

✧ ✧ **Upcoming AOF Events** ✧ ✧

➤ **Annual Flying Spaghetti Monster Party**

Sunday, April 1, 2018, 12:30pm – 3pm

In 2008, AOF and the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area (aka, [HAGSA](#)) hosted a spaghetti feed. We hoped it would catch on. It did. Soon the [Sacramento Coalition of Reason](#) adopted the idea, and the tradition grew legs.



Nationally, the roots go back to a student's 2005 letter to the Kansas School Board that was considering teaching Intelligent Design. Today the "FSM" party is an alternative to churchy Easter activities, but still pokes gentle fun at "ID" Creationists who insist a cosmic Intelligence simply had to have created this well-designed world. "Pastifarians" say yes, certainly, the Flying Spaghetti Monster did it in his noodly, high-carb wisdom. Open your heart to the FSM and It will fill you with rich red sauce and yummy garlic bread.

This year it will be the *10th Annual FSM Party*, can you believe? The party is pot-luck, so bring food & beverage to share, but a minuscule door fee (\$1, chump change) will cover all hall costs & dining supplies. Especially welcome, for obvious reasons: pasta. Help us celebrate the Grand Designer with 'sketti, yeah!

Fun will include singing, board games, pirate cosplay and a costume contest. So wear pirate garb if you wish (optional) or something piratey. (Piratish, piratesque? *Arr*, blast this spellchecker!) Pirates are sacred to the FSM. Why? It's a *mystery*.

Learn more about the Flying Spaghetti Monster at web link venganza.org/about.

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: Rachael, email SacramentoCOR@gmail.com, ph. 916-572-7020.

➤ **Free Movie Nights!**

Sunday, April 6 & April 20, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, [Reason Center](#) (RC) and AOF join hands to host a **Free Movie Night** under an excellent MPLC License. The License prohibits us from telling you the movie title. But we can hint.



The April 6 movie is a full cinematic version (well, YouTube version) of the 2011 Broadway satirical musical about two young missionaries who travel to Africa to help spread the Mormon religion. Hello, you can guess now.

The April 20 movie is the remarkable 2014 bio-movie about the English mathematician genius Alan Turing, who helped crack the German Enigma Code during World War II. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley.

Surely now you know. If not, just contact Reason Center (see below). They'll tell you, then you can tell the world.

Movie Night is an informal, picnic-style family evening. The venue has a huge silver screen and great sound system. Chairs are available but may be a bit uncomfortable for a two-hour sit, so it's OK to bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and your own snacks & beverage, non-alcoholic please. RC will provide fluffy, buttery theatre popcorn. Children are welcome if they're cool children -- and if you judge the movie appropriate for tender minds.

Also: the taller your personal chair, the further back you will sit. Really tall chairs may end up in the parking lot.

The movies are especially for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a small donation to cover costs. How can you become a member? Sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Membership is a measly \$5 a month, is tax deductible if you itemize, and the perks (like this one) will fall like a rain of gentle grace.

Contact: Reason Center, 916-426-6416, or email <[reasoncenter \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:reasoncenter(at)gmail(dot)com)>

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Free Movie Nights occur on two Friday evenings each month. Suggest your own fave film for next time!

➤ Meet & Greet

Sunday, April 29, 2018, 12noon – 1pm

Who goes to Reason Center? People curious about many things, people seeking new experiences, people wishing to grow their minds, people in search of others with kindred interests. People like *you*.

Here is an opportunity to meet other seeking intellects, serious or whimsical, sad or glad: science lovers, nature fans, movie buffs, party animals, philosophers, historians, literary junkies, art mavens, board game aficionados, crafters, and more. Seize this precious moment. Come meet us. Let us meet you.

We will provide: tea, cream, lemon and cookies. If you prefer coffee, Reason Center has a fancy-pants Keurig coffee maker (bring a Keurig pod or buy one at RC). Our imploring kitten-eyes may beg a crumpled \$ or two for the donation jug. But truly, we turn no one away for want of money. You are our esteemed guests, and Reason Center is your haven.

The monthly Meet & Greet is a very informal gathering. No leader, or not much of one. If nobody acknowledges you, reach out and acknowledge them. Honestly, some are just shy. You can help.

After the Meet & Greet, at 1 pm, another exciting event will follow. So be chill, hang out.

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>

Previously called the Philosophers' Table, the monthly Meet & Greet is free to attend. But Reason Center welcomes your generous donations. Bring snacks or beverages to share, if you will. Folk get hungry. Nom-nom.

Meet
&
Greet

➤ MRFF: A Different Fight

Sunday, April 29, 2018, 1pm – 3pm

Meet the Military Religious Freedom Foundation

The US military can put religious pressure on active-duty military personnel. Superior officers may push subordinates to attend and participate in faith-oriented events, often of the fundamental Evangelical variety. Illegal and unconstitutional of course—but this hasn't stopped the abuse. In 2005, advocate [Mikey Weinstein](#) founded the [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#) (MRFF) to fight such objectionable religious compulsion.

Today the MRFF supports over 53,000 military personnel who have requested its legal help to combat the fundamentalist Christian indoctrination they are pressured to attend. Most of these individuals are Christians, forced to participate in a shade of Christianity they don't accept; others are Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, atheists, agnostics, Humanists, and other believers and non-.

Speaker Gregory J. Petrequin is a retired Air Force Colonel and Master Navigator who served on active duty for 27 years. He was involved in combat operations, in the air and on the ground, in Iraq and the Horn of Africa. He has a BA degree, with honours, from San Francisco State University and three master's degrees from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Air University. After retiring from the military, he was a production manager for Cintas Corporation, supervising a production plant and a team of 50 partners. He is now an ardent supporter and volunteer contributor for the MRFF. AOF and [Sac-FAN](#) proudly join hands to welcome Colonel Petrequin, who will enlighten us about MRFF's critical work.

Another event of the AOF Speaker Series. Cool, or what?

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: See <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>

Attendance, parking, refreshments and the presentation, as always, are free. But maybe you could bring light goodies for the hospitality table (finger-foods) and drop a crinkled dollar in the donation jug.



✧ ✧ Other Events ✧ ✧

➤ Sunday Morning Coffee and Community

Sunday, April 1, and April 15, 2018, 9 am – 11 am

Hosted by Rae Howard, Reason Center Events Group

Come and warm up with hot coffee, donuts and conversation with fellow freethinkers on the first and third Sundays of each month. Check out the Reason Center library, the latest FFRF newspaper, and donuts from Marie's (legendary in Sacramento). Attendance has been promising at this pilot program, open to all, but especially to Reason Center members.

Reason Center membership is a mere \$5 a month. If you would like to join, sign up at

<http://reasoncenter.org/join/#join>. We look forward to seeing all our RC members at Coffee and Community!

Location: Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.

Contact: Reason Center at 916-426-6416, or email <reasoncenter (at) gmail (dot) com>. (Format to escape spamicide.)



➤ March for Science Sacramento

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 10:30 am

On April 14, at 10:30am, the Sacramento's March for Science will start at the west steps of the State Capitol Building. It is part of the global movement advocating for policy grounded in scientific evidence and reasoning, as an essential part of democracy. AOF members will be marching, possibly with the AOF banner. Come join us!

Also, March organizers are recruiting volunteers. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, go to

<http://www.marchforsciencesacramento.com/> and click on GET INVOLVED.

✧ ✧ Blast from the Past ✧ ✧

In 1995, the *Sacramento Bee's* Religion page began to publish humanist & secular responses to moral questions alongside views from local faith leaders. AOF's own **Pat Kelley** was soon submitting her own ideas. Following is one.

November 25, 1995. *Some in Congress think religious and charitable institutions, rather than the government, should provide a social and economical safety net for the poor. What do you think?*

"It would be unreasonable to saddle only churches and charities with the awesome burden of ministering to millions of American poor. However, in this age of battle against "pluralistic secular democracy," there is a plan to get around this massive burden. It's based on the "Biblical Definition of Poverty," and it goes like this. The New Testament refers to three economic classes: the rich, who do not have to work for a living. The "not rich," who do not lack in daily necessities but must work for a living. The poor, who cannot sustain themselves due to illness, age or handicap and are so destitute they must depend upon charity to survive.

"The practical implications of redefining poverty are profound: it drastically reduces the number of truly needy people while totally disregarding the plight of the marginally poor who might qualify.

"Welfare needs reform, but is it really necessary to encumber religious organizations with unwanted government strings and controls while taking a pound of flesh from the most vulnerable members of society in the process?"

✧ ✧ A Secular Holiday ✧ ✧

➤ Yuri's Night

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Yuri's Night, also called **Cosmonauts Day**, is a day honouring Yuri Gagarin, who became the first human in space on April 12, 1961. Twenty years later, on the same day the U.S. launched the first space shuttle.

The Soviet Union first celebrated Cosmonauts Day in 1962, on the first anniversary of Gagarin successful flight into space. It was celebrated annually in the USSR and then Russia. The idea for a worldwide celebration of space and technology sprang into existence at the United Nations' Space Generation Advisory Council Conference in September of 2000. The new, worldwide Yuri's Night was first celebrated on April 12, 2001 and has since become an annual international celebration.



Yuri's Night not only celebrates space and technology, but also the principles of freethinking. Once people thought that the other planets travelled around Earth. It took courage as well as intelligence for people to argue against the religiously-ordained view of the Earth as the center of the universe. Celebrating Yuri's Night not only is about celebrating his historic achievement, but all accomplishments of science that have overturned dogma and advanced our knowledge of our universe.

"Circling the earth in my orbital spaceship I marvelled at its beauty. People of the world, let us safeguard and enhance this beauty, not destroy it!" -- Yuri Gagarin



Support Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014. Since opening it has hosted well over 200 freethought events. Currently the Center has twelve partner organizations. Its mission is 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.

To continue this work, the Reason Center relies on continued support for its members and donors. Please consider making a contribution to the Reason Center. To set up a monthly, or one-time donation visit ReasonCenter.org.



Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? Then please join us!

AOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762. General Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movie outings, parties! To see what awaits you, visit the website, www.aofonline.org; or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-304-3796; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. Membership info is right on the website. AOF President: Fran Evanisko. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest of us, their minions.

“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.



Members of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF were able to put up the “nativity” display outside the California Capitol in December for the second straight year. From left to right, chapter president Judy Saint, Kathy Johnson, Janet Thew, Karrie Lucas and John Lucas.

Photo credit: *Freethought Today*