

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, July 9, 2022, 9am - 11am

Location: Near W. Elkhorn Blvd & Hwy 99, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZZHcYEApn19PuJDa6>.

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. Since then we have cared for it, nurtured it, rescued it from litter and debris, and received recognition for our work. A 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, degrading habitat, and leading to a slow death for many sea creatures. **And Cal-Trans will pay AOF a stipend for our work.**



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.

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.

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).

➤ Board of Directors Meeting

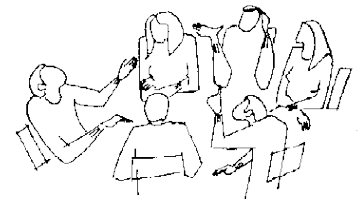
Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 7pm - 8pm

Location: Raley's mezzanine/balcony, 2075 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sac, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/Z5XhA6tGsQ23NqVS8>.

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.

Join us, meet the Board, keep an eye on the shenanigans. We love visitors. We often have 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, or just don't cough on us.



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 the bomb.

➤ Free Movie Night

Friday, July 15, 7pm – 10pm

Location: A Netflix TeleParty, details below

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

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 have these, do as follows:

1. Open your Chrome web browser right now and install the Netflix TeleParty Extension. Get it at <https://www.netflixparty.com/>. (Please 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 about then.
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 non-members are perfectly welcome. To become a Reason Center member, if you'd like, sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership is a measly \$5 a month and is tax deductible if you itemize. We hate taxes, right?

For more details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/qmnjtsydckbtb/>.

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

➤ To Be Announced (TBA)

Sunday, July 31, 2022, 2 pm - 4 pm

Location: Sam's Hof Brau meeting room, 2500 Watt Ave, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/Sf8o8QKV1WcDQcFQA>.

The dreaded TBA ... We have a great program planned, that is, we want one, we hope for one, but suddenly it's July and deadlines are breathing hot gusts down our necks and things are still squishy. So this. It's To-Be-Announced for now, but as soon as we have the final bits we will let you know.

For sure it will happen, for sure it will be interesting. OK, a hint (whisper). "SCOTUS." We can say no more for now. *Glance around warily*

Take a chance? Join us? Sam's Hof Brau is a fun cafeteria style restaurant. We convene in the grand banquet room in the back. We always have a good time. We always leave tips.

Note, this is an in-person event. Be aware of COVID risks and plan accordingly.

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

Park free in the lot. Get some chow, and meet us in the back.



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

Global Events Calendar

The [Sacramento-Area Coalition of Reason](#) is back, with its combined calendar for all the local skeptic/freethought/humanist groups. Want a grand tour of other events in the local area? Visit <https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>.

Following are just a few highlights.

➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts

Saturday, July 9, 2022, 10am – 11:30am, and

Sunday, July 17, 2022, 9:30am – 11am

Do you like to hang out with like-minded people? Want to get to know freethinkers in smaller groups? Or do you just get the morning munchies? Join us at Mel's Diner for what we call our "Blasphemy Breakfast," not that we blaspheme that much, but who knows what someone will say? This is a great starter event, if you haven't been to meetups before.

On **July 9:** 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6>.

On **July 17:** 6708 Lonetree Boulevard, Rocklin, CA 95677, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gg72KkmkC4bU6>.

➤ Women's Online Recovery from Religion Support Group

Saturday, July 9, 2022, 5pm – 7pm

For individuals who identify as female, non-binary and gender-fluid, recovering from the crush of oppressive religion.

Online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87403436249>.

➤ Word Confusion

Saturday, July 9, 2022, 7pm

Wondering about a word or phrase? Quirks of language come into use or change over time. Here's a online gathering to discuss them. Hosted by Nancy Sneed. For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/286617622/>.

Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417809715?pwd=UGx1Q3hpU25iWkwrZjZaTWZFMEMxZz09>.

➤ Coffee and Community

Sunday, July 17, 2022, 9:30am – 11am

Meet us for coffee, treats, and conversation. We bring folding chairs and our own favorite coffee or tea. Please feel free to share your favorite snacks or goodies, but if you don't, come anyway, there is always plenty. New folk welcome! Hosted by Nancy Sneed and Mynga Futrell, two wonderful people.

Planned location for July 17: East Portal Park, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/p8WHusZXbNnca94r8>.

➤ Recovery from Religion Online Support Group

Thursday, July 21, 2022, 7pm – 9pm

Providing ongoing and personal support to individuals as they let go of their religious beliefs.

Online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268955990>.

➤ Remote Book Club (BHNBS)

Saturday, July 23, 3pm – 5pm

Topic: *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*. “The New York Times Magazine’s award-winning 1619 Project issue reframed our understanding of American history ...”

To attend, see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/286860745/>.

➤ Saturday Morning Hike

Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9:30am – 11:30am

Sacramento is filled with gorgeous hiking places, ranging from riverside nature to rugged hills. Join us for a hike event each first Saturday of the month, to meet new people, observe nature, and get burrs in your socks. Site to be announced.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/hfkcqsydclbjb/>.

Questions or site suggestions, please contact Muhannad at <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/members/328699576/>.

✧ ✧ Non-local Events ✧ ✧

➤ Sunday Assembly International Conference

July 15-17, Nile Hall at Preservation Park, Oakland

Gather with Sunday Assembly friends and members from around the world for two and a half days of music, speakers, and breakout sessions among your fellow interested community builders. Find inspiration on building positive and inclusive communities. Hosted by Sunday Assembly East Bay and Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley.

Map to site: see <https://goo.gl/maps/KPZy3fdvkEkRSxyQA>.

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-assembly-international-conference-2022-tickets-312787845867>.

➤ 2022 SkeptiCal Conference

July 16-17, Online

Theme: Science Sees Further

An online conference brought by the Northern California Skeptics. Including Virtual Skeptics in the Pub, Skeptics in the Metaverse and Skeptical Trivia. Details at <http://www.skepticalcon.com/>. For tickets and attendance link, see

<http://www.skepticalcon.com/tickets-2022>.

You can help us. Here's how.

• Join or Support Reason Center

Ah Reason Center, you may remember – it opened in July 2014, hosted hundreds of events, then closed in November 2020. In its day it was a social and intellectual community, it contributed to society through education and community service, it advanced civic understanding and acceptance, and it 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.



Thanks, Sergio Aragonés

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays in July ✧ ✧

➤ Chevalier de la Barre Day

Friday, July 1, 2021

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

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

The Chevalier and two young friends had been accused of defacing a crucifix in the French town of Abbeville. None saw this happen, but local clergy harassed and harangued the villagers until a few, fearing excommunication, vaguely recalled three youths who had not removed their hats at a recent Catholic procession. They pointed out La Barre and his friends. Once charged, one of the youths fled to Holland, and one (only 15 years old) was simply fined. Only the 19 year old La Barre remained. A search of his home turned up three forbidden books. The courts and the church decided they had their ideal suspect. Mercilessly they tortured him, cut out his tongue, and decapitated him. Eventually they burned his body on a pyre along with his copy of Voltaire's book.

In 1905, a statue of Jean-Francois, Chevalier de la Barre was built in Montmartre, on the outskirts of Paris. In 1941, Nazi collaborationists removed it and melted down for munitions for the war effort – while leaving statues of saints and kings intact.

In France, Chevalier de la Barre Day often features demonstrations in his memory. Today, freethinkers in France and the West experience great freedom in their lives, but in other cultures still torture and kill freethinkers and dissidents for their beliefs. Chevalier de la Barre Day is therefore a day to remember all those men and women persecuted by religion. For more information, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois-Jean_de_la_Barre.



➤ Indivisible Day

Monday, July 4, 2021

In the state of Minnesota, former Governor Jess Ventura declared Independence Day to be **Indivisible Day**, a day in recognition of the separation of Church and State, and the vital role it has played in keeping our nation free and whole. See:

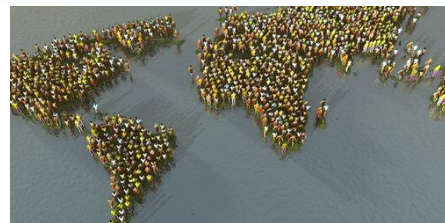
https://secularseasons.org/july/indivisible_day.html.



➤ World Population Day

Monday, July 11, 2021

In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme established **World Population Day** to raise awareness of global population issues. The inspiration was public interest in Five Billion Day, July 11, 1987, when the world's population reached approximately five billion people. Visit the World Population Clock at <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>.



"I'm Secular and I Vote" – Cheers to the [Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation](https://www.greater-sacramento.org/freedom-from-religion-foundation) for the full page paid ad celebrating secular values and Church/State Separation in the July 3rd edition of the *Sacramento Bee* (page 3A). A red, white & blue spectacular, it featured Sacramento college student and activist Dulce Solorzano, who also currently appears on a billboard at 20th & K Street (photo by Judy Saint). If you missed it, see the FFRF news release at <https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/41177-agnostic-students-on-billboard-july-4th-secular-voter-ads>.

Jerry Sloan – More cheers to the *Sacramento Bee* for the retrospective on the late AOF charter member and his successful 1986 lawsuit against televangelist Jerry Falwell. It's a great story, and if you'd like to enjoy it again, see <https://www.sacbee.com/article262508452.html>. You may have to log in, but it's free, and worth it!





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 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, 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 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>.

\$1,000 Essay Scholarship

Entering an election season amidst growing divides, [California Freethought Day](http://www.freethoughtday.org) (CFD) recognizes that the core of a functional democracy is to question, think, and vote. Therefore it offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a California high school student that submits an essay, responding to this prompt:

What are your thoughts about the issues that have you question (what you hear), think (about the state of everything), and vote (in upcoming elections)?

Applications for the Scholarship are due by noon, PDT on Sept 16, 2022. For details and how to submit, see <https://freethoughtday.org/scholarships-essay/>.



From <https://ifunny.co/picture/julie-mannell-i-thought-women-had-their-periods-forever-when-dvMNR8fN8>

THAT REAL OLD TIME RELIGION (With apologies to Pete Seeger)

Chorus:

Give me that *Real* Old Time Religion,
Give me that *Real* Old Time Religion,
Give me that *Real* Old Time Religion ...
It's good enough for me!

We will worship Aphrodite,
'Though she's kind of wild and flighty -
She'll be out there in her 'nighty
And that's good enough for me!

We'll sing praises to Apollo;
Where the Sun God leads we'll follow,
'Though his head's a little hollow -
He's good enough for me!

With the aid of my athame
I can throw a "double-whammy"
(And can slice and dice salami!)
So it's good enough for me.

Let us raise a toast to Bachus,
We will raise a royal ruckus,
Then we'll lay us down and f**k us -
That's good enough for me.

Uncle Crowley was a dreamer
At the Abbey of Thelema
But his magick is a screamer,
So it's good enough for me.

We will worship Great Cthulhu,
We will worship Great Cthulhu,
And we'll feed him Mr. Sulu
'Cause that's good enough for me!

It was good enough for Dagan,
A conservative old pagan,
Who still votes for Ronald Reagan,
But he's good enough for me!

Well I'm tired of Ronald Reagan,
He's too square to be a pagan,
Let's all vote for Carl Sagan!
He's good enough for me.

We will worship like the Druids
And drink strange, fermented fluids
And run naked through the woods
'Cause that's good enough for me!

It was good enough for Isis,
'Cause she comes through in a crisis
And she's never raised her prices
So she's good enough for me.

There are some that call it folly
When we worship Mother Kali.
She may not be very jolly,
But she's good enough for me.

Shall we sing in praise of Loki,
Though he left poor Midgard smokey;
Oh, his sense of humor's hokey,
But he's good enough for me.

It was good enough for Loki,
The old Norse god of chaos,
Which is why this verse doesn't rhyme or
scan -- But it's good enough for me!

Montezuma liked to start out
Rites by carrying a part out
That would really tear your heart out,
But it's good enough for me!

It was good enough for Odin
Though the tremblin' got forbodin'
Then the giants finally strode in,
But it's good enough for me.

Shall we sing a verse for Thor,
Though he leaves the maidens sore?
They always come back for more,
So he's good enough for me!

It was good enough for Venus,
Of the Gods she is the meanest
And she bit me on my ... elbow
But she's good enough for me!

There are those who practice Voodoo,
There are those who practice Hoodoo,
I know I do, I hope you do -
It's good enough for me.

We will sing for great Diana,
Who will teach us love and honor,
But you truly gotta wanna!
And she's good enough for me.

Young Bacchus in the springtime,
Leads the dancers round the grapevine--
Soon those grapes are gonna be wine,
And that's good enough for me.

We will call on Minerva.
If you really want to serve her,
Learn crafty wisdom further,
And that's good enough for me.

At the dancing Pan will gloat
And to yells give lusty throat-
He could really get your goat
But he's good enough for me.

Let us dance with Dionysus
And get drunk on wine and spices,
The Christians call them "vices,"
But they're good enough for me.

We had better worship Neptune,
Yes we'd better worship Neptune,
If we don't we'll all be wet soon,
And that's wet enough for me!

To Our Lady of Ephesians,
Who has taps for all secretions,
We'll dance for all the seasons,
Which is good enough for me.

At Troy nobody was meana'
Than the Great Goddess Athena,
Mopped them up with Ajax clean-a,
And that's good enough for me.

Let us all join with the Dryads,
Let us all join with the Dryads,
Trees may not be quite the Triad,
But they're good enough for me.

Let's dance with the Bacchantes,
For they're not your maiden Aunties,
And they don't wear underpants,
But they're wild enough for me.

When the Wild Hunt fills the evening,
With a howling and a screaming,
Diana's eyes are a gleaming,
And that's where I wanna be.

We will sing a verse for Eris
(Golden apples for the fairest!)
Though she sometimes likes to scare us,
But she's good enough for me.

I asked questions of the Sybil,
And she gave me back a riddle,
That just left me in a muddle,
But that's good enough for me.

Let us not forget ol' Isis,
She will help you thru your crisis,
'N make your magic glow brightest,
And that's good enough for me.

Bumper stickers of all sizes,
At quite reasonable prices,
They say, "'Ankh' if you love Isis,"
And that's good enough for me.

We will have a mighty Party
In the honor of Astarte,
Grab your chiton - don't be tardy,
'Cause she's good enough for me.

We will go and worship Baal,
For he is the Lord of All,
In the fields and in the hall,
He is good enough for me.

There are some that call it folly
When we worship Mother Kali.
She may not be very jolly,
But she's good enough for me.

We will party with the Sidhe
For a hundred years or three,
And get duct-taped to a tree,
And that's good enough for me.

Joining at our Witching hour,
By bud and leaf and flower,
We'll raise a cone of power,
That's good enough for me.

Oh my neighbor is a Buddhist,
And my roommate a Voodooist,
Me, I'm just a nudist,
But that's good enough for me!

