

Upcoming Events ✧

➤ **Seth Andrews: The Thinking Atheist** **Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 6-8PM**

The very amazing [Seth Andrews](#), host of the [Thinking Atheist podcast](#), returns to AOF to shake our brains and see what rattles. Seth spoke here before in June 2015. The AOF Speaker Series now joins hands with sister-organization Sac-FAN (Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers) to pull him back for an encore. When AOF & Sac-FAN team up, it's always a hoot. Don't miss this bonus event.



Details are scant, so we suspect Seth plans to wing it. Anything goes. But to prepare you, here are words from one of Seth Andrews's recent blog entries:

Comment-section warriors declare that some of my more emotive pieces are "religious" because they incorporate an appeal to the heart. In their minds, we should all be machines, quickly chomping data points from an isolated perch on Mount Seleya, cordoning off whole sections of our humanity.

Two things: 1) it's perfectly fine to have feelings in regard to the things we think about. 2) The church pastors are often really good at emotive storytelling, but they didn't invent it, they don't own it, and they don't negate the power of it simply because they're using storytelling tools to sell bad ideas.

Storytelling isn't preaching or (necessarily) heart-over-head manipulation. As long as our feelings aren't driving the vehicle, as long as they serve to provide color for the outlines painted reasonably, and as long as they're kept in check, they're a healthy part of the human condition, and they can draw us toward a greater connection with ideas, facts, places and people.

It's a good thing Carl Sagan didn't toss the poetry in his work... the emotive, rich, heartfelt and impassioned language, cadences and inflection that positively impacted so many.

His storytelling ability was key in helping important ideas resonate in the bones of his readers, listeners and viewers, and it made them all the more powerful.

Can you imagine "Pale Blue Dot" as mere bullet points? Neither can I.

~ Seth Andrews

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

➤ **Board of Directors Meeting** **Monday, September 12, 2016, 7-9AM**

Once again, an AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors and Officers, but open to all interested friends and members. Especially those with ideas!



You are welcome to join us, meet the board, and share your wisdom with AOF.

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

➤ **Hank and Cleo Kocol: A Celebration** **Sunday, September 25, 2016, 1-3PM**

Not a memorial, because how could we mourn them? This is a celebration, a tribute and a paean to the lives of Hank Kocol (July 16, 1937 - Apr 20, 2013) and Cleo Kocol (Jan 12, 1927 - July 5, 2016), charter AOF members, past AOF presidents, activists, humanists, feminists, scintillating minds, and supporters of our community of reason for decades. AOF would not be here without them, not as it is now.



Come join us. Share your memories, learn about their adventures together, and possibly leave with a token. For more details, see the AOF website.

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

➤ **California Freethought Day Festival** **Sunday, October 16, 2016, 11AM-5:30PM**

Save this date! Sacramento Freethought Day had a growth spurt; it's now *California* Freethought Day (CFD). Still a grand jubilee, a party, a gala, a secular celebration, a salute to independent and rational thought, open to the public, free to attend, combining the fun and festivity of a fair with the education and activism of a conference—only larger, brighter, more freethoughty. The planning committee is busy packing the day with events to entertain you as much as uplift you,

and to nourish you with knowledge. They will include speakers, entertainers, food, prizes, a "family fun zone," vendors, exhibits, panels, art ... and more.

Though the main event (Sunday) is free, advance registration (also free) makes you eligible for delightful & toothsome door prizes. Also a fun Supporters Reception (not so free, but worth it) will occur the evening before, and a special training seminar for secular leaders the next day. To register, to learn more, and especially if you wish to attend the reception, staff a table, vend, volunteer, sponsor, help promote, help plan, set up or clean up - visit the event website now, and contact the chairman. Sooner is better. CFD will love to have you, because hands that help ... are beautiful hands.

Location: CA State Capitol North Steps, Capitol Park. Map: <http://tinyurl.com/j9c6qob>

Contact: 209-610-0651, or email: Chair@FreethoughtDay.org

THE GODS OF YESTERDAY

(Anonymous)

Where are the gods of yesterday,
Gracious and beautiful, grim and gray,
Masculine, feminine, great and small,
Benign and manevolent, one and all?

Born of the union and sad mischance
Of mad Superstition and Ignorance.
They came into being and passed away.
Where are the gods of yesterday?

Yea, where are the gods of yesterday,
Demon and dryad and goblin and fay?
Where are the gods the Egyptians knew,
Isis, Osiris, and Horus too?

Where are the gods of the Grecians, great,
Where are the gods of the Roman state?
Temple and alter are gone for aye;
And where are the gods of yesterday?

Lo, where are the gods of yesterday,
Fetish of flesh and idol of clay?
Where is the Syrian's goddess pale,
Ashtoreth - and his sun-fed, Baal?

Where are the Norseman's gods of war -
Odin and Jord, and the thundious Thor?
Vestments and votaries gone to decay,
And where are the gods of yesterday?

Yea, where are the gods of yesterday,
Cruelly kidnapped or gone astray?
Out of the nimbus of night they came,
Nodded, vanished - and left a name;-

Left but a name - and the gibbering wraith
Of a pestilential, departed faith.
Gone are the priests with their rich array;
And where are the gods of yesterday?

Aye, Where are the gods of yesterday?
Jehovah is trav'ling the highroad gray
And Christ, with his cross upon his back,
Has set his feet in the trodden track,

To that undiscovered land whose bourn,
Restores to the Christian souls that mourn,
The eye to rejoice or the zeal to warm
But a partial glimpse of a shadowy form.

While the virgin Mary has left the post
And, hand in hand with the Holy Ghost,
Has entered upon the footworn way,
That leads to the gods of yesterday.

Oh tell me, Prince, if you will or may;
Just where are the gods of yesterday?



When you donate blood...

Halloween is coming, and really, do you need all that blood? Please donate a pint at the Blood Source. And if you do, use AOF Blood Source ID# 4857.

Numerous Donation Centers exist -- find them listed at: <http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations>.

AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives, and is good for public relations. And what can be more Humanistic than donating blood?

Support the Reason Center

The Reason Center (RC) opened in July 2014. Since opening it has hosted well over 200 events. Currently RC has twelve partner organizations.

Its mission: 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.

To continue this good work, the Reason Center relies on members and donors, and your continued support. Please consider supporting the Reason Center. To set up a monthly or one-time donation, visit the website, ReasonCenter.org.



Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? Pshaw! Join us! (You'll sleep better.)

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! Your reasonable dues will help keep it all going. To see what cooks, visit the website, 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. AOF Acting President: Kristi Craven. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest of us, locked in our cells.

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).

"The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) is to promote 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." There, we said it.

Special event at Reason Center (not an AOF one, but hecka fun)

Marie Bain - Live Music Launch!

Marie, star and author of "*Family Values: The Bible Tells Me So*", is about to launch her album, and will perform at the Reason Center on Sept 17, 7 PM.

You'll laugh, you'll cry, it's better than *Cats*. The event features her single "*I Don't Know*" and a short selection of her other songs:

A free event. She'd love for you to be there and share the fun... and maybe a bottle of wine and a cheese cube. Invite your friends and join her.

Also subscribe to her [YouTube Channel](#). She needs 100 subscribers so the powers that be will grant her a welcoming-er website address.

Where? Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

