

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

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

Subscribe

Volume II, Issue 8

Issue Theme: What's the Harm?

August 2014

Come Camping with Us! 3rd Annual FANcamp!

Friday - Sunday, Aug. 22-24
Big Reservoir Campground
Morningstar Lake
Tahoe National Forest

[Map here.](#)

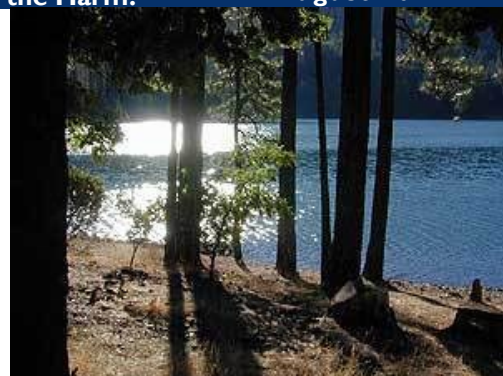
We're going to the same place as last year. It is a great site with water and space. Quiet lakefront camping grounds where no boat motors, motorcycles or RVs are allowed. Ideal for tube floaters, water watchers, hiking, fishing for rainbow trout in this stocked lake, evening board games and story-telling, and general hanging out with like-minded friends new and old.

And eating! There's always eating!

We have a 40-person campground reserved. Bring a kayak, inner tubes, fishing poles, games and of course: camp-out food! If someone would like to reserve their own site, you can call them at 530-367-2129.

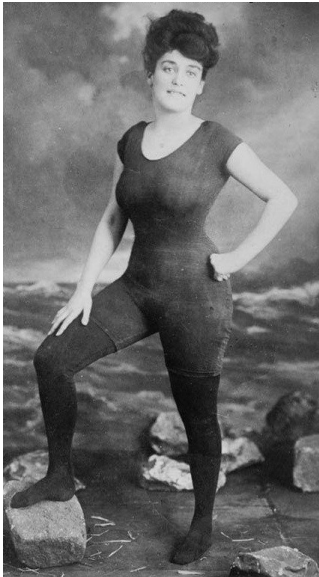
Campground fees and other details at [this link](#). SacFAN [details here](#).

Open to everyone! Come refresh yourself with us at this beautiful site!





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>



Arrested?

Annette Kellerman, a well known long distance swimmer didn't like wearing flowy pantaloons in the water. So, she was arrested for indecency when she designed this fitting swimsuit. Now, see, this is why we can't let mobs rule over other people's lives. It often ends up harming people and their families. People thought their idea of decency was so important that they had to actually arrest this lady? Arrested? REALLY?

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

When some people leave religion, they often retain harmful ideas. Religion poisons everything, especially your sex life. Here are a few rules found in the Bible.

1. Don't have sex before marriage.
2. Men who are drunk will have sex with their daughters without punishment.
3. If a woman can't find a man she can have sex with her father.
4. A virgin girl should be offered to save angels from being molested.
5. Sex is for the purpose of procreation ONLY.
6. A man can have sex with someone else if his wife doesn't produce babies.
7. The punishment for having sex with an animal is death - the animal, too.
8. Circumcision is a good thing.
9. Semen can only be released inside the VAGINA of a woman.
10. No masturbation ever.
11. Don't sleep with someone else's wife.
12. If a man has sex with his father's or son's wife he should be killed.
13. If a man has sex with his mother-in-law all three should be burned to death.
14. If a man has sex with a menstruating woman they both should be cut off from their people.
15. If a bride is not a virgin, then she should be stoned to death.
16. If a husband later claims his wife was not a virgin and the wife's father cannot provide evidence to the contrary then she should be stoned to death.
17. No wet dreams.
18. No sex with your sister or mother.
19. It's ok to have sex with angels if they initiate it.
20. Priests should not have sex with anyone.

Your sex life is your business. Don't let religion destroy it.

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

This Issue's Theme: What's the Harm?

Even standing in church encourages lack of critical thinking, confusion in children as to what is real, lessened community success, tendency to fall for exciting rumors, and more. Compare peacefulness, economic success and health of highly secular versus highly religious areas - on any level. Looking at statistics, it appears religion holds society back. Religion only exists because of social support. Remove the support and see how many people believe those old stories. The good done? Oh, that's people doing it. Every time. It's always people. It doesn't take belief in the supernatural for people to do good. But this belief can cause harm. Just look.



Ancient Christian Study Group - Aug. 17, 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.

Reason Center Grand Opening - July 31

July 31, 7:00 pm

Reason Center

1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento



The Reason Center welcomes everyone to our Grand Opening Celebration on Thursday, July 31, at 7 p.m. The celebration of this nonprofit freethought community center, is free and only requires online [registration at Eventbrite](#). Children are welcome.

Reason Center volunteers will share the vision for the community, offer tours of the facility, and answer questions about future plans for use. Plus, musical entertainment by The Mockingbirds! Meet the people who made this happen! Make new friends! Learn about the Center.

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Jaclyn Glenn at the Reason Center - Aug. 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 make atheism a positive thing! 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 us all learn how to 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!



Come at 12:00 pm to have a light lunch snack, meet Jaclyn, talk with friends and make new friends before Jaclyn's presentation begins at 1:00 pm.

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A, Sacramento

Plenty of parking. Bring some friends! Join us!

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



Everything is FREE, courtesy of AOF Speaker Series. (Donations accepted but not necessary.)

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

- Aug 9 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)
Aug 17 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mels Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)
Aug 17 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

Aug 18, 6:30 pm
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Bl
[Map here.](#)
[Details here.](#)

Ceres

Aug 5, 7pm
1st Tues each mo.
[Details here.](#)

Everyone is always welcome!

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Sacramento Reason

Movie Screening + Interview + Comedian + Potluck!

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento
Plenty of parking.

August 30, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

One cannot deny the historical value of belief and deep faith in the narrative of Black life in America, but the tradition of using prayer as a first-line of defense and relying upon supernatural intervention to solve problems in an age of information, reflects a people who are operating outside the context of a modern paradigm.

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.

5:00 is a mingle/potluck. Bring a dish or just show up to enjoy good company.

6:00 Feature Presentation "Contradiction", the 1 1/2 hour movie.

7:30 Filmmaker live Q & A with the writer/producer/director via Skype

8:00 Poet Victor Harris, featured at the Reason Rally, will perform and speak about his experience as a Black atheist living in the Bay Area.

8:30 Comedian Steve Hill, an outspoken atheist in the Black community from Southern California.

FREE. Open to the public. Invite your friends to this important event.

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

**Reason
Center**

AOF/HAGSA Potlucks for Friends and Members

AOF (Atheists and Other Freethinkers) and HAGSA (Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area) cordially invite friends and members of both groups to a casual potluck gathering. Bring one dish of your choice, sufficient to feed yourself + a bit more. Also a beverage. We will dine, converse, socialize, and celebrate the summer at these annual joint events.

AUGUST 3, 3:00 - 6:00 pm [Location and details here](#)

AUGUST 24, 3:00 - 6:00 pm [Location and details here](#)

Upcoming Events cont'd from pg 1

**17 Blasphemy
Brunch Dixon/Vcville**

**17 Blasphemy
Brunch Ardn/Arcade**

**17 Coffee Klatch in
Modesto**

**17 Ancient Christian
Study Group**

**17 Freethought
Movie Night, Lodi**

18 Book Club Sac

**20 Concert in the
Park, Stockton**

**21 Freethought Din-
ner Social**

**22-24 3rd Annual
FANcamp Adventure**

**22 Game Night &
Pool Party, Stockton**

22 Sacramento

Skeptics in the Pub

23 Stockton Pride

**24 Brunch & Athe-
ism, Turlock**

**29 Finally Friday
Dinner & Karaoke**

**30 Movie/Potluck
"Contradiction"**

Sep 2 Book Club

**Sep 3 Welcome
New Members Mtg**

**Sep 5 Dinner, Wine
and Art Hop, Lodi**

Coming Up Soon

**Sep 17 Peter
Boghossian, Manteca**

**Oct 11 Freethought
Day, Sacramento**

**Oct 24-26 FFRF
Nat'l Conv. in LA**

Skeptic Families at Effie Yeaw Nature Center

**Saturday August 2, 10:00 am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael**

For families and outdoor enthusiasts: the Ancil Hoffman Park and Effie Yeaw Nature Center is the place to be!

There is an interpretive museum and stroller-friendly trails down to the river.



Let's meet to check out the interpretive center, then hike together down to the river. There we can take a break, have a snack, and give the kids a



chance to throw the obligatory rocks into the water.
(The park does not allow pets. Bring \$5 exact change for parking fee.)

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

Atheist TV Is On The Air!

American Atheists has launched Atheist TV, the world's first television channel dedicated to atheist content, on Roku. Also available live online at <http://atheists.org/atheistTV/live>.

For the first time, atheist video content—from firebrand speeches, to stand-up comedy, to documentaries, to real science-based educational programming, and more—is now available to atheists worldwide, on the air and all in one place. Atheist TV brings consistent, quality, superstition-free programming for children and adults, on the air and on-demand, right from your regular television. This is an idea whose time has come and we're all celebrating. The channel, which provides both an on-air streaming schedule and video-on-demand, is available worldwide for free via Roku, a small device that connects to the back of a television, similar to a cable box. The on-air live streaming portion will also be viewable free on the channel's website. See <http://www.atheists.tv> for more information. Watch a great [promo at this link](#).



AN AMERICAN ATHEIST

Listen to our local
atheist radio show
[at this link.](#)

Recent Shows:

“Burwell v. Hobby Lobby” - Robin Marie, Chris Lazare and Christopher Thielen discuss the Supreme Court ruling and its implications for women, health care, atheism and corporate personhood.

“Interview with ‘The Unbelievers’ Director Gus Holwerda” - Tom asks the documentary director about following Richard Dawkins and Lawrence Krauss around the world in debate circuits as well as about his interviews with other well-known atheists.

Activist Corner

By Julie Wedge and Judy Saint

What’s the harm? “We are just practicing a centuries old ceremony.” Whether you’re talking about cutting pieces off of newborns before they go home from the hospital or trying to keep women from controlling their pregnancies, harm comes from using “tradition” as an excuse. And religion is used to back up “tradition”. Not only is this harmful on an individual level, but now they’re trying to use that tactic to impose harm generally to the rest of society by entering these traditions into legislation.

When religious organizations, and even now corporations, with personal beliefs based on religious tradition, can legislate their personal morality on an entire nation is when things go astray for everyone. It’s not religious freedom that’s being protected, it’s religious infiltration into other people’s lives that is being promoted, and that, in turn, restricts every other religion or way of life.

We have to assure decisions like Hobby Lobby are struck down so swiftly it turns heads. We have to find a way to sway public opinion so everyone realizes even their own religion is in the crosshairs. How do we do that? By talking. It’s that simple.

We have common ground with some of the faithful. There is a group of religious women who are pretty darned peeved their boss can deny their contraceptive coverage. What would happen if we began a dialog with believers about the harm done to all women of any religion when one religion gets to have its way in the courts?

The secular community needs to reach out to them. In the places we agree. It’s not always about explaining atheism, sometimes it’s about explaining the common good.

What happens when these kids go to college, apply for a real job, or start talking about this at a dinner party?



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 Aug 16 at 7:00 pm](#) or [Salida Aug 8 at 7:00 pm](#) or [Stockton Aug 22 at 6:00 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

Aug 6 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: What's the Harm?

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Family Time By Rick Tracewell

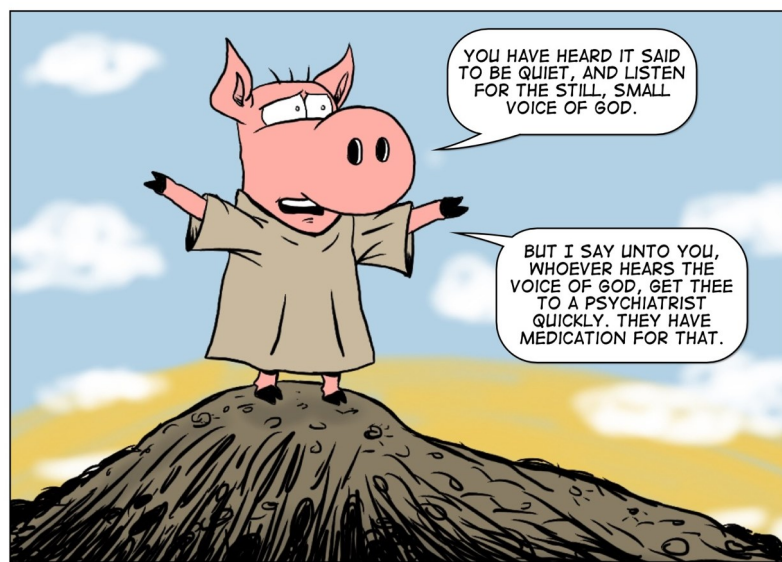
Those of us on the outside looking in at religion often discuss the harm done by religion over the course of human history. How at one point humans needed answers to the questions they had in a world with very little knowledge of the sciences, ANY sciences. Fairy tales (literally) provided the answers. The "gods" are in charge. Do something bad and the gods will punish you and your village. It not only provided some sort of answers to wrap their undeveloped brains around, it also instilled the fear that religions and governments use **to this day** to control their citizens.



Made sense for the time, right? So how is it that it's as strong as ever in a world where we DO have the answers? There IS order and knowledge that explains all of the things that only religion seemed to have answers to in the past. There's no place for fantasy anymore. We know the basics and we are learning the rest at a rapid pace.

Psychologically, indoctrination is dangerous. We know that. As parents, we have a responsibility to our children to raise them so that they are not only responsible citizens basing their decisions on reality, but how to move around in a world filled with people - even in powerful positions - who live in a comic book story. And while this world is slowly but finally coming around (coming out?) to our way of thinking, it's a constant struggle to help our kids navigate the bipolar world in which we live.

Do you have any suggestions for parents raising secular kids surrounded by religious dogma? I'd like to hear from you. I'll address this in coming editions. Send your thoughts to rick @ sacramento.reason.org with the subject "Dogma Kids".



theadtheistpig.com

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



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Sacramento

Skeptics in the Pub
Fri Aug 22 6:30p
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Stockton

Drinking Skeptically
Fri Aug 15, 6:30-11p
Valley Brewing Co.
157 W Adams St
Stockton, CA
Restaurant and bar
just off the Miracle
Mile. Join in!

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



< 30

By Sara Lone

Is religion really all that bad? Obviously, religion isn't my jam - but does it negatively affect me when someone else is religious? Sometimes I think, "Anyone who buys in to this religion junk has got to be an idiot" - then I meet a really intelligent or lovely person and think, "Maybe it's not so bad..." I switch back and forth, but reality always comes crashing back when I remember that they believe a man in the sky is listening to them, guiding their way.

You know what's awful about religion? I'll tell you with a story; someone near and dear to me was going through a divorce and was terrified about going into the court room to face her soon-to-be-ex-husband. But the earth keeps turning and eventually she had to go in. After everything was said and done, she called me to talk. I'll never forget her saying, "God got me through that. I did not have the strength or courage to do that, I could not have done that without God."

I love that "God" takes all the credit for anything good, but try to pin genocide on the guy and he's nowhere to be found! I just wanted to scream at her, "No! You did it! It was you! You are strong and courageous, it was all you, give yourself the credit!" But I couldn't. That's the subtle damage caused by religion. You will forfeit trust in yourself and place it with God instead.

Just recently, an Indiana driver placed ALL of her trust in God and, because "God" told her to let go of the steering wheel while driving, she hit and almost killed a motorcyclist. He's claiming "divine intervention" for being alive. Ironical much? My conclusion: YES! Religion is harmful to society!

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. Want help? Just ask! Email admin@sacramentoreason.org.



The Prime Minister from Turkey has just released this: Women should not laugh out loud in public. He was talking about moral corruption in Turkey. Women should blush and turn their heads away, with shame and honor. (Honor apparently has a different definition when talking about women.) It's all based on sound religious principal, of course. No harm. Well, not to the Prime Minister.

Save the Date

Some upcoming events in Sacramento are only a few months away.

So you can plan your calendars, save these dates for these annual freethinking community events!

Freethought Day

Sunday
October 12
Steps of the State Capitol Building
Come hear a great lineup of speakers, all here to educate and inspire you about being free from religious dogma. Watch for details.

Winter Solstice HumanLight Potluck/Party

December 21
Bring your family to celebrate this mid-winter event with food, fun, entertainment and more. Watch for details.

Concerts in the Park - Wednesdays



The **Concerts in the Park** series occurs Wednesday nights during the summer at Victory Park, Pershing Ave, Stockton. The music is great and it's a **free event!**

Look for our SAAF signs across from the corner of Yale and Argonne. Bring a blanket and/or some lawn chairs, something to eat and drink, and join us! Everyone is welcome to come join us!

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm; Pershing Park in Stockton

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Freethought Dinner Social

Come join the gang for a nice dinner out! Meet new friends!

Soups - Salads - Pasta - Burgers - Sandwiches - Small Plates - Desserts

Thursday August 21, 6:00 pm
Riverside Clubhouse
2633 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento

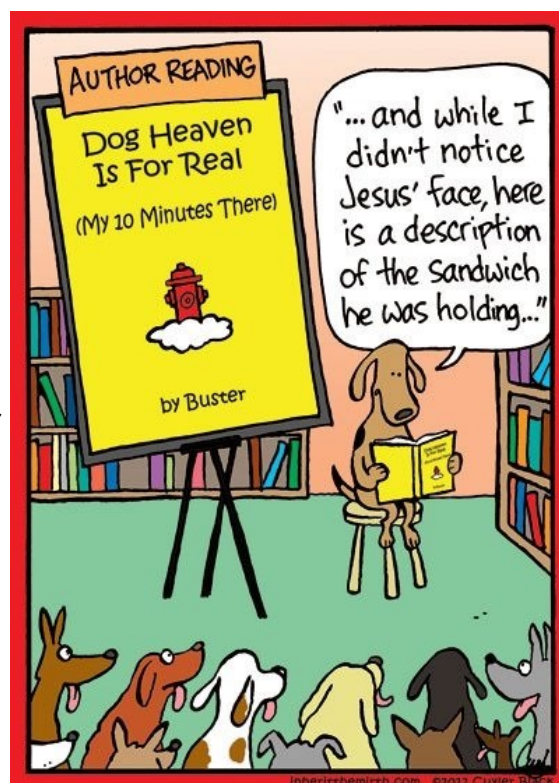
Welcome To Riverside Clubhouse located in Old Land Park across from the Old City Cemetery. The Riverside Clubhouse is just minutes away from downtown Sacramento and the State Capital.

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and sit by the thirty foot-long wall of water or the three-tier fireplace on our inviting patio. Watch television on one of our three 50-inch Plasma TV's. Or enjoy the warmth of our "Burning Crystal" fireplace in the lounge.

[Menu here](#) (yum)

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



What's the Harm?

We hear all the time “What’s the harm of going to church? Churches do a lot of good. They’re full of good people.” Yes, the people are good. Whatever religion or no religion, people do good. But goodness doesn’t require supernatural entities. The harm of gathering, singing, swaying and giving together regularly is the social support that keeps these superstitions going. And that’s the harm.

“Least Religious Nations Are the Happiest” Many studies, at any geographical resolution, show this. [Link](#)

Voice of Reason’s “The Problem with Religion” 4 min video with Richard Dawkins. “This was written 2,000 years ago and that’s the end of it” deprives people. Faith without reason is a weapon. [Link](#)

“Religious Trauma Syndrome: How Some Organized Religion Leads to Mental Health Problems” We are “used to” sexual, physical and mental abuse when in a religious context. This causes mental damage. [Link](#)

“Circumcision Ritual Infects Babies with Herpes” The number is higher now, plus one death. [Link](#)

AHA column “Faith Is a False Friend” We believe it helps us but it is harming us. It pretends to know things, pretends to always be with us, demands obedience, is divisive, oppressive, and so on. [Link](#)

“Two Churches in Philadelphia Have Killed More than Two Dozen Children Through Prayer” [Link](#)

Website called “What’s the Harm?” Home page contains a list of 74 topics, each with personal accounts of harm done to individuals. Sometimes just loss of money, sometimes loss of health, or worse. [Link](#)

“Police Captain: Family Tormented by 200 Demons” People are vulnerable to claims by authorities. [Link](#)

“Who Killed Neil Beagley?” Children die all the time when parents refuse medical treatment. [Link](#)

“The Cruelty of Creationism” Documentary shows how biblical belief imprisons the mind. [Link](#)



Listen Up! By Cleo Kocol

Just because you are upfront with your non-belief in a god doesn't mean that you haven't bought into some of the religious beliefs in our country. I find that many people are shocked at the idea of euthanasia. Or appalled at the idea of suicide. Others can't conceive of anything but a routine burial after dying. Others see no problem with church buildings. After all, the religious need some place to meet. Let's examine each example briefly.

1, Starting with the church, do you think it's fair for them to be tax free? Not only is that property not taxed, our policemen and firemen have to protect it. Churches pay nothing for those services. All the rest of us pick up the slack.

2, Why do the dead need to have their blood drained and formaldehyde pumped in and the body placed in an expensive casket? To keep the "undertakers" in business. No other real reason.

3 People routinely stop others from committing suicide. Why? Because religion says it's wrong? Anyone who is suffering from an incurable mental or physical disease should be able to take their own life when living is intolerable.

4. People suffering mental and physical conditions who need assistance in dying should be able to have it.

Many of us have bought into these so-called Christian attitudes. Examine your reasons for going along and you will find them wanting.



Overheard - True Stories

On Atheism411 a reader accuses 411 of being atheist out of hate from a personal bad experience. Atheism411 responds: "You really can't imagine why someone of sound mind would rationally and calmly think your religion is damaging to humanity, huh? It must be rebellious hatred? With people being murdered for blasphemy, or homosexuality, or for 'witchcraft', or for apostasy...or adultery...or the appearance of adultery...or for being raped without enough male witnesses to confirm it was really a rape... Children being shot to death because girls aren't allowed to learn... People having their limbs chopped off for minor crimes, or their genitals mutilated, or acid thrown in their faces for not covering up... Clinics being bombed, doctors being murdered (in their church, no less), people's rights being stripped away from them... I could keep going... I hate to break it to you, but lots of people are opposed to religion on humanitarian grounds alone. A strong and rational case can be made that it's the source of a great many unique human rights atrocities the world over... and no one has ever been able to prove your god even exists. The evidence your god exists is equal to the evidence ancient Greek 'religious people' had for their gods...and you don't believe in their gods now, do you? So how would you feel if people were still discriminated against - or murdered - because Athena demanded it in her holy literature? Atheists are your neighbors, your local business owners, your politicians and your friends. And it isn't 'hateful' to oppose religion in the face of all the harm it does on a daily basis. No matter what you try to twist it into, it's a humanitarian stance."

Email your true story to admin@sacramentoreason.org

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.](#) Looking for a Humanist Celebrant for any life event? [Find one here.](#)

Volume II, Issue 8

Issue Theme: What's the Harm?

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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 many ways, from the way we vote to the way we live. This guide provides a model for secular policy recommendations on a variety of issues, from the way we vote to the way we live. It is a guide for the secular community, not a guide for the religious community.

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.

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Legal Watch By Arash Khosrowshahi

In mid-July, the Internal Revenue Service and the Freedom From Religion Foundation reached a settlement in a lawsuit filed by FFRF, which accuses the IRS for failing to enforce electioneering laws against churches which routinely violated those laws.

In general, churches are not allowed to engage in political endorsements of candidates or legislation, or else they would not qualify for tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). FFRF however has documented and complained to the IRS of numerous violations of these requirements, while the IRS has been dragging its feet to actually enforce the provisions. There is untold amounts of revenue the government could be receiving from these churches if their sermons are found to be in violation of electioneering and politicking laws.

It is unclear from this settlement how tough enforcement will now be, but given that the IRS has limited resources to ameliorate its public image after supposedly giving extra scrutiny to groups within the progressive and Tea Party movements, there may still be a slow start. However, the IRS may also want this issue to not become overblown into another scandal, so they may begin taking this issue seriously.

The harm that flows from churches and other religious groups giving political endorsements should be obvious to those in the Freethinking community. If one is to take the Establishment Clause seriously (which is under threat after the recent decisions of *Greece v. Galloway* and *Hobby Lobby*), there should not be an intermingling of church money with the money of a secular state—but only if churches do not meddle with the political affairs of the day. Churches trying to do both are trying to have their cake and eat it too at our expense as secularists and citizens.

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](#). (None in August - it's vacation time. Next one is September 4.)

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Sacramento Reason

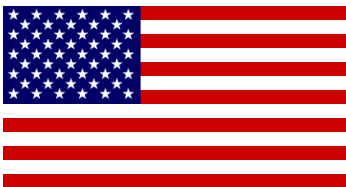


Using Religion to Rally Your Base

From sports teams to warring countries to Manifest Destiny in America, people can be rallied to think their supernatural guardian is “on their side”. The photo at left was on belt buckles and buttons on Nazi uniforms, which says “Gott Mit Uns” - “God Is With Us”. Above is a public high school football cheer squad encouraging the team and inciting their fans to a frenzy, using God.

“Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful.”

[Lucius Annaeus Seneca](#) (philosopher from 1st century)



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 8 for details.

We're on the Web!
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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/>

