

✧ ✧ **Upcoming AOF Events** ✧ ✧

➤ **Free Movie Nights at Reason Center**

Friday, July 6 & July 20, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, Reason Center (RC) and AOF join hands to host a **Free Movie Night**. An excellent MPLC License makes it legit. We can't name the movies, but we can hint.

The first (July 6) is a startling 2006 documentary directed by Rachel Grady and Heidi Ewing, nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 79th Academy Awards, about a Charismatic Christian summer camp for children.

The second (July 20) is the acclaimed 2013 sf drama, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, about American astronauts stranded in space after the mid-orbit destruction of their space shuttle.

Maybe you can guess. If not, it's a matter of no gravity -- just contact Reason Center (see below). They'll tell you, then you can tell anyone.

Movie Nights are informal, picnic-style family evenings. Reason Center has a huge silver screen and a dynamic 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. And children are welcome if they're cool children.

Also: the taller your personal chair, the further back you will sit -- keep that in mind.

Free Movie Night is especially for Reason Center members, but non-members are welcome too. RC *may* beg a small donation to cover costs. You can become a member - how? Sign up at <http://reasoncenter.com/donate/>. Dues are a measly \$5 a month, tax deductible if you itemize, and the perks are celestial.

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 two Friday evenings each month. Suggest your own fave flick for next time!



➤ **Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup**

Saturday, July 14, 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've kept it clean of litter and debris. 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, 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 the ocean, degrading habitat, and leading to a slow sad death for many sea creatures.

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 old Sleeptrain Arena. Take the "Highway 99 - Yuba City, Marysville" exit. Exit at Elkhorn Boulevard less than a mile north. Turn left, cross the overpass; 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. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/zw3Rwct9yR52>.

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



➤ **AOF/HAGSA Potluck**

Sunday, July 15, 2018, 3pm

AOF (that's us) and HAGSA (the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area) invite you to a summer afternoon potluck. Friends and members of both groups are welcome. Just bring one food item of your choice, enough to feed yourself a bit more. Also if you will, a



beverage, drink or libation of your preference. We will dine, converse, socialize, and celebrate the bloom of life in this beautiful, singular world.

Location: Home of Ruth Rezos & Ken Nahigian, 9570 Harvest View Way, see map at <http://binged.it/1IQMrzc>.

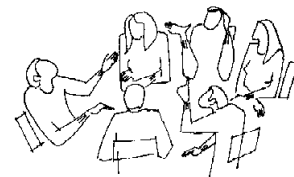
Contact: See the AOF Contact Page, <http://www.aofonline.org/contact>, or call the hosts at 916-366-7061.

Note, the home has cats. Cats everywhere. Crazy cat-people. Do not be allergic, please.

➤ **Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 7pm – 9pm

An AOF planning meeting for AOF Directors & officers, but open to *all* interested friends and members. These happen about every other month. Come join us, meet the Board, and make sure we are behaving ourselves.



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>.

➤ **Counseling Quackery with Sheldon W. Helms**

Sunday, July 29, 2018, 1pm – 3pm

The 60s (ah, the 60s) saw a pop psychotherapy explosion, and with it, a radioactive fallout of options for those who found the old Freudian approach wanting. Consumers now must sift through dozens of choices -- some effective, some a waste of time and money, and some downright dangerous.

So what makes an effective therapy? How can you spot the fads that masquerade as clinical psychology? How can you avoid being a victim?



Professor [Sheldon W. Helms](#) will describe several quack therapies – some from mainstream psychology – explaining why they are less than sound in their approach to mental health. He will also share tips on how to spot fakers and snake-oil peddlers, and provide practical advice for those interested in real therapy to improve their lives.

Sheldon is a Professor of Experimental Psychology at Ohlone College in Fremont, CA, where he serves as senior faculty member in the psychology department. He holds a master's degree in psychology and has over 20 years of teaching experience. In addition to his full-time teaching role, Sheldon serves as faculty adviser to the Ohlone Psychology Club and runs their successful Ohlone Speaker Series, hosting lectures and presentations by top-name scientists and skeptics.

Another great event of the AOF Speaker Series. We're so proud of it, we need therapy.

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>.

Free. Even free parking. But be cool, bring some light snacks for the hospitality table (finger-foods), and drop a dollar or two in the donation jug. It will help Reason Center, and ultimately, you!

➤ **Davis Community Meal: Feed the Hungry**

Tuesday, July 31, 2018, 4:30pm – 7pm

In nearby, bucolic Davis city, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger -- and we help! Join local freethinkers in an 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's 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.

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.

✧ ✧ **Other Events** ✧ ✧

➤ Sacramento Coalition of Reason Events

No way is AOF the only game in town! What we fondly call the "Sacramento Coalition of Reason" (Sac-CoR) has *many* groups with their own activities. Not busy enough? Then check out the combined calendar. Visit:

<https://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>.



Support your local Reason Center

Reason Center (RC) opened in July 2014, and has hosted well over 200 freethought events. With twelve partner organizations, it is trending!

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.

But RC relies on continued support from members and donors to continue its work. Please consider being a Reason Center supporter. To set up a monthly, or one-time donation visit ReasonCenter.org.



✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ Chevalier de la Barre Day

Sunday, July 1, 2018

On July 1, 1766, church authorities tortured and killed young Jean-Francois de la Barre (the "Chevalier de la Barre") for impiety. His reputed crimes? Not doffing his hat at a religious procession, singing bawdy songs, and the possession of banned books by Voltaire, a famed writer of his day and a leading critic of the Catholic Church. Outraged, Voltaire made the execution a cause célèbre, haunted by "this sentence so execrable, and at the same time so absurd, which is an eternal disgrace to France."

Civil authorities tortured the youth, cut out his tongue, then decapitated him. Eventually they burned his body on a pyre along with his copy of the book (Voltaire's *Philosophical Dictionary*).

In 1905, a statue of the Chevalier de la Barre was built in Montmartre, on the outskirts of Paris. In 1941, Nazi collaborationists removed it and melted down for munitions for the war effort – while leaving statues of saints and kings intact.

In France, Chevalier de la Barre Day often features demonstrations in his memory. Freethinkers in France and the West experience great freedom in their lives today, but in other cultures still torture and kill freethinkers and dissidents for their beliefs. Chevalier de la Barre Day is therefore a day to remember all those men and women persecuted by religion, and to campaign for the rights of those persecuted today.

For more information, see: [Chevalier de la Barre](#) (Wikipedia article).



➤ Indivisible Day

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

In the state of Minnesota, former Governor Jess Ventura declared Independence Day to be **Indivisible Day**, a day to recognize the separation of Church and State, and the vital role it has played in keeping our nation free and whole. More information at <http://www.answers.com/topic/indivisible-day>.



➤ World Population Day

Wednesday July 11, 2018

Established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, [World Population Day](#) seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. This annual event was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day, July 11, 1987, when the world's population reached approximately five billion people.



Letter to the Editor

“While I deplore the private lives of Lawrence Krauss and David Silverman, which has gotten then removed from AHA and FFRF and AA, their public pronouncements, by which I mean their UTube speeches, and printed books, and essays and articles, are excellent exhibitions of Freethought. I hope that it is okay to continue to use their public works, and to quote them, even if they are disgraced for their bad private lives. Obviously, anti-Atheists will, in ad hominem style, denounce any arguments of theirs that we use, because of their bad private live. But a good argument is a good argument, no matter who says it. We freethinkers should, at least among ourselves, continue to use their public works; their private lives don't affect it.

“Respectfully Yours, Andrew Orrin Lutes”

AOF's 25th Anniversary Report by Mynga Futrell

Entering into its 26th year of existence, AOF hosted another excellent presentation for attendees. AOF's Program Coordinator, Suzanne McLain, introduced the speaker, Steve Clark, who came from San Jose for the afternoon. Steve provided a thoughtful and personal presentation, showing showed quite clearly the evidence leading to his title - how “Escaping a Cult Isn't Easy.”

Steve's talk was followed by cake and ice cream and conversation. The sugary extras were provided to celebrate AOF's *twenty-five years* as a nonprofit organization providing a friendly “home” for atheists and other freethinkers in the Sacramento area. Current AOF President Fran Evanisko brought the decorated cake, and Secretary Christine Tweet the ice cream.



After the June 24th's formal lecture and Q&A - but before the refreshments – former AOF president and current VP Mynga Futrell took the audience on a brief “whirlwind tour” of AOF's early years. As one of the 15 co-founders, she was around for those years, starting with the initial meeting in 1993. (She mentioned that only four original founders remain, and only two of those are “physically and mentally around” these days.)

Mynga brought for display at the June 2018 celebration NN archived “annual binders” of AOF's newsletters and business materials, assembled from 1993 to 20NN. By pointing to and commenting on the individual binder titles, she was able to provide “a whirlwind tour” of AOF's accomplishments in its early years, many of which planted seeds for activism that continue today in somewhat different forms.

The “AOF of Yore” provided the kind of refreshing acceptance and camaraderie that enabled many persons, for the first time, to “be themselves.” They could step out into the broader Sacramento community as “who they are”, and some of them remain “AOFers” to this day.



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 can be more humanistic than donating blood?

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 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.

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.”

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).

