

Sacramento Reason

COR

Shine the Light of Reason!

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

Subscribe

Volume III, Issue 10

Issue Theme: Common Ground

October 2015

Freethought Day October 11

This year's **Freethought Day** is right around the corner, proudly held on the **California State Capitol** south steps. Theme: **Spread the Reason!**

11:00 AM opens with **Sunday Assembly** service, featuring live music, a talk about communicating science and critical thinking—with fun and community for the entire family.

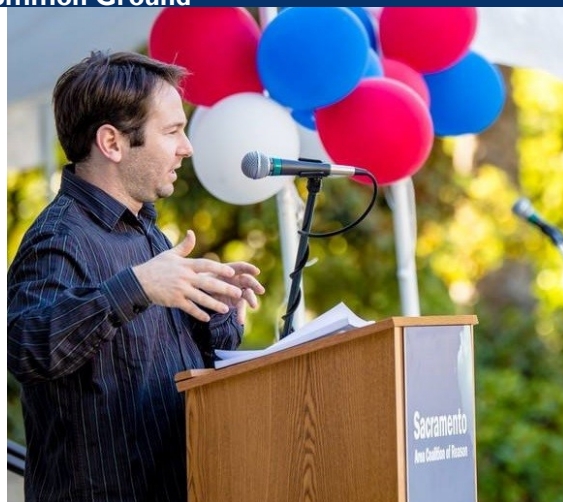
12:30 PM Freethought Day officially begins! See local and national community groups, enjoy live entertainment, hear many notable speakers, an authors' panel, booths, family fun, items to buy, and all kinds of surprises.

Guests include **Jason Torpy** (Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers), **Mandisa Thomas** (Black Non-Believers), **Jason Heap** (United Coalition of Reason), **Tom Manger** (Secular Coalition for California), **Greta Christina**, **Richard Carrier**, and **Brendan Powell Smith**.

Camp Quest West returns to provide children's activities to this family-friendly event.

The event is free, though a \$25 donation gets you reserved seating and a keepsake button. The **fundraising reception** the evening prior is something you don't want to miss. For \$75, attendees can meet and greet the speakers, enjoy an open bar with plenty of snacks and desserts, and watch the screening of ***A Better Life*** with director Chris Johnson.

Advance **registration** is required to be eligible for door prizes. Follow the event on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Bring friends! See you there!

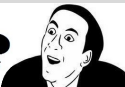


facebook



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?



Fractals of Good Living

Agreed. We all want many of the same things—fewer teen pregnancies, greater profits and comfort of living, better health care available, fewer in prisons, higher graduation rates from colleges, less drug and alcohol abuse, and so on. But the locations where statistics are the worst on these issues are the areas with the most religious people, which holds true for any level of geographic inspection, from section of city to states to section of country to countries themselves. Yet believers hang onto the idea their religion improves these things. How odd. *REALLY?*

“Bridging the

Gap Finding Common Ground between Believers and Atheists” by Roger Christian Schriener
[Book available here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

Secular Advocacy Day (Part of Freethought Day Weekend)

Monday, October 12th

Our third annual **Secular Advocacy Day** connects citizens with their elected officials to express our secular concerns, giving voice to our non-religious community. Please [register in advance](#). Location to follow.

Organized by the [Secular Coalition for California](#), we'll gather on **Monday from 9 AM - 2 PM** to make a difference in our state and local government. Registration closes early so let us know right away. **This is a free event.**

Feeling generous? Help us out by becoming a **Supporter** of the day for \$100. You'll be recognized throughout the day in many ways. **Training Included**—The day will start with a little training. You don't have to be a seasoned lobbyist or even have the slightest notion about politics. When our class is done, you and others in your team will know exactly what to say and where you're headed. **Advocacy Efforts**—After training, we'll visit the offices of our elected officials in groups of two or three. You'll put your new training to use as you explain the importance of secular values. [Register at this link.](#)



Poor Moses, just not with the times. Or, this:



“The Trials of Clarence Darrow” A One-man Play by Paul D. Hauck

November 15, 3:00 PM

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A

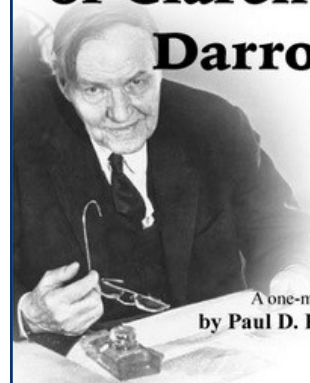
Highly acclaimed actor and playwright. Fascinating.

[Map here](#) [Details for play on Nov 15 here](#)

Then be sure to catch the movie with your fellow freethinkers: “Inherit the Wind”, November 21, all about the Clarence Darrow Monkey Trial.

[Details for movie on Nov 21 here](#)

The Trials of Clarence Darrow



A one-man play
by Paul D. Hauck



Ancient Christian Study Group - Oct. 18, 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.

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Brian Malow, Science Comedian

October 4, 7:00 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM
1050 20th Street, Suite 130, Sacramento

One Night Only! As heard on NPR's Science Friday with Ira Flatow and StarTalk Radio with Neil deGrasse Tyson!

"It's as much about expanding the mind as it is tickling the funny bone." - The Washington Times

For all audiences. Friend-friendly. [Purchase tickets, \\$12.](#)

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



Halloween Party (sort of)

Oct. 31, 6:00 PM

Colleen's home in Stockton. All RSVPs will receive address.

Show up early to decorate. Colleen will be ordering pizza and making brownies, and has plenty of beer. Bring some food and/or drink to share, board games, or whatever. Come have some fun. Open to all.

Costumes optional. [Details here.](#)



Secular Leadership Day (Part of Freethought Day Weekend)

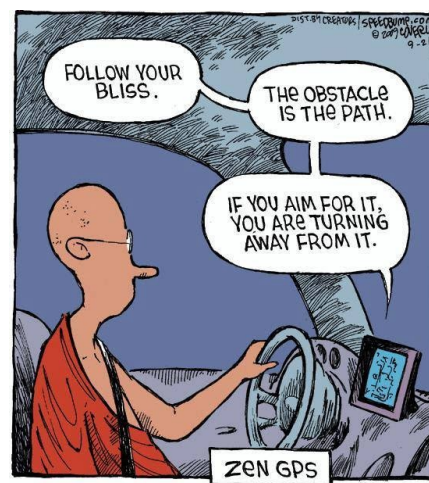
Saturday, October 10, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

Hampton Inn at Cal Expo, please [register in advance](#)

Leaders within the secular movement will want to attend the new **Secular Leadership Day** (October 10) to hone their skills and network with other regional and national organizers.

Session topics by notable local and national leaders include: Diversifying with United CoR, Raising your Secular Voice, Dealing with Difficult People, Social Media Made Easy, Embracing Interfaith, 501c3 Formation, and more. \$20, free for students. Lunch is included!

If you are involved with freethought groups, SSA, Sunday Assembly, skeptic or science-focused groups, or just want to learn more about leadership and organization, [sign up today!](#)



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

Oct 10	10:00 am	Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton	Map here
Oct 18	9:30 am	Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd	Map here
Oct 18	11:00 am	Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave	Map here
Oct 18	10:30 am	Blasphemy Brunch, IHOP, 1435 Ary Lane, Dixon	Map here



Book Clubs

Sacramento

Oct. 19, 6:30 pm
The Belief Instinct
We will be choosing books for 2016.
Reason Center
1824 Tribute Rd
Suite A
[Map here](#)
[Details here.](#)

Ceres

Oct. 6, 7pm
1st Tues each mo.
Private residence
The Hockey Stick
and Climate Wars
[Details here.](#)

Grass Valley

Oct 8, 5:30pm
Interspecies
Communication.
In library meeting
room
[Map here](#)
[Details here](#)

READ. It does the
mind good.

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Sacramento Reason

Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

You know what flips my bic? How talking with dogmatic theists often feels like how Daniel would have felt walking into the lions' den had he been more than a character in a fable. Even the most vicious devout theists hardly have any claws but I'm well aware that they'd love to rip into me, or even my more liberal theist friends. This makes our goal of finding common ground all the harder, but not less worthwhile.

Not to get political, but Senator Bernie Sanders entered the proverbial lions' den when he visited Liberty University recently looking to find common ground where most would imagine little could be found. "I came here today because I believe that it is important for those with different views in our country to engage in civil discourse — not just to shout at each other or make fun of each other," Sanders began. "It is very easy for those in politics to talk to those who agree with us. I do that every day. It is harder, but not less important, to try to communicate with those who do not agree with us and see where, if possible, we can find common ground and, in other words, to reach out of our zone of comfort."

While there's almost no common ground theistically, we all have families we love, want a good job, happy neighborhood, that sort of thing. There's common ground to be found if we are willing to look for it. I found that with a liberal theist just the other day, after an open discussion we both found that we share the values of Humanism. So, if you're thinking of coming out, maybe do the Bern and find ways to talk from the position of mutual foundation. You might relate more than you'd expect.



Digital Scrapbooking (Or, "Digi-scrapping")

October 3, 1:30 PM

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite A, Sacramento

Talented graphic designer, Rae Howard, covers basics on Photoshop Elements, products you "must" have, printing your work and an overview on making your first page. Slide show and hands on. Bring your laptop, iPhone or iPad. \$2 donation requested. Part of the "Explore More" series sponsored by the Reason Center.

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



Quote of the month

“There’s simply no polite way to tell people they’ve dedicated their lives to an illusion.” - Daniel Dennett

Upcoming Events

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- [17 AOF Social Dinner](#)
- [18 Blasphemy Breakfast, Rocklin](#)
- [18 Blasphemy Brunch Dixon/Vcville](#)
- [18 Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcad](#)
- [18 Coffee Klatch in Modesto](#)
- [18 Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
- [18 HAGSA Meeting](#)
- [19 Book Club at RC](#)
- [23 Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub](#)
- [24 BHNBS Planning](#)
- [25 BHNBS Humanity Breakfast Yummm](#)
- [25 Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)
- [27 Game Night in Stockton](#)
- [28 Board Games at Reason Center](#)
- [30 Finally Friday Dinner and Karaoke](#)
- [31 Halloween Party \(sort of\), Stockton](#)

November

- [3 Book Club, Ceres](#)
- [4 Science Night: Bats in the Orchard!](#)
- [4 Welcome New Members Meetup](#)
- [6 Dinner, Wine & Art Hop, Lodi](#)

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“The Martian” Movie Night

Friday, October 2, 7:00 PM

AMC Showplace Manteca 16 Theater, 848 Lifestyle St, Manteca

Stranded on Mars with only meager supplies. Can his wit save him?

Join fellow freethinkers Friday night for this thought provoking Sci-Fi.

[Watch the movie trailer here](#) [Buy tickets here](#)

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

Pre-Movie Dinner at Pete’s Restaurant & Brewhouse, 5:30 PM. See details.

Science Night Live

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:00—8:00 PM

World of Wonders Science Museum

2 N Sacramento St, Lodi

Free event! **SCIENCE NIGHT LIVE** is an engaging science experience within a casual atmosphere for the curious minds in our community! This night is “Science Trivia Night”. Taco truck, beer and wine cash bar.

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Future Science Night Live Events: Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, and Feb 3.



Rhyme and Reason

*God His true self did reveal:
“Avoid all the false gods with zeal.”
He made one mistake:
All the others are fake
But gave us no hint which is real.*

-A. de Paoli



Dinner, Wine & Art Hop - Friday, Oct. 2, 6:00–9:00 PM

Join us at Alebrijes Mexican Bistro, 10 West Oak St, Lodi. Enjoy great company! Everyone welcome!

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

Upcoming Events

cont'd from previous page

November

7 [Explore: Power of Play Workshop](#)

8 [Sunday Assembly](#)

13 [Game Night in Oakdale](#)

14 [Brunch and Atheism, Stockton](#)

14 [Craft Fair at Reason Center](#)

15 [Blasphemy Breakfast, Rocklin](#)

15 [Blasphemy Brunch Dixon/Vcville](#)

15 [Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcd](#)

15 [Coffee Klatch, Modesto](#)

15 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)

15 [“The Trials of Clarence Darrow”](#)

Faithiest How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious By Chris Stedman

After finding Christianity painfully judgmental, his militant atheism also fell short of his vision for unity, so he found common ground to help establish a better dialog.

[Book available here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

Little Activisms

By Judy Saint

Common ground. Learn how to find common ground with anyone you're speaking with, especially should the topic of religion surface. We know that people listen more openly if they first feel you are in one of their in-groups; one of them in some way.

Are you in the same class? Do you shop at the same grocery store each week? Do your kids know each other? Do you both have similar pets? Are you about the same age and remember the same advertising jingles? How about your taste in music, art or places to vacation? If you look for it, you can probably find some conversation about your similarities to help your listener relate to you on some level. A side benefit is that you get to know a person better, and might become friends.

This month's little activism that you can do for the world is find places of common ground with a few people you brush up against, get to talking about those areas in common, and then see where that leads. Once you have established one area in common, should the topic of atheism or religion surface, it's much easier to comment about it as one of their inside friends, rather than as a stranger possibly with a single agenda. That's why religious and other sales people at your door often open by asking about your day, ask for a glass of water, compliment your lovely home or comment about the weather.

You'll find you really do have a lot in common with people once you get past the small talk. We all generally do love others, celebrate with others, hope the best for the world and try in our own ways to do good. Try starting there—with the positives we all care about. First find the common ground.



Coffee Meetups

Modesto Coffee Klatch

Oct 18, 11 AM—2 PM

Queen Bean, 126 14th St, Modesto

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

Auburn Freethinker Meetup—Starbuck's

Oct. 2, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM

Starbuck's, 1790 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

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



Game Nights

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

[Sacramento Oct 28, 6:30 pm](#) or [Salida Oct 9, 7:00 pm](#) or [Stockton Oct 27, 6:00 pm](#)



New Members Meetup & Coffee

Oct. 7, 6:30 PM
Nov. 4, 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.

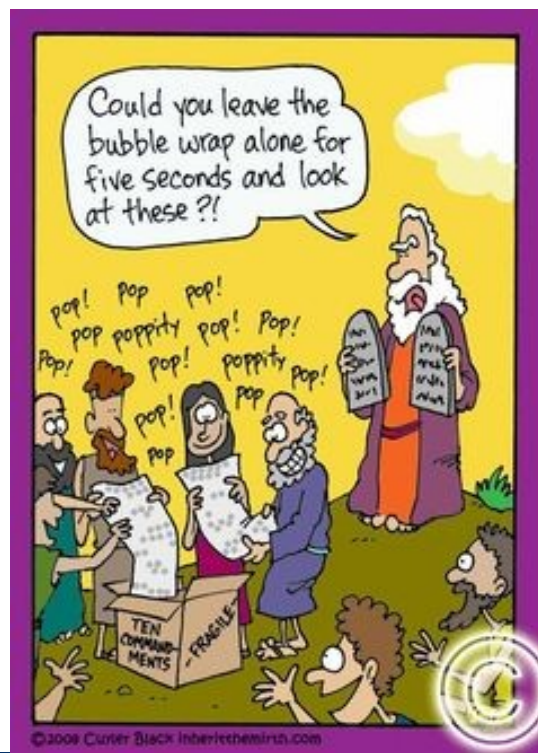
Family Time By Lindsey Campbell

I have a lot of fundies in my family and Roxanne spends a lot of time alone with them. I can always tell when Grandma or Auntie have been pushing fundie-speak on her, because she comes home with “interesting” questions. Recently, she suddenly became interested in the ancient Pagans. She asked me why Pagans were evil. My history knowledge is filled with gaping holes, but I managed a mini-lecture about the early Christians and their attempts to “civilize” the people who worshiped outside.



I know that most nine-year-olds aren't interested in history, but ALL kids have a strength and an interest that can be utilized to bolster their critical thinking skills. It's important to nurture these strengths and interests, because when they leave our presence, that will become their guiding beacon. I believe I nurtured Roxanne's respect for history during her early childhood, by taking her to museums, and establishing very fond memories of bonding during our museum trips. She even has a special museum outfit that she keeps handy for these outings.

Her most recent question was, “Mom, how come some Christians don't celebrate Halloween?” This was a perfect moment to use history to guide her understanding. Our earlier conversation about Pagans led into a conversation about the dependence upon harvesting, and belief in evil spirits. We Googled pictures and articles describing the Pagans and their rituals for casting out spirits, and we both learned a lot about the multi-cultural melting pot of the American traditions practiced today. And the best part? Roxanne was able to see a very clear connection between the silly rituals practiced by the Pagans and the ridiculous superstitious assumptions made by the modern anti-fun religious movements. I'd say it was a fun activity for mom and daughter. Thank you, Google!



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



Freethought Dinner

Saturday, Oct 17, 5:30 PM

Tower Café, 1518 Broadway, Sac (adjoins Tower Theater)

Varied and interesting menu. From spring rolls to chile relleno to Barizilian Chicken salad to burgers to Texasia steak to ravioli to their full display of desserts.

If the weather is nice, we can eat out on their patio in all the greenery.

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

Reason Center Craft Fair

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sac

Nov 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Have something you made and would like to sell? Want to find something unique for yourself or a friend? Plan now to attend the Reason Center Craft Fair!

Reserve your table now. Only \$15 which goes to the Reason Center. Five of the 13 tables have already been spoken for! (for table layout see details below)

Mark your calendars to attend! You'll find sewing, yarn and bead crafts & jewelry, woodwork jewelry and other woodwork crafts, Steampunk/Victoriana pieces, Rieca Art, mixed media and collage art. Plus more to come!

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



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Sacramento

Sac Skeptics in the Pub

Fri Oct 23, 6:30p
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Stockton

Drinking Skeptically
Fri Oct 16, 6:30pm
Valley Brewing Co.
157 W Adams St
Stockton, CA
Restaurant and bar
just off the Miracle
Mile. Join in!

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



Politics and Philosophy Group—Oct 1, 6:30 PM

“Miscellaneous Pabulum”—Tired of structured debate? Want spontaneous intellectual conversation with those of other perspectives? Rather than one topic this time, let’s have 3 minute spontaneous conversational topics. Everyone welcome. **Kupros, 1217 21st St, Sac.** [Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Secular Family Day

Check the calendar each month to see where our Stockton and surrounding area families are meeting with our kids. Always a different and fun venue.

[Check here.](#)

Politics and Philosophy Meetup

**Saturday, Oct 10
10:00 AM**

Coffee Garden
2904 Franklin Bl
Sacramento

We usually meet outside.

Let’s discuss how we address conspiracy theories and popular belief systems which seem to lack evidence. Based on the book by Cass Sunstein.

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Can You Volunteer for Freethought Day?

**Sunday, Oct 11 8:00—11:00 AM, before Freethought Day opens
CA State Capitol, 1010 L St, Sac**

Please help us set up chairs and tables, decorate, register attendees and sponsors, and more as needed. We also need volunteers for the VIP Reception on Saturday, Oct 10 in the evening.

Thanks for being great helpers for this huge annual event!

[Click here for more information](#)

Recovering From Religion Support Group

**Wednesday, Oct 14, 6:30—8:00 PM
Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sac**

Support and sharing in a safe atmosphere, among others who were also once caught in religion. Come find a safe place to land while you leave or challenge your beliefs. You are not alone. It’s a brave new world as we face our pasts together. We look forward to meeting you!

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



***The Last Aloha* - Available Now!**

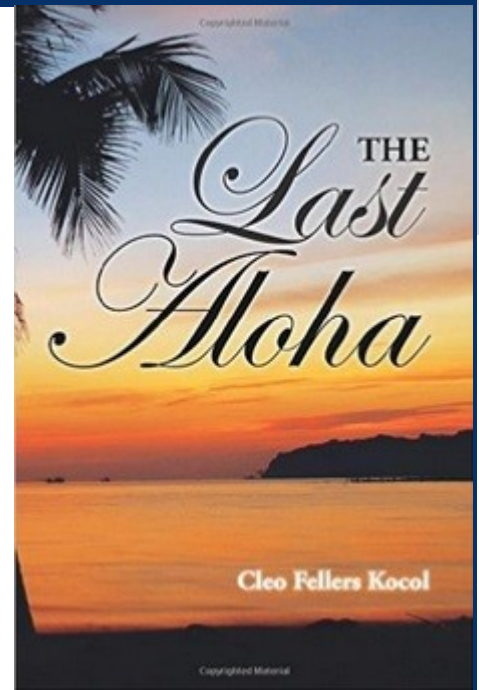
He was a scientist; she was a writer/actor. Together they found humanism and feminism and began their activist life. Traveling the world on their own, they had adventures most people encounter only in movies. Dedicated to one another, when dementia struck him, he opted for a good death, and she was at his side.

"Cleo is a sharp, vivid writer with fine stories to tell. Her life journey with Hank is enthralling." Jennifer Bardi, Editor in Chief, the Humanist Magazine.

"Long-standing Humanists, Cleo and Hank lived their humanist philosophy." Fred Edwards, Former Executive Director, American Humanist Association.

"I admire Cleo and Hank's courage, conviction and dedication to freethought and feminism." Annie Laurie Gaylor, Co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

Finally, our local and beloved hero who stood her ground and paved new trails writes her memoir, a powerful role model of activism, love and courage. Order your copy now. I'm sure Cleo will sign it for you.



<http://www.amazon.com/Last-Aloha-Cleo-Fellers-Kocol/dp/1514121697>

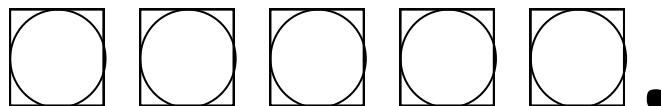
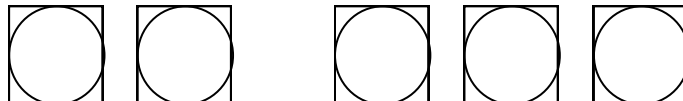
Silly Scrambles

Joke: "How does an atheist have her hair cut?"

(Answer is at the bottom of the next page.)



“



”

Use these letters, one time each:

N N G I G I B S A B

Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

The pope has come to the USA. Should we picket him, ignore him, or listen to what he is saying about the public sphere? I count myself as one of those liberals who agree with his social agenda, that is a better shake for the poor and recognizing that climate change is real.

No matter what we say about the Church of Rome, about birth control and abortion, that will not change anything. What will change, and it is slowly gaining purchase, is behavior. Most Americans (as well as Catholic Americans) use birth control, support a woman's right to choose, and want a more equal role for women. Atheists, agnostics, and humanists have things we can discuss with our Catholic and Protestant friends. I am not out to change their minds, but I am concerned with finding points of agreement. But...I will not remain silent when evangelical and fundamentalist religionists try to subvert our country by injecting religion into government, by political and bombastic means. Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee, Donald Trump, Carly Fiorina, and all the rest of the present candidate crew who tell blatant lies to get elected, need to be refuted. In this vein, I would probably have a decent conversation with the pope, but not a chance with the aforementioned group.

The point is to use your "reaching across the aisle" abilities wisely. Separation of church and state must never be infringed, but if my neighbor wants to bow to Allah, it is his or her right. I will use reason in relationships with the "churchy" crowd.



An Evening with James “The Amazing” Randi

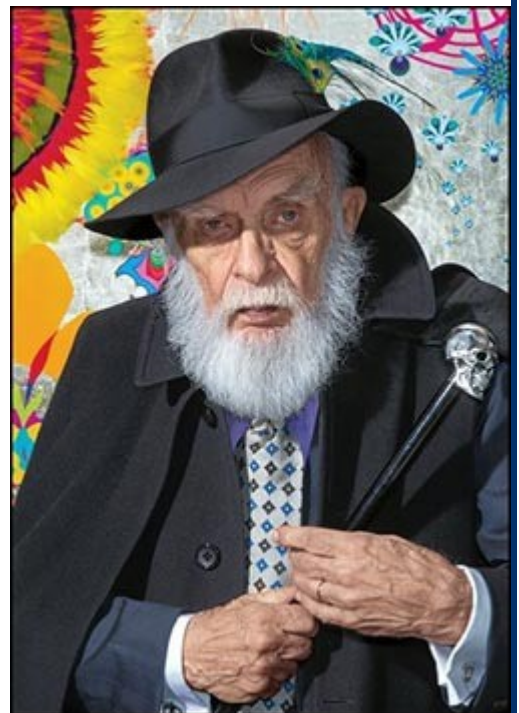
Friday, Oct 16, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM
Gary Soren Smith Center, Ohlone College
43600 Mission Blvd, Fremont CA

One of the most influential magicians in the world, since turning to a famous skeptical de-bunker of those who try to scam people out of their money or their disbelief. Originator of the still-flourishing One Million Dollar Challenge, seen on many popular TV shows, with a series of his own. A legend.

In this one-hour talk, Randi will astound you with facts about science and skepticism, motivate you to apply critical thinking, and even do a bit of magic and mentalism! Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Bring your friends and kids!

\$15 general, \$10 students

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



Answer to Skeptic's Scramble on previous page: "In Big Bangs"

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 10

Issue Theme: Common Ground

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Legal Watch By Arash Khosrowshahi

Religious zealots rejoiced in September over the actions of county clerk Kim Davis in Kentucky, who refused to authorize marriage licenses for same-sex couples, citing her religious beliefs. Davis was jailed for contempt after violating a court order to authorize such licenses, and then released some days later with the media attention of presidential candidates Mike Huckabee and Ted Cruz surrounding the event.

Kim Davis's actions are another iteration of the "religious exemption" phenomenon that has been pushed by the Religious Right in response to legalized same-sex marriage. We have seen it with the wedding cake cases and the Hobby Lobby case with respect to women's rights. However, Kim Davis's case has an important difference compared to these past cases because, unlike a private business, she is a county clerk, which makes her a government official.

Laws banning same-sex marriage were ruled unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which applies to all of the states, including Kentucky. Thus for a state actor such as Kim Davis to prevent same-sex couples from obtaining marriage licenses violates the Equal Protection Clause, and could also violate the Establishment Clause considering Davis's motivations for her actions are her religious convictions.

The argument that her religious freedom is being violated is simply false: the government did not jail Kim Davis because of what she believes, but because she imposes her religious worldview on others with the power of her government office, and does so in a discriminatory fashion against LGBT Americans. Those of us in the Freethinking community are aware of this, but we should realize that many outside of it do not understand the depth and gravity of such actions that Davis partakes in. It is therefore incumbent upon us to explain our arguments, grounded in secularism and the Constitution.

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.

UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY, KIM DAVIS HAS WIDENED THE SCOPE OF HER CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.



[All also banned in the book of Leviticus.]

MacLeod

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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, and the effects of religiously based government on the lives of Americans are far-reaching. This guide provides background and policy recommendations on a wide spectrum of issues, from the separation of church and state to the role of religion in public life.

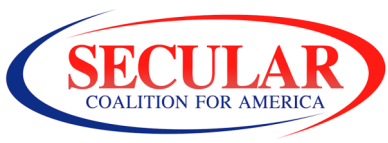
Secular Policy Guide

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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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

Like all other political watchdogs in the state, the Secular Coalition for California is waiting for Governor Brown to finalize his say on this year's legislation. Since last month's write up, Governor Brown has signed the following new bills:

AB 329 - Sexual Health Education - mandates that students in grades 7-12 will receive appropriate HIV prevention information. It also renames related sections of law under a new "California Healthy Youth Act".

SB 464 - Healing Arts: self reporting tools - allows doctors to accept self reported information (for weight, height, medical history, etc.) from patients seeking hormonal contraceptives. This is an effort to improve telemedicine used for people in remote areas.

We are still waiting for his final decision on the following bills.

AB-X2-15 - End of Life Option Act - will allow terminally ill patients to receive drugs that would end their suffering. This bill would enact a program that has been running successfully in several other states.

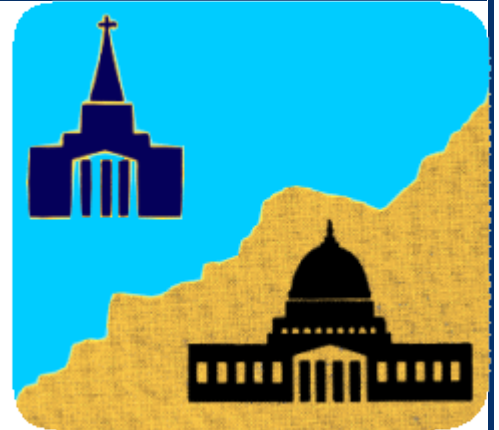
AB 775 - Reproductive FACT Act - will require medical clinics to post signs & notify patients about free contraceptive and abortion services available throughout the state. This is a direct push back against deceptive Crisis Pregnancy Centers run by various religious organizations throughout the state.

SB 792 - Day Care facilities: immunizations: exemptions - will require all employees at day care facilities to be fully vaccinated.

Also, some anti-vax proponents had initiated a referendum to overturn SB 277, the bill that eliminated exemptions for personal beliefs. This group did not get enough signatures for its referendum, so SB 277 will remain in effect. Yeah!

By this time next month, all legislative updates for the year will be final. Be sure to check in with us then. We'll provide a roundup of the entire year.

Find out more about the [Secular Coalition for California](#). Email us with any questions - california@secular.org.



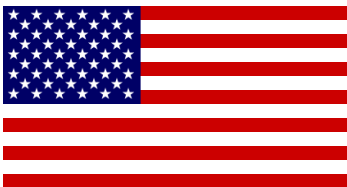
How Do I Find My Representatives?

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.



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.



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Logical Fallacies On Parade

Name this logical fallacy: Making people afraid of consequences without giving any reason behind it. Example, give me your valuables before the robbers outside take them, or if this bill passes I'll have to cut back by firing all of you. Be afraid, be very afraid. (Answer is upside down below.)



MR. FROG LOST THE ELECTION AFTER MR.DONKEY CONVINCED EVERYONE THAT IF MR. FROG BECAME THE SCHOOL DEAN, SOON ENOUGH, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE RUN BY FROGS.

Name is "Appeal to Fear". 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.

The views expressed in the included articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Sac CoR or its coalition members--varying opinions may be included in an effort to inform our readers as much as possible.

