

AOF News & Views – Newsletter for September 2025



AOF meeting, Aug 24, 2025 – Pete Spaulding enlightened us on efforts to **Protect the American River Parkway**

✧ ✧ This Month's Feature Event ✧ ✧

➤ Freethinker Potluck Picnic in the Park

Sunday, September 28, 2025, 2 pm – 4 pm

Location: Westwood Park, 8100 Butternut Drive, Citrus Heights, see map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fsTTxKCypghnAtHo6>.

Hobnob with us at AOF's *fifth* annual potluck picnic. We keep going back because the event is always a blast.

Please bring a picnicish dish to serve 6-8 people (*picnicish, picnic-esque? someone help us here*). And your own *non*-alcoholic beverages (because alcohol is a no-no in this park). BYO cushion too if you like -- picnic benches can be hard, and splinters lurk.

AOF will provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and cool water. The picnic tables are in the sweet sweet shade under a gazebo, and the restrooms are clean (we checked).

We will enjoy the beautiful afternoon, chat about things freethoughty or otherwise, and solve all the world's problems. Feel free to invite family and friends, we're all chill about that.

General Directions: From I-80 take exit 100 for Antelope Road. Go west on Antelope Road for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Lichen Drive. At the second stop sign continue straight onto Butternut Drive. To find the picnic area, then turn right onto Treeleaf Way. See the gazebo on the right -- the one with crepe paper? That's it.

Contact for details: See our [Contact Page](#)

Parking is free and a breeze. The neighborhood has free parking, and there's a free parking lot. To get to the lot from Butternut Drive, turn right onto Treeleaf Way, then turn right onto Cloverleaf Way. See the map.



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 7 pm – 8 pm

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

It's an AOF planning meeting, mainly for AOF directors & officers but open to all.

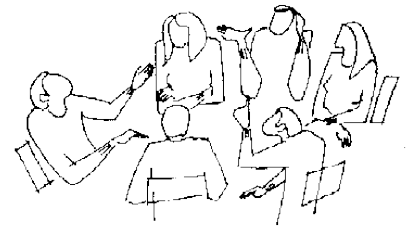
These happen as required, and are a lot more fun than they sound.

Please join us, meet the Board, keep an eye on the shenanigans. We love visitors. We have snacks. And maybe you'll have some good ideas, hm?

Note, this Board meeting will be an actual in-person meeting, so be sure vaccinations are current, or wear a mask, or just don't cough on us.

Contact for details: See <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Bring your ideas for AOF, your strategies, your event and activity suggestions -- best of all, your volunteerism! Helping hands are the bomb. (A good kind of bomb.)



➤ Free Movie and Discussion

Friday, September 12, 2025, 7 pm – 9 pm

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

Join us for a cozy in-person Movie Night at Sacramento's [Reason Center](#), in a quiet room with cushy seating and a huge screen and refreshments right at hand. The exact movie name is a secret because of our [MPLC License](#) and certain legal foderol -- but here's a hint. "An animated blockbuster from this year, but not shown in theatres. Sony spent \$100 million to produce it over nine years, and it has held the #1 spot on Netflix all summer. The art, music, and authentic mythology shown in it are truly amazing. The story is of a K-Pop girl band who strive to balance their lives in the spotlight with their roles as *demon-hunters*." *Demon-hunters*, how cool is that?



AOF co-sponsors the Movie Night events. The movie team provides popcorn and other munchies - feel free to bring your own snacks as well. We also encourage a post-film discussion, which makes this educational if you stretch the word. No fee to attend. But you know, Reason Center always appreciates donations. We're just saying.

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

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

➤ Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 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. We have cared for it, nurtured it, lovingly rescued it from litter and debris, and received recognition for our work. One of our 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.

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

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

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



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

Some local *non*-AOF events worthy of your attention. We won't list them all, just highlights. For more, please check the calendar links below.

➤ Polyamory: Small Groups, Big Talk: Consensual Non-Monogamy

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 4 pm – 7 pm

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

NOT A SEX PARTY, but a discussion of Polyamory for those new to it, experienced, or just curious as to what it is. "We are a community within Sacramento who practice Polyamory, a form of Ethical Non-Monogamy. Let's get together and talk!" This is a structured small group discussion event. After a 15-30 minute presentation, the each group gets a guide and around 12 random questions to facilitate discussion about the hard stuff. The host is Sarah T.

Details at: <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/310329659/>.

Note: This event is for the local Poly/CNM (Consensual Non-Monogamy) community. It is a Safe Space -- that means no tolerance for hate or violence. Please listen and not pass judgements.

Questions, comments, concerns? Email StocktonPoly@gmail.com.

➤ Sacramento Skeptics in the Pub

Sunday, September 7, 2025, 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: Urban Roots Brewing & Smokehouse, 1322 V St., Sac.; map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/V8ek6ragKu4ULbcJA>.

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

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310592720/>.

➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts and Brunch

• **Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10 am – 11:30 am**, at Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6>, details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310554564/>

• **Sunday, September 14, 2025, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**, at Mel's Diner, 3000 J Street, Sacramento, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/toijMkseMWmTanVP7>, details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310454906/>.

• **Sunday, September 21, 2025, 9:30 am – 11 am**, at Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gg72KkmcC4bU6>, details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310650182/>.



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 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 (see the links).

➤ Sunday Assembly & Potluck

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 11 am – 1 pm (doors open 10:30am, presentation at 11)

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

Sunday Assembly is a secular celebration of *you*, with music, readings, food and speakers, plus entertainment for children. Featured presenter is Alex Heetland, Artistic Director of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus. The event will also have a short Doing Your Best presentation, a time for members to share their Milestones, and a potluck. Bring a food dish to share if you wish. The Assembly will provide donuts and coffee.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310654537/>.

➤ River Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 8 am – 11:30 am

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

Get Dirty for a Good Cause

On this day we have an opportunity to join with other local secular groups and do environmental work that benefits our community. Join the secular community, statewide, as we clean our lakes, beaches, rivers, and parks through [California's Coastal Cleanup program](#). After the cleanup, [California Freethought Day](#) has a treat for us: it is offering a \$10 per person (with limitations) reimbursement for brunch! We can all gather to eat and chat after all that work! Host is Ryan D.

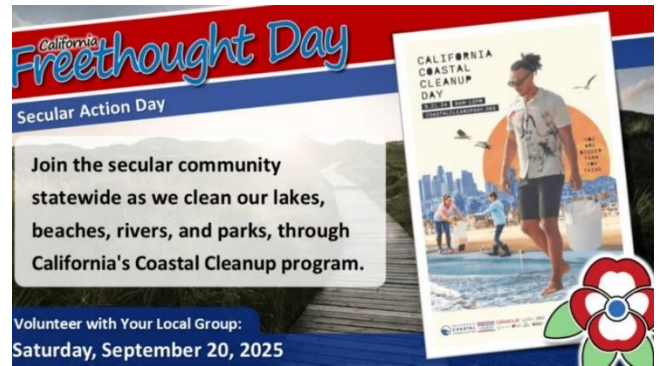
For this event, Sunday Assembly Sacramento will join folks from other groups such as Black Humanists and Non-Believers and Atheists and Other Freethinkers. The Sunday Assembly Help Often group will lead us. Gather at Reason Center at 8:30 am and walk or carpool to the Ethan Way River Access by Cal Expo to get the introduction at 9:00 am.

You can sign the waiver for the hosting organization here or sign the paper on the day of the event. There is information there, but if it is confusing, just come on the 20th and you can sign there.

Highly recommended: comfortable shoes, long-sleeved shirt or jacket and long pants, hat and gloves. Please RSVP!

Details at: <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310685656/> or <https://freethoughtday.org/programs/action>.

Yes, we know this event conflicts with the AOF Highway Clean-up the same morning. You'll have to flip a coin.



➤ Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 12 noon – 2 pm

Location: Mast Coffee, 1430 28th Street, Sacramento, CA, see map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zerBD1Q5DvfaKCcX7>.

The history of ancient Christianity is an endlessly fascinating topic. Don Fox and Steve Thoreson will facilitate meetups to review 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 not required. Facilitated by Don Fox and Steve Thoreson.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310821816/>.

➤ Consumnes River Nature Walk and Picnic Lunch

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 12 noon – 3 pm

Location: Cosumnes River Preserve, 13501 Franklin Blvd, Galt, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/XTojL6kAQZuKKptv6>.

Join freethinker friends for a 3+ mile round trip on raised levees through a variety of habitats, including buttonbush thickets, native grasslands, valley oak riparian forest, cottonwood-willow riparian forest, tulle marsh, valley oak savannah and several restoration projects. The choice of trails will be determined by who shows up, and splitting up could be an option. Bring your own lunch to enjoy. There are picnic tables by the visitor center, or bring a blanket to enjoy lunch by the river.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/310771597/>.

➤ Black Humanists & Non-Believers Book Club

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm (online meeting)

An online book discussion open to all. The topic will be **My Brother's Name Is Kenny: The Greatest True Hip-Hop Story Ever Told**, by Kenny Parker. RSVP at the Details link below, and you will see how to attend.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/309724830/>.

➤ Coffee and Community at Reason Center

Sunday, September 28, 2025, 10 am – 11:30 am

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

Come to the Reason Center Library for coffee, tea and treats. This event is just a casual conversation on topics of the day, and newcomers are welcome. Hope to see you soon!

Details at: <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/310702786/>.

➤ Humanity Supper

Sunday, September 28, 2025, 4 pm – 6 pm

Location: Tori's Place, 1525 Grand Ave, Sacramento, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/pesiPgXvouXq9j6z9>.

Join the Black Humanists for the bi-monthly early supper. It is a great opportunity for new people trying to commit to our events. We would love to get to know you. Please RSVP at the "details" link below.

Details at: <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/310344247/>.

Notes: Please honor your RSVP and keep it updated. Greatly appreciated.

Really, there's more. And plans change, because we're human. So don't trust the list above. To learn of all those other events, please 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** ✧ ✧

➤ **World Cleanup Day**

Saturday, September 20, 2025

In the United States, [World Cleanup Day](http://WorldCleanupDay.org) (WCD) is the third Saturday of September, which due to calendar vagaries can drift from Sept 15 to Sept 21. But eco-groups urge us to think of all of September as World Cleanup Month. And that's a great idea.

The idea of WCD began in the small country of Estonia in 2008, when 50,000 people united to clean up the entire country in just five hours. On that day, a bottom-up civic movement was born. It spread virally around the globe, capturing the hearts of people worldwide, who followed suit with the same ambitious 'one country, one-day' formula. By 2018 it had united 18 million people across 157 countries and territories.

Today the simple idea is a global movement with millions of volunteers and charismatic leaders. The simple act of cleaning has bound together people and groups that would otherwise never unite to work towards the same goal. Civil society, governments and global corporations, women in Saudi Arabia, people defying war in Yemen and Syria, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and Christians, men and women, children.

Why? Because every human has a place they call Home, be it a mansion, a street, a hut or a cardboard box. Then there are the cities, countries, and regions we call home; the planet we call home. When the Estonians successfully cleaned their home in 5 hours, the world took notice. The simplicity of the idea and the 'let's do it' attitude took off and the rest, as they say, is history.

After all, anyone can pick up trash. But World Cleanup Day has become much more than that. Daycares, schools, companies, government officials – the old, the young, the rich, the poor, the able and less able – everyone has contributed. Because they can. Because they wanted to be involved in making their home a better place. Because they were given an opportunity to help. Because they belong to a community, and the community belongs to us.

How can you help? Go to <https://www.worldcleanupday.us> or <https://www.worldcleanupday.org/>, find your local contacts, register for a Cleanup, and rise early that day to help to beautify your parks, trails, beaches, mountains, and open spaces. The world will be better for it, and you will be a better person.



➤ **Ask an Atheist Day**

Thursday, September 18, 2025

[National Ask an Atheist Day](http://NationalAskAnAtheistDay.org) is a movable secular holiday that occurs twice each year -- first on the 3rd Thursday of April, then on the 3rd Thursday of September. As if atheists don't have enough to do already.

"NAaA Day" is an opportunity for secular groups across the country to dispel stereotypes about atheism and to encourage constructive, courteous dialogue between believers and nonbelievers. And it is an opportunity for the general public—particularly people of faith—to

**I'M AN
ATHEIST
ASK ME ANYTHING**

approach non-theists and ask questions about secular life. Please don't be afraid to spark up a discussion with us, we won't bite. Most don't, anyway.

The first event was in February of 2011, when members of the [Secular Student Alliance](#) (SSA) at the University of Illinois set up a table with a sign that said "Ask an Atheist." The next month an article appeared in the [Friendly Atheist website](#), written by a "Guest Contributor" (probably an SSA member), saying the event was a smashing success and the Illinois group hoped to take the day nationally. "The SSA is ready to help," it added. Since then NAaA Day has occurred across the nation each April since, and soon in September as well.

For those interested, it helps to know a bit about atheism. Of course the point is to ask atheists questions, but here is some background. Generally, atheists have no belief in deities, which is not *quite* the same as a positive belief that no deity exists. The prefix "a" just means "without." Atheism has no set ideology—atheists may be humanists, rationalists, Unitarian Universalists, postmodernists, secularists, among other things. Historically, Greek and Roman philosophers and writers such as Epicurus, Democritus, and Lucretius had an influence on what would become atheism. The term didn't appear until the sixteenth century, a time when freethought and skepticism began to flourish. Some that lived during the Age of Enlightenment were the first to identify themselves as atheists. The supremacy of human reason was a facet of the French Revolution, and it was at this time that atheism first became used politically. Science also began to lock horns with orthodox religion during the second half of the nineteenth century.

For more about the day and how to participate, take a look at the [Ask an Atheist Day Activity Guide](#). But what if you aren't an atheist? Celebrate NAaA Day by asking an atheist about atheism! The day is meant to be filled with respectful dialogue, so make sure to participate in such a way, no matter if you are an atheist or the person asking questions.

➤ Talk Like a Pirate Day Friday, September 19, 2025

Avast ye lubbers. International [Talk Like a Pirate Day](#) is a day to show your Piratude. Created in 1995 by John Baur and Mark Summers, promulgated to worldwide popularity by humorist Dave Barry in a syndicated column, this is a secular holiday we can celebrate in many ways: garb like pirates, talk like pirates, swill grog like pirates, stagger and fall down like pirates. What's grog? Never mind, just find some and knock it back.

Then haul your keel, shiver your timbers, and do wha' ever seem right and proper, 'cause this be a day to celebrate. More ahoy at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Talk_Like_a_Pirate_Day.

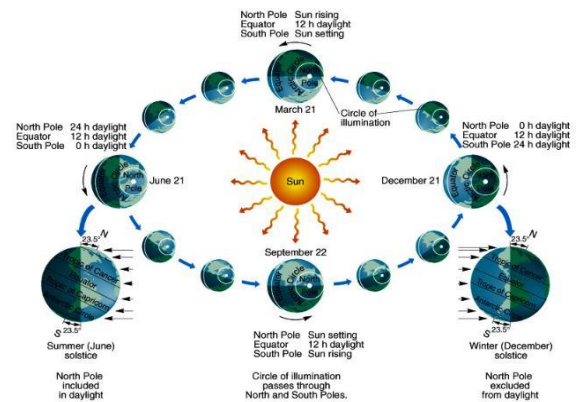


➤ Equinox (September) Monday, September 22

The September Equinox is one of two days in the calendar year when day almost equal the night hours. In the northern hemisphere it is also the first day of autumn or fall (Gregorian calendar), called the Autumnal Equinox. (In the southern hemisphere it is the first day of spring.)

The Autumnal Equinox marks when green things begin to shed, when growth which was young in the spring has reached maturity. Animals prepare for winter, tree leaves turn colors, and the air takes a chill. In most cultures this a time for harvest and taking stock of life's fragility. It is a time when people begin noticing the waning hours of daylight in anticipation of the winter. Since this time of year is one of the most temperate, it is also a good time to reflect on the meaning of life.

In every culture the Autumnal Equinox signals the return of weather that favors slowing down, introspection, and conservation. Many cultures celebrate the harvest as a means to defeat the starvation brought on by winter. It is also a time closely associated with the dead. Though the dead do not return to life nor walk the earth this time of the year, it is well to remember or memorialize those who are no longer with us. For freethinkers the Autumnal Equinox is a great time to celebrate the lives of those who contributed to the freethought movement. It is also a perfect day to contemplate your own thoughts on the meaning you invest in life, and share those thoughts with others.



➤ Banned Book Week Tuesday, September 23 – Tuesday, September 30, 2025

September's end marks Banned Books Week, a celebration of the Freedom to Read, established by the American Library Association in 1981 in response to growing attempts to ban books in public libraries across the country. First observed in 1982, we celebrate it each year during the last week starting in September, to remind our fellow citizens not to take for granted their freedom to read the written word.



Every year bookstores and libraries across the United States celebrate Banned Books Week with displays of and readings from books that have been banned or threatened throughout history. Such works range from the *Bible* and Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, and has included books on atheism, science, tolerance, social issues, love and sex, and philosophy. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Aristophanes, Margaret Sanger, Mary Shelley, Ambrose Bierce, Charles Darwin, George Eliot, Mark Twain and John Locke were all victims of censorship during their lifetimes and still face censorship in some sections of the world today.

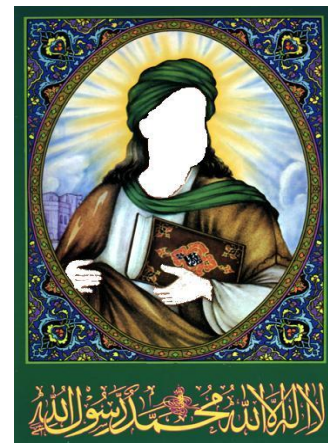
Banned Books Week stands as a reminder that freedom is precious, that without constant diligence and defiance we can lose it, even in the United States. If anything this should motivate freethinkers everywhere to read banned books, discuss them, and protect the rights of all Americans to read what they want, when they want, in libraries across the country.

➤ Blasphemy Day Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Secularists and freethinkers worldwide celebrate [International Blasphemy Day](#) or "Blasphemy Rights Day" to mark the anniversary of when images of Muhammad appeared in the Denmark newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* in 2005. Conservative Muslims reacted to the drawings with worldwide protests, riots, embassy burnings and death threats.

Formally founded in 2009 by Ronald Lindsay, Director of the Center of Inquiry in Ahmherst, New York, and promoted by the [Campaign for Free Expression](#), this secular holiday now stands as a platform for individuals freely to express criticisms of religion and religious establishments. As Ronald Lindsay said in a television interview: "... religious beliefs should be subject to examination and criticism just as political beliefs are, but we have a taboo on religion."

"... we're against restrictions on speech based purely on the possibility that some people might be offended," he also said; "Because if you go down that path there's no end to it."



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: Redoubtable Roger Zabkie
Vice-president: Marvelous Mynga Futrell
Secretary: Rapid Ruth Rezos
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Event Coordinator: Prolific Pamela Rivera
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
Program chair: Super Susan McLean
Facebook page: Keen Kaeleigh Pontif
Directors at large:
Fran Evanisko, Kaeleigh Pontif, David Herbert

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 is affiliated with the Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies (ASHS), Atheist Alliance of America (AAA), American Atheists (AA), American Humanist Association (AHA) and the Sacramento Coalition of Reason (SCoR).

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. 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.

Your humble editor is Fran Evanisko.

Letters, submissions? We love them! See:
<http://www.aofonline.org/read/submission-guide.html>.