

Video of Recent Online Meeting

If you missed the August 29 presentation, [Twenty Years of Freethought Day](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9cxP-q8zGw), you are in luck! Enjoy it now on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9cxP-q8zGw>. It was an outstanding retrospective, a bit over an hour long, and capped with a fine Q&A session. Please check it out. Thanks to all who participated.

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights!

Fridays, Sept 3 and Sept 17, 7pm – 10pm

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

On Sept 3 it's a movie from 2019, directed by Trevor Nunn: the semi-fictional story of story of a bright young female scientist dragged into espionage during WWII, and finally arrested in 2000 at age 87. The second movie is still unselected.

To attend, you'll need a personal Netflix account + laptop or desktop computer with the [Google Chrome web browser](#). If you don't have these we apologize -- please be patient until we acquire a physical movie venue. Else, here's how to join us:

1. Open your Chrome web browser right now and install the "Netflix TeleParty Extension." Get it at: <https://www.netflixparty.com/>. (Really, do it *now*, don't wait till movie night!)
2. Just before show time, fire up the Chrome browser again and go to the very special Netflix Movie TeleParty link, which will appear on the AOF website (see [here](#)) about a half hour before the movie begins.
3. **Click that link.** The Movie TeleParty page will open. Log into Netflix (if not logged in already). At the top right of the browser frame check your "Extensions" list. Find the letters **TP** in red. You may need to click on the letters.
4. The movie party should begin. You'll be watching it along with the rest of us. As it plays we can chat on the side of the screen and make silly, snarky comments.

Free Movie Night was made for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a few shekels (voluntary donation) for costs. How can you support Reason Center? Go to <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership is a measly \$5 a month and is tax deductible if you itemize. And the perks (like this one) are multitudinous.

Location: A Netflix TeleParty link as described above.

Contact: See <https://reasoncenter.com/contact/>, the Reason Center Contact Page.

Free Movie Nights generally occur two Friday evenings each month. You can suggest your own fave flick for next time, how cool is that?



➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, Sept 11, 2021, 9am - 11am

From Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road runs a tidy, two mile stretch of Highway 99 – *our* stretch. Sac-area freethinkers "adopted" it in July 1995. It's tidy because we have cared for it, nurtured it, rescued it from litter and debris, and received recognition for our work. As one of our more successful civic efforts, it proves freethinkers can also serve the community.

So join us please! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a deed for the environment and local area wildlife. The refuse 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 cleanup 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.

Location: Near W. Elkhorn Blvd & Hwy 99, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/zw3Rwct9yR52>.

Contact: 916-447-2169 (Don Knutson), or see <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.



Notes: To get there, travel north from Sacramento on I-5, past the old Sleeptrain Arena. Take the "Highway 99 - Yuba City, Marysville" exit. Exit at Elkhorn Boulevard less than a mile north. Turn left, cross the overpass. Park in the park-&-ride lot if possible, or somewhere near it.

This is a great event for older children, but please leave smalls safe at home. In case of rain, excessive mud, rapture or locust plague, the Cleanup will be rescheduled. If unsure, call the Activity Captain (Don).

➤ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 14, 2021, 7pm – 8pm.

It's an AOF planning meeting, mainly for AOF directors & officers but open to all. These happen as required, and are a lot more fun than they sound. Honest.

Join us, meet the Board, keep an eye on the shenanigans. We love visitors. We have cold drinks & snacks. And maybe you'll have some good ideas.

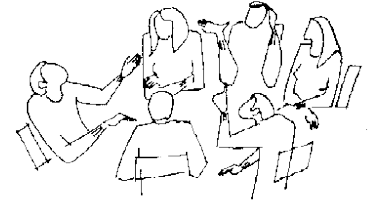
Note, this Board meeting will be an actual in-person meeting, so be sure your vaccinations are current, or wear a mask. Also the home has cats, so please do not be allergic.

Location: Home of Ken Nahigian & Ruth Rezos, 9570 Harvest View Way, see <https://goo.gl/maps/e2s3igXYVcif47Q67>.

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

Click to see who's on the Board: <https://www.aofonline.org/learn/fearless-leaders.html>

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



➤ Potluck Picnic in the Park

Sunday, Sept 26, 2021, 2pm – 4pm.

Come socialize with fellow freethinkers -- at AOF's first in-person gathering in over a year! *Has it been that long?*

Please bring a picnic dish that serves 6-8 people, something portable and yummy. Also BYO *non*-alcoholic beverages (alcohol is a no-no in this park). BYO cushion too. Picnic benches can be hard. Ouch.

AOF will provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and cool clear water. The picnic tables are in the shade and the restrooms are clean (we checked).

Plenty of street parking is in the residential neighborhood around the park, plus a free parking lot. To get to the parking lot from Butternut Drive, turn right onto Treeleaf Way, then turn right onto Cloverleaf.

Directions: From I-80 take exit 100 for Antelope Road. Go west on Antelope Road for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Lichen Drive. At 2nd stop sign continue straight onto Butternut Drive. To find the picnic area, then turn onto Treeleaf Way. See the gazebo on the right? The one with crepe paper? That's it.

We will enjoy the beautiful afternoon, chat of things freethoughty or otherwise, and solve all the world's problem. Feel free to invite family and friends. We're chill.

Location: Westwood Park, 8100 Butternut Drive, Citrus Hts, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/m9jL49CB3YnSogsWA>.

Contact: Pam at "president (at) aofonline (dot) org", ph. 916-390-1084

Masks an option for the vaccinated. Otherwise, please wear one.



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

➤ Sacramento-area Online Meetings

Other local freethinkers are meeting by online teleconference. You can attend from the comfort of home, for free.

- **Monday, Sept 6, 5pm – 7pm: Remembering Sweetness.** Dr. Andy Thompson will summarize key findings from psychological science research into happiness and well-being, and how it all connects to our evolutionary history. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/186729414>, or see <https://www.meetup.com/RfR-Sacramento-CA/events/280404449/> for details.
- **Tuesdays, Sept 7 & 21, 7pm – 9pm: Porch Talk.** A gathering on a virtual front porch, a chat on the news of the day. Topic ideas are welcome. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86401692746?pwd=NWVhZdHpEellNblRiR0w4RGtmQ2ZLUT09>.
- **Wednesdays, Sept 8 & 27, 7pm – 8pm: Black Lives Matter and Me.** Talk, read, watch videos; discuss social justice, reforms, privilege and power. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82590278514?pwd=K1pzaXA0dGVESzlvS1lUcEs4RnE2UT09>.
- **Wednesdays, Sept 15 & 29, 7pm – 9pm: What's Your Story?** Meet other freethinkers, atheists, agnostics, nonbelievers and humanists in the Sacramento area; discuss beliefs and philosophy, and what led you to this peculiar place of mind. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84976409310?pwd=YmlTWTVqcVM5TmFrVjFrQkU2c1l1Zz09>.
- **Thursday, Sept 16, 7pm – 9pm: Recovering from Religion Virtual Support Group.** Providing personal support to individuals as they let go of religious beliefs. Share your story or just listen. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268955990>, or see <https://www.meetup.com/RfR-Sacramento-CA/events/pjqkmsyccmbvb/> for details.

- **Saturday, Sept 25, 7pm – 9pm: Wine, Cheese, and Litera-cheer.** Share your thoughts about any book of choice, one you like or one you hate, a recent or one read long ago. Just be nice (focus on the “cheer”), and BYO wine & cheese. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89985395691?pwd=UE11cFRSL2RoSDF0NzdFTzdSVGVlQT09>.

➤ Coffee and Community at Miller Regional Park

Sunday, Sept 5, 2021, 10:30am – 12 noon

A chummy get-together at Miller Regional Park (2701 Marina View Dr, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/4KbjoWUJbN6LvxAu5>). Bring your own coffee or beverage, snacks and a lawn chair. We will find some shade. Can't make it? Join us at this online link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468875186?pwd=dGkxTXY5a2p3cTFPTmx2MU95ZWpnUT09>. For more details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/280129319/>.

➤ Blasphemy Breakfast in Folsom

Saturday, Sept 11, 2021 10am – 11:30am

A “Blasphemy Breakfast” at Mel’s Diner in Folsom! Come join like-minded friends for a delicious breakfast near home. Just walk in and look for our smiling faces in the far back area on the right. Location: Mel’s Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, 95630, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/meudZvW9v5hms6t67>. Details at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/280139656/>.

➤ Morning Hikes

Saturdays, Sept 18 & Oct 2, 2021, 8:30am – 10:30am

Sacramento is full of gorgeous hiking places, from riverside nature to rugged hills. Join us for a hike event each 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, locations to be announced (and suggestions are welcome). For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/calendar/> and click on one of the Saturday Morning listings, or send ideas to Muhannad at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/members/328699576/>.

➤ Blasphemy Breakfast in Rocklin

Sunday, Sept 19, 2021, 9:30am – 11am

Another “Blasphemy Breakfast” at in Rocklin (not that we blaspheme that much, but occasional heresy might come up). Location: Mel’s Diner, 6708 Lonetree Boulevard, Rocklin, 95677, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/oDE1h3Y4Zp5fQzjo7>. Details at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/280170661/>, if you need ‘em.

➤ Coffee and Community at Eastern Oak Park

Sunday, Sept 19, 2021, 10:30am – 12 noon

Another gathering at Eastern Oak Park (3127 Eastern Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/6AfJPBj6K8iSQy3v9>). Please BYO beverage + lawn chair. Or join virtually at the same link as the Sep 5 gathering. Details at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/xssbnsyccmbzb/>.

➤ Other Sacramento Area Events

New events pop up all the time, and we can’t track them all here, so keep an eye on the Sacramento Coalition of Reason calendar at <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>.

Save the Date: California Freethought Day: Sunday, October 10, 2021

The **2021 California Freethought Day** will be (we hope!) a live, in-person event in Capitol Park, with speakers, music, tables, and all the familiar amenities. All free. For updates visit <http://freethoughtday.org/>. To register (it’s optional, but gets you lots of goodies) go to <http://freethoughtday.org/registration.html>. Please *take note* of the **\$1000 scholarship high school student essay contest**, topic “How can science, activism, social justice, secularism or freethought give us a brighter future?” Tell your student friends. Submissions due Sept 16 noon, see <http://freethoughtday.org/essay.html>.

Meanwhile, you can support Freethought Day with a donation (visit <https://paypal.me/FreethoughtDay>). This is *your* event, don’t sting on us.

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ World Cleanup Day

Saturday, Sept 18, 2021

In the U.S., [World Cleanup Day](#) (WCD) is the third Saturday of September, which due to calendar vagaries can drift from Sept 15 to Sept 21. But eco-groups urge us to think of all of September as World Cleanup Month. And that’s a great idea.

It began in Estonia in 2008, when 50,000 people united to clean up the entire country in just five hours. On that day, a bottom-up civic movement was born. It spread virally around the globe, capturing the hearts of people worldwide, who followed suit with the same ambitious 'one country, one-day' formula. By 2018 it had united 18 million people across 157 countries and territories.

Today it is a global movement with millions of volunteers and charismatic leaders. The simple act of cleaning has bound together people and groups that would otherwise never unite to work towards the same goal. Civil society, governments and global corporations, women in Saudi Arabia, people defying war in Yemen and Syria, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and Christians, men and women, children.

Why? Because every human has a Home, be it a mansion, a street, a hut or a cardboard box. Then there are the cities, countries, and regions we call home; the planet we call home. When Estonians successfully cleaned their home in 5 hours, the world took notice. The simplicity of the idea and the 'let's do it' attitude took off and the rest, as they say, is history.

Anyone can pick up trash. But World Cleanup Day has become much more than that. Daycares, schools, companies, government officials – the old, the young, the rich, the poor, the able and less able – everyone has contributed. Because they can. Because they wanted to be involved in making their home a better place. Because they were given an opportunity to help. Because they belong to a community, and the community belongs to us.

How can you help? Go to <https://www.worldcleanupday.us> or <https://www.worldcleanupday.org/>, find your local contacts, register for a Cleanup, and rise early that day to help to beautify your parks, trails, beaches, mountains, and open spaces. The world will be better for it. And you will be a better person.



➤ Ask an Atheist Day

Thursday, Sept 16, 2021

[National Ask an Atheist Day](#) is another movable secular holiday that occurs twice each year -- first the 3rd Thursday of April (a day from April 15 to April 21), then on the 3rd Thursday of September (from Sept 15 to Sep 21). As if atheists don't have enough to do already!

"NAaA Day" is an opportunity for secular groups across the country to dispel stereotypes about atheism and to encourage constructive, courteous dialogue between believers and nonbelievers. And it is an opportunity for the general public—particularly people of faith—to approach non-theists and ask questions about secular life. Please don't be afraid to spark up a discussion with us, we won't bite. Most don't, anyway.

The first event was in February of 2011, when members of the [Secular Student Alliance](#) (SSA) at the University of Illinois set up a table with a sign that said "Ask an Atheist." The next month an article appeared in the [Friendly Atheist website](#), written by a "Guest Contributor" (probably an SSA member), saying the event was a smashing success and the Illinois group hoped to take the day nationally. "The SSA is ready to help," it added. Since then NAaA Day has occurred across the nation each April since, and soon in September as well.

Of course the point is to ask atheists questions, but here is some background. Generally, atheists have no belief in deities, which is not *quite* the same as a positive belief that no deity exists. The prefix "a" just means "without." Atheism has no set ideology—atheists may be humanists, rationalists, Unitarian Universalists, postmodernists, secularists, among other things. Historically, Greek and Roman philosophers and writers such as Epicurus, Democritus, and Lucretius had an influence on what would become atheism. The term didn't appear until the sixteenth century, a time when freethought and skepticism began to flourish. Some that lived during the Age of Enlightenment were the first to identify themselves as atheists. The supremacy of human reason was a facet of the French Revolution, and it was at this time that atheism first became used politically. Science also began to lock horns with orthodox religion during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Today it is challenging to estimate how many atheists are in the world. A 2015 poll claimed about 11% of the world's population are atheists, and a 2012 poll claimed the number to be 13% (both WIN/Gallup International polls). A BBC poll from 2004 put the number at 8%. Europe and Asia seem to have the largest number of atheists. In 2015, 61% of Chinese citizens identified as atheists.

How to observe the day. If you call yourself an atheist, you can celebrate the day in a variety of ways. For example, set up a table where believers and others can come up to you and ask you questions about atheism, secular living, and your beliefs (or nonbeliefs). You can [email](#) the SSA for supplies for your table, such as brochures, [stickers](#), posters, and flyers. You could also wear the stickers and put flyers up on campus (flyers could be put up before the day as well). You could organize an "ask an atheist" panel event, or go on a radio station and have an "ask an atheist" segment where listeners are able to call in and ask you questions about atheism. When posting on social media, use the hashtag #askanatheist.

For more about the day and how to participate, take a look at the [Ask an Atheist Day Activity Guide](#). But what if you aren't an atheist? Celebrate NAaA Day by asking an atheist about atheism! The day is meant to be filled with respectful dialogue, so make sure to participate in such a way, no matter if you are an atheist or the person asking questions.

➤ Talk Like a Pirate Day

Sunday, Sept 19, 2021

Avast ye lubbers. International **Talk Like a Pirate Day** is a day to show your Piratude. Created in 1995 by John Baur and Mark Summers, promulgated to worldwide popularity by humorist Dave Barry in a syndicated column, we can celebrate this secular holiday in many ways: garb like pirates, talk like pirates, swill grog like pirates, stagger and fall down like pirates. What is grog? Never mind, just find some and nock it back.

Then haul your keel, shiver your timbers, and do wha' ever else seem right and proper, 'cause it be a day to celebrate. Info ahoy at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Talk_Like_a_Pirate_Day.

Other Piratery links:

How to Talk like a Pirate (instructions), see <http://www.yarr.org.uk/talk/>.

Translate text into Pirate Talk, see <https://funtranslations.com/pirate>.

Google's Pirate Search engine, see <https://www.google.com/webhp?hl=xx-pirate>.



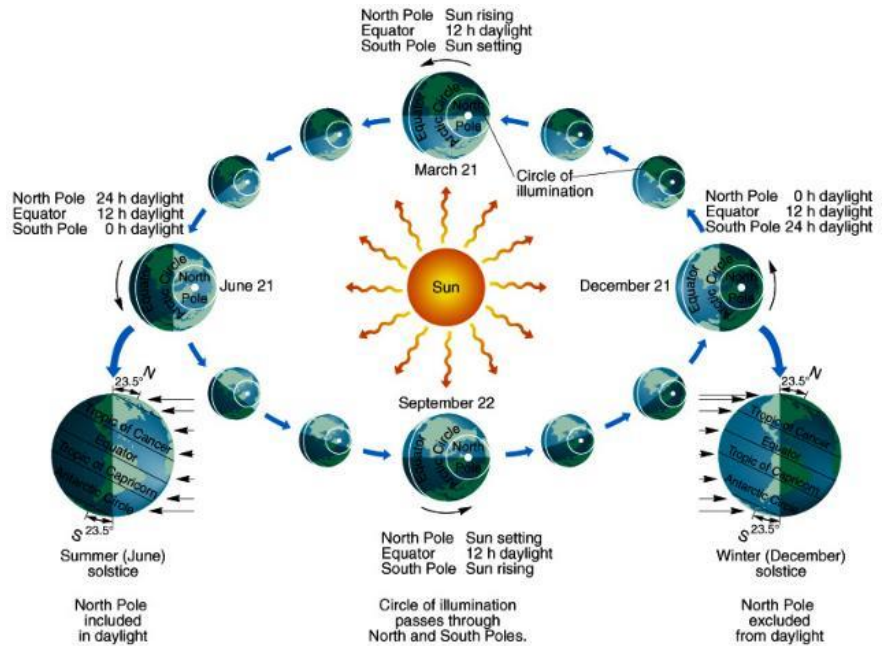
➤ Equinox (September)

Wednesday, Sept 22, 2021

It is one of two days in the calendar year when day almost equal the night hours. In the north hemisphere it is also the first day of Autumn or Fall (Gregorian calendar), called the Autumnal Equinox. In the southern hemisphere, it is the first day of Spring.

The Autumnal Equinox marks when green things begin to shed, when growth which was young in the spring has reached maturity. Animals prepare for winter, tree leaves turn colors, and the air takes a chill. In most cultures this a time for harvest and taking stock of life's fragility; a time when people begin noticing the waning hours of daylight in anticipation of the winter. Since this time of year is one of the most temperate, it is also a good time to reflect on the meaning of life.

In every culture the Autumnal Equinox signals the return of weather that favors slowing down, introspection, and conservation. Many cultures celebrate the harvest as a means to defeat the starvation brought on by winter. It is also a time closely associated with the dead. Though the dead do not return to life nor walk the earth this time of the year, it is well to remember or memorialize those who are no longer with us. For freethinkers the Autumnal Equinox is a great time to celebrate the lives of those who contributed to the freethought movement. It is also a perfect day to contemplate your own thoughts on the meaning you invest in life, and share those thoughts with others.

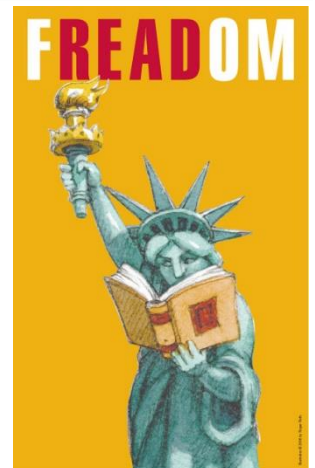


➤ Banned Book Week

Sept 26 – Oct 2, 2021

September's end marks **Banned Books Week**, a celebration of the Freedom to Read, established by the American Library Association in 1981 in response to growing attempts to ban books in public libraries across the country. First observed in 1982, we celebrate it each year during the last week starting in September, to remind our fellow citizens not to take for granted their freedom to read the written word.

Every year bookstores and libraries across the United States celebrate Banned Books Week with displays of and readings from books that have been banned or threatened throughout history. Such works range from the *Bible* and Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, and has included books on atheism, science, tolerance, social issues, love and sex, and philosophy. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Aristophanes, Margaret Sanger, Mary Shelley, Ambrose Bierce, Charles Darwin, George Eliot, Mark Twain and John Locke were all victims of censorship during their lifetimes and still face censorship in some sections of the world today.



Banned Books Week stands as a reminder that freedom is precious, that without constant diligence and defiance we can lose it, even in the United States. If anything this should motivate freethinkers everywhere to read banned books, discuss them, and protect the rights of all Americans to read what they want, when they want, in libraries across the country.

Banned Books Week sponsors include the [American Booksellers Association](#), [American Booksellers Foundation of Free Expression](#), [American Library Association](#) (ALA), [Association of American Publishers](#), [American Society of Journalists and Authors](#), and the [National Association of College Stores](#). It is endorsed by [the Library of Congress Center for the Book](#).

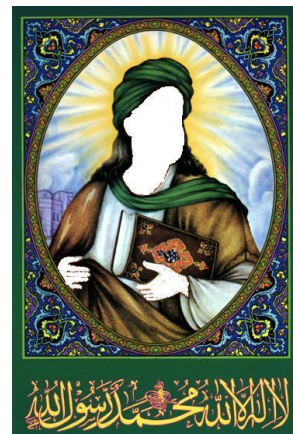
➤ Blasphemy Day

Thursday, Sept 30, 2021

Secularists and freethinkers worldwide celebrate [International Blasphemy Day](#) or "Blasphemy Rights Day" to mark the anniversary of when images of Muhammad appeared in the Denmark newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* in 2005. Conservative Muslims reacted to the drawings with worldwide protests, riots, embassy burnings and death threats.

Formally founded in 2009 by Ronald Lindsay, Director of the Center of Inquiry in Ahmherst, New York, and promoted by the [Campaign for Free Expression](#), this secular holiday now stands as a platform for individuals freely to express criticisms of religion and its establishments. As Ronald Lindsay said in a television interview: "... religious beliefs should be subject to examination and criticism just as political beliefs are, but we have a taboo on religion." And, "... we're against restrictions on speech based purely on the possibility that some people might be offended," he also said; "Because if you go down that path there's no end to it."

Participants have celebrated Blasphemy Day in various ways: with speeches, art exhibitions, feasts, poetry, music and song, and by taking the [Blasphemy Challenge](#). Use your imagination. (And visit the Blasphemy Day Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/blasphemyday>.)



Actual photo of Muhammad

Truth is not a Rock – Review by Fran Evan

I first read Jean Paul Sartre's "Portrait of an Anti-Semite" about 50 years ago. Recently, I came across a paragraph that I highlighted at that time. It is the most lucid description of the difference between authentic rational, and ideological thinking I have encountered. This was written in 1945 and is certainly pertinent today.

"The rational man seeks the truth gropingly, he knows that his reasoning is only probable, that other considerations will arise to make it doubtful; he never knows too well where he's going, he is 'open,' he may even appear hesitant. But there are people who are attracted to the durability of stone. They want to be massive and impenetrable; they do not want to change: where would change lead them? This is an original fear of oneself and a fear of truth. And what frightens them is not the content of truth which they do not even suspect, but the very form of the true—that thing of indefinite approximation. It is as if their very existence were perpetually in suspension. They want to exist all at once and right away. They do not want acquired opinions, they want them to be innate; since they are afraid of reasoning, they want to adopt a mode of life in which reasoning and research play but a subordinate role, in which one never seeks but that which one has already found, in which one never becomes other than what one already was. Only passion can produce this. Nothing but a strong emotional bias can give instant certitude, it alone can hold reasoning within limits, it alone can remain impervious to experience and last an entire lifetime." – [Portrait of an Anti-Semite](#), Jean Paul Sartre, 1946

There is an objective reality, irrespective of our understanding, beliefs, and desires, that can be known only imperfectly and in part. Truth is not a rock; it is an acid.

The [Capital District Humanist Society](#) invites AOF members to its Sept 12 on-line meeting, when physicist Laurie McNeil will discuss "Good Vibrations: The Interplay of Music and Physics." Time: 1PM Eastern Time (10AM Pacific Time). Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82844614774?pwd=UWWhsQzFRFTl1c3BwY0lLSEdOUit6dz09>. That's Meeting ID 828 4461 4774, passcode. 114618. Totally free, of course!

DEEP DARK FEARS



WHEN I WAS A KID, A PRIEST TOLD ME ABOUT MARY,



HOW GOD THOUGHT SHE WAS PERFECT, SO HE MADE HER PREGNANT.



I DIDN'T WANT GOD TO MAKE ME PREGNANT,



SO I TRIED TO NOT BE HIS TYPE.

How to help.

Support Reason Center

[Reason Center](#), a facility for all Sacramento freethinkers, opened in July 2014, then closed in 2020. Meanwhile it hosted hundreds of events and accrued twelve partner organizations. Its mission was (still 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.

If "RC" is to reopen, it depends on support from people like you. Please stand up for Reason Center. To set up a monthly or one-time donation, visit [ReasonCenter.org](#).

Support AOF

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 great meeting idea? Tell 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.

Volunteer?

We suggest it meekly. See

<http://www.aofonline.org/learn/committees.html>

The Purist

I give you now Professor Twist,
A conscientious scientist,
Trustees exclaimed, "He never bungles!"
And sent him off to distant jungles.
Camped on a tropic riverside,
One day he missed his loving bride.
She had, the guide informed him later,
Been eaten by an alligator.
Professor Twist could not but smile.
"You mean," he said, "a crocodile."

Ogden Nash

Parallel Lines

"Parallel lines meet at infinity,"
Euclid repeatedly, heatedly urged,
Until he died
and so reached that vicinity.
In it he found that
the damn things
diverged.

Piet Hein

Where father Brown crossed the street,
an X marks the spot.
The light of god was with him
but the traffic light was not.

Yip Harburg



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: Prolific Pamela Rivers
Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell
Secretary: Rapid Ruth Rezos
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
Program chair: Super Susan McLean
Facebook page: Keen Kaeleigh Pontif
Directors at large:

Roger Zabkie, Fran Evanisko, Christine Tweet,
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>.