



Michael Hersher leads the AOF meeting about protest songs, Marcy 22, 2026

✧ ✧ **This Month's Headliner Event** ✧ ✧

➤ **AOF at Sacramento Earth Day**

Day, April 26, 2026, 11 am – 4 pm

Location: Southside Park, Sacramento, see [map](#).

Each year the [Environmental Council of Sacramento](#) (ECOS) hosts [Sac Earth Day](#), the largest Earth Day festival in the Central Valley. A nicer team of squeaky liberal tree-huggers you could never hope to meet! Free to all, Sac Earth Day provides thousands of attendees with information on sustainability, plus a chance to meander in fresh air and enjoy the cheerful cacophony of every cause, genre and crackpot calling to you at once. Once again, AOF is a proud annual sponsor and tabler, adding to the general noise.

Find it on the central green in beautiful [Southside Park](#), where experts will advise you on eco-friendly education, climate, water, gardening, and habitat. It will inspire action and advocacy to move our world toward sustainability.

In honor of the [Water Forum Agreement 2050](#), the theme is “**Water We Waiting for?**”. Sac Earth Day offers us an opportunity to better understand the value of our water supply and the need for a balance between water for humans and the natural environment. As you meander, visit *us* of course – stop by the AOF table to schmooze. In fact, if you can volunteer to join us for an hour or two, contact the AOF president now at the email link below. Just say what hour(s) you can spare to help us table.

Sacramento Earth Day: a delight and a maelstrom, a kaleidoscope of art, live music, vegan-friendly food trucks, cute dogs, assorted cults, earnest screeds, well-aged hippies, performers, tables piled with candy and free swag, and more.

Contact for details: Email "president (at) aofonline (dot) org", or see <https://www.aofonline.org/contact.html>.

Did we say it's free? Details at: <https://www.ecosacramento.net/sacearthday/>.



❖ ❖ Other Upcoming AOF Events ❖ ❖

➤ Film and Discussion Night at Reason Center

Friday, April 10, 2026, 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, a huge screen, air conditioning, and refreshments right at hand. The movie title is a secret because of our MPLC License and certain legal folderol -- but we can hint. In this film, Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Richard Nixon's resignation. 1976, run time 2 hrs, 18 min.



AOF and Reason Center co-sponsor the Movie Night. The 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 a bit. No fee required to attend, really, but donations gratefully accepted. We do have to pay for the room!

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!

➤ Don Knutson: a Celebration of his Life ☆☆

Sunday, April 11, 2026, 1 pm – 4 pm

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

You are invited to gather with others at the **Reason Center in Sacramento** to honor the life of our friend and brother **Don Knutson**.

The first hour will be a **Vegan potluck**. Bring whatever dish you like, savory or sweet, as long as it is vegan – that means no meat, fish, fowl, eggs, dairy or honey. Also, as per Don's wishes, no alcohol. From 2 - 4 pm will be a time for sharing brief reminiscences of Don. Please limit your words to two minutes so that everyone who wants to speak will have time. Please RSVP if possible. Feel free to forward this invitation to others who knew Don.

Details and RSVP at: <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/313877434/>, or call (206) 354-8694.



❖ ❖ Other Upcoming Events ❖ ❖

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

➤ Blasphemy Breakfast and a Brunch

● **Saturday, April 11, 2026, 10 am – 11:30 am**, at Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zoJwPBTciXa76TtF7>, details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/312169696/>.

● **Sunday, April 19, 2026, 9:30 am – 11 am**, at Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, CA, map at <https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gq72KkmkC4bU6>, details at <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/299855550/>.

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, April 12, 2026, 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 **Nick Gray**, volunteer Outreach Lead for Camp Omni, a secular sleepaway summer camp for youths aged 8-17. Nick is a member of Sunday Assembly Sacramento, a board member of California Freethought Day, an organizer for Capital Science Communicators, and the Deputy Director of Programs for the Water Education Foundation. Bring a food dish to share if you wish – it's a potluck too!



Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/313915623/>.

➤ **Skeptics in the Pub**

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 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/313810676/>.

➤ **Coffee & Tour at the Crocker Art Museum**

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Crocker Art Museum Café, 216 O Street, Sacramento, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/qUjyX1ebJyMHkfXz7>.

Join the Sunday Assembly community for a coffee meetup at the Crocker Museum Cafe, followed by exploring the Museum. At noon there will be a 30-minute Look & Learn Tour (included with museum admission). Admission price \$15 regular, or \$10 for seniors. Children under 6 free.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/313227781/>.

➤ **LiteraCheer at Reason Center**

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm

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

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

Note, the event must have 3 persons RSVPs to move forward. Lacking that number will force a cancellation.

Follow common decency in the choice of books. Have a book in mind for discussion - even if you are still reading it. Try to keep the book topics accessible to all – a topic you would bring up at a cocktail party or public function. Finally, be nice, always be nice.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/313896981/>.

➤ **Ancient Christian Study Group**

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 12 pm – 2 pm

Location: Mast Coffee, 1430 28th Street, Sacramento, CA, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7LLEqGrzrQRZm7jn9>.

The history of ancient Christianity is an endlessly fascinating topic. Don Fox and Steve Thoreson facilitate this meetup 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 to participate.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/313789159/>.

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

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (online meeting)

An online book discussion open to all. The book will be *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, an account by the renowned abolitionist and former slave, Frederick Douglass, powerfully describing his life of oppression and his journey to freedom. "I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs," he wrote. RSVP at the Details link below, and you will see how to attend.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/314096821/>.

➤ **Humanity Breakfast at Fixins – Yummy!**

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11 am – 1pm

Location: Fixins Soul Kitchen, 3428 3rd Ave, Sacramento, map at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2nv3Wfn8siRMucdq7>.

Time for a scrumptious breakfast. The gentle BHNB folk alternate between dinners and breakfasts each month; even months are breakfasts, and odd months dinners. This event needs at least 3 RSVPs to proceed. Short of this threshold, the event will be cancelled the day before. Always check for updates or check your email.

Be prepared to bring cash to have the most flexible payment experience (if party size is larger than 3).

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/313789187/>.

➤ Coffee and Community at Reason Center

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 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!



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

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 3:30 pm – 8 pm

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

A structured small-group discussion for the local Polyamory/CNM community, covering the “What, Who and Why” of it. Roughly 2 hours of discussion with breaks. A safe space for LGBTQIA+ and BDSM but not exclusive to those communities. Not a swing party (really). Don’t be hot to trot.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/313769588/>.

➤ 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/>
- 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 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. 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 ✧ ✧

➤ Yuri’s Night, or Cosmonauts Day

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Yuri’s Night, also called **Cosmonauts Day**, is a day in honor of Yuri Gagarin, who became the first human in space on April 12, 1961. Twenty years later on the same day the U.S. launched the first space shuttle.

The Soviet Union first celebrated Cosmonauts Day in 1962, on the first anniversary of Gagarin successful flight into space. It was celebrated annually in the USSR and then Russia. The idea for a worldwide celebration of space and technology sprang into existence at the United Nations’ Space Generation Advisory Council Conference in September of 2000. The new, worldwide Yuri’s Night was first celebrated on April 12, 2001 and has since become an annual international celebration.

Yuri’s Night not only celebrates space and technology, but also the principles of freethinking. Once people thought that the other planets travelled around Earth. It took courage as well as intelligence for people to argue against the religiously-



ordained view of the Earth as the center of the universe. Celebrating Yuri's Night not only is about celebrating his historic achievement, but all accomplishments of science that have overturned dogma and advanced our knowledge of our universe.

Yuri's Night has become an international phenomenon since its introduction in 2001. Every year coordinators and participants look to broaden the spectrum of events held. The range of events is as diverse as the people who hold them; even residents of the International Space Station have been known to join in the fun. Whether in someone's living room, a nightclub or a world-class science museum, Cosmonauts Day events all have one thing in common: people who are excited about space exploration, science, freethought, and want to join together to celebrate it. Participating in Cosmonauts Day isn't difficult: if finding an already existing party near is hard, then get your friends together call it a Yuri's Night party. Getting people to think about space, science, and freethought is the focus no matter the venue.

"Circling the earth in my orbital spaceship I marveled at its beauty. People of the world, let us safeguard and enhance this beauty, not destroy it!" -- Yuri Gagarin

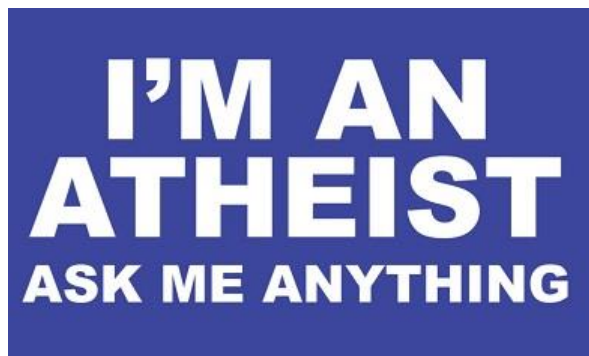
➤ **Ask an Atheist Day** **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

[National Ask an Atheist Day](#) is a movable secular holiday occurring twice each year -- on the 3rd Thursday of April (anywhere from April 15 to April 21), and on the 3rd Thursday of September (from Sept 15 to Sep 21). 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 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 NAaA Day 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 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.



➤ **Earth Day** **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

Earth Day is a day to grow and diversify the environmental movement, and to mobilize our resources to promote a healthy, sustainable planet. Earth Day is the only Secular Holiday celebrated simultaneously around the globe by people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities. More than a half billion people participate in Earth Day campaigns every year.

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day in 1970 to push the environment onto the national agenda. It is an inclusive event, attracting people of all religions and beliefs. Non-religious groups have many reasons to celebrate Earth Day: those who don't believe in heaven or divine intervention realize that this world is all we have and that it is in our hands to protect it. Those who believe that the scientific method is the best way to gain understanding of our world, can also use Earth Day to promote the best available science about environmental issues. Secular groups can use this annual event to network with environmental groups and other organizations.

You can celebrate Earth Day in many different ways. Events across the globe are often designed to bring notice of the environment to lawmakers. Events also take place on college and school campuses. Meetings intended for the sole purpose of attracting attention to the cause are the most common, employing music or speakers to generate attention.



CHARON

Charon leaned forward and rowed. All things were one with his weariness.

It was not with him a matter of years or of centuries, but of wide floods of time, and an old heaviness and a pain in the arms that had become for him part of the scheme that the gods had made and was of a piece with Eternity.

If the gods had even sent him a contrary wind it would have divided all time in his memory into two equal slabs.

So grey were all things always where he was that if any radiance lingered a moment among the dead, on the face of such a queen perhaps as Cleopatra, his eyes could not have perceived it.

It was strange that the dead nowadays were coming in such numbers. They were coming in thousands where they used to come in fifties. It was neither Charon's duty nor his wont to ponder in his grey soul why these things might be. Charon leaned forward and rowed.

Then no one came for a while. It was not usual for the gods to send no one down from Earth for such a space. But the gods knew best.

Then one man came alone. And the little shade sat shivering on a lonely bench and the great boat pushed off. Only one passenger; the gods knew best. And great and weary Charon rowed on and on beside the little, silent, shivering ghost.

And the sound of the river was like a mighty sigh that Grief in the beginning had sighed among her sisters, and that could not die like the echoes of human sorrow failing on earthly hills, but was as old as time and the pain in Charon's arms.

Then the boat from the slow, grey river loomed up to the coast of Dis and the little, silent shade still shivering stepped ashore, and Charon turned the boat to go wearily back to the world. Then the little shadow spoke, that had been a man.

"I am the last," he said.

No one had ever made Charon smile before, no one before had ever made him weep.

Lord Dunsany, 1910, *Saturday Review*



[Cyanide and Happiness © Explodin.net]



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

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 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. Be respectful, and you 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>.