

# Sacramento Reason

COR

*Shine the Light of Reason!*

## Upcoming Events

- 1 [New Member Coffee Meetup](#)
- 3 [Dinner Wine and Art Hop, Lodi](#)
- 5 [Flying Spaghetti Monster PartyPotluck](#)
- 7 [Brights Action](#)
- 7 [Self Defense Class](#)
- 7 [Book Club, Ceres](#)
- 8 [Dinner Grass Valley](#)
- 9 [Self Defense Class](#)
- 10 [Game Night in Salida](#)
- 11 [American River Clean Up with SSA](#)
- 11 [12 Steps to Compassionate Life](#)
- 11 [Brunch and Atheism in Stockton](#)
- 11 ["The Whipping Man"](#)
- 11 [Game Night!](#)
- 12 [Vegan Heathens](#)
- 12 [Sunday Sewing and Crafts](#)
- 12 [Potluck Game Night!](#)
- 13 [Dan Barker "Church/State" talk](#)
- 14 [BHNBS Monthly Meet and Greet](#)
- 14 [Self Defense Class](#)
- 15 [Book "Zealot" Review & Discussion](#)
- 16 [Self Defense](#)
- 17 [Drinking Skeptically in Stockton](#)

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

**Subscribe**

Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

April 2015

## Dan Barker, Music & Potluck

**Friday, April 17  
6:30 PM**

**Reason  
Center**

- Potluck optional at 6:30 PM.
- Music begins at 7:00 PM!

It's Friday Night! What better fun than food, music, and the wonderful Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation to entertain and give us words of wisdom from the front lines!

Settle in for some terrific secular music with a message by Dan Barker and the "Unofficial Greater Sacramento FFRF Band" - featuring some members you're sure to recognize!



Bring any dish (optional), light BYOB is fine, monitored kids are welcome, dancing is encouraged!

**Reason Center  
1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A  
Sacramento**

(turn at the silver and green fire hydrant)

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

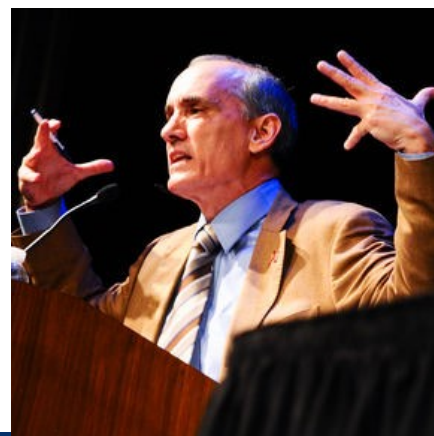
If you are interested in joining FFRF's California chapter, just join FFRF at [this link](#), then let us know by emailing [sac@ffrf.org](mailto:sac@ffrf.org). It's that simple.

### ALSO

**Monday, April 13, 6:00 PM**

**Sac City College Student Center**

Catch Dan's talk "The Importance of Church/State Separation" - our most vital issue of today! \$3 + \$2 parking. See [Facebook page](#) for "SSA SCC" for updates and more details.



facebook



**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. Sign up to keep informed! ([Click Here](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>

**Really?**



## Have You Actually Read It?

One thousand five hundred and forty-one times the Christian bible contains an injustice by today's standards. For example, not only your children should suffer for your wrong doings, but their children, and their children, and on and on for 17 generations. Or that someone whose personal parts were lost in a war explosion, for example, cannot enter certain buildings. Or that mouthy teens must be killed, and not just in threat only, but really. And this is the god people want to proclaim they *trust* in large letters in every American courthouse and school room?  
**REALLY?**

**Finally!**

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

[Buy it here.](#)

Page 2

Sacramento Reason

## "Ask The Social I.Q. Lady"

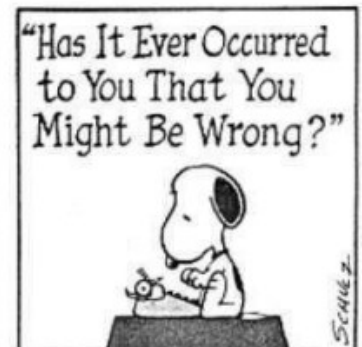
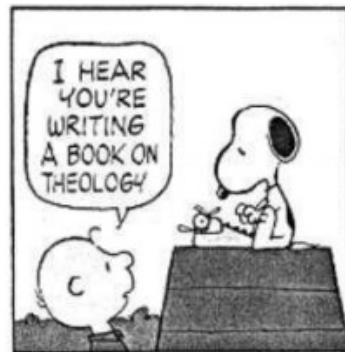
**Q:** I have a few religious friends who post the most annoying Christian things on Facebook. Some are so ridiculous that I want to comment, but I also don't want to insult them. Is there a way to respond without completely offending them?

**A:** If you think your comment might offend someone then chances are it will. If you're going to correct factual errors then do so without emotion. Avoid name-calling or telling the other person he or she is wrong. For example, if a post says "Thank God we are a Christian nation" then you could reply with, "Actually, most of the founding fathers were deists. Article 11 of the Treaty of Tripoli, written during the administration of George Washington, declared in part that 'the government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion.'" In this way, your friend would have to be offended by history, not you. If you have a friend who continually posts religious garbage, you can "hide" their posts. Next time a post from your friend shows up that you'd rather not read, click on the little drop-down arrow on the top of the post then choose "I don't want to see this". If that isn't enough, choose "Unfollow". This will hide all their posts from your feed, but you can stay friends.

Simply being atheist is enough to offend many Christians. It goes against everything in which they believe.

Don't be afraid to comment the truth. Don't be afraid your comments might offend – they will anyway. As long as you keep it short, civil, and to the point you will minimize any "damage". If you do this often enough you won't have to worry about your religious friends anymore because they will unfriend YOU all on their own.

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







## Ancient Christian Study Group - April 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 welcome.

Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 3

## Dr. Robert M. Price – "The Christ Myth"

### The Bible Geek



**ROBERT M PRICE**  
PRESENTS THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST  
BUT WITHOUT THE SPIN

**April 28, 7:00 PM**

**Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A**

Host of "The Bible Geek", and "The Human Bible" podcasts. Author of many books you can find on Amazon and other sources, including *The God Who Wasn't There* and *The Reason Driven Life*. Professor of Biblical Criticism at the Center for Inquiry Institute as well as the editor of *The Journal of Higher Criticism*. You can read more of his impressive biography on his [website here](#).

Come hear this lively ex-pastor's wit and insight gained from years of research and two PhDs in religious studies. Bring your friends who might be interested in why many now follow Dr. Price's idea of Jesus Christ being a myth. Dr. Price might also provide us with some anecdotes from his debate with William Lane Craig, if we're lucky!



Free event. The public is welcome. See you there! [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Sponsored by AOF Speaker Series. To support this series please [join AOF](#) or consider a [donation](#).

**Reason  
Center**

## Flying Spaghetti Monster Potluck and Party

**Sunday, April 5, 12:00 PM—4:00 PM**

**Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento**

Come join our alternative to all those churchy Easter activities! Enjoy our annual spaghetti-themed potluck and at the same time poke some gentle fun at Creationists who insist a cosmic Intelligence simply *had* to



have created us.

"Pastafarians" open our hearts and tummies to the FSM until we are filled with rich red sauce and garlic bread! YUM!

Bring any food & beverage to share, plus \$1 to help cover incidental supplies.

The event will include music, board games, pirate cosplay and a pirate costume contest. So OK to wear pirate garb if you can, or something piraty.

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

**Reason  
Center**



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

Apr 11 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)

Apr 19 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mels Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)

Apr 19 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)

### HAGSA Book Discussion "Zealot"

April 15, 3:00 PM  
Reason Center  
1824 Tribute Rd  
Ste A, Sacramento

Do most religious people use scriptures to justify their own positions on morality or derive their views from those scriptures? The author seems to be in line with the perceptions of Humanists (and freethinkers generally). Wayne Luney and Roger Zabkie, will review and discuss Dr. Aslan's book. Open to all.

### Book Clubs

**Sacramento**  
Apr 20, 6:30 pm  
Reason Center  
1824 Tribute Rd  
[Details here.](#)

**Ceres**  
April 7, at 7:00 pm  
1st Tues each mo.  
[Details here.](#)

Page 4

### Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

"Oh no, I don't believe in god anymore, how will I ever tell him? He's going to be devastated and boy is he going to be angry!"

I remember when I first became consciously aware that I didn't believe in god anymore. There was such a rush of fear and adrenaline, and the horrifying thought that I was going to have to tell god. I was so afraid but I screwed up my courage and thought, "God, I really don't think you exist." and just like that my faith shattered like glass. There was no god listening to condemn me. He simply wasn't there.

A friend of mine who recently lost her faith said that the moment she realized she didn't believe anymore was terrifying for her. She waited for god to strike her with lightening but when he didn't she allowed it to sink in that he just wasn't there.

This is not an uncommon experience for someone who just lost his or her belief goggles. For a believer, he's very real and he hears their thoughts. This belief, that god is listening in on the believer's thoughts, makes questioning god flat out terrifying. But in my experience and that of my friend's, what followed that terrifying moment of coming out to god was indescribable peace and much more restful sleep.

God's a bit like Santa; he's completely fictional. It's said he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows when you've been bad or good so believe in him for goodness sake.

But, just like Santa, there's just as much evidence to believe in the Jewish, Christian, Muslim or Hindu version of god, as there is to believe in flying reindeer. It's all just stories told over a campfire. So go ahead, come out!

Sacramento Reason



## SkeptiCal June 6—Get Your Tickets Now

SkeptiCal is the Northern California conference of science and skepticism, a day-long event with speakers, panels, and discussions on a wide array of subjects. Presented in Oakland this year. Topics include GMOs, alien life, fear of viruses, research methods, science in fiction, activism, logic of intuition, raising skeptical kids, and more. [Details here](#)

### Upcoming Events

cont'd from pg 1

- 17 [Dan Barker, Music and Potluck!](#)
- 18 [Secular Family Day—Festival](#)
- 18 [Freethought Dinner Social](#)
- 19 [Blasphemy Breakfast in Rocklin](#)
- 19 [Blasphemy Brunch Dxn/Vcville](#)
- 19 [Sunday Assembly](#)
- 19 [Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcad](#)
- 19 [Coffee Klatch in Modesto](#)
- 19 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- 19 [Winter Clothing Book Swap: Potluck](#)
- 19 [Bill Maher Live in Santa Cruz](#)
- 20 [Book Club "Ecstasy of Muir"](#)
- 21 [Self Defense](#)
- 23 [Self Defense](#)
- 24 [Game Night Lodi](#)
- 24 [Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub](#)
- 24 [Finally Friday Dinner and Karaoke](#)
- 25 [BHNBS Planning](#)
- 26 [BHNBS Humanity Breakfast :-\)](#) YUM
- 26 [Brunch, Atheism](#)
- 26 [Earth Day Stcktn](#)
- 28 [Self Defense](#)
- 28 [Dr. Robert Price](#)
- 30 [Self Defense](#)
- May 1 [Dinner Wine Art Hop in Lodi](#)
- May 12 [Tracie Harris Atheist Exper TV](#)

Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 5

## Winter Clothing and Book Swap—Sunday, April 19

Bring your gently used shoes, clothes and books to swap for some “new to you” items for yourself and others! Come enjoy some food, make new friends and exchange your still-good clothes for some new ones. (Only clean outer garments without much wear, please—nice things you’d like to share with the new friends you’ll meet here.)

Enjoy some food while you’re here and make some new like-minded friends! Bring a potluck item to share.

See [details here](#) for host Cassandra’s contact information and swap address.

## Self Defense Classes Starting at Reason Center

Jujitsu master Professor Richard Francis is hosting a series of self-defense classes to benefit the Reason Center.

Being a man of modest means and simple pleasures, the dues are kept low (\$70/mo). What you will learn is worth much more than you will pay.

Tuesdays and Thursdays at The Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite A

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

**Reason**  
Center




**THIS BOOK**  
doesn't have any answers

The Napkin  
religion is the one  
true religion  
because it says  
so right here  
on this Napkin.





Every single action of god, including every prophet chosen in the Qur'an, Torah, and Bible occurred inside this circle.  Oddly enough, that's the same land region these holy book authors were familiar with.



## Freethought Dinner Social

### Evan's Kitchen

April 18, 5:30 pm  
855 57th St, Sac  
Please join us for conversation and good food.

[Map here.](#)

[Details here.](#)

## Dinner in Grass Valley

Thai Kitchen  
149 South Auburn St, Grass Valley  
April 8, 5:00 pm

[Details here.](#)

## Dinner, Wine and Art Hop in Lodi

[Apr 3 details here.](#)

[May 1 details here.](#)



Page 6

## Little Activisms

By Judy Saint

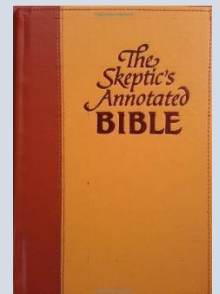
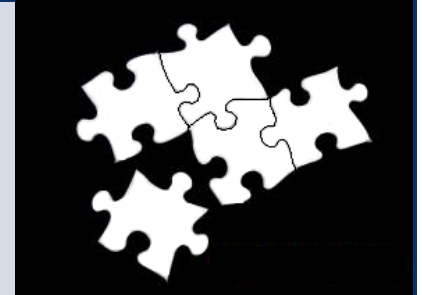
This month's little activism you can do will cost you \$40, but it's so worth it. Following the theme of *Sacramento Reason* (April's theme is "Bible Problems"), there is a fascinating version of the bible which points out every instance of absurdity and objectionable material you could hope for. Such a wonderful reference book which any believer or non-believer really should pay attention to. [Annotations include: Absurdity, Injustice, Cruelty, Intolerance, Contradictions, Misogyny, Homosexuality, Politics and other categories.]

Not only can you use this to win arguments, make valid points about how horrible the "morality" of the bible truly is, or establish how out of date their god behaves, this is also highly valuable simply for the title alone. What do you think about just having this book in your arms as you sit at Starbuck's, or at the airport, or at the top of your stack of books you carry to college classes? Too heavy? Maybe. So, what do you think about just leaving this book sitting out on your coffee table at home, where all visitors can see it? How wonderful if it sparks conversation. For one thing, those who know you are atheist might wonder why you have a bible lying around, and those who don't know will find themselves at the wrong end of a conversation should they mention it at all. It's a win either way for pointing out the horrible and absurd stories told.

So, this month I'd like each of you to consider purchasing one copy of *The Skeptic's Annotated Bible* to carry around, or just leave lying about. It's a great resource for you, as well as a great conversation starter! (Also available are the *Skeptic's Annotated Book of Mormon* and *Quran*.)

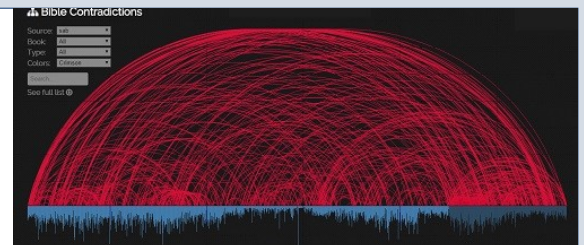
Read the [online version here](#). Order your [hard copy here](#).

Sacramento Reason



## All Those Contradictions!

Play with this Interactive Bible Chart of Contradictions. Select by type of contradiction, by bible version, or by book of the bible, and see interesting graphs to show your friends. BTW, it's for real—there really are that many. [Explore it 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.

[Sacto Apr 11](#) or [Sacto Apr 12](#) or [Salida Apr 10](#) or [Lodi Apr 24](#)



### New Members Meetup & Coffee

April 1 and May 6  
Coffee Garden  
2904 Franklin Blvd  
[Map here.](#)

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

- Recent news and announcements
- Other local 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.

[April 1 details](#)  
[May 6 details](#)

Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 7

### Family Time By Lindsey Campbell

Religion ties itself to sex and talk of sex to the point of making even discussion shameful. Roxanne and I were watching ducks at a pond in Grass Valley. The male ducks were having their way with the women ducks—in gang style—like, a frantic, wild, feather-flying bills-snapping half-drowning ducking frenzy. So, I was there with her, and this other little girl and her little waif of a mom were watching in horror. The other little girl was crying, "Mommy! They're killing that one!" I calmly knelt down next to both girls and said, "It's okay, it looks scary but they are actually making babies". Well, God Forbid I talk about making babies, because the mother looked at me disapprovingly and shook her head "no." Really? It's cool if they appear to be killing the female, but don't ever mention making babies? Reproductive rituals are that shameful and embarrassing?



The bible itself is one of the worst culprits when it comes to talk of sex (incest, drunken rape, offering up one's virgin daughters), which points out how people who claim to use the bible as a moral guide are just not reading it, apparently. But there it is, all about sex.

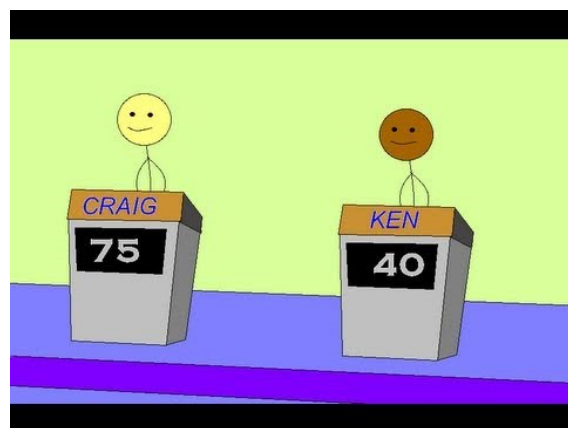
My daughter is a proud naturalist and will tell you that extinction is when a species has more deaths than births, and over time they will all be gone. Does this mean that if Xtians continue to admonish and hide reproductive activities while commending war and death, that they will eventually all die out?? I think it's worth a gander to assume. What do you think?



### PLAY ALONG WITH THIS GAME SHOW!

See how much you know about the infallible bible! (Humorous!)

[Watch this fun "game show" here.](#)



# Local Groups to Visit or Join

| Name  | Emphasis   |  | Tax Ded |  | Website                               |
|---|--|--|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA)              | UC Davis student group   | Y  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter)  | Promotes individual activism, confronts violations   | N  | Y       | <u>National only</u>  | <a href="#">au-sac.org</a>            |
| Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF)                       | Events both social and presented, for growth and fun.                                      | Y  | Y       | N   | <a href="#">aofonline.org</a>         |
| Black Humanists and Non Believers of Sac (BHNBS)            | Doubts about religion? You're one of many. Social and other Meetup events.                 | Y  | N       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Brights Action  | Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media   | Y  | Y       | <u>Internat'l only</u>  | <a href="#">the-brights.net/</a>      |
| FACTS Church  | Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form.                             | Y  | Y       | N   | <a href="#">factschurch.com</a>       |
| Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Founda- | Protecting the constitutional principle of separation of state and church.                 | Y  | Y       | N   | <a href="#">sac.ffrf.org</a>          |
| Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA)        | Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good.   | Y  | Y       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">hagsa.org</a>             |
| Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason                         | Directing the community to the various groups of reason.                                   | Y  | N       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">SacramentoCoR.org</a>     |
| Sac Area Skeptics (SAS)                                     | Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills.                     | Y  | Y       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)        | Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism.                   | Y  | N       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">SacFAN.org</a>            |
| Sac Politics and Philosophy Group                           | Meetup group for Thinking Beings!  | N  | N       | N   | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Secular Coalition for California                            | Train to engage media and lobby state politicians. Activist resource.                      | N  | N       | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">ca.secular.org</a>        |
| Secular Student Alliance - Sac City College                 | Sac City College student group. Meet, question, promote, unite.                            | Y  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Facebook page here</a>    |
| Sierra College Secular Student Alliance                     | Sierra College student and faculty group for non-belief in religion.                       | Y  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Stanislaus Humanists  | Book groups, discussions, game nights, theatrical movies, karaoke, dancing.                |  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Website here</a>          |
| Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)              | Meetup events and philanthropy, from Galt to Modesto.                                      | Y  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">StocktonAAF.org</a>       |
| Student Alliance @ Sacramento State University (CSUS)       | CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought.                                   | N  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">csusaso.wordpress.com</a> |
| Sunday Assembly Sacramento                                  | Secular congregation celebrates life with pop music, inspirational talks, donuts and more. | Y  |         | <u>Y</u>  | <a href="#">Facebook page here</a>    |



## Highway Cleanup

Butte County: April 5, 8 AM to 10 AM. Meet at Nelson Road, in Chico.

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



### Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

#### Sacramento

Sac Skeptics in the Pub

Fri Apr 24, 6:30p  
Hoppy Brewing Co  
6300 Folsom Blvd

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

#### Stockton

Drinking Skeptically  
Fri Apr 17, 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](#)



Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 9

## < 30

By Sara Lone

I saw that Kingsman: The Secret Service movie recently and there was a quote the bad guy (Samuel L. Jackson, of course) said... Ten bucks says religious folks totally missed it —

Bad Guy: Noah and the Ark! Was God the bad guy?

Crowd: No...

Bad Guy: Was Noah the bad guy?

Crowd: No...

Bad Guy: What about those little animals marching two by two?

Crowd: No!

Bad Guy: No!

We never see God as “the bad guy,” but it’s all over our movies we watch every-day. Why is it so difficult to see that God IS the bad guy in ‘Noah’s Ark’?! He slaughtered SPECIES! And practiced the most extreme form of eugenics possible by only allowing one family to live. God IS the bad guy. He was the bad guy when he told Abraham to kill his son, when he demanded the killing of innocent people, and continues to inspire killing around the world.

I’ve got a better story for you, one without a bad/good guy, and yet still a better story. Given to us by the amazing Doctor Who —

“All the elements in your body were forged many, many millions of years ago in the heart of a faraway star that exploded and died. That explosion scattered those elements across the desolations of deep space. After so, so many millions of years, these elements came together to form new stars and new planets. And on and on it went. The elements came together and burst apart, forming shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings. Until, eventually, they came together to make you. You are unique in the universe.”

Everyone just accepts biblical stories in our movies... I say we challenge that! Unless of course everyone also chooses to believe in Star Wars... LOTR... Harry Potter...

Contact Sara at [Under30@sacramentoreason.org](mailto:Under30@sacramentoreason.org).  
#under30nones



## AUBURN—We Have Our Own Freethought Meetup Group!

Friday, April 3 from 7:00—8:30 PM. Let's meet each other for coffee, tea or whatever at Starbucks, 1790 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn. [Map here](#) [Details here](#)



Humanist House

### Bay Area Humanist House

[Learn more here.](#)

"American Humanist Association is proud to support our affiliate in Silicon Valley in this forward thinking project. We look forward to incubating ideas that will benefit all of our chapters. The Freethought community needs a safe place to volunteer our time and we want to show measurable results to the broader community in a place that is inviting to all" - Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director, AHA

Launched on Dogma Debate with David Smalley. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Broadcast on the Chip Evans Show recently. Find the America Matters episode for March 28 [here](#).

Page 10

Sacramento Reason

## Secular Family Day

Nearly every month, the **third Saturday** is "Secular Family Day" -- a day for the whole family to get out and meet other secular families in a fun place somewhere in the Central Valley.

[Details for April 18 here](#)

## Sunday Assembly—April 19

**Join us as we celebrate life!  
Come sing, listen and laugh!**

Doors open 10:30 AM

Service begins at 11:00 AM

Potluck with the dishes you brought early begins at 12:15 PM

[Map here](#)—1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A, Sac

[Details here](#)



**Reason**  
Center

## Learn healthcare from the Bible

**How to treat recovered lepers:**

- 1) Take two birds, kill one under running water.
- 2) Dip the living bird in the blood of the dead bird with cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop.
- 3) Sprinkle the mixture on the patient 7 times; release the living bird into an open field.
- 4) Shave all the patient's hair. Wait 7 days.
- 5) Kill a lamb, place blood on the patient's right ear, right thumb & great toe of his right foot.
- 6) Take oil and sprinkle 7 times, pour remaining oil over patient's head...

Leviticus 14:2-29

Bill Flavel

The Bible: Holy Baloney

## GRASS VALLEY—Let's have a Skeptical Dinner!

Wednesday, April 8, 5:00—7:00 PM. Thai Kitchen, 149 S. Auburn St, Grass Valley.

Let's have dinner to make some new like-minded friends up our way. [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

## Reason Center

**Support  
Reason Center**

**Be A Monthly  
Supporter**

It's all up to us now. Consider supporting Sacramento's Reason Center with a monthly donation, whichever free-thought group you belong to.

The Center needs regular monthly backing from each of us to succeed. Even \$5/month is good.

You may have seen recent speakers such as Matt Dillahunty, or you may have been at the Center to organize a new group in the area. Or, you might find yourself coming to the Reason Center for just about anything, but without *lots* of monthly donors, we cannot keep a great facility like this operating. See what you can do to help.

**Set up a monthly donation here.**

(please)

Volume III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 11

### Talk with Legislators May 7

The Secular Coalition for California welcomes all secular and nontheistic Californians to our 2015 Secular Lobby Day!

In-person constituent lobbying is still the most effective method to reach elected officials. We need as many secular and nontheistic people to

speak up and show their elected officials that secular Californians are voting, paying attention to the issues, and must be recognized as a constituency.

No experience is necessary, we will provide training on general lobbying and on the specific topics for our lobbying visits. After training, everyone will split into small groups and go to pre-scheduled appointments at the offices of elected officials.

Register at [2015secularlobbyday.eventbrite.com](http://2015secularlobbyday.eventbrite.com) before April 20.



### Review: Matt McCormick's Talk

Excellent analysis and insight on 'faith'. McCormick combined both his tight philosophical structure with laymen's interpretation to help it sink in. His key points are very important for us to reflect back at those professing their faith as a virtue or as if equivalent to evidence, if not superior. I realize many of us are looking for "what do we do about it", which he did try to address, even though his expertise delivered was more to the point of unclothing what 'faith' truly is. He did suggest we call them out on it, establish clearly whether all

rules are off, and to save our energy for other people who follow rules of discussion, for example.

Since these people feel supported by their peers, the best thing we can do is remove that sense of mass support.

Great presentation.



*Photos by David Diskin and Freedom*





## Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

Cleo Says

**LISTEN  
UP!**

Too many people who identify as Christians dismiss the Old Testament as history or irrelevant with the advent of Jesus. But Jesus didn't always have the status some attribute to him now.

Until the Nicene Creed was adopted in 787 CE, the divinity of Jesus was not part of the Holy Roman religious doctrine. Arianism said that if Jesus was born, then there was a time when he did not exist. Thus he was lesser than the father, at best a mediator between people and god.

This view of Jesus spread throughout all of Egypt, Palestine, Libya and Asia Minor. Afraid this viewpoint would be detrimental to the church, the Council of Nicea decided to make Jesus divine. All books of Arius, who postulated the original argument of Arianism, that Jesus was human, were destroyed. This, of course, is only one of the "problems of the bible."

## THEN

And the LORD was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.

Judges 1:19



## NOW

And the LORD was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had the internet.



JOIN YOUR FRIENDS  
IN HOLY MATRIMONY  
[humanistweddings.org](http://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 III, Issue 4

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

Page 13

### MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

The relationship between religion and government is constantly a subject of heated discussion for all Americans. Religion and government are intertwined in government. It does not mean any form of affiliation with religious institutions, but rather, the government's role in the lives of its citizens. The effects of religiously based government are everywhere in the United States and throughout the world. This guide provides background and policy recommendations on a variety of issues, some originating with the Founding Fathers and others which emerge as a result of the human condition.



## 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

Twenty-two legislatures in the country, including the state legislature in California, are considering so-called "End of Life Option" bills, which would legalize assisted suicide for qualifying patients via self-administered drugs. Qualifying patients are terminally ill, and the political impetus behind such laws are to allow such people to have control over their lives and ending them with dignity if their ailments prove too difficult to survive through. Senate Bill 128 of 2015 is currently being heard by California's Senate Health and Judiciary Committees, and has already gone through one set of revisions in the California State Senate.

Many attempts have been made to pass similar legislation in California in the past, most recently in 2007 after the Terri Schiavo incident in Florida. Senate Bill 128 is modeled after Oregon's End to Life Option law, which was enacted there in 1997. Senate Bill 128 caught traction after Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old woman with terminal brain cancer, moved to Oregon from California in order to have access to legal assisted suicide. Ms. Maynard openly advocated her support for such laws in 2014 before she ended her life.

End of Life Option bills are controversial among many religiously-oriented interest groups, as the idea of a person taking their own life under any circumstance usually condemns that person to Hell or some similar variant. However, as secular-minded folks tirelessly point out, the religious beliefs of one group should have no say over the policy choices we adopt in a secular society where individual rights are cherished. If you do not believe in the option to end your own life in the face of excruciating illness and pain, that is your right and decision. But your beliefs should not therefore force everyone to conform by law to your religious worldview or decisions, even on this issue.

*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.*

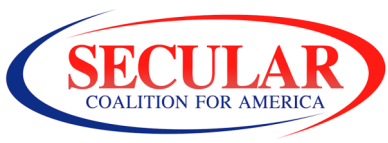
## How Do I Find My Representatives?

US Senate: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](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](#).

Page 14

Sacramento Reason

## SCCA Update

By Tom Manger



The California legislative process is in full swing for 2015 and there are a number of bills of interest to secular activists. There isn't enough space in this newsletter to do a full write up on each of these, so I'm providing a list and brief summaries below. If any of these bills pique your interest, feel free to contact me directly. We are actively lobbying for or against these bills and are happy to get assistance from the larger secular community. Here are a few we support.

**SB 128 - End Of Life Option Act** - Will allow mentally competent terminally ill people to legally obtain drugs to terminate their own life. *(Click the photo at bottom to watch Brittany Maynard's last video. The group wearing yellow are those who attended and spoke at the Senate Health Committee Hearing.—ed.)*

**SB 277 - Vaccinations** - Will eliminate the ability for parents to opt out of vaccinations for personally held beliefs. Individuals could still be exempted for medical reasons.

**AB 830 - Gender violence** - Would expand the definition of gender violence to include violent acts committed in part due to the sexual orientation of the victim.

**SB 322 - Charter school students suspension and expulsion** - Would require charter schools to adhere to school district procedures for all student suspensions and expulsions.

And, here are a few bills that we currently oppose.

**AB 207 - Online Charter Schools** - Would allow charter schools to obtain local taxpayer funding for students who attend virtually but who live outside of the local school district.

**AB 1380 - Corporation Sole** - Would allow religious organizations to bypass decisions made by the California Secretary of State.

**SB 416 - School funding** - Would defund multiple school programs including art, safety and violence prevention, technology, bilingual education and mathematics.

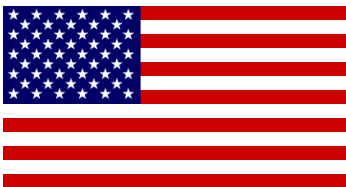
We encourage all readers to read up on these bills then contact your representatives to state your position - and the position of the secular community. You can also join us in Sacramento on May 7th for our annual Lobby Day. See our website or Facebook page for more info.



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](mailto:california@secular.org).







We firmly support the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and Article Six "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States".



Can I make tax deductible donations?  
**Yes!** Many freethinking groups are 501c3.  
See Page 8 for details.

Print one copy of this newsletter to leave in a coffee house or other public location.  
You never know.



**SACRAMENTO AREA  
COALITION OF  
REASON**

PO Box 15182  
Sacramento, CA  
95851-0182

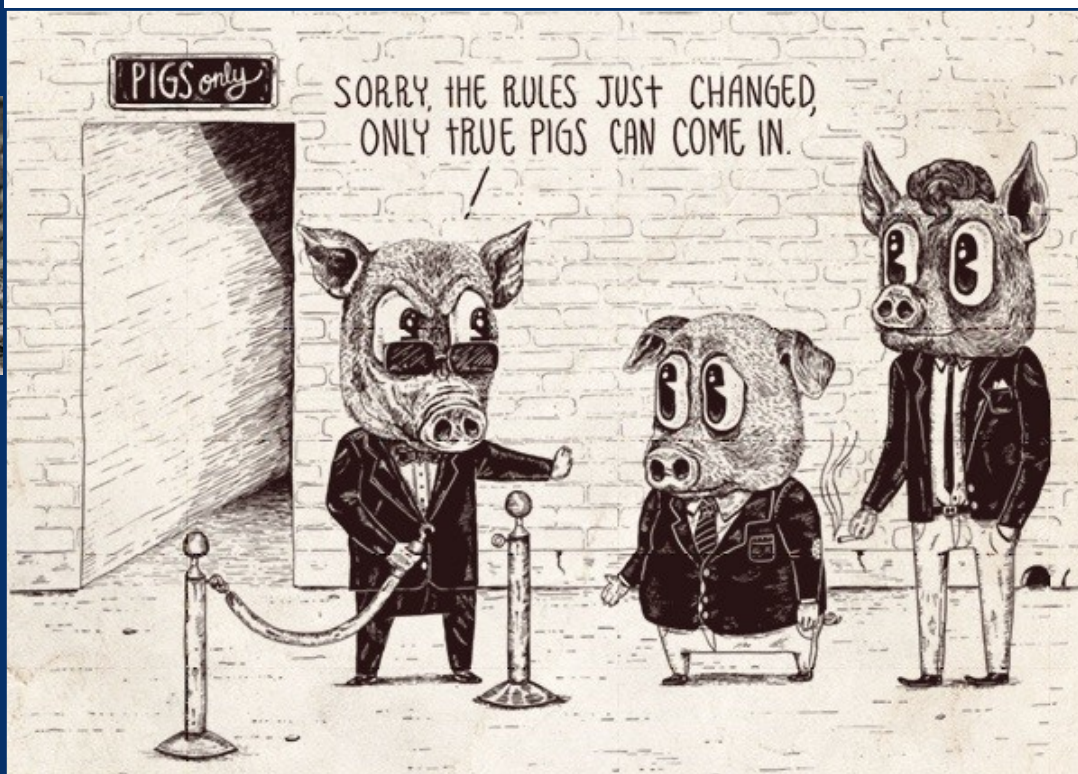
E-mail:  
admin@sacmentoreason.org  
Judy Saint, Editor  
Photographer, Matt Martin

**Subscribe**

## Logical Fallacies On Parade

Name this logical fallacy. (Answer upside down at bottom.)

When a counter-example is given, proving a claim is not true for every item in a category, some people will say this one exception was never a "true" item of the category. For example, if you are now atheist, then you never really were a true Christian. Or, if you can't hold your beer you're not a true Scotsman.

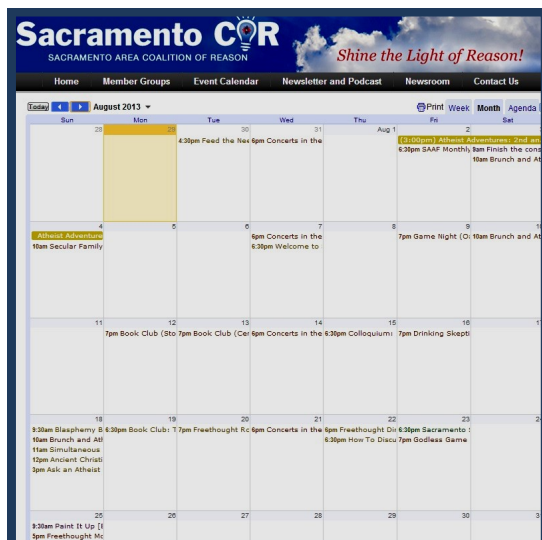


*It's a type of ambiguity called "No True Scotsman". Graphic from the Book of Bad Arguments.*

## 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/>



Special Insert! Scroll down



## Cleo Kocol Author of "Listen Up!" Column



I became a member of the American Humanist Association (AHA) and the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) in the late 1970's. I held various positions in local non-theist organizations in Washington State and California and was a long time activist. I served on the national boards of the AHA and the Atheist Alliance International. I wrote and presented my feminist/humanist one woman shows throughout the United States. I was chair of the Feminist Caucus of the AHA, and in 1988 I was named the Humanist Heroine of the AHA. In New Jersey and Seattle I marched and picketed. In Seattle, I wrote the local newsletter, 4 Women & Men and in Sacramento the newsletter, Birds of a Feather. I wrote letters and gave talks representing secular views. I committed civil disobedience three times in support of my beliefs, the first by chaining myself to the LDS temple in Bellevue, Washington. The other two actions took place in Washington, D.C. in front of the White House and at the Federal Building in Seattle, Washington. In Roseville, CA., I started and co-chaired for 13 years (with my late husband, Hank) The Humanists of Sun City, Roseville. I am a life member of FFRF and will have a patio stone with my husband's and my name engraved on it at the new building.

In Sun City I give historical talks four times a year and am hired at least twice a year to speak at other venues. My poetry is award winning, my historical fiction with factual background and yummy love stories (not romance) is sold on Amazon.com. I'm also an avid scrabble player, on line and with friends. I'm active in my community organizations and my local Democratic Club. I've traveled extensively and enjoy reading novels and non-fiction. I love good movies, and small dinner parties with good talk.

I started a website where you can read some of this on line (Cleo Fellers Kocol). Unfortunately, my computer acted up and parts of the longer blogs I wrote never appeared on line. So I gave that up as, at my age, I am usually inundated with things to do and really do not need another. You can always write to me via the *Sacramento Reason* newsletter, and because I can no longer see well enough to drive, at freethought events where others drive.

I was lucky enough to grow up in a secular household. However, at that time, no one used the word atheist. We just lived a life without religion. I didn't realize until I was an adult that my family and most of the extended family and friends were also atheists. Few people I knew went to church when I was a child and young person. The religious right began to wage an underground assault on us and the nation in the 1970's in an organized way.

I write because the answers to the questions posed seem like pure common sense and because the religious right has gotten a strangle hold on our country, although they hide their presence behind euphemisms. They pretend not to be anti anything, but they certainly are anti-woman, anti-non-theists, and anti common sense. They, by the voting public's apathy, have taken over congress, and we in the secular movement will come to regret it if we sit on our hands.

Like Teddy Roosevelt, we should speak softly but carry a big stick. The billboard people of Sacramento made a powerful statement, but there are many ways to make your beliefs known. Maybe it's just coming out firmly and politely to your family.