



AOF members greet you from the recent meeting at Sam's Hofbrau (Aug 28). Have you ever seen such a motley and ragged crew? Pic by R Zabkie.

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ AOF Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 13, 2022, 7pm - 8pm

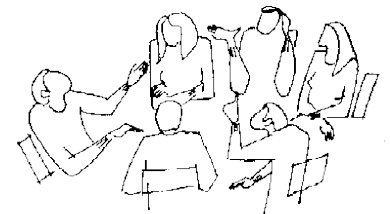
Location: Raley's meeting room, 4650 Natomas Blvd, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/4tFm5nT4azMtTSzk6>.

It's a 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 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 for details: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your event suggestions -- best of all, your volunteerism! Helping hands are the bomb. (A good kind of bomb.)



➤ Free Movie Night!

Friday, Sept 16, 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](#).

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!) (But note, you only need do it once; if you already have the extension, skip this step.)
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.

Details for Sept 16: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/qmnjtsydcmbvbl/>.

Or contact Reason Center at <http://reasoncenter.com/contact/>.

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

➤ **Potluck Picnic in the Park**

Sunday, Sept 25, 2022, 2pm - 4pm

Location: Westwood Park, 8100 Butternut Drive, Citrus Heights, map at <http://mapq.st/3BhFpNz>.

Come hobnob again at AOF's *second* annual potluck picnic. (A year ago it was a blast!)

Please bring a picnic dish to serve 6-8 people, something portable and yummy. Also BYO *non*-alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is a no-no in this park - the park patrol will be watching. BYO cushion too, if you like. Picnic benches are hard. Ouch.

AOF will provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and water. The picnic tables are in the shade and the restrooms are clean. AOF will import extra shade by special contract.

Parking is free and a breeze. The neighborhood around the park has parking. Also there's a free parking lot. To get to the lot from Butternut Drive, turn right onto Treeleaf Way, then turn right onto Cloverleaf.

General 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 the second 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? Yes, that's it.

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

Contact for details: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Masks an option for vaccinated. But be careful, social distance, and don't cough on the food.



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

AOF is just one of several freethought groups in Sacramento. Others are meeting and thriving, hosting their own unique parties, with loads of fun. Following is a sample.

➤ **Coffee and Community**

Sunday, Sep 4, 2022, 10:30am – 12 noon (online meetup only)

Sunday, Sep 18, 2022, 9:30am – 11am (in the park)

Meet us for coffee, treats, and conversation. For the in-person meetup, we bring folding chairs and our own favorite coffee or tea. 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 gregarious people.

Video link for Sept 7: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468875186?pwd=dGkxTXY5a2p3cTFPTmx2MU95ZWpnUT09>.

Location for August 21: East Portal Park, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/p8WHusZXbNnca94r8>.

For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/calendar/>.

➤ **Recovery from Religion Online Support Groups**

Sunday, Sep 4, 2022, 4pm – 6pm, and

Thursday, Sep 15, 8pm – 10pm, and

Saturday, Sep 17, 2022, 7am – 9am

Providing ongoing and personal support to individuals letting go of their religious beliefs. “RfR” is here to help you on this often painful journey.

For Sep 4, online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>.

For Sep 15, online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268955990>.

For Sep 17, online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>.

➤ **Blasphemy Breakfasts**

Saturday, Sep 10, 2022, 10am – 11:30am, and

Sunday, Sep 18, 2022, 9:30am – 11am

Do you like to hang out with like-minded people? Want to meet with 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." We don't blaspheme all that much, but who knows what dark mutterings will emerge? This is a great starter event if you haven't been to meetups before.

On Sep 10: 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6>.

On Sep 18: 6708 Lonetree Boulevard, Rocklin, CA 95677, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gq72KkmkC4bU6>.

➤ Women's Online Recovery from Religion Support Group

Saturday, Sep 10, 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, Sep 10, 2022, 7pm – 9pm

Wonder about words or phrases? Quirks of language come into use or change over time. Here's a gathering to discuss them. Hosted by Nancy Sneed. For details, see <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/rsshqsydcmbnb/>.

Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417809715?pwd=UGx1Q3hpU25iWkwrZjZaTWZFZMEMxZz09>.

➤ Meet Dan Barker ☆☆☆

Sunday, Sept 11, 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Location: Riley Community Center, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd, Roseville, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/pu3kCa9V5fRk4oZp9>.

Topic: The End of Worship

Free, open to the Public! Dan Barker, co-president of [Freedom From Religion Foundation](https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/rsshqsydcmbnb/) (FFRF), will tell us of his new book, *The End of Worship*, followed by Q&A, book signing, and optional dinner at a local restaurant with Dan.

Dan loves meeting you! That's why we're allowing lots of social time so you can get to know him and he can get to know you, before and after his talk, Q&A and book signing.

1:30 Doors open for snacks and social time with Dan

2:00 Welcome and Introduction

3:10 Q & A

3:20 Book signing, followed by additional social time

4:30 (optional) Meet us for dinner with Dan! Location will be announced at the event.

No RSVP needed. Just show up with your friends! Come early to talk with Dan as we all enjoy some yummy snacks.

See You There! Hosted by **Judy Saint** of the Sacramento Chapter of FFRF.

For details: Email sac@ffrf.org, or see <https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/sacfan/events/287745212/>.



➤ Saturday Morning Hike

Saturdays, Sep 17 & Oct 1, 2022,

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. For Sep 17, site will be Avery's Pond Trail, north of Folsom Lake. Oct 1 site to be determined.

Sep 17, 9:00am – 11:30am, details at: <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/hfkcgqsydcmbfb/>.

Oct 1, 9:30am – 12 noon, details at: <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/hfkcgqsydcnbcf/>.

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

➤ Online Photo-share

Wednesday, Sep 28, 2022, 7pm – 9pm

Enjoy photography? Maybe you caught something interesting or mysterious, perhaps a landscape, a sculpture, a flower, a plant or tree, and that photo that's unique. And you might have a story behind your photo you'd like to share. Join us for a pic-exchange and discussion of the art. This event will occur on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

- Please upload your best pics to your computer beforehand.
- Photos should be appropriate for general audiences. No sexy selfies, please.
- Please do not share photos of individuals without their expressed permission.

Online attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417809715?pwd=UGx1Q3hpU25iWkwrZjZaTWZFZMEMxZz09>.

Questions, contact Nancy Sneed at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/members/13951445/>.

➤ More Events - Sacramento Event Calendars

Most of the local skeptic/freethought/humanist groups have their own event calendars; and plans keep changing. So don't depend on the static listing above. To track local events, please bookmark & follow these links:

- Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers, <https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/events/calendar/>
- The Reason Center calendar: <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/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/>

You can help AOF. Here's how.

Support Reason Center

Remember Reason Center? It opened in July 2014, hosted hundreds of events, accrued twelve partner organizations, then closed in November 2020. It created a social and intellectual community for us, contributed to society through education and service, advanced civic understanding and acceptance, and upheld the separation of religion and government. Will "RC" return? That depends on you! Please stand up for Reason Center! Donate to RC or join it at [ReasonCenter.org](https://www.reasoncenter.org).

Support AOF

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

Suggest a Meeting

Know a compelling speaker, have a great meeting idea? Tell AOF at <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>. Click "Program Committee" in the drop-down line and enter your thoughtful suggestion. (Reasonable honorariums paid to speakers.)

Volunteer?

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

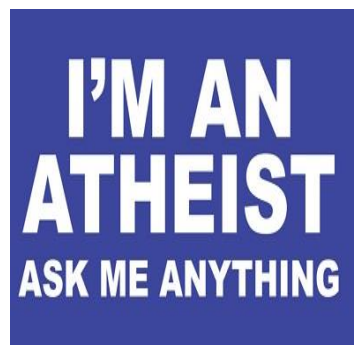
✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ Ask An Atheist Day

Thursday, Sep 15, 2022

[National Ask an Atheist Day](#) is a movable secular holiday that occurs twice each year -- first on the 3rd Thursday of April (which can be anywhere 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.



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.

➤ World Cleanup Day

Saturday, Sep 17

In the United States, [World Cleanup Day](#) (WCD) is the third Saturday of September, which 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.

The idea of WCD began in the small country of 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 off 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.

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.

➤ Talk Like A Pirate Day

Monday, Sep 19, 2022

Avast ye lubbers. International **Talk Like a Pirate Day** is a day to show off your Piratude. Created in 1995 by John Baur and Mark Summers, promulgated to worldwide popularity by humorist Dave Barry in a syndicated column, this is a secular holiday we can celebrate in many ways: garb like pirates, talk like pirates, swill grog like pirates, stagger and fall down like pirates.

What's grog? Never mind, just find some and knock it back. Then haul your keel, shiver your timbers, and do wha' ever else seem right and proper, 'cause this be a day to celebrate. More info ahoy, [here](#).

Other Piratery links:

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

Translate any text into Pirate Talk at <https://funtranslations.com/pirate>.

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



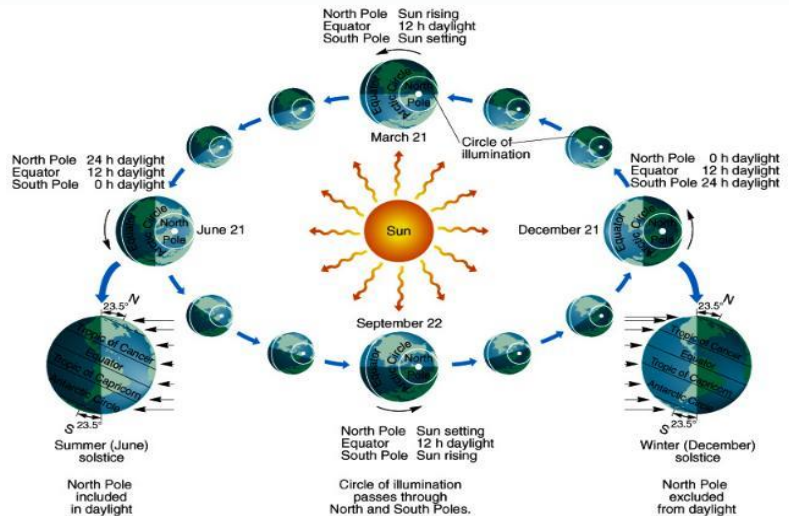
➤ Equinox (September)

Thursday, Sep 22

The **September Equinox** is one of two days in the calendar year when day almost equal the night hours. In the northern 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. It is 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

Friday, Sep 18 – Friday, Sep 24, 2022

September's last full week is **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 [National Association of College Stores](#). It is endorsed by [the Library of Congress Center for the Book](#).

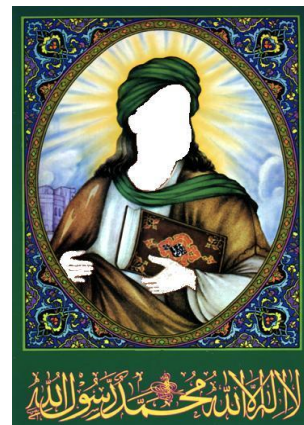
➤ Blasphemy Day

Friday, September 30, 2022

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 Amherst, 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 religious 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."

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!



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, 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>.

IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES, the clergy of Hereford used to mark holy days by parading around their cathedral in full ecclesiastical regalia, and of course deep meditation and pious humility.

The first time he tried it, he set off reading a prayer book. The procession barely began when a nearby stallion spotted his mare, and instantly fell in love. The next thing Dean Price knew, his devotions were being *very* rudely interrupted. The stallion also wanted to take a ride on the back of his new-found friend.

Still, he evidently learnt something from his unexpected involvement in this equine *ménage à trois*. Next time, he went on foot.



Dr. David A. Clark is a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests include the development of social skills and the role of social support in mental health.



OH LORD PLEASE DELIVER ME FROM PERIL!

OH THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THE TIGER IS...

GOTTA STOP YOU THERE

JUST THAT YOU'LL ENTER THE SYSTEM

BUT THE TIGER!

MY PRESENCE DOESN'T MEAN YOUR PRAYER WILL BE ANSWERED

COMPLETE THE FORM AND WE CAN GET YOUR CASE UNDERWAY

ONCE THAT'S DONE YOU'LL SAVE ME?

NOT ME PERSONALLY

BUT I'M... I'M...

WELL THERE ARE THREE MAIN BRANCHES- PROCESSING, SERVICES AND...

AAAAA!

THANK YOU LORD FOR YOUR BENEVOLENCE

YOU'LL GET A YES OR NO ANSWER WITHIN SIX MONTHS

...VERY INTERESTED IN HOW THIS ALL WORKS. PLEASE TELL ME MORE

Thank you,
Oglaf.com