

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights!

Friday, July 5 & July 19, 2019, 7pm – 10pm

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

In the July 5th movie, reputedly the best serious science fiction film ever made, Harrison Ford is a "Replicant hunter" in a near-future, dystopian Los Angeles. On July 19th it will be a 1996 French science fiction comedy about a 150-year-old female alien arriving in Paris to persuade mankind to change its thinking (good luck to that). Can't guess? Contact Reason Center, see below; they'll tell you, then you can tell anyone.

Movie Night is informal and picnic-style. The venue has a huge silver screen and a dynamic sound system. Chairs are available but it's OK to bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and your own snacks & beverage, non-alcoholic please. RC may provide fluffy, buttery theatre popcorn. Children are welcome if they're cool, and you judge the movie appropriate for them.

This is especially for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome. RC *may* beg a small donation to cover costs. How can you be 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 (like this one) will fall to you like stardust (and you will sparkle).

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 Friday evenings each month. Suggest your own fave film for next time!



➤ Freethought Social Dinner

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 6pm – 8pm

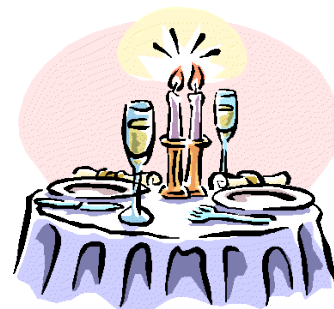
It's a casual dine-out for friends and members of the local community of reason, and any who wish to join us. Join the hungry freethinkings at the **Opa! Opa!** restaurant for fine food, good drink and sparkling conversation. But *please tell* the contact person, see below, because she makes the reservations! For the menu, click [here](#).

Notes from the activity host: Just walk in and join the gang. Some may be sensitive to colognes and perfumes, so except for personal pheromones, please be chemical free. (Maybe ease up on those pheromones too. Honestly, people.)

Location: Opa! Opa! restaurant, 5644 J Street, Sac., ph. 916-451-4000. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6m1yg9guBL5UgmzJ6>.

Contact: Email: "thelynnster55 (at) comcast (dot) net", or call 916-457-9123 (Lynne).

Freethought Dinner Socials occur, when they do, at different Sac-area 'raunts. Family friendly, all welcome. (Don't be shy, suggest your own favorite eatery for the next outing!)



➤ AOF/HAGSA Potluck

Sunday, July 14, 2019, 3pm

AOF (that's us) and the gentles of **HAGSA** (Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area) cordially invite you to a potluck gathering. Friends and members of both groups are welcome. Simply bring one dish (food item) of your choice, enough to feed yourself + a bit more. And if you will, a beverage, drink or libation of your preference. We will dine, we will converse, we will socialize, we will celebrate life and the beautiful luminous summer.



Location: Home of Gloria and Wayne Luney, 8331 Marina Greens Way, Sacramento. Map: <http://binged.it/1lxJpLj>.

Contact: Email <billpotts (at) gmail (dot) com> or <wluney (at) comcast.net>, or call 916-383-9393.

This residence is beautiful and cat-free. (But not book-free.)

➤ AOF Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2019 7pm – 9pm

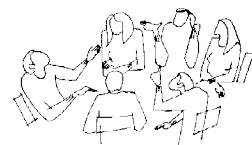
An AOF planning meeting for directors & officers, but open to all interested friends and members.

These happen about every other month and are riots of fun. Honest. Please join us, and meet the ~~Board~~ Board!

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

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

Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your suggestions for events and activities -- most of all, your volunteerism. Helping hands keep AOF alive.



➤ Davis Community Meal - Feed the Hungry

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 4pm – 7pm

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

Cooking required? Nopers. The Davis Community Meals team performs all food prep and kitchen work. Our job is simply to set up chairs & tables, 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's OK, any help is good help. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., 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](#).

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis. Map: <http://binged.it/1uBpi57>.

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, or call the Service Project Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169). Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.

☞ Note, AOF currently plans *no General Membership Meeting* until October. If this seems a long wait (it is), perhaps you can suggest a speaker or something fun. Contact AOF or the Program Chair (see <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>). We are open to ideas. OK, reasonably open. Decent ideas please.

✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events (non-AOF) ✧ ✧

➤ Compassionate Humanists – Roseville Book Club

Sunday, July 7, 2019, 10am – 12pm

A club for anyone who wishes to explore freethought as well as compassion. For the summer the book is [Doubt](#) by Jennifer Michael Hecht. This book discusses the humans in history who shaped our world through doubt and reason. On July 7 the Humanists will discuss Chapter 4, "When in Rome in Doubt". If you have not read the book, you are still welcome to sit in. "I can't promise you won't get lost," says the moderator; "You will, however, be inspired - this is a great read!"

Location: Roseville Labou, 1730 Santa Clara Drive, Roseville. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/UC4975CE19P2>.

Contact: Ph. 916-836-5269, or email info@compassionatehumanists.com.

➤ Critical Thinking Workshop

Thursdays, July 11 & July 18, 2019, 7pm – 9pm

A semi-monthly workshop in the practice and concepts of critical thinking. Workshop begin with a video or reading to teach a fundamental concept, then you apply it to current/ relevant topics in a group discussion format. Price to attend: \$1. For details see <https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/events>. (RSVP requested.)

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

Contact: Angelo Niosi of the Sac Area Skeptics, ph. 831-419-7225, <sacskeptics (at) gmail (dot) com>.

➤ Sunday Assembly Sacramento

Sunday, July 14, 2019 10:30am

The Sunday Assembly is a secular congregation that celebrates life. Events (the second Sunday of each month) are generally 75 minutes of music (80s and 90s pop hits), inspirational talks, poetry and art, donuts and coffee, and more... followed by a potluck feast! "SA" is radically inclusive - everyone is welcome, regardless of their beliefs or lack thereof, sexual orientation, age, gender or politics. (Of course, rules of courtesy apply.)



Events are free for all, though donations are appreciated. Sponsorships not accepted. Childcare is provided. And please bring a snack for the potluck.

Motto: "To live better, help often, and wonder more."

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

Contact: See <https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/> for details.

➤ More events ...

This is just a sample. For more freethought fun in the area, see the Sacramento Coalition of Reason general events calendar at <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>. Truly a "big tent," we try to keep you busy.

When you donate blood...

A reminder. If you donate blood at Vitalant (formerly BloodSource), please use AOF ID# **4857**.

For a list of Donation Centers, see: <https://www.vitalant.org/Our-Organization/Locations.aspx>. Donations save lives and serve our ideals. How many can *you* save?



Support Reason Center

Reason Center (RC) has hosted countless freethought events since it opened in July 2014. 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.

But RC continues to struggle. Needed: members and supporters! Members are even more important than donors. To see how you can help, visit ReasonCenter.org, or call 916-426-6416.

Also, Support AOF!

You can support AOF *without spending a dime*. How? When you shop at Amazon.com, simply use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service will be just the same, but AOF gets a small kickback for whatever you purchase.

Did you miss the last Sacramento Darwin Day? Pshaw. But Sacramento's annual celebration of science and reason (Feb 10 with Dr. Richard K. Grosberg and the silver-voiced Marie Bain) is now available to view on YouTube! In fact, you can enjoy any of the past Sac Darwin Day events back to 2009. For free.

Visit the link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBvUzDFChRur1pvvPSP_-GA/videos. Enjoy, then share with friends.

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays (July) ✧ ✧

➤ Chevalier de la Barre Day

Monday, July 1, 2019

Mainly a French observance, **Chevalier de la Barre Day** is for all who opposes religious oppression. It marks the execution of the Chevalier de la Barre for impiety.

On July 1, 1766, church authorities tortured and killed young Jean-Francois de la Barre (the "Chevalier de la Barre") for impiety. His reputed "crimes" included not doffing his hat at a religious procession, singing bawdy songs, and possessing banned books by Voltaire, a writer of his day and leading critic of the Catholic Church. An outraged Voltaire made the execution a cause célèbre, haunted by "this sentence so execrable, and at the same time so absurd, which is an eternal disgrace to France," because a key piece of evidence used against La Barre was La Barre's possession of Voltaire's *Philosophical Dictionary*.

In 1905, supporters erected a statue of Jean-Francois in Montmartre, on the outskirts of Paris. In 1941, Nazi collaborationists removed it and melted down for munitions for the war effort – while leaving statues of saints and kings intact. Today in France, Chevalier de la Barre Day often features demonstrations in his memory. Modern freethinkers in France and the West experience great freedom, but in other cultures still torture and kill freethinkers and dissidents for their beliefs. This is therefore a day to remember all those persecuted by religion, and to campaign for the rights of those persecuted today. For more information, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois-Jean_de_la_Barre.



➤ Indivisible Day

Thursday, July 4, 2019

In Minnesota, former Governor Jess Ventura declared Independence Day to be **Indivisible Day**, a day to recognize the separation of Church and State, and the vital role it has played in keeping our nation free and whole. For details, see https://seculareasons.org/july/indivisible_day.html.

One Nation
INDIVISIBLE

➤ World Population Day

Thursday, July 11, 2019

[World Population Day](#), established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. This annual event was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day (July 11, 1987), when the world's population reached approximately five billion people.

For a sobering wakeup call, visit the Poonwaddle Population Clock at <http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock/pop/>. Whoa.



Not yet an AOF member? Please join us!

Atheists and Other Freethinkers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762, incorporated in 1993. Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movies and parties! See what awaits you at www.aofonline.org.

AOF President & Editor: Fantastic Fran Evanisko

Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell

Secretary: *[currently vacant, can you help?]*

Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian

Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley

Directors at large:

Dave Flanders, Roger Zabkie, Pamella Rivera,

Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta), Kaeleigh Pontif

... And the rest of the motley team.

How to Contact AOF:

- Call 916-304-3796 (voicemail)
 - Or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182
- Or visit <http://www.aofonline.org/contact> to e-message us

How to Join AOF:

Visit <http://www.aofonline.org/join>, or come to a meeting. We have forms.

AOF's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Atheists-and-Other-Freethinkers/533365556831322>

AOF is affiliated with the Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies (ASHS), Atheist Alliance of America (AAA), American Atheists (AA), American Humanist Association (AHA) and the Sacramento Coalition of Reason (SCoR).

AOF Mission Statement:

"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."

What is a Freethinker? One striving to form opinions of life, religion, politics and philosophy on the grounds of reason and experience, rather than tradition, authority or custom. He or she need not be an atheist, though in a religious society most atheists do tend to be freethinkers.

AOF supports a benign separation of Church and State as the best means to protect the liberty and intellectual commerce of citizens. "... to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries" (James Madison, 1803).

Our vision: to be a venue where secular and unchurched citizens can socialize, dialog, develop friendships and enjoy shared company. AOF does not discriminate on such grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, physical debility or (*cough*) religion. We welcome the fair-minded of all political persuasions and preferences. Any who will treat others with respect and dignity may join.

Donations to AOF are tax deductible, and the newsletter is free by email. Please share with sympathetic friends.

Letters, submissions? We love them! See:

<http://www.aofonline.org/read/submission-guide.html>.

Note of Appreciation received from [Sacramento Blankets for Kids](#) (June 23, 2019, shared by Nancy Sneed):

"Just wanted to thank you and your girls for the wonderful blankets they made today *[at Reason Center]* with Susan Berbec! She said everyone was incredibly efficient and got 18 made! We sure do appreciate that! ... in case anyone wants to make blankets and drop them off in the future, just leave them in a bag by the front of the residence, with your name inside and I will be sure to let you know I got it. ... Also, we are in constant look-out for new or almost new Beanie Babies for the Kindergarten Project Each kindergartener in 7 of the lowest income elementary schools will get a double fleece blanket and a Beanie Baby in a fleece pouch. Last year, we gave out over 800! ... Many thanks again for your great donation of blankets! The children who receive them will LOVE them!"

Claire Gliddon, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK), 4988 Hillhurst Drive, Fair Oaks 95628-4235 (916) 965-8955, claire@sacblankets4kids.com, www.sacblankets4kids.com

Those End Times Prophecies

By Franz Kiekeben (From <http://www.debunking-christianity.com/2019/05/end-times-prophecies.html>, 5/30/2019)

Most people realize there have been many failed prophecies regarding the Second Coming and Armageddon. A few are particularly well-known, such as Jesus' own prediction that the end would come within the lifetime of some of his followers. Here are others from among the hundreds of failed attempts to predict that momentous event:

Irenaeus (2nd century), one of the important early Church fathers, said the end would come in the year 500.

Martin of Tours, a well-known 4th century bishop, claimed it would occur before the year 400, and, at the time he wrote, had no doubt that the Antichrist had already been born.

Many, of course, predicted the year 1000 would be it, including Pope Sylvester II, who was undoubtedly surprised that he lived until 1003.

Pope Innocent III (13th century) said it would happen in 1284, exactly 666 years after the founding of the Muslim faith.

Martin Luther said it would occur by 1600.

James Usher — the “earth was created in 4004 BC” guy — said it would be on October 23, 1997. (He had said that the creation was on the evening of October 22.)

Cotton Mather, famous for being one of the principal instigators of the Salem Witch trials, predicted the end would come in 1697, and then revised it twice when his predictions didn't come through.

Jonathan Edwards, the influential 18th century clergyman, said (along with many others) that the millennium would begin in 2000. (Maybe he thought it had something to do with Y2K?)

For John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, it would begin in 1836.

William Miller, leader of a group known as the Millerites, taught that the end times would start on March 21, 1844. After that didn't pan out, he revised it to October 22. When that prediction also surprisingly failed, the Millerites called it the “Great Disappointment”.

One of Miller's followers, Ellen White, co-founder of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, explained the great disappointment with her revelation that, *actually*, what happened was that on that date, Jesus began his work of “investigative judgment” — examining Christians one by one to see who does and who doesn't merit salvation. Obviously, it's a big task, as he's been at it for nearly 175 years. (Though I'm sure he takes Sundays off.)

Wilbur Voliva, famous as the autocratic leader of the early 20th-century flat earth community of Zion, Illinois, after five previous failed predictions, said the Earth would *disappear* in September of 1935. He also predicted he would live to 120, which would have put his death in 1990. What he planned to do between the earth's disappearance and the time of his death remains unclear.

Herbert Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God and an influential broadcaster, predicted the end for 1936, then revised it three times, all the way to 1975.

Pat Robertson, on an episode of the *700 Club*, predicted the end would come in 1982. Later, he said it would occur on April 29, 2007. More amazingly, according to one of his assistants, he actually thought he might televise Jesus' appearance in the skies.

Jerry Falwell was so certain he would be raptured that he didn't think there was any reason to get a burial plot. He died in May of 2007.

If a theory is supposed to be confirmed by its ability to make predictions, the “theory” that the end of the world may be deduced from Scripture has been a dismal failure. But that, of course, won't discourage future prophets.



Thanks, extrafabulouscomics.com.

♦ ♦ Other Groups of Interest ♦ ♦

Reason Center, a freethought venue and safehouse for all.
1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento, 95825
Phone 916-426-6416, Email reasoncenter@gmail.com
<https://reasoncenter.org/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/reasoncenter/>

United Coalition of Reason Sacramento (SacCoR)

A group of all the groups.
Ph. 916-572-7020 or email sacramentocor@gmail.com
<https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/sacramento-area/>

Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area

Meets 3rd Sunday most months at Reason Center.
POB 216223, Sacramento, 95821-8223; ph. 916-514-9974
<http://hagsa.org/>; email billpotts@gmail.com

Sunday Assembly Sacramento

Church alternative, each 2nd Sunday at Reason Center.
<http://sacramento.sundayassembly.com/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/SundayAssemblySacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/>
Email david@LodiUnited.org

Compassionate Humanists

Meets 1st Sunday each month in Roseville.
PO Box 769, Newcastle, 95658; ph. 916-836-5269
<https://compassionatehumanists.com/discussion-groups/roseville/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Compassionate-Humanists/>; email info@compassionatehumanists.com

Think Atheist of Sacramento

A social network and discussion group.
<http://www.thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists>

Americans United chapter in Sacramento (AU-Sac)

Church/State Separation and issue advocacy.
P.O Box 163418, Sacramento CA 95816; ph. 916-684-4730
<http://www.au-sac.org/>; email president@au-sac.org

Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics (CVAAS)

438 E. Shaw Ave #221, Fresno, 93710, ph. 559-335-3228
<http://www.cvaas.org/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Fresno-cvaas/events/>; email info@cvaas.org

First Atheist Church of True Science (FACTS)

PO Box 233345, Sacramento, 95823; ph. 707-739-6837
<http://www.factschurch.com/>; email factschurch@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Skeptics (SAS)

Meets monthly for critical thinking, science advocacy, beer!
<https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacskeptics/>
Email sacskeptics@gmail.com or sbaker81@comcast.net

Greater Sacramento FFRF Chapter

Church/State watchdog, secular advocacy.
<http://sac.ffrf.org/>; email sacffrf@gmail.com

† Possibly in abeyance. If you have new info, let us know please!

Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers

<https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SacFAN/>

Sacramento Brights Action Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/Brights-Action-Sacramento/>
Email the-brights@the-brights.net

Black Humanists and Non-Believers of Sacramento

Multiple meetings each month, breakfast parties, outreach!
<https://www.facebook.com/blackhumanistsofsacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/>
Email BlackHumanistsNonBelievers@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Multi-Belief Discussion Meetup

Meets monthly each 2nd Saturday in Roseville.
<https://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Area-Multi-Belief-Discussion-Meetup/members/>

Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)

Ph. 209-610-0651 or email david@LodiUnited.org
<http://www.stocktonaaf.org/> or
<https://www.meetup.com/StocktonAtheists/>

UC Davis Agnostic & Atheist Student Assoc (AgASA)

Secular student association.
457 MU Bldg, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavisAgASA/>
Email davis@secularstudents.org or agasadavis@gmail.com

CSUS Secular Student Alliance

Secular student association.
<https://www.facebook.com/SacStateSSA/> or
<https://sacstatessa.wordpress.com/>
Email csus@secularstudents.org

Sacramento City College Freethinkers

Secular student association, meets each Tuesday.
<https://www.facebook.com/SSAatSCC/>
Email SacCityFreethinkers@gmail.com or
secularstudentssaccity@gmail.com

Sierra College Secular Student Alliance

5100 Sierra College Blvd, Rocklin, CA 95677
Email freethinkersofsierra@gmail.com or
sierra@secularstudents.org

Yuba Community College Freethinkers[†]

2088 N Beale Rd, Marysville, CA 95901
<https://www.facebook.com/ssayc/>
Email yccd@secularstudents.org or tsmith@yccd.edu

Waldorf School Secular Students

3750 Bannister Rd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Email sacwaldorf@secularstudents.org

Laguna Creek High School Secular Students[†]

9050 Vicino Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758
Email lagunacreek.hs@secularstudents.org

If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought, not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes