

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights!

Friday, Oct 4 & Oct 18, 2019, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, [Reason Center](#) (RC) and AOF host a **Free Movie Night** under an [MPLC License](#). The License prohibits us from telling you the movie title, but we can hint.

The first movie (Oct 4) is a 2017 documentary miniseries exposing discriminatory laws and practices at the root of the city gentrification and the affordable housing crisis in the United States, particularly California. The second (Oct 18) is a 2014 science fiction thriller about a young man who suffers a string of memory blackouts, then learns why: he can jump back in time to "undo" certain unpleasant episodes.

If you can't guess, don't worry. 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, non-alcoholic please. RC often provides fluffy, buttery theatre popcorn. Children are welcome if they're cool children -- and if you judge the movie appropriate for them.

This is especially 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 (like this one) will absolutely gentrify you.

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

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

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



➤ Freethought Dinner Social

Sunday, Oct 20, 2019, 6pm – 8pm

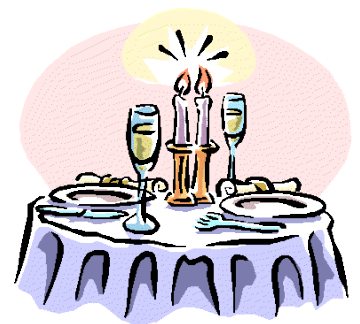
The Freethought Dinner Social is a casual dine-out for friends and members of the local community of reason, and any who wish to join us. Everyone loves food! This time join the hungry freethinkers at the **Tower Café** for fine food, good drink and sparkling conversation. But *please tell* the beleaguered contact person, see below, because she must make reservations. For the lovely menu, see <http://towercafe.com/dinner/>.

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

Location: Tower Café, 1518 Broadway, Sac., ph 916-441-0222. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/VejDYtjWshMxKsuz7>.

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

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 next time!)



➤ Michael Caton: (Dys)Function of Belief

Sunday, Oct 27, 2019, 2pm – 5pm

People believe strange things (you may have noticed). Even in your own mind, deep in the cobwebs, some fairly odd dogmas may lurk & ferment. How did they get there? Why do we form beliefs, why do they stubbornly cling, and how do we use them? When we talk of convictions, do our words correspond to the real machinery of cognition? In short, just what *are* beliefs, and how do they coalesce and dissolve?

Michael Caton has ideas. Join us for a talk by a psychiatrist whose research into delusions has led to interest in many kinds of distorted and false beliefs, social signaling, evolution, and the relationship of language and beliefs to truth and authority.



Mike grew up outside Philadelphia. After a career in the Bay Area biotech industry developing cardiac and cancer medications, Mike went to medical school at UC San Diego and did his residency in psychiatry here at UC Davis. His research interest is delusions and neuroimaging, and he sees patients in Santa Rosa. In addition to psychiatry, Mike enjoys trail running, blogging, linguistics, and travel. He has a wife and two-year-old daughter who keep him honest, and mostly non-delusional.

You may be a sharp, crystalline thinker with a whip-like mind of lightning-pure perspicacity, or more like this humble writer, be an avocado-shaped middle-aged incel wedged behind a keyboard trolling teen cosplay blogs in a MAGA t-shirt dusted with Pringle crumbs. But (we say it between mouthfuls) you owe yourself to attend this talk.

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

Contact: See the AOF Contact page (<http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>).

Bring a snack or beverage to share if you can, maybe a buck or two for the Reason Center donation jug. All voluntary of course! We're just suggesting.

➤ Davis Community Meal – Feed the Hungry

Tuesday, Oct 29, 2019, 4pm – 5pm

Help feed the hungry. In bucolic Davis city, so near to us, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger, and call for 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 and hobnob with your freethought friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the warm hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

Cooking? None required. The Davis Community Meals team will perform all the 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.



Location: St. Martin's Episcopal, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/d2yUqAcRHtNYZRRaA>.

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, or call the Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169)

Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.

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

➤ Compassionate Humanists

Sunday, Oct 6, 2019, 10am – 12pm

A humanist book club is for any who wish to explore freethought as well as compassion. The October 6th meeting will examine Chapter 6 of *Doubt: A History*, by Jennifer Michael Hecht, a book that delves into the humans in history who shaped our world through doubt and reasoning. (No, you don't need to have read the book to enjoy the discussion.)

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

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

➤ California Freethought Day ★ ★

Sunday, Oct 13, 2019, 11 am – 5:30 pm

California Freethought Day, the **Eighteenth Annual Freethought Day Festival**, is a day when the local community of freethinkers, including AOF, all join hands to bring you a menagerie of wonders, an arabesque of dreams, a fabulous flight of free minds, along with music, tablers, speakers and more. AOF founded this event in 2002. It grew, left the nest, and took wings. AOF continues to promote it, because we couldn't be more proud.

Today "CFD" is a public jubilee and gala, celebrating secularism; a salute to independent and rational thought; open to all, and *free*. It combines "the fun and festivity of a fair with the education and activism of a conference," as the event chair fondly explains. It features exhibits, speakers, music, food, prizes, a "family fun zone," outreach tables, panels, performance art, and tons of fun.

This year projected speakers, panelists & entertainers include Hemant Mehta (of the [Friendly Atheist blog](#)), [Monica Miller](#) (Humanist Attorney); community organizer [Debbie Goddard](#); local activist & gadfly [Judy Saint](#); [Sarah Gillooly](#) (VP for State Outreach & Engagement at [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#)); Secular Celebrant [Victoria de la Torre](#); and more. The event theme is: *Think again*.



So [sign up now](#). But, sign up *why*? It's free, isn't it? Yes, the main event (Sunday) is free to attend, but your advance registration (just as free) makes you eligible for delightful & toothsome prizes. And 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 multifarious event. To learn more, visit the event website at <http://freethoughtday.org/>.

Location: Capitol Park, State Capitol North Steps, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/EtFcJBYjBzi>.

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

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

➤ **Sunday Assembly Family-friendly Movie**

Saturday, Oct 19, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Sunday Assembly now hosts a family-friendly movie on the third Saturday of each month. Snacks served (pizza & drinks), and it invites you to bring something desserty .. um, dessert-ish, something sweet. Besides yourself.

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

Contact: See <https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/events/265160014/> for details.

➤ **Dan Barker, Piano & Pizza, at Reason Center – Save the date!**

Thursday, Nov 14, 6:30pm

Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), will visit us for a new episode of “Judy’s Outrageous Interviews,” hosted by Judy Saint of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF. More details next issue.

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

Contact: email <sac (at) ffrf (dot) org> or see <http://tiny.cc/nxbrdz>.

➤ **Still more Area Events**

So much to do! But if you’re not sated, see <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>, the Sacramento Coalition of Reason global events calendar, for yet more freethought activity in the area.

You can help. Here’s how.

When you donate blood...

If you donate blood at Vitalant, formerly BloodSource, please use the AOF BloodSource ID, #4857.

Find a Donation Center at <https://www.vitalant.org/Our-Organization/Locations.aspx>. Blood donations save lives, serve our ideals, and show freethinkers can also serve the community. What is more humanistic than donating blood?

Support Reason Center

Since Reason Center opened in July 2014, it has hosted hundreds of events and accrued 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. All good work.

But to continue, “RC” relies on support from members and donors. Please stand up for Reason Center, because it stands up for you. To set up a monthly or one-time donation, visit ReasonCenter.org.

Support AOF

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

Suggest a Meeting

Know a compelling speaker, have a meeting idea? Advise the AOF Program Committee! Go to <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, click “Program Committee” in the drop-down line, and enter your thoughtful suggestion. (Reasonable honorariums paid to speakers.)

Volunteer?

We suggest it meekly. For opportunities see <http://www.aofonline.org/learn/committees.html>.

➔ **California Freethought Day also needs you!** “CFD” is greatly in need of volunteers for set-up, cleanup and minor chores, both day-of-event and at the Supporters Reception. Also much needed: storage space for CFD equipment through the year. If you can help, if you have a few spare square feet in your garage or shed, please contact the CFD chairperson at email <chair (at) FreethoughtDay (dot) org>, or call 209-610-0651. You will be part of freethought history!

To support California Freethought Day in other ways, see http://freethoughtday.org/support_individual.html.

✧ ✧ A Secular Holiday ✧ ✧

➤ Freethought Day

Saturday, Oct 12, 2019

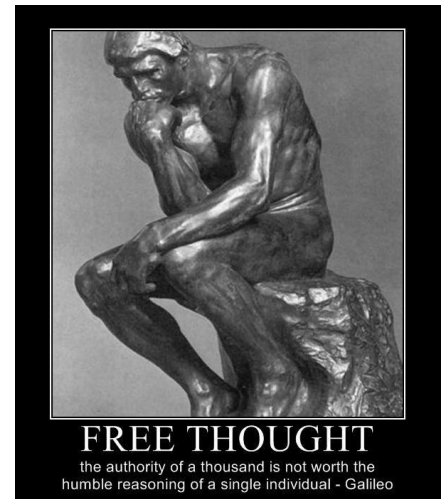
Freethought Day, aka "Freethought Coming-Out Day," is a day to give in-the-closet freethinkers a platform from which to declare themselves. The formal calendar holiday is October 12, but many groups plan celebrations for the closest weekend. Some recognize the week as **Freethought Week**, or the entire month of October as **Freethought Month**. In this time, newly declared freethinkers can garner strength and support from fellow "declared" freethinkers.

Why October 12? Because on the day in 1692, Colonial Massachusetts Governor William Phips wrote to the Privy Council of the British monarchs to take a stand against the legal use of "spectral evidence," that is, evidence of a non-objective nature, such as "feelings" and visions. His decision that evidence should be objective and verifiable essentially brought an end to the Salem Witch Trials, saving scores of lives. (Click [here](#) to read Phips's two letters.)

In the modern United States, discrimination, hatred and bias against freethinkers continues. The freethought community, unlike the gay and lesbian community, lacks a powerful voice and activist population for ending such treatment. Reactions often stem from a misunderstanding of what it is to be a freethinker, or that freethought is a mindset often set in motion in childhood, like sexual preference, not something to change on a whim or with the right "religion." Others should not try to change it with bullying, ridicule or intimidation. Freethinkers should be allowed to declare themselves openly. The intent of Freethought Day is to change this situation for the better of all freethinkers, especially the young.

Today's world sees the emergence of younger and younger freethinkers often alone and isolated in their communities. The [Secular Student Alliance](#) and the [Campus Freethought Alliance](#) attempt through their projects to give voice to college and university freethinkers in the US and across the globe, while programs such as [Camp Quest](#), the country's first secular humanist summer camp, and the [SSA's High School Program](#) provide young freethinkers with a place to gain a sense of community and understand that there is a proud and illustrious history to their philosophy. But these programs are few, and without a united voice and a united commitment to change this situation, they may not be enough.

Every freethinker in every community should feel comfortable with his or her ideals, and part of that is a connection to like-minded individuals. Freethought Day gives our friends a chance to understand who we freethinkers are, what we believe, that freethought exists in every community, and that they should not view freethought with fear, but with respect as a positive, compassionate way to live life.



Article Overview

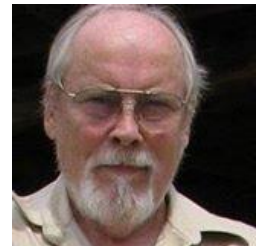
“Madalyn Murray O’Hair Was the Greatest American of the 20th Century – Bar NONE”

by **Emmett F. Fields** *[a new op-ed on the AOF website]*

In this article Mr. Fields observes that Madalyn Murry O’Hair is not found in any listing of American Great Women and propounds that she should be recognized as the greatest American of the 20th century.

He likens her to other great deists, atheists, and freethinkers including Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Ethan Allen, and Robert G. Ingersoll. He points out that she was a U.S. Army WW2 veteran that subsequently served as a public servant in the Eisenhower Administration, deserving the respect of all U.S. Citizens. She was also very knowledgeable about American history and the bible.

You may read the entire article by clicking this link: <http://www.aofonline.org/read/writings-stories-essays-poetry/58-emmett-f-fields.html>.



Reviewed by Fran Evanisko

Read other guest essays & writings at <http://www.aofonline.org/read/writings-stories-essays-poetry.html>.

If you would like to see *your* writings on the AOF website, visit <http://www.aofonline.org/read/submission-guide.html>.

Be an AOF Board Member in 2020

Have ideas for AOF but don't know how to start? Here's your chance. Join the Director's Team in 2020!

Once a year the door opens to those who wish to do extra to help AOF thrive. As a 501(c)(3) democratic educational association in California, AOF's bylaws require an elected board of at least 5 directors. Elections are near. The term is just a year. And nominations are now open.

Requirements? Simply to be a breathing AOF member. It helps to have a sharp mind and email access. You're all that, right? Minimum duties: to attend one brief planning meeting every other month, usually on a casual weekday evening, at which you will share your wisdom, help make decisions, and plan how AOF can serve this wonderful community of reason.

The benefit: You'll make a difference! Your comely face and amazing bio will appear on the AOF website, your name in the box at left. Others will envy you. Petals will fall. And angels will sing you to sleep. (... OK forget the angels.)

Current Directors could serve another year, but the Board has room for more. And maybe the rascals need a bit of competition, eh? AOF seeks new ideas, more creative minds, and especially more help.

Interested? Great! What's next? *Tell us* – contact AOF via its contact page or voicemail number (916-304-3796). Then cobble a brief paragraph, 300 words max, about yourself as a freethinker and your background. Include a pic if you can. Submit to this newsletter at <newsletter (at) aofonline (dot) org>, subject line: AOF Board Candidate Statement. Do it by about the end of November, please.

That's all! Fame & glory await! The team will love you. And you will love being on the team.

Personal enrichment and training are available whenever you are ready! See online classes at SecularActivism.org <<http://secularactivism.org/>> and MindfulPathsFor.Us <<http://mindfulpathsfor.us/>>.

Classes are accessible online 24/7, so you can participate at any hour when you have time, with nothing 'live' to be missed, and no video, just text-based forums. Instructors respond individually to all questions and love conversations. Sign up for alerts about upcoming classes.

Partners for Secular Activism is a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organization, founded in January 2014.



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: Rapid Ruth Rezos
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
Directors at large:

Roger Zabkie, Pamella Rivers,
Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta), Kaeleigh Pontif

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 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. Be respectful, and you 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>.



♦ ♦ 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)

The 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 president@hagsa.org

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 list.
<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.
PO Box 2883, Rocklin, CA 95677
<http://sac.ffrf.org/>; email sacffrf@gmail.com

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

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

Blast from the past. In 1995, the *Bee's* Religion page agreed to publish humanist & secular responses to moral questions along with views from local faith leaders. Grabbing the gauntlet, AOF's own **Pat Kelley** was soon submitting her own answers. Here is a highlight.

July 19, 1997. What's Right With the World?

Tangibly: Scientific leaps and bounds. Consider the Internet. A few short years ago the realms of theology, philosophy, politics, science and other intellectual pursuits were luxuries reserved for upper classes. Today the Internet provides access to information regardless of age, sex or social condition. In addition, scientific advances, such as genetic research, allow us to live cleaner, healthier and longer lives, while enjoying far more leisure and luxury than our predecessors could ever dream.

Intangibly: Human Beneficence. ... in the midst of the last electoral campaign where preachers and politicians alike spewed vicious rhetoric intended to divide people into hateful, self-serving voting blocs, I witnessed an automobile accident. Within seconds of the crash, people poured out of their cars, houses and businesses to assist the injured, direct traffic and call for help. It struck me that no one seemed to care what the age, race, religion, sexual preference or political affiliation was of anyone at the scene. What is right with the world is that complete strangers can disregard personal prejudices long enough to bond in a crisis and assist people in need.