



Doctor R. Snick cured all our ills at the May 17, 2026, AOF Meeting

❖ ❖ **This Month's Headliner Event** ❖ ❖

➤ **A Zero-carbon Plan for 2030**

Sunday, June 28, 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm

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

Discover SMUD's 2030 zero-carbon plan

Squeeze shut your eyes, breathe, and imagine a carbon clean future. One with low-acid seas and no nasty carbon flecks settling in your lungs. Well, SMUD aims to decarbonize its energy supply, boost air quality by 2030, and ensure affordable rates while leaving no community behind – *the most ambitious goal of any large utility in the United States!* A brag, but it's true.

Learn how SMUD is helping to position the Sacramento Region as a destination choice for forward-thinking, environmentally conscious businesses and a model for others around the nation to follow.

SMUD Board Member, Director **Gregg Fishman** and his support staff will tell you about the focus on 4 areas.

- * Natural gas generation repurposing
- * Proven clean technology
- * New technology and business models
- * Financial impacts and options

Cool, right? Gregg Fishman has been a clean energy advocate for much of his career. As a former SMUD employee, he promoted wind and solar energy when they were in their infancy. At the California Independent System Operator, he led public engagement efforts supporting new wind energy farms in California. As President of the SMUD Board in 2018, he led the utility in passing its Integrated Resource Plan, hailed by the California Energy Commission as "... an ambitious road map for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region." Attend this meeting and you will breathe easier.

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



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➤ Free Movie and Discussion

Friday, June 12, 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 beautiful [Reason Center](#), in a quiet room with cushy seating and a huge screen and refreshments right at hand. The exact movie title is a secret because of our MPLC License and certain legal folderol. We can drop hints, sometimes. This month it is a fictional account from 2020 of a night where icons Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Sam Cooke, and Jim Brown gathered discussing their roles in the Civil Rights Movement and cultural upheaval of the 60s. 1 hr 54 min in length.

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 to attend, really, but donations gratefully accepted. We do have to pay for the room!

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



✧ ✧ Other Upcoming Events ✧ ✧

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

➤ Skeptics in the Pub

Sunday, June 7, 2026, 6 pm – 8 pm (also Sunday July 5, same time)

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/314619199/>

➤ Blasphemy Breakfasts and a Brunch

● **Saturday, June 13, 2026, 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/314879354/>.

● **Sunday, June 21 2026, 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/314876884/>.



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, June 14, 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. Instead of a speaker, this event will feature a panel with current Sunday Assembly Sacramento board members – an opportunity to get to know who they are and what they do, and how to be more involved in activities. Questions and event suggestions are welcome. Afterwards, the usual potluck. Bring a food dish to share if you wish!

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/314951869/>.

➤ "God and Country" Documentary Screening

Thursday, June 18, 2026, 6 pm – 8:45 pm

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

Exploring Religious Identity and Political Power

California Freethought Day will host a screening of this important documentary, in the comfort and community of the Reason Center with a giant screen and



incredible sound. Joining us in person is Dan Partland, the film's Emmy-winning director.

God & Country is a 2024 documentary examining the rise of Christian nationalism in the United States and its effect on both democracy and Christianity. Featuring prominent faith leaders and experts, it explores how religious identity is intertwined with political power, raising questions about the separation of church and state.

The film includes historian Kristin Kobes Du Mez, sociologist Samuel Perry, writer Katherine Stewart, pastor Jim Wallis, and other evangelical insiders and experts. It was produced by the late Rob Reiner.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/314951476/>.

➤ LiteraCheer

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm

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

Come and enjoy the afternoon in the library seating area of Reason Center discussing favorite 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. Also, please follow common decency in your choice of books. Have a book in mind for discussion - even if you are still reading it. Try to keep topics accessible to all – a topic you would bring up at a cocktail party or public function. Finally, always be nice.

Details: See <https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/315044284/>.

☞ *Optional to bring your snacks to share with others. The organizers will bring complementary treats.*

☞ *Honor your RSVP and keep it updated on Meetup.*

➤ Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, June 21, 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 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/314838427/>.

➤ Black Humanists & Non-Believers Book Club

Saturdays, Jun 27, 2026, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (online meeting)

An online book discussion open to all. The book will be *The 400-Year Holocaust: White America's Legal, Psychopathic, and Sociopathic Black Genocide - and the Revolt Against Critical Race Theory*, which examines and discusses factions of the legal history of anti-blackness and Whiteness through colonialism and the United States, and its impacts on present-day America. RSVP at the Details link below, and you will get an attendance link.

Details: see <https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/314984462/>.

➤ Humanity Breakfast at Fixins – Yummy!

Sunday, June 28, 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/313789202/>.

➤ More Events – So many Calendars!

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/>
- 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 <https://aofonline.org/contact-us/>, click "Programs" in the drop-down line, and enter your thoughtful suggestion. (We pay reasonable honorariums to speakers.)

Volunteer?

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

✧ ✧ **Secular Holidays** ✧ ✧

➤ **World Environment Day**

Friday, June 5, 2026

The goal of World Environment Day is to stimulate worldwide awareness of environmental issues, and to generate action for conservation. The United Nations General Assembly established World Environment Day (<http://worldenvironmentday.global/>) in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Each year World Environment Day celebrations occur at a different location around the globe. To find a location for this year, see: World Environment Day Events (<https://www.unenvironment.org/events>).



World Environment Day gives environmental issues a human face, one with which we can identify. The philosophy of the Day has changed little over the last three decades; it still strives to associate faces with environmental issues and empower people to be advocates of sustainable and equitable development. By promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing the attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnerships, World Environment Day strives to ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safe, clean, healthy, and more prosperous future. In the words of the United Nations Environment Programme, "On this World Environment Day, let us not despair, but instead examine the state of our environment. Let us consider carefully the actions which each of us must take, and then address ourselves to our common task of preserving all life on earth in a mood of sober resolution and quiet confidence." Groups around the world hold activities to acknowledge and celebrate this day. Find an activity near you, and join the fun!

➤ **Juneteenth**

Friday, June 19, 2026

[Juneteenth](#), an unofficial American secular holiday but official in Texas, commemorates a major milestone: slavery's end in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war was over and the enslaved were now free. This was two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation (official on Jan 1, 1863). The Proclamation had had little impact in Texas due to a lack of federal troops to enforce it – but with General Granger's arrival, Union forces were finally strong enough to overcome resistance.

Why a two and a half year delay in the recognition of Emancipation?

Variant stories try to explain this. One concerns a messenger murdered on his way to Texas with the news. Another is that enslavers deliberately suppressed the news to maintain the labor force on their plantations. Another, that federal troops actually waited for slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas. For some, very likely, President Lincoln's authority over the rebel states was still in question. Whatever the truth of it, conditions in Texas sadly remained status quo well beyond what was statutory. On arrival, General Granger's first order of business was to proclaim General Order Number 3 (http://www.juneteenth.com/general_order_no_3.htm), which began as follows: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection



heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer.” Reactions ranged from shock to jubilation. While many lingered to learn of the new employer-to-employee relationship, others left before offers were completely off the lips of their former ‘masters’ – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, they felt that leaving the plantation would be their first breath of freedom. Moving North was logical; for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America.

Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territories. The celebration of June 19th, coined “Juneteenth” but also called “Freedom Day,” “Liberation Day” and “Jubilee Day,” began the next year and grew yearly with participation from abolitionists and family of former slaves.

➤ Solstice (June)

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Called Summer Solstice in the northern hemisphere, Winter Solstice in the southern, people have marked the June Solstice in some way or another for thousands of years. Many religions have seasonal holy days linked to this day. It is the day when the Northern Hemisphere has more daylight than at any other time of the year. In the Southern Hemisphere, the least daylight occurs this day in June. The precise date of the June Solstice varies from year to year, but usually it is between the 20th and 23rd of June. “Solstice” comes from two Latin words: “sol” (meaning sun) and “sistere,” (to cause to stand still). At noon in either hemisphere the sun will be high in the sky during summer, low during winter. On the day with the greatest number of daylight hours, the sun reaches its maximum elevation; we call this the Summer Solstice. Likewise, the day with the least daylight is the Winter Solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere, the June Solstice is officially the first day of summer, also called Midsummer because it comes roughly during the midst of the growing season in Europe.



➤ World Humanist Day

Sunday, June 21, 2026

[World Humanist Day](#) is a day to spread information and combat misinformation about humanism as a life-philosophy and a means to affect change in the world. This secular holiday dates back to the 1980s, when several local state chapters of the American Humanist Association (<http://www.humanist.net/>) (AHA) began celebrating World Humanist Day. Different chapters had different ideas as to when that day should be, however. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the AHA and then the International Humanist Ethical Union passed resolutions declaring the Summer Solstice to be World Humanist Day. The American Humanist Association (<http://www.humanist.net/>), the International Humanist and Ethical Union (<http://www.iheu.org/>), the Council for Secular Humanism (<http://www.secularhumanism.org/>), the Campus Freethought Alliance (<http://www.campusfreethought.org/>) and the Secular Student Alliance (<http://www.secularstudents.org/>) currently celebrate World Humanist Day. Use this secular holiday to educate the public in your area about humanism, and to gather and celebrate as a humanist community that continues to contribute to the progress and education of the world. A picnic, is a particularly good way to celebrate World Humanist Day. Read your favorite humanist texts aloud; spend time socializing with your fellow humanists in a relaxed, natural environment.



Dignity and justice for all of us

➤ Torture Victims' Day

Friday, June 26, 2026

In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 52/149, establishing June 26 as the United Nations [International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#).

The goal is the eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 39/46, annex, 26 June 1987). This day gives us all an opportunity to stand united against cruelty, and remind the world that torture is a violation of basic human rights. Clearly the abolition of torture is a key issue to freethinkers and humanists, and too often the worst perpetrators of this atrocity are highly religious societies. But secular societies have been far from innocent of it. This is a cause where we can often join hands with our religious brothers and sisters. Take a moment on this day to visit the [United Nations webpage](#) for this secular holiday.



When you've had too much
weed, and your cat starts
messing with you



A Heaven of Contradictions

My religion cannot decide whether paradise is a party or a nap. In the New Testament, Jesus compares heaven to a marriage feast, while St. Paul refers to the dead having fallen asleep. The Requiem Mass begins with the paradoxical lines:

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Are we to rest forever, or be shined on forever? Surely we are not to sleep with the lights on—God's glory as the lamp with no off-switch? Perhaps these conflicting metaphors are proper, for on earth we crave both waking and sleeping in turn, adventure and unconsciousness; why not in heaven? An infinity of repose would bore us for half of infinity. Likewise, an everlasting banquet would weary us with very bliss and make us wish our souls were in the coffin with our bodies. Eternal life needs respites of death to be a heaven.

~ Brian Jay Stanley, [Aphorisms and Paradoxes](#)



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
Treasurer & Registrar: Kinetic Ken Nahigian
Event Coordinator: Pamella Rivera (again!)
Program chair: Super Susan McLean
Webmistress: Palpable Pat Kelley
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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 <https://aofonline.org/contact-us/> to e-message us.

How to Join AOF:

Visit <https://aofonline.org/join-us/>, 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: <https://aofonline.org/submission-guide/>.

California Freethought Day



We're 25 Years Strong. Help Power the Next 25!

This year marks a **milestone** I'm incredibly proud of: **our 25th anniversary**. For a quarter century, supporters like you have helped build an organization that is beloved, principled, and built to last. I'm reaching out not just to celebrate that history, but to invite you to help shape what comes next.

Over the years, your support has made real, measurable impact possible:

- **Scholarships**, including **\$7,000 to be awarded this year** **Secular advocacy** grounded in Humanist values
- **Local group leadership and coordination** that connects the secular community
- A **dedicated board and planning committee** ensuring strong governance and long term vision A growing commitment to the **arts**, including new and expanded programs
- Our revised **Freethinker Gallery**, tying us back to our roots as we celebrate historical figures



Behind the scenes, we've also matured into a stable, investment worthy organization with an established social media presence and a **world class CRM system** that helps us steward every dollar responsibly.

As we celebrate 25 years, I believe the most powerful way to support our long term success is through **monthly giving**.

That's why we're inviting you become a **\$25/month sustaining donor** – one dollar for each year of impact. Of course, any monthly amount that feels right to you makes a meaningful difference.

As a thank you, **donors who give \$25/month or more automatically receive free admission to all ticketed events throughout the year**, including Our annual reception, **Documentary and movie screenings** (including *God and Country* this month), Secular Advocacy Day, and other programs and events.

Make a Sustaining Donation: <https://givebutter.com/CFD>