

✧ ✧ This month's Main AOF Event ✧ ✧

➤ Humanism & Social Justice

Sunday, June 25, 2023, 2pm – 4pm

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8>.

What a topic. The [Black Humanists and Non-Believers of Sacramento](#) (BHNBS) will conduct a panel presentation on "Humanism and Social Justice." A weedy and wide-ranging issue, it includes the economic impact of racism on the African American community, why humanism demands social justice, and the broader meaning of abolitionism and restorative justice. The panel will include a Q&A and discussion. So bring your questions. Don't be shy.



What is BHNBS? It's an outreach and educational community group for atheists, humanists, non-believers, skeptics and agnostics of color. Also for those questioning their religious beliefs and seeking information on atheism/humanism/etc in a supportive and judgment-free environment. They hold educational forums and socials for the community. They have book discussions and yummy breakfasts. And they welcome all members, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. For more info about BHNBS, and the breakfasts, especially the breakfasts, see [meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento](https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento) or [facebook.com/blackhumanistsofsacramento](https://www.facebook.com/blackhumanistsofsacramento).

Contact for details: Email "programs (at) aofonline (dot) org", or see <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Park free in the lot. This is an in-person event. OK to bring snacks & beverages for yourself - or to share as you wish. In fact we encourage it.

✧ ✧ More AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 9 am – 11 am

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, 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! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a deed for the environment and local area wildlife. Else the refuse we collect might be swept by the rain into tributaries and into the ocean, degrading habitat, and leading to a slow death for many sea creatures. Note, Cal-Trans is now paying 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 Natomas area. 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 for details: 916-805-9337 (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.

Note, 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>.



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

As we remind you each month, forgive us for harping, Sacramento has other freethought groups besides AOF. Read:

➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts (and a Brunch)

Sunday, Jun 4, 2023, 9:30am – 11am (Midtown Sac)

Saturday, Jun 10, 2023, 10am – 11:30am (Folsom)

Sunday, Jun 18, 2023, 9:30am – 11am (Rocklin)

Jun 4 location: Mel's Diner, 3000 J Street, Sacramento, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/toijMkseMWmTanVP7>.

Jun 10 location: Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6>.

Jun 18 location: Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gq72KkmkC4bU6>.

Like to hang out with like-minded people? Want to meet freethinkers in smaller groups? Or do you just get the morning munchies? Join us for our "Blasphemy Breakfast." We really don't blaspheme all that much, but who knows what dark mutterings will emerge? A great place to speak your mind, and a good starter if you are new to meetups.

Details for Jun 4, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/293722074/>.

Details for Jun 10, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/zqwfdfyfcjbnb/>.

Details for Jun 18, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/pwnssyfcjbx/b/>.

➤ Recovery from Religion (RfR) Virtual Support meetings

Sunday, Jun 4, 4pm – 6pm (attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Saturday, Jun 10, 5pm – 7pm (women & non-binary only, attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Saturday, Jun 17, 7pm – 9pm (attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Sunday, Jun 18, 12 noon – 2pm (for LGBTQA+ folk, attendance link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Providing ongoing and personal support to individuals letting go of religious beliefs. Please be sensitive and tolerant, and cut others some slack, because we all need slack. "RfR" is here to help.

➤ Atheist Community Videos & discussion

Monday, Jun 5, 2023, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Educational and entertaining presentations on Atheism, Logic, Reason, and Thoughtfulness, every 1st Monday by [Atheists United](#). Attendance link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86335813654?pwd=RktpTmhQSzZRZ1UwV3htaUg5QzhzUT09>.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/hhpqdyfcjhb/b/>.

➤ Free Movie Night at Reason Center

Friday, Jun 9, 7pm – 9pm

Come to a Free Movie Night at our new Reason Center in Sac. The movie will be *A Man Called Otto* with Tom Hanks, about a grump who has given up on life, like most of us (not).

We are in the back corner of the building – you can find us. No fee for the movie, but "RC" does appreciate donations. Bring your own snacks & drinks & snickerdoodles.

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sac., map at <https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8>.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/bsksdyfcjbm/b/> or call RC at 916-426-6416.

You can suggest your own favorite flick for next time, how cool is that?



➤ Game Night at Reason Center

Saturday, Jun 10, 2023, 5pm – 8pm

Board & card games to play at "RC". The Center has some games but you are welcome to bring your own. Bring some food too, it's a pot luck. No gambling please! No blood sports either. We warn you.

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sac., map at <https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8>.

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



➤ Sunday Assembly

Sunday, Jun 11, 2023, 11am - 1pm (doors open 10:30am)

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Suite 675, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/S5MR1e8ZodBzb4TG8>.

Sunday Assembly is a secular celebration with music, readings and speakers, plus entertainment for children. For the potluck lunch, bring your favorite dish to share, and be hungry.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/snnjbtfcjbp/b/>.

➤ Suicide Loss Survivors Discussion and Support

Tuesday, Jun 13, 2023, 5pm – 7pm

Online survivor support in a compassionate, secular way. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82683645189>.

➤ Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, Jun 18, 2023, 12 noon – whenever

Location: Shine Cafe, 1400 E Street, Sacramento, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/8YJG9B7PbAwNjxjh6>.

The history of ancient Christianity is endlessly fascinating. Don Fox and Steve Thoreson will parse the early history, the religions of Rome, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, persecutions, biographies of major Christians, Bible writings and other such topics. Previous biblical knowledge not required to participate.

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

➤ Black Humanists & Non-Believers Book Club

Saturday, Jun 24, 2023, 4pm – 5:30pm

An online book discussion open to all. This will cover Chapters 1-4 of "Black Labor, White Wealth: The Search for Power and Economic Justice," by Claud Anderson. RSVP to attend.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/whnfftyfcjbgc/>.

➤ Coffee and Community

Sunday, Jun 25, 2023, 10:30am – 12 noon (online meeting)

Link: To attend, click

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88317332021?pwd=OVI6M3IRQm52L0hQUmhwd0pucENEQT09>.

Meet for open-topic conversation, bring your own coffee. Get to know new folk or visit with some old friends! Hosted by Nancy Sneed and Mynga Futrell, such friendly people!



➤ Porch Talk

Wednesday, Jun 28, 7pm – 8:30pm

A social gathering on the virtual front porch. Join online for a chat on topics of the day. Your suggestions for discussion topics are welcome. Hosted by Heather Dawson.

Videoconference link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417809715?pwd=UGx1Q3hpU25iWkwrZjZaTWZMEMxZz09>.

➤ Saturday Morning Hike

Saturday, Jul 1, 2023, 9:30am – 11:30am

Sacramento has gorgeous hiking places, ranging from riverside nature to rugged hills. Join us for hiking on a Saturday each month, to meet new people, observe nature, and leave only footprints. Sites to be determined.

For details: <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/jfkcsyfcjkbcb/>.

For June 3, details: <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/jfkcsyfcjbf/b/>.

➤ More Events - Event Calendars

There's more! Much more. And plans change, so don't trust the static list above. To keep track of those other events, 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/>
- Compassionate Humanists of Roseville, <https://www.meetup.com/compassionate-humanists/events/calendar/>
- Sunday Assembly Sacramento events, <https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/calendar/>
- Central Valley Alliance of Atheists & Skeptics, <https://www.meetup.com/fresno-cvaas/events/calendar/>

You can help. Here's how.

Support Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014. Its mission: to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the understanding and civic acceptance of freethinkers, and uphold the separation of religion and government. All good work. But to continue, "RC" relies on support from members and donors. Please stand up for Reason Center, because it stands up for you. To join or donate, visit ReasonCenter.org.

Suggest a Meeting

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

Volunteer?

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

Thomas Paine Day Celebration

The Thomas Paine Memorial Association and the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia invite you to the online **Thomas Paine Day festival and celebration** on **Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4pm PDT** (or 7pm EDT).

To RSVP (optional), see <https://www.meetup.com/freethought-society-meetup/events/293396499/>. To attend, just click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89579106529?pwd=OGMyaks4cTlvWHdhcHBPU2VLZjRTUT09> (at meeting time).

This *totally free* educational and entertaining online party will highlight mayors and other city representatives who will present Thomas Paine Day proclamations. It will also celebrate the signing into law of the Thomas Paine Washington, D.C. Monument project. Cosponsors include the Freethought Society, the Thomas Paine Memorial Association, the Center for Inquiry, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

If you have questions, contact:

Margaret Downey, President, Thomas Paine Memorial Association

<margaret@ftsociety.org>

P. O. Box 448, Madison, WI 53701-0448

Phone: 610-357-9432

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ World Environment Day

Monday, June 5, 2023

The goal of **World Environment Day** is to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues, and to generate action for conservation. The United Nations General Assembly established [World Environment Day](#) in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Each year World Environment Day celebrations occur at a different location around the globe. To find a location for this year, see: [World Environment Day Events](#).

World Environment Day gives environmental issues a human face, one with which we can identify. The philosophy of the Day has changed little over the last three decades; it still strives to associate faces with environmental issues and empower people to be advocates of sustainable and equitable development. By promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing the attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnerships, World Environment Day strives to ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safe, clean, healthy, and more prosperous future.

In the words of the United Nations Environment Programme, "On this World Environment Day, let us not despair, but instead examine the state of our environment. Let us consider carefully the actions which each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on earth in a mood of sober resolution and quiet confidence."

Groups around the world hold activities to acknowledge and celebrate this day. Find an activity near you, and join the fun!



➤ Juneteenth

Monday, June 19, 2023

[Juneteenth](#) commemorates a major milestone: slavery's end in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war was over and the enslaved were now free. This was *two and a half years* after the Emancipation Proclamation (official on Jan 1, 1863). The Proclamation had had little impact in Texas due to a lack of federal troops to enforce it - but with General Granger's arrival, Union forces were finally strong enough to overcome resistance.

On arrival, General Granger's first order of business was to proclaim [General Order Number 3](#), which began as follows:

The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer.

Reactions ranged from shock to jubilation. Many lingered to learn of the new employer-to-employee relationship, others left before offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, leaving the plantation was their first breath of freedom.

The celebration of June 19th, coined "Juneteenth" but also called "Freedom Day," "Liberation Day" and "Jubilee Day," began the next year and grew yearly with participation from abolitionists and family of former slaves. The Juneteenth



celebration became a time to reassure each other, to gather with family, and to hear speakers recount the abuses of the past. Decades after Emancipation, Juneteenth continued to be revered in Texas with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on the date.

Modern American secularists can mark this day by educating themselves about this stain on our history. A good starting point is [The Middle Passage by Dr. John Henrick Clarke](#).

➤ Solstice (June)

Wednesday, June 21

Called Summer Solstice in the northern hemisphere, Winter in the southern, people have marked the **June Solstice** in some way or another for thousands of years. Many religions have seasonal holy days linked to this day. It is the day when the Northern Hemisphere has more daylight than at any other time of the year.

The precise date of the June Solstice varies from year to year, but usually it is between the 20th and 23rd of June.

"Solstice" comes from two Latin words: "sol" (meaning sun) and "sistere," (to cause to stand still). At noon in either hemisphere the sun will be high in the sky during summer, low during winter. On the day with the greatest number of daylight hours, the sun reaches its maximum elevation; we call this the Summer Solstice. Likewise, the day with the least daylight is the Winter Solstice.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the June Solstice is officially the first day of summer, also called Midsummer because it comes roughly during the midst of the growing season in Europe.



➤ World Humanist Day

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

World Humanist Day is a day to spread information and combat misinformation about humanism as a life-philosophy and a means to affect change in the world. This secular holiday dates back to the 1980s, when several local state chapters of the [American Humanist Association](#) (AHA) began celebrating World Humanist Day. Different chapters had different ideas as to when that day should be, however. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the AHA and then the International Humanist Ethical Union passed resolutions declaring the Summer Solstice to be World Humanist Day.



The [American Humanist Association](#), the [International Humanist and Ethical Union](#), the [Council for Secular Humanism](#), the [Campus Freethought Alliance](#) and the [Secular Student Alliance](#) currently celebrate World Humanist Day.

Use this secular holiday to educate the public in your area about humanism, and to gather and celebrate as a humanist community that continues to contribute to the progress and education of the world. A picnic, is a particularly good way to celebrate World Humanist Day. Read your favorite humanist texts aloud; spend time socializing with your fellow humanists in a relaxed, natural environment.

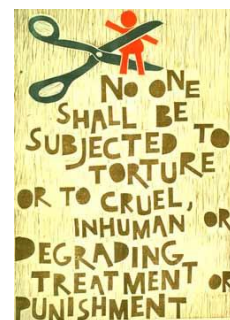
➤ Torture Victims Day

Monday, June 26, 2023

In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution **52/149**, establishing June 26 as the United Nations [International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#).

The goal is the eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46, annex, 26 June 1987). This day gives us all an opportunity to stand united against cruelty, and remind the world that torture is a violation of basic human rights.

Clearly the abolition of torture is a key issue to freethinkers and humanists, and too often the worst perpetrators of this atrocity are highly religious societies. But secular societies have been far from innocent of it. This is a cause where we can often join hands with our religious brothers and sisters. Take a moment on this day to visit the [United Nations webpage](#) for this secular holiday.



Family news

Cheers to local secular activist [Erin Louis](#) for recent published pieces in *Free Inquiry* magazine. Erin is a prolific speaker, writer, and member of the [Sacramento chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation](#). Her articles appeared in the April/May and June/July issues. Both are clever and articulate. Visit this link to read them:

<https://secularhumanism.org/authors/erin-louis/>

8 Sure Signs Armageddon Will Come This Year

(Excerpted from *The Babylon Bee*, [link](#))

At long last the end of the world is upon us. At any minute the trumpets will sound and we'll be caught up into heaven, leaving only our clothes and jewelry behind -- just like in the totally accurate film *Left Behind*.

Don't believe it? We have proof. Read these undeniable signs and repent, sinner, before it's too late.

1. **Jack Black and Lizzo submitted for Emmy consideration for their role in *The Mandalorian*.** Judgment Day is around the corner; the wickedness of mankind has truly become too great.
2. **Diane Feinstein rose from the dead and returned to the Senate.** We're pretty sure the Book of Revelation had something about this.
3. **That person you don't like is probably the Antichrist.** Yeah, that guy. You know who we're talking about. Your suspicions were 100% correct.
4. **The gayest men now drink Bud Light and drive Ford trucks.** Just as it was in the days of Noah.
5. **You just heard a commercial for emergency food buckets on your favorite Conservative podcast.** They wouldn't advertise those if the apocalypse wasn't imminent.
6. **Republicans actually negotiated spending cuts before raising the debt ceiling.** Too little, too late, Republicans. It's all over.
7. **The year is 2023 and 2 Chronicles 20:23 has 39 words in it. $5 \times 2 + 19 = 29$. 5, 2, 19. Remember those three numbers. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 has 19 words in it. That verse talks about how the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. MIND. BLOWN. Undeniable proof!**
8. **Christians may have finally made a good TV series.** Blow the trumpets, Gabriel!



Well, the good news is that we found out Jesus is worshipped on other planets.



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, 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>.

Your editor (yay) is Fran Evanisko.