



Dr. Bill Durston speaking to AOF about Gun Violence in the United States – Oct 26, 2025



And freethinkers celebrating Free Thought at the CA State Capitol – Oct 12, 2025. What a party!

✧ ✧ This Month's Headliner Event ✧ ✧

➤ Doom, Gloom, and Energy Boom

Sunday, November 23, 2025, 2 pm – 4 pm

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

Climate change ... how much do you think about it? Pshaw, it's not enough.

Climate change is a weedy and polarizing topic. Some say we're doomed to climate catastrophe, while others say concerns are overblown and we should focus on expanding fossil fuel production in a bid for "energy dominance."

Dana Nuccitelli, our speaker, will dissect both sides and make a case that while climate changes pose an immense challenge, with the help of clean technologies, addressing the climate crisis while meeting our energy needs is entirely possible.

Who's [Dana Nuccitelli](#)? An environmental scientist with a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in physics from UC Davis. He is the Research Manager for the nonprofit climate advocacy group Citizens' Climate Lobby and a climate journalist who has written for Skeptical Science since 2010, for The Guardian from 2013 to 2018, and for Yale Climate Connections since 2018. Dana has also published 10 peer-reviewed climate papers, most notably on the 97% expert consensus among climate scientists that humans are primarily responsible for the observed global warming since 1950. What a guy.



Contact for details: See the AOF Contact page (<http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>) or call 916-304-3796.

A free event with free parking. Open to the public. Doors open 1:45pm. Bring snacks or a beverage to share if you can. AOF provides cool, clear water.

✧ ✧ Other Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 7 pm – 8 pm

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

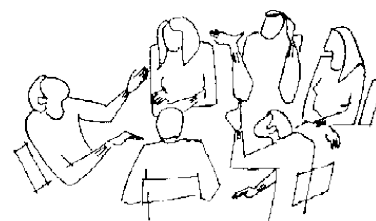
It's an AOF planning meeting, mainly for AOF directors & officers but open to all of you. These happen as required, and are a lot more fun than they sound.

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 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 the Contact page (<http://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, November 14, 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 folderol -- but here's a hint. "When a recently divorced mother and her two teenage boys move to a coastal town to stay with her father, it doesn't take long for the brothers to realize the area is a haven for something much more sinister than party-going surfers. A 1987 classic with some tongue-in-cheek horror."

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, November 15, 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. 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 <http://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>, or call 916-304-3796. *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 (non-AOF) ✧ ✧

Here are some local *non*-AOF events worthy of attention. Not everything, just highlights. For more, please check the calendar links below.

➤ Blasphemy Brunch and Breakfast

• **Saturday, November 8, 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/311230759/>.

• **Sunday, November 16, 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/311642659/>.

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 detail links).



➤ Small Groups, Big Talk (Consensual Non-Monogamy)

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 4 pm – 7 pm

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

Event is for the local Polyamory/CNM community. A safe space for LGBTQIA+ and BDSM but are not exclusive to those communities. Not a swing party (really, cool it you people).

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

➤ Sunday Assembly & Potluck

Sunday, November 9, 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. The event will have a featured presenter, a short Doing Your Best presentation, a time for members to share their Milestones. Bring a food dish to share if you wish – it's a potluck too! The Assembly will provide donuts and coffee

Main speaker: **Leigh Ann Higa of Cake4Kids**. Leigh Ann joined Cake4Kids in 2018 in Fresno. She is now a genetic counselor at UC Davis, where she works with the families of pediatric and adult patients.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/311650319/>.

➤ LiteraCheer at Reason Center

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 2 pm – 4 pm

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

Come and enjoy the weekend afternoon by discussing favorite books with fellow thinkers. Everyone will get a chance to share their ideas about any book of their choice—any genre, fiction or nonfiction. This is a great way to keep abreast of what like-minded people are reading. It will occur in the Reason Center library seating area.

Notes: Honor your RSVP and keep it updated. We must have 3 RSVPs to move forward (besides the moderator). Follow common sense decency in choice of books. Have a book to discuss - even if you are still reading it. Be nice – focus on the "cheer" part of the event. Finally, optional to bring your snacks to share with others. Organizers will bring treats.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/311625189/>.

➤ Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 12 pm – 2 pm

Location: Mast Coffee, 1430 28th Street, Sac. Map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dTayRZjJ6gDajVyn7>.

The history of ancient Christianity is an endlessly fascinating topic. Don Fox and Steve Thoreson are facilitating this meet up to review the history of Rome, religions of the Roman empire, Gnosticism, Mystery cults, Christian persecutions, biographies of major Christians, the history of the Bible and 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 is not required to participate.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/311737348/>.

➤ **Black Humanists & Non-Believers Book Club**

Saturday, November 22, 2025, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm (online meeting)

An online book discussion open to all. The book will be *Dawn Lilith's Brood* by Octavia Butler. RSVP at the Details link below, and you will see how to attend.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/309724850/>.

➤ **Coffee and Community at Reason Center**

Sunday, November 23, 2025, 11 am – 12:30 am

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sac., see [map](#)

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: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/311845040/>.



➤ **Humanity Supper at Kaylo's BBQ**

Sunday, November 23, 2025, 4 pm – 6 pm

Location: Kaylo's BBQ, 2667 Alta Arden Expy, Sac. Map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/arWySizcbXBUDNJHA>.

The dinner series is combing the area for great Black owned restaurants to support them with our dollars. A great opportunity for new people trying to commit to our events. Why not start this month with this event? We would love to get to know you.

Notes: Honor your RSVP and keep it updated. Greatly appreciated. We must have 3 persons RSVP'g to move forward.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/311721391/>.



➤ **Atheists Community video clips & discussion** (online)

Monday, December 1, 2025, 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Location: Visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81807086862?pwd=ZjUyamt1b2dlc1N5bEZ6Q0w1Um00QT09> at meeting time.

An educational and entertaining teleconference about Atheism, Logic, Reason, Thoughtfulness, debunking conspiracy theories - accentuated by videos and your presence. *What to expect:* Discussion sparked by short videos about atheism, religion, science, current events, critical thinking, comedy, life hacks and more, followed by moderated discussions.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/kgfwgtyhcbqcb/>.

➤ **Skeptics in the Pub**

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: Urban Roods Brewing & Smokehouse, 1322 V Street, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/VmDt4vn2y1ac12Np7>.

A social gathering for the skeptical minds, a community of people, friends, and families that champion the methods of science and critical thinking. The Skeptics will usually meet in the back patio, weather permitting; tables are out there under a tent. Otherwise, a table inside. Urban Roots is an ideal location.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacskeptics/events/310929356/>.

➤ **More Events – So many Calendars!**

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/>
- 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 us. 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. Or call us! (Reasonable honorariums paid to speakers.)

Volunteer?

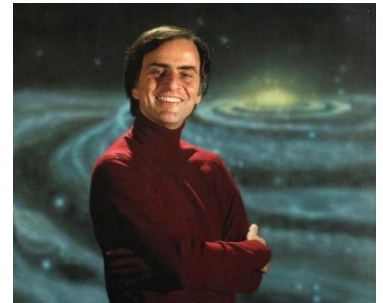
We suggest it meekly. See <http://www.aofonline.org/learn/committees.html> for opportunities.

✧ ✧ **Secular Holidays** ✧ ✧

➤ **Carl Sagan Day**

Sunday, November 9, 2025

[Carl Sagan Day](#) marks the birthday of the great Carl Sagan, and is a celebration to honor his memory. Carl Sagan was Professor of Astronomy and Space Science and Director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies at Cornell University, 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 gone on to affect the hearts and minds of over a billion people in sixty countries.



His *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**

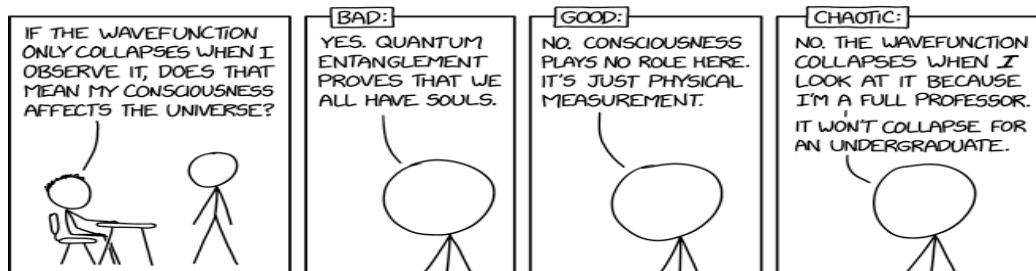
Sunday, November 23, 2025 - Saturday, November 29, 2025

Many freethinkers have adopted the week of Thanksgiving (~November 24) 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. Carles Darwin has his own secular holiday (see: February 12).



👉 Help AOF! Be a Board Member in 2025. 👈

Have ideas for AOF but don't know how to start? *Here's your chance:* Be an AOF Director in 2025! Once a year the door opens to those willing to go an extra mile to help AOF thrive, by joining the AOF Board of Directors.

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 be an AOF member in good standing. It helps to have a sharp mind and email access. You're all that, right? Minimum duties: one brief planning meeting every few months, at which you will share your wisdom, help make decisions, and plan how AOF can serve this wonderful community of reason. And nibble snacks.

If interested, great! What next? Tell us! Contact AOF via its contact page or voicemail number (916-304-3796). Then cobble up 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: Board Candidate Statement. We count on you!

Family News

The [Greater Sacramento Chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation](#) has a new president. Former president [Judy Saint](#) has retired and the chapter board elected former vice president [Erin Louis](#) as its new president.

Erin is well-skilled with organizational, business, public relations and leadership abilities. Erin said that she originally joined FFRF "to make a change" and says she already has some changes in mind!

Judy writes: "My parting entreaty to the chapter board was to always hold the leadership of FFRF in well-deserved esteem. Annie Laurie and Dan's 'servant leadership' style is unmatched in any other organization I know, freethought or otherwise, and worth emulating. We, as chapters, owe a lot to Annie Laurie and Dan, and of course to Anne Nicol Gaylor whom I was privileged to meet just once."

Congratulations, Erin. And thank you, Judy.



Most Christians have no idea where their own religion came from

By "Low_Crazy_7744" - reprinted from Reddit ([source link with comments](#)), July 2025

One of those social media preacher kids came up to me on the street recently. The kind with a backward hat, a ring light, and a mic in your face asking if you believe in Jesus. I said no. He looked stunned. Then I asked him a few basic questions about his own religion. It fell apart instantly.

He didn't know that Paul never met Jesus. He didn't know that Paul's letters were written before the Gospels. He had no idea the Gospels were written decades after Jesus died, by anonymous Greek authors who weren't eyewitnesses. No clue that Matthew and Luke copied from Mark. No idea the resurrection stories contradict each other completely. He had never heard that the earliest Gospel, Mark, ends with no resurrection appearances at all.

He couldn't explain why Jesus's birth is dated to two completely different time periods in Matthew and Luke. One says it happened under Herod, who died in 4 BCE. The other says it was during the census under Quirinius in 6 CE. That's a ten-year gap. One Gospel has Jesus's family fleeing to Egypt. The other says they went straight back to Nazareth.

And when I brought up the Trinity, he said it's all over Scripture. I asked him to show me where Jesus defines it. He couldn't. Because he didn't know the Trinity is a post-biblical doctrine created by Church councils in the fourth century. Same with the New Testament canon. He didn't realize it was the Catholic Church that decided which books made it into the Bible. Evangelicals claim they just follow Scripture, but they're following a table of contents that Rome gave them.

Most Christians have no idea that Paul barely talks about Jesus's life, teachings, or miracles that Judas dies two different ways in Matthew and Acts that the Gospels can't agree on who found the tomb, who was there, or what they saw that John rewrites everything with a totally different voice and message that the last twelve verses of Mark were added later that doctrines like the Trinity, the virgin birth, and parts of the resurrection story evolved over time

But they'll still tell you you're going to hell for not believing it.

If you're going to preach to strangers on the sidewalk, maybe start by understanding where the magical sacred book came from. I seriously think the majority of Christians think "Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John" watched Jesus go around and then got together right after he died and wrote down everything exactly as it happened. They obviously just cherry-pick feel good verses and have never actually read and compared all the wild contradictions haha. Jesus can be whatever you want him to be.... That is what the writers of the gospels and Paul did!



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

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.

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

Sleeping Preachers (from ShipOfFools.com)

THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL, of course, about sleeping during a sermon. Unless it's your own. That takes rather more of a gift.

There are a surprising number of people who have had the ability to preach in their sleep, usually ones who were not allowed to preach when awake.

Helena Konttinen, for example, was a poor Finnish woman who started sleep-preaching in 1905, reading her sermons from books held for her by angels in her dreams. She went on for up to five hours, and suffered three attempts on her life. I'm not suggesting those two facts are related.

Ninety years earlier, Rachel Baker, a cloakmaker, was doing the same kind of thing in upstate New York. She would start punctually at 9pm with spasms and then speak for a mere hour, more articulately and forcefully than she managed when awake, and even answer questions from listeners. She woke up with no recollection of her sermons. They were so popular that she was taken on a sleep preaching tour of local taverns.

One of John Wesley's preachers performed in his sleep as well as during the day. One of the odder stories in Wesley's Journal, this is an account of one of his preachers who gave sermons in his sleep. He would start in the early hours of the morning with a hymn, tell his congregation to pay attention, and then pontificate. Instead of scripture-bearing angels, he had hecklers coming to him in his dreams, and had to interrupt his sermon to argue with them.

And for those who don't have the gift of preaching sermons in their sleep, there's always the possibility of hearing them instead. John Newton had a lodger who heard a different sermon from a different person every night, and then recounted them at breakfast. "But when she married, she lost her gift."

