

AOF News & Views – Newsletter for June 2017

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup \geq

In July 1995, Sac-area freethinkers "adopted" two miles of Highway 99, from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road. The stretch is all our own to tend and care for. We have worked hard to keep it clean of litter and debris, and received recognition for it. In fact, it is one of our more successful civic efforts, proving that 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.

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 clean-up takes a scant two hours. Dress for the season, perhaps bring a pouch or fanny-pack to carry 3 or 4 trash bags.

Location: CalTrans Park-&-Ride lot, W. Elkhorn Blvd (see map at 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). Note: This is a great event for older children, but please leave smalls safe at home.

\triangleright Free Movie Night at Reason Center

Reason Center and AOF join hands to bring you a thrilling sf movie, The Martian, featuring Matt Damion as a dude stranded on the Red Planet, "sciencing the hell out of" his predicament.

It is a picnic-style family movie night. Bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and your own snacks & beverage (non-alcoholic please). Reason Center will provide fluffy, buttery theater popcorn. Children welcome if they're cool children. Un-cool kids may become refreshments.

RC has a big screen and a boss sound system. Regular table chairs will be toward the back. For a two-hour sit, a beanbag or pillow might help.

This first Free Movie night is especially for Reason Center members. Are you an RC member? Then join us! Nonmembers invited too, but RC may ask a small donation to cover costs.

How to become a Reason Center member: Sign up at http://reasoncenter.com/donate/. Membership is just \$4 a month, and the perks (like this one) are endless.

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: https://goo.gl/iVQL8z. Contact: Reason Center at ph. 426.6416, email reasoncenter@gmail.com.

Philosophers' Table: Bias Against Atheists Revisited \triangleright

Our May round-table topic, social bias against atheists, hit our nerves like lightning. The moderator, UC Davis graduate sociologist Kathryn Panger, based her dissertation on this bias, and knew just how to draw us out. We learned that prejudice against the "unchurched" can be worse than a bang to the ulnar nerve on an inconvenient door jamb: it may mean joblessness, family loss, difficulty finding a safe place to live, and daily harassment of nonreligious children. It may mean bullying. It may mean worse.

Unfortunately many had no chance to speak due to the unusually large turnout (35 people!) and the many gripping personal narratives. So here's another chance to get your story out.

This time we also hope to discuss resources: where to find legal advice, where to get counselling by someone who has experienced this unpleasant bias, or simply connecting to others who have been through the same ragged vale of tears.

Saturday, June 17, 2017, 9am - 11am

Friday, June 23, 2017, 7pm – 10pm



Sunday, June 25, 2017, 12pm - 1pm





That's *community*. Being supportive, helping one another.

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

Marie Bain: Eclectic Jazz \geq

Join Marie Bain for the premier performance of her new cabaret, "I Don't Know", at the Reason Center. Marie's songs are her commentary on life as she sees it today, and there's an awful lot to comment on right now! Watch her videos, read the lyrics and hear samples on her website, mariebain.com, so you know what you're getting into.

Presented by AOF and Sac-FAN, this show is free. What a great way to spend your Sunday! She'll also be hawking copies of her new CD, so to help a poor, starving artist, bring \$15 in cash, check or money order -- sorry, no credit cards, however she will be able to give you change back for your \$20. Hope to see you there!

It's another great event of the noted AOF Speaker Series.

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, see map As usual, we invite you to bring finger-foody snacks for the hospitality table. Share and munch, yum.

Planning Meeting

An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to all interested friends and members of AOF. Please join us, meet the Board, and keep an eye on our shenanigans.

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, Sacramento. Map: https://goo.gl/iVQL8z.

"Davey's Savior" by Timothy Savage Book Review by Kathy M. Warnock

If you are looking for a heartwarming and enjoyable read during the hot days of summer I suggest picking up Davey's Savior. It was a book listed by the SacFAN Book Club for one of their monthly reads. In the book, a father loses custody of his daughter and son due to his atheist beliefs. After his daughter is killed by the remarried religious zealot mother, the father gives up his prestigious career and kidnaps his son to save his life. The story is interwoven around the beaching of a whale on Avila Beach here in California. In the end, it is really all about saving a life, not a soul.



When you donate blood...

Please consider donating blood at the BloodSource. If you do, use AOF BloodSource ID# 4857. Numerous BloodSource 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 opened in July 2014. Since then the Reason Center has hosted well over 200 freethought events, parties, even a wedding! Currently the Center 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. And to be a safe space for us.

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







Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 7pm – 9pm



Sunday, June 25, 2017, 1pm - 3pm

Not yet a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? Hmm, can we fix that?

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, <u>www.aofonline.org</u>; or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-447-3589; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. Or ... candy gram?

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.		Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally	
Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):		provided to groups similar to AOF.	
Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10) 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 68-032 permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOI			

AOF President: Brad Clark. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And their motley team.

"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." This in a box because it's, like, *important*.

MR. EINSTEIN, I WILL GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF GREAT INTELLIGENCE
MR. GUTENBERG, I WILL GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF INVENTIVENESS
AND MR. MORGAN FREEMAN, YOU WILL BE BLESSED WITH
MY VOICE.