

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

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

Subscribe

Volume 11, Issue 6

Issue Theme: Science vs. Religion

June 2014

Reason Center is Coming to Sacramento!

Reason Center is delighted to announce that we have signed a 3-year lease on a great location in Sacramento!

We hope to have it ready for use in the next 4 to 6 weeks! The facility is over 2,000 square feet. The main room is almost 1,150 sq ft, plus 3 smaller rooms, a kitchenette, and plenty of free parking.

Reason Center

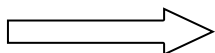


Reason Center will be located at [1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, CA.](#)

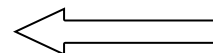
It is in the business park in the corner where Hwy 160 and Business 80 meet (by Cal Expo and Arden Fair Mall.)

With your help we can raise the money to furnish and pay the expenses for our new freethought community center.

You can support Reason Center by making a one-time tax-deductible gift, or set up a monthly recurring donation. Monthly donations make contributing easy and affordable, while providing Reason Center with a source of steady income to pay our expenses.



Donate



Please [make a donation today](#) to support the Sacramento freethought community. Don't forget to help spread the news to your friends and family, and [sign up for our e-newsletter](#).

Reason Center will be a place to:

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

Visit www.ReasonCenter.com to find out more.



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>

Really?

We attended my wife's annual family reunion in conservative-land, West Virginia. I endured praying to Jesus before the potluck. I heard everyone loudly say 'Under God' as they said the Pledge together. I watched a hundred Yes votes come in to give \$1000 of reunion money to buy an air conditioner for the local church. I heard loved ones are now with God. I heard 'God Bless You' all day. But, later when I mentioned privately I don't believe in angels the quick response, with a scowl, was, "We don't talk about religion." REALLY?

Freethought Dinner Social

La Rosa Blanca
2813 Fulton Ave
Thursday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m.

[Map here.](#)

Please join us!

[Details here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Dear Social I.Q. Lady, Is there a difference between believing in a god and being religious?

Dear Reader, Belief in a god and belief in a religion more often than not go hand in hand. However, this is not always the case and we need to be aware of how different people view the world in order to communicate more effectively. It is possible to believe in a god or a god concept and not support religion. It is also possible to be very religious and not believe in god. Sounds a bit counter-intuitive, doesn't it?

To have a belief in god means to believe in a higher power of some kind. To some, that might mean nothing more than a force that binds the universe together or a force that initiated creation, like Deists who reject religion yet still believe a god exists and created the universe. To others it might entail a personal relationship. To these believers, their god acts more like a puppet-master overseeing and interceding in one's daily life. Muslims, Christians, and Jews all believe in the "god of Abraham" although they call him by different names. Some religions, like Shinto, believe in many gods.

The religions of today are really no different than myths of the past. Believers of ancient mythology were just as sincere in their faith as believers in Allah, Yahweh, or Vishnu are today. I have met atheists who continue to practice their religion because they enjoy the rituals and cohesiveness of "the group." In fact, I know of one synagogue that holds classes for their Jewish atheist members. There are some religions that don't believe in a god at all.

People can't always help what they believe, but they can reject religious indoctrination and we can be there to help.

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

Pre-Order *The Unbelievers* Movie

The Unbelievers follows renowned scientists Richard Dawkins and Lawrence Krauss across the globe as they speak publicly about the importance of science and reason in the modern world - encouraging others to cast off antiquated religious and politically motivated approaches toward important current issues.

The film includes interviews with celebrities and other influential people who support the work of these controversial speakers.

[Order the movie here.](#)





Ancient Christian Study Group - June 15, 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.

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Sacramento Book Club Does Science

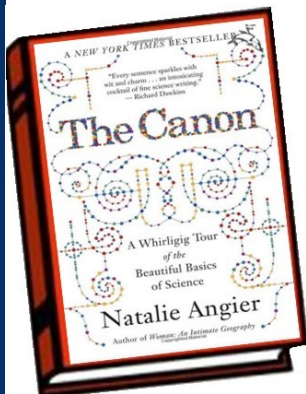
Book for June - *The Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science*

Monday, June 16, 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Coffee Garden Cafe (see address below)

Look Inside this month's book [here](#).
RSVP to the book club meetup [here](#).



"We always like to have a couple of science books each year - we have also already read *The Universe From Nothing* this year. I'm on a personal continual quest to fill in the gaps in my knowledge of the world, so *The Canon* fits in nicely. This is the third iteration of the SacFAN bookclub - it's been started and then abandoned twice. For bookclub 3.0, this is our 3rd consecutive year. We chose *The Canon* in an effort to cover as many scientific bases as we could and all brush up on our scientific knowledge" says Brooke Byrd, the club's organizer.



In this exuberant book, the best-selling author Natalie Angier distills the scientific canon to the absolute essentials, delivering an entertaining and inspiring one-stop science education. Angier interviewed a host of scientists, posing the simple question "What do you wish everyone knew about your field?" *The Canon* provides their answers, taking readers on a joyride through the fascinating fundamentals of the incredible world around us and revealing how they are relevant to us every day. Angier proves a rabble-rousing, wisecracking, deeply committed tour guide in her irresistible exploration of the scientific process and the basic concepts of physics,

chemistry, biology, astronomy and more.

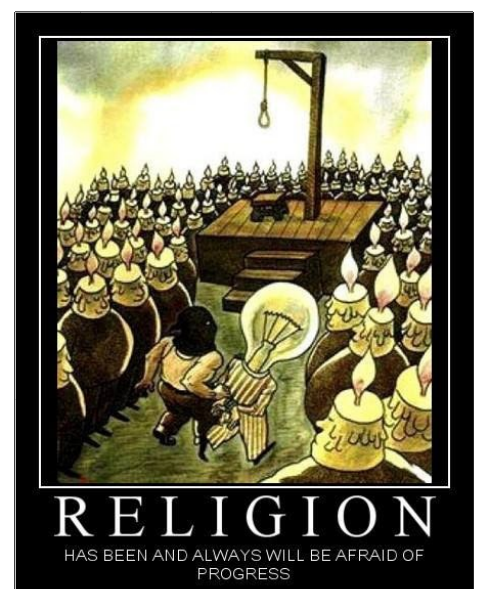
About the Venue

The [Coffee Garden](#) is a little coffee shop just off Broadway and 99. If the weather's nice, we're probably in the big table in the garden through the back door. Otherwise we're on the couches right inside the front door.

They serve all sorts of coffees and drinks, sodas, and a wide variety of sandwiches and salads perfect for dinner if you choose. They appreciate it if you at least buy a drink or pastry.

About the Book Club

We're glad to have you join us - whether you hate the book, love the book, or even didn't finish the book. If you're a newcomer, get a head start on the book for next month by looking at the [monthly lineup](#)!



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

Jun 14 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)
Jun 15 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)
Jun 15 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)



Blaspheming With Food Every 3rd Sunday!

Happy, well-fed heathens! 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.

Book Clubs

Sacramento

Tour of Science

Jun 16, 6:30 pm
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Bl
[Details here.](#)

Ceres

Mormons

July 1, 7pm
1st Tues each mo.
[Details here.](#)

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March for Democracy and State Capitol Rally

Sunday, June 22. 11am - 2pm, at the State Capitol

"*Citizens United*. The most expensive election in U.S. history. *McCutcheon*. Big money's corruption of American politics is so complete that we can no longer deny the truth: democracy is dead in America. Plutocracy, government by and for the wealthy, is here." ([See related article](#): USA is now an oligarchy, no longer a democracy or a republic, according to Princeton University study.)

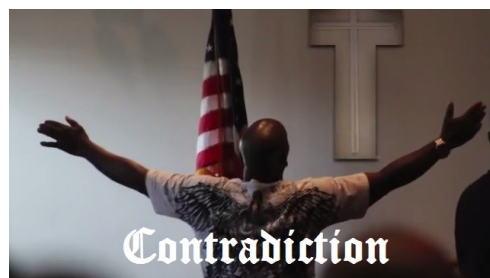
Marchers intend to occupy the CA State Capitol unless they see steps to rein in big money in elections. [Details here](#)

Movie Contradiction

Monday, June 23, 6pm. Location TBD.

Jeremiah Camara travels the country examining the paradox of black neighborhoods saturated with churches in the midst of poverty, deprivation and despondency. Camara seeks to find if there is a correlation between high-praise and low-productivity. Location to be determined - check the detail link below for updates.

[Movie screening details here.](#) Watch movie trailer at [this link.](#)



RELIGION



- Taught to young children
- Told to believe on faith
- Discouraged from doubting
- Threatened with hell if they don't believe

SCIENCE



- Taught to young adults
- Told to rely on evidence
- Encouraged to doubt
- May get a Nobel prize if they find an error

Camp Quest – A secular summer camp blending archery, star gazing, and arts/crafts with critical thinking, science, leadership, and a touch of Humanism – is raising money for their campership program to support families that have requested financial aid. Let's work together to give them enough to support every family that's on the list, and a little extra for growth! [Click Here](#) to make your tax-deductible donation.

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18 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
19 [Dinner Social](#)
20 [Drinking Skeptically in Stockton](#)
21 [Secular Family Day, Stockton](#)
21 [Highway Cleanup](#)
21 [Wine and NOSH](#)
22 [Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)
22 [Capitol Rally for Democracy](#)
23 [Movie Screening](#)
23 [Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp, Manteca](#)
25 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
27 [Game Night and Pool Party, Stockton](#)
27 [Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)
27 [Dinner, Karaoke, Dance in Modesto](#)
28 [Humanist Hikers](#)

July 1 [Book Club in Ceres](#)
2 [Concert in Park](#)
2 [Welcome New Members Meetup](#)
16 [David Fitzgerald](#)

Save The Date

Sept 17 [Peter Boghossian, Manteca](#)
Nov 19 [Dr. David Noelle, Manteca](#)
Dec 21 Solstice Fun

Sunday Assembly Coming to Sacramento

Sept. 28 at Reason Center

“Live better. Help often. Wonder more.” That is the motto of the Sunday Assembly, the international congregation that takes all the best bits of church, without god and religion, and adds rock music, donuts, and coffee.



Held on the last Sunday of each month, each assembly will feature live music (mostly rock and pop), educational and inspirational messages, community announcements, friendship, and more.

Help us celebrate life!

- * Follow [@SASacramento](#) on Twitter
- * Visit and follow [fb.com/SundayAssemblySacramento](#) on Facebook
- * Join the Meetup at [meetup.com/sunday-Assembly-Sacramento](#)

Volunteers from the Sacramento area are working to launch the inaugural Sacramento Sunday Assembly. You can help.

If you are interested in helping, email: admin@sacramentoreason.org.

Supreme Court Ruling Unbelievable - What You Can Do

The US Supreme Court ruled religious invocations are just fine before legislative sessions. In case you begin seeing prayers offered before your local City Council or School Board meetings, there are things you can do about it:

See AU list of what you can do [here](#), featuring the new “Operation Inclusion.” American Humanist Association’s adjunct, The Humanist Society, will train you to give secular invocations. See [this link](#) for details.

The Central Florida Freethought Community is creating a spreadsheet of all their school boards in the State of Florida (all 67 counties). As of 5/15 they had 20 letters out to county school boards and 4 atheist invocations already scheduled. See sample letter [here](#). If you are interested in coordinating such an effort in Sacramento, let us know. Email: admin@sacramentoreason.org.



New Book Out *Science and Religion: 5 Questions*, edited by Gregg D. Caruso—a collection of interviews with thirty-three of the world's leading philosophers, scientists, theologians, apologists, and atheists. Now available at [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Nobel](#).



Cleo Kocol

Cleo, our well known activist of many decades, said goodbye to her recently deceased husband, Hank, and their 13-year leadership of Sun City Humanists by hosting a great bash full of entertainment, lots of friends, and plenty of food and drink for everyone. Cleo looked gorgeous!

Evolution is Not a "Belief"

Good article here, from USA Today. "Pastors and parents in the evangelical sphere often steer young people away from science-related careers."

[Click here](#) to read.

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Activist Corner

By Julie Wedge

Science v. Religion. We hear this posed all the time. But is it really a dichotomy, or are we just working to swing the pendulum a little more to the side of reason? I would argue we are working to have a more reasonable approach to public dialogue.

Let's examine the discussion to see where the rub lies.

I believe the reason we, the faithless, struggle with the push toward a more faith-based politic is because it does not allow for the one thing we hope for most as humans - the ability to say we were wrong, ask for help, and work collaboratively to find practical solutions.

One often cannot have a reasonable discussion with people of faith because most times they are unwilling to even contemplate fallibility. Have you ever tried to say, "Just go with me on this one"? Those conversations don't generally end well and both parties are frustrated with the other.

If we are to truly change the landscape of conversation – and ultimately legislation – we must educate the faithful that those of us without deities are curious minds. We like that science is not always exact. We like the constant study of our universe, and we also like the constant study of life. We are amazed with the beauty of nature and the power of the stars as much as the next person. We would just like to see people question more and believe less. If we can accomplish that, we will have restored civil discourse and will ultimately return us to a place where we can find some common ground.



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 Jun 21 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Salida Jun 13 at 6:30 pm](#) or [Stockton Jun 27 at 6pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

June 4, 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!

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Family Time By Rick Tracewell

The lack of proper science education in the religious home can completely derail a child's development into a rational adult in a scientific world.

A woman who went to Christian schools until she switched to public high school: "I felt completely stupid in science and biology class. I was taught that everything could be explained in the bible. It was a terrible conflict and my parents couldn't give me a good explanation."



Sobering statistics about how America - with the largest (by far) Christian population - ranks in math and science education among developed countries (as of 2012): 30th in mathematics (24th in 2009) and 23rd in science (19th in 2009)...see a pattern?

Also disconcerting is that countries with less religious influence are closing prisons while the U.S. is over capacity. There *IS* a correlation here.



The U.S. spends more per student to no avail: even the Slovak Republic spends an average of \$53,000 (USD) per student while the U.S. spends \$115,000.

There is a serious disconnect in America between reality and fantasy and it's quite literally creating the "dumbing down of America." We are in a global economy and statistics clearly show that we are sliding backward, not marching forward. If we don't stand up and stop this madness (and it is madness - mass delusion), we will not be able to compete with ANY other nations economically. What kind of future does that leave our children and grandchildren?

The separation of church and state goes well beyond government. It would allow society to only teach children factual science. We'll just have to hope that it gets through to their logical brain and help them separate religious dogma from real life. Also, it's really hard to type with your fingers crossed... in case you were wondering.



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 @ Sacramento State University (CSUS)	CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought.	Y		<u>Y</u>	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	<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

Highway Cleanup - 2 to choose from

Butte County Atheists: Saturday, June 7, 8:00am - 10:00am. Hwy 99 at Nelson Rd, Chico. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sacramento Atheists: Sat, June 21, 9:00am - 11:15am. Hwy 99, Sacramento, CA at Elkhorn Blvd Park and Ride. [Click here](#) for details.



Skeptics in the Pub

Sacramento

Hoppy Brewing Co.
6300 Folsom Blvd
Jun 27, 6:30pm

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Stockton

Valley Brewing Co.
157 W Adams St
Jun 20, 6:30pm

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Wine and NOSH

Saturday, June 21
7:00pm - 11:00pm

A loose affiliation of drinkers and eaters focusing on wine and hors d'oeuvres, who meet monthly at alternating residences for fun and laughs.

Bring a bottle of your favorite wine and we will supply the hors d'oeuvres.

[Details and location here.](#)

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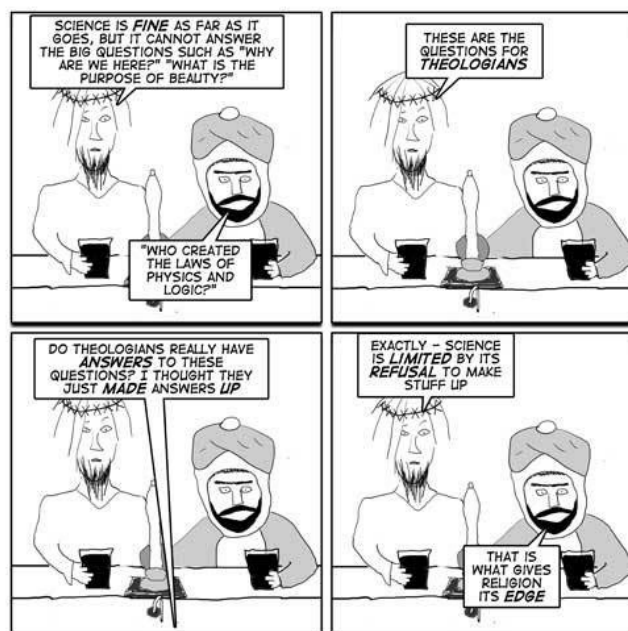
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By Sara Lone

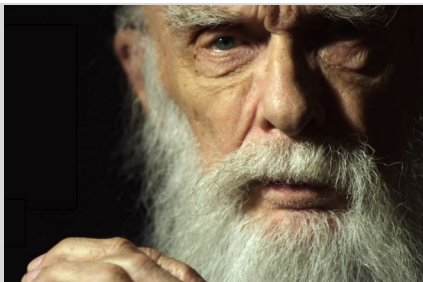
I used to tell fellow classmates, "I'm not *in* to science..." while also telling them, "because I'm not good at it." How did that even happen? How can you be bad at science? I find myself asking... myself. I see Facebook posts all the time, you know those "I friggen love science" memes, but I feel like sciencers get a really bad wrap. Like Bill Nye! He's slammed on "news" shows like FOX for saying humans play a role in global climate change... Apparently, this is somehow offensive to their beliefs?... I guess that makes sense - if your perfect man in the sky can't even control the weather, what the heck makes you think he's 1) real, or 2) a personal, omnipotent, omniscient being dedicated to you and your prayers? Fun fact: in 1998 a survey of scientists from the National Academy of Sciences showed: 72.2% had no belief/religion and 20.8% expressed doubt or agnosticism*. That's 93%!! No wonder religious people hate science... Part of me doesn't really care about the crazies wanting to believe in some higher power. I'm of the mindset that you can do whatever you want as long as it's not hurting me - I know, I'm a total Millennial - the biggest problem we face, as a community of awesome non-believers, are the crazies working their way into public schools and public health. Public schools are always getting pressured to teach "intelligent design" as a legitimate theory and (I'm guessing here) probably thousands or millions of parents are choosing NOT to vaccinate their kids, snubbing their nose to all doctors and scientists! Clearly, they don't science = this is a problem. We all need to science! I'm calling for us <30s to promote science because it's the only way our community and species can continue. Now, I science! Do you science? Go forth, my fellow sciencers, and hypothesize.

*Source: Larson, Edward J.; Larry Witham (1998). "Leading scientists still reject God". *Nature* (Macmillan Publishers Ltd.) **394** (6691): 313-4.

Contact Sara at
Under30@sacramentoreason.org.
#under30nones



© jesusandmo.net



See the James Randi Film - "An Honest Liar" Limited Screening in SF: June 7th, 15th, or 17th

James Randi is one of our most important heroes of the skeptical movement. [More details here.](#) [Buy Tickets here.](#)

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Blasphemy Brunches

Every 3rd Sunday.
No RSVP necessary.

Rocklin, 9:30am

Mel's Diner
6708 Lonetree Blvd
Rocklin, CA
Walk straight past
the cash register into
the side room. Every-
one is always wel-
come.

[Details here.](#)

Dixon/Vacaville

10:30am - 1:30pm
IHOP Restaurant
1435 Ary Lane, Dix-
on. Look for the
happy group! Every-
one is always wel-
come.

[Details here.](#)

Arden/Arcade

11am - 2pm
Original Mel's Diner
565 Howe Ave
Walk around to the
side room located
on the street side.
Everyone is always
welcome!

[Details here.](#)

**Start one in your
area. [We'll help!](#)**

Secular Family Day at Science Museum, Lodi

Stockton Area - June 21, 2pm - 4pm

World of Wonders Science Museum, 2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi

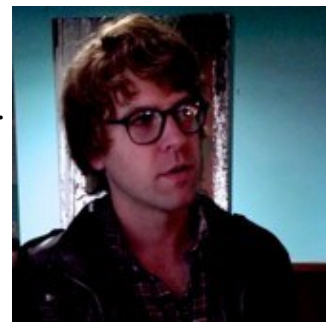
An educational hands-on science museum located in Historical downtown Lodi, California. The mission of the World of Wonders Science Museum is to offer hands-on science-based exhibits and programs to stimulate discovery for all ages. The entrance fee is \$6 for adults \$4 for kids. This is always a fun place. I will try to have a SAAF sign or shirt so you can find our group. Hope to see everyone there.

[Map here.](#) ... [Details here](#)

Local Atheist Radio Show Gets Notable Interview!

Out of Davis! Who knew???

An American Atheist is a radio show and blog highlighting news and topics relevant to atheists and religious criticism. We encourage free thought and enjoy inviting our listeners onto the program to have their say. Our show is li-
censed under the Creative Commons and is available for
rebroadcasting, remixing and anything else you'd like.
We're not for profit. [Check out our podcast](#) and thanks
for listening!



Christopher Thielen, creator.

The show began in 2010 as a public affairs program on KDVS 90.3fm in the Da-
vis/Sacramento area and spread online. An American Atheist continues to air
on KDVS in certain seasons and is freely licensed to be rebroadcast on other
stations. While listenership is strongly concentrated in Northern California, its
thousands of listeners tune in from all around the world.

We welcome feedback and suggestions and enjoy bringing radio-friendly, willing
listeners on the air from time to time.

The latest episode and our entire catalog can be streamed or downloaded for
free from our website at anamericanatheist.org or via iTunes or Stitcher Radio.
No sign ups are necessary and no advertising will be presented: it's free, una-
dulterated critical thought from an atheist perspective.

Hear the current episode with the Supreme Court plaintiff in the Greece case
that just opened the door for prayer before government meetings. Hear the
interview at [this link.](#)



Forgetting God

By Aaron Asbury

On June 29 my wife, children, and I will be walking in the San Francisco Pride parade. Joining thousands of other participants, we'll show our support for fellow human beings who face discrimination from a vast population of this country, and the world. Discrimination primarily based on religious conviction which, once again, posits itself above such ludicrous beliefs like "biology," "psychology" and...

gasp... the dreaded "SCIENCE". Big boats with two of every species of animal - TRUTH! Resurrection of friends dead for days - YOU

KNOW IT! Mud on your eyes makes you see again - HALLELUJAH! A woman with multiple genetic factors contributing to her sexual preference for other women - LIES! SIN! DEVIL STUFF!!!

Ignorance... le sigh.

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." - Issac Asimov. Scientific enlightenment is very slowly wiping out ignorance, but it's an uphill battle against people who are afraid what the truth might be. As a youth in a southern baptist church (in southern Georgia no less) there was little exposure to homosexuality. However, when it did come up, there was equal measure ridicule and damnation. That was 20 years ago, and there are those who still attend and, unfortunately, still think the same. Ridicule and damnation. Shame and sin. Tenets for promotion of religious adherence. There is no excuse, in this day, to push aside science fact in favor of superstitious stupidity. It hurts us all, especially those whose lives it trivializes and condemns.

So, I'll stand and walk the streets of San Francisco with men and women I don't know, in defense and recognition of a sexual orientation I don't share, because it's the right thing to do. Because love, equality, morality, and science. No god required.

Aaron writes a blog of the same title, musing on his life after god, at www.forgettinggod.com



Two Local Therapists Join The Secular Project

Florence Soares-Dabalos was just accepted to the Secular Therapist Project. She has 17 years experience in counseling, and promises to never tell you to "pray about it"! Her Next Event: Breakfast Seminar "Finding Our Voices" - Helping women find their inner strength. Includes buffet Mexican breakfast plus interactive workshop and materials. July 12. More information about the seminar, and about this new Secular Therapist Project counselor are at her [website here](http://www.florencecmft.com). Feel free to email Florence with any questions at [flor-ence \(at\) florencecmft.com](mailto:flor-ence@florencecmft.com).



Matt Williams has also just been accepted to the Secular Therapist Project. He specializes in depression and trauma. "I like working with formerly religious people who need help rewriting the rhetoric they have long thought about themselves." Matt's website has a good article titled, "The Five Worst Things You Can Do When You're Depressed" and another called "Two Rules." Those, and other tools, are available on his [website here](http://www.mattcounselingcapcity.com). Feel free to email Matt with any questions at [matt \(at\) counselingcapcity.com](mailto:matt@counselingcapcity.com).



To learn more about The Secular Therapist Project, click [this link](#).

Listen Up! By Cleo Kocol

At various times in my childhood, we lived without things we take for granted today, the wonderful scientific achievements that have given us "the good life." But during those Great Depression days, we did have one thing. We were free of religion. I knew that some people attended church, but no one in my family did. There was no outside coercion that I was aware of. That is changing today.

It started in Greece, New York. The town fathers, and perhaps town mothers, started public meetings with a prayer. For nine years the prayers centered on "Jesus Christ, our Lord." The leaders did not reach out to Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus or other sects, but started meetings with Christian prayers. The case went to the Supreme Court. The attorneys for "our side" thought it would be a slam dunk.

The Supreme Court said the prayers were primarily ceremonial, and nothing was wrong about community meetings, councils, neighborhood organizations beginning with prayer. In fact, two justices even said that for them, coercion had to be "Active." It doesn't take a nuclear scientist to decipher that message. How long before people are targeted for not bowing their heads, or not standing when instructed by a prayer leader, or for not repeating the "under god" part of the pledge of allegiance? The handwriting is on the wall. This latest horror is in concert with the climate and evolution deniers.

We must not run scared. Start a petition to impeach Chief Justice John Roberts? Perhaps. Pretend it hasn't happened? Absolutely not! We must continue to point out the hypocrisy and greed and unconstitutional stance the Supreme Court took. Supporters of that type of thinking are still a minority, population-wise. But they are linked with the corporations, Wall Street and Banker crowd. We must be vigilant.



Online Secular Courses

Online courses during June about secularism, free will, and diversity have been announced at secularactivism.org. Only \$59 for a one month course, accessible 24/7, on your own schedule.

Visit secularactivism.org to register now for June's online courses:

[The Science and Philosophy of Free Will](#) – with Richard Carrier

[Sexual and Gender Diversity](#) – Julia Hemphill with Greta Christina

Sean Faircloth on [Defending Secular Government: Strategies for Success](#)

[God's Not Dead? How an Unscripted Philosopher can Disprove God](#) - by Dan Fincke

[The Founding Fathers and Religion](#) – Myron Jackson with Sean Faircloth

[Does Morality Need God? A Christian \(Dr. Baggett\) and an Atheist \(Dr. Shook\) Debate](#)



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Issue Theme: Science vs. Religion

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MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

The relationship between religion and government is constantly a subject of heated discussion for all Americans. Religion and government are intertwined in government. All decisions, from every level of government, have religious implications. This guide provides a model secular policy guide for the federal government, as well as the requirements of federal laws and state constitutions to guide all decisions. This guide provides background and policy recommendations on a variety of issues, from religious freedom to the separation of church and state, and offers a model secular policy guide for all levels of government.



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

A couple months back I wrote on *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, the Supreme Court case which centered on whether prayers and invocations held before government town hall meetings violated the Establishment Clause. Recently the Supreme Court, by the five-four split commonly encountered these days, upheld the prayers as consistent with the requirements of the Constitution. The ruling, per Justice Kennedy, states that such prayers are constitutional so long as they do not condemn people of other faiths, and equal opportunity to give a prayer is afforded to people of all faiths, or no faith.

The secular community naturally laments this decision, though this outcome was predicted by many legal scholars given the precedent established in *Marsh v. Chambers*, where Chief Justice Burger upheld such prayers at legislative sessions in the 1970s. That said, it may be best for us to take advantage of the silver lining the opinion has, which is the nondiscrimination principle.

In short, while we would rather live in a United States where such prayers were simply banned, we should instead take full advantage of the opportunity to be able to give invocations of our own, whether you are atheist, agnostic, Wiccan, Satanist, Pastafarian, or whatever religious denomination you identify yourself under. Already the Town of Greece is being bombarded by people all over the country who wish to give prayers from their own faith traditions that are outside Christianity (which was virtually the only types of prayers given at the town hall meetings in the past), and there is a report that a Satanist wishes to give an invocation at a similar town meeting in Florida. Perhaps when cities and towns see the slippery slope they have opened themselves up to, they will finally realize why the Wall of Separation is so important to maintain.

These statements are opinions of Arash Khosrowshahi, Attorney at Law, not to be construed as creating an attorney-client relationship, nor legal advice. Provided for educational purposes only.

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.



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](#).

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Sacramento Reason

California Dept. of Bad Bills By Tom Manger

Last month we reported on two bills that we opposed. The first bill, AB 1934 - Corporation Sole, has died in committee and has no hope of being passed this year. This bill would have made it easier for large hierarchical religious organizations to hide assets. (Catholic Diocese throughout the U.S. have been busy re-arranging ownership of assets in recent years.) To defeat this bill we submitted a position paper to committee, met in person with the legislator's office and attended a Judicial Committee hearing to testify against this bill. We're happy to see it defeated.

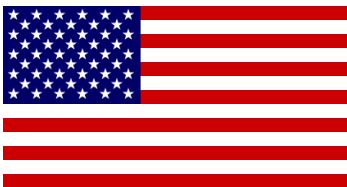
The second bill we mentioned last month, SB 978, passed the state senate and is being scheduled for hearing by assembly committees. We are opposing this bill because it opens a loophole that would potentially allow religious hospitals to further restrict a rape victim's access to the full array of medical options - by referring them to Rape Crisis Centers that are run by affiliated religious organizations. When we first met in person with Senator De Saulnier and pointed out this issue, he was completely unaware of the loophole. However, he is a secularist who fully supports a woman's access to all legally available medical options for reproductive healthcare. So, his office has been helpful in working to close the loophole.

About a dozen different organizations have been contacted regarding this loophole. Among these groups are MergerWatch, ACLU, NARAL, California Hospital Association and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (the sponsor of this bill). After much research and conversation, it appears that there are other safeguards in our laws that will ensure rape victims will not have their healthcare options restricted. For this bill we will maintain our Oppose Unless Amended position until we are able to further dig into the various laws upholding a woman's unrestricted access to legally available healthcare options. Our preference is that this bill explicitly close the loophole rather than rely on other code sections to do so.

We are happy to see sectarian bills treated appropriately. But, we will remain vigilant since the forces pushing these sectarian bills are relentless. Next month we hope to spend some ink discussing current bills that remove religious bias and which we actively support.

Find out more about the [Secular Coalition for California](#), our [Key Issues](#), and be sure to [subscribe to Action Alerts](#). You can also [Like us on Facebook](#). Email us with any questions - california@secular.org.





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

PO Box 15182
Sacramento, CA
95851-0182

E-mail:
admin@sacramentoreason.org
Judy Saint, Editor
Photographer, Matt Martin

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New Global Secular Council - It's About Time!

Wallowing In Ignorance Is Wasteful

In 1995 our nation's Congress took a wrong turn away from the path of scientific enlightenment.



**GLOBAL
SECULAR
COUNCIL**

In this year our Congress - led by Newt Gingrich - de-funded The Office of Technology Assessment which had existed since 1972 to provide our nation's leaders with non-partisan, objective and authoritative analysis of complex scientific and technical issues. This agency produced reports and studies for our legislators so as to better guide them in making important decisions for our nation.

Duplication of effort and wastefulness were given as reasons for shutting down this agency. But, many saw this as a thinly veiled attempt by the newly emerged Religious Right to silence opposing world views.

In an attempt to get our Congress back on the path towards scientific enlightenment, the Secular Coalition for America has worked with other groups to start the Global Secular Council, a new private agency that promotes evidence-based resources for legislators. The goal is to push back against the purveyors of junk science who have been given credence in the intervening years.

Visit these links for more information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_Technology_Assessment

<http://www.secularcouncil.org>

Submitted by Tom Manger

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/>

