

Sacramento Reason



Shine the Light of Reason!

Upcoming Events

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

Subscribe

Volume II, Issue 10

Issue Theme: The Freedom of Freethought

October 2014

“The Wonders of Magic and Reason” - Oct. 12

Sacramento is proud to host the largest Freethought Day event nationwide, with live music, nationally-recognized speakers, community groups, and more.

Freethought Day celebrates reason. The theme, “The Wonders of Magic and Reason”, explores the passion freethinkers have to discover the unknown.

Come enjoy California State Capitol’s north lawn, in the fresh air, surrounded by friends with live music and entertainment. Free! [Map here](#)



Hear from sociologist Phil Zuckerman, science and feminism activist Rebecca Watson, and authors Greta Christina, Richard Carrier, David Fitzgerald, and more. Ross Blotcher, of the popular science and fringe investigation podcast *Oh No, Ross and Carrie!* will also join us, as will award-winning skeptical illusionist Ryan Kane.

Children’s activities and bounce house will be provided thanks to Camp Quest West. The event is a great day to learn more about other secular organizations including the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Sunday Assembly, the Reason Center, and a number of student campus groups.

Everyone attending should pre-register for a free, full-color program and a chance to win over \$300 in prizes. Free. Donations are accepted.

Support Freethought Day: Email chair@FreethoughtDay.org.

Learn more and register online at FreethoughtDay.org.

Secular Advocacy Day—Oct. 13

Monday, October 13, 8:30 am—5:00 pm

Learn how to make your voice heard in state and local government. No prior knowledge of politics is necessary. First, learn what to say in our short training session, then head out in twos and threes to the offices of our elected officials to explain the importance of secular values. Organized by the Secular Coalition for California.

Map will be sent to you after you register. [Details here](#)



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>



Freedom to Think Anything

Speaking of free-thought, a lady once told me she was a freethinker, too, because she was free to think the way her church does. She might be interested in this fun fact from a religious website:

"The church cannot teach heresy, meaning that anything it solemnly defines for the faithful to believe is true." Did milk come out your nose, too, when you read this? If they say cows are smaller than spiders, then it is true. Excuse, me, but isn't it the other way around? What is true should be told by the church, not what the church says suddenly is true. Churches are that afraid of being wrong? **REALLY?** If that lady always chooses to think what her church says is true, is she a free-thinker? ([Quote is here.](#))

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Sacramento Reason

"Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

Dear Social I.Q. Lady,

My family members are always trying to make me feel guilty for not participating in their religious affairs, most recently, a baptism. I don't want to go, but now I do feel guilty about not "supporting" their "celebrations". What should I say to them?

–Not Guilty

Dear Not Guilty,

You have no obligation to attend anyone's social or religious ceremonies especially if it conflicts with what you stand for. Insisting you go is tantamount to insisting a vegetarian who is a dinner guest in your home try your roast beef. Guilt is something we should only feel when we've actually done something wrong, like committed a crime or some kind of offense. People play the "guilt card" in order to get others to comply with *their* wishes. They want you to attend their ceremony so they resort to emotional manipulation. Once you understand that's all it is, it will be easier to respond in a caring, calm, and most importantly, rational manner.

Next time you're asked to do something or go somewhere which conflicts with your principles, explain your position once, then let it go. For example: "Thank you for inviting me to little boo-boo's baptism. I'm not able to attend, but I'd be happy to join you later for a piece of cake." Of course, you would modify your response to something that fits your particular situation. In this way you are showing your love for your family (or friends) without compromising your values.

Many atheists have no problem attending religious ceremonies. It doesn't matter what others are comfortable doing, it only matters what you find acceptable for yourself. Don't allow the feelings of others to dictate your emotional responses. If you have strong convictions about something, then you have nothing for which to feel guilty.

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

FFRF Kicks Creationism Out of Granite Bay School

Eureka Union School District will no longer permit "teaching the controversy" about evolution in science class. FFRF Staff Attorney Andrew Seidel summarized federal and Supreme Court rulings, including the guise of "alternative theories" for the district. Evolution is not a theory in the lay sense. It is accepted fact, in lay language. The district responded to FFRF, with thanks and the assurance the complaint was immediately addressed and appropriate action had been taken. If you hear of any violation of separation of church and state, contact FFRF, or the Sacramento Chapter of FFRF at sac@ffrf.org.



Ancient Christian Study Group - Oct. 19, 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 is welcome.

Sacramento's Secular Church a Giant Success

By David Diskin, Sunday Assembly Volunteer

On Sunday, a project nearly a year in the making was launched with the help of dozens of local volunteers and new friends from across the world.

Sunday Assembly Sacramento held its inaugural service for a packed room and thrilled its attendees with uplifting words, rock and roll, and donuts.

Over 100 attended, leading to a standing-room only event -- the largest that the Reason Center has hosted to date.

It's hard to describe Sunday Assembly. Some call it an "atheist church" but it's more like the combination of a TED talk, a rock party, and a social gathering. A member of SacFAN asked her daughter to read a poem at the start of the service, Tom Ikleman touched the crowd with his personal journey of de-conversion whilst being diagnosed with cancer, and a UC Davis student spoke about her time volunteering overseas.

Sunday Assembly, which started in January 2013 in London, really isn't an "atheist church" -- though the media loves to call it that. It's secular, for sure, with no mention of gods, religion, or spirituality. But it doesn't exist to provide a platform to disparage religion or even discuss it. There are plenty of other great groups for that. Sunday Assembly serves a different purpose: with its motto to "Celebrate Life", it focuses on the great things people are doing and seeks to inspire others to do the same. It is "radically inclusive" and strives to create something that anyone can enjoy.

Andi Griffith, John Lucas, and Rick Tracewell rocked the secular congregation with songs from Journey, Billy Joel, and more, encouraging everyone to get up off their feet and sing along.

Even children were entertained thanks to the volunteer efforts of Laura Hitchings and others from Camp Quest West -- providing much-appreciated childcare during the hour-long service.

Following the service, attendees stayed for a potluck, to mingle and make new friends -- one of the most cherished reasons people attend church. Although the service ended at 11:30 AM, the potluck stayed strong well into the afternoon.

Although September's service was filled to the walls, the organizers want to encourage everyone to attend and try it out at least once. People can RSVP on the website meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento. Popular demand will help shape the future of Sunday Assembly. People are already signing up for October, November, and December services. Congratulations from *Sacramento Reason*!



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

- Oct 11 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)
Oct 19 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)
Oct 19 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

Revelations

Oct 20, 6:30 pm
Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Bl
[Details here.](#)

Ceres, Oct. 7
7:00-8:30 pm
1st Tues each mo.
[Details here.](#)

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Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

Living with fear and anxiety is miserable to say the least, and I lived with it for over 20 years. I was afraid to die, not because being dead was so scary, or because dying might be painful, but rather because hell was just going to suck. Forever. All that burning and no books to read... I dreaded it with every fiber of my being.

Every night I would beg and plead with god to not cast me into the lake of fire. I was also plagued with nightmares on a regular basis. I had one particular recurring dream that involved feeling completely controlled and being dragged somewhere I didn't want to go, along with physical pain and emotional turmoil.

When I realized there was no god to judge me, and no hell to fear; those dreams stopped, along with all the fear and anxiety I suffered before going to sleep. Now I drift off very peacefully.

Believers I've spoken with tend to think that we heathens must be shuddering between our sheets, but the truth is this heathen sleeps very peacefully thank you very much. Many who believe in religion persist in these misperceptions when we don't tell them otherwise. We can dispel this false illusion by telling our friends and family the new peace we have now that we no longer have fear and anxiety brought on by religious teachings.

One day we will die, and that is natural and ok. We fear nothing after death. This new knowledge makes each day sweeter and more precious. Post about it on Facebook, Tweet about it on Twitter, tell your friend over a cup of coffee, however you do it spread the news and help the cause!
Goodnight and Sweet Dreams!



Sacramento Reason

Know Your Ballot Propositions

Sunday, Oct. 19, 3:00pm
Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento

Darien De Lu has written Darien's Guide to the Ballot Propositions for 20 years, with hundreds of subscribers. Listen to her analysis, based on multiple sources, plus summaries of other groups' positions. Darien sits on the national board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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

Sponsored by HAGSA.org [Join HAGSA here.](#)



**Reason
Center**

VOTE NOVEMBER 7

Upcoming Events

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- 19 [Coffee Klatch in Modesto](#)
- 19 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- 19 [Guide to Nov. Ballot Props](#)
- 20 [Book Club: Revelations by E. Pagels](#)
- 24-26 [FFRF Convention in LA](#)
- 24 [Game Night and Pool Party, Stockton](#)
- 24 [Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub](#)
- 26 [Sunday Assembly](#)
- 26 [Brunch and Atheism in Turlock](#)
- 31 [Halloween at Colleen's, Stockton](#)
- 31 [Finally Friday—Dinner and Karaoke](#)
- Nov 1 [Light the Night Walk for LLS](#)
- Nov 4 [Go Vote!](#)
- Nov 4 [Book Club in Ceres](#)
- Nov 5 [New Member Meetup](#)

Save The Date

- Nov 9 Carl Sagan Day Remembrance
- Nov 19 [Dr. David Noelle, Manteca](#)

Finally!

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible is in Print!
[Buy it here.](#)

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Matt Dillahunty Speaks at Reason Center

Another overflow crowd at the Reason Center!

Last night Matt Dillahunty, from the Austin, Texas TV show and podcast, [The Atheist Experience](#), entertained and educated us with humor, stories and expert tips to help us all talk with believers, based on his years of experience. Keith Lowell Jensen, Matt's friend from Sacramento, bottom right, opened and introduced Matt. We learned how to appreciate believers as people with fears and inabilities, rather than jump to mocking them as we often do so quickly. Known for his comfortable style, endless knowledge and witty comebacks, Matt endeared the crowd, staying hours afterward to make sure everyone had a chance to talk with him one-on-one. Thanks, Matt!

Sponsored by the AOF Speaker Series. [Join AOF here.](#)



Reason
Center

Light the Night for Leukemia Cure

Saturday, Nov. 1, 5:30pm—8:30pm
Raley Field, 400 Ball Park Drive, West Sac

Wear a SacFAN or similar shirt. Look for our banner. Foundation Beyond Belief to raise \$430,000 to fight leukemia. US and Canada have formed 150 local teams. Let's make this year! Show up, walk, donate, cheer us on. \$100 or more for a Light the Night t-shirt.

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



Looking for Freethought Day Volunteers

We need some of you to help Thursday evening, Saturday evening, and of course, the big day, Sunday October 12. If you can spare even an hour to help, contact: chair@FreethoughtDay.org, or Dave Diskin at [209-610-0651](tel:209-610-0651). Event website: <http://freethoughtday.org/>



AN AMERICAN ATHEIST

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

Israel/Palestine: Is religion really the problem?

Robin, Chris Lazare, and Tom sit down to tackle the question: what role does religion *really* play in the Israel/Palestine conflict? Why is it incorrect to consider the conflict centuries old? Listen in as we explore this divisive and important issue.

The Historicity of Jesus with David Fitzgerald

Tom sits down with author and speaker David Fitzgerald to discuss the historicity of Jesus and other topics. Was there a Jesus?

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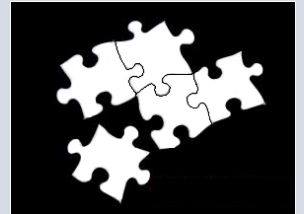
Sacramento Reason

Little Activisms By Judy Saint

Let's start with some reading: [The Model Secular Policy Guide](#). This guide identifies areas where religious dogma tries continually to cloud our laws. Perhaps you know how school vouchers can direct government funding to religious schools, or perhaps you know how religion is trying to place a thumb on our medical research scale, or perhaps you want to discuss end of life decisions, or perhaps women's issues such as birth control or abortion, or keep real science in science classes. You may have heard how these issues are being influenced by religious beliefs, but most people are not aware of the longer list of concerns where religious bias might infiltrate our laws. Here, finally, is a single document that outlines those many areas. Download your copy. Send the link to your friends. We can have discussions about these issues, even controversial debates, but not with religious dogma sitting at the table. Know where religion is trying to get a foothold in legislation. This Guide might open your eyes.

Then, after looking over the Guide, you might consider coming with us October 13 to help present these Guidebooks to our legislators. You don't need to be an expert, just be yourself. We want all our legislators to have these Guides to know the areas of concern important to us non-believers. We would love actual constituents of the legislators to help us deliver these, all of us together, to all the state legislative offices on the same day. You might enjoy doing this. More info about delivering these Guides with us at <http://freethoughtday.org/lobbying.html>.

This is a little activism we all can do. It starts with a download. Thanks for doing that, even if that's all you do this whole month. Every little bit we do is one more piece toward a society free of dogma, for us and for our children.



Coffee Church

3:00—6:00 pm, October 12

Panera Bread, 2731 Del Paso Road

Come join us bi-weekly, on Sunday Afternoons for coffee and scintillating conversation! We share lots of laughter, deep conversations, and camaraderie. We meet at the BIG table in the center of the dining room. Even if you are shy and a first-timer you will be welcome!

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



Game Nights

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

[Sacramento Oct. 11 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Oakdale Oct. 10 at 7:00 pm](#) or [Stockton Oct. 24 at 6:00 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

[Oct. 1st, 6:30 pm](#)

[Nov. 5th, 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.

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

Everyone is invited. Stay as long as you like. Buy some great drinks and snacks, and make some new friends! \$1 donation.

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Family Time By Rick Tracewell

It's fall and you know what that means...Heathens Greetings and All Hallow's Eve! Yes, the time of year when all of the evildoers (that's us) convince children to act in the name of Satan one evening each year and denounce whichever god they are in fear of. Muhahahahaha!



That's ridiculous, yet more schools are canceling Halloween festivities, banning children from wearing costumes to school. They say that it's a "distraction", but who are they kidding? It's a distraction as much as Crazy Hair Day is. The true reason is the complaints by Xtian parents who will keep their kids home if there are any Halloween activities - each absence takes money out of the school district's pocket.

Some of my fondest memories are showing up at school and showing off my costume and getting a giggle (or a fright) from my friend's clever mom-made get ups. It's too bad that our kids don't get to experience that because of a particular group threatening to remove a day's pay to the school.

Unfortunately, secular parents sometimes have to explain dogma and superstition to their children so that they understand that some people believe in it and that there is nothing wrong with dressing in silly costumes and asking neighbors for candy once a year: "No Virginia, there is no Satan."

Enjoy your October and Halloween. Get in costume, grab a pillow case and go trick or treating with your kids! It's a blast and this way you won't steal (as much) candy from their loot after they go to bed.

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

Freethought Dinner Social

Opa Opa Restaurant

Saturday, October 18 at 5:30 p.m.

5644 J St., Sacramento [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

There should be something for everyone here, but it certainly doesn't cater to vegans. They don't normally take reservations, but they'll be saving a table and I'll get there a little early. They have beer and wine and parking (not a lot). Everyone is welcome—first timers and many-timers!



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

See the Play “Exit Interview” - If You Dare

October 2, 7:30 pm, at the Big Idea Theater, 1616 Del Paso Blvd, Sacramento.

Witty bounces between uniquely driven characters, this play includes debates on religion, science and politics before reaching its startling conclusion. Let's see this play together, for someone to hold onto and for discussion afterward. Tickets are \$10 online. [Tickets purchased online here](#) [Map here](#) [Details here](#)



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Sacramento

Skeptics in the Pub
Fri, Oct. 24
6:30—11:00 pm
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)

Stockton

Drinking Skeptically
Fri Oct. 17
6:30—11:00 pm
Valley Brewing Co.
157 W Adams St
Stockton, CA
Restaurant and bar
just off the Miracle
Mile. Join in!
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)



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By Sara Lone

I don't usually try to point out the things I live my life without. However, every now and again, it's important to remind ourselves what we're missing in life! Here goes: religion, guilt, superstition, bogus gender roles, bigotry, hatred, intolerance, shame, self-condemnation, and of course, fear of hell. I live every day a happier person because I am free from religious shackles that would otherwise imprison me in a cell of fear, guilt, and shame. I got to this point by questioning what I was told — by being a curious freethinker. Many on the religious right want to indoctrinate kids from an incredibly young age, by eliminating widespread access to a good education, requiring obedience of their children as opposed to creativity, and stunting free thought in any and every subject. Millennials, that's us — the generation lying between the 1980s and 2000s; too many of our fellow under 30s do not understand what free thought is because they've been brainwashed. It is our job to fix this. Never stop asking questions, never give up your right to free speech, never accept anything blindly. I underline anything because once a freethinker, always a freethinker, and this will come up many times in your life. Just recently I was having a conversation with someone about tradition, particularly the interesting practices surrounding the American flag — like where to hang it, how to hang it, when to not hang it, etc. Suffice it to say, I was not convinced that all the traditional practices with the flag were necessary and some seemed a tad... silly. Unfortunately, the person on the other end of my conversation was not a freethinker and, therefore, deemed me a “rebel against all tradition.” Being a freethinker IS challenging tradition — it's a constant struggle to find objective truth. Sometimes you lose things in the process, which is not always a bad thing.

Contact Sara at Under30@sacramentoreason.org. #under30nones

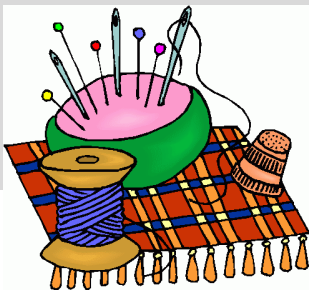


Freedom of Thought 2014

A Global Report on Discrimination Against Humanists, Atheists and the Nonreligious, put out by International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), an accredited NGO (non-government organization) at the United Nations, where they regularly confront flagrant abuses and give voice to the victims of anti-atheist persecution, and work to champion human rights.

Download your free copy. <http://freethoughtreport.com/download-the-report/>





Sunday Sewing & Crafts

1:00-3:00 pm
October 5

Raley's Store
4650 Natomas Bl

Do you like to make things? Do you enjoy meeting other Freethinkers?

Then this group is for you!

We meet inside Raley's at their Event Center.

Thank you for not bringing in outside food. Raley's has a Peet's and a deli where snacks can be purchased.

Bring your creative projects and work on them while chatting with our talented and friendly group.

All skill levels are welcome!

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

Juvenile Hall Update

By Judy Saint

What begins with “attitude” as they walk into the classroom – each trying to act cool by ignoring me just a little, trying to sit with others they know will chat off topic with them – very quickly turns into a frenzy of hands in the air.

Being invited to the hall began when one of the officers was fed up with the hellfire and damnation she heard religious preachers yell at the girls, every few days, week in and week out. The final straw was hearing the preacher tell the boys the bible instructs them to dominate women. The atheist officer then created a weekly class of her own, built acceptance over months for her new class idea which she based on general life skills, to get it approved, then carefully brought in her first atheist guest (me). She had me back a second time months later. Then, having proven interest from the girls, she launched her big idea she had been planning all along: A regular spot for an atheist to come in just like the churches do. We finally have that now. We were just last week approved for a class with our own regular time slot.

Maybe someday we will have enough non-theist volunteers to hold the class weekly, but for now I'm proud to announce that “Freethinkers Class” begins in October, after almost a year of careful planning. Why would a class require a year of planning, you might ask? In the name of retaining authority, religion seems to have a stranglehold on what is expected out at the hall. Fiery indignation, shame and name-calling in the name of Jesus seem to have been tacitly approved as the modus operandi for the detention facility. Without religion and shame, how can anyone turn their lives around, they seem to think. Thanks to this one officer, at least now once a month the girls in one unit will have a place to go to hear the “real” good news – that they can be responsible for their own lives and hold their heads high despite those who try to shame them, yell at them or threaten them with fairytale torture.

If you are interested in joining me for a visit, just let me know. We'll keep it just females for now, while we set up this program slowly. Whether a one-time visit, or eventually getting your own permanent visitor's badge and time slot, the girls' responses to what you have to share will make your day.

Email me at admin@sacramentoreason.org. I'll get it. I'll contact you.

By the way, they have no internet out there. What they are told and the books they are given to read are all they have. You can purchase books for Juvenile Hall through [Books Behind Bars Wish List](#). You order them. We deliver them. They devour them. (Seriously, they do.)

Juvenile Hall Outreach is organized through AOF. [Join AOF here.](#)

Forgetting God

By Aaron Asbury

I envy those who have never "known" a god. By "known" I am insinuating the construct a believer builds in order to facilitate their irrational trust in the imaginary; a protective capsule of ignorance and fear. In this shell you're free to think as the savior would have you think... about life, death, the afterlife, and him. Always him.



You're free to love life more because it was made just for you to worship him. You're special and will have an even better life waiting for you after you're gone. You're free to make sure that everyone else in the world knows just how awesome your little enclosure is, and that they can have their own. You're free to wave off those who attempt to show you what's outside your shell as ill-guided and untrustworthy. You're free to be afraid (and you should be) about everything that is not understood, or is not in agreement with his holy book. You're free to tremble at the thought of displeasing him, to weep and beg forgiveness when your human mind or body falls short of his perfect expectation of you. You are free to walk away, turn your back on him... and free to enjoy the subsequent, infinite torture that awaits if you do. That warm, comfortable, dark, nightmarish egg of belief.

Several years ago I broke the shell. I began to think how I wanted. I began to see there is no freedom in "knowing" god, only restraint. True freedom is seeking answers from outside the confines of superstition. Seeking truth. I envy those who have never been in the shell because, even now, I find there are still remnants that haunt me; indoctrination runs deep, and takes time to purge. Life is better outside of the bubble though... no god required.

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

Sirens and Satyrs of Sharp Manteca Crafts Group

Monday, October 13, 6:30 pm—9:00 pm

This **arts and crafts group** is a monthly event on the second Monday 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!

Directions will be emailed to those who RSVP

[Details here](#)



Also see *previous page, left column*, for Sunday Sewing and Crafts at the Raley Store, 4650 Natomas Blvd, Sacramento. Also open to everyone. Two craft groups—Sacramento and Manteca—try them both!

Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

Our thoughts have always been free. When we realize thinking is good, that listening to the propaganda religion propagates is bad, we have taken the first step to freedom.

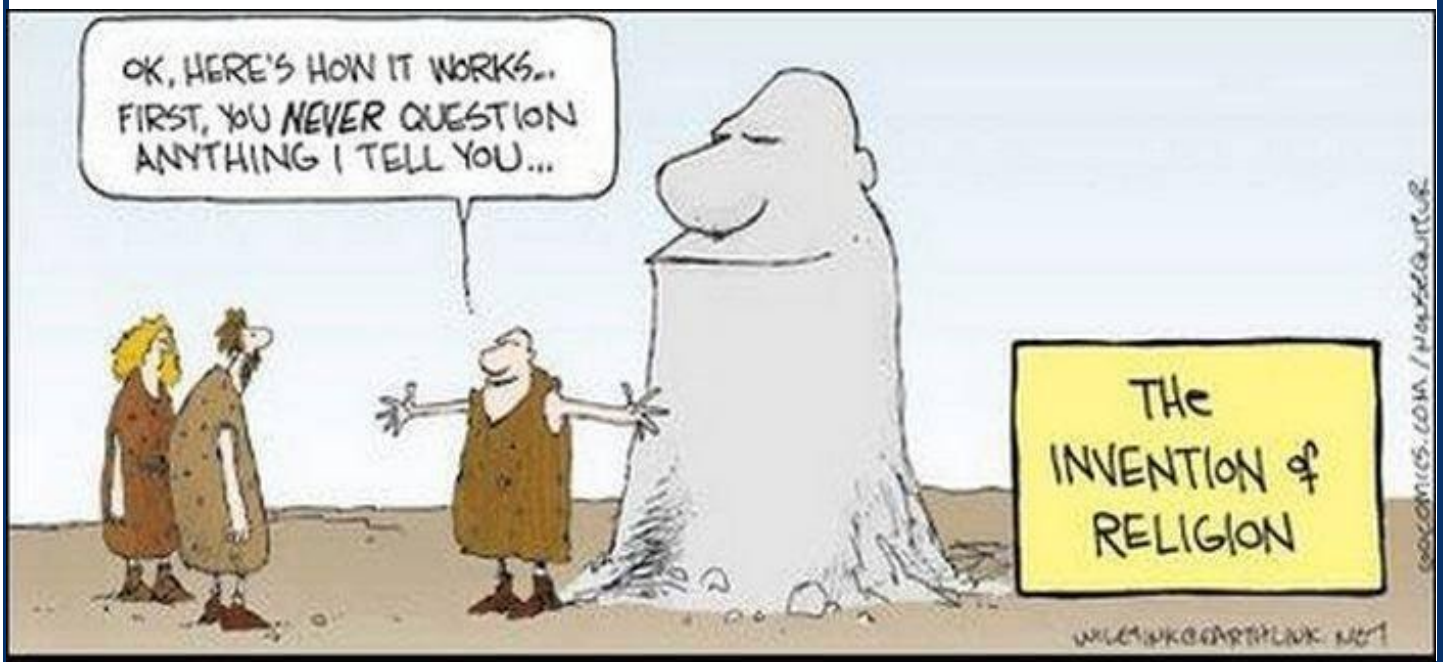
Now the next step is the hardest, that is taking your life into your own hands. You've always known that being morally good has nothing to do with religion, but society has bought into the lie. Examine that thought.

What aspects of the ten commandments of the Christian bible disturb you? You have some graven images in your home? You wonder why it's okay to support slavery? After all, the ten commandments say nothing about it. They say nothing about rape or abortion either. So once you've begun to analyze, you see that religion is based on a bed of clay. It's a quagmire; fall in and you sink.

So take that step out and feel the fresh air bathing you. Speak out and the waters are soothing. You are okay. You always have been. If you've mistakenly taken on the guilt and shame they coat you with, shuck it off. Step out of the shadows into the sunshine. It feels so good.

When more of us own our own feelings, the fairy tales lose their power, life scintillates, shimmers and glows.

Cleo Says
LISTEN UP!



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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.](#)

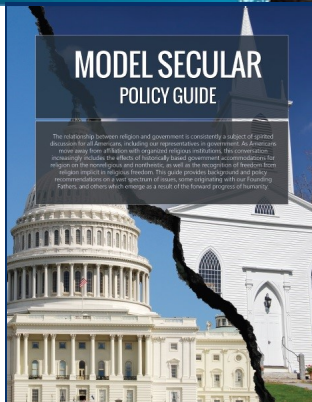
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MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

The relationship between religion and government is constantly a subject of heated discussion for all Americans. Religion and government are intertwined in a complex web of history, tradition, and politics. This guide provides a model for secular policy that is based on the principles of the First Amendment and the separation of church and state. It is intended to be a resource for policymakers and the public alike.



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

In honor of Freethought Day it is important to focus on the roots of American religious liberty, particularly as it germinated from the work of James Madison. Considered the Father of the Constitution, James Madison was one of the principle writers of The Federalist Papers after he wrote extensive notes at the Constitutional Convention Debates. Though at the time of the Constitution's ratification James Madison was not in favor of a Bill of Rights (viewing it to be a superfluous statement of rights the people had guaranteed under the state constitutions and under the system of checks and balances of the Federal Government), it was a political concession he promised the Anti-Federalists in order for the 13 states to join the newly-created Union. Once adopted, however, James Madison continued to focus on the issue of religious persecution, an issue he had worked against as far back as 1774 in Virginia.

The religious minorities at the time were Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Baptists, which were and are different sects of the Christian religion. Today religious diversity in this country has expanded far beyond particular sects of one religious tradition, and though freethinkers do not lump themselves in this category, it is important to realize that the legal basis for our freedom of religious belief or no religious belief is also guaranteed by the same Free Exercise Clause that James Madison fought for as part of the Bill of Rights over two centuries ago.

We as a group may not have even been considered to fall under that rubric all those years ago, but we nevertheless should pay homage to a Founding Father whose work helped forge our liberties today as we persevere to combat religious establishment and discrimination against us in the future.

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.

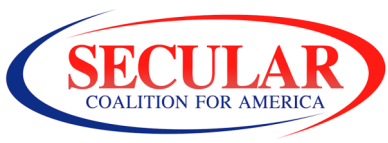
How Do I Find My Representatives?

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

Department of Bad Bills By Tom Manger

August 31st was the last day that the California Assembly or Senate were able to debate and vote on legislation. Of the bills that passed both of these houses, Monday, September 30th marked the last day that Governor Jerry Brown could sign these bills into law or to veto them. Here are highlights of some of the bills that made it to the governor's desk...

In California, this was an amazing year for same-sex marriage equality; protection of women and children from sexual assault or abuse; expanded sex education; and women's increased access to reproductive healthcare.

Regarding same-sex marriage, SB 1306 was passed earlier this year and officially makes marriage in California a gender neutral event. A marriage is no longer defined as being between a man and a woman. It is now a civil contract between two persons regardless of gender. The vast majority of LGBT weddings are civil (aka nonreligious) ceremonies. With the passing of AB 1525 this month, civil ceremonies will be easier to schedule (sans religious celebrants) now that "city clerks" have been added to the list of government employees who can solemnize a wedding. Next year the SCCA is hoping to significantly expand this even further by adding "public notaries" to the list of people able to solemnize a civil wedding in California. On our upcoming Advocacy Day (Oct 13th) we will be looking for legislators to sponsor this piece of legislation on our behalf.

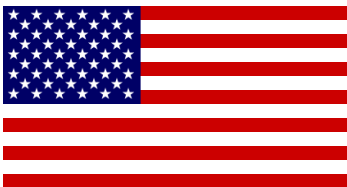
Senator Holly Mitchell pushed through a bill that mandates the inclusion of all FDA approved contraceptives, voluntary sterilization and comprehensive contraceptive counseling without restrictions or cost sharing (copays) in all health insurance policies in California (excepting houses of worship and certain religious nonprofits.) This puts all plans on par and eliminates exclusions. And, should a woman get pregnant, if she is eligible for CalWorks public assistance, thanks to AB 1579 she will be able to receive additional benefits for her infant starting in the second trimester.

AB 2016 and SB 1165 add to sex education curriculum the topics of sexual abuse and sex trafficking. This is an effort to raise awareness of these problems and provide victims (and potential reporters) with resources in which to direct themselves.

The threshold for consensual sex on campus used to be described by the saying, "No Means No." But, SB 967 requires universities, colleges and postsecondary schools to establish and enforce an affirmative consent policy. You will soon start seeing and hearing the term, "Yes Means Yes" to describe these new policies. For woman who end up victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault several other bills make new resources and procedures available to help them through the array of available Rape Crisis Centers, Family Justice Centers and violence peer counseling

Continued on next page.





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.



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REASON**

PO Box 15182
Sacramento, CA
95851-0182

E-mail:
admin@sacmentoreason.org
Judy Saint, Editor
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Continued from Page 14

Children are further protected from abuse through two new bills (AB 2560 & AB 1432) that enforce mandated child abuse reporting by school employees and teachers - some of the people most likely to identify a problem. And, should a child be victimized, SB 926 by Senator Beall changes the statute of limitations from age 26 to age 40 for those victims who want to bring charges against the perpetrators. Unfortunately, a companion bill SB 924 was vetoed by the governor. This bill would have extended the statute of limitations for bringing charges against any private institutions liable for having allowed child sexual abuse. (The Catholic Church lobbied hard against this bill.)

California has made a lot of forward progress in replacing sectarian laws with research based provisions that promote the welfare of all. Stick around for more adventures next year. And, if you're able to, join us on Advocacy Day on Monday October 13th when we visit all legislative offices to show them the issues important to us.

And, as a final observation, not only is California moving towards a healthier future, they are pushing back against a harmful past. This year AB 2444 passed and prevents the Confederate flag from being sold on any merchandise, political items and sports memorabilia sold through government venues such as gift stores at public museums. This is definitely something worth leaving behind.

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.

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/>

