

# Sacramento Reason

COR

*Shine the Light of Reason!*

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Sac Coalition of Reason Calendar: <http://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>

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Volume III, Issue 6

Issue Theme: Funny Hats

June 2015

# The Thinking Atheist

thethinkingatheist.com



## Seth Andrews in Sacramento—June 23

### “Sacred Cows: A Lighthearted Look at Belief and Tradition Around the World”

With Seth Andrews, The Thinking Atheist



**TICKETS REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT (They're FREE! Bring friends!)**

<http://sethandrews.brownpapertickets.com/>

Did you know God forbids the tying of shoelaces on Saturday? Or that humans emit a color aura which can only be discerned with a third eye? That instead of wishing upon a star, we can wish upon a...cow? Join author and radio host Seth Andrews for a random romp across the planet...and a humorous look at some of humanity's sacred cows.

Seth Andrews, a video producer and former Christian broadcaster, now hosts "[The Thinking Atheist](#)", one of the most popular online atheist communities in the world, a site which encourages all to reject faith and embrace doubt, curiosity and reason.

His second book, "Sacred Cows: a Lighthearted Look at Belief and Tradition Around the World" is out! Also out is his first book, "Deconverted". Come prepared to buy both at the event. I'm sure he'll sign them for you!

**Tuesday, June 23, 7:00 PM**

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

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

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](#)) or go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacramento-Area-Coalition-of-Reason/376151155788191>

**Really?**



## Turban Warfare

Tracie Harris told us of a young adult whose parents were fine with him rejecting religion, but not with cutting his hair. He must keep it long inside his huge turban, even though he no longer lives in India. They would shun him without his hair up in a turban. Not keeping his hair in a turban is worse than rejecting your god? **REALLY?**

## Secular Family Day

June 20  
2:00—4:00 PM  
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.

Please join us for conversation and good food.  
[Details here.](#)

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## Science Nights

**June 3 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Worlds of Wonder Science Museum**

2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi

**SCIENCE NIGHT LIVE** is an engaging science experience within a casual atmosphere for the curious minds in our community! Jun 3: Science Trivia Night - Teams of 2-6 w/ Prizes! [Map here](#) [Details here.](#)

Come join the conversation with a local scientist, participate in hands-on activities, socialize with other science enthusiasts, and reward your trivia skills. It's a different event each month, and sure to be a lot of fun.

## March in SF Pride Parade

Again this year we, along with other groups, will march as the Atheist/ Humanist Groups Contingent in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28th. Our lead banners declare: "Stop the Religious Oppression of LGBT's." This movement is a natural ally for us, and it provides a blueprint for our own movement. We will need Contingent Monitors so please volunteer if you can. Monitors attend a one hour class, and simply make sure our contingent follows the rules. Since that isn't a problem, the job is very easy. The Parade begins at 10:30 AM at Market & Beale, very close to the Embarcadero BART Station. We don't know our gathering location and time yet, but will let you know when we know. [Details here.](#)

## Black Humanists Book Fair

BHNBS of Sacramento will host a booth to promote books with humanist, skeptic, atheist and similar subjects. The fair will be open from 10am - 6pm Saturday, June 6th and 12pm - 6pm on Sunday, June 7th. Hope to see you there!

**Historic Center, Oak Park  
Broadway & 35th St**

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



"So there's a cardinal at the feeder. Big deal. If I've seen one cardinal, I've seen a hundred of 'em."



## Ancient Christian Study Group - June 21, 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.

## Freethought Dinner Socials

### June 7—Potluck in the Park, 4:00 pm

Join us for a potluck picnic in McKinley Park, East Sacramento! Meet at the end of the swimming pool where the diving boards are. Bring something to share. Suggest bring seat cushions or towels to sit on the metal picnic benches. And maybe a table cloth if you have one. There are plenty of picnic tables available but folding chairs would be handy too in case we don't find a vacant table or we want to put chairs around a table. There is a restroom facility available adjacent to the swimming pool. The park features a rose garden with 1,000 rose trees, an elaborate fortress-like children's playground, a 1 mile jogging/walking path, tennis courts, soft ball fields, Olympic-sized swimming pool, a trout/duck pond (with ducks), softball fields, soccer pitch, and a library. There is plenty of unrestricted parking spaces on the adjacent streets. [Map here](#). [Details here](#).

### June 20—Opa Opa, 5644 J St., 5:30 pm

We ate at Opa Opa last year and people liked it, so we'll do it again. There's plenty of parking in lots around there. We cannot make reservations, but I can get there a little early to hold tables. If the weather is nice we might be able to eat outside. [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

## Highway Cleanup—20 Year Anniversary!

On July 12, 1995, some twenty years ago, Hank & Cleo Kocol took the initiative to begin the participation of Atheists & Other Freethinkers in CalTrans' Adopt-A-Highway program whereby the group would regularly clean a two-mile stretch of a roadway, in this case the two-mile stretch bounded by Elkhorn Blvd. and Elverta Rd. on Highway 99. Over the years, we have accumulated some 1400 bags of trash from that site. Since then, Adopt-A Highway signs on both sides of the freeway have declared that that stretch of freeway is cleaned by "Atheists & Other Freethinkers". Good publicity for a persecuted minority! And CalTrans has provided all the necessary equipment such as pickers, vests and trash bags for us to do the job. We have found a variety of American currency, sex toys, stuffed animals and my favorite coat, all for us to keep so it has been in many ways a scavenger hunt. But that says nothing about the intercepted refuse such as plastics we have kept from getting into the local tributaries and ultimately into the ocean for sea life to try to consume and die a slow death. We return to the Park & Ride lot west of 99 on Elkhorn Blvd. on June 13 @ 9a.m. for a couple of hours to continue our good work.

### JOIN US—Saturday, June 13

9:00—11:15 AM

Meet at the Park n Ride, Elkhorn Exit  
Off Hwy 99, on the West side

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)





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

Jun 13 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)  
Jun 21 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mels Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd [Map here](#)  
Jun 21 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave [Map here](#)



### Blasphemy Brunches 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 "The Child Catchers"

Jun 15, 6:30 pm  
Coffee Garden  
2904 Franklin Bl  
Everyone welcome!

**Ceres**, Jun 2, 7pm  
1st Tues each mo.  
[Details here.](#)

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## Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

Tall hats, pointy hats, skull caps, turbans, lacy little lady hats, southern baptist fancy hats, what is up with all these hats? Why do religious people feel the need to put on all these silly hats? They feel it gives them the appearance of authority, it gives them conformity, and it makes them stand out from the world at the same time. It allows their followers to instantly recognize who is who and who's the biggest who so they can know how deeply to bow to them.

Of course, those wearing the tallest and pointiest hats never bow to anyone else because that hat wouldn't have a chance of staying on, it would slip off right along with their authority.

Imagine if you will a silly hat wearer who begins to question the relevance and function of their silly hat along with their sillier beliefs. They might push the hat harder down on their head, hoping it will feel more comfortable and secure.

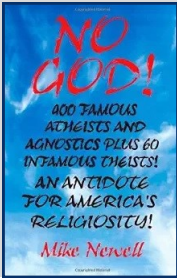
Instead, the hat, always so familiar, feels foreign and itches and begs to be cast off. They push it to one side and then the other, hoping to find it bearable so as to fit in, but it doesn't work. One day, they lift it up just a bit, and a breeze ruffles their hair. It feels free and refreshing, the silly hat is not there to control or confine them, and so they take it off for good.



Coming out atheist can be as simple as taking off a hat. Explaining why you don't wear it anymore and dealing with the reactions of others may not be so easy, but taking the silly hat off, while requiring courage, can be as simple as lifting it up off of your head.

Sacramento Reason





## New Freethought Book by Ex-Broadway Actor, Mike Newell

New book, lavishly illustrated in full color, a tribute to 400 famous atheists and agnostics by Mike Newell (ex Broadway actor). Purchase your copy [on Amazon at this link](#). Only \$9.99 for Kindle version. (Mike asked us specifically to pass this along to Sacramento.)

### Upcoming Events cont'd from pg 1

- 13 [Auburn Coffee](#)
- 14 [Sunday Assembly](#)
- 14 [Vegan Heathens in Turlock](#)
- 14 [SA Trustees Mtg](#)
- 17 [Concert in Park](#)
- 17 [Skeptical Book Club in Grass Valley](#)
- 19 [Drinking Skeptically, Stockton](#)
- 20 [Sacramento Juneteenth Festival](#)
- 20 [Secular Family Day](#)
- 20 [Freethought Dinner Social Opa Opa](#)
- 21 [Blasphemy Breakfast, Rocklin Mel's](#)
- 21 [Blasphemy Brunch, Dixon/Vcville](#)
- 21 [Blasphemy Brunch ArdenArcade](#)
- 21 [Coffee Klatch in Modesto](#)
- 21 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- 23 [Game Night in Stockton](#)
- 23 [The Thinking Atheist, in Sacto](#)
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- 27 [BHNBS Planning](#)

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## Black Humanists at Juneteenth Festival

**June 20, 10 AM—6 PM**

**William Land Park, 3800 Land Park Drive**

We will be hosting a booth at this year's Juneteenth Festival in the Park! We hope to see everyone stop by our booth while you are there enjoying the festival! This festival celebrates historical Juneteenth events, including parade, fun, games, dialogue on current issues, and civic leaders to meet you. Come join us! [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

## Help Feed the Hungry—June 30

**Tuesday June 30 at 4:00 PM to about 7:00 PM**

**Episcopal Church of Saint Martin, 640 Hawthorn Ln, Davis**

Sacramento's atheists assist Davis Community Meals to serve dinner donated and prepared by volunteer chefs to seniors, low income, and homeless individuals and families. We set up tables, help serve and clean up. Do it once so you can say you did! It might be just the thing for you!

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

## Board Game Nights at Reason Center

Join us at Reason Center for a fun monthly board game night! All ages welcome. Bring your own games or enjoy the ones here at the Center, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite A, Sacramento. June 24, 6:30 PM. Do stop by!

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

Also, congrats new Reason Center Board members: Rachael Harrington (pres), Tom Ikelman, Mynga Futrell, Rene Hamlin, Bakari Chavanue, Gary Alexander, Mashariki Lawson, and Rae Howard.

Please consider becoming a [monthly donor](#) to help keep the Center open!



## Coffee Klatsch

Modesto: June 21, 11am—2pm. Queen Bean Coffee, 1126 14th St. Always the 3rd Sunday of the month. Bring books, devices, or notepads while we solve the world's problems, exchange witty repartee, or just nurse Saturday night hangovers. Come have fun with us!

### Upcoming Events

cont'd from previous page

- [27 Summer BBQ  
Potluck, Stockton](#)
- [28 BHNBS Humanity  
Breakfast Yummm](#)
- [28 Brunch and Athe-  
ism, Turlock](#)
- [30 Feed the Hungry  
Volunteering, Davis](#)

### JULY

- [1 Concert in the Park](#)
- [1 Science Night Live](#)
- [1 Welcome New  
Members Meetup](#)
- [3 Dinner Wine and  
Art Hop, Lodi](#)
- [7 Book Club, Ceres](#)
- [8 Concert in the Park](#)
- [10 Game Night in  
Salida](#)
- [11 Brunch and Athe-  
ism in Stockton](#)
- [12 Sunday Assembly](#)
- [12 Vegan Heathens in  
Turlock](#)
- [15 Concert in the  
Park, Stockton](#)
- [15 Greta Christina  
'Coming Out Atheist'](#)

### Create an Event!

Host your own event! Place it on the [SacFAN calendar](#) yourself, or let us help! For help email [admin@sacramentoreason.org](mailto:admin@sacramentoreason.org). It's all good. :-)

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## Little Activisms

By Judy Saint

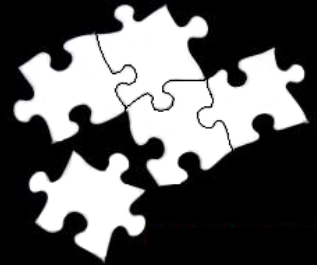
Sometimes we anonymously pay restaurant bills for uniformed servicemen or women dining with their families. At times we've hoped police officers ordering a quick coffee to go were getting it free. We are impressed by the clothing because these people stand in harm's way to protect others. But when clothing is worn to impress without the wearer deserving such reverence, I balk. That's how I feel about religious garb, especially the silly hats. Hitchens correctly pointed out there is nothing about faith deserving of respect. In fact, in my circles, religious symbols are beginning to mean pride in one's ignorance and self-serving deceit.

What would people think of someone carrying a large sign in front of them that said, 'I believe people can fly in the air'? We'd all think he is crazy. But what if someone wears a funny religious hat on their head around town, which means much the same thing? They believe someone walked on water and that anyone can move a mountain by thinking hard. In that case, for some reason, instead of laughing and scuffling away, some of us still bow in reverence, a leftover from our upbringing.

Next time you see those silly hats, see them for what they are: proclamations of ridiculous thoughts. They ought to be embarrassed, yet they still walk tall through our society. These symbols really should be making you laugh, or maybe a little nauseous when you realize they have followers who can vote away your rights.

Give respect where it is due, but not where it isn't. I hope this points out the absurdity of continuing to hold in reverence anyone with a backward white collar or religious garb, even in movies. As Hitchens noted, they are merely self-appointed authorities. Without social support, they can lead no one.

### Sacramento Reason





## Game Nights

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

[Sacramento Jun 24 at 6:30pm](#) or [Stockton Jun 23 at 6:00pm](#) or [Salida Jun 12 at 7:00pm](#)



### New Members Meetup & Coffee

June 3, 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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## Brights are having “Further Ferret Fun”

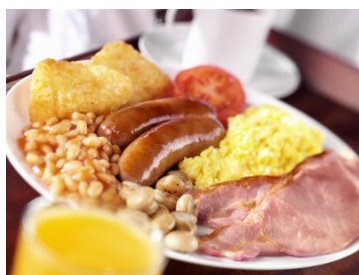
**June 9, at “The Office”, 3001 J Street, 2nd Floor, Sac**

Help with the books and stickers. Then some logistics and dinner at Limelight across the street. Open to anyone. Come join us. See what it’s all about.

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

## Tracie Harris Showing Off her SacFAN ‘Ask an Atheist’ t-shirt!

After her speaking tour through Northern California, Tracie picked up steam speaking down south, in LA and San Diego. Seen here in Balboa Park, I notice the photo posted on this event site shows Tracie holding up the SacFAN ‘Ask an Atheist’ t-shirt she was given while here in Sacramento! Thanks for the plug, Tracie!



## 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](mailto:admin@sacramentoreason.org).

## 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.

# Local Groups to Visit or Join

Name	Emphasis		Tax Ded		Website
Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA)	UC Davis student group Socialize with like-minded students.	Y		<u>Y</u>	<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 Foundation	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	Y	<u>Y</u>	<a href="#">Facebook page here</a>



**Neil DeGrasse Tyson** New Series called “Star Talk”, on Hulu and National Geographic Channel. So far, guests have included George Takei, Richard Dawkins, Jimmy Carter, Dan Savage, and others. [See more details here.](#)



## Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

### Sacramento

Skeptics in the Pub  
Fri Jun 26, 6:30p  
Hoppy Brewing Co  
6300 Folsom Blvd  
Everyone welcome!  
[Map here](#)  
[Details here](#)

### Stockton

Drinking Skeptically  
Fri Jun 19, 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](#)



## Four New Freethought Groups—Is one for you?

**Multi-Belief Discussion** meetup, fostering discussion between believers and non-believers. [Meetup website here.](#)

**Grass Valley** new Skeptical Book Club Meetup. We get together to discuss science and society, books and articles. [Meetup website here.](#)

**Auburn** new Meetup. Coffee, hibiscus tea or just chatting with other “nones”. [Meetup website here.](#)

**Secular Invocations** Group. Learn how to deliver a secular invocation for public or private meetings. Listen and share. [Facebook page here.](#)

## Sunday Sewing and Crafts—Natomas

**June 7, 1:00—4:00 PM**

**Raley's Community Room, 4650 Natomas Blvd**

Project: God Bag (Go ahead and look!) Simple bag you make by hand or use Miss Karla's machine. Makes finding bottom of purse items easy. Check details link below to see samples and learn more. You are free to work on any project. Just come have fun with us! Great group.

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

**FUNNY HATS ARTICLE:** The Friendly Atheist just put up a blog about Funny Hats. What timing. Maybe it's a sign! [Read the article at this link.](#) (He mentions this tumblr site showing “Atheists in Hats”: [click here.](#))



## Recovering From Religion Needs 40 More Phone Volunteers

Answer calls in your home. You will receive training to prepare you to help answer some of the overwhelming number of calls to the 800-I DOUBT IT hotline. Compassion, not conversion. Not a debate line. Help others find their way in their own time, pointing them to their local groups and resources. [More info here.](#)

## Interfaith Discussion With Bayside Church

Sat., June 6, 2 PM  
8211 Sierra College Blvd, Rsvl.  
Come help support Gary and John, who have worked with Bayside Church to have this meeting. Topic: Morality. Open forum with a panel. Let's help foster better understanding for both sides. In the student center.

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

## Finally Friday Dinner and Karaoke

June 26, 7-11 PM  
Torri's Japanese Restaurant  
2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto  
Dinner at 7:00  
Kids OK till 10:00.  
We hope you will join us!

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

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## Julie Wedge—New Humanist Celebrant

Congratulations! Julie Wedge is now officially our newest local Humanist Celebrant, able to officiate secular ceremonies. "I have always wanted to serve the community and I am grateful to the Humanist Society for allowing me to participate positively in the lives of the secular community. If you know someone getting married, having a naming ceremony or a memorial, and would like it to be a secular service, I would be happy to help." You may discuss having Julie officiate or help with your secular ceremony or memorial by emailing her at [humanistsv@gmail.com](mailto:humanistsv@gmail.com). We're so proud.



## SkeptiCal Conference in Bay Area

June 6, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St, #290, Oakland  
Every year SkeptiCal presents notable and informative speakers covering a wide range of skeptical topics such as GMOs, NASA's look for life, viruses and fear, intuition, international scene, even more topics, and of course, magic!

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

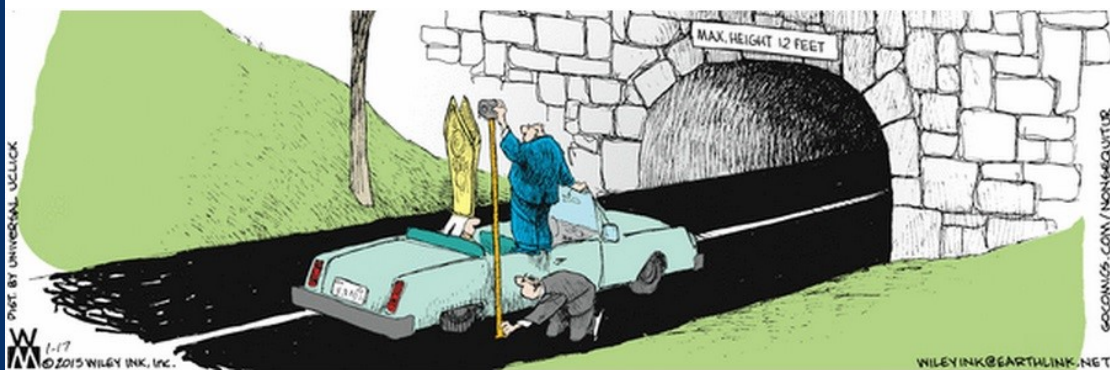
## Black Humanists "Humanity Breakfast YUMMM!"

Sunday June 28, 9:30 AM

Eggie's Restaurant, 1650 Fulton Ave, Sacramento

Let's meet again for March at another fine restaurant for a great breakfast (or brunch). My first time here but Anxious Toad mentioned it as worthwhile (some time ago). NEW PEOPLE..... please come. We are a very easy going crowd and have great conversations ...

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



## UC Davis AgASA Potluck and Movie

Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 PM

321B Cambridge Terrace, Davis

Classes end on June 4th and since that's an AgASA night, we thought we'd celebrate with a pre-finals potluck / movie night, as a brief respite before finals. Bring food, drinks, maybe chairs.

Food and movie ... and cat. Join us.

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

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## Sunday Assembly—Help Us with “Second Saturday” Outreach

**Sunday Assembly this month:** June 14, 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Theme, “Building Bridges”

Sacramento Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A [Map here.](#) [Details here.](#)

**Come help us represent Sunday Assembly** at Sacramento’s Second Saturday Event.

Midtown Sacramento. See details link below to join us in handing out fliers letting people know about Sacramento’s Sunday Assembly. The more help the better! [Details here.](#)

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## Greta Christina—July 15 in Manteca

**“Coming Out Atheist—How To Do It, How to Help Each Other Do It, and Why”**

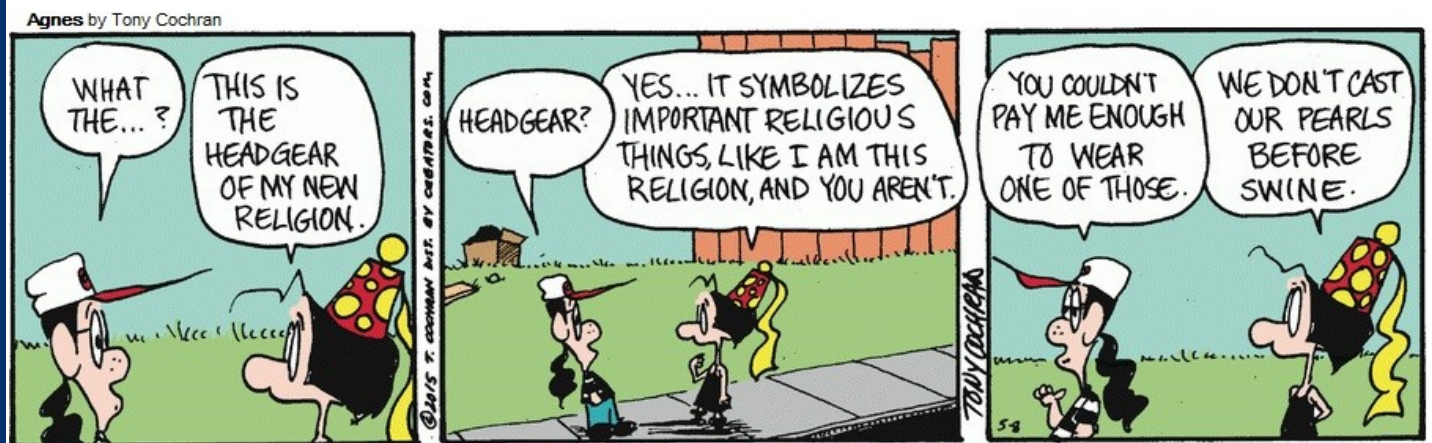
**Wednesday, July 15, 7:15 to 9:15 PM**

**Manteca Library Community Room (enter on the street side) 320 W Center St, Manteca**

Coming out is one of the most powerful political acts atheists can take. But it can also be difficult and risky.

What are some specific, practical, nuts-and-bolts strategies we can use? Come hear what Greta has learned after speaking with thousands of atheists who came out. I’m sure she’ll happily sign her latest book by this same title, which you can most likely purchase at the event.

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





## Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

Americans have been taught to show respect for religious figures. But thinking people began to see that respect should be earned. Medicine men, witch doctors, priests and other clerics began wearing clerical collars, robes, head-coverings, and other paraphernalia so the common person could more easily identify them and treat them accordingly. I'm so glad we Nones haven't taken up this cultural absurdity. We don't even wear special undergarments like the true faithful Latter Day Saints, popularly called Mormons. We don't need to. We have achieved something that few Christians in our country saw coming: that is the numbers of religious unaffiliated has risen six percent in seven years.

We are now, according to the Pew Research, twenty-three percent of Americans, and we're scaring the "bejesus" out of everyone, including reporters who genuflect toward the shadows of religious big shots. Now they're writing articles to explain the religiously unaffiliated. Marcos Breton, in the Sacramento Bee, came closest to showcasing us in a recent article. A New York Times op ed, as most of the articles, was slanted. It assumed the Nones will return to religion. They theorize that Christianity is reshuffling itself, that NONES will return, forcing religion into a different form. My own belief is that with the recent political climate, unwarranted and ongoing wars, politicians lying to the public, fanning the flames of racism and working against sexual preference, conducting a war on women, we the people yearn for facts. God, Jesus, Mohammad, etc. have been put under a microscope and found wanting. I'm proud to be on the side of Barker, Gaylor, Harris, Steinem, and Dawkins, as well as Sagan, Asimov, and all those who opted for fact, reason, science, and logic long before most of us were born.



## Freethought Hats!

Who says atheists have no hats? Some brave souls here and abroad have officially gone on record as members of The Church of The Flying Spaghetti Monster, donning a colander on their heads for their official photos on ID cards such as their driver's licenses. OK, well, maybe FSM believers might not call themselves atheists, but I digress...

And, who is that in the FSM Pirate Hat but Dan Barker, himself, co-president of the Freedom From Religion

Foundation, at Sacramento's FSM Party, enjoying some spaghetti and merriment! You're a good sport, Dan!



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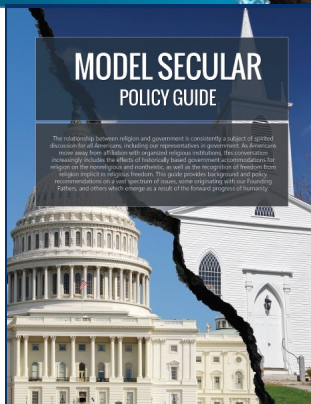
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### MODEL SECULAR POLICY GUIDE

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 elect our leaders to the way we spend our money. This guide provides a framework for understanding the effects of religiously based government on the lives of all Americans, as well as the separation of church and state. It is a resource for all Americans, regardless of their religious beliefs, to help them understand the role of religion in our society and the importance of maintaining the separation of church and state.



## 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

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was sentenced to death after being found guilty for his crimes at the Boston Marathon Bombing. His death sentence raises important questions regarding capital punishment, a topic which even freethinkers are split on.

Coming from a pro-defense capital habeas background, I have my own biases regarding capital punishment in the United States. The Supreme Court ruled it to be constitutional so long as the criteria jurors use to make a death penalty determination are not arbitrary--however, once any thinking person delves into what crimes qualify for a death sentence versus ones which do not, it becomes obvious that any criteria cited will have built-in subjective factors that cannot provide for the objectivity sought after.

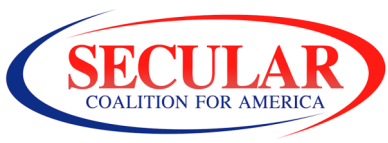
Capital punishment is also implemented in a racially discriminatory manner. Moreover, since the passage of the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, itself a response to the Oklahoma City Bombing, habeas corpus rights of death row inmates have been severely truncated, and have lengthened legal proceedings to the point where a final determination of the death penalty being constitutionally applied takes decades on average. Add to this the millions of dollars invested in such proceedings, and the economic drain the death penalty has on the justice system becomes apparent.

Supporters of the death penalty cite long-standing religious norms of "An eye for an eye" retribution. Such theories often proceed along the lines of society needing to channel its disapproval against victims being murdered so that justice may be served. This rationale is supported even by many secularists.

My simple plea to fellow Freethinkers is to look past the philosophical arguments, and instead research the actual facts on the ground in how the death penalty is carried out in this country. You may change your mind.

*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.*





## NATIONAL SECULAR NEWS

Receive timely information and news of importance to the separation of church and state on a national level. [Sign up here to receive emails.](#)

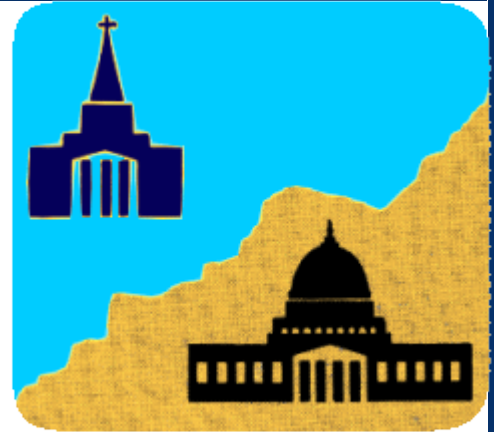
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Sacramento Reason

### SCCA Update

By Tom Manger

On May 7th, while others celebrated the National Day of Prayer, the Secular Coalition for California held its third annual Lobby Day at the Sacramento statehouse. While other groups were dropping off copies of the New Testament and brochures illustrating the importance and efficacy of prayer, we lobbied on four bills on topics that regularly receive sectarian opposition. Here is an updated status on the four bills.



#### SB 128 - End of Life Option Act

**HELD UP BY COMMITTEE / IN SENATE SUSPENSE FILE** - Because implementation of this bill will cost the state in excess of \$150,000 the bill has gone into the senate "suspense file" maintained by the Appropriations Committee. Once funding is ascertained this bill will move from the suspense file to a floor vote by the entire state Assembly. If funding is not obtained, the bill will be dead for the year.

#### SB 277 - Public Health: Vaccinations

**PASSED SENATE** - This bill passed three different committees then was sent to the full senate for a floor vote. It won with a 25-11 margin. It is now ready for consideration by the Assembly.

#### AB 830 - Gender Violence

**PASSED ASSEMBLY** - We are glad to support and represent this bill which is receiving bipartisan support. It passed the Assembly unanimously on a 74-0 vote. It is now ready for consideration by the Senate.

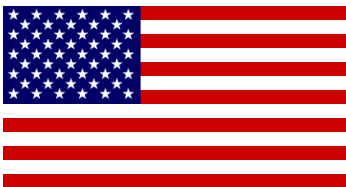
#### AB 775 - Reproductive FACT Act

**PASSED IN THE ASSEMBLY** - In an effort to avoid any hold up in the Appropriations Committee, this bill was amended on May 4th so that the Attorney General's office would not have to maintain a list of crisis pregnancy centers that didn't adhere to this new law. By removing any budget impact, this bill was immediately ready for a floor vote by the entire Assembly. This bill forces crisis pregnancy centers to present the truth and all options for women in crisis. Some centers have only presented religiously motivated propaganda in the past, misleading the public into thinking these are medical facilities.

All bills have to "pass the house of origin" by June 5th. Because of this deadline, we encourage all readers to be a representative for the secular community by contacting your representatives to state your position. See our website or Facebook page for more info. Feel free to email me directly if you have questions or concerns about these bills or any others: [tmanger1@gmail.com](mailto:tmanger1@gmail.com)

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).





## Logical Fallacies On Parade

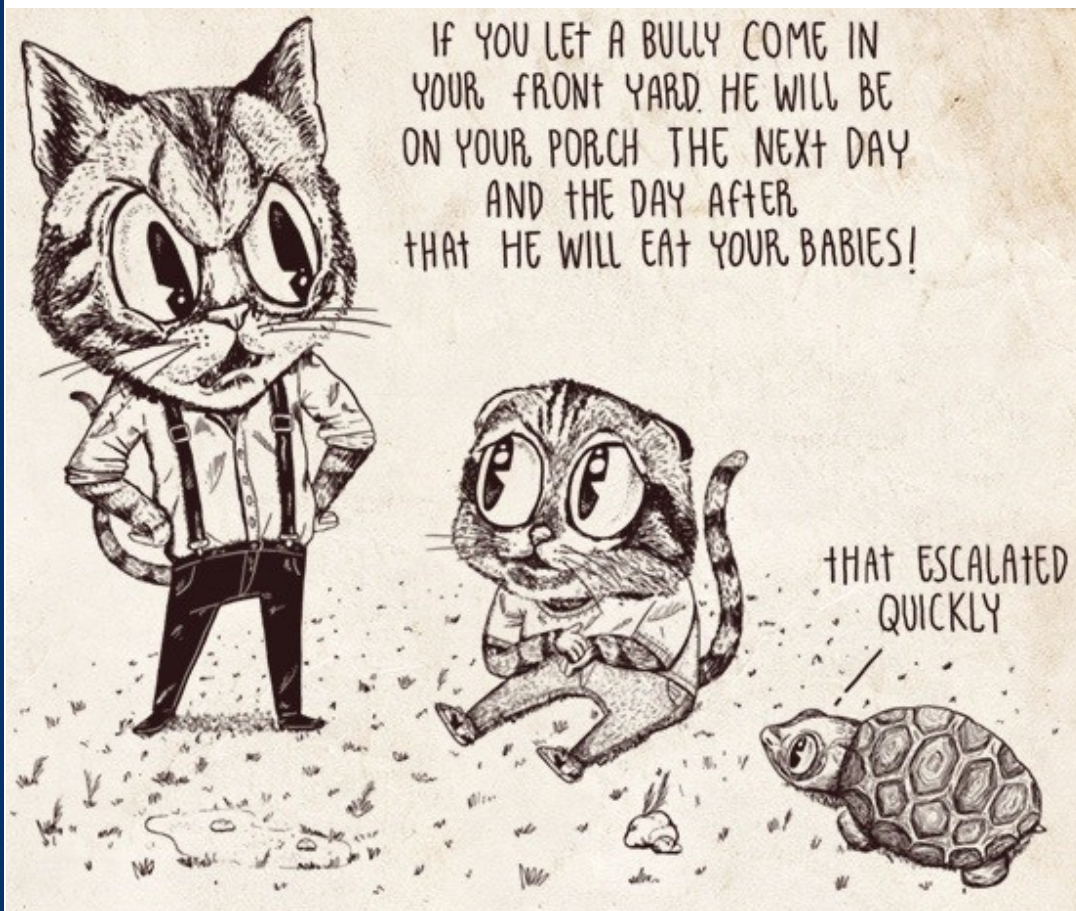
Name this logical fallacy. (Answer upside down at bottom.)

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.



Name is "Slippery Slope". It's a type of Informal Fallacy related to cause and effect  
From An Illustrated 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/event-calendar-2/>



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