AOF
Atheists and Other Freethinkers

AOF News & Views – Newsletter for September 2026

AOF Meeting, August 26, 2026: Liam McDade explains the Hubble Constant Controversy

✧ ✧ This Month's Headliner Event ✧ ✧

➢ Freethinkers Potluck Picnic in the Park

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm

Location: Westwood Park, 8100 Butternut Drive, Citrus Heights (map at https://maps.app.goo.gl/fsTTxKCyphgnAtHo6).

Welcome all. Hobnob with us at AOF's annual potluck picnic. Our picnics are always a blast.

Just bring a picnicky dish to serve 6-8 people (+ serving utensils please). And bring your own non-alcoholic beverages, because alcohol is a no-no in this park. Your own cushion too if you like — picnic benches can be hard, and splinters lurk.

AOF will provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and cool clear water. The picnic tables are in the 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? Yep, that's it.

Parking is free & easy. The area around the park has free parking. Also there's a free lot. To get to the lot from Butternut Drive, turn right onto Treeleaf Way, then turn right onto Cloverleaf Way.

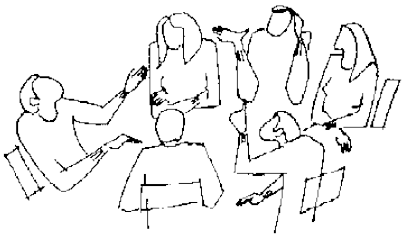
Contact for details: See https://aofonline.org/contact-us/.

✧ ✧ Other Upcoming AOF Events ✧ ✧

➢ Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 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, and 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 https://aofonline.org/contact-us/.
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.)

➢ Davis Community Meal – Feed the Hungry

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 4 pm – 7 pm
Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church hall, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA, map at https://maps.app.goo.gl/6iWQYwns2opba4uZ6.

The **Davis Community Meal** project serves meals to the hungry, the poor, the indigent, the outcast. It happens in bucolic Davis city, so near to us, where compassionate citizens have developed a secular solution for the problem of hunger, and need our help.

So join us in this effort. Your reward will be an opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethought friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the rosy hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

Cooking? Dish washing? Pshaw, none required. The Davis Community Meals team will perform all the food prep and kitchen work. Our job is simply to set up chairs & tables, serve, smile, put things away at the end, and clean a bit (with a minimum of mopping). Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't, that's OK, any help is good help. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., food service at about 5:45. At 6:30 we clean up, leaving the hall as we found it.

✧ ✧ Other Upcoming (non-AOF) Events ✧ ✧

Some local events of the Sacramento freethought community. We won't list them all, just the highlights. For more, please check the calendar links below.

➢ Free Movie and Discussion

Friday, Sept 11, 2026, 7 pm – 9 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

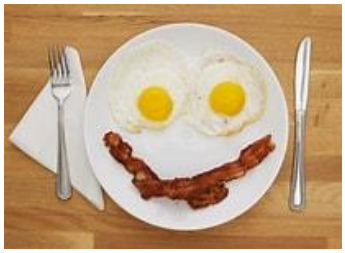
This one is a quirky, funny PG-13 film from 2000 starring George Clooney and John Turturro, directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. In the 1930s deep south, three escaped convicts search for hidden treasure in a subtle parody of the *Odyssesy*.

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

Contact for details: See https://reasoncenter.org/contact.
Suggest your own fave film for next time!

➢ Blasphemy Breakfasts and a Brunch

- **Saturday, Sept 12, 2026, 10 am – 11:30 am**, at Mel's Diner, 13399 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA, map at https://goo.gl/maps/ri6JvaBoSZVHTdnU6, event details at https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/316105153/.
- **Sunday, Sept 20, 2026, 9:30 am – 11 am**, at Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin, CA, map at https://goo.gl/maps/ZUY2gq72KkmkC4bU6, event details at https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/316159112/.



Like to hang with like-minded people? Want to meet freethinkers in smaller groups? Or do you just get the morning munchies? Come to the "Blasphemy Breakfast." We really 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 links).

➢ Sunday Assembly & Potluck

Sunday, Sept 13, 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*, creating community with music, readings, food and speakers, plus entertainment for children.

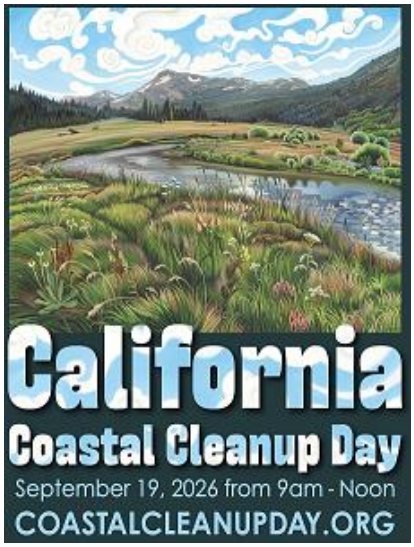
Feature presenter this month is **Scott Burdette** a forester with the U.S. Forest Service, currently serving as Vice Chair and Acting Chair of the Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Since 2009, he has worked across the western United States, including Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California, in a wide range of forestry and fire management roles. His professional experience spans fuels management, wildland fire suppression as a Hotshot firefighter, timber management, forest inventory and reconnaissance, wood and biomass utilization, and silviculture. Scott earned a Master of Science in Forestry from Cal Poly Humboldt (formerly Humboldt State University). His interests include forest resilience and health, wildfire risk reduction, prescribed and cultural burning, historical forest conditions, post-disturbance restoration, human and climatic influences on forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and the role of forests in carbon management.

Bring a food dish to share if you wish – it's a potluck too!

Details: see https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/316014202/.

➢ River Cleanup Day

Saturday, Sept 19, 2026, 8:30 am – 11 am
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Suite 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/S5MR1e8ZodBzb4TG8.



Join local secular groups doing environmental work that benefits our community. The statewide secular community is cleaning our lakes, beaches, rivers, and parks through California's Coastal Cleanup program. After the cleanup, California Freethought Day has a treat: they are offering a $15 per person reimbursement for brunch!

Gather at Reason Center at 8:30 am and walk over or carpool to the Ethan Way River Access adjacent to Cal Expo to get the introduction at 9:00 am. Please wear a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, hat, comfortable shoes, and gloves.

Details: see https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/316435918/.

➢ LiteraCheer @ the Reason Center

Saturday, Sept 19, 2026, 2 pm – 4 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

Come to the Reason Center library seating area to discuss 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 personal RSVPs to move forward. Less will compel 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 (and to RSVP): https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/315352059/.

☞ Optional to bring your snacks to share with others. The organizers will bring complementary treats.
☞ Honor your RSVP and keep it updated.
☞ Avoid unrelated and/or prolonged discussions that veer off topic.
☞ Keep book topics accessible to all.
☞ Focus on the "cheer" part of the event.

➢ BHNBS Game Night

Saturday, Sept 19, 2026, 5 pm – 8 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

Black Humanists and Nonbelievers of Sacramento (BHNBS) invite you to an evening of fun games. Please come have some finger food and fun. See link to RSVP. Please honor your RSVP and keep it updated.

Details (and to RSVP): See https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/316090905/.

➢ Ancient Christian Study Group

Sunday, Sept 20, 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. Every third Sunday, 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 Christian founders, 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/316359026/.

➢ Bat Talk and Tour with Sunday Assembly

Sunday, Sept 20, 2026, 5:15 pm – 8:15 pm
Join the Sunday Assembly Community for the Yolo Basin Foundation's Bat Talk and Tour. Ticket purchase required.

Location: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters, 45211 Country Road 32B (Chiles Road), Davis, CA.
Details & tickets: See https://www.meetup.com/sunday-assembly-sacramento/events/315318922/.

➢ Game Night at Reason Center

Monday, Sept 21, 2026, 6 pm – 8 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

Reason Center hosts a game night on the third Monday of every month. It has a few games to get us started, but feel free to bring your own. Gaming managers will provide snacks and non-alcoholic beverages; attendees are welcome to bring more to share. Note: No gambling allowed.

Details: See https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/316379219/.

➢ Confessions of a Pulpiteer

Friday, Sept 25, 2026, 6 pm – 8:30 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

A **live one-man show** about life at the crossroads of politics, religion, and liberation. Come for a special performance by **Lee Boek**, known to many Northern Californians as Sacramento's "Brother Lee Love" of the Survival Revival Hour on KZAP radio. In this autobiographical solo play, Boek reflects on his time as a young evangelist during the era of the Civil Rights Movement and the personal journey that followed. *Note, not a free event.* But tickets are a mere $10. For **details** and signup, see https://www.meetup.com/sacfan/events/316233233/. (Or see the announcement on the last page.)

➢ Coffee and Community at Reason Center

Sunday, Sept 27, 2026, 10:30 am – 12 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

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. Hosted by the gregarious Nancy Sneed. Hope to see you!

Details: See https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/315430187/.

➢ Humanity Supper – Yummy!

Sunday, Sept 27, 2026, 4 pm – 6 pm
Location: Tori's Place, 1525 Grand Ave, Sacramento, map at https://maps.app.goo.gl/NRXpn3KH9kh6zvbMA.

Come to Del Paso Heights' iconic blue shack for scratch-made Southern classics: legendary slow-simmered Gumbo, crispy fried chicken, rich mac & cheese, and famous pan-fried hot water cornbread. Wash it down with a house-favorite "Palmer" (lemonade + sweet tea blend). And rub elbows with the gentle folk of the Black Humanists & Non-Believers of Sacramento.

Details (and to **RSVP**)**:** see https://www.meetup.com/bhnb-sacramento/events/315045869/.

➢ Trivia Night

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026, 6 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way, Rm 675, Sacramento, map at https://goo.gl/maps/RwiUgEJ5ESHRhrPu8.

A delightfully nerdy evening of obscure facts, questionable confidence, team strategy, and the occasional cry of "I knew that one!" Hosted by Sacramento Polyamory/CNM (Consensual Non-Monogamy). Three themed rounds of trivia tackling pop culture relationships, polyamorous vocabulary, and musical knowledge spanning lyrics, artists, and iconic songs.

Details: See https://www.meetup.com/reasoncenterevents/events/316439357/.

➢ Skeptics in the Pub

Sunday, Oct 4, 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/316302502/.

➢ More Events – So many Calendars!

More? Are you kidding? But we've lots. 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.)

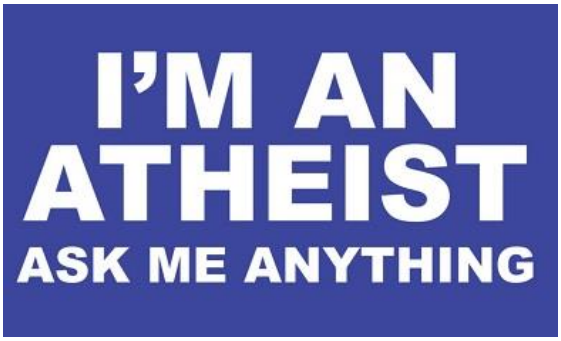
Volunteer?

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

✧ ✧ Secular Holidays ✧ ✧

➢ Ask an Atheist Day

September 17, 2026



National Ask an Atheist Day is a movable secular holiday that occurs twice each year — first on the 3rd Thursday of April (which can be anywhere from April 15 to April 21), then 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 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 old 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.

➢ Talk Like a Pirate Day

September 19, 2026

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 else seem right and proper, 'cause this be a day to celebrate. More info ahoy, at http://www.talklikeapirate.com/ and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Talk_Like_a_Pirate_Day.

Other Piratey links! How to Talk like a Pirate, instructions at http://www.yarr.org.uk/talk/. Translate English text into Pirate Talk at http://funtranslations.com/pirate.

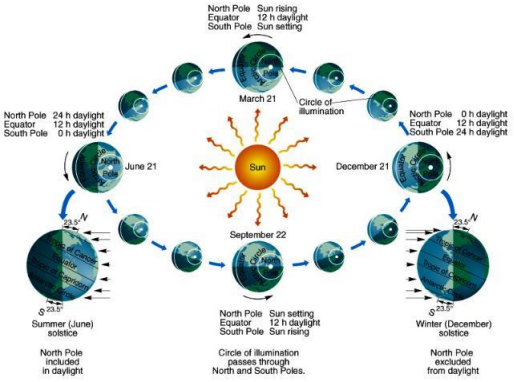
➢ World Cleanup Day

September 20, 2026

In the United States, World Cleanup Day (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 off 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.

➢ Equinox (September)

September 23, 2026



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.

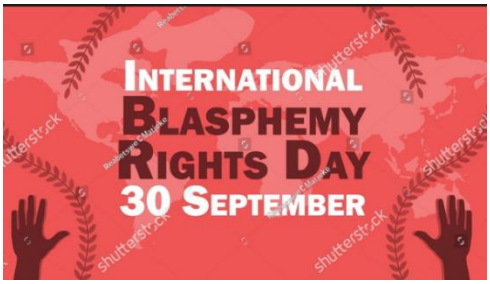
➢ Banned Book Week

September 23 - 30, 2026

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. Banned Books Week sponsors include the: American Booksellers Association (http://www.bookweb.org/), American Booksellers Foundation of Free Expression (https://abffe.org/), American Library Association (https://www.ala.org/), Association of American Publishers (https://publishers.org/), American Society of Journalists and Authors (https://www.asja.org/), and National Association of College Stores (https://www.nacs.org/). It is endorsed by the Library of Congress Center for the Book (https://www.loc.gov/programs/center-for-the-book/).

➢ Blasphemy Day

September 30, 2026



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, Directory of the Center of Inquiry in Amherst, 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." Participants have celebrated Blasphemy Day in various ways: with speeches, art exhibitions, feasts, poetry, music and song, and by taking the Blasphemy Challenge. This secular holiday even has its own Facebook page; see it at https://www.facebook.com/blasphemyday.

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☆☆ California Freethought Day presents: ☆☆

Confessions of a Pulpiteer

California Freethought Day is thrilled to present Confessions of a Pulpiteer, a live one-man show about life at the crossroads of politics, religion, and liberation.

Join us for a special performance by **Lee Boek**, known to many Northern Californians as Sacramento's "Brother Lee Love" of the Survival Revival Hour on KZAP radio. In this autobiographical solo play, Boek reflects on his time as a young evangelist during the era of the Civil Rights Movement and the personal journey that followed.

Confessions is Lee Boek's autobiographical one-man show about life at the intersection of religion, politics, and personal transformation. Drawing on his experiences as a young evangelist during the Civil Rights era, the play reflects on how beliefs evolve when confronted by a changing world.

Blending humor, storytelling, and candid reflection, Boek revisits the people and events that shaped his journey from preacher to artist. The result is both an intimate memoir and a thoughtful exploration of conscience, conviction, and growth.

Written and performed by Lee Boek; directed by Peter Kors and Melvin Ishmael Johnson; with music performed by Paul Fleisher.

Lee is a Northern California-born actor, playwright, producer, storyteller, and longtime arts activist whose career has spanned broadcasting, theater, film, and community engagement. He first gained public recognition in the early 1960s as a Sacramento radio personality and evangelist. His experiences during the Civil Rights era would later inspire some of his most personal and thought-provoking theatrical work.

He is best known for his decades of work with Public Works Improv Theatre, as their Artistic Director since 2001. He has helped create, direct, produce, and perform in virtually all of the company's original productions, advancing its mission of socially relevant, community-centered theater.

Lee has also enjoyed a broad acting career on stage, screen, and television. His credits include appearances on Mama's Family, Webster, Home Improvement, and MADtv.

Program for the Evening:

6:00 PM -- Doors Open and Mingle
6:30 PM -- Welcome and Announcements
6:35 PM -- Begin Performance
7:50 PM -- Break and Mingle
8:00 PM -- Q&A with Lee Boek
8:30 PM -- End Event

Location: Reason Center, 1300 Ethan Way #675, Sacramento, map at https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tso7xsA8N3k16Xn48.

Date & Time: Friday, September 25 at 6 PM PDT

Tickets: $10 each, available at the door, or in advance at https://givebutter.com/Confessions2026.

Snacks and Drinks will be available for a small fee.

Sponsorships also available. See the givebutter link.

AOF
Atheists and Other Freethinkers

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.

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Program chair: Super Susan McLean
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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/.