



AOF News & Views – Newsletter for December 2023

✧ ✧ This month's Main AOF Event ✧ ✧

➤ HumanLight/Solstice Party

Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, 12 pm – 2:30 pm

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

It's a time of year rife with religious holidays, but the annual **HumanLight/Solstice Party** lets humanists & freethinkers be festive and celebrate common secular values: *reason, compassion, hope, science, kindness, joy and community*. And of course, friendship.

The party will include a potluck, live music, a charity drive, and lots of socializing. The event is family-friendly, so bring the kiddos too.

The Potluck: Bring a dish to share. Please bring your food already prepared and ready to serve, including serving utensils for your dish. No kitchen facilities or outlets are available.

-BYO beverages. Reason Center will provide water & hot coffee.

-Also provided: plates, bowls, utensils, napkins, and cups.

Live music: Instrumentals and jazzy vocals in keeping with our happy celebration of solstice and HumanLight.

The Charity Drive: Food for humans & pets. We will collect *nonperishable* food and other necessities for two local charities, the **River City Food Bank** and the **Sacramento Pet Food Bank** (helping the pets of the homeless). Contributions encouraged but not required. This is a wonderful opportunity for the freethought community to come together and show their compassion and kindness for others in need in our local community. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Event Sponsors are Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF), Sunday Assembly and Reason Center

Contact for details: Nancy Sneed, nancysneed10@gmail.com, 916-812-9580, or Pam Rivera, president@aofonline.org, 916-390-1084.



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Film and Discussion Night

Friday, Dec 8, 2023, 7 pm – 10 pm

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

It's an **in-person Movie Night** at the Sacramento's new Reason Center, in a quiet room with cozy plush chairs and a huge screen and refreshments right at hand. The movie title is a secret, because of our [MPLC License](#) and the stodgy rule of law -- but we can slip a hint. This 2014 drama is about the English mathematician genius Alan Turing who helped cracked the German Enigma Code and win the war, but struggled with his private life. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, so cool.

AOF co-sponsors this event. We provide popcorn - feel free to bring your own snacks as well. We also encourage a post-film discussion, which makes this educational, sort of. No fee to attend. But Reason Center always appreciates donations, if you're feeling generous.

Contact for details: See <https://reasoncenter.com/contact/>.

Free Movie Nights are a joint venture of AOF and Reason Center. Suggest your own fave film for next time!



➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023, 9 am – 11 am

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

Out on Highway 99, for two miles from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road, runs a lonely stretch -- *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 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. 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.

This is a great event for older children, but please leave smalls safe at home.

Contact for details: 916-805-9337 (Don Knutson), or see <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

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

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



✧ ✧ Upcoming Non-AOF Events ✧ ✧

Here are highlights of *non*-AOF events. We don't own these, but broadcast them as a courtesy, just so you'll know.

➤ Open Library Hours at Reason Center

Thursday, Dec 7, 2023, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 4, 2024, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Ste. 675, Sacramento, map at

<https://goo.gl/maps/S5MR1e8ZodBzb4TG8>.

The Reason Center library is open for browsing. We have an extensive collection of freethinkish books; you can even borrow them if you are a Reason Center member.

See reasoncenter.org to join, or you may join up at the library.

Contact for details: Call 916-426-6416, or see <https://reasoncenter.com/contact/>.

More information at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/gctvgtyfcqbkbb/> for Dec 7, or <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/gctvgtygcbbgb/> for Jan 4.



➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts - and a Brunch

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023, 10 am – 11:30 am (Folsom)

Sunday, Dec 10, 2023, 9:30 am – 11:30 am (midtown Sacramento)

Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, 9:30 am – 11 am (Rocklin)

Dec 9 location: Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6>.

Dec 10 location: Mel's Diner, 3000 J Street, Sacramento, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/toijMkseMWmTanVP7>.

Dec 17 location: Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gg72KkmkC4bU6>.

Like to hang 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 dark mutterings may emerge ... be warned. A great place to speak your mind, and a good starter if you are new to meetups. Please RSVP.

Details for Dec 9, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/znwwgtyfcqbmb/>.

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

Details for Dec 17, see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/pwwnssyfcqbwb/>.



➤ Recovery from Religion (RfR) online meetings

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023, 5 pm – 7 pm (for women & non-binary, attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87403436249>)

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023, 7 am – 9 am (Virtual Chapter Support, attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, 1 pm – 3 pm (for LGBTQA+ folk, attendance link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287067292>)

Saturday, Jan 6, 2024, 8 am – 10 am (for men, attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672617364>)

"RfR" provides ongoing and personal support to individuals letting go of religious beliefs. Please be sensitive and tolerant, and cut others some slack, so you will get slack too.

Details for Dec 9: see <https://www.meetup.com/rfr-sacramento-ca/events/294782286/>.

Details for Dec 16: see <https://www.meetup.com/rfr-sacramento-ca/events/291877234/>.

Details for Dec 17: see <https://www.meetup.com/rfr-sacramento-ca/events/294781917/>.

Details for Jan 6: see <https://www.meetup.com/rfr-sacramento-ca/events/297323506/>.

➤ **Suicide Loss Survivors Discussion and Support**

Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023, 5 pm – 7 pm

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

Details: <https://www.meetup.com/rfr-sacramento-ca/events/294782981/>.

➤ **Games at Reason Center**

Friday, Dec 15, 6 pm – 9 pm

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

A fun evening of games and food. OK to bring some of your own games to share. Snacks to share to too. Reason Center has both board games and card games. (Here are a few: Ticket to Ride, Azul, Camel Up, Labyrinth, Rummikub, and more.) But no gambling allowed.

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

Contact: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/members/380483831/>, or call 916-426-6416.



➤ **Saturday Night Hangout**

Saturday, Dec 16, 2023, 6 pm – 9 pm

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023, 6 pm – 9 pm

Location: An online meeting, attendance link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83092441353?pwd=Wmp6RVIUR1Q0dFZZMIFQUIVodTN0dz09>.

An online meetup on alternate Saturdays, at 6:00 PM Pacific Time. We'll spend about the first half hour greeting friends, catching up, meeting newcomers, and deciding what we want to do for the evening. The list of options may grow.

Details for Dec 16: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/hprbityfcqbvb/>.

Details for Dec 30: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/hprbityfcqbnc/>.

➤ **Ancient Christian Study Group**

Sunday, Dec 17, 2023, 12 noon – 2 pm

Location: Shine Café, 1400 E Street, Sacramento, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fFgfsvK3ky2RvdWs6>.

The history of ancient Christianity is endlessly fascinating. Don Fox and Steve Thoreson will facilitate this review of the history of Rome, religions of the Roman Empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, history of Christian persecutions, biographies of major Christians, the history of the Bible and many other related topics. If you ever wanted to sort out Eusebius from Clement, or Constantine from Diocletian, or the Vulgate from the Septuagint, then this group is for you. Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate.

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

➤ **Coffee and Community**

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023, 10 am – 11:30 am

Location: A videoconference; to attend, just wait for the meeting time and then click this link:

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

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

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/tcjrftyfcqbqc/>.

➤ **Porch Talk**

Wednesday, Dec 27, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

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

A social gathering on the virtual front porch. Join online (via your personal computer) for a videochat on topics of the day; just click the link at meeting time and follow the instructions. Discussion suggestions are welcome. Host: Nancy Sneed.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/nvbdftyfcqbkc/>.

➤ **Black Humanists & Non-Believers Book Club**

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

An online book discussion open to all. Topic will be *Allow Me to Retort* by Elie Mystal, Chapters 8-14. RSVP to attend, and the location will be revealed.

Details (and to RSVP): see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/whnfftyfcqbfc/>.

➤ Atheists Community videos & discussion

Monday, Jan 1, 2024, 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Location: Online event. To attend, wait for the meeting time, then click

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81807086862?pwd=ZjUyamt1b2dlc1N5bEZ6Q0w1Um00QT09>.

An educational and entertaining teleconference about Atheism, Logic, Reason, Thoughtfulness - accentuated by videos and, of course, your presence.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/kgfwgtygccbcb/>.

➤ Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub

Saturday, Jan 7, 2024, 6 pm – 8 pm

A social meetup for the skeptical minds, a community of people, friends, and families that champion the methods of science and critical thinking. Visitors and new skeptics most welcome!

Location: Duke's Pints & Plates, 510 La Sierra Dr, Sacramento; map at <https://goo.gl/maps/aNzV4j33cnizW9j77>.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/events/cnczhtygccbkb/>.

➤ More Events – Watch these Event Calendars

But there's more! And plans always change, so don't trust the static list above. To keep track of all 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

Since Reason Center opened in July 2014, it has hosted hundreds of events and accrued twelve partner organizations. Its mission: to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers, and uphold the separation of religion and government. All good work.

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 the AOF Program Committee! Go to <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, click "Program Committee" in the drop-down line, and enter your thoughtful suggestion. (Reasonable honorariums paid to speakers.)

Volunteer?

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

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ International Human Rights Day

Sunday, December 10, 2023

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

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights came about as a result of the atrocities of World War II. As the United Nations came into being its charter gave human rights a new international legal status, and the need to codify human rights as a means to prevent similar atrocities took shape. It created a Commission on Human Rights, which spent three years drafting the declaration with the help of such members



as Eleanor Roosevelt, John P. Humphrey, Charles Malik and Rene Cassin. The declaration was adopted without dissent on December 10, 1948, and has grown in stature and respect over the years since its adoption as it continues to assert the human dignity and worth of every human being on the planet.

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

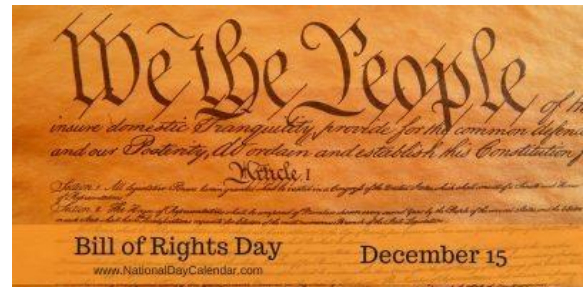
Eleanor Roosevelt once said that the fate of human rights lies in the hands of everyone in every community. Freethinkers know the importance of this statement. It can often be a challenge for many of them to be given the same rights and opportunities as others in their own communities, much less in the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

International Human Rights Day [Press Kit & Resources](#).

➤ **Bill of Rights Day** **Friday, December 15, 2023**

Bill of Rights Day (by Presidential Proclamation):

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



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

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

Did you know ...?

- The bill was introduced by James Madison. He later became the 4th President of the United States.
- The Bill of Rights initially had 12 proposed amendments. One concerned the number of constituents for each Representative. The other addressed compensation of Congressman. Neither were ratified.
- In 1992, compensation of Congressman was ratified 203 years later and is now the 27th amendment.
- The Bill of Rights is displayed in The Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.
- There were 14 copies of the Bill of Rights, one for each of the 13 states to sign and one for the federal archives. Only 12 copies survive today.

HOW TO OBSERVE:

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

➤ **Solstice (December)** **Thursday, December 21, 2023**

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



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

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

To the ancients, this day marked a key point in the cycle of life. For modern astronomy enthusiasts, it offers an opportunity to celebrate what we have learned about the cosmos, and allows us to revel in the excitement of space exploration and the complexity of the universe.

➤ HumanLight

Saturday, December 23, 2023

HumanLight is a holiday to celebrate the humanist values of tolerance, compassion, empathy, honesty, free inquiry, reason and rationality, and more. The event began in New Jersey in 2001, established by by Joe Fox and Gary Brill of the New Jersey Humanist Network. The event provides an excellent alternative to Christmas celebrations. Joe & Gary described it as follows:

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



Special Event

End of Life Options Workshop Comes to Reason Center

A presenter from the national FinalExitNetwork (FEN), an organization focused on "Death with Dignity," will come to Sacramento on Saturday, January 27 (10AM-1PM). FEN will be presenting a workshop overview of the options available to persons who want to bring their life to a close "as they wish." Mynga Futrell, a Life Member of Final Exit Network, has invited FEN to present the information in Sacramento. (Other workshops will be taking place that same week in Boulder CO and in La Jolla.) **Reason Center is at 1300 Ethan Way, Suite 675. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8>.**

As many know, California, like Oregon and several other states, offers a legal "Medical Aid in Dying" option to persons who are *within 6 months of death* and are finding their circumstances unbearable or deem their life no longer livable. Such comparatively easy closing out of a life as MAID offers is useful for cancer patients, for example, but is **not an option** for individuals who have a neurodegenerative disease (such as Alzheimer's) or some other terminal illness that does not fit the *"6 months or less to live and capable of carrying off the activity"* requirement. Such individuals will be required to "live on" in a debilitated state no matter their personal desire to avoid it.

So, what IS available to those of us who would prefer a death "with dignity" but are afflicted with some sort of condition that prevents our ability to use MAID? This 3-hour workshop will cover all of our options. Registration at no cost is available for those interested **through Mynga Futrell**, who is a member of the FEN organization and can bring as many guests to the workshop as she pleases.

The only requirement, besides your curiosity and interest, is that you must be at least 50 years old and have *no immediate interest* in ending your life. You can indicate to Mynga your desire to attend the workshop by emailing her at mkfutrell@gmail.com. Tell her you want to come so she can tell you what additional information you need to provide if you are to become "her guest" at this workshop. *If desiring to attend, act quickly: Her "guest list" must be complete by mid-December for submission to FEN.*



Sacramento FFRF Chapter gets proclamation rescinded

"Our local El Dorado County Board of Supervisors rescinded its proclamation making July "American Christian History Month"!"

"FFRF attorneys sent a pointed letter to several key members of the board, and a local television news station quoted the Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF as saying the proclamation (which contained historical errors) should be "embarrassing." Then, after public petitions and outcry, the El Dorado Board voted on Sept. 19 to rescind the unconstitutional proclamation. El Dorado County is known as a primarily conservative enclave up in the beautiful foothills outside of Sacramento, making this win all the more visible and noteworthy!"

"It might seem daunting, but together we can make a difference. Just imagine how many freethinkers living in this area are feeling the sudden surge of freedom seeing they are not alone in this battle. Thank you, FFRF!"

AOF congratulates Judy Saint and the [Sacramento Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation](#) on this victory.

Grooks by Piet Hein

I'd like to know
what this whole show
is about
before it's out.

The universe may be as great as they
say.
But it wouldn't be missed if it didn't
exist.

Man's a kind
of Missing Link,
fondly thinking
he can think.

Some people cower
and wince and shrink,
owing to fear of
what people may think.

That is the Question
Co-existence
or no existence.

There is one answer
to worries like these:
people may think
what the devil they please.

A lifetime
is more
than
sufficiently long
for people to get what there is of it
wrong.

Love while you've got love to give.
Live while you've got life to live.



Pastor Protests Elementary School With Anti-Santa Sign

Full story: <https://www.joemygod.com/2023/11/pastor-protests-elementary-school-with-anti-santa-sign/>



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 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>.