



Pamella Rivera staffs the AOF table at Sacramento Earth Day, April 24. Thanks to Pamella, Rae Howard, Christine Tweet and the rest of the AOF outreach team. "Diagonal across the walkway was the True Jesus Church table," reported Pam. Rae added, "The True Jesus people had a bit of trouble keeping their composure. ... one member stood in front of our tent to obstruct views ... The unintended consequences were that it directed many people to really look at our banner. Lots of support from passersby. We received 4 signups." Photo by shutterbug Roger Zabkie, natch.

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights

Fridays, May 6 & May 20, 7pm – 10pm

Location: An online Netflix movie party, see details below

Twice a month, [Reason Center](#) (RC) and AOF host a **Free Movie Night** under an [MPLC License](#). We can't always name the movies, but we try to drop hints.

For example, on May 6 it will be a 2007 legal thriller with a 91% rating from the Rotten Tomatoes reviewers. "Sharply scripted engrossing premise and faultless acting." Starring George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton. Can you ask more? The second movie (May 20) has not yet been selected. Suggestions?

To attend, you'll need a personal Netflix account + a laptop or desktop computer with the [Google Chrome](#) or [Microsoft Edge](#) web browser. If you don't have these, please wait until we have a physical movie venue again. Else, do this:

1. Open your web browser right now and install the Netflix Tele party Extension. Get it at: <https://www.netflixparty.com/>. (Really, do it *now*, don't wait till movie night!)
2. Just before 7pm, fire up the browser again and go to the very special Netflix Movie TeleParty link, which will appear on the AOF events calendar about a half hour before showtime.
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. How can you become a 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 (like this one) are almost a crime.

Questions, please contact: See <http://reasoncenter.com/contact/>.

For details on May 6: See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/285265497/>

For details on May 20: See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/qmnjtsydhbbc/>.

➤ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7pm – 8pm

Location: 9570 Harvest View Way, Sac, map at

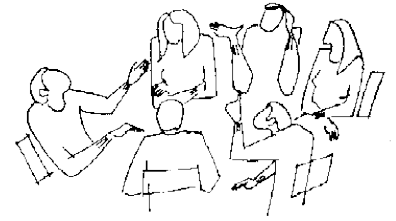
<https://goo.gl/maps/e2s3iqXYVcif47Q67>.

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

Join us, meet the Board, and keep an eye on the shenanigans. We love visitors. We have drinks & snacks. And maybe you'll have some good ideas. Note, this will be an actual in-person meeting, so be sure your vaccinations are current.

Questions, please contact: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your event and activity suggestions -- best of all, your volunteerism! Helping hands are better than ... you know.



➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 9am - 11am

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

A tidy stretch of Highway 99 runs two miles from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road -- *our* stretch! Sac-area freethinkers "adopted" it in July 1995. It's tidy because we have cared for it, nurtured it, lovingly 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 please join us! 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, leading to a slow death for many sea creatures. **And Cal-Trans will pay AOF a stipend.**

The stalwart activity captain will provide all safety equipment, including 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 location of 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.

Please review the CalTrans Highway Cleanup guidelines at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/maintenance/adopt-a-highway/covid19>.

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

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



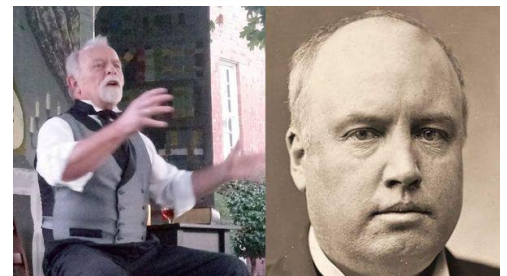
➤ "Bob" – Robert Ingersoll Speaks

Sunday, May 29, 2022, 2pm – 4pm

Location: Sam's Hofbrau meeting room, 2500 Watt Ave, map at

<https://goo.gl/maps/Sf8o8QKV1WcdQcFQA>.

Take two on this event: [Sean O'Brien](#), performance artist and drama maven, will regale us with a revised take on the life of [Robert Green Ingersoll](#). Previously planned for March, then cancelled due to venue problems, AOF now hopes to bring this one-man show to you at last this month.



You know Robert Ingersoll, of course. "Bob" was the most eloquent 19th Century freethinker, America's top orator in a day when public speaking was a bog of mediocrity wherein carbon minds floated in a syrupy sluice of their own making. In

other words, he was the envoy, the radical, the bleeding edge of freethought; and he often bled for it. You won't want to miss this one-man show. So mark your calendar. Meanwhile, our kind performer, Sean O'Brien, provides this background:

I chose "Bob" as the title of my show because Ingersoll was, in his time, warmly referenced by that appellation. And, apart from his agnosticism, he was well known for his dedication to "hearth and home" and the warmth of his family life was the single thing that so frustrated the clergy in their attempts to attack the man and not the idea, which has so often been the tack of religious bigotry and its response to rational argument. At present, "Bob", is a compilation of Ingersoll's speeches from which I have edited what I believe are his most compelling arguments; however, I am working on expanding my one-man show into a much larger two act drama with multiple characters for the stage.

Since I retired from teaching and directing Theater Arts in secondary schools from New York City, Virginia, Montana and California, I have focused on my own performance in local theaters, such as: Big Idea Theatre Company, the Sacramento and Davis Shakespeare Festivals, Chautauqua Theatre and The Art Theatre of Davis. I perform "The Portable Poe Show" in the public schools when they are open and "Bob" for regional humanist and free thought associations. I also have a singing and guitar act that I perform in Old Sacramento during tourist season and pubs when we are not in the throes of a pandemic.

Questions, please contact: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Park free in the lot. Get some snacks, and meet in the private room at the back.

➤ **Davis Community Meal – Feed the Hungry**

Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 4pm – 7pm

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA, map at <https://binged.it/1uBpi57>.

The **Davis Community Meal** is serving meals to the hungry, the poor, the indigent, the outcast. It all happens in bucolic Davis city, so near to us, where compassionate citizens have developed a secular solution for the problem of hunger, and ask for our help.

Join us in this effort. Your reward will be an opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethought friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the rosy hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!



No cooking required. The 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.

Questions, please contact: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, or call Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169).

More details at: <http://daviscommunitymeals.org/>.

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

✧ ✧ **Upcoming non-AOF Events** ✧ ✧

The Sacramento Coalition of Reason calendar, the global events calendar for *all* the local skeptic/freethought/humanist groups, is gone, gone, gone. To learn of many other local events, please bookmark & follow these individual calendars:

- The Reason Center calendar: <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/calendar/>
- Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers, <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/calendar/>
- Black Humanists of Sacramento events, <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/calendar/>
- Recovery from Religion Sacramento, <https://www.meetup.com/RfR-Sacramento-CA/events/calendar/>
- Sacramento Skeptics events, <https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/events/calendar/>
- Sacramento Brights Action Meetup events, <https://www.meetup.com/Brights-Action-Sacramento/events/calendar/>

Here are just a few highlights:

➤ **Secular California Report**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6pm

Online event (free); register at

https://freethoughtday.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nhlYDUnKR0uyI_waVUS7vg

Presented by American Atheists (AA), this is the fourth edition of the State of the Secular States report, a review of statewide laws and policies that affect religious equality and the separation of church and state, with updates from the 2021 legislative session. This live event will touch on reproductive rights, education, religious exemption, and discrimination from Sacramento to the Supreme Court. Broadcaster: Alison Gill, AA's Vice President for Legal and Policy.

➤ **Porch Talk**

Tuesdays, May 3, 17 & 31, 2022, 7pm – 8:30pm

Online event (free), attendance link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81116895135?pwd=VDVyWHJMQUIJL3R5K1V0VmxBQWVNdz09>

A social gathering on the virtual front porch, hosted by Becky Mark. Join online for a chat about topics of the day. Your suggestions for discussion topics are welcome. Enter your suggestions in the Comments box on these pages:

For May 3, see <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/zpfrpsydchbfb/>

For May 17, see <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/zpfrpsydchbwb/>

For May 31, see <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/zpfrpsydchbpc/>

➤ Saturday Morning Hike

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9am – 11am

Sacramento is filled with gorgeous nature trails. Hike, meet new folk, observe wildlife, and step in a gopher hole or two.

Location: Robie Point Firebreak Trail nr. of Folsom Lake. See <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/hfkqsydchbkb/>.

➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts

May 14 & 15, 2022

Like to hang out with local like-minded folk? Want to know your fellow freethinkers in smaller groups? Or do you just get the morning munchies? Welcome to the Blasphemy Breakfasts at Original Mel's Diners in Folsom and Rocklin. RSVP requested.

Saturday, May 14 at 10am: 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom. Details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/hkdftsychbsb/>.

Sunday, May 15 at 9:30am: 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin. Details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/pwnssydchbtb/>.

➤ Secular Advocacy Week

May 23 - 27, 2022, plus Orientation on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 6pm

Details and Register at: <https://freethoughtday.org/programs/advocacy/>

Secular Advocacy Week is connecting the freethought community with California's lawmakers, an event is designed for statewide participation and flexibility. The online orientation will help you learn about current bills and connect you with others in your district, and empower you to set meetings with your elected officials -- ideally during the week of May 23 through 27. This time, Secular Advocacy Week will focus on these three bills:

- Public Education (CA ACA-6)
- Contraceptive Access (CA SB-523)
- Abortion Access (CA AB-1666)

And don't forget: this year's California Freethought Day, October 9 (Sunday), 2022. The theme, "Question, Think, Vote," will drive the \$2,000 student scholarship contest, starting in just a couple weeks. Sponsorship opportunities and signups for free exhibition tables will begin soon. For developing details see <https://freethoughtday.org/>.

How you can help us.

• Join or Support Reason Center

Ah Reason Center, do you remember? It opened in July 2014, hosted hundreds of events, then closed in November 2020. In its day it created a social and intellectual community for us, contributed to society through education and community service, advanced civic understanding and acceptance, and upheld the separation of religion and government. Will "RC" ever return? That depends on you. Please stand up for Reason Center. To donate or join, visit ReasonCenter.org.

• Support AOF

You can support AOF too, 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! (AOF pays honorariums.) Go to <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, click "Program Committee" in the drop-down line, and enter your wise thoughts.

• Volunteer?

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

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ National Day of Reason

Thursday, May 5, 2022

First endorsed first in 2003 and honored by U.S. secularists, the [National Day of Reason](#) (NDoR) occurs on the first



Thursday of May. NDoR is a response and counterbalance to the National Day of Prayer, designated by the US Congress since 1952. On this day all humanist Americans can join hands to celebrate rationality—a concept all should support. The goal: to raise public awareness of the persistent threat to religious liberty posed by government intrusion into the sphere of private worship. For details, and to learn about events in your area, see <http://www.nationaldayofreason.org/>.

On January 23, 1808, in a letter to the Reverend Samuel Miller, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson had these words:

"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it. ...civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States and *no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents.*" [emphasis added]

The National Day of Reason, a *movable* secular holiday, can occur any time from May 1 to May 7.

➤ Towel Day

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

[Towel Day](#) is the annual celebration of the life and writings of Douglas Adams (1952-2001), humorist, humanist, conservationist, science fiction writer, and social critic. On that day, fans around the universe proudly carry a towel in his honor. Why a towel? Don't panic, go to the website to see - or better yet, read [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#). It's a great book.



➤ Opposite Day

Thursday, May 26, 2022

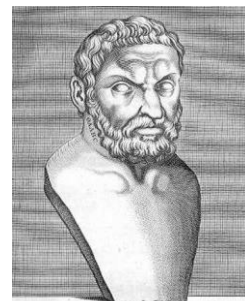
Some say the proper date is May 26, some say April 30, some say March 27th -- can you ever be sure? When someone says "Today is **Opposite Day**," he might be lying! Opposite Day is a day to say the reverse of what you mean, with a wink, with a nod; a day when "no" means "yes" and "shut up" means "keep talking;" a day to be nice to your boss, teacher or enemy, and a complete jerk to your best friend; a day to turn words on their head; a day to tie knots in logic. Celebrate with care. It might get you in trouble!

etizooqo

➤ Birthday of Science

Saturday, May 28, 2022

The **Birthday of Science** marks the day Thales of Miletus (in 585 BCE) correctly predicted a solar eclipse. A better choice might be the discovery of fire or the wheel, but we don't know exactly when that happened, or who did it. We *do* know about Thales. His prediction was significant because the idea of cause and effect (causality) applies to all science. Given any phenomenon, with the exception of purely random quantum events, in principle we can trace its cause or causes, and the cause of those causes, back through time -- until all cause-tracks merge at the "Big Bang," beyond which, presumably, no tracks remain. The seeds of our life and future were sewn then. The [Large Hadron Collider](#) is an effort to re-create those first moments.



Science desires a beginning that applies to the big picture, and a sense of order and predictability. That is where causality leads us.



Family News:

Anna Mae Andrews, August 16, 1932 - January 28, 2022

We will miss "Animated Anna," outspoken Sacramento humanist, born on a cattle farm in Rutland, Illinois. Her surviving family includes daughters Glenda Smaage, Beth Smaage, son-in-law Peter Killian, grandchildren Roseann and Alex, great grandchildren Ben, Ivy and Evan, and many friends (and a couple not so friendly). Her sisters Joy Wentsel, Mary Lou Andrews and adopted-sister Jean Berry also survive Anna, whom they characterized as "different."

Anna enjoyed photography, travel to exotic places, preparing (and eating) ethnic foods, reading in bed (particularly biography), and garage sales. She furnished her home with other people's antiques, textiles, Persian rugs, and paintings by friends. Store-bought goods had no personality, she claimed.

She had been an elementary school teacher, a director of religious education, and a committee secretary in the California Senate. She was a volunteer in many non-profit organizations including Peace Action, UNICEF, and Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, and worked on political campaigns.

Ms. Anna Mae Andrews jokingly stated that her tombstone should say she was "Animated." However, she has been cremated and her ashes serenely and gently dispensed. Having lived in Illinois, Georgia and California, and traveled extensively to Europe, Asia, South America, Canada and many of the National Parks of the United States, she wanted to end it in a cool, beautiful river. Friends and relatives may be breathing a sigh of relief. But will also miss her.



Full memorial at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/anna-andrews-obituary?id=34057191>.

The Bristol Blasphemer

THE QUAKERS HAD THE SENSE to spring up in the 1640s, England's first ever period of religious toleration. This meant that if they wanted persecution and opposition as a sign of divine approval, they really had to push the boat out.

This presumably is what inspired James Nayler, one of the first Quaker leaders, to proclaim himself Christ. He was a Yorkshire farmer, and one day while he was out ploughing he got himself a calling. So he gave up his possessions and toured the country, telling everyone that if they had God's spirit they were equal to God.

His enchanting preaching and sumptuous hair got him a devoted following, largely of women.

Someone (God, apparently) told them that the Second Coming would be in 1656, which they got very excited about. But it got to October, and there was still no sign of it. So they finally realized that the answer had been under their noses all the time: James Nayler was Jesus!

He rode into Bristol on horseback, in the pouring rain, with the women laying their cloaks before him in the mud, singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Israel." All men are equal to God, but some are more equal than others. They were still singing as they were led into prison.

Surprisingly, the story doesn't end with an execution. Instead, Nayler was whipped through the streets, branded with a "B" for "blasphemer" and had a hole bored through his tongue. He was left in the stocks, where a friend stroked and kissed him and licked the hot brand. Another put up a sign saying: "This is the King of the Jews."

Later, Nayler wrote a letter from prison renouncing his folly. And announced that although he had previously rejected the other Quakers (in his temporary post as Judge of the Living and the Dead), he would now be reconciled with them. Which I'm sure was a great relief to them.

**GUYS, IF $0^{\circ}\text{C} = 32^{\circ}\text{F}$
THEN $0^{\circ}\text{C} + 0^{\circ}\text{C} = 64^{\circ}\text{F}$**



Atheist Chaplin video (a parody):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HwYxkBeiZo>



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,
Rae Howard, 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 pages (two):

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

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>.