

✧ ✧ **Upcoming Events** ✧ ✧

➤ **Free Movie Nights!**

Fridays, March 2 & March 16, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, Reason Center (RC) and AOF join hands to host a **Free Movie Night** under an excellent [MPLC License](#). Alas, we can't tell you the movie title. But we can hint.

The March 2nd movie is the (in)famous 2007 documentary where scientist Richard Dawkins examines the indoctrination, relevance, and even danger of faith and religion.

On March 16th, it's the 2010 sf movie, written and directed by Christopher Nolan, where a thief using dream-sharing technology has the task of planting an idea into the mind of a CEO. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt & Ellen Page.

Can't guess? No worry, just contact Reason Center (see contact info below). They'll tell you, then you can tell anyone.

Movie Night is an informal, picnic-style family evening. The venue has a huge silver screen and a dynamic sound system. Chairs are available but may be a bit uncomfortable for a two-hour sit, so it's OK to bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and your own snacks & beverage, no booze please. RC will provide fluffy, buttery theatre popcorn. Children are welcome if they're cool children -- and if you judge the movie appropriate for them.

The movies are mostly for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a small donation to cover costs. How to become a member? Sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership is a measly \$5 a month, is tax deductible if you itemize, and the perks are like a dream.

Contact: Reason Center, 916-426-6416, or email <reasoncenter (at) gmail (dot) com>.

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

Free Movie Nights occur two Fridays each month. Suggest your own fave film for next time!



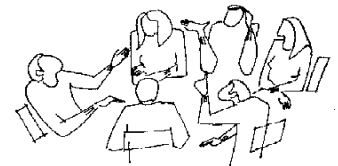
➤ **Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 7pm – 9pm

An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to *all* interested friends and members. These happen about every other month. You are welcome to join us, meet the Board, and keep an eye on it. The rascals need it.

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

Contact: AOF at 916-304-3796, or see <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.



➤ **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup**

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

In July 1995, Sac-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 our work. In fact, it is one our more successful civic efforts, showing that freethinkers can also serve the community.

So, join us! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a good deed for the environment and local area wildlife. The refuse that we collect would otherwise ultimately be swept by the rain into tributaries and into the ocean, degrading habitat, and leading to a slow death for many sea creatures.

As usual, the stalwart 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. Please dress for the season. It may be a good idea to bring a backpack or fanny-pack to carry 3 or 4 trash bags.



To find the site, travel north from Sac 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 <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Location: Caltrans Park-&-Ride lot, W. Elkhorn Blvd. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/5V9ouwEiv1m>.

Note: *This is a great event for older children, but please leave smalls safe at home.*

➤ Love and Reality with Joey Garcia!

Sunday, March 25, 2018, 1pm – 3pm

The wise and wondrous [Joey Garcia](#) returns to AOF for a lively, free-ranging talk about all the ways love enters our lives—via dating, parenting, marriage, friendships, family—and what to do when love stumbles (trust us, it *will* stumble). You'll learn how to advise a teen or adult whose heart is broken, how to improve your communication with those you care about, and what to do when your own heart constricts instead of appreciating or loving someone. Joey dispenses her wisdom amid plenty of good humour, so ask questions, and be ready for an afternoon of laughter laced with insight.



Joey first spoke to AOF members in 2007, taking down negative stereotypes of both religion and irreligion, and joyfully returned in 2015. She is an award-winning author and life coach whose print and online advice column has inspired 300,000 readers each week since 1996. A former corporate executive, educator, and journalist, Joey trains groups in how to successfully create more joy and freedom in their lives and relationships. She is the Relationship Expert for Fox 40 News, a talk show host with NewsRadio KFBK and is featured in the forthcoming documentary, "The Cure," directed by Emmanuel Itier with Sharon Stone as executive producer. She is also founder of [Rise Up Belize!](#), a non-profit organization that serves children and teachers in her native Belize. And obviously, she never sleeps.

Yet keeps smiling. Look at her smile. The sun rises.

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

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

➤ Flying Spaghetti Monster Party

Sunday, April 1, 2018, 12:30pm – 3pm

In 2008, AOF and the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area (aka, [HAGSA](#)) got together to host a spaghetti feed. We hoped it would catch on. It did. Soon the [Sacramento Coalition of Reason](#) adopted the idea, and the tradition grew legs and gained traction.



The national roots go 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 noodly, high-carb wisdom. Open your heart to the FSM and it will fill you with rich red sauce and yummy garlic bread.

This year it will be the *10th Annual* FSM Party, can you believe? The party is a pot-luck, so bring food & beverage to share, but a minuscule door fee (\$1, chump change) will cover all hall costs & dining supplies. Especially welcome, for obvious reasons: pasta. Help us celebrate the Grand Designer with 'sketti, yeah!

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

Learn more about the Flying Spaghetti Monster at venganza.org/about.

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

Contact: Rachael, email SacramentoCOR@gmail.com, ph. 916-572-7020.



Special Reason Center event: Write your Freethought Memoir

Was your own journey from religion to reason a single "aha" moment, or was it a slow tidal change?

Pop media are soaked with stories of faith, but rarely do you hear the other side. Now Reason Center hosts a workshop on writing your journey, so others can share the eureka moments and perhaps find their own enlightenment. It will show how to bridge faith-based divides, how dismantle biases, and how to manage the fear of revealing your personal details. At the end you will have a rough draft of a memoir or personal essay and a clear direction for its completion.

Workshop date: **Saturday, April 7, 2018, 1-4pm**. Fee: \$32 (cash, check, Visa or Mastercard). Your guide: Joey Garcia. For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/246631633/>. Please bring a notebook and two pens.

Joey G. writes the "Ask Joey" relationship advice column for the *Sacramento News & Review*. She is a talk show host with NewsRadio KFBK, the on-air Relationship Expert for Fox 40 News, and the author of the award-winning book, *When Your Heart Breaks, It's Opening to Love* (see <https://www.amazon.com/When-Your-Heart-Breaks-Opening/dp/0988972409>). Originally from Belize, Joey will launch the first-ever Belize Writers' Conference, April 23 - 28, 2018, featuring two New York literary agents as faculty.

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays (March) ✧ ✧

➤ International Woman's Day

Thursday, March 8, 2018

International Women's Day (IWD), an international celebration, honours the social, economic, and political achievements made by women everywhere.

This secular holiday dates back to the early 1900's, a time of turbulent growth in the industrialized world that saw growing demands for women to have the right to vote. Among other relevant historical events, it commemorates the "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire", on March 25, 1911 in New York City, where over 140 women lost their lives.

Born from the socialist and labor movements, IWD grew to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike. Promoted by the United Nations since 1975, it is "a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women."

For decades, IWD has increased in strength annually. Women's organizations and governments around the world have celebrated IWD annually on the 8th of March by holding large-scale events that honour women's progress and highlight areas where women's rights still need to be advanced.

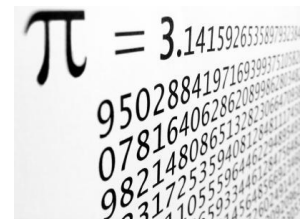


➤ Pi Day

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Pi, Greek letter (π), is of course the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. **$\pi = 3.1415926535...$** (This is *pi* to just ten decimal places; it is an irrational number, meaning the digits continue *infinitely* without repeating.) Math enthusiasts around the world celebrate Pi Day on March 14th, i.e. 3/14 in the American dating convention, since the first three digits of PI are 3.14 (March 14 also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday). "Pi Moment" occurs on that day just before 3:10 pm (more precisely, 15:9:26.5).

The San Francisco Exploratorium celebrated the first **Pi Day** in 1988, with staff and public marching around one of its circular spaces, and then consuming fruit pies. Since then, the museum has added pizza pies to its Pi Day menu. The founder of Pi Day, the "Prince of Pi," is Larry Shaw, now retired from the Exploratorium, but still helping with the celebrations. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology often mails out its acceptance letters to be delivered to prospective students on Pi Day.



➤ Freedom of Information Day & Sunshine Week

Friday, March 16 - Thursday, March 22, 2018

Freedom of Information (FOI) Day is an annual event on March 16, the birthday of James Madison, widely regarded as the Father of the Constitution and a foremost advocate for openness in government.

On this day, the [American Library Association](#) presents the James Madison Award and the Eileen Cooke State & Local Madison Award to recognize those individuals or groups that have championed, protected, and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know.



The **James Madison Award** – Named for President James Madison, the award was established in 1986 and is presented annually on the anniversary of his birth. That award is designed to celebrate an individual or group that has brought awareness to these issues at the national level.

The **Eileen Cooke State & Local Madison Award** – Named for Eileen Cooke, former director of the ALA's Washington Office, this award honours an extraordinary leader who has built local grassroots awareness of the importance of access to information. Cooke herself was a tireless advocate for the public's right to know and a mentor to many librarians and trustees.

[Sunshine Week](#) begins with Freedom of Information Day (March 16), and runs through March 22. It stands as a national initiative to open discussions about the important or open government and the freedom of information.

Sunshine Week dates back to 2002 when the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors launched Sunshine Sunday in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create new exemptions to the state's public records law. After Florida's initiation on this topic, other states followed its course. The American Society of Newspaper Editors launched Sunshine Week in March 2005. It has become an annual event.

➤ March Equinox

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

The March [Equinox](#) is one of two days in the calendar year when day and night hours are nearly equal; in the northern hemisphere, it is also the first day of spring (Gregorian calendar).



Annual seasons exist because of two planetary occurrences:

- 1) a 23.5° tilt of the earth's axis, which makes the earth rotate like a gyroscope, so it points continuously in a fixed direction-toward the area of space near the North Star
- 2) the earth continuously revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit-once every 365.25 of our solar days.

So for half of the year the Southern Hemisphere is more exposed to the sun than the Northern Hemisphere, and for the other half of the year the reverse is true. At noontime in the Northern Hemisphere the sun appears highest in the sky during summer and lowest in the sky during winter.

The Vernal (Spring) Equinox is almost exactly halfway between the winter and summer solstices, and in the sky the sun appears about midway between its highest and lowest points. It is one of the two times during the year when day and night are almost exactly 12 hours long, and very close to being equal to one another. The other day is the Autumnal Equinox, which usually falls on or near the first day of Autumn (September 22-23 northern hemisphere / March 20-21 southern) in the Gregorian calendar.

The First Day of Spring has been a time of celebration throughout recorded Western history. Most ancient Mediterranean Pagan religions had some sort of festival at or around the time of the Vernal Equinox. The celebrations were a way to rejoice in the rebirth of nature and to ritually act out this seasonal change, from the symbolic death of the earth in winter to its resurrection through the budding and blooming that came after the equinox. Many of these religions had stories of a man-god, born of a virgin, who was killed and reborn at this time each year, and this day was often connected to the worship of many fertility goddesses with such names as Ostara, Astarte, Eostre, Ishtar, and Ostra. The name for the modern Christian Easter holiday originated from these spring celebrations.

In every culture the Vernal Equinox signals the return of weather that favors our ability to grow agricultural crops, and for this reason we have associated it with the "rebirth" of our ability to perpetuate ourselves. It is understandable why we have chosen to celebrate such a momentous occasion, and why it has come to represent "rebirth" in a variety of contexts. For freethinkers the Vernal Equinox is a great time to celebrate the rebirth of Western art, philosophy, and culture with secular themes after centuries of religious domination. It is also a perfect day to celebrate the accomplishments of intellect, reason, and logic, and a time to renew connections to our intellectual past as well as renew promises to continue striving to enlighten and improve the human condition.



Support Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014, and 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 good work, the Reason Center relies on continued support for its members and donors. Please contribute to Reason Center. To set up a monthly or one-time donation visit ReasonCenter.org.



Also, support AOF!

Triple your donation to AOF without spending a dime. How? From March 12-31, Amazon.com will triple-donate to AOF for your first purchase at this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service are exactly the same, but AOF receives a small kickback for what you purchase. And from March 12-31, it'll be 3X as much. Wow.

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; or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-304-3796; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. Or think, think hard. We might hear (but probably not).

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

"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)

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

