

Upcoming Events

➤ Sacramento Darwin Day Birthday Gala

Saturday, February 13, 2016 2pm – 5pm

For the 19th epic year, local science advocates and civic groups will join hands to bring you the Sacramento Darwin Day Birthday Gala. This annual celebration of scientific inquiry, sponsored worldwide by community and educational groups, honors the life and work of the great Charles Darwin, and marks his 207th birthday. Wow.

Doors open at 2 o' the clock, post meridiem, the main program to begin at 2:30. Arrive early, tour the display tables, and visit the vendors. Relax and enjoy the opening entertainment: vocals by Andi Griffith and Marie Bain, with guitar work by Stephanie, and much else!

Then the feature speaker, Dr. Matthew J James, Geology Department Chair of Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. Dr. James specializes in the paleontology of the Burgess Shale fossil deposits, the natural history of the Hawaiian Islands, oceanography and general geology, and was the speaker at Sierra College's "Natural Museum Presents 'Collecting Evolution: The untold story of the vindication of Charles Darwin by the 1905-1906 Galapagos expedition'" (2013). He will reprise for us that brilliant talk.



Location: John Smith Hall of the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael.

Admission: \$10.00 thru Feb 6, \$15.00 at the door, or \$10.00 with your current Student ID.

For tickets or more information, please visit the main event website, <http://sacdarwinday.info/>.

➤ Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, Feb 20, 2016, 9 am – 11 am

The Highway Cleanup previously set for January was rescheduled due to wet weather. Let's try again! Enjoy a commune with nature, and do a deed for the environment and local area wildlife.

As usual, the activity captain will provide all safety equipment, including comfortable, natty hard-hats and gloves, stylish safety vests, sturdy collection bags, and handy trash pickers. The cleanup takes a scant two hours. Please dress for the season. It may be wise 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.

➤ Werner Haag - The Bonobo and the Atheist

Saturday, Mar 12, 2016, 1 pm – 4 pm

Noted activist from the Atheist Community of San Jose will visit AOF to discuss Frans de Waal's book, *The Bonobo and the Atheist*. The book describes the biological and naturalistic evolution of morality. Join us for a lively, fascinating review!

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite A, Sacramento. For a map, see: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

➤ AOF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 14, 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: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

➤ Davis Community Meal – Feed the Hungry

Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 4:30 – 7 pm

Join local freethinkers in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the hungry, the indigent, the outcast. You will meet new minds, hobnob with your freethinker friends, enjoy jazzy music, and receive a likely free meal and the hearts-glow of benevolence.

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis. Map: <https://goo.gl/9FtkrK>.

For more information or carpooling, contact: Don, 916- 447-2169.

Support the Reason Center

Reason Center is a home, venue and safe area for all freethought groups in Sacramento. It opened in July 2014 on Tribute Road. Since then it has hosted well over 200 successful freethought events. The Center currently has twelve partner organizations, and has opened its doors to non-partner groups.



Its mission is to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers, and uphold the separation of religion and government.

But Reason Center depends on *you*. Please help it continue its good work – become an RC Supporter! To make a one-time donation, be a supporting member, or even make a legacy gift via will or trust, visit ReasonCenter.org, or email reasoncenter@gmail.com. Without your helping hands, without free minds like yours, we are nothing.

AOF Board Elections

Absence of a voting quorum at the January General Meeting (short by one vote!) forced a delay of the election of the Board of Directors for 2016. The current world-weary Board is considering alternatives, like an electronic survey or mailed ballot. Watch your mailboxes. Meanwhile, if you can serve AOF in any capacity, either as director or officer, contact us. Please.

This Month in History

February 12, 1683

The first German dissenters arrived in Philadelphia from Krefeld, Germany, in a group made up primarily of Mennonites and Quakers. Soon following were the Dunkers, Moravian Brethren, Footwashing Moravian Brethren, German Baptists, and our favorite, the Schwenkfelders. We're not sure what the Schwenkfelders were, we just like to say it.

February 19, 1639

Roger Williams founded Colonial Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, the first Baptist congregation in America. So really, it's all his fault.

February 18, 1614

Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, baptized by the Reverend Alexander Whitaker so that John Rolfe could marry her. That rascal.

"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.

AOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762, founded in 1993. General Meetings are free and open to all. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movie outings, parties! To see what awaits, visit 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: Mynga Futrell. Note, this is provisional, we're kind of winging it now.

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-deductible as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).