

✧ ✧ Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie Nights at Reason Center

Friday, Nov 2 & Nov 16, 2018, 7pm – 10pm

Twice a month, Reason Center (RC) and AOF host a **Free Movie Night** under an MPLC License. We can't tell you the movies. But we can hint.

The first is really *two* movies, namely episodes 1 & 2 of a 2015 documentary by Scientology survivor Leah Remini, exposing scandals in the cult that stole much of her life. The second is a recent Star Wars spinoff, produced by Lucasfilm and distributed by Disney Studios, that follows a group of rebels on a mission to steal the secret plans for the Death Star. It was the second highest-grossing film of 2016 and received critical acclaim.

Can't guess? Don't worry. Contact Reason Center (see contact info below). They'll tell you, then you can tell the galaxy.

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

This is 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 enfold you like the Force.

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

Contact: Reason Center, 916-426-6416, or email <reasoncenter@gmail.com>.

Free Movie Nights occur twice each month. Suggest your own fave film for next time!



➤ Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, Nov 10, 2018, 9am - 11am

In July 1995, we 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 and received recognition for our work. In fact, it is one of our more successful civic efforts, showing freethinkers can also serve the community. (Of course we can.)

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

As usual, the 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.

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

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

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



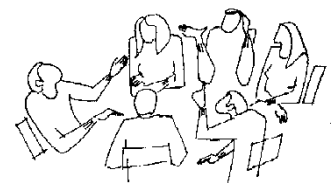
➤ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 13, 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. You are welcome to join us, meet the Board, and share your own good ideas for AOF's future.

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

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



➤ Sean O'Brien: The Portable Poe

Sunday, Nov 25, 2018, 1pm – 3pm

Popular demand has summoned Edgar Allen Poe's ghost from its Baltimore grave, and local actor Sean O'Brien will channel the tormented specter. Like chills? This "Portable Poe" will trickle ice down your spine. Expect a stunning and haunted portrayal. Those shy about voluntary shivers can perhaps find surcease in Reason Center's library with a flip-through of cartoon books. But we don't promise. It, after all, is *Poe*.



It is also Sean O'Brien. Sean began his work on the stage in rural Connecticut when he was but 14, and has acted, directed and taught theater in New York, Virginia, Montana and California. Since retirement from teaching, he has performed for fun in schools and venues around the Sacramento area, including California Freethought Day and the Davis Shakespeare Festival. His growing production company, Every Corner Productions, recently expanded its repertoire to include a new show, "Bob: The Words of Col. Robert Green Ingersoll." Currently Sean is developing two more one-man shows, William Shakespeare and Mark Twain, for presentation in the schools. He is a busy man!

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

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

✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

➤ Compassionate Humanists

Sunday, Nov 4, 2018 10am – 12pm

It's a discussion group for those who value kindness and compassion in their lives. Participants are interested in enhancing their relationships with loved ones, their communities and the larger world, using material from the following books to guide the discussions:

-- *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong

-- *The Moral Arc: How Science and Reason Lead Humanity Toward Truth, Justice, and Freedom* by Michael Shermer

Attendees need not have read either; the facilitator will present topics by reading excerpts or introducing discussion points to move the conversation along.

Compassionate Humanist meetups are thought-provoking, uplifting and educational, as well as enjoyable. Everyone who shows up wants to contribute to a more compassionate world. Come join the discussion.

Location: Roseville Labou, 1730 Santa Clara Drive, Roseville. Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/UC4975CE19P2>.

Contact: Ph. 916-836-5269, or email info@compassionatehumanists.com.

➤ Morning Coffee and Community

Sunday, Nov 4 & Nov 18, 2018, 9am – 11am

Nov 4, hosted by Gary Alexander and Allen, Reason Center Events Group, details: <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/hdfclqyxpbgb/>.

Nov 18, hosted by Mynga Futrell and Nancy Sneed, Reason Center Events Group, details: <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/ftldlqyxpbxb/>.

Yes, the coffee klatches are back! Come and warm up with hot coffee or tea, donuts and conversation with fellow freethinkers on the first and third Sundays of the month. At 10:30 we offer a site tour of the Reason Center to any interested. Check out the library, the latest FFRF newspaper, a featured local coffee roaster and donuts. This event is free and open to all. If you wish to explore Reason Center in an easygoing environment, here is your opportunity.

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

Contact: Ph. 916-426-6416, or email reasoncenter@gmail.com.



➤ Wine, Cheese and Litera-Cheer

Saturday, Dec 1, 2018, 7pm – 9pm

Do you have a favourite mind-blowing book? Come share with your fellow freethinkers on a Saturday night showcase of literature! Instructions: Visit <https://www.meetup.com/ReasonCenterEvents/events/255909475/>, add a Comment with your top 3 favourite book ISBN's and anything you would like to say about them. (Or just email the book info to Reason Center, see below.) If we can, we will print and decorate the wall with your book jackets and your inspired words.

Menu: Wines, cheese, light appetizers, lovely chocolates. (Leave a donation with your inspiration!)

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

Contact: Ph. 916-426-6416, or email reasoncenter@gmail.com.



When you donate blood...

Do you donate blood? Cool, you're a hero! Then please use AOF BloodSource ID# **4857**.

For a list of BloodSource Donation Centers, see: <http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations>. AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives and serves our best ideals. And what's more humanistic than donating blood?



Support Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014. Since opening it has hosted countless freethought events and has acquired 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 good work, Reason Center relies on support from members and donors. Stand up for RC, because it stands up for *you*. To set up a monthly or one-time donation, visit ReasonCenter.org.



Also, Support AOF!

You can support AOF *without spending a dime*. How? When you purchase goods at Amazon.com, simply use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service will be exactly the same, but AOF will receive a small kickback for whatever you purchase. Sweet.

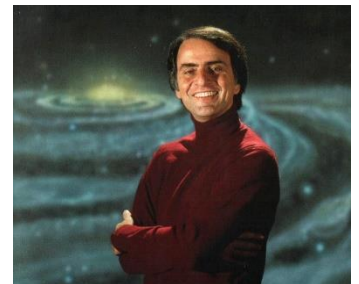


✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➤ Carl Sagan Day

Friday, Nov 9, 2018

[Carl Sagan Day](#) marks the birthday of the great Carl Sagan and is a celebration to honor his memory. Professor of Astronomy and Space Science and Director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies at Cornell University, Carl Sagan was an outspoken skeptic, humanist and freethinker, and a Pulitzer Prize winning science author. But for the most part the public remembers him as the creator of the [Cosmos](#) television series. This Emmy and Peabody award-winning PBS series transformed educational television when it first aired in 1980. Thirty years later it still seems fresh and has affected the hearts and minds of over a billion people in sixty countries. Sagan's *magnum opus* was his final book, [The Demon-Haunted World](#), published in 1995, the year before his untimely death.



Few other science writers (perhaps only Isaac Asimov) were able to reach and teach so many nonscientists in such a meaningful way. So in 2009, the [Center for Inquiry](#) inaugurated Carl Sagan Day as a secular holiday. Each year we will continue to celebrate Dr. Sagan, remember him and his work, and revel in the wondrous cosmos he helped us understand.

➤ Church State Separation Week

Sunday, Nov 18 – Saturday, Nov 24 2018

Many freethinkers have adopted Thanksgiving week as **Church/State Separation Week**, to offer concerned and active citizens an opportunity to educate others about the importance of a clear division between Church and State. The hope is that this secular holiday will rally us and provide a platform to celebrate one of this nation's finest contributions to civilization.

Secularist societies such as [Americans United for the Separation of Church and State](#), the [Institute for First Amendment Studies](#), the [Freedom From Religion Foundation](#), the [American Atheists](#) and the [Institute for the Secularization of Islamic Society](#), as well as others united for a secular government, have supported this celebration.



In humanist circles, some also celebrate November 24 as [Evolution Day](#), marking as it does the anniversary of the first publication of *The Origin of Species* (Nov 24, 1859). For the most, however, the focus is on church/state separation this week. Charles Darwin has his own secular holiday (February 12).



Help AOF! Be a Board Member in 2018.

Have ideas for AOF but don't know how to start?
Here's your chance: Be an AOF Director in 2019!

Once a year the door opens to those who wish to do extra to help AOF thrive: **join the AOF Board of Directors.** As a 501(c)(3) democratic educational association in California, AOF's bylaws require an elected board of at least 5 directors. Elections are around the corner. The term is just one year. And nominations are *now open*.

Requirements? Simply to be a breathing AOF member. It helps to have a sharp mind and email access. You're all that, right? Minimum duties: to attend one brief planning meeting every other month, usually on a casual weekday evening, at which you will share your wisdom, help make decisions, and plan how AOF can serve this wonderful community of reason.

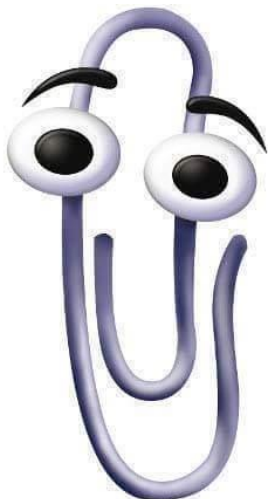
The benefit: You'll make a difference! Your comely face and amazing bio will appear on the AOF website. Others will admire you. Petals will fall. And there will be pie. (... OK *sometimes* pie. When someone brings pie. But it happens.)

Current Directors could serve another year, but the Board has room for more. And maybe the rascals need a bit of competition, eh? AOF seeks new ideas, more creative minds, and especially more help.

Interested? Great! What's next? *Tell us* – contact AOF via its contact page or voicemail number (916-304-3796). Then cobble a brief paragraph, 300 words max, about yourself as a freethinker and your background. Include a pic if you can.

Submit to this newsletter at <newsletter@aofonline.org>, subject line: **AOF Board Candidate Statement.** Do it by about the end of November, please.

That's all! Fame & glory await! You will love being on the team. The planning meetings are a blast. We will love having you. And really, pie, sometimes.



It looks like you're writing unsubstantiated nonsense. Would you like to turn on all caps?



Not yet an AOF member? Please join us!

Atheists and Other Freethinkers 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 and parties! See what awaits you: visit www.aofonline.org.

AOF President & Editor: Fantastic Fran Evanisko
Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell
Secretary: Capable Christine Tweet
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
Directors at large:

Dave Flanders
Roger Zabkie
Pamella Rivers
Linda Ostrofsky (Jetta)

... And the rest of the motley team.

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.

AOF's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Atheists-and-Other-Freethinkers/533365556831322>

"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's 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 means to protect the liberty and free 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 freethinkers and unchurched citizens can socialize, dialog, develop friendships and enjoy mutual 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. Any who will treat others with respect and dignity may join.

Donations to AOF are tax deductible, and the newsletter is free by email. Please share with sympathetic friends.



We have a tradition: a year-end party for all local humanists, freethinkers, skeptics and secularists. The [Solstice/Human Light Party](#) at [Reason Center](#) celebrates our shared humanity and the start of the return of precious light. Festivities include a pot luck feast, music, contests, possible auction, a possible award, and a charity drive for pets and people. We laugh, we sing, we eat until we stagger, we look forward to a new year, and we always have loads of fun.

But this year: a problem.

This year, previous event organizers are unavailable! Needed is a party planner, someone with a good mind and sense of fun. *Could it be you?*

Please consider stepping up to help. Last year's planner will cheerfully walk you through the event background, how to select a date, how to reserve the site, and how to set up. Note, AOF and HAGSA will cover costs, and decorations already exist. The official Human Light date is Dec 23, but Reason Center is currently available on Dec 22, 23 and 29, and we are flexible. And you will be amazed at how rewarding this is.

First step: Send an email to info@aofonline.org or president@hagsa.org. They will put you in touch with last year's planner, who is eager to help you. Thanks.



When any given factor of societal health or well-being is measured, less religious countries invariably score better. The *least religious countries* of this world:

- Have the lowest rates of violent crime, homicide and corruption.
- Are the best places to raise children and be a mother.
- Have the lowest levels of intolerance against racial and ethnic minorities.
- Score highest when it comes to women's rights and gender equality.
- Have the greatest protection and enjoyment of political and civil liberties.
- Are better at educating their youth in reading, math and science.
- Are the most peaceful, the most prosperous and have the highest quality of life.

The link between lower religiosity and higher societal well-being also exists within United States. Those states that are the most religious also have a high occurrence of societal ills. The most religious states in the nation tend to have the highest rates of poverty, obesity, infant mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, murder and violent crime.

[Source: [Freedom From Religion Foundation](#), October 2012, [link](#)]



The Atheist Research Collaborative's newest researcher, Dr. Dena Abbott, currently seeks participants for **two new studies**.

The first is entitled **Race/Ethnicity, Nonreligion, and Well-Being**. If you identify as a racial/ethnic minority; currently reside in the United States; and do not believe in god(s), you are invited to participate in this study about your experiences. Specifically, researchers are requesting approximately 20 minutes of your time to complete four (4) surveys. If you are interested in participating, please click the link below to learn more, consent to participation, and complete the surveys.

https://latech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hVBBHruNOj3G85

The second study is **Experiences of Atheists of Color**. If you identify as an atheist and a racial/ethnic minority, and currently reside in the United States, you are invited to participate in a 45- to 60-minute interview about your experiences as an atheist of color. In particular, researchers are interested in hearing about messages you have received about your atheist identity, experiences of discrimination and/or stigma, if any, and with whom and in what settings you share your atheist identification, among other topics. If you are interested in participating, please click the link below to learn more, consent to participation, complete a brief demographics survey, and provide contact information for interviewing.

https://latech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0eSgk5Ne6nE1zFj

Other Groups of Interest

Reason Center, a freethought venue and safehouse for all.
1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento; ph. 916-426-6416
Email reasoncenter@gmail.com; <https://reasoncenter.org/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/reasoncenter/>

United Coalition of Reason Sacramento (SacCoR)

A group of all the groups.
Ph. 916-572-7020 or email sacramentocor@gmail.com
<https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/sacramento-area/>

Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area

Meets 3rd Sunday most months at Reason Center.
POB 216223, Sacramento, 95821-8223; ph. 916-514-9974
<http://hagsa.org/>; email president@hagsa.org

Sunday Assembly Sacramento

Church alternative, each 2nd Sunday at Reason Center.
<http://sacramento.sundayassembly.com/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/SundayAssemblySacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Sacramento/>
Email david@LodiUnited.org

Compassionate Humanists

Meets 1st Sunday each month in Roseville.
PO Box 769, Newcastle, 95658; ph. 916-836-5269
<https://compassionatehumanists.com/discussion-groups/roseville/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Compassionate-Humanists/>; email info@compassionatehumanists.com

Think Atheist of Sacramento

A social network and discussion group.
<http://www.thinkatheist.com/group/sacramentocalifatheists>

Americans United chapter in Sacramento (AU-Sac)

Church/State Separation and issue advocacy.
P.O Box 163418, Sacramento CA 95816; ph 916-684-4730
<http://www.au-sac.org/>; email president@au-sac.org

Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics (CVAAS)

438 E. Shaw Ave #221, Fresno, 93710, ph. 559-335-3228
<http://www.cvaas.org/> or <https://www.meetup.com/Fresno-cvaas/events/>; email info@cvaas.org

Sacto Atheist-Agnostic Gatherings & Events (SAAGE) †

Online social group (Yahoo ID required).
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SAAGE/info> or
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SEINE/info>

First Atheist Church of True Science (FACTS)

PO Box 233345, Sacramento, 95823; ph. 707-739-6837
<http://www.factschurch.com/>; email factschurch@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Skeptics (SAS)

Meets monthly for critical thinking, science advocacy, beer!
<https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacskeptics/>
Email sacskeptics@gmail.com or sbaker81@comcast.net

Greater Sacramento FFRF Chapter

Church/State watchdog, secular advocacy.
<http://sac.ffrf.org/>; email sacffrf@gmail.com

Sacramento Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers

<https://www.meetup.com/SacFAN/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SacFAN/>

Sacramento Brights Action Meetup

<https://www.meetup.com/Bright-Action-Sacramento/>
Email the-brights@the-brights.net

Black Humanists and Non-Believers of Sacramento

Multiple meetings each month, breakfast parties, outreach!
<https://www.facebook.com/blackhumanistsofsacramento> or
<https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/>
Email BlackHumanistsNonBelievers@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Multi-Belief Discussion Meetup

Meets monthly each 2nd Saturday in Roseville.
<https://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Area-Multi-Belief-Discussion-Meetup/members/>

Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)

Ph. 209-610-0651 or email david@LodiUnited.org
<http://www.stocktonaaf.org/> or
<https://www.meetup.com/StocktonAtheists/>

UC Davis Agnostic & Atheist Student Assoc (AgASA)

Secular student association.
457 MU Bldg, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavisAgASA/>
Email davis@secularstudents.org or agasadavis@gmail.com

CSUS Secular Student Alliance

Secular student association.
<https://www.facebook.com/SacStateSSA/> or
<https://sacstatessa.wordpress.com/>
Email csus@secularstudents.org

Sacramento City College Freethinkers

Secular student association, meets each Tuesday.
<https://www.facebook.com/SSAatSCC/>
Email SacCityFreethinkers@gmail.com or
secularstudentssaccity@gmail.com

Sierra College Secular Student Alliance

5100 Sierra College Blvd, Rocklin, CA 95677
Email freethinkersofsierra@gmail.com or
sierra@secularstudents.org

Yuba Community College Freethinkers †

2088 N Beale Rd, Marysville, CA 95901
<https://www.facebook.com/ssayc/>
Email yccd@secularstudents.org or tsmith@yccd.edu

Waldorf School Secular Students

3750 Bannister Rd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Email sacwaldorf@secularstudents.org

Laguna Creek High School Secular Students †

9050 Vicino Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758
Email lagunacreek.hs@secularstudents.org

† Possibly in abeyance

“Church and State should be separate. The State owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the State more than any other . . . the Church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work . . . the State has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion.”

Southern Baptist Faith & Message, Article XVIII, 1925 (reaffirmed in 1963 & 2000)