

AOF News & Views – Newsletter for January 2016

## Upcoming Events

➤ **Opening to Love: Six Simple Choices to Inspire Incredible Relationships**

Tuesday, Jan 26, 2016, 7 pm

Who says atheists & freethinkers have no hearts? We have them, and they are as porcelain-fragile as any. Cut us, do we not bleed? (Please don't try this experiment.)

Now the wise and wonderful [Joey Garcia](#) comes to advise and guide us through the heart's cindered wasteland, on a path often neglected or diminished within the freethought community: how to seek love, how to find love, how to sustain it, and how to open ourselves to deeper connection to our loved ones, despite possible nasty barriers of faith. We've all been there, haven't we? Oh we have, we have.



What is your own situation? Do you hope to meet someone special? To deepen a connection you have already? To break down emotional walls that have too long contained you? Or simply to understand your own emotional clockwork? Six simple changes can sweeten your situation. Please attend this lively, interactive presentation and book signing. Enjoy laughter, challenge, unexpected insights and a fresh perspective on how to create and nourish love. Or simply bask in Joey's luminous smile.

Joey Garcia has dispensed wise, witty and practical advice to readers of the *Sacramento News & Review* since 1996. Joey is also the Relationship Expert for Fox 40 television (*not* Fox News) and is the award-winning author of [When Your Heart Breaks, It's Opening to Love: Healing and finding love after an affair, heartbreak or divorce](#). And she is the founder of [Rise Up Belize!](#), a non-profit organization that serves children and teachers in her native Belize.

Her book (published in 2013) will be available for purchase and signing.

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite A, Sacramento

➤ **Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup**

Saturday, Jan 16, 2016, 9 am – 11 am

Long ago (July 1995), but not in a galaxy far away, Sacramento-area freethinkers "adopted" a two-mile stretch of Highway 99 extending from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road. We've done a good job since then keeping it clean of litter and debris, and received kudos for this. It is, in fact, one our more successful civic efforts, and it shows that freethinkers can also serve the community.

So join us! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a deed for the environment and local area wildlife. The refuse that we collect would otherwise ultimately be swept by the rain into tributaries and into the ocean, degrading habitat, and leading to a slow death for many sea creatures.

As usual, the activity captain will provide all safety equipment, including comfortable, natty hard-hats and gloves, stylish safety vests, collection bags, and handy trash pickers. The cleanup takes a scant two hours. Please dress for the season. It may be a good idea to bring a backpack or fanny-pack to carry 3 or 4 trash bags.

**Location:** Travel north from Sacramento on I-5, past Sleep Train Arena. Take the "Highway 99 - Yuba City, Marysville" exit. Exit at Elkhorn Boulevard less than a mile north. Turn left, cross the overpass. Meet in the park-&-ride lot on your left.  
**For more info or carpooling, contact:** Don, 916- 447-2169.

➤ **AOF Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, January 11, 2016, 7 pm

An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to *all* interested friends and members. You are welcome to join us, meet the Board and ask questions. Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your suggestions for events and activities -- most of all, your wonderful volunteerism!

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

## No More "In God We Trust"

AOF is pleased to announce a grant in support of renewed litigative efforts by Dr. Mike Newdow to remove religious references from U.S. currency and restore its original neutrality toward faith. History's lesson is that State and Faith both benefit from a benign separation and mutual independence.

James Madison said, "Every new & successful example therefore of a perfect separation between ecclesiastical and civil matters, is of importance. And I have no doubt that every new example, will succeed, as every past one has done, in shewing that religion & Govt. will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together." *Letter to Edward Livingston, 10 July 1822 - Writings 9:100--103*

This is an ongoing project of the NoMoreIGWT ('No More In-God-We-Trust') Fund, announced in July. If you wish to support this effort, you still have time! Please see <http://nomoreigwt.com/>, or send a donation to AOF at PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851. Donations are tax deductible, of course.



"The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) is to promote the civic understanding of atheism and the acceptance of atheists in our community. Through educational programs, projects, and publications, AOF will extend secular perspectives, including the separation of religion and government and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives.

### Subscription / Membership Form

*Mail to: AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address (please print!) \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail is required for newsletter delivery.*

Questions, concerns? Call AOF, 916-304-3796.

**Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):**

Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)

**Basic Dues** : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Donation** : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed** : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to groups similar to AOF.

Please check here if you DO want to be an AOF Activist (e-mail address required).

*AOF is a 501(c)(3) Educational Association, EIN 68-0325762. Dues & Donations are tax-deductable as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).*



AOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762. General Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movie outings, parties! To see what awaits you, visit the website, [www.aofonline.org](http://www.aofonline.org); or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-447-3589; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182

President: Kristi Craven. Vice-president: We don't know yet. Your loyal editor: Fran Evanisko. And their band of merry elves.