#)

Learn how to think better, argue better, and choose better.

We will explore everyday thinking: why people believe weird things, how we form and change our opinions, why our expectations skew our judgments. We discuss and debate topics such as medical diagnosis, paranormal phenomena, placebos, miracles, and more. You will learn how to evaluate claims, make sense of evidence, and understand why we so often make irrational choices.

Let's all start this in March together, as a group! [Sign up now!](#)

Volume II, Issue 2

Issue Theme: Evolution

Page 9

Family Time By Rick Tracewell



Evolution is slow. Really slow. So slow, in fact, that creationists can easily disregard it as fiction – how's THAT for irony?

For this article, I asked my 9 year old daughter if she knew what creationism was. She said she'd heard of it. I then said, "It's the belief that god made everything in 6 days..." That's all I could get out before she burst into laughter. Yeah, she's got her feet solidly on the ground.

Our children are surrounded by fairy tale-believing people and their offspring, so how do we explain evolution in a way that makes sense to, say, a 7 year old? Do we drive clear across the country to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky so that our intelligent, non-indoctrinated kids can laugh their butts off at the caveman riding a dinosaur or the fire-breathing dragon "straight from the bible" they just added?

The reality for most of us parents is that we may have to resort to the all-knowing, all-powerful, only-way-to-get-your-kid's-attention YouTube. There are many other resources on the web, of course, but I found a few really good (and short) videos that – along with your pressing the pause button and filling in the blanks – can help visually explain things to your kids.

I also recommend that you discuss with your kids – if you haven't already done so – how to be respectful to their "believer" friends. Once grade school age kids find out the crazy things their schoolmates believe, they can be a bit ruthless, even if they don't intend to be.

Here are a few links to get you started:

<http://tinderbox.homeschooljournal.net/resources-to-share/timeline-of-earths-history/> (Fun Family Exercise)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHbYJfwFgOU> (Bill Nye on Creationism)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svHQ4BQY_o (Bill Nye on Evolution 1/2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QECq6M3nPew> (Bill Nye on Evolution 2/2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYkdDniQJyw> (From the Big Bang to Me)



NEW! Private, Closed Atheist Facebook Page



"Atheist Connection": Are you not Out, but you want atheists to talk with? Closed group is like reading 'The God Delusion' under the covers with a flashlight." Join in!

[Ask to join here.](#)

Skeptics in the Park

Bring Your Picnic and Family

Feb. 15, 10 - 2
Southside Park

Come meet other skeptical families working hard to raise the next generation of critical thinkers.

[Details here.](#)

Finally!

*The Skeptic's
Annotated Bible is
in Print!*

[Buy it here.](#)

Dinner, Karaoke and Dancing - Feb. 28

Ridgeway's Restaurant and Lounge, 2401 East Orangeburg Avenue, Modesto [Map here.](#)
Meet for dinner and karaoke at 8:00, then off to Brave Bull for billiards and dancing!
Come join us for any part of the fun!

Page 10

Sacramento Reason

"The Neurobiology of Love" with Sara Strand

Feb 11, 6:00 PM

Sac State University Union, [Campus Map Here.](#)

Why do we choose the partners we do? What does the brain have to say about this? The benefits to your health from love, and discussion about the differences between the brains of men and women in love and how being in love may result in neurogenesis, or the birth of new neurons. [Details here.](#)

Thursday Night Threesome

Feb 13, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

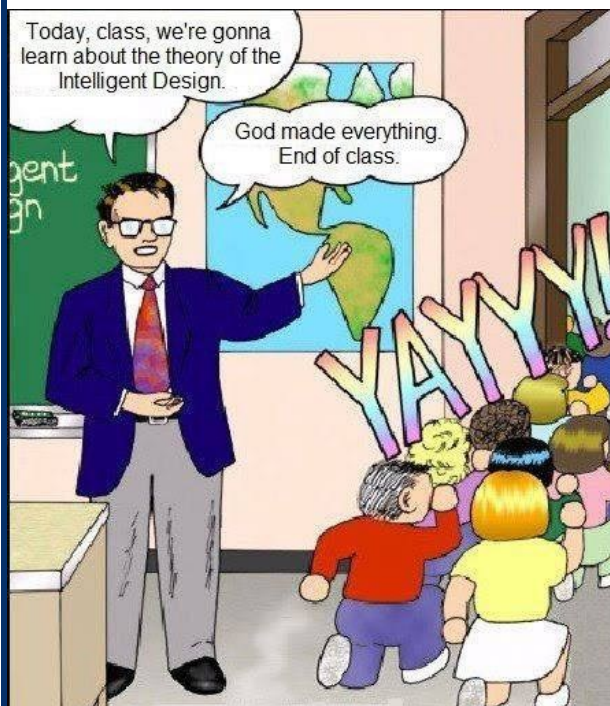
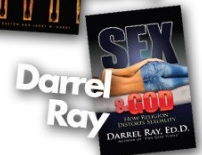
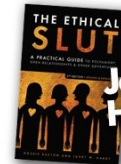
Sac City College, North Gym

MC is comedian **Keith Lowell Jensen**

Laci Green — "Best Sex Ever"

Darrel Ray, Ed.D. — "Sex & God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality"

Jaye Cee Whitehead, Ph.D. — "Divorcing the State: How Marriage Reduces Intimate Freedom, and What We Gain from Marriage Abolition" [Details here.](#)



facebook.com/atheistmemebase www.atheistmemebase.com NO duck face on 9GAG.COM

UC Davis AGASA Weekly Meetings

Open to the Public

- January 30 - Social taboos
- Feb. 6 - Drugs; Legalize?
- Feb 13 - Let's Talk About Sex
- Every Thursday - [see CoR calendar](#)

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS
IN HOLY MATRIMONY
humanistweddings.org



Perform Legal Weddings

Become a fully legal Wedding Officiant with American Humanist Association using this online course. [Link here](#). Need a Humanist Celebrant for any life event? [Locate one here](#).

MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

The relationship between religion and government is a constantly subject of heated discussion for all Americans. Religion and government are intertwined in many ways, from the way we vote to the way we live. This guide provides a model for secular policy that is based on the principles of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It is intended to be a resource for those who are interested in the relationship between religion and government, and who want to ensure that the government remains neutral in matters of religion.

Secular Policy Guide

Finally, we can tell our elected leaders exactly what a secular America would look like. Here are our issues and concerns, put together by the Secular Coalition for America.

[Link here](#).

The policies we advocate help to promote a religiously-neutral government. They are solid policies that are good for the country as a whole—both the religious and non-religious alike.

[Subscribe here](#) to receive the emailed Newsletter, Action Alerts, or Morning Read by SCA.

Legal Watch By Arash Khosrowshahi

Creation science is a movement by the Evangelical Right which aims to supplant the teaching of Evolution in public classrooms. Its basic claim is that certain biological structures are too complex to have been formed by the process of natural selection alone; rather, such structures had to have been created by an intelligent designer, i.e. God.

There is no scientific support for this view. The teaching of creationism was ruled to be a violation of the Establishment Clause by the Supreme Court in *Edwards v. Aguillard* in 1987, since the topic advances no secular purpose and endorses a supernatural worldview.

However, despite that ruling, and despite the massive amount of evidence supporting the Theory of Evolution, creationists continue to push their supernatural claims in the science classroom. A recent example is in the Responsive Education Solutions charter schools in Texas. While not explicitly teaching creation science, the lessons there instead try to detract the validity of evolution as much as possible, while "noting" the existence of the "competing theory" of creation science.

Politically, creationism is hugely popular among Evangelicals and Southern states. This does not change the law, but it should set an example of how determined the Religious Right is to circumvent the law whenever it is not in their favor, and despite scientific evidence to the contrary.

Disclaimer: The statements here reflect the opinions of Arash Khosrowshahi, Attorney at Law. None of these statements should be construed as creating an attorney-client relationship, nor do they constitute legal advice. The statements are provided for educational purposes only.

UK Enforces Teaching Evolution as Science Fact

"A story at the BBC explains how the UK government has put an extra clause into a funding bill to ensure that any new 'free schools' (independent schools run by groups of parents or organizations, but publicly-funded) [must teach evolution rather than creationism or potentially lose their funding](#). The new rules state that all free schools in England must teach evolution as a 'comprehensive and coherent scientific theory.' The move follows scientists' concerns that free schools run by creationists might avoid teaching evolution. Sir Paul Nurse, president of the Royal Society, said it was 'delighted.' Sir Paul told BBC News the previous rules on free schools and the teaching of evolution versus creationism had been 'not tight enough.'"

Comedian Jim Jeffries - March 1

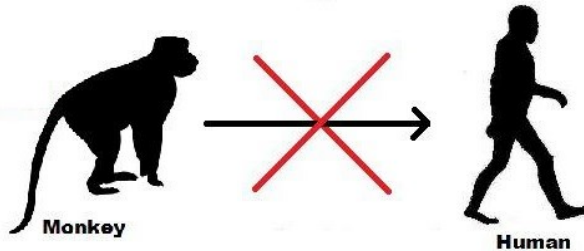
March 1, 8:00 PM, Crest Theater. [Map here.](#)

Warning: Not suitable for all ages. Jeffries, an Australian comedian, writer, and actor comes to Sacramento with his biting commentary. If you would like to join a group of like-minded free-thinkers to catch this, and maybe have dinner after, check out the [Details here.](#)

Page 12

Sacramento Reason

**NOT
EVOLUTION**

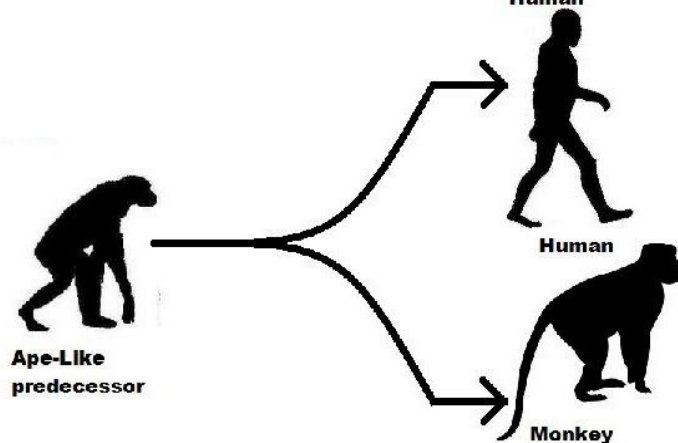


**If evolution is true
why are there still
monkeys?**

This is why...

**If you paid attention
in Junior High
School you would
not be asking this
question.**

EVOLUTION



Secular Family Days

Two in February. Come meet other like-minded families in fun, creative settings. Become a part of this new and growing activity. Feel free to suggest more venues!

- February 2, 11:00 AM

Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary
403 Stafford Street, Folsom [Map here.](#)
Meet near the ticket booth outside.
[Details here.](#)

- February 15, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

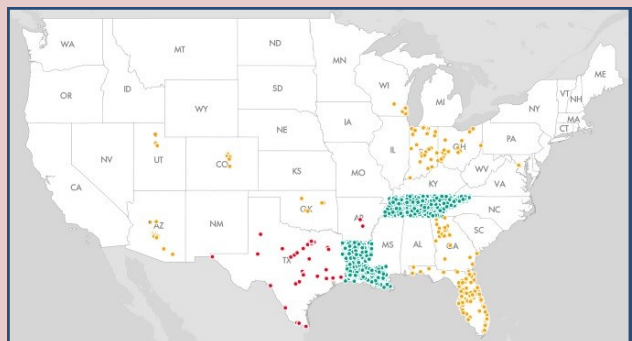
Science Day at CSU Stanislaus
Naraghi Hall, 1 University Circle, Turlock
[Map here.](#) All ages invited. Fun, science-related activities.
[Details here.](#)

See where tax dollars are funding the teaching of Creationism.

Green - Public schools, allowed by state law

Orange - Private schools accepting vouchers.

Red - Responsive Ed charter schools using creationist curricula.



“Ask an Atheist” at Galleria Mall in Roseville

Saturday, February 15, 2:00 PM. Meet on the outside steps next to Crate and Barrel, on the southwest side of the mall. Don't have a blue “Ask an Atheist” shirt yet? Buy one there from Judy, \$10, then it's yours to wear anywhere! We walk in pairs, usually get thumbs up, and maybe a question as we shop and walk around. If you don't know an answer, just say you don't know. :-)) It's all about being a role model for others and dispelling crazy myths. Low stress activism! How simple.

Listen Up!

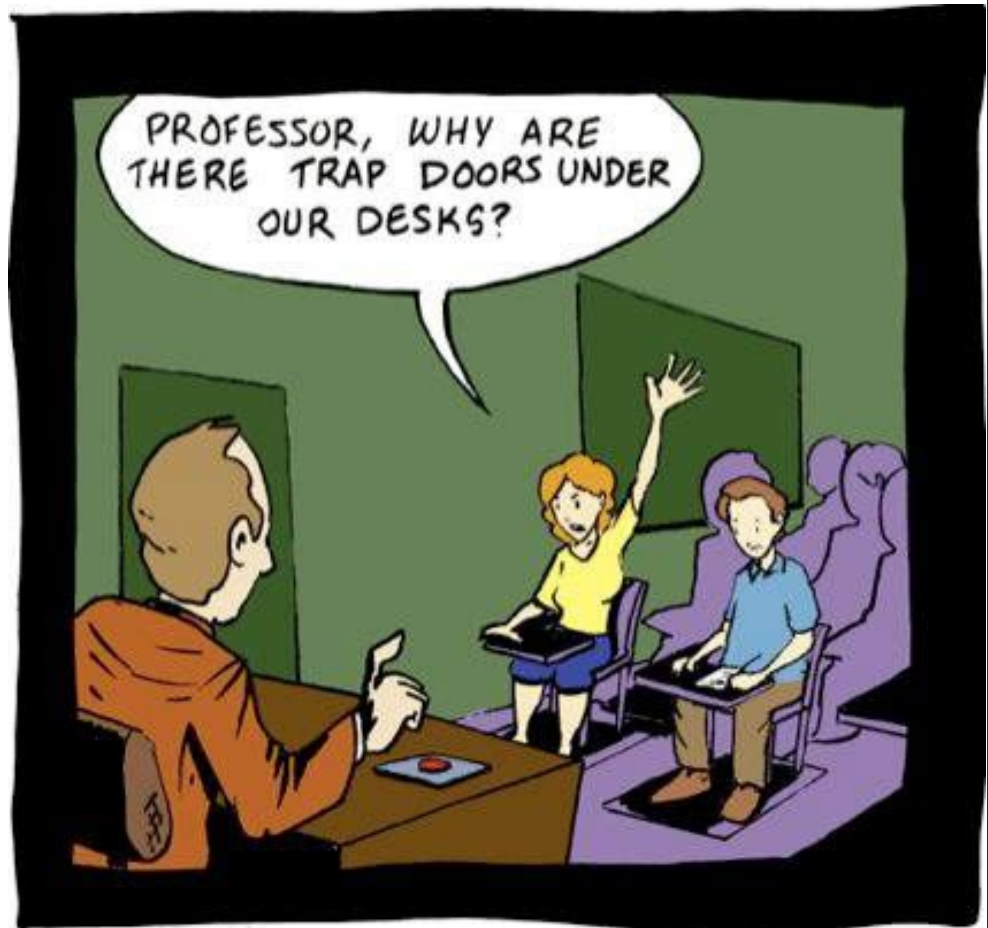
By Cleo Kocol

Today everyone knows what it means to be “cool”. When I was a teenager, “swell” meant the same thing. For a while “neat” was heard in its place. Those examples show that culture evolves, changes. As freethinkers we must, too. If we don't, we remain in a past that restricts us.

Lately a friend sent me photographs of people I hadn't seen since high school and reminded me of his long-ago football triumphs. He apparently had jogged in place while the world, and his peers, had raced on. Being static works only if everyone else is static. As freethinkers, we either move ahead of the flat-earthers or we become one with them.

Do you still soft step around the clergy? At one time society demanded such “holy men” be respected. It took wide-spread sexual abuse of children and youths by Catholic prelates before the media reported it like it was. Now we know all “men of the cloth” - protestant, catholic, whatever - also commit the sins they rail against.

Once, freethinkers walked in fear, afraid to admit our beliefs. If confronted by an aggressive “born again”, we didn't know how to respond. We appeared ashamed even though we weren't, blushing or stammering a reply. Sometimes we shouted or stalked off swearing. Today we're pleased with our freethinking ways, proud of our legitimate beliefs. We're atheists, humanists, freethinkers, and often say it with pride. We are coming out of what may have been a self-imposed closet. Evolution is with us, and we, too, are evolving.



Ahh, the first day teaching Natural Selection is always the best day.



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.
See Page 7 for details.

We're on the Web!
SacramentoCoR.org



**SACRAMENTO AREA
COALITION OF
REASON**

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Photographer, Matt Martin

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Shine the Light of Reason

Page 14

We all can agree (save for the severely color blind) that this text is red.

We can also similarly agree that this text is blue.

If we have red text and decide to change it by just a small amount, the change might be barely noticeable, but still a very small change. This, we will call our micro-evolution. Every word up to now can be considered red, with very minute changes in the hue. If I keep typing long enough, would anyone be able to tell me, just by looking, at which word or letter is this post no longer red, but actually purple or blue? All this micro-evolution keeps occurring in the text, with it's tiny changes in hue, but ultimately, I end up with a completely different color. It's actually the difference between what one would consider red and what one would consider purple (or a whole new species, in this analogy) which is macro-evolution. See, the common misunderstanding is, that macro-evolution means a dog being a direct offspring of some other different canine-like species, or even more stupidly, a cat coming from a dog. Well, that's not what macro-evolution is. There is really only one distinction between micro-evolution and macro-evolution, and it's the same distinction between their prefixes: micro and macro. Just like if something is microscopic or if something is macroscopic. Microscopic usually requires a microscope to see it because it's so small, but the macroscopic are things large enough to be seen by the common human eye. However, things of both size are completely visible and plainly exist, and there are many things in this universe between both general sizes. So as you read this, can you tell me the first word here that is blue, and not purple? After all, every change in color since the first word in this paragraph has only micro-evolved from the color next to it, but we've managed to macro-evolve through 2 colors. This, hopefully, will illustrate how it's illogical to believe that macro-evolution doesn't happen, even given time for enough micro-evolution to occur.

So tell me -- what was the first purple word in the block of text above? What's the first blue word? Remember, if macro-evolution simply can not happen then you're saying the words you are reading now are still red.



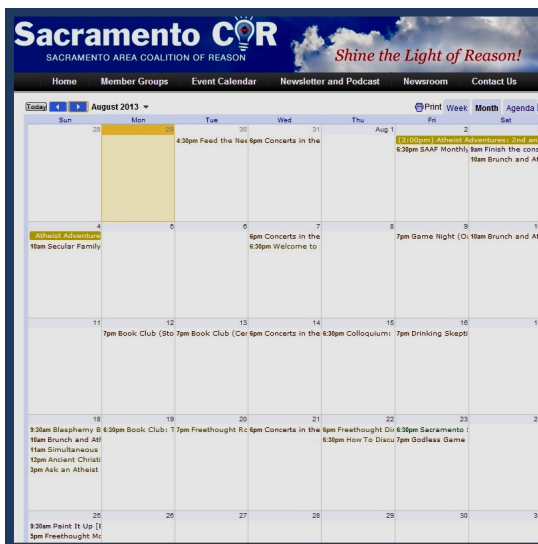
Watch Penn & Teller Debunk Creationism

<http://youtu.be/j-5g4ju-x64>

Sacramento Area's Freethinking Calendar

The Sacramento Area 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/>





MONDAY, FEB 10 – THURSDAY, FEB 13, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 8, 2014
MEDIA CONTACT: Don Button, 916.396.1134
SCCSexPositiveWeek@gmail.com

Sex Positive Week to be hosted at Sacramento City College

Four-day provocative event is first of its kind in the region, Feb. 10–13

(January 7, 2014, Sacramento, CA) Created by four student clubs and faculty at Sacramento City College, **SEX+CITY** (pronounced “Sex Positive City”) is a week of engaging, sex-positive events including several nationally-recognized speakers. The **SEX+CITY** event seeks to promote healthy concepts about topics related to human sexuality through a stigma-free educational environment.

Topics will include sex education, behavior, consent, relationships, gender issues, body image, safe sex, pornography, the sex-positive social movement, socio-religious influences and control, and stereotypes in mainstream media. Through displays, visual presentations, panel discussions and guest speakers, this event endeavors to educate and illuminate both the City College and Los Rios community, other area college and university students, and the general public.

SEX+CITY kicks off on **Monday, Feb 10** from noon to 6pm with **Sex Love & Health A-Faire**, a free fair featuring sex positive booths from health centers and couples counseling to erotic photographers and adult toys. On **Tuesday, Feb. 11**, three 90-minute sessions focusing on **Gender & Relationships** topics including polyamory, open relationships, living with a STI, and transgender students. Tuesday evening will also offer a related off-campus event, “The Neurobiology of Love,” at CSU, Sacramento. **Wednesday, Feb. 12** will focus on **Sexual Behaviors, Kink & The Media** including sex and aging, pornography, feminist activism and the Sacramento premier of the new, award-winning documentary “**How to Lose Your Virginity**.” Wednesday will end with a special evening event: **Janet Hardy**, co-author of *The Ethical Slut and Radical Ecstasy* will present “**What Is Sex, Anyway?: Looking Beyond the Binaries of Gender, Orientation and Behavior**.”

The final event on **Thursday, Feb. 13 — Thursday Night Threesome** — will feature three nationally recognized speakers including **Laci Green**, the popular and entertaining young sex educator with over 20 million views on her YouTube vlog. Ms. Green is currently on a national tour of universities with her provocative interactive programs and will present her fun and educational “**Best Sex Ever**.” Also on hand will be **Darrell Ray, Ed.D.**, author of *Sex And God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality*, and **Jaye Cee Whitehead, Ph.D.**, author of *The Nuptial Deal: Same Sex Marriage and the Neo-Liberal Government*. Mr. Ray will present “**Sexy Evolution: What The Pope Doesn’t Know About Sex**,” and Ms. Whitehead will present “**Divorcing the State: How Marriage Reduces Intimate Freedom, and What We Gain from Marriage Abolition**.” All three presentations will incorporate thought-provoking opinions, education, humor and visuals, and be followed by an audience question and answer session. The evening will be hosted by popular local stand-up comedian **Keith Lowell Jensen** who will open the evening as well as entertain between speakers and moderate the Q&A.

All events take place on the Sacramento City College campus except for “The Neurobiology of Love” on Tuesday night, which will be at CSU, Sacramento. All events are presented free of charge, except the Thursday Night Threesome, with advance tickets available for \$5 students and \$10 general (\$8 / \$13 at the door).

SEX+CITY is produced by four student-run clubs: Sac City Freethinkers, Sac City Feminists, Queer/Straight Alliance, and the Sociology Club; and supported by the SCC Club And Events Board.

SexPositiveCity.com

facebook.com/sexpositivecity



MONDAY, FEB 10 – THURSDAY, FEB 13, 2014

FACT SHEET

ONLINE: www.SexPositiveCity.com
facebook.com/sexpositivecity

SEX+CITY SCHEDULE:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10: Sex, Love & Health A-Faire

SCC Student Center, 12 noon – 6pm, FREE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11: Gender & Relationships Day

Monogamy / Polyamory / Open Relationships panel discussion, LRC105, 12 noon, FREE

Gender / Transgender Issues panel discussion, LRC105, 1:30 pm, FREE

Living Positive: Loving Yourself and Others Post-Diagnosis, LRC105, 3:00 pm, FREE

Two Spirits: The Four Genders – film screening / discussion, LRC105, 4:30 pm, FREE

Dr. Sarah Strand – “The Neurobiology of Love,” CSUS University Union, 6 pm, FREE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12: Sexual Behaviors, Kink & The Media Day

Sex and Aging panel discussion, LRC105, 12 noon, FREE

Live Nude Girls Unite! – film screening / discussion, LRC105, 1:30 pm, FREE

Pornography: Three Viewpoints / discussion, LRC105, 3:00 pm, FREE

How To Lose Your Virginity – film screening / discussion, LRC105, 4:30 pm, FREE

Janet Hardy – “What Is Sex, Anyway?: Looking Beyond the Binaries of Gender, Orientation and Behavior,”
 SCC Student Center, 7 – 9 pm, FREE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13: Thursday Night Threesome

SCC North Gym, 6 – 9 pm

\$5 students / employees, \$10 general (advance)

Tickets available at SexPositiveCity.com (and www.EventBrite.com)

Laci Green – “Best Sex Ever”

sex positive educator, LaciGreen.tv

Darrel Ray, Ed.D. – “Sexy Evolution: What The Pope Doesn’t Know About Sex”

author of *Sex & God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality*

Jaye Cee Whitehead, Ph.D. – “Divorcing the State: How Marriage Reduces Intimate Freedom,
 and What We Gain from Marriage Abolition”

author of *The Nuptial Deal: Same Sex Marriage and the Neo-Liberal Government*

Keith Lowell Jensen, Master of Ceremonies

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Don Button, faculty advisor / event coordinator, 916-396-1134, SCCSexPositiveWeek@gmail.com

SEX+CITY is produced by four student-run clubs: Sac City Freethinkers, Sac City Feminists, Queer/Straight Alliance, and the Sociology Club; and supported by the SCC Club And Events Board.

SexPositiveCity.com

facebook.com/sexpositivecity