

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 7

Issue Theme: Bait and Switch

July 2014

Jaclyn Glenn August 3

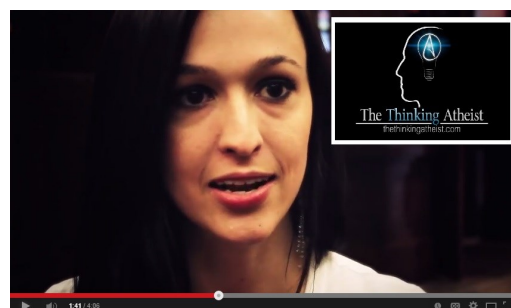
“Making Atheism a Positive Thing”

With over 200,000 subscribers to her YouTube channel, come hear Jaclyn Glenn talk about atheism in person! She will show you ways to de-stigmatize the word, and help you learn how to make atheism a positive thing in your life! She begins her discussion with her journey out of childhood indoctrination and ends with her rise to YouTube stardom, giving straight talk all along the way helping you deal with relatives, co-workers or even strangers, despite your possible hesitation or incomplete readiness. She helps us all cope in this society as atheists, and helps some of those on the fence get past their fear. You'll be glad you came! Bring some friends! Light snack lunch included free!

Visit her popular YouTube channel at [this link](#).



Watch Jaclyn's interview with Richard Dawkins at [this link](#).



Hear Jaclyn's responses in an interview by The Thinking Atheist at [this link](#).

**August 3, 12:00 pm light snacks and mingle; 1:00 pm presentation
At the Reason Center!**

1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, CA.

Take Cal Expo exit west, Right at Tribute Rd, Right at the silver fire hydrant with the green top (by the Hwy 160 on ramp). Reason Center is in the left rear of this complex. Plenty of parking. [Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

This event is part of the AOF Speaker Series.

**Reason
Center**



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>



Before: Ask and ye shall receive.

After: God said no. He has a better plan for you.

Before: God is love.

After: You are a sinner, eternal torture unless you worship this abuser.

Before: Streets of gold, big banquets.

After: No, that's after you die.

Before: We don't judge you.

After: We judge you.

Promise one thing, deliver something else. The old "Bait and Switch"! From a salesman, yes, but from a religion? **REALLY?**

Freethought Dinner Social

Sushi Elite

Thursday, July 17,
at 6:00 p.m.
4740 Natomas Blvd
[Map here.](#)

Known for good beer and wine! Please join us for conversation and good food.

[Details here.](#)

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Dear Social I.Q. Lady,

I can't understand how religious people can believe in creationism yet also understand evolution. It doesn't make any sense to me. -Confused

Dear Confused,

Most people have moments of cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance is caused when there's an inconsistency between one's attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors and any incoming (new) information. Attitudes are the feelings one has about something and perceptions are how a person views something. So if someone has been brought up to believe a god created the universe and everything in it, including humans, in only six days, then learns about science and evolution, it's going to naturally create "cognitive dissonance".

There's a theory called "Consistency Theory" which is a tension relieving theory. This theory has four assumptions:

1. Humans strive for psychological consistency between attitudes, beliefs, and behavior.
2. We are affected by and respond to the environment.
3. We are driven to reduce or eliminate psychological tension.
4. We modify our attitudes/beliefs/behaviors to rebalance.

It's really difficult to entertain two completely different points of view simultaneously. It creates tension, so much so that the person must strive for some sort of mental balance. In the case of a creationist, they have to create more "stories" to somehow shore up their beliefs. Some might believe that "a day" in the Bible refers to "a billion years" in order to reduce their psychological tension. We do this in little ways all the time. For example, when we eat something we know isn't good for us, we justify it by saying "it's just a little bit" or "just this one time".

The good news is this: most people who experience cognitive dissonance with their religious beliefs will eventually change their mind with enough contradictory evidence. We just have to keep getting the evidence out there.

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

Atheists at Gay Pride Parade

Plans for next year include having every local free-thinking group represented IN the parade, not just on the sidelines. This colorful group held their own aside the multitude of churches marching in this year's Pride Parade. But, imagine no religion...





Ancient Christian Study Group - July 20, 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.

Sunday Assembly Planning Group

July 13, 4:00 pm

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A

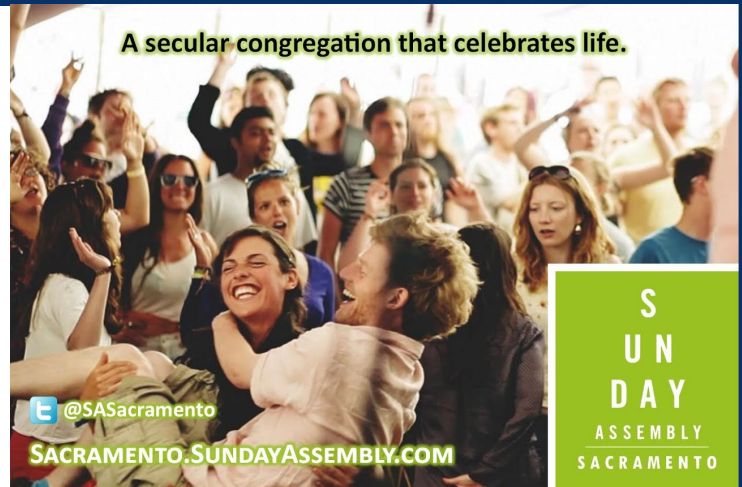
For those interested in launching our Sunday Assembly please join us for one of our volunteer planning meetings.

We'll brainstorm ideas, discuss what Sunday Assembly should be about, and start to build the plan for our September launch!

Even if you can't join us this time, please keep checking the meetup calendar for details of more meetings, if you're interested in helping us out in the coming months -- and let us know if you have any special skills or talents or free time to chip in.

Also, we've planned a **trip to San Jose** the same morning, leaving at 8:30 am, to check out their Sunday Assembly, returning in time for our 4:00 planning meeting here in Sacramento. Join us!

[Click here for details](#). **See you soon -- Celebrate life!**



Save the Date for Reason Center's Grand Opening Celebration

July 31, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A, Sacramento

Please save the date for Reason Center's Grand Opening Celebration. We expect to fill up quickly, so don't wait to reserve your free tickets at ReasonCenter.com, or by [clicking this link](#).

You can support Reason Center by making a **one-time donation 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. Monthly donations begin at \$4/month.

Visit ReasonCenter.com to find out more, and don't forget to [sign up for our e-newsletter](#).

Reason
Center



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

Jul 12 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)

Jul 20 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)

Jul 20 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. Or, start your own!

Book Clubs

Sacramento "Sea of Faith"

Jul 21, 6:30 pm
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Bl
[Details here.](#)

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

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Let's Go Hiking - Two to Choose From!

Lock Leven, Hampshire Rocks Road Trailhead, Nevada City

July 19, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

July 26, 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location to be determined. Being planned by Humanist Hikers in Stockton area. [Details here](#)



Secular Family Day

Pixie Woods Park in Stockton

Saturday, July 19, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

3121 Monte Diablo Ave, Stockton [Map here.](#)

[Meetup Details here](#)

Get ready for some fun! Pixie Woods is a fairyland with lots of playgrounds and attractions for the littles including a train, paddle-wheel boat, and carousel. There is also a splash park so you may want to bring a change of clothes. Admission is \$4 per person over the age of 2 with additional cost for some of the attractions. I don't think credit/debit is accepted. See the website for further details. We will be waiting in front of the ticket window until 2:15. Come join us! [Pixie Woods site.](#)



Quilts at the Crocker

Sunday, July 20, 9:30 AM

Crocker Art Museum

216 O St, Sacramento

The Third Sunday of every month is a 'pay what you want' day at the Crocker Museum. I'd like any fabric/quilt/artists to get together for the Sunday in July and go see this amazing quilt show they have.

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



Upcoming Events

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20 [Blasphemy Brunch, Rocklin](#)
20 [Blasphemy Brunch, Dixon/Vcville](#)
20 [Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcde](#)
20 [Coffee Klatch, Modesto](#)
20 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
20 [Freethought Movie Night, Lodi](#)
21 [Book Club](#)
23 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
25 [Game Night and Pool Party Stockton](#)
25 [Sac Skeptics in the Pub](#)
25 [Dinner and Karaoke, Modesto](#)
26 [Humanist Hikers](#)
27 [Brunch and Atheism in Turlock](#)
28 [Sirens Satyrs of Sharp crafts Manteca](#)
30 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
Aug 1 [Dinner Wine and Art, Lodi](#)
Aug 3 ["Making Atheism a Positive Thing"](#)

Save The Date

Sept 28 - First Sunday Assembly in RC

Camp Quest By David Diskin

This is a record-breaking year for us, with 179 registered campers. Our fundraising efforts have been phenomenal too – we've met the needs of every family that has requested financial aid... over \$20,000 in camperships!



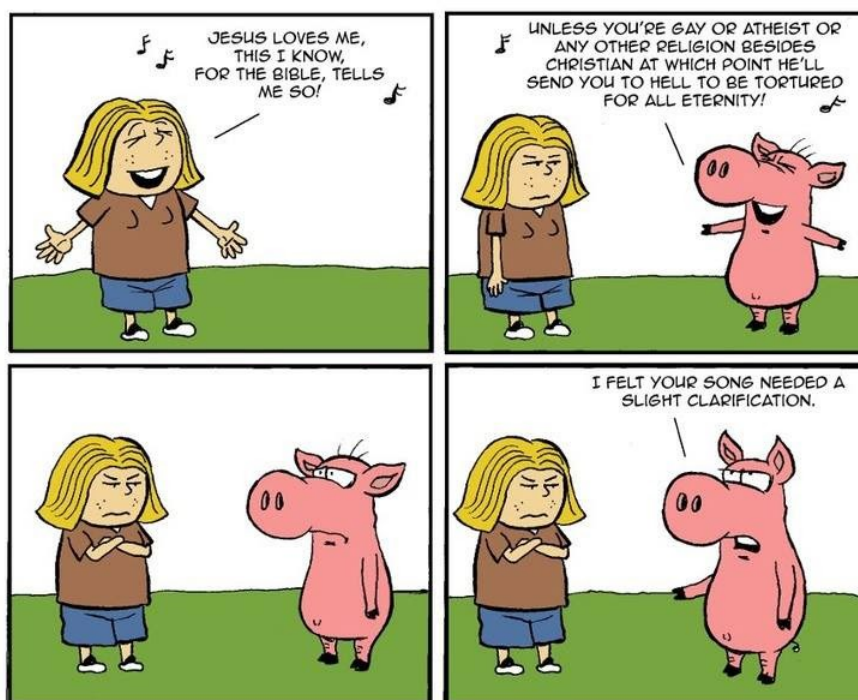
You can help us grow even more.

- We want to expand to a third location in California, most likely in the South Bay Area, Santa Cruz, or San Luis Obispo.
- We want to hire a part (or full) time employee to relieve some of our dedicated volunteers with their daily tasks so they can focus on longer-term projects.
- We want to extend our program with more science and outdoor adventures, giving children an experience they cannot get anywhere else .

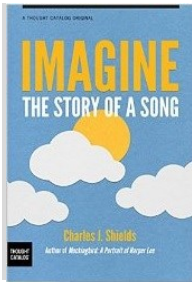
Please click here to make a tax deductible [one-time donation](#).

Or click here to make a tax deductible [recurring, monthly donation](#).

See our website here: <http://west.campquest.org/>



thedtheistpig.com



“Imagine No Religion” - Story Behind the Song

[Buy Here from Amazon](#) The life story of one of the most iconic songs ever written: John Lennon's "Imagine". Charles J. Shields traces the song's origins--from the fire-bombing of Yoko Ono's youth to the violent death of Lennon's mother, from post-Ed Sullivan skepticism to the Bed-Ins of 1969. If music can change the world, "Imagine" came as close as any song might. This is its story.



Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp Crafts Group

**Monday
July 14
6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Location available at [the website](#).

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.](#)

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Activist Corner

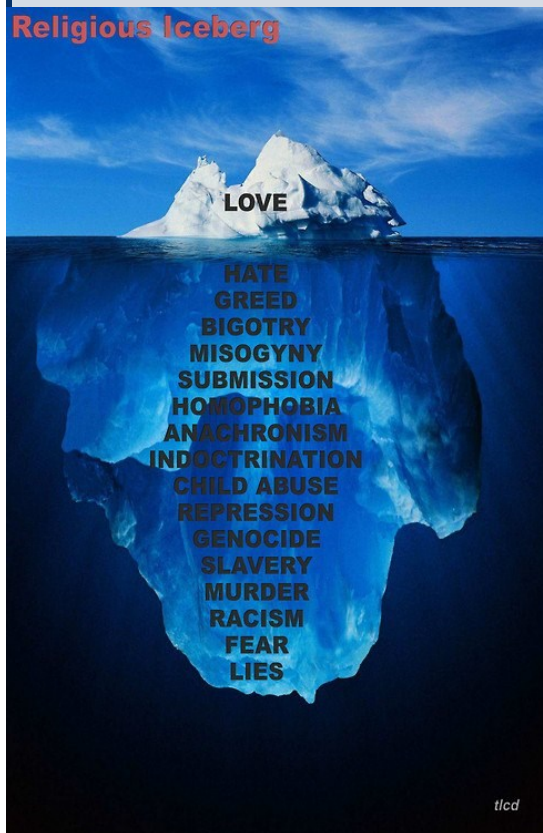
By Julie Wedge

What is it with the Christians in the good old USofA. Their savior preaches love and understanding. For crying out loud the man hung out with 12 guys and a hooker most of his day. He didn't seem like the kind of guy to turn his back on the poor, the dying, the elderly or especially the children. I have read that book and I remember it being pretty clear in the Beatitudes that we were supposed to take care of each other. How has cognitive dissonance set in so profoundly?

We see budgets presented that are blatantly against the very word and spirit of their good book. Passed with fervor among the bigoted are things like massive cuts in our social safety net, cuts in school lunch programs for the financially disadvantaged, and even the full disregard for our veterans health and wellness.

We are told the country was founded on Christian values. We are told Christians believe in a loving, forgiving god. Why then are there so many things our government is doing that go completely against the teachings of their Christ?

Religious Iceberg



I believe it is high time we started demanding the separation of church and state in ways we never thought possible. If we can somehow get people to remove themselves from the hate in that good book, would they see the folly of passing prayer before public meetings but excluding a faithful contingent they do not understand or agree with?

It is time to separate the wheat from the chaff. It is time to point out the hypocrisy. It is time to live unashamed and unafraid. Taking a cue from this Pride Month we should encourage our own friends and family to come out. And come November, we should vote our nontheistic values.

Pass it on.

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 Jul 19 at 7:00 pm](#) or [Stockton Jul 25 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Salida Jul 11 at 6:30 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

Jul 2 at 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

Everyone is invited to continue to stay as long as you like. Buy some great drinks and snacks, and make some new friends! \$1 donation.
[Details here.](#)

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Issue Theme: Bait and Switch

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Family Time By Rick Tracewell

It's no secret that religion thrives on sales. Without new sales, religion would wither and die. Want eternal salvation and a giant pink eraser (sanctioned by god!) to expunge your wrongdoings from your official record? Sign here! Oh, and you promise to give the church at least 10% of your income. Tossing a few crisp \$20 bills into the basket each Sunday wouldn't hurt your heavenly chances, either.



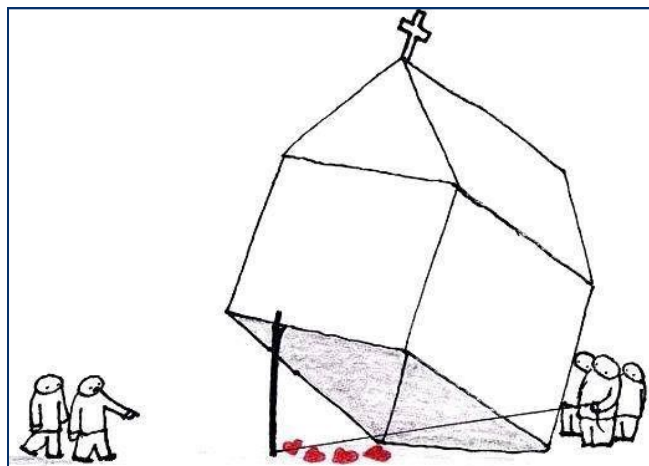
This is in the eye of the beholder, of course. As outsiders, we can clearly see how damaging religion can be to an individual, but once they've "got you", it's nearly impossible to gain perspective. The indoctrinated are happy in religion – because religion tells you you are happy...heck, it says so right in their official guide book!

It's no coincidence that the "sales forces" are readily available and conveniently found around people at their weakest points in life - prisons, rehab centers, hospitals, abortion clinics, juvenile detention facilities, etc.

So how do we protect our children from falling for a religious sales pitch – especially when they are down and seeking answers? It's simple. Continue raising your children to use logic and reason to get around in life. Make sure they see through false claims of hope and salvation from a human-made doctrine.

Build their self-esteem to the point that they trust their **own** reasoning skills. Teach personal responsibility so they know that they have the power **within** to make difficult life decisions - there is no magic potion to ensure the life they want.

There may be a little bit of shock to learn that the world doesn't owe them anything, but you will empower them in the long run and they will never be known as a whiny adult or a hypocrite.



"Oh look! There's some unconditional love!"

Local Groups to Visit or Join

Visit the Reason Center for more friendly information about our freethinking community and events. [1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A](#)

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
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>	ca.secular.org
Secular Student Alliance @ Sacramento State University (CSUS)	CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought.	Y		<u>Y</u>	csusaso.wordpress.com
Sierra 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

Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason snuck into the Reason Center for a pre-Grand Opening meeting. Representatives from local freethought groups gathered to discuss mutual collaboration and share stories and plans for the region's community of reason. Sacramento has received national recognition for how our freethinking groups are working together. You can be proud.



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Share a brew, maybe some bites to eat. Always friendly folks and talk.

Sacramento
Friday, July 25
6:30 pm
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)

Stockton
Friday, July 18
6:30 - 11:00 pm
Valley Brewing Co
157 W Adams St
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)



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Issue Theme: Bait and Switch

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By Sara Lone

Drive-in church services; one of the more recent tactics churches are using to make themselves more appealing. You literally drive up to a church service in your car and some preacher man stands out on a pulpit and preaches to you. Reminds me of the good old days... in the 18th century there were lots of different types of Christianity floating around our young blushing America. Ripe pickins for preacher men, and they took advantage of the times and naivety of the people by carrying a traveling pulpit and setting it up in whatever town they were in to preach a message of either love and happiness or hellfire and damnation — shortly after they were done bellowing their “truth”, they would head on to the next town to convert some poor, unfortunate, soul-searching mortals. I think the idea was: “if they can’t come to us, we’ll go to them!” Clearly, times have changed and churches need a new motto... maybe, “if we build it, they will come”?

Whatever the case, drive-in churches are a bait and switch move — just like the 18th century traveling preacher! They reel you in with something, sometimes it’s a preacher scaring the living daylights out of you with hellfire and damnation, other times it’s a nice sweet relaxing ride in the car to a lovely little sermon where we all eat our popcorn and... wait, what? Unfortunately guys, the “wait, what?” doesn’t come for most people and they’re hook-line-and-sinker right in. Take your friendly neighborhood Scientologists for example. The 62-year winners of the bait and switch awards! Congrats! You’ll get your award in the next life! I promise. Really.

If you want to learn more about their tactics, read *Inside Scientology*... and keep the light on at night.

Contact Sara at Under30@sacramentoreason.org. #under30nones

Start Your Own Blasphemy Brunch!

Enjoy going out for breakfast with like-minded friends, new and old.? If you don’t see a Blasphemy Breakfast or Brunch in your area, start one! We can help! All you need is a restaurant and an appetite. No rules. No topics. Just get together some Sunday morning. We’ll show you how to make it a calendar item so others can join you. Try it. [Let us help](#). Email admin@sacramentoreason.org for more information.





**David
Fitzgerald in
Manteca**
“Violence, Morality and Sex in the Bible”

July 16, 8:00 pm
Manteca Library
320 W Center St
Manteca

Is every sperm
sacred? Was Paul
gay? Where are
MY concubines?

San Francisco author David Fitzgerald asks these and other important Biblical morality questions in this hard-hitting and hilarious look at the Bible.

... Spoiler: It's even more twisted than you already thought.

(Images and language may not be suitable for all audiences.)

FREE EVENT
Donations appreciated.

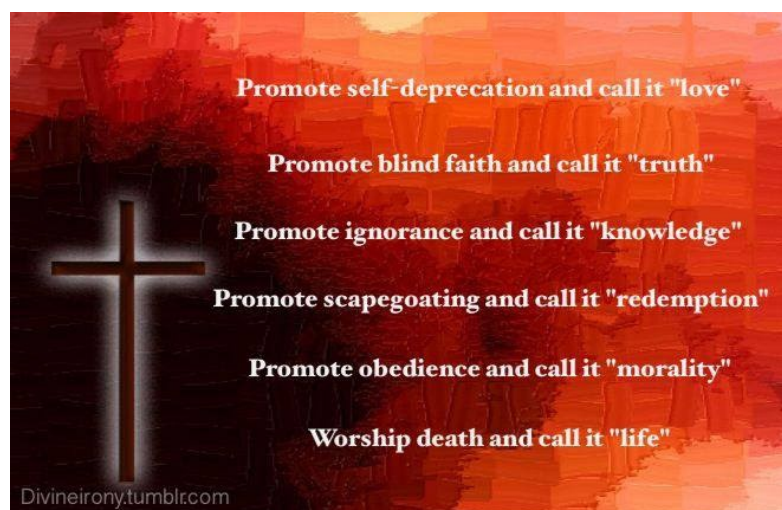
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)

Listen Up! By Cleo Kocol

My family had never believed in a supernatural being. When I was seven my friend, Betty, suggested I go to summer church school with her. Otherwise we wouldn't be able to see one another for two weeks. I had no idea what church school would be like, but I really liked being Betty's best friend. So I begged until Mother relented. "You'll probably hear a lot of strange talk," she added. I didn't hear anything I was aware of. We learned about the poor children of Mexico and were told how lucky we were. Compared to the pictures I saw, I agreed. The rest of the time we made puppets and did things with paper, crayons, and glue.

When the two weeks ended, Betty's mother said, "Didn't you have fun!" "Oh, yes," I replied. "Then you'll want to go to Sunday school with Betty." I never went. I loved Sundays at home, adults talking and explaining. Kids ran races and played ball with Dad, helped Mother cook, and all of us played card and board games together.

Monday afternoon I ran over to Betty's house. Her mother told me she couldn't play. It was the beginning of the end of our friendship. When school started Betty had a new best friend, one who went to church with her. It was my first encounter with bait and switch. Now I call it propaganda and usually see it coming.



Forgetting God

By Aaron Asbury

The other afternoon my home was visited by some nice LDS gentlemen. After telling them nicely I was an atheist and not interested, they spotted my young daughters peeking out of the window and proceeded to try to appeal to my parental side. "What about your children?" they said. "Don't you care for their souls?" they said. "It is my hope they will learn to rely on logic and skepticism rather than fairy tales," I responded, and thanked them for their concern before closing the door. Later that night I began to wonder, how many people with doubts about their faith make the choice to find a church, or stay going, to keep from "wronging" their children by not doing so? I can honestly say that I've had that thought more than once. But at those times I remind myself why I've chosen to stay away: "Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so..." I grew up being told, and believing, that I had only to open my Bible to find an answer for my questions. That I could trust it to guide me and calm my fears... to give me absolute truth. What truth is there to be found in a source that eschews all other knowledge and history as second best or, worse, blasphemy? Children deserve to acquire and practice the building blocks of critical thinking and logic, seeing how they work in the real world, before being dogpiled by religious dogma. I won't let the opportunity and responsibility of it pass me by. LDS, you can come back and talk to me anytime, but you won't buy my acceptance out of parental guilt. I am working hard to give my children the tools to live a more fulfilled life... no god required.



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

Overheard - True Stories

"So I was playing Payday 2 (a shooter video game) online with a random stranger, like I do, when he said this out loud, "I can deal with cursing, but just no blasphemy, please."

And when I said, "What?" he repeated it.

Confused by the out-of-nowhere nature of this request (I hadn't said anything blasphemous for like an hour - that's a long time for me), I responded with, "I can give that a shot, but no promises."

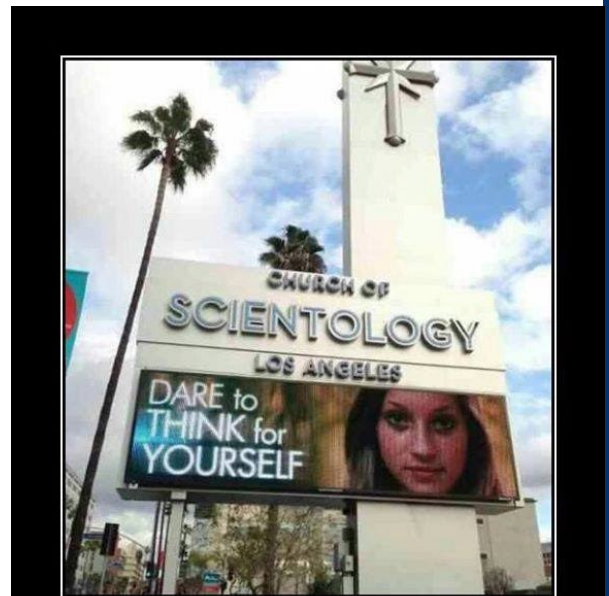
With that, the guy left.

We were playing a game that requires graphic violence against law enforcement for a half an hour with no sign of this man's delicate sensibilities...

... but when alerted that I could conceivably use his favorite deity's name in a way he wouldn't appreciate, the guy freaks out and leaves immediately.

The sensitivity some people display in these situations seems forced, and is certainly not anything I'd mistake for respectful."

-- Name withheld for privacy



How long before "Think for Yourself" becomes "Think like Us"?

Legal Watch

By Arash Khosrowshahi

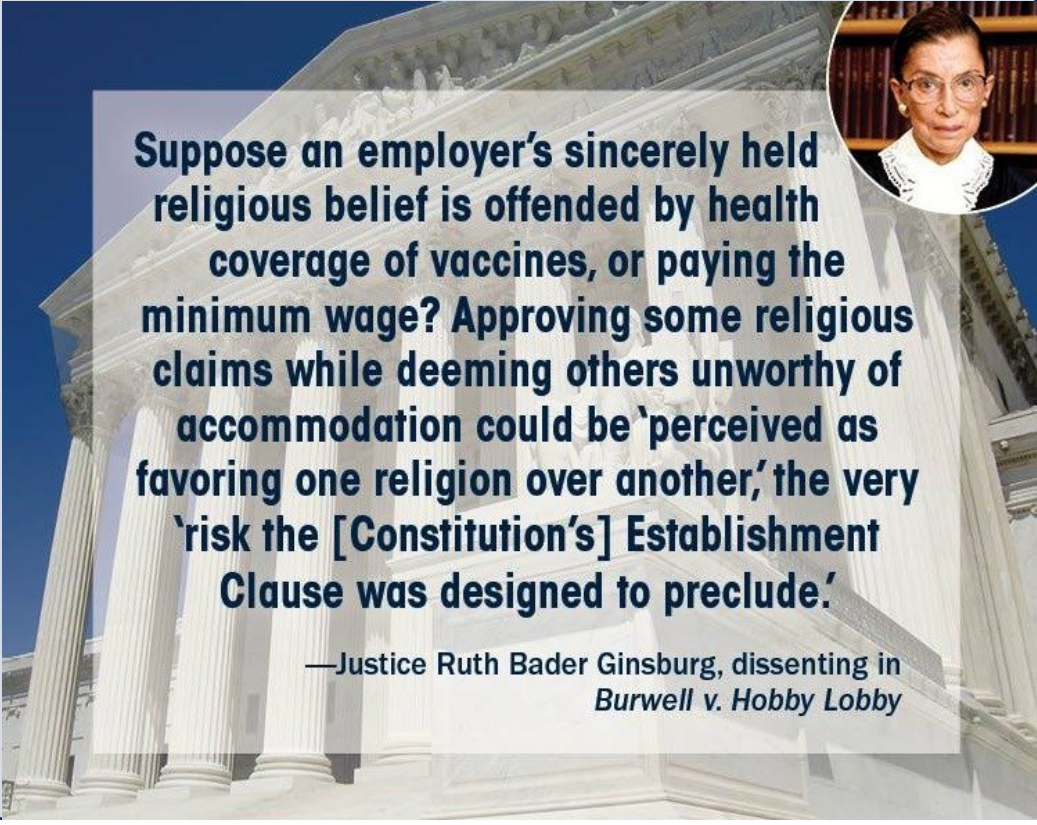
Hobby Lobby Wins

The Supreme Court per Justice Alito ruled in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* that closely-held corporations could deny their employees contraceptive insurance coverage if it conflicts with the religious beliefs of the corporation's owners. The high court reasoned that (1) the Religious Freedom Restoration Act applied to closely-held corporations, (2) the Affordable Care Act's requirement substantially burdened religious belief, and (3) though contraceptive coverage is assumed to be a compelling interest for the government to advance, the law was not the least restrictive means of achieving that interest. The decision was split five-to-four, with Alito, Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, and Kennedy in the majority. Justice Ginsberg wrote a scathing dissent.

This decision has a couple silver-linings, namely that the ruling is limited only to closely-held corporations, and only to contraceptive coverage, rather than all activities that there could be a religious objection against. Closely-held corporations are typically companies that have only a few shareholders, usually family members or an organization with a certain political or religious message. They are distinguishable from the general corporate form, which could allow for millions of shareholders with no particular unified message to promulgate, and which constitute the majority of for-profit companies in the United States.

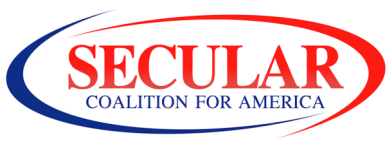
That said, this decision is a huge blow for women's rights, labor, and freethinkers. Whatever one may think about the Free Exercise Clause and the freedom to believe whatever religion one wants, Hobby Lobby now allows companies to encroach upon our private lives in very intrusive ways just because your employer has a religious objection you may not even share. The door also seems open for future companies to try to argue for exceptions that may apply to them based on religious grounds. The holding of the court is narrow, but the symbolic meaning of this is scary.

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.



Suppose an employer's sincerely held religious belief is offended by health coverage of vaccines, or paying the minimum wage? Approving some religious claims while deeming others unworthy of accommodation could be 'perceived as favoring one religion over another,' the very 'risk the [Constitution's] Establishment Clause was designed to preclude.'

—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, dissenting in
Burwell v. Hobby Lobby



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Sacramento Reason

California Legals - Dept. of Bad Bills By Tom Manger

After a flurry of emails, phone calls, position papers, in-person visits and committee hearings we have helped to kill a number of sectarian bills that were proposed this year. And, we've submitted position papers providing support for a handful of bills that further our secular interests. But, our job isn't over. Why? Bait & Switch.

The legislative term is actually "gut & replace" but it might as well be called "bait & switch". The effect is the same. As bills progress through the assembly and senate they can be amended at any point in time. These amendments can include 100% of the original wording. So, for example, a bill that affects water policy can be completely replaced with a bill restricting access to abortion services.

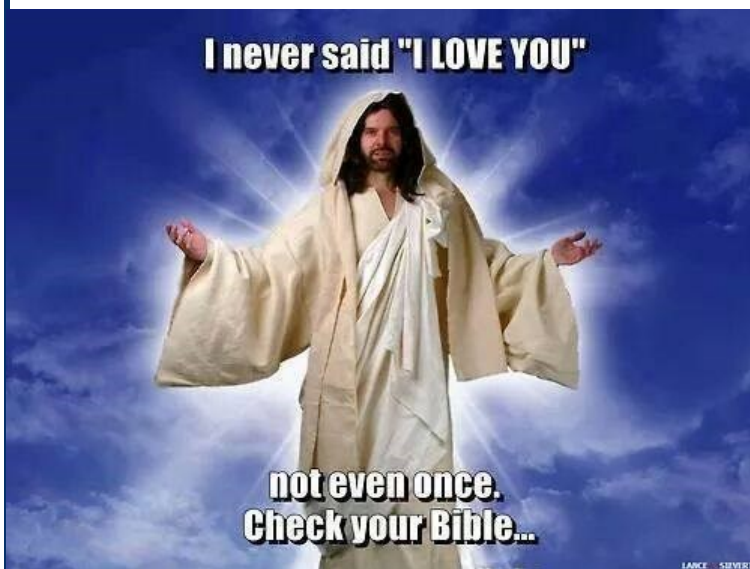
This is usually done only when the original bill shows no sign of passing. The legislator who proposed the original bill cannot introduce any new bills after the February deadline to introduce bills. But, they can "gut & replace" one of their originally proposed bills.

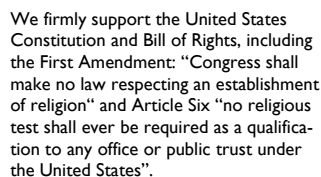
This year, Assemblymember Grove introduced a bill titled "Unruh Civil Rights Act: exemptions: religion" that would have allowed religious people to discriminate and bully others based upon their strongly held beliefs. This bill didn't pass out of committee so she gutted it and replaced it with a bill that would provide new consumer protections. In this case, the replacement bill was innocuous. But, that isn't always the case.

For this reason, the SCCA tracks legislation throughout the entire process. This is also one of the reasons why we build alliances with legislative offices in Sacramento. By having friendly relations with political insiders we are sometimes contacted directly to notify us about significant changes to bills.

So, in the meantime, please be sure to like our Facebook page and register your email with the Secular Coalition for America. That way you'll receive our Action Alerts when legislators play the old switcheroo with our laws and we need to quickly take action to make our voices heard.

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](#).





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

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“Our beloved daughter, Karen Abbe, died of cancer Friday, May 30, 2014 at home in Sacramento. Born 9/3/59 in Sunnyvale, she graduated from Encina HS in 1977, and earned an AA degree from American River College in 1981 in Parks Administration. Her career with the State of Calif. from 1980-2012 included the Attorney General's office, the Board of Pharmacy and Victims of Crime program. She loved to travel with her pets in her motor home, and took her dog, Katie, and two cats across the country, from Victoria Island to Niagara Falls. She hoped to inspire others to go out and enjoy this beautiful world we live in. Karen had many wonderful friends and family who loved her all her life. She leaves her parents, John and Carol Abbe, sister Sandra Abbe, and her niece, MaryAnn Estes of Riverside, and nephew, Larry Averitt of Banks, OR. A private memorial gathering is planned for July 25, 2014. For more information e-mail csabbe@softcom.net”



“She was president of AOF after Betty (back in the 1996-1997 year) and a real dynamo” adds Mynga Futrell.



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/>

