

## AOF News & Views - Newsletter for April 2017

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## Flying Spaghetti Monster Party

Sunday April 16, 2017, 1PM - 4PM

In 2008, AOF and the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area (<u>HAGSA</u>) got together for a spaghetti feed. It caught on. Soon the <u>Sacramento Coalition of Reason</u> adopted the idea, and the tradition had found inertia of its own.

On a national level, it goes back to a student's 2005 letter to the Kansas School Board that was considering teaching Intelligent Design. Today the "FSM" party is an alternative to churchy Easter activities, but still pokes gentle fun at "ID" Creationists who insist a

cosmic Intelligence simply had to have created this well-designed world. "Pastifarians" say yes, certainly, the Flying Spaghetti Monster did it in his noodley, carb-rich omniscience. Open your heart to the FSM and It will fill you with rich red sauce and yummy garlic bread.

The party is a pot-luck, so bring food & beverage to share, but a minuscule door fee (\$1) will cover all hall costs & dining supplies. Especially welcome, for obvious reasons: pasta. Help us celebrate the Grand Designer with 'sketti.

This year the fun will include singing, games, pirate cosplay and a pirate costume contest. So wear pirate garb if you wish (optional) or something piratey. (Piratish, piratesque? Arr, blast this spellchecker anyway!) Pirates are sacred to the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Why? It is a *mystery*.

Learn about the Flying Spaghetti Monster at <u>venganza.org/about</u>. Can you help setup or cleanup? Pasta be praised! Call the party planner, promptly.

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <a href="https://goo.gl/iVQL8z">https://goo.gl/iVQL8z</a>. **Contact:** Rachael, c/o email <SacramentoCOR@gmail.com> or ph. (916) 572-7020

### March for Science

Saturday April 22, 2017, 10AM – 1PM

Does AOF take a stand for real science? Yes!

A war on science has begun, so we must stand and resist "alternative facts" with peer-reviewed truths, we must hold a line against bad policy. <u>Sacramento's March for Science</u> is one of many cross-nation grassroots events demonstrating a demand for sound science and supporting the scientific community. Local science advocates will be out in force at Sacramento's March on Saturday, April 22, from 10am to 1pm. AOF will be there. Join us, please.

The March will start at Southside Park around 6th & T Streets, and proceed to the West Capitol Steps, where speakers will await. AOF folk will gather at the park about 9:30 a.m.

Bring your walking shoes, and look for the AOF banner.

**Location:** Southside Park, T & 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, Sacramento. Map: <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/WqXnapa6LZF2">https://goo.gl/maps/WqXnapa6LZF2</a>. **Contact:** See <a href="http://www.marchforsciencesacramento.com/contact-info.html">https://goo.gl/maps/WqXnapa6LZF2</a>. **Contact:** See <a href="https://www.marchforsciencesacramento.com/contact-info.html">https://www.marchforsciencesacramento.com/contact-info.html</a>, or call AOF (see contact phone)

Note: We invite you to make 'Signs for Science' at Reason Center, 6-8pm, Thursday, April 20th. We provide materials, you make the sign. Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, map: <a href="https://goo.gl/iVQL8z">https://goo.gl/iVQL8z</a>.

### Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

In July 1995, Sacramento-area freethinkers "adopted" a two-mile stretch of Highway 99 from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road. Since then we have kept it clean of litter and debris, and received recognition for it. It is, in fact, one of our more successful civic efforts. It shows freethinkers can also serve the community.

So join us! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a deed for the environment and area wildlife. Trash that we collect would otherwise lead to a slow death for many creatures.

As usual, the activity captain will provide all safety equipment, including comfortable, natty hardhats and gloves, stylish safety vests, collection bags, and handy trash pickers. The clean-up





MARCH FOR SCIENCE
Sacramento
APRIL 22, 2017

takes a scant two hours. Please dress for the season. Perhaps bring a backpack or fanny-pack to carry 3 or 4 trash bags.

Location: CalTrans Park-&-Ride lot, W. Elkhorn Blvd, map: https://goo.gl/maps/tYdW8mBbZc12

(Travel north from Sacramento on I-5, past the Sleeptrain Arena. Take the "Highway 99 - Yuba City, Marysville" exit. Exit at Elkhorn Boulevard less than a mile north. Turn left, cross the overpass, and the park-&-ride lot will be on your left.)

Contact: 916-447-2169 (Don Knutson), or see the AOF Contact Page (http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html).

## Philosophers' Table: Stages of Moral Development

When morality emerges, its roots are simple, its twigs are pliable -- "good" is whatever brings food, comfort, sleep, and frequent diaper changes. In other words, it's all self-interest with scant thought of others. Later we grow aware of other minds, we progressively acquire concerns for family, friends, neighbors, the community, and eventually (hopefully) the planet.

Say a retail clerk accidentally undercharges you. What do you do, and why? Be honest now. You ... tell the clerk, keep the money, give it to the homeless person on the corner? Or buy a latte? Where does your action put you on the moral map?

Sunday April 30, 2017, 12PM – 1PM



This Philosophers' Table will explore the actions and characteristics that measure *your* compassion for others.

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <a href="https://goo.gl/iVQL8z">https://goo.gl/iVQL8z</a>. AOF Philosophers' Tables are roundtable discussions, free to attend and open to all, believers too.

# Signs and Symbols in Religious Art

Traditional religious art is a maze of symbology and allusion. If a person's head appears closer to the bottom of a painting, it means something. If one person's foot covers part of another's, it means something else. At this meeting our artsy authority will help you decode the aesthetic heuristics, so you will no longer feel like a dunce at the art gallery, and maybe even score some sweet brain-points with your less schooled friends. Come to April's mind-expanding presentation. Become wiser.

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

# Sunday April 30, 2017, 1PM – 3PM



### Board of Directors Meeting

An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to *all* interested friends and members of AOF. You are welcome to join us, meet the Board, and advise us.

Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your suggestions for events and activities -- most of all, your volunteerism! Helping hands are wonderful.

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



Wednesday May 10, 2017, 7pm - 9pm



### **Book Review**

A book AOF member Dave Flanders purchased, that is now in paperback that you might like that is available at Barns and Noble bookstore:

A Troublesome Inheritance—Genes, Race and Human History by Nicholas Wade

Back cover review: A new account of the genetic basis of race and the role of evolution in human history

Human evolution, conventional wisdom holds, ended long before prehistory began. Convenient as this view may be, new research into the human genome shows it cannot be right. Nicholas Wade, a science reporter for many years with the *New York Times*, cites mounting evidence that humans have continued to evolve up until the present day, giving rise to the various races of humankind and to the variations in social behavior that may help make human societies distinctive. While rejecting unequivocally the notion that there is any superior race, Wade argues that the study of recent evolution holds information critical to the understanding of human societies and history, and that the public interest is best served by pursuing the scientific truth without fear.



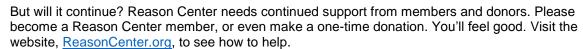
### When you donate blood...

Please consider donating blood at Sacramento's BloodSource, and use AOF BloodSource ID# **4857** when you do it. Numerous BloodSource Donation Centers exist – find them listed at <a href="http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations">http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations</a>. AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives, and is good for public relations. And what is be more sweetly Humanistic than donating blood?

### **Support the Reason Center**

Go Reason Center! It opened in July 2014 and is picking up speed. "RC" has hosted well over 200 freethought events, and currently 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.





### Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? Join the fun!

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, visit the website, <a href="www.aofonline.org">www.aofonline.org</a>; or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-447-3589; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. Or think hard. We're psychic.

AOF President: Brad Clark. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest, here on the isle.

"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)  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):		☐ Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to groups similar to AOF.
Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)		F
Basic Dues : \$ Additional Donation : \$ Total enclosed : \$		☐ 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).		

