

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

Upcoming Events

- 1 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
- 1 [Science Light Live](#)
- 1 [Recovering from Religion Support Grp](#)
- 1 [Welcome New Members Meetup](#)
- 2 [Self Defense at RC](#)
- 3 [Get Your Work Done at RC](#)
- 3 [Dinner, Wine and Art Hop, Lodi](#)
- 7 [Self Defense at RC](#)
- 7 [Book Club, Ceres](#)
- 8 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
- 9 [Self Defense at RC](#)
- 10 [Game Night in Salida](#)
- 11 [Brunch and Atheism in Stockton](#)
- 12 [Sunday Assembly](#)
- 12 [Vegan Heathens](#)
- 14 [Self Defense](#)
- 15 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
- 15 [Recovering From Religion Support Grp](#)
- 15 [Greta Christina 'Coming Out Atheist'](#)
- 16 [Self Defense](#)
- 17 [Drinking Skeptically, Stockton](#)
- 18 [Secular Family Day](#)

Continued on Pg. 5

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

Subscribe

Volume III, Issue 7

Issue Theme: Those Feelings

July 2015

Greta Christina

"Coming Out Atheist - How To Do It, How to Help Each Other Do It, And Why?"

July 15, 7:15 PM

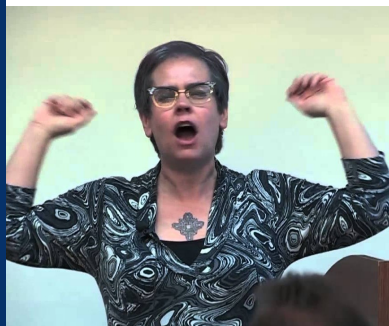
Manteca Library, 320 W Center St, Manteca

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

What can atheists learn about coming out from the LGBT community and their decades of coming-out experience -- and what can we learn from the important differences between coming out atheist and coming out queer?

Greta Christina is a well-known blogger, writer, and speaker for both atheist and LGBT movements. She has been writing professionally since 1989, with work appearing in numerous magazines, newspapers, and anthologies. She is a regular contributor to Alter-Net, Salon, The Humanist, and Free Inquiry.

Greta is a co-founder and co-organizer of the Godless Perverts, a performance series and social community that promotes a positive view of sexuality without religion. This talk is a free event, open to the public, at the Manteca Library. Those of all worldviews and faiths are welcome.

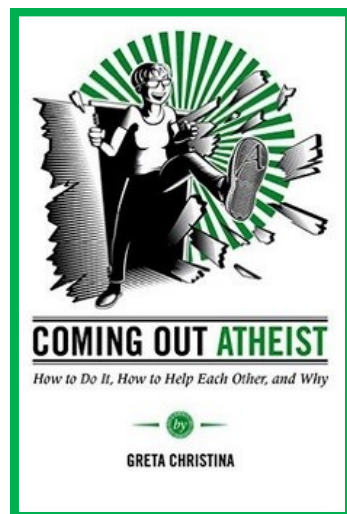


Doors open at 7:15 PM. Greta starts shortly after. We expect most Colloquiums to last until about 8:45 PM followed by mingling and cleanup. Parking is free. Suggested donations of \$20 to support this and future colloquiums are appreciated.

For those interested in joining us for dinner, head to the [CK Mongolian BBQ](#) (1039 S Main St) prior to the event. People typically arrive at 5:30 and leave at 6:45 to start setting up at the Manteca Library.

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

Buy book on [Amazon at this link.](#)



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?



Maybe you're in a church or maybe stargazing. You get an overwhelming feeling and you decide it's a sign. You decide it's supernatural. Then you decide there is a god, and that this god knows about you, and that he cares about you and listens to you and changes the world to make it better for you, and you decide even if it doesn't seem better it really will be better for you in the end. And who decided all this? Oh, right. You did. A feeling led to all this? **REALLY?**

Freethought Dinner, Wine and Art Hop

July 3, 6 PM
Lodi Beer Co.
105 South School St, Lodi

For our socialites, join us the 1st Friday of the month. Everyone welcome.

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

Page 2

Sacramento Reason

Sign Up for FANcamp! Sept 4–7

[Big Reservoir Campground, Morning Star Lake](#)

Tahoe National Forest , Foresthill, CA

[Map here](#) [Campground info here](#)



We're going to go with the same place as last year. It was a great site with water and space. Description from "Northern California Camping": Here's a quiet lake where only electric boat motors are allowed; no gas motors are permitted [now it is no-motors at all]. That makes it ideal for canoeists, rowboaters, and tube floaters who don't like the idea of having to dodge water-skiers. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout... Big Reservoir (also known as Morning Star Lake) is quite pretty with a nice beach and some lakefront campsites. The elevation is 4,000 feet.

I have reserved the 40-person campground. Group Camp A. [Details here.](#)

Sign Up Now!

Thanks, Seth Andrews!

The Thinking Atheist kicked off his California tour at the Reason Center. Standing Room Only for this popular broadcaster and video producer. He shared some odd rituals and beliefs, answered Q&A, and hung out to sign books.



Above you see those who waited in line to meet Seth, still around for a late group photo. He said meeting people one-on-one is his favorite part. Catch his broadcasts [at this link.](#)



Ancient Christian Study Group - July 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.

Shelly Segal

Touring the USA! And Stopping Here!

August 18 at The Reason Center

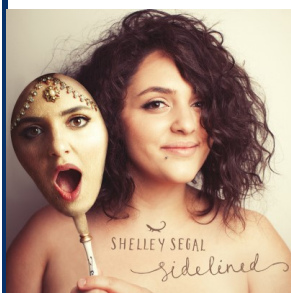
“Mercurial voice and eclectic sound” (The Brag). Shelley flirts with elements of jazz, folk, pop, blues, reggae and electronica, imparting a pure joy about music and its power. The spirited singer has been “*creating a ripple effect with her melodic vocals, heartfelt passion, thought-provoking lyrics*” (Leona Devaz, Weekend Notes) Shelley’s first single, folk protest song ‘Saved’ has become an anthem for grass-roots secular activists.



“Truly an artist with international flair” (AU review) her powerful voice has taken her around Australia, Hong Kong, China, England and eight tours of the United States. She has performed to festival crowds of over 30,000 people.

An artist, an activist and an explicit storyteller, Shelley uses her music not only to express the way she sees the world, but to create the world that she wants to see.

[Map here](#) Details coming soon [at this link](#).



Sunday Assembly—July 12

The Sunday Assembly is a secular congregation that celebrates life. At The Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A.

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

Our July theme is “**Your Inner Hero**”, featuring Nathan Werth, discussing how comics have become today’s parables, and how super heroes fill the niche in our lives to represent the moral exemplars of our culture. Mashariki Lawson will be sharing a reading with us, and Janice Burt will tell us how she's doing her best.

10:30 - Doors Open

11:00 - Service Begins

12:15 - Social Hour and Potluck

Our events are free for all to attend, though donations are appreciated.

Childcare is provided for potty-trained youth ages 2 and up, though we expect older children will have a blast at the regular service.

Stay after the service and hang out with your fellow Sunday Assembly goers. You can even bring a dish to share -- just make sure your dish can wait about an hour until we dig in. :-)

We'll supply drinks, napkins, plates, and plastic ware. Find your community here!



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

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

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

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

Page 4

Sacramento Reason

Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

Coming out atheist does present a real risk of losing loved ones, but staying in the closet carries some risks as well. One risk is that not only will our loved ones not really know us; but we won't get to know who we really are since we will be too busy keeping secrets and allowing others to live our lives for us.

We enjoy finding out what our loved ones think, what things they like, what activities they love, the issues that they are passionate about. We love watching them grow, getting to be there to see them change and move in a positive direction. We love cheering them on when they have great achievements. We are grateful to get to be there for them when they hurt and when life knocks them down. We don't want to miss any of that.

Chances are our loved ones feel the same way about us, so give them the chance to know you, but more importantly, give yourself the chance to know you. You are the most important person you will ever meet, because no one else in the world is you. Only you see the world through your eyes, only you think your thoughts. This is too important to give up to other people.

You can either live your life for others and let them see you pretending to be just who they want you to be, or you can be who you really are and live your life the way you want to live it. You are right—they may dislike your views so much that they will feel that they dislike you. What really matters is that you will like you and you will get to be who you really are. What a privilege is that!



List about interpreting "feelings"

Take a minute to look at this good graphic poster which separates personal experience from one's interpretation of that experience. Two different things. This graphic gives some good ways to question the interpretation. For example, were you having persistent thoughts? Is there a better explanation? Is there a different interpretation? Do you have 3rd party verification? Are your conclusions over-reaching? What evidence do you have? And my favorite: Do you have any new information as a result?

[See the poster with more details here.](#)

Concerts in the Park—Every Wednesday

Victory Park, 1001 North Pershing Avenue, Stockton

They are back! Every Wed evening, June- August, come chat and enjoy the company. Look for the sign somewhere near Yale and Argonne.

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

Upcoming Events

cont'd from pg 1

[19 Blasphemy Break-fast, Rocklin](#)

[19 Blasphemy](#)

[Brunch Dixon/Vacavil](#)

[19 Blasphemy](#)

[Brunch Arden/Arcad](#)

[19 Coffee Klatch](#)

[19 Ancient Christian Study Group](#)

[20 Book Club, Religion Made Me Fat](#)

[21 Self Defense](#)

[22 Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)

[23 Self Defense](#)

[24 Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub](#)

[25 Multi-Belief Discussion Meetup](#)

[25 BHNBS Planning](#)

[26 BHNBS Humanity Breakfast Yummm](#)

[26 Brunch and Atheism in Turlock](#)

[28 Game Night in Stockton](#)

[29 Concert in the Park](#)

[29 Board Games at Reason Center](#)

[30 Self Defense](#)

[31 Finally Friday Dinner and Karaoke](#)

Cont'd Next Page

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

Volume III, Issue 7

Issue Theme: Those Feelings

Page 5

Recovering From Religion—Local Chapter! Meet July 15



For those who have left their faith recently or long ago. This group meets monthly at the Reason Center in Sacramento Third Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00.

The primary focus of Recovering From Religion is to provide practical and personal support to individuals as they let go of their religious beliefs. This transitional period is an ongoing process that can result in a range of emotions, as well as a ripple effect of consequences throughout an individual's life. From the grief of letting go of the familiar, to the anger of being lied to and wronged in the name of religion, to the joy of realizing every choice we make is truly our own, and the inevitable grappling with the imposed codependency of religion... as well as the opportunities for education and personal growth...there are many things to discuss with people familiar with the experience. Monthly meetings are the ideal opportunity to do just that.

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Learn to Give a Secular Invocation

This Facebook group is for people interested in delivering secular invocations at public and private events. We'll work on and share different scripts for secular invocations. We will also share strategies and contacts that will allow us to be invited to deliver invocations.

Join the [Facebook Group at this link.](#)

This photo is of the Flying Spaghetti Monster invocation delivered before the Rancho Cordova City Council. Notice two council members are standing, one is smiling, and one is tilting her head back seemingly unsure of what to make of it.



San Jose Atheist's Song Goes Viral!

Peter D'Angelo is better known for his mellow orchestral compositions. But, when asked to write an atheist song he came through! This song went viral on social media. Listen to the lyrics! [Listen here.](#)

Upcoming Events

cont'd from previous page

AUGUST

2 [Books & Brunch!](#)
2 [What Is Naturism at Reason Center](#)
4 [Self Defense](#)
4 [Book Club, Ceres](#)
5 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
5 [Science Night Live](#)
5 [Welcome New Members Meetup](#)
6 [Self Defense](#)
7 [Dinner, Wine and Art Hop, Lodi](#)
8 [Brunch & Atheism](#)
9 [Sunday Assembly](#)
9 [Vegan Heathens](#)
11 [Self Defense](#)
12 [Concert in the Park, Stockton](#)
13 [Self Defense](#)
14 [Game Night in Salida](#)
15 [Secular Family Day](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Aug. 18 [Shelley Segal at Reason Ctr](#)
Sep. 4—7 [4th Annual FANcamp](#)
Sep. 16 [Dr. Julia Sankey Paleontologist speaking](#)
Sep. 22 [Marie Bain "Family Values: For the Bible Tells Me So"](#)

Page 6

Sacramento Reason

Little Activisms

By Judy Saint

"I know my God is real because I feel it." Or, sometimes believers claim to know their god is real because they had a vision or an experience, or they think their god is directing their lives or even talking to them. Here's a little activism you can do if you ever meet someone making these claims.

Present these two questions to these believers:

1. Could it possibly be explained by natural causes?
2. Is this claim exclusive to only your god?

Spoiler #1: The first answer is always yes.

Unless a group of people all see the laws of nature held back on repeated and predictable occasions, it likely is just a natural event. Perhaps the believer is overly tired, weak and stressed from having fasted and concentrated hard for days. Perhaps a coincidence explains it. (By the way, a billion coincidences happen to everyone every day, but we rarely take notice unless the brain looks back and can come up with a "meaning". And, of a billion coincidences, a thousand one-in-a-million coincidences will happen every day.) Anyway, feelings and visions are common, and very natural. Even if we don't know, we can answer yes.

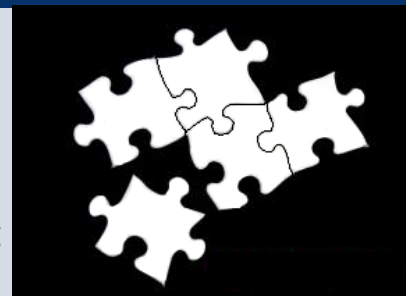
Spoiler #2: The second answer is always no.

Even if an event, feeling or experience can be deemed as supernatural, is it possible that someone of some other religion, or an atheist, could say the same thing? Any so-called supernatural event could be from any sort of supernatural cause. None of them prove the supernatural cause is any one particular god. Lots of religious icons seem to "cry". Many believers of other religions also hear their gods and have those same feelings. So, if your experience proves your god is real, then their similar experiences must also prove their gods are real. We're back to square one – none of them have been proven to be the one real god.

Coffee Klatch—July 19, 11:00—2:00 PM

Queen Bean Coffee House, 1126 14th St, Modesto
Always the 3rd Sunday of each month. Bring books, devices, or notepads while we solve the world's problems, exchange witty repartee, or just nurse Saturday night hangovers. All in fun. Everyone 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 July 29 at 6:00 pm](#) or [Stockton July 28 at 6 pm](#) or [Salida July 10 at 7 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

July 1 and Aug 5
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 groups of interest

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.](#)

Volume III, Issue 7

Issue Theme: Those Feelings

Page 7

Family Time

By Lindsey Campbell



An adolescent boy stands in the church pew, surrounded by his friends. On a carpeted stage in front of them is a talented band of young musicians playing up-beat music while a beautiful woman sings about love. After the song, the woman asks the youngsters to bow their heads and imagine a life in which there is no pain, no guilt, no sorrow, and no chores. Lifting her hands, she draws him into a visualization, one in which everyone is equal, no one is more tough or handsome, no one has more status, all the chains of societal stress are forever cast away. The lights have dimmed. Seemingly out of nowhere, and apparently out of his control, tears inexplicably begin to stream from his eyes. The woman speaks softly, enticingly. She tells him he is *loved*. Loved unconditionally, eternally, no matter what he has done or will do... In this moment he is stunningly, unmistakably free from adolescent stressors that normally run his day-to-day life. The obsession about the pimple ends. The names he was once called in middle school suddenly hold no power over him. He has detached from the need for approval in a way in which he is being told is the "holy spirit." But what if he could be taught to have this experience without the added lies and superstitions that accompany it?

Disney got it right with the hit song "Let it Go," and hopefully these words leave you with much more than a catchy tune in your head. The internal mechanism of detachment that results in the weightlessness and ethereal lightness can be described as nothing other than "letting go." Letting go is essentially a personal decision; it's a release of obsession over things we have no control over, a surrender of the decision to burden one's self, and a choice over one's emotional state. In short, it's an attitude adjustment that has nothing to do with Jesus, Krishna, Allah, or any other "giver" of freedom and detachment. Prying oneself from the things that potentially control us can be learned by anyone, anywhere, at any age. It can come as a sudden realization, or a slow change over time. Not letting names bothering you, not feeling guilty over sexual feelings, not being controlled by bullies... these are all things that can be a positive result of cognitive awareness of the self and our own role in our perception of feeling. Let's teach our children to let go of the perceived pressures and the external judgments that control us, and instead allow ourselves to be as human as we are, recognizing through practice which burdens are illusion, and which we ought to worry about. Building character and detaching from things that we cannot control result in extreme happiness that is best enjoyed in the integrity of secular humanism, not under the cloak of religious experience.

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>	Website here
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
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>	Website here
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>	Website here
Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)	Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism.	Y	N	<u>Y</u>	SacFAN.org
Sac Politics and Philosophy Group	Meetup group for Thinking Beings!	N	N	N	Website here
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 - Sac City College	Sac City College student group. Meet, question, promote, unite.	Y		<u>Y</u>	Facebook page here
Sierra College Secular Student Alliance	Sierra College student and faculty group for non-belief in religion.	Y		<u>Y</u>	Website here
Stanislaus Humanists	Book groups, discussions, game nights, theatrical movies, karaoke, dancing.			<u>Y</u>	Website here
Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)	Meetup events and philanthropy, from Galt to Modesto.	Y		<u>Y</u>	StocktonAAF.org
Student Alliance @ Sacramento State University (CSUS)	CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought.	N		<u>Y</u>	csusaso.wordpress.com
Sunday Assembly Sacramento	Secular congregation celebrates life with pop music, inspirational talks, donuts and more.	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	Facebook page here



Rainbows Everywhere!

Congratulations to all our LGBT friends and relatives who now may be married in all 50 states, and whose marriages must be recognized in all states, as well. No more worrying about signing to authorize an emergency surgery in the wrong state. Happy travels!



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Sacramento

Sac Skeptics in the Pub

Fri Jul 24 at 6:30p
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Stockton

Drinking Skeptically
Fri Jul 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](#)



Making Sense of a Mystical Vision

Barbara Ehrenreich, a well known author, surprised her readers with a new topic: How she now makes sense of the visions she had as a teen.

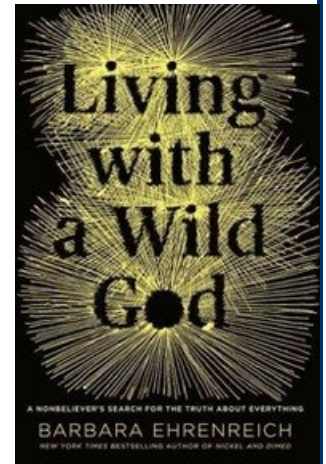
Ehrenreich describes herself as a rationalist, a scientist by training, and an atheist who is the daughter of atheists. *Living With a Wild God: A Nonbeliever's Search for the Truth About Everything* draws on her journals from 1956-'66, and on the extensive reading she's done in the past decade about the history of religion. She never discussed these mystical experiences before writing the book — and she suspects she's not the only one keeping such things to herself.

"People have these unaccountable mystic experiences," Ehrenreich tells *Fresh Air's* Terry Gross. "Generally they say nothing or they label it as 'God' and get on with their lives. I'm saying, 'Hey, no, let's figure out what's going on here.' "

[Read her article at this link.](#)

Listen to her 36 minute talk about her reasoning [at this link.](#)

Buy the book on [Amazon at this link.](#)



BH Humanity Breakfast! Yummmm!

July 26, 9:30 AM
Eggie's Restaurant, 1650 Fulton Ave, Sacramento

We are very easy going crowd and have great conversations ...if not out right debates. Everyone is welcome!

[Map here.](#)

[Details here.](#)



Auburn Freethinker Meetup - Coffee at Starbuck's

July 3, 7:00—8:30 PM 1790 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn. Who is up this way? Come stop by!

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



Board Games at the Reason Center

Join us at [Reason Center](#) for a fun monthly boardgame night!

All ages are welcome. BYOG (Bring your own games) or we'll have some games there to get us started: Apples to Apples, Taboo, Scattergories, Fluxx, Banana-grams, etc.

Feel free to bring snacks and drinks to share if you'd like.

Every last Wednesday of each month!

Everyone is welcome!

[Details here.](#)

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. [Check for updates here.](#)

About Secular Family Day

All ages are invited, including those without kids, and most events will be pet-friendly, too! Due to the randomness of our venue each month, be sure to read all the details about food, travel, parking, and more. And be sure to ask questions.



Dr. Julia Sankey

September 16—Save the date!
Manteca Library

Julia is a vertebrate paleontologist, with a background in both biology and geology.

Her current research is on Late Cretaceous theropod dinosaurs and the Cretaceous-Tertiary mass extinction 65 million years ago. She has been teaching at CSU Stanislaus since 2003.

Dr. Sankey earned her Ph.D. in 1998 from the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where she taught as an instructor in the department and was collections manager of vertebrate paleontology in the Museum of Natural Science.

Every January she and her students do field work in Big Bend National Park, Texas.

[Details here.](#)



Marie Bain—Coming Sept. 22

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento

Join us for an entertaining talk with Marie Bain entitled, "Family Values: The Bible Tells Me So". With scripture, song and satire, Bain explores the Bible in a free-wheeling interpretation of family values. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and yes, it's better than Cats! By the end, you'll understand what gays, crabs and cross-dressing have in common. Education is a wonderful thing, and no one better to deliver new perspective on "Family Values" than the quick and sharp Marie Bain.



Marie Bain is a professional singer/actor/dancer/director who has performed throughout California. Stage credits include *Oh What A Lovely War*, Columbia Actors Repertory; *A...My Name Is Alice*, Citi Arts/Theatre Concord; *Sherlock's Last Case*, Sierra Repertory Theatre; Ovation winning *Animal Farm* as Squealer for Son Of Semele Ensemble, L.A.; *Six Women With Brain Death*, Studio Theatre, Sacramento, and Emilia in *Othello* at Sacramento Theatre Company. Film credits include *Gilmore Girls*, *Let's Make A Deal*, *Screech of the Decapitated*, and *Art School Confidential*. Bain is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors Equity Association.

Rated "R" due to sexual content and violence. (Have you read the Bible?)

Sponsored by the AOF Speaker Series. Everyone is welcome. [Details here.](#)

Science Night Live—July 1 and August 5

2 N. Sacramento St., Lodi, CA

SCIENCE NIGHT LIVE is an engaging science experience with-in a casual atmosphere for the curious minds in our community! Come join the conversation with a local scientist, participate in hands-on activities, socialize with other science enthusiasts, or reward your trivia skills. It's a different event each month, and sure to be a lot of fun. This month's guest is Dr. Amy Wagner, who is an Assistant Professor of Geology at Sacramento State University. Dr. Wagner studies the skeletal material of reef-forming corals, which can reveal oceanographic and climate information from prehistoric ages, and offer valuable comparisons with ocean and climate conditions we experience today---with implications for weather patterns like El Niño.



Earlier this year, Amy was part of a research cruise to the waters of Antarctica to collect and study the local corals. Now back at Sac State and recently minted as an Assistant Professor, she'll answer our questions about her amazing oceanic voyage, and about the planetary secrets locked within corals!

Enjoy a drink from the beer and wine cash bar, and get some great food from [Carnitas Don Fili!](#)
[Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

Cleo Says

LISTEN
UP!

The feelings in this poem are ones we all relate to whether we are religious or not. Sauk Mountain is real. This climb was real. The transcendent awe I felt was and is real. No gods necessary.

When someone tells me they know god is real because of the way they feel, I wrote this decades after the climb, remembering every inch and breath. Feelings of an amazement beyond ourselves is in all of us. It's human.

SAUK MOUNTAIN CLIMB

Climbing through grassy
Meadows and up a switchback
Trai, her calf muscles protestd
As guild waylaid her, locked her
Into a time and place.

Saturday night—motels
With Gideon Bibles,
Flimsy walls and beer
Hall men with morning
Breath. Followed by:

Fundamentalist Sunday.
Crammed between family and
perdition, hell-fire preachers
And salive-swallowing
Parishioners, guilt rode her.
Words ricocheted from walls.

"Save your soul, sister.
Take the high road. Ain't
No switchback to the Lord."

Past wild flower masses,
Colors blending and blazing,
Thimble berries sweet to the
Tongue, thermos water cool,
The air pure, she paused
To look down. The church
Invisible, the highway
A black line, evergreens
Rustled and cool breezes
Played picture tunes with
Memory, voices cajoling.

Cataloging her sins, they
Held them up like a chalice

Of repentance. Once,
Struggling to understand,
She'd crid, "Mama, I'm so
Afraid. Daddy, tell me what
To do." *Give me words about
Life. Tell me about love.*

"Ain't no words necessary
If you're pure, no shortcuts
To the Lord," they said.

Up a narrow way she
Plodded. Now, breath harsh,
Chest burning, thoughts
Collided like air exhaling.
*Her fault, stupid smiley face,
Golden hair, friendly air.*

Below her a melt-water
Lake nestled in the bowl
Of the hill, blue-green,
Sparkling. She paused,
To gape in wonder. Having
Been plunged into the depths
Of religion, she'd come up
Bereft of answers.

Now, the air vibrating with
Choice, she marked the trail,
Plotted a track across
The glacier, above the tree
Line, a straight route to
The summit. Crunching
Through snow pack, July's
Air brisk, the hillside strewn
With boulders, rock slides
And talus trails, no clinging
Vegetation marred the view.

No devil and brimstone
Oratory slammed into her,
Nothing spoiled a mind-
Opening, end-less panorama.

Climbing fast now, second
Wind, unencumbered, she
Glimpsed adjacent peaks,
Snowcapped and silent -
In true communion.

Balanced on top of the
climb, an abandoned
forest service lookout
Station offered
A limitless view -
Baker, Rainier, and a
Sea of known and unknown
mountains
Brushing the sky. Her
Thoughts whirled a
Limitless cosmos,
The future unfurled
A vision, offered
The universe.

Soon night swirled
Stars into mind-extending
Constellations, and
At dawn, deities toppled
Without fanfare as
Superstition crumbled.
No longer shackled,
She rose from her
Sleeping bag refreshed,
Forever free.

First published in Eloquent Atheist.

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS
IN HOLY MATRIMONY
humanistweddings.org



Perform Legal Weddings

Become a fully legal Wedding Officiant with American Humanist Association using this online course. [Link here.](#)

Volume III, Issue 7

Issue Theme: Those Feelings

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 organized religious institutions, discrimination, or favoritism. It means the effects of religiously based government, or government that is based on the tenets of religion, on the non-religious and non-theistic, as well as the recognition of freedom from religious expression in government. 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

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court held in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that, under the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment, states are required to license a marriage between two people of the same sex for those who seek it. This ruling in short legalizes gay marriage in all 50 states in the United States, and marks the biggest victory in the gay rights movement in the country.

This landmark opinion signals as well the victory of a secular government's guaranteeing of basic equal rights over allowing religious beliefs to dictate public policy. The Court noted that citizens are free to believe in the sinfulness of LGBT relations, but such beliefs cannot receive the badge of approval from the state in denying same sex marriages. To do otherwise would create a second-class citizenship, where children of same-sex couples are demeaned; the lack of certain spousal rights infringes on the dignity of same-sex couples; and the fundamental right to marry, which is a complex institution of love and support embedded in the nation, is denied.

Much of the war on the rights of LGBT citizens in this country has come from the Religious Right, which used Bible verses and literal, Evangelical interpretations of scripture to justify conservative public policies. Admonishments that "man shall not lie with man" in Leviticus helped fuel hatred and violence against the LGBT community for decades, including the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act, the implementation of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the military, the constitutionality of sodomy laws in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, and the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS, just to name a few areas.

This highlights yet again that, while there is still work to be done in this area, secular beliefs in freedom of sexual orientation and no discrimination help the side of the oppressed. When the coming fight of the gay wedding cakes come, we should be ready.

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

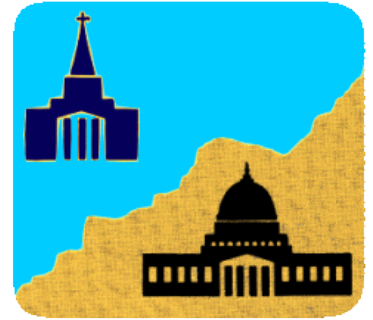
House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

State Senate/Assembly: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Local representatives can always be found on your City or County websites.

SCCA Update

By Tom Manger



There have been some major happenings in California and across the country. The past few weeks would seem to indicate a culture shift and an advancement of secularism. Please, take a moment to review and enjoy these recent victories.

Due to a SCOTUS ruling ObamaCare remains intact (for now). This is significant for secularism because it should help to reduce religiosity throughout the country. Studies show that people who don't have to worry about their healthcare tend to be less religious. In the long run, this should help us to minimize sectarian encroachment into our laws.

Due to a separate SCOTUS ruling, same-sex marriage is the law of the land. The Secular Coalition for America has been pushing for same sex marriage because it is a major civil rights issue and because the only opposition to allowing it comes from religious arguments. There have been no (sane) secular arguments against same sex marriage. There will be continued opposition in the months and years to come, but this will remain a secular issue for which we continue to fight.

Confederate flags are coming down. This symbol of racism, hatred and bigotry is primarily supported by groups that promote white Christian supremacy. So, it is a secular issue that we will continue to support.

Bristol Palin is pregnant. Again. Out of wedlock. On its face, this isn't a secular issue. But, the fact that Bristol is a well paid spokesperson for abstinence-only sexual health education, this is a very visible demonstration that abstinence-only education doesn't work. This will provide support to the argument that medically accurate sex-ed should be the law of the land. Oh, and the hypocrisy. Don't forget about the hypocrisy.

The Oklahoma state supreme court ruled that a large Ten Commandments monument must be removed from the state capital. This is only one of many installations of the Ten Commandments throughout the US. But, it is another small victory in fighting the encroachment of religion into our politics.

The Sodomite Suppression Act has been deemed unconstitutional in California. This proposed ballot measure would have mandated that gays be shot in the head with a bullet, or any other convenient means to terminate their existence. State Attorney General Kamila Harris was rightly horrified by this ballot proposition and refused to prepare it for publication. Fortunately, the CA Supreme Court agreed with the Attorney General and prevented it from being circulated for the collection of signatures. Even better, it prevented it from showing up for consideration on election day.

Enjoy these victories. These are major wins. But, religious groups continue to push their sectarian agenda. Below are just a few battle fronts along which they've made new inroads.

Did you hear about the black churches being set on fire in multiple states? This is an issue about racism. But, because white supremacy is largely a Christian movement, we consider it a secular issue and will continue to push back against this worldview.

Did you know that abortion restrictions continue to be enacted in multiple states? Religious groups continue to make abortion access near impossible. (Here in California we are actually going in the opposite direction. Over the past few years we have helped make access to abortion and contraceptive services easy and widespread.)

Did you hear that a Christian homeschooler was recently appointed to head the Texas Board of Education. This is someone who didn't go through the public education system, yet they are now in charge of it. This doesn't bode well.

What about cuts to education spending. Did you know that 80% of private school students attend religious schools? This is why politicians push vouchers & private scholarship programs (paid for with tax credits). Using a combined strategy of defunding public schools & steering tax dollars towards private schools they provide support to curriculums that teach abstinence-only sexual education, creationism as a viable alternative to evolution, and Christian Nationalism taught as American history. They know that they have to reach these young minds early on since that is when their indoctrination is most effective.

The battle is far from over. Celebrate the recent victories. But, steel yourself for the ongoing struggles.

The Secular Coalition for California will continue to be central to the opposition of further religious encroachment into our laws. We hope to build California into a truly secular state that serves as an example for the rest of the country. Please, join us in reaching this goal. For now, see the next page for the status of some bills we support or oppose.

===== (continued on next page)



SCCA Update (cont'd) By Tom Manger

Here are some bills that we **support**. The status provided is as of June 30th.

SB 277 - Vaccinations - Will eliminate the ability for parents to opt out of vaccinations for personally held beliefs - including religious beliefs. Individuals could still be exempted for medical reasons. STATUS - PASSED - This bill was signed by the governor and will soon become law. However, as of this writing, there is still a contingent of protestors camped out on the steps of the state capital attempting to rally ongoing opposition to this new law.

SB 128 - End Of Life Option Act - Will allow mentally competent, terminally ill people in the final stages of their disease to request medication from a physician to bring about a peaceful death. STATUS - This bill is stalled in the Assembly. We continue to lobby for its passage.

AB 775 - Reproductive FACT Act - will require crisis pregnancy centers to post a sign stating that they are not a licensed medical facility and that no medical staff are available. STATUS - This bill passed the Assembly. It has passed the requisite Senate committees and is now headed for a floor vote.

AB 329 - Sexual Health Education - would add 7th graders to list of recipients of training. Would rename previous sexual health bill to the "California Healthy Youth Act". STATUS - Has passed the Assembly and is now scheduled for committee hearings in the Senate.

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. STATUS - Headed for a floor vote in the Senate and is likely to pass.

AB 1117 - Medi-Cal: vaccination rates - Would fund a pilot project to increase vaccination rates amongst those currently using Medi-Cal. STATUS - Scheduled for committee hearings in the Senate.

SB 322 - Charter school students suspension and expulsion - Would require charter schools to adhere to school district procedures for all student suspensions and expulsions. STATUS - Slated for the Assembly education committee. Under discussion and has been amended.

SB 695 - School curriculum: health education: sexual harassment and violence instruction - Would require health classes for grades 9-12 to include a section that discusses the requirement for affirmative consent before sex. Affirmative consent is known as "Yes Means Yes" and is now required as policy on college campuses in California. It is a measure passed last year to help minimize the large number of sexual assault on campus. STATUS - Waiting to be heard by the Assembly health committee.

SB 792 - Day care facilities: immunizations: exemptions - Would require that all day care employees be fully immunized unless a medical exemption is obtained. STATUS - Amended and waiting for a hearing in the Assembly health committee.

SJR 4 - Relative to the Sally Ride statue - Would replace a statue of Junipero Serra in the nation's capitol building in DC with a new statue of astronaut Sally Ride. STATUS - Passed the senate. Has had its first reading in the assembly.

AB 1177 - Primary care clinics; written transfer agreements - Would remove the requirement that primary care clinics maintain a written transfer agreement with one or more local hospitals. STATUS - Slated for Senate health committee but has not been scheduled.

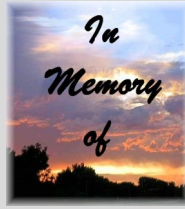
We are fortunate that all of the bills **opposed** by the Secular Coalition for California are dead.

AB 1380 - Corporation Sole - Would allow religious organizations to bypass decisions made by the California Secretary of State. STATUS - DEAD - At the request of the author, its hearing was cancelled for the Assembly banking & finance committee.

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. STATUS - DEAD - Failed an Assembly education committee vote of 2-4-1.

AB 1254 - Health care service plans: abortion coverage - Would provide that a health care service plan is not required to include abortion as a covered benefit. STATUS - DEAD - Failed the Assembly health committee on a 5-14-0 vote.

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.



Anne Gaylor, Founder of FFRF, Dies at 88

Anne Nicol Gaylor, 88, the principal founder of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, died just before midnight on Sunday, June 14, at a hospice in Fitchburg, Wis. She was hospitalized May 30 after a bad fall in her independent living apartment in Madison.

Anne and her daughter, Annie Laurie, then a college student, formed FFRF in 1976, with an elderly Milwaukee friend, Jon Sontarck, also lending his name. After a series of impressive successes, Anne was asked to go national with FFRF in 1978 and served as its president until November 2004. A commemorative slideshow about Anne and FFRF can be viewed [here](#). Her biography in her daughter's anthology of women freethinkers, "Women Without Superstition: No Gods — No Masters," can be read [here](#).

A master of "sound bites" with media savvy, Anne quickly took FFRF from a tiny organization to the largest association of freethinkers (atheists and agnostics) in North America. Highlights of her free-thought career include *Gaylor v. Reagan*, FFRF's suit against declaring 1983 to be "The Year of the Bible," a litigation victory declaring Wisconsin's Good Friday holiday to be unconstitutional, and making sparks fly in interviews and national media appearances, including "The Phil Donahue Show." She authored "Lead Us Not Into Penn Station," a short book of provocative essays. Among her well-known aphorisms: "Nothing fails like prayer."

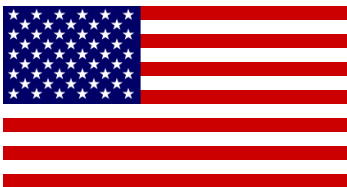
"Because Anne was not afraid to make known her unorthodox views, and was plain spoken in her dissent from religion, many people were surprised to find how slender, almost frail, she was in person, how quiet and unassuming, how soft her voice, how gentle and gracious her manner. Those who knew her, and her family, found her unfailingly loving and supportive," said Annie Laurie. "She has built a legacy, but will leave a hole that cannot be filled, as Oliver Sacks has noted about their generation."

The dining room table on which FFRF (and several other organizations) were founded by Anne will be kept in use in the newly renovated Freethought Hall.



Donations in her memory may be made to the Women's Medical Fund, Box 248, Madison, WI 53701, or to the newly created Anne Nicol Gaylor Memorial Scholarship, to reward freethinking feminists, Freedom From Religion Foundation, Box 750, Madison, WI 53701. Both groups are 501(c)(3) charities. The Women's Medical Fund is all-volunteer.





Logical Fallacies On Parade

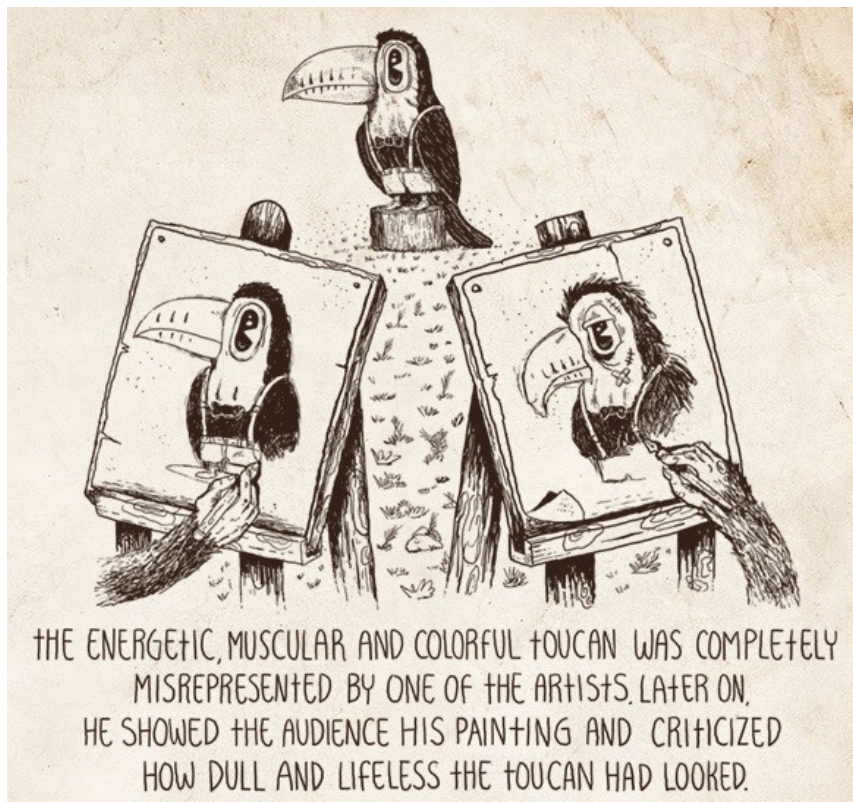
Name this logical fallacy: Putting words in someone's mouth, or representing their arguments with your own alteration. (Answer upside down at bottom.)

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 Straw Man Argument, as if creating a false person from straw. Graphic is 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/event-calendar-2/>



**SACRAMENTO AREA
COALITION OF
REASON**

PO Box 15182
Sacramento, CA
95851-0182

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

Subscribe

