

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights

Fridays, Dec 3 and Dec 17, 7pm – 10pm

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

The first (Dec 3) will be an exciting, offbeat action/comedy from 2021, wherein a gun-wielding secret sisterhood unites to combat a powerful crime syndicate to rescue a child. A fun, moving, action oriented excursion, directed by Navot Papushado. The second movie has not yet been selected.

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

1. Open your Chrome browser right now and install the Netflix TeleParty Extension. Get it at <https://www.teleparty.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 events calendar at about 6:45pm that evening.
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 Netflix 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 anyone is welcome. RC *may* beg a small (purely voluntary) donation to cover costs. To support Reason Center member, just sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership is a measly \$5 a month and is tax deductible if you itemize. And the perks are cool as a car chase.

Location: A Netflix TeleParty link, see above.

Contact: See <http://reasoncenter.com/contact/>, or call 916-426-6416.

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, December 18, 2021, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

A stretch of Highway 99 runs two miles from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road – *our* stretch! Sac-area freethinkers "adopted" it in July 1995. Since then we have cared for it, nurtured it, rescued it from litter and debris, and received recognition for our work. 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.

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.

To get there, travel north from Sacramento 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. 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. Also please review the CalTrans Highway Cleanup guidelines at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/maintenance/adopt-a-highway/covid19>.

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>.



In case of rain, excessive mud, rapture or locust plague, the Cleanup will be rescheduled. If unsure, call the Activity Captain (Don).

No General Meeting in December. That's it. Due to crush of circumstances and certain non-AOF events this month, *no AOF member meeting* will occur this month. Please be patient with the exhausted program committee. Next year we will be back, rested, with events to supercharge your mind!

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

➤ Sacramento-area Online Meetings

Local freethinkers are meeting up via online teleconference. Join them from the comfort of your cozy home, for free.

- **Saturday, Dec 11, 7pm – 9pm: Word Confusion.** Wonder about a word or phrase? Meanings pass into fashion or change over time. A meeting to discuss these flummoxing farragoes (ha!). Details: <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/hvshqsyccqbbp/>. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417809715?pwd=UGx1Q3hpU25iWkwrZjZaTWZFMEMxZz09>.
- **Tuesdays, Dec 2 and Dec 28, 7pm – 9pm: Porch Talk.** A gathering on a virtual front porch, a chat on the news of the day. Topic ideas welcome! Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86401692746?pwd=NWhrdHpEellNblRiR0w4RGtmQ2ZLUT09>.
- **Monday, Dec 6, 5pm – 7pm: Finding Inner Safety Without Dogma.** Author June Converse, who escaped a schizophrenic religious upbringing, will provide tips on feeling comfortable on the other side of belief. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/186729414>, or see <https://www.meetup.com/RfR-Sacramento-CA/events/282456163/> for details.
- **Wednesdays, Dec 15 and Dec 29, 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>.
- **Thursday, Dec 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/pjqkmsyccqbvb/> for details.
- **Saturday, Dec 18, 3pm – 5pm: BHNBS Book Club.** Part 2 of a discussion of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond, the modern classic by an evolutionary biologist. For details and to attend, see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/282351206/>.

➤ Saturday Morning Hikes

Saturdays, Dec 4, 2021, and Jan 1, 2022, 10am – 12 noon

Sacramento is filled with gorgeous nature trails. Come hiking each First Saturday of the month, meet new people, observe wildlife, and discover that raccoons bite. Locations to be announced.

Dec 4, 2021: Sweetwater Trail, Folsom Lake. For details see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/282292397/>.

Jan 1, 2022: For details see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/hfkqsyccqbbp/>.

➤ Coffee and Community

Sundays, Dec 5 and Dec 19, 2021, 10:30am – 12 noon

Join us for a social gathering with coffee and snacks. Please bring your own coffee or beverage and a lawn chair. We will find shade as needed.

Dec 5: Miller Regional Park, 2701 Marina View Drive, Sac. See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/282373400/>.

Dec 19: Eastern Oak Park, 3127 Eastern Avenue, Sac. See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/ccmqsyccqbbp/>.

➤ Blastphemy Breakfasts

Saturdays, Dec 11 and Dec 19, 2021

Want to hang out with local like-minded folk? Want to know fellow freethinkers in smaller groups? Or do you just get hungry in the morning? Welcome to the Blasphemy Breakfasts at Original Mel's Diners in Folsom and Rocklin. Come join us, we hardly bite at all.

Dec 11 at 10am: 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom. Details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/hmltnsyccqbbp/>.

Dec 19 at 9:30am: 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin. Details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/282289179/>.

➤ Tour of Impressionist Exhibit at Crocker Museum

Saturday, Dec 18, 1pm – 3pm

Having secured tickets, we can have a tour of up to six people for the exhibit if spots are available. Fees \$15 (regular), \$10 (seniors). See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/281666086/> for details and how to reserve a spot.

➤ More Events Just for You

This isn't all! For more freethought events in the area please check out the Sacramento Coalition of Reason global calendar at <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>. Because we can't track everything, though we honestly try.



A *Double Entendre* by typographer John Langdon. It reads the same upside down!

Many more like these at:

<http://www.johnlangdon.net/>

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ International Human Rights Day

Friday, Dec 10, 2021

"IHUD" promotes, defends, and helps us remember the basic human rights every person in every country has as a result of being born into this world. The basic document that outlines these rights is known as the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), as adopted by the United Nations in 1948.



The Declaration came about as a result of the atrocities of World War II. As the United Nations came into being its charter gave human rights a new international legal status, and the need to codify human rights as a means to prevent such atrocities took shape. It created a Commission on Human Rights, which spent three years drafting the declaration with the help of such members as Eleanor Roosevelt, John P. Humphrey, Charles Malik and Rene Cassin. Adopted without dissent on December 10, 1948, the declaration has grown in stature and respect over the years since its adoption as it continues to assert the human dignity and worth of every human being on the planet.

Since its adoption countries around the world have celebrated this anniversary, but it has only been since the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1998 that the holiday has gained in popularity.

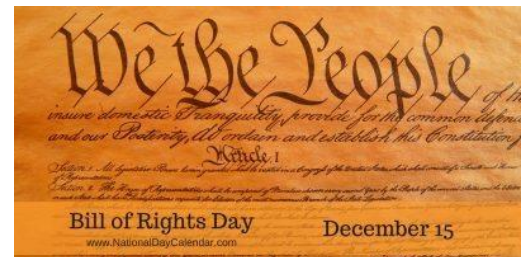
Eleanor Roosevelt once said that the fate of human rights lies in the hands of everyone in every community. Freethinkers know the importance of this statement. It can often be a challenge for many of them to be given the same rights and opportunities as others in their own communities, much less in the world. They, of all people, understand the importance of keeping human rights the center of focus and attention in the world at large. Celebrating International Human Rights Day is a way to show how everyone, religious or not, is connected in ways that run deeper than the nature of belief.

➤ Bill of Rights Day

Wednesday, Dec 15, 2021

Bill of Rights Day (by Presidential Proclamation):

Now, Therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate December 15, 1941, as Bill of Rights Day. And I call upon the officials of the Government, and upon the people of the United States, to observe the day by displaying the flag of the United States on public buildings and by meeting together for such prayers and such ceremonies as may seem to them appropriate.



To view the official proclamation, see: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2524-bill-rights-day>.

The first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution make up the Bill of Rights. Passed by Congress on September 25, 1789, these rights express the limits on government power.

How to observe this day:

Display the flag of the United States at home and on public buildings. Read the Bill of Rights. See if you can pass a [quiz](#) about the Bill of Rights. Use #BillOfRightsDay to post on social media.

➤ Winter Solstice

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

It's the *real* Reason for the Season. Called Winter Solstice in the northern hemisphere, Summer Solstice in the southern, people have marked this astronomical event for thousands of years. Many religions have seasonal holy days or celebrations linked to the Winter Solstice. It is the day the Northern Hemisphere has less daylight than at any other time of the year (we call it *the shortest day*), and the Southern Hemisphere has more daylight than any other time (*the longest day*).



The precise date of the Winter Solstice varies from year to year, but will occur between the 20th and 23rd of December.

"Solstice" derives from two Latin words: *sol* (meaning sun) and *sistere* (to cause to stand still). At noon in either hemisphere the sun will be low in the sky during the winter season, high in the sky during summer. The day with the least daylight is the Winter Solstice, where sun has the lowest elevation. So in the Northern Hemisphere, the Winter Solstice is officially the first day of winter, sometimes called Midwinter.

➤ HumanLight

Thursday, December 23, 2021

[HumanLight](#) is a holiday to celebrate the humanist values of tolerance, compassion, empathy, honesty, free inquiry, reason and rationality, and more. The event began in New Jersey in 2001, established by Joe Fox and Gary Brill of the [New](#)

[Jersey Humanist Network](#). The event provides an excellent alternative to Christmas celebrations. Joe & Gary described it as follows:

*"The very first HumanLight celebration was held in New Jersey on December 23, 2001 at a gala event attended by close to 100 people. **HumanLight is December 23rd**, and should always be celebrated on or around this date. This date was chosen for several reasons. A critical objective was to be part of the peak celebration time of the holiday season, yet to have a distinct date of our own that did not coincide exactly (and thus interfere) with other holidays such as the Winter Solstice, Christmas, or Kwanzaa. We liked December 23rd because it was close to the shortest day of the year, a natural event of note, as well as very close to vacation days that typically lead to family gatherings. We wanted Humanists at family gatherings and other holiday social events to be able to say "Happy Holidays" and mean it; to have a positive, constructive way to start a conversation in which they could explain to loved ones what Humanism is about. "*



You can help us. Here's how.

Support Reason Center

Remember Reason Center? It opened in July 2014, hosted hundreds of events, and accrued twelve partner organizations. Its mission was 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.

Then, in November 2020, it closed. If "RC" will ever return, it depends 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

Have a good speaker or 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. (AOF pays reasonable honorariums to speakers.)

Volunteer?

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



On Nov 17, the *Albany Times Union* published an article about the Capital District Humanist Society (CDHS) and Humanism in general. Kudos to CDHS coordinator Fred Levine, who worked with the newspaper to published it. <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Local-humanists-champion-social-justice-welcome-16647229.php>



Local humanists champion social justice, welcome all faiths and idealistic atheists

The philosophy is grounded in positive psychology, which is the study of the side of the mental health spectrum that encourages human development and intellectual growth.

www.timesunion.com



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 Pamella Rivera
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, Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta),
Kaeleigh Pontif, Christine Tweet

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 pages (two):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1525411971087089/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Atheists-and-Other-Freethinkers-AOF-104763721971742>

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>.



Family News

Jerry L Sloan (Aug 1937 – Nov 16 2021)

Jerry Sloan, former AOF president, died Nov 16, 2021. Sacramento has lost an activist.

A hero to both the LGBT+ and atheist communities, and a co-founder of [California Freethought Day](#), we are heartbroken to announce that Jerry Sloan is gone.

Jerry was a hero and mentor to many. Tirelessly, he brought leadership and advocacy to the communities he helped to build... and always with a warm smile that spread his optimism to others. There wasn't an event in which you wouldn't find Jerry taking part, most often behind the scenes asking for no recognition or glory. A humble but determined leader, even when confined to an electric wheelchair (flying his rainbow flag), he was always involved and always cheerful.

Jerry earned national attention in 1986 when he filed suit (and won) for slanderous remarks made by Reverend Jerry Falwell (of the "Moral Majority"). Jerry and Falwell were classmates at Baptist Bible College decades earlier, setting up a nemesis-type relationship that would end in a \$8,982.90 check that Jerry would donate to form the Lambda Community Center (now the Sacramento LGBT Center). You can read Jerry's account of the suit here: <http://www.talk2action.org/story/2007/5/16/213627/818>.

In 2019, California Freethought Day awarded Jerry long-overdue recognition for "his lifelong work vigorously defending the rights of the LGBT+ and secular communities and being critically involved in the start of multiple advocacy organizations." He briefly accepted his award, then used his time on stage to remind the audience about efforts to recognize Freedom of Religion Day federally and locally (<https://youtu.be/thbJZrvzpBE?t=274>).

That was Jerry, putting others first even when he was to be celebrated.

Text by David Diskin, condensed

"Best known for his successful 1984 lawsuit for breach of an oral contract against the late televangelist Reverend Jerry Falwell who reneged on a promise he made on live television to pay Sloan \$ 5000 if he produced an audio tape of Falwell making derogatory remarks about the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a Christian church founded in 1968 and the communicants are mostly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered."

SACRAMENTO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

A day with Jerry Falwell

The Sacramento Union
Saturday, December 1, 1984



STEVE YEATER/staff photos

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, right, speaks to reporters on arrival at Metro airport before a speech Friday at the convention center. At

left is Jerry Sloan, who says Falwell owes him \$5,000 over comments the Moral Majority leader allegedly made.

A bad day for Jerry Falwell

He meets hecklers and a lawsuit during visit to Sacramento

<https://www.facebook.com/jerry.sloan>

<https://saccenter.org/history>

