

✧ ✧ **Upcoming AOF Events** ✧ ✧

➤ **Free Movie Nights!**

Friday, May 4 & May 18, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

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

The May 4 one is the somewhat infamous 2008 documentary where Bill Maher travels around the world talking to believers, playing devil's advocate with religious faith.

On May 18 it's a 1999 animated comedy about third graders who sneak into an R-rated film and emerge with expanded vocabularies that send their parents and teachers into meltdown. Directed by Trey Parker, it won the MTV Movie Award for Best Musical Sequence.

Now you know, right? If not, just contact Reason Center (see below). They'll tell you, then you can tell anyone.

Movie Night is an informal, picnic-style family evening. The venue has a huge silver screen, a dynamic sound system and a new HD projector. The in-house chairs 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. Kids are welcome if they're cool -- and if you judge the movie appropriate for tender minds.

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) are cinematic!

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

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

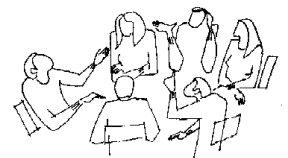
Free Movie Nights occur on a Friday evening each month. Maybe two Fridays. Suggest your own fave film for next time!



➤ **Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, May 8, 2017, 7pm – 9pm

It's an AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to *all* interested friends and members. These happen about every other month. And we love company. So you are welcome to join us, meet the Board, and share your own brilliant ideas for AOF.



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

Contact: See the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>.

➤ **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup**

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9am - 11am

In July 1995, Sacramento-area freethinkers "adopted" a two-mile stretch of Highway 99 from Elkhorn Boulevard to Elverta Road. Since then we have kept it clean of litter and debris, and received recognition for our work. In fact, it is one our more successful civic efforts, showing that freethinkers can also serve the community.

So, join us! Enjoy a morning commune with nature, and do a good deed for the environment and local area wildlife. The refuse that 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.



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 clean-up 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 find the site, travel north from Sacramento on I-5, past the Sleeptrain Arena. Take the "Highway 99 - Yuba City, Marysville" exit. Exit at Elkhorn Boulevard less than a mile north. Turn left, cross the overpass, and the park-&-ride lot will be on your left.

Contact: 916-447-2169 (Don Knutson), or see the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>.

Location: Caltrans Park-&-Ride lot, W. Elkhorn Blvd west of I-5. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/zw3Rwct9yR52>.

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

➤ Meet & Greet

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 12 noon – 1pm

Come to the Skeptic Side (we have cookies)

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. That is, people like *you*.

Here is an opportunity to meet other delving 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 the precious moment. Come meet us. Let us meet you.

We 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.

The Meet & Greet always begins at noon. Another exciting event follows it at 1pm. So be chill, hang with us.

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

Contact: See the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>.

Once 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. People get hungry. Nom-nom.



➤ The Earth is Flat – But Only on Maps

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 1pm – 3pm

Fran Evanisko, professional geographer, *bon vivant* and current AOF president, will regale us about modern Flat Earthism and its fervent adherents, who have made a remarkable revival in recent years, and are eager to convince us of their stand.

Will he debunk them? Nah, because why bother? We're all on the same page there (we hope!). Rather Fran will take us on a flat-earth mini-history tour, explain the Dark Ages flat-Earth notion, and show us how modern flat-Earthers are stuck in that same rut.

For example, a world-map repeatedly cited by flat-Earthers shows a disk-shaped Earth centered on the North Pole, with the edge surrounded by a 200-foot-high wall of ice. Supposedly this explains why no one has ever fallen off the edge or even seen it. That wall. That huge wall of ice.

But *this particular* flat-earth map has a very round-earth source. Fran will show where flat-Earthers got it, and how anyone who generates that image of the flat Earth already knows in his heart that the Earth is spherical.

In fact, Fran will use conventional transformation software to reproduce images for us as we watch.

Inspired by old religion and modern fringe economics, flat-Earthers hang onto the old explanations as if their lives depend on it. Who knows? Maybe they do depend on keeping the old explanations alive ... or do they have other, secret motives to keep certain people in the dark? (Cue dramatic music.)

[Geodesy](#) [jee-ODD-uh-see] is a branch of math used to determine the exact position of geographical points, as well as Earth's shape and size. Fran will illustrate how rational human beings have known the Earth to be spherical since around 300 BCE. Eratosthenes, that wise old Greek, estimated the circumference of Earth to within 15% of its actual size about 2,250 years ago.



Besides ...



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

Contact: See the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>.

Attendance, parking, refreshments and this fascinating talk are free. If you feel a bit guilty, perhaps you could bring light snacks for the hospitality table, and drop a ragged soiled dollar in the donation jug.

➤ **Davis Community Meal: Feed the Hungry** **Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 4:30pm – 7pm**

In nearby, bucolic Davis city, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger -- and they need our help! Join local freethinkers in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the hungry, the indigent, the outcast. Your reward? The opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethinker friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the warm hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

No cooking is required. The Davis Community Meals team will perform food prep and kitchen work. Our job is simply to set up chairs & tables, serve, put things away at the end, and clean a bit (with a minimum of mopping).

Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't, that is OK, any help is good help. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., buffet food service at about 5:45. At 6:30 we clean up, leaving the hall as we found it.

Contact: See the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>, or call Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169).

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA, Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/oLAMHGvX3st>.

Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.



➤ **Free Movie Night!**

Friday, June 1, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

The first day of the new month will be another Free Movie Night, so mark your calendar *now*. The film: a sobering documentary, released in 2013, that sheds light on stubborn, long-standing myths about atheists and "unchurched" citizens. For the usual reasons we can say no more. Contact Reason Center if you just have to know.

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

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

❖ ❖ **Other Events** ❖ ❖

➤ **Sunday Morning Coffee and Community**

Sunday May 6, and Sunday May 20, 2018, 9am – 11am

Hosted by Rae Howard of the Reason Center Events Group. A non-AOF event.

Come and warm up with hot coffee, donuts and conversation with your fellow freethinkers on the first and third Sundays of May. Check out the library, the latest FFRF newspaper, and donuts from Marie's (legendary in Sacramento).

To become a Reason Center member, sign up at <http://www.reasoncenter.org/p/donate.html>. Membership is \$5 a month. We look forward to seeing all our RC members there!

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

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



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. And be a place for fun.

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



When you donate blood...

Please consider donating blood at the BloodSource, and if you do, use AOF BloodSource ID# **4857**.

Numerous BloodSource Donation Centers exist -- find them listed at: <http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations>.

AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives, and is good for public relations. And what's more humanistic than donating blood? (Answer: not much.)



❖ ❖ Secular Holidays ❖ ❖

➤ National Day of Reason

Thursday, May 3, 2018

The [National Day of Reason](http://www.nationaldayofreason.org/) (NDoR), endorsed first in 2003 and honored by U.S. secularists, occurs on the first Thursday of May. NDoR is a response and counterbalance to the National Day of Prayer, designated by the US Congress since 1952. On this day all humanist Americans can join hands to celebrate rational thinking—a concept all can or should support. The goal: to raise public awareness of the persistent threat to religious liberty posed by government intrusion into the sphere of private worship. For details and to learn about events in your area, see <http://www.nationaldayofreason.org/>.

Other organizations such as the [Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia](http://www.ethicalhumanistsociety.org/) have designated this the **Rational Day of Care**, a day to donate home-cooked meals to the Aid for Friends project, or perform other acts of humanistic charity.

On January 23, 1808, in a letter to the Reverend Samuel Miller, our Founding Father Thomas Jefferson had these words:

"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it. ...civil powers alone have been given to the President of the United States and *no authority to direct the religious exercises of his constituents.*" [emphasis added]

The National Day of Reason is a *movable* secular holiday. It can occur any time from May 1 to May 7.



➤ Towel Day

Friday, May 25, 2018

[Towel Day](http://www.towelday.com/) is the annual celebration of the life and writings of Douglas Adams (1952-2001), humorist, humanist, conservationist, science fiction writer, and social critic. On that day, fans around the universe proudly carry a towel in his honor. Why a towel? Don't panic, go to the website to see - or better yet, read [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16416/16416-h/16416-h.htm). It's a great book!



➤ Opposite Day

Saturday, May 26, 2018

Some say the proper date is May 26, some say April 30, some say March 27th -- can you ever be sure? When someone says "Today is **Opposite Day**," he might be lying! Opposite Day is a day to say the reverse of what you mean, with a wink, with a nod; a day when "no" means "yes" and "shut up" means "keep talking;" a day to be nice to your boss, teacher or enemy, and a complete jerk to your best friend; a day to turn words on their head; a day to tie knots in logic. Celebrate with care. This holiday might get you in trouble!

opposite

➤ Birthday of Science

Monday, May 28, 2018

The **Birthday of Science** marks the day Thales of Miletus (in 585 BCE) correctly predicted a solar eclipse. A better choice might be the discovery of fire or the wheel, but we don't know exactly when that happened or who did it. We *do* know about Thales. His prediction was significant because the idea of cause and effect (causality) applies to all science. Given any phenomenon, with the exception of purely random quantum events, in principle we can trace its cause or causes, and the cause of those causes, back through time -- until all cause-tracks merge at the "Big Bang," beyond which, presumably, no tracks remain. The seeds of our life and future were sewn then. The [Large Hadron Collider](#) is an effort to re-create those first moments.



(The real Thales had arms)

Science desires a beginning that applies to the big picture, and a sense of order and predictability. That is where causality leads us.



Not a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers? 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. You'll be so glad. AOF President: Fran Evanisko. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest of us, their support team.

"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."

Subscription / Membership Form

Mail to: AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____
Street _____ Apt. # _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____
E-mail address (please print!) _____

E-mail is required for newsletter delivery.

Questions, concerns? Call AOF, 916-304-3796.

Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):

Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)

Basic Dues : \$ _____

Additional Donation : \$ _____

Total enclosed : \$ _____

Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to groups similar to AOF.

Please check here if you DO want to be an AOF Activist (e-mail address required).

AOF is a 501(c)(3) Educational Association, EIN 68-0325762. Dues & Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).

