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Sac Coalition of Reason
Calendar: <http://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>

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Volume III, Issue 9

Issue Theme: Bible Problems

September 2015

Marie Bain's "Family Values: The Bible Tells Me So"

September 22, 7:00 PM

Reason Center

1824 Tribute Road Suite A
Sacramento

**FREE! Just pop on over!
Bring your friends!**

Join us for an entertaining, informative discussion with the lively and talented Marie Bain entitled, *Family Values:*

The Bible Tells Me So. With scripture, song and satire, Bain explores the Bible in a free-wheeling interpretation of family values. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and yes, it's better than Cats. By the evening's end, you'll understand what gays, crabs and cross-dressing have in common. Education is a wonderful thing!

For mature audiences (no one under 16 -- have you read the bible??)

Marie Bain is a professional singer/actor/dancer/director who has performed throughout California, including CitiArts Theatre, Concord; *Sherlock's Last Case*, Sierra Repertory Theatre; Ovation winning *Animal Farm* as Squealer for Son Of Semele Ensemble, L.A.; *Six Women With Brain Death*, Studio Theatre, Sacramento; and Emilia in *Othello* at Sacramento Theatre Company. Film credits include *Gilmore Girls*, *Let's Make A Deal*, *Screech of the Decapitated*, and *Art School Confidential*. Bain is a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors Equity Association. Did I mention she is lively and talented?

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Sponsored by the AOF Speaker Series.

Want more like this? That's why we all join AOF! Thanks! [Join AOF here!](#)

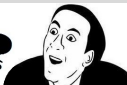


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Really?



Well, which is it?

After resurrection, how many disciples did Jesus reveal himself to? John 20:24 says ten. OK, it's 10. Matthew 28:16-17 says it's 11. OK, it's 11. 1 Corinthians 15:5 says it's 12. OK, it's 12. Didn't they have all these writings in front of them when they put them together into a collection and called it all one work from God? And they went to print anyway? *REALLY? (I suspect they had more faith in their marketing techniques than in the content, if you know what I mean. You know—like using a torture device as their symbol?)*

Freethought Dinner Social

Tower Café Patio

Saturday, Sept 12 at 5:30 p.m.

[Location Map here.](#)

Please join us for conversation and good food.

[Details here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

What is Science Night Live?

World of Wonders Science Museum, 2 N. Sacramento St, Lodi, 6 PM

Come join the conversation with a local scientist, participate in hands-on activities, socialize with other science enthusiasts, or reward your trivia skills. It's a different event each month, and sure to be a lot of fun.

Enjoy a drink from the beer and wine cash bar, and get some great food from Carnitas Don Fili! [Map here.](#) Details for [September 2](#) and [October 7](#).

Photography Workshop

September 12th, 1:30 PM

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento

This workshop on digital photography will be hosted by Bakari Chavanu. Bakari is a former wedding and event photographer, who has previously taught workshops on digital photography.

Whether you use a smartphone camera, a point-and-shoot, or 35mm digital camera, this workshop will teach you tips for shooting better photos. Learn how to compose photos, deal with different lighting situations, and improve photos after they're taken.

Bring your camera (even a smartphone camera), and let's have fun.

[Map here.](#) [Details here.](#)

FANcamp! It's Not Too Late to Join Us!

September 4—7

Big Reservoir Campground, Morning Star Lake Tahoe National Forest

Ideal site for canoeists, rowboaters, and tube floaters. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout... Big Reservoir (also known as Morning Star Lake) is quite pretty with a nice beach and some lakefront campsites. Only electric boats allowed.

We have reserved the 40-person campground, Group Camp A.

Reservation and Forest Service information [at this link.](#)

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)



Ancient Christian Study Group - September 20, at Noon

Shine Cafe, 1400 E St. [Map here](#). For atheists who want to know the foundations of Christianity better than Christians do. Previous biblical knowledge is not required to participate. 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. Everyone is welcome.

Have You Been to a New Member Meetup Lately?

The New Members' Meetup is a casual event with a quick overview of the group and plenty of time to just hang out and get to know each other. We welcome new as well as current members to join in!

Arrive at 6:30 PM and make some new friends. Great coffee and sandwiches to order, if you like.

At about 7, we'll cover the essentials such as the items below:

- What SacFAN is and why we exist
- Recent news and announcements
- Other local, related freethought groups of interest
- Upcoming Events

After that, everyone is invited to continue to socialize and stay as long as you like. We have the room reserved 'till 9. (\$1 donation, please, unless you are ordering something to eat or drink. Thanks.)

Every First Wednesday, Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd, Sacramento. 6:30 pm

[Map here](#). Details [here for September 2](#), and [here for October 7](#).



Some popular 'Meet, Eat n Drink' Addresses and Maps:

Sept. 12 10:00 am Brunch and Atheism, Panera Bread, 10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton [Map here](#)
Sept. 20 9:30 am Blasphemy Breakfast, Mel's Diner, 6708 Lonetree Blvd, Rocklin [Map here](#)
Sept. 20 11:00 am Blasphemy Brunch, Mel's Diner 565 Howe Ave, Sac [Map here](#)



Blaspheming With Food Every 3rd Sunday!

Happy, well-fed heathens! Every 3rd Sunday of the month, in various locations, come sit down to breakfast or brunch with us. Everyone is welcome! It's a nice way to meet like-minded friends. No topics, just have fun. [See the calendar](#) for all locations.

Book Clubs

Sacramento

Sept. 21, 6:30 pm
Reason Center
1824 Tribute Rd
Suite A, Sacto
[Details here.](#)

Ceres, Sep. 1, 7pm
1st Tues each mo.
[Sept. details here.](#)
[Oct. details here.](#)

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Sacramento Reason

Coming Out

By Oriana Morrison

"Where were you last night? What did you do? Does so-and-so know that you feel that way? Wouldn't they be hurt if they did know?" Each one of these questions is potentially invasive, and here's a wonderful secret, you don't owe everyone an answer. There is an amazing tool that you can use, it's called establishing boundaries.

I have a friend who's a former member of a Church of Christ, as I am, who is, unlike me, still a theist. She's having to learn to set boundaries with her friends when they tell her she's evil and is going to hell for holding opinions that they don't agree with.

I, myself, recently had some friends have a go at emotionally manipulating me in order to get me to stop sharing atheist and pro-LGBT posts on social media. Fortunately for me I had recently learned about the fine art of setting boundaries from a very good friend. The boundaries I set weren't happily received, but they've been respected, and that's made all the difference.

For myself and my friend it has been a work in progress to define our own selves apart from who others tell us we are. It's a challenge to stand up without apology and say this is me, this is who I am. But you know what? Challenge accepted.

When someone comes into your house, it's your rules. Your mind is your house. Your thoughts are your property. You get to decide what discussions are on the table and with whom. It's your right to tell someone that a topic is simply off the table. When you come out non-theist, keep in mind, it's your house and it's your rules.



How would you set a boundary with a bossy friend or relative?

Who was that you were talking to?
Where are you right now? Are you home?
Where did you go last night when you said you had to leave?
Why did you click Ignore when I called you a few minutes ago?
Why didn't you answer my email yesterday?
I messaged you, I saw you saw it, why didn't you reply?
How much debt do you have? What did you pay for your house?
Tell me about your friend—does he have a job? Is he atheist, too? Did he graduate college?
Why do you continue to refuse to eat meat?
How many sexual partners have you had?
Why do you have so many cats?
Why haven't you finished a college degree?
Why don't you go to church? Will you send your kids to church? Why won't you join us?
When are you going to have kids?

Tell us how you respond to people who ask too many controlling questions like these.
Email admin@sacramentoreason.org. Subject line: How I Set Boundaries With People

Scrap Booking Fun!

Meets October 3, 1:30 PM, at The Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento.

First hour is a slide show presentation. Second hour is hands on fun! Bring your laptops or other devices.

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Upcoming Events

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- 18 [Drinking Skeptically, Stockton](#)
- 19 [Coastal Clean-Up at Lodi Lake](#)
- 20 [Blasphemy Break-fast in Rocklin](#)
- 20 [Blasphemy Brunch Dixon/Vcville](#)
- 20 [Blasphemy Brunch Arden/Arcad](#)
- 20 [Coffee Klatch in Modesto](#)
- 20 [Ancient Christian Study Group](#)
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- 24 [Self Defense](#)
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- 25 [Finally Friday Dinner and Karaoke](#)
- 27 [BHNBS Humanity Breakfast Yummm](#)
- 27 [Brunch and Atheism, Turlock](#)
- 29 [Self Defense](#)
- 30 [Boardgames at Reason Center](#)

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Mark Your Calendar for Freethought Day—Oct. 11

One of our region's most popular events! Mark October 11 on your calendar to hear a vast line up of speakers and visit booths outdoors, on the steps of our State Capitol building! Be counted! Be seen! Raise your voices!

Meet authors, national freethought leaders and learn what our region has to offer!

[Details at FreethoughtDay.org.](#) All day event! Plan to attend now!

Welcome, Auburn and Grass Valley Meetups!

Live near Auburn? Come join our thundering herd at Starbuck's!

Friday, September 4, 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

Starbuck's, 1790 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

For those enjoying the Grass Valley area, how about a book club?

Tuesday, September 1, 5:30 pm or October 8, 5:30 pm.

Gene Albaugh Community Room at Madelyn Helling Library
980 Helling Way, Nevada City

[Map here](#)

Details [here for September 1.](#) Details [here for October 8.](#)

Rhyme and Reason

By Ken Lucas

There are those who'll go nowhere near it
But I see no reason to fear it.
The question going around:
Does a Big Bang make a sound
If no ear has evolved yet to hear it?



“But that’s the Old Testament” - Dillahunty Responds

Matt Dillahunty responds to those who wish to avoid criticism of certain rules or flaws in the Old Testament. Watch his 30 minute easy-going talk, next to a nice stream, [at this link](#). Subscribe to his YouTube channel, and consider supporting him, and others, using [Patreon.com](#). Happy listening!

Upcoming Events

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October

2 [Dinner, Wine and Art Hop, Lodi](#)

2 [Auburn Freethinkers at Starbuck's](#)

3 [Explore More: Scrap Booking](#)

6 [Book Club, Ceres](#)

7 [Science Night Live at WOW Museum](#)

7 [Welcome New Members Meetup](#)

8 [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#)

8 [Grass Valley Book Club Presentation](#)

9 [Game Night in Oakdale](#)

10 [Brunch and Atheism, Stockton](#)

11 [Volunteers Needed Freetht Day](#)

11 [Freethought Day](#)

11 [Sunday Assembly](#)

Save The Date

Nov 15 [Trials of Clarence Darrow](#)

Nov 21 [“Inherit the Wind”](#)

Dec 5 [“Hope, Heartache, Hilarity” Alzheimer's Talk](#)

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible is in Print!
[Buy it here.](#)

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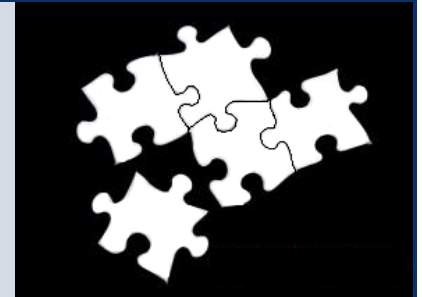
Little Activisms

By Judy Saint

Take the little animated Quiz Show below with your friends... Spoiler, here are the First Round questions and answers:

1. How long does Yahweh's anger last? Ans: Forever and Not Forever. 2. Does Yahweh tempt people? Ans: Yes and No. 3. Can salvation be attained by works? Ans: No and Yes. 4. Has anyone seen Yahweh's face? Ans: No, and Yes plenty have. (Speed Round) 5. Does Yahweh delight in burnt offerings? 6. Is God the author of evil? 7. Were humans created before animals? 8. Did others hear the voice Paul heard on the road to Damascus? 9. Will the earth last forever? 10. Is Jesus the only man to ascend to heaven? 11. Are children to be punished for sins of their fathers? Answers to all Speed Round questions are Yes and No. (Bible references to all questions and answers are given in the video.)

You get the idea. And this only covers the first 2 1/2 minutes of this fun 10 minute animated Quiz Show. Link is below. Enjoy! Share!



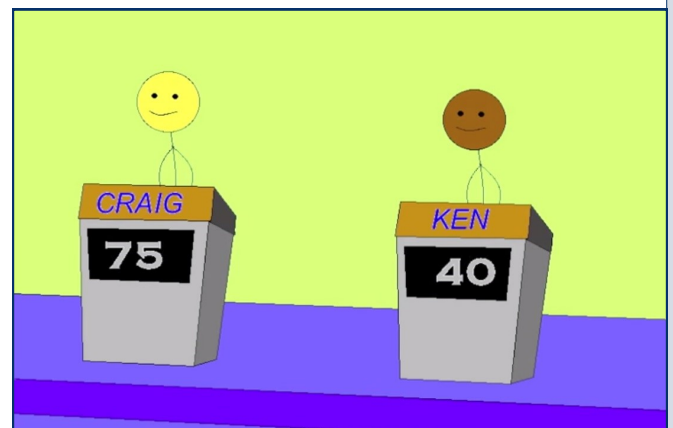
Bible Knowledge Quiz Show

Also called the “No, no, I mean what it really says on the page, see...?” Quiz Show

Hilarious, light-hearted, and actually, quite revealing. Share with friends!

See Little Activisms article above for a quick rundown of the first round questions and answers.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB3g6mXLEKk>



Game Nights

Atheists and theists are all welcome. Bring a friend, roommate or honeypie. Chatting, eating, playing, laughing. Sound good? Several to choose from. Be sure to check the calendar for updates.

Sacramento Sept 30 at 6:30 pm or Stockton Sept 22 at 6:30 pm or Salida Sept 11 at 7 pm

End Of Life Option Act Passes First Assembly Committee

The SCCA has been tracking ABX2-15, the End Of Life Option Act that was introduced into the 2nd Extraordinary Assembly Session.

As of Tuesday afternoon (9/1/15) ABX2-15 has passed through its first committee hearing, the Health Committee, on a 10-2 bipartisan vote. The bill will next be heard in the Finance Committee. If it passes there it will head to a full vote on the Assembly floor. It needs 41 aye votes in order to pass.

We are letting you know this to remind you that this bill is in its last segments needing approval, so this is the time to speak up, regardless of your position. Please contact your legislators. Be sure to mention the bill number (ABX2-15) and whether you support it.

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Family Time

By Lindsey Campbell



Mirror neurons are a remarkable little gift of evolution. They are responsible for making you hungry watching food commercials, for making your heart beat faster watching your favorite athlete, and creating sexual arousal when looking at sensual images. The dysfunction of these cells results in social problems like Asberger's syndrome and autism, in which children are unable to recognize facial expressions. In children, mirror neurons work hard during creative play, and during story-telling. If you have ever watched your child playing pretend with dolls or toys, listen closely to their dialogue. You will often hear a story complete with characters and unique experiences. There is also often an antagonist, or a "bad guy." These little stories that children create and act out through their toys are often reminiscent of stories they have heard or events they've experienced. This tendency to be "wired" for plot and resolution, what Aristotle called catharsis, is why religion takes such a strong foothold in the mind of children. Those mirror neurons make them believe that they are a part of the story. While at play, they often project their developing sense of "self" into that doll or toy, having a more fully integrated experience than adults are able to, adults being inhibited by their beliefs and upbringing. The stories that we tell children are the stories that they use to create the templates of their experience of life. For places to find non-religious, wholesome and culturally diverse stories to share with your children, try these websites:

<http://www.mkhumanists.org.uk/book/export/html/56>

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/native-american/short-stories/>

<http://chinese-tales.blogspot.com/>

Please share any notable websites you find with me at familytime@sacramentoreason.org. ~ Lindsey

UC Davis Secular Students

UC Davis Secular Student Alliance informally meets at the Davis food co-op around 6:45 on Mondays. Other members of the community are welcome and we'd love to meet more people.

The best way to get updates about the group is our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavisAgASA/10156045865335327>

Local Groups to Visit or Join

Name	Emphasis		Tax Ded		Website
Agnostic & Atheist Student Association (AgASA)	UC Davis student group	Y		<u>Y</u>	Website here
Americans United for Sep of Church and State (Sac Chapter)	Promotes individual activism, confronts violations	N	Y	<u>National only</u>	au-sac.org
Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF)	Events both social and presented, for growth and fun.	Y	Y	N	aofonline.org
Black Humanists and Non Believers of Sac (BHNBS)	Doubts about religion? You're one of many. Social and other Meetup events.	Y	N	<u>Y</u>	Website here
Brights Action	Translate our naturalistic worldviews into constructive actions for school/library/media	Y	Y	<u>Internat'l only</u>	the-brights.net/
FACTS Church	Church-like hymns, rituals, all the trappings in secular form.	Y	Y	N	factschurch.com
Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Founda-	Protecting the constitutional principle of separation of state and church.	Y	Y	N	sac.ffrf.org
Humanist Association of the Greater Sac Area (HAGSA)	Humanist events, speakers, focus is on doing good.	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	hagsa.org
Sacramento Area Coalition of Reason	Directing the community to the various groups of reason.	Y	N	<u>Y</u>	SacramentoCoR.org
Sac Area Skeptics (SAS)	Promotion of skeptical thinking, awareness of reality, logical skills.	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	Website here
Sac Freethinkers, Atheists and Nonbelievers (SacFAN)	Meetup for variety of fun, learning, singing, projects, games, activism.	Y	N	<u>Y</u>	SacFAN.org
Sac Politics and Philosophy Group	Meetup group for Thinking Beings!	N	N	N	Website here
Secular Coalition for California	Train to engage media and lobby state politicians. Activist resource.	N	N	<u>Y</u>	ca.secular.org
Secular Student Alliance - Sac City College	Sac City College student group. Meet, question, promote, unite.	Y		<u>Y</u>	Facebook page here
Sierra College Secular Student Alliance	Sierra College student and faculty group for non-belief in religion.	Y		<u>Y</u>	Website here
Stanislaus Humanists	Book groups, discussions, game nights, theatrical movies, karaoke, dancing.			<u>Y</u>	Website here
Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers (SAAF)	Meetup events and philanthropy, from Galt to Modesto.	Y		<u>Y</u>	StocktonAAF.org
Student Alliance @ Sacramento State University (CSUS)	CSUS student group to socialize and promote freethought.	N		<u>Y</u>	csusaso.wordpress.com
Sunday Assembly Sacramento	Secular congregation celebrates life with pop music, inspirational talks, donuts and more.	Y	Y	<u>Y</u>	Facebook page here

Sierra College Secular Students—Table at Wolverine Week!

We are looking forward to representing the Secular Student Alliance on campus and hope you will be able to join us!! Swag has been ordered! Stop by to buy yours! Sierra College Quad, September 9 and 10 between 9am and 2pm. [Details on our Facebook page here](#)



Skeptics in the Pub - Two Locations

Sacramento

Skeptics in the Pub
Fri Sep 25, 6:30p
Hoppy Brewing Co
6300 Folsom Blvd

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)

Stockton

Drinking Skeptically
Fri Sep 18, 6:30-11p
Valley Brewing Co.
157 W Adams St
Stockton, CA
Restaurant and bar
just off the Miracle
Mile. Join in!

[Map here](#)

[Details here](#)



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Dr. Sankey Speaking in Manteca

Sept. 16, 7:15pm, Manteca Library, 320 W Center St

Hear Dr. Julia Sankey discuss her work done at Turlock Lake. She recently researched the geology and animals in the area dating back 5 million years. Sankey will talk about the giant, tusk-toothed salmon; the giant, Galapagos-sized tortoise; and some of the many mammals like giant ground sloths, horse, and camel that lived in this area, including the local geology. Free. Open to all.

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)

The Trials of Clarence Darrow—One Man Play

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento

Paul Hauck portrays Clarence Darrow at various stages of his career, from the perspective of looking back over his life. Don't miss this free performance.

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Presented by Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area. [Join HAGSA.](#)

James Hilgendorf Presents “Life & Death: A Buddhist Perspective”

September 20, 3:00 pm

Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Ste A

Mr. Hilgendorf provides a wide-ranging overview of Buddhist insights into life and death, including correlations with science, psychology, and near-death experience research.

Free. Open to everyone. Bring friends.

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)

Presented by Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area. [Join HAGSA.](#)



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Secular Family Day

Next Secular Family Day is Saturday, October 17 from 2pm to 4pm. [Watch for updates at this link.](#)

Speaking of Problems...

This month's theme is "Bible Problems". Let's find just a few.

Psalm 137:9 "Happy is he who dashes babies' heads against rocks. "

For lepers, from Leviticus: Take two birds, kill one under running water, dip the other bird in the blood with cedar wood. Sprinkle this on the patient 7 times. Release the living bird. Shave the patient's hair, kill a lamb, put blood on right ear, right thumb and great toe of right foot. Sprinkle oil 7 times. Feel better?

Adam and Eve ate the fruit before they had knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 6:4 says giants were born to women who had sex with angels. Then all the giants were entirely killed, but they keep reappearing and being entirely killed off over and over throughout the bible.

Penguins apparently walked from Antarctica to get on the ark.

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Like to Hike the Trails?

September 13 at 9:00 AM.

This American River trail head is the large parking space just past old China town in Locke. It's an easy stroll with beautiful scenery.

Start time is 9 am. There's an optional donation-based watercolor class that starts midway into the hike. All materials will be provided. Proceeds will benefit a meaningful effort! This is less than a mile and a beautiful adventure.

[Details here](#)

Sunday Assembly—September 13 "Communication is Community"

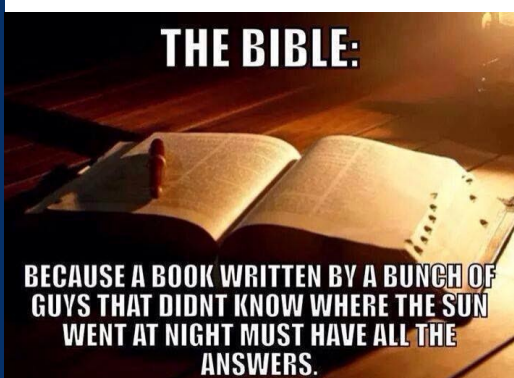
**Sunday, September 13 from 10:30 am until 1:00 pm
Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento**

Our main speaker will be Paula Haug, a professor of communication at Folsom Lake College with 25 years experience in intercultural communication.

Our reading will be a selection from Language in Thought and Action by S. I. Hayakawa, read by Madelyn Pollock.

Our own David Diskin will speak on 'Doing His Best' while giving a reflection of the successes and challenges of Sunday Assembly over the past year.

[Map here](#) [Details here](#)



The Bible and Other Fairy Tales

Season 1 is now out! Join early!

Weekly atheist and skeptical musical comedy web show. I call her "the harp lady".

Subscribe to her YouTube channel. Let's show her some support!

Watch her video "Atheist Song: CRAZY Crackpot Creationism" [at this link.](#)

When a Religion Puts All Its Eggs in One Basket.... Oopsie!

By Judy Saint

Biggest problem with the bible: The people who wrote it did not know about evolution. Thus, claiming that the "first two humans" are the cornerstone of the religious redemption story makes the entire story fall apart once we learned there were no "first two humans".

Evolution, which in layman terms is a known fact now, shows beyond doubt there was no Adam and Eve.

Therefore:

No original sin.

No fall of man.

No need for redemption.

Suddenly, the bible thumpers got nuthin'.

When the bible story falls apart, so does any bible-given authority for the pope to be considered in any way more holy than other common people. So does any bible-given authority for keeping women in lower positions or blaming them for the behavior of those men who rape them. So does any bible-given justification for rules about sexual behaviors, divorce, abortion, or stem cell research. So does any bible-given commandment, whether bundled into a Top Ten list or otherwise. The authority behind the whole thing falls apart if there is no Adam and Eve with their original sin. There is nothing to be saved from.

Let the backtracking begin! ("Only a metaphor", "Out of context", "Mistranslation", "Evolution is not fact", "Ignore facts", "Science does not have all the answers", "You weren't there", "You lack enough faith", "Only religious leaders can interpret correctly", "You are listening to the devil", "We do indeed have proof that Adam and Eve existed, but don't ask to see it", "I'll fast-talk to distract you from thinking further about this", "Bible", "Word of God", "I feel it is true", "God talks to me", "Believe it anyway", "You risk eternal torture if you're wrong, so just go along to be sure", and so on.) Too little, too late.

The only things that remain true and valuable from the bible are those things humans already had at the time anyway, such as love, empathy and certain social rules and ethics. No one gained anything new when the bible was written that didn't already exist - good or bad. The bible didn't reveal any new historical facts to those who wrote it. It didn't reveal any new discoveries, precautions or information that those desert people didn't already know about. No new rules or sacrificial demands they didn't already have in place. No new social constructs foreign to these people. In fact, with the many contradictions and blatant errors, and gross omission of what other cultures knew at that time in other parts of the world, it's glaringly obvious that the bible is entirely a human and flawed writing from a small group of people, based on stories that were told locally at the time in their feeble efforts to explain the world, control order among themselves and justify conquest of others.

We know there was no Adam and Eve. Therefore, there is no longer any justification for all of future humanity to be obedient to self-appointed religious interpreters. Their so-called authority is gone. The guilt and threats do not work any more. We are now free to determine social morals and ethics based on common good, common sense and science.

Darwin held back his publication for 20 years because he knew it blew the whole thing apart at its core. In the words of R.E.M., in their song *Losing My Religion*, "Oh no, I've said too much. I haven't said enough."

True. We know too much to continue these delusions. We have not yet said enough in the public square.

Listen Up!

By Cleo Kocol

Why should atheists care about the Bible? Because knowledge is always better than ignorance. Here's my quick rundown, in a humorous way, of the crown jewel of the religious crowd. That is the story of Jesus.

Mary, supposedly his mother, was married to Joseph, but they had never slept together. (did she need the pink pill, he Viagra?) Anyway the holy ghost descended upon her, and left her with child. (sounds like rape to me) Then, according to the Bible, Mary and Joseph took part in the census (which historically didn't happen that year) but there was no room at the inn and they slept in the manger and Mary gave birth to Jesus. Her kid grew up to give a few talks, chase the money lenders out of the temple (sounds like Bernie Sanders) and also turn water into wine. (was he addicted to fermented grapes or wasn't he aware that everyone needs 8 glasses of water daily?) He got in trouble with the authorities and was nailed to a cross, died, and came to life again. (any child knows that's not possible.) Some forty or fifty years afterward people began to write the gospels up until over a hundred years later. Unfortunately some were tossed aside, and the four put in the Bible contradict themselves. (oh, well, it's only a story)

But how about the Old Testament? That's when God and the people of the day really come alive, committing murder, mayhem, rape, you name a reprehensible deed, they did it. And, of course, sometimes god ordered these horrendous actions.

But what about the Ten Commandments? Even pagans knew it was wrong to steal, etc. But how about those graven images that seem to be so important. (Only Isis responds to them today.) In a nutshell, the emperor (god) has no clothes to anyone who thinks.



Saved By Reason—New Prison Outreach

By Joshua Turner

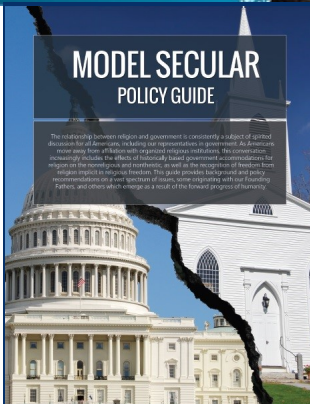
On Tuesday of this week I and a fellow board member and registered minister Cheri Comfort had a meeting with the head chaplain of Sacramento county jail. The meeting went very well, and we were able to drop off a stack of our literature teaching how to apply Socratic pedagogy to your thinking process. More often than not it is faulty reasoning that leads to criminal behavior, and the two most successful cognitive treatments that target this problem are very expensive, making "Saved by Reason's" approach with Socratic pedagogy a much better alternative since it targets the same kind of faulty reasoning just as well, if not better, and is offered to inmates for free. We also left Center for Inquiry's "Free Thought Books and Pen Pal" fliers and Secular Organizations for Sobriety's brochures, two organizations that we work closely with to help those of us who desperately need it.

That makes five county jails where we are now cleared to visit inmates and leave educational material. We also have an opportunity to start a "Socratic Method" class in three of those five facilities, and already have a class based on the work of Dr. Peter Boghossian. Peter is our Senior Advisor.

He and I will be speaking at an upcoming conference in which we will talk more in depth about our work with inmates and why it's so crucial for the secular community and the country as a whole to have programs like this in every correctional facility in the country. Our goal is not to give inmates tools to use for religious debate with other inmates or to proselytize, but simply to help inmates become better thinkers and reasoners. If you would like to be updated on the status of that upcoming conference, learn more about our organization or support us please visit our website savedby-reason.org and follow us on Twitter and [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/savedbyreason) and Tumbler @savedbyreason.



Become a fully legal Wedding Officiant with American Humanist Association using this online course. [Link here.](#)



Finally, we can tell our elected leaders exactly what a secular America would look like. Here are our issues and concerns, put together by the Secular Coalition for America.

The policies we advocate help to promote a religiously-neutral government. They are solid policies that are good for the country as a whole—both the religious and non-religious alike.

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Last Week Tonight with John Oliver recently covered the Internal Revenue Service's treatment of religious nonprofit organizations. The IRS rarely will investigate such organizations, largely due to perceived political backlash ensuing from the Religious Right--a justified concern given the IRS's troubles with the Tea Party. Moreover, tax money from churches would intermix government and religion in violation of the Establishment Clause.

However, from these positions, preferential treatment developed over generations in our government's tax treatment of religious organizations. American Atheists filed a discrimination lawsuit against the IRS because secular non-profits are required annually to complete applications and pay fees to maintain their tax-exempt status--not so with religious non-profits. The Internal Revenue Code's Rental Value of Parsonages statute exempts from gross income the rental value of a minister's living quarters; secular non-profits cannot benefit from this since they do not have ministers. There have been reports that pastors will encourage their congregations to support political candidates for office, which violates the requirements of 501(c)(3) status. Non-profits, secular or religious, can lobby for issues of public policy or act in the judicial or executive spheres, but candidate or legislative endorsement is prohibited. Yet because churches and religious non-profits are viewed with such little scrutiny by the IRS, the Internal Revenue Code and Department of Treasury regulations are not being enforced against them.

Churches make billions of dollars a year in this country. Much of that money has been used to lobby for certain laws, such as California's now-defunct Proposition 8 banning gay marriage. Some in the secular community believe that if churches have such political influence in this money-is-speech era--rather than being organizations where people worship their beliefs privately--they should pay their fair share of taxes. Taxing a church that stays out of government may be unconstitutional, but we should reconsider taxing a religious organization which does get involved with government.

These statements are opinions of Arash Khosrowshahi, Attorney at Law, not to be construed as creating an attorney-client relationship, nor legal advice. Provided for educational purposes only.

**TYRE WILL NEVER BE REBUILT.
FOR I, THE LORD, HAVE SPOKEN!**
EZEKIEL 26:14



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NATIONAL SECULAR NEWS

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Sacramento Reason

SCCA Update

By Tom Manger

Here are some bills that we support. The status provided is as of August 11th. Bolding indicates bills for which we've submitted position papers and have actively lobbied. Legislators return from their summer recess next Monday, August 17th. They have only until August 28th to get bills through committee. Then they have until September 11th to finalize floor votes for bill passage.

SB 277 - Vaccinations - Will eliminate the ability for parents to opt out of vaccinations for personally held beliefs - including religious beliefs. Individuals could still be exempted for medical reasons.

STATUS - PASSED - This bill was signed by the governor and will soon become law. However, as of this writing, there is still a contingent of protestors camped out on the steps of the state capital attempting to rally ongoing opposition to this new law.

SB 128 - End Of Life Option Act - Will allow mentally competent, terminally ill people in the final stages of their disease to request medication from a physician to bring about a peaceful death.

STATUS - This bill is in Assembly committee. We continue to lobby for its passage.

AB 775 - Reproductive FACT Act - will require crisis pregnancy centers to post a sign stating that they are not a licensed medical facility and that no medical staff are available.

STATUS - This bill passed the Assembly. It has passed the requisite Senate committees and should soon be headed for a floor vote.

AB 329 - Sexual Health Education - would add 7th graders to list of recipients of training. Would rename previous sexual health bill to the "California Healthy Youth Act".

STATUS - Has passed the Assembly and the Senate Health committee. It is awaiting consideration by the Appropriations committee and is currently in the Senate suspense file.

AB 830 - Gender violence - Would expand the definition of gender violence to include violent acts committed in part due to the sexual orientation of the victim.

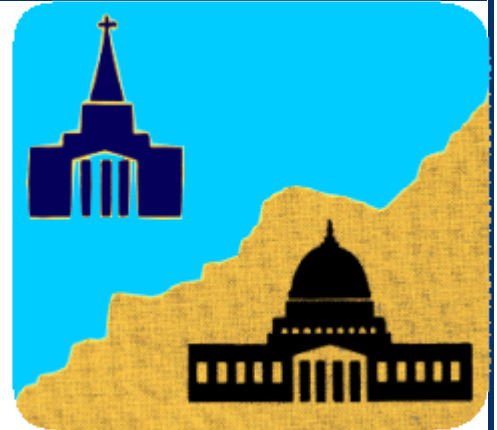
STATUS - This bill has passed both the Assembly and the Senate and is headed to the governor's desk for his signature.

AB 1117 - Medi-Cal: vaccination rates - Would fund a pilot project to increase vaccination rates amongst those currently using Medi-Cal.

STATUS - Passed the Senate Health committee and waiting for a hearing with the Appropriations committee.

SB 322 - Charter school students suspension and expulsion - Would require charter schools to adhere to school district procedures for all student suspensions and expulsions.

STATUS - Passed the Assembly education committee with amendments. Further amended in the Appropriations committee and awaiting a rehearing.





SCCA Update (continued)

By Tom Manger



SB 695 - School curriculum: health education: sexual harassment and violence instruction - Would require health classes for grades 9-12 to include a section that discusses the requirement for affirmative consent before sex. Affirmative consent is known as "Yes Means Yes" and is now required as policy on college campuses in California. It is a measure passed last year to help minimize the large number of sexual assaults on campus.

STATUS - Passed the Assembly Health committee and is awaiting a hearing with the Appropriations committee.

SB 792 - Day care facilities: immunizations: exemptions - Would require that all day care employees be fully immunized unless a medical exemption is obtained. This is a companion bill to the SB 277 bill that eliminates all vaccination exemptions except those for medical reasons.

STATUS - Amended and passed the Health committee. Waiting for consideration by the Appropriations committee.

SJR 4 - Relative to the Sally Ride statue - Would replace a statue of Junipero Serra in the nation's capitol building in DC with a new statue of astronaut Sally Ride.

STATUS - Passed the senate. In the Senate inactive file due to the upcoming visit by Pope Francis. Will likely be a two year bill.

Related News Article - <http://cal-catholic.com/?p=18175>

AB 1177 - Primary care clinics; written transfer agreements - Would remove the requirement that primary care clinics maintain a written transfer agreement with one or more local hospitals.

STATUS - Passed the Senate Health committee with amendments and waiting to be heard by the Appropriations committee.

We are fortunate that all of the bills opposed by the Secular Coalition for California are dead for the year. One bill held in committee may be resurrected and reconsidered next year.

AB 1380 - Corporation Sole - Would allow religious organizations to bypass decisions made by the California Secretary of State.

STATUS - STALLED - Assembly committee hearing cancelled at the request of the author,

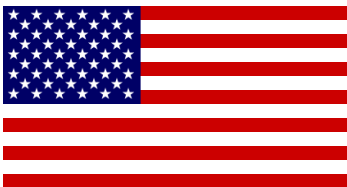
AB 207 - Online Charter Schools - Would allow charter schools to obtain local taxpayer funding for students who attend virtually but who live outside of the local school district.

STATUS - DEAD - Failed an Assembly education committee vote of 2-4-1.

AB 1254 - Health care service plans: abortion coverage - Would provide that a health care service plan is not required to include abortion as a covered benefit.

STATUS - DEAD - Failed the Assembly health committee on a 5-14-0 vote.

Find out more about the [Secular Coalition for California](#), our [Key Issues](#), and be sure to [subscribe to Action Alerts](#). You can also [Like us on Facebook](#). Email us with any questions - california@secular.org.



We firmly support the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, including the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" and Article Six "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States".



Can I make tax deductible donations?
Yes! Many freethinking groups are 501c3. See Page 8 for details.

Print one copy of this newsletter to leave in a coffee house or other public location. You never know.



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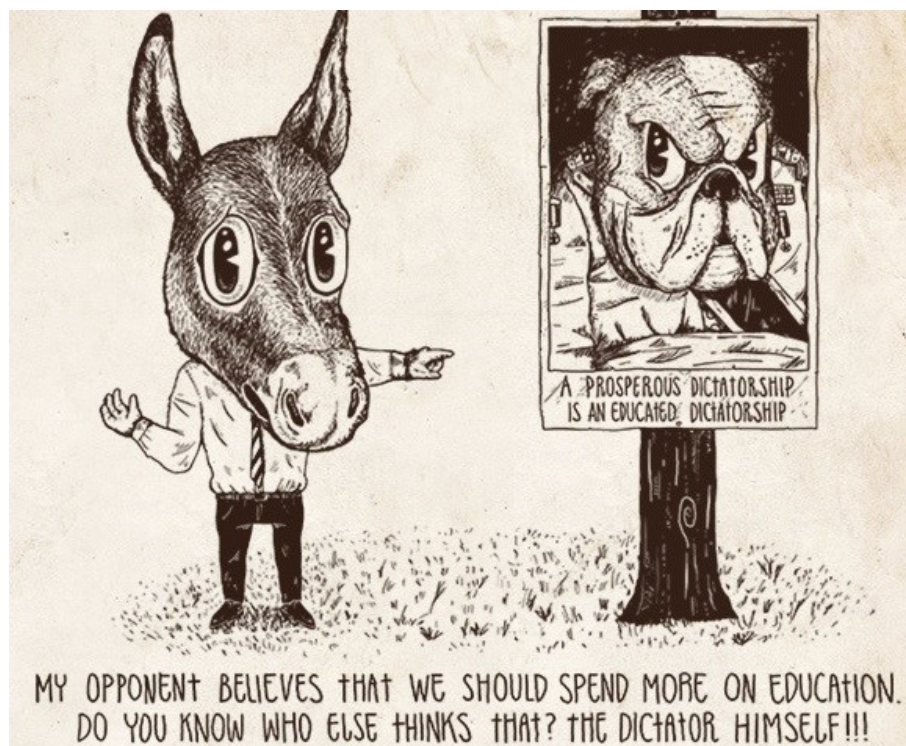
E-mail:
admin@sacmentoreason.org
Judy Saint, Editor
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Logical Fallacies On Parade

Name this logical fallacy. (Answer upside down at bottom.)

Making an unrelated association intended to influence, to avoid discussing the argument itself. Example: Don't vote for that proposition because people on drugs vote for that! It riles people up without discussing the real merits of the actual point being made. It's a distraction, but it often works.



Name is Guilt by Association. It's a type of Red Herring fallacy. Graphic is from the book Bad Arguments.

Sacramento Area's Freethinking Calendar

The Sacramento Area has its own event calendar for atheists, skeptics, humanists, and all other freethinkers. Sacramento Area groups love to cooperate and mingle, all supporting each other in these times of religious zeal. The Sac Coalition of Reason, which maintains this automatically-updated calendar, is not a club or group with a Board, or rules, but is a resource directing anyone interested to find local freethinking groups that suit them. Bookmark this calendar on your devices. It's a handy one-stop reference for almost everything going on up and down the valley.

<http://unitedcor.org/event-calendar-2/>

