



➤ **California Freethought Day**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2017, 11am - 5:30pm**

[California Freethought Day](#), in fact the **Sixteenth Annual Freethought Day Festival**, is a day when the state-wide community of freethinkers join hands to bring you a menagerie of wonders, an arabesque of dreams, a fabulous flight of free minds, and with it, music, tablers, speakers, and so much more ... really, you must be there to see. AOF began this event in 2002. Over the years it has grown, left the nest, and taken wing. We couldn't be more proud. (\*sniff\*).



**California Freethought Day (CFD)** is a public jubilee and gala, a celebration of secularism, a salute to independent and rational thought. It is open to everyone and free. It combines the fun and festivity of a fair with the education and activism of a conference. It features speakers, entertainers, food, prizes, a "family fun zone," vendors, exhibits, panels, art, and tons of fun.

Planners are packing the day with events to entertain you as much as uplift you. Projected speakers, panellists & entertainers will include Sikivu Hutchinson (African-American Feminist Author), Larry Decker (of the Secular Coalition for America), David Smalley (Podcaster and Activist), Jessica Xiao (Asian-American Feminist, Writer & Humanist), Elizabeth Lagesse (once arrested for Protesting), David Tamayo (President of Hispanic American Freethinkers), Athena Salman (Arizona State Representative), Melissa Pugh (United COR), Victor Harris (Poet), and even Uncle Sam, and many more. The line-up is probably growing as you read this.

So [sign up now](#). Sign up *why*? It's free, isn't it? Indeed, the main event (Sunday) is free to attend, but advance registration (also free) makes you eligible for delightful & toothsome prizes. Also, a fun Supporters Reception (less free but worth it) will occur the evening before, Saturday, with a leadership seminar for secular leaders. CFD is a complex event. To learn more, visit the [event website](#), or read & join the [Freethought Day Blog](#). (Anyone may join the blog, CFD loves new voices.)

Of course the seed of this festival is the celebration of [Freethought Day](#), a secular holiday that falls on October 12 (click that little link to learn a bit about it), and one of many celebrations held world-over at about the time.

So ... if you like to staff a table at CFD, vend, volunteer, sponsor, help promote, help plan, set up, clean up - or if you just have suggestions - then please do visit the [event website](#) now, and contact the chairman. Sooner = better. The team will love to have you, because hands that help ... are beautiful hands.

**Location:** Capitol Park, State Capitol Bldg North Steps, [map](#)

**Contact:** 209-610-0651, or email: Chair (at) FreethoughtDay (dot) org

*You might want to bring: a picnic blanket, lawn chair, sun shade, and snacks or loose change to keep vendors and area restaurants happy. Plenty of good eateries are within strolling distance of the event.*

➤ **Philosophers' Table: Atheist, Secular or what?**

**Sunday, October 29, 2017, 12 Noon - 1pm**

"Atheism," we like to say, means *without god*. Just that. Not *against god*, that's "anti-theist." Assume we want atheism to be more visible. Rebrand it, scrape off the crust. Repeating the word loudly and often, will that do the trick?



It may not be wise to put ourselves at risk to rehabilitate a word. But this is *America*, dammit, where we're free to paint red targets on our t-shirts and run out on the Skeet Rage flapping our arms like twits. In fact, such behaviour is often admired (as long as it's you, not me, and I am standing well clear of the shrapnel). What might you gain, what might you lose?

People use words to frame issues and guide discussion. And "atheist" may not be the best. Let's consider what words are most effective in promoting a humanistic, secular point of view. (Hints: *freethinker, humanist, secularist, bright, or ...?*)

Bring your suggestions, help us brainstorm ideas, or just listen.

**Contact:** See our [Contact Page](#)

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, [see map](#)

*AOF Philosophers' Tables are roundtable discussions, free to attend and open to all, religious believers and anti-theists too. Join us, we hardly bite at all.*

➤ **Denis De Luchi: *Fish Byne Yola, The Jew Who Saved Galileo***  
**Sunday, October 29, 2017, 1pm - 3pm**

Now for something completely different! In this new work of historical fiction by AOF member Denis De Luchi, a Jewish man passing as Catholic is Galileo's lifelong pal. This man, Fishbeingla, takes it upon himself to protect the scientist from rival colleagues, enemies in the clergy, and the gutter rats of urban Italy hired to discredit and even harm Galileo. He risks danger and denouncement as a Jew to save Galileo's skin, meanwhile concealing his efforts so that the great man won't be distracted. Conflicts range from tavern debates to physical confrontations as various competitors and religious zealots take their pot-shots at both Galileo and Fishbeingla. The outcome is history. This is the secret story of how it came about.

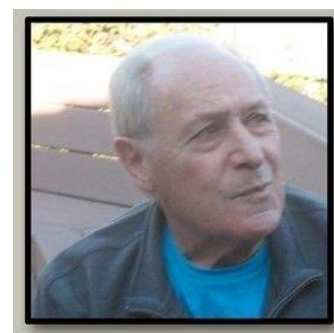
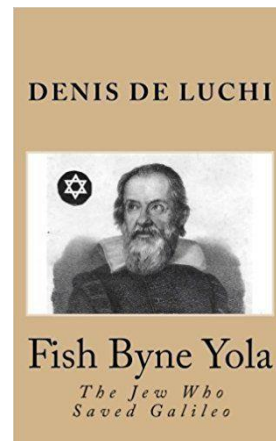
Denis De Luchi is a retired Air Force Officer, Vietnam vet, former bomber pilot, and former project officer in Research and Development at a well-known company, where he worked in advanced missile guidance and satellite technology. After retirement he became a physics professor at various colleges and universities in the Sacramento region. He is the author of a dozen novels, many short stories, and books of poetry.

It's another event of the AOF Speaker Series. As always *free*, but if you enjoy this talk, please consider [joining AOF](#), and perhaps support Reason Center with a dollar or two in the donation jar. Better yet, become a Reason Center member too! Click [here](#) to learn how.

**Location:** Sacramento Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, [see map](#)

**Contact:** See our [Contact Page](#)

*Bring a snack to share if you can. And after cleanup, please join us for dinner (no host) at the Elephant Bar, 1500 Arden Way, across the street from Arden Fair Mall.*



➤ **Davis Community Meal: Feed the Hungry**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2017, 4:30pm – 7pm**

In nearby, bucolic Davis city, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger -- and they need our help. Join local freethinkers in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the hungry, the indigent, the outcast. Your reward? The opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethinker friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the warm hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

No cooking is required. The Davis Community Meals team will perform food prep and kitchen work. Our job is simply to set up chairs & tables, smile, serve, put things away at the end, and clean a bit (with a minimum of mopping).

Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't, that is OK, any help is good help. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., buffet food service at about 5:45. At 6:30 we clean up, leaving the hall as we found it.

For details, please see [Davis Community Meals](#). For a map to the site, see: [Martin's Episcopal Church](#).

**Contact:** See [Contact Page](#), or call Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169)

**Location:** St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA, see [map](#)  
*Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.*



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## Book Review

***Fish Byne Yola, The Jew Who Saved Galileo*** by Denis De Luchi (234 pgs, Jan 1971)

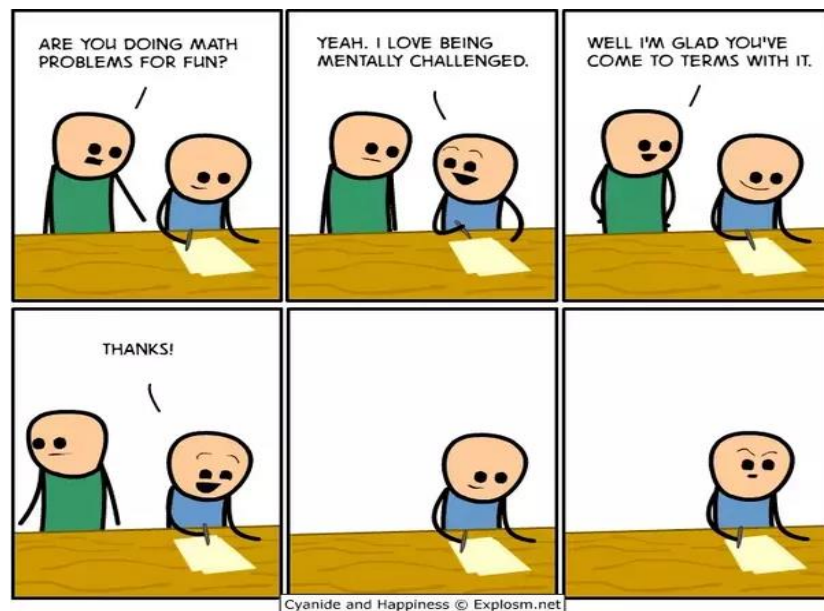
Fish Byne Yola, written by Denis De Luchi: This is a self-published book, but even a self-published book can benefit from a good editor. The title of the book *Fish Byne Yola, The Jew Who Saved Galileo* would lend one to believe that the main character's name was Fish Byne Yola, when it actually is Fishbeingnola. That aside, Denis De Luchi does provide an interesting romp through the Galileo time period with Fishbeingnola as our guide.

Fishbeingnola a self-described Jew, Catholic and atheist who says, "This business with religion has always annoyed me. As far as I could tell, everyone has a religion and most people have a Religion. The lower case is what one really believes and has taken on as a personal code. It is demonstrated in how one acts in daily life, from the trivial to the grandiose. It is driven by a person's conscience and dictates what he is allowed to do and what he should do. The upper case is driven by a person's need for guidance, rules, and a sense of belonging. It establishes the 'us', and makes possible a certain morality in a conflict with the 'them.' Both are personal, and should be kept that way. That is why I have never felt guilt in posing as a Catholic when I am really a Fishbeingnola. To discover whatever that is, one would have to follow me around for a year, taking copious notes, then let me know what the rules of my true religion are. Even then one might discover contradictions. I'm human."

It was Fisbeingnola's humanness, or perhaps I should say hormones, that got Galileo introduced to a woman whom was being admired by a local low-life ruffian. A woman that Galileo, being more attuned to mathematics than hormones, would never have met on his own. Thus, beginning the cycle of Fishbeingnola's conscious need to save Galileo from the evils of the low-life ruffian that he, Fishbeingnola, started. Kind of shows when you meddle in someone else's life, you do pay for it, in more ways than one.

Luckily for us, this book is fiction; the low-life ruffian was killed, Galileo was saved. And not to poke fun at Fishbeingnola's name, but there is always a bigger Fish up the evolutionary chart, somewhere out in the Universe's Primordial Goo, always waiting to pounce on the lower-life forms below. Like I said it was an interesting romp.

Kathy M. Warnock



### When you donate blood...

Please consider donating blood at the BloodSource, and 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 Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014. Since opening it has hosted well over 200 freethought events. Currently the Center has twelve partner organizations.

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.





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

## Support AOF too

You can support AOF *without spending a dime*. What, how? Next time you purchase goods at Amazon.com, simply use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service will be exactly the same, but AOF will get a small kickback for what you purchase.

## Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? Then please join us!

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. Or ... candygram?

AOF President: Brad Clark. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest of us, their minions.

<h2>Subscription / Membership Form</h2> <p><i>Mail to: AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)</i></p>	
Name(s) _____	Phone: _____
Street _____	Apt. # _____
City _____	State _____ ZIP + 4 _____
E-mail address (please print!) _____	
<i>E-mail is required for newsletter delivery.</i>	
Questions, concerns? Call AOF, 916-304-3796.	
<b>Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):</b> Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to groups similar to AOF.
<b>Basic Dues</b> : \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if you DO want to be an AOF Activist (e-mail address required).
<b>Additional Donation</b> : \$ _____	
<b>Total enclosed</b> : \$ _____	
<i>AOF is a 501(c)(3) Educational Association, EIN 68-0325762. Dues &amp; Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).</i>	

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.



## ☞ Help AOF! Be a Board Member in 2018 ☜

Are you are a member of [Atheists and Other Freethinkers](#), Sacramento's premier freethought organization since 1993? Then we can't thank you enough. You are AOF's heart.

But once a year the door opens to those who might take another step: be an AOF Director.

Incorporated in California as a 501(c)(3) democratic educational association, AOF's bylaws require a board of at least 5 directors. Elections occur at each year's end. The term is just a year. And lo, nominations are *now open*.

What are the requirements for serving as a Director? Simply to be ~~breathing~~ a member. It helps to have a sharp mind and access to email. You have both, right?

Duties, at minimum, are to attend one brief planning meeting every other month, a few hours at most, usually on a casual weekday evening, at which you will share your weighty wisdom, help make strategic decisions, and suggest how AOF can serve this wonderful community of reason. Perhaps scribble a few notes. Send emails. Things like that.

The benefit: You will make a difference! Your comely face and amazing bio will appear on the AOF website. Others will look up to you. Petals will fall. And there will be pie.

... OK, *sometimes* pie. When someone brings pie. But it happens.

Interested? Great! What's next? Tell us - contact AOF via its website or the voicemail number above. Then cobble together a brief paragraph, 300 words max, about yourself as a freethinker and your background. Submit it to the AOF newsletter editors at [newsletter@aofonline.org](mailto:newsletter@aofonline.org), subject line: AOF Board Candidate Statement. Do it by about the last week of October, please.

That's all. Fame & glory await. You will love being on the team. We will love having you. And really, pie, sometimes. 😊