

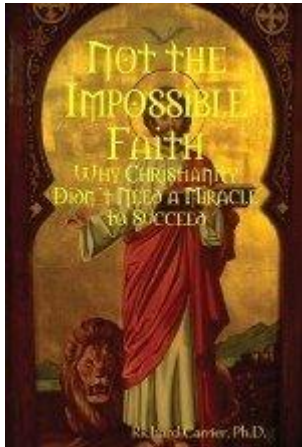


San Francisco Atheists | May 2009 Newsletter

May Program Meeting: Dr. Richard Carrier



This month, **Dr. Richard Carrier** will speak on his new book *Not the Impossible Faith: Why Christianity Didn't Need a Miracle to Succeed*, which demolishes the arguments and bluster of Internet hack apologist "J.P. Holding."



Richard describes his talk as "an amusing tour of [his] latest book, which exposes the lousy scholarship and probable dishonesty of the infamous online Christian apologist J.P. Holding. In the process, you'll learn all kinds of useful and interesting things about the ancient world and the earliest Christians, and why their religion was a natural success -- all contradicting Holding's book, *The Impossible Faith*, which argued Christianity was so badly conceived it could never have succeeded unless it had irrefutable proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. Poppycock!"

Richard Carrier is widely known for his scholarship on Christianity and the societies that spawned it. We are certain you will enjoy this talk. And Richard's new book, on which the talk is based, will be on sale after the discussion.

6:00 pm Saturday, May 30, 2009

[Schroeder's Restaurant](#), rear dining room, 240 Front Street. SF Financial District, 2 blocks north of Market, between California and Sacramento Streets. Use California Street cable car, or BART/MUNI Embarcadero stop. Parking on street or at nearby garage. Restaurant and bar remain open after meeting.

San Francisco Atheists is an affiliate of American Atheists. You can help American Atheists fight for your rights by joining for \$35 per year. As a subscriber of this newsletter, you can also request a free 6 month trial membership. Join at www.atheists.org or call 908-276-7300.

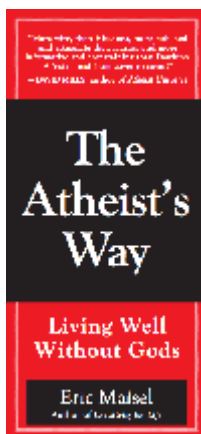
East Bay Atheists Meeting



This month, **Dr. Eric Maisel** will speak on his new book, *The Atheist's Way*.

The Atheist's Way answers the question, "How can a person make meaning in a universe that cares nothing about meaning?" It is at once an atheist lifestyle guide and a handbook on the practice of making and maintaining personal meaning.

In it, we hear from former believers who have made the journey from belief to atheism, survey thousands of years of atheist traditions, reestablish the primary role of personal responsibility in the realms of ethics and meaning, examine the rewards and challenges of atheism, and discover what is required of each of us if we are to live well without gods.



Dr. Eric Maisel is the author of more than thirty books on a variety of subjects, among them atheism, creativity, depression, anxiety, and addiction.

Dr. Maisel founded the field of creativity coaching and is widely regarded as America's foremost creativity coach. He trains creativity coaches, provides core trainings for the Creativity Coaching Association, and coaches creative and performing artists by telephone, by email and in workshop settings.

Dr. Maisel holds degrees in philosophy (B.S.), psychology (B.A.), creative writing (M.A.), counseling (M.S.), and counseling psychology (PhD). He is a California licensed marriage and family therapist, hosts two shows on the Personal Life Media Network, and writes a monthly "Coaching the Artist Within" column for Art Calendar Magazine.

Dr. Maisel's recent writings on the paradigm shift from seeking meaning to making meaning, on the existential roots of depression, anxiety, and addiction, and on the next steps in atheist living have gained him a wide audience. He invites you to join him in these investigations by participating in The Atheist's Way virtual book review tour, by listening to his shows on the Personal Life Media network, by visiting his creativity and atheism blogs, by discussing The Atheist's Way, by training with him as a meaning coach and by inviting him to speak. .

Meeting is **Sunday, May 17**, 1:30 - 3:30 PM in the Berkeley Main Library, 3rd Floor Meeting Room. 2090 Kittredge Street, One Block From Downtown Berkeley BART.

BART Access: From the downtown Berkeley BART Station, walk 1.5 blocks south on Shattuck Avenue, then turn right on Kittredge. The library is a half block down the street on the left.

Parking: The city parking lot at Allston & Harold Way, a short block from the library, is \$5 for the entire day on Sunday. If you don't mind walking, take University to MLK, turn right and then instead of proceeding left on Allston to the parking lot, turn right. In several blocks you will see parking on the side streets.

Information: Larry Hicok, Coordinator: 510-222-7580 Ski Grabowski, Treasurer: 510-652-8350

First-ever Atheist Film Festival!



We're very pleased and excited to announce the first-ever, first annual **Atheist Film Festival** coming up next month at the historic **Roxie Theater** in San Francisco, **June 28th, 2009!** You can help in several ways; by spreading the word, volunteering, and right now by

helping us plan the lineup. There will be a new lineup of exciting short films, and a full program of six feature films.

FREE admission! (donations will be accepted.)

Constant cinema on two screens -- the 240 seat BIG theater and the 49 seat screening room next door.

Here's what we need to know from you: 1. Would YOU pay to see: a) Recent must-see atheist-themed movies like: **Religulous**, Richard Dawkins' "**Root of all Evil**", **The Golden Compass**? b) Lesser-known classics like **The Rapture**, **The Contender**, **Marjoe**? c) Obscure but wonderful Indie flicks like **Audience of One**, Diane Keaton's **Heaven**? d) Hell, anything - you had me at Atheist Film Festival! 2. Keeping in mind that we only have slots for 6 films (and there's always next year!) - do you have a film recommendation? [Let us know!](#) Thanks and more details soon, both from us and at the Atheist Film Festival website <http://atheistfilmfestival.org> !

Summer Solstice Picnic: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Every June, we skip our monthly program meeting and celebrate the **Summer Solstice** outside!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27, and join us for our annual Summer Solstice Picnic! We have once again secured a very nice space at **Pine Lake Park**. Pine Lake Park is located in the southwest quadrant of San Francisco, just north of Sloat Boulevard between 19th Avenue and 34th Avenue. The park is a beautiful eucalyptus-lined meadow next to Stern Grove, site of the famous outdoor summer concerts.

We'll get started about **11 AM** and stay until about 4 PM. Please bring a **potluck dish to share** and **\$5 per person** to cover reservation and food/drink costs. **Grilled burgers** and **hot dogs** with all the fixin's will be provided, as well as **water**, **soft drinks**, **beer** and **wine**.



We still need volunteers to help with the **grilling** as well as ideas or participants for **entertainment**. Please [email us](#) if you can help!

Make your plans to celebrate the longest day of the year with your fellow Atheists on June 27. Dress in layers just in case fog rolls in. You may want to bring something extra for the grill, Frisbee, football, ball and glove, blanket, Scrabble, and even your dog (a popular dog run is between the parking lot and the picnic site).

Getting There

Car: Parking is easy at the park's 100-car parking lot. Turn north on Vale Avenue to enter the park. Park then walk the trail west to the picnic area. [Click here for a Google map](#) with interactive driving directions.

Public Transportation: The 28 or the 23 lines of MUNI will get you to the park. Walk north on Vale Avenue to enter the park. At the parking lot, walk the trail west to the picnic area. [Click here for a Google map](#). [Click here for a MUNI system map \(PDF\)](#) or [plan your trip at 511.org](#).



Questions? [Email us](#).

Our monthly program meetings resume July 31 at Schroeder's Restaurant.

Atheists Marching in Concord Independence Day Parade



The [Atheists & Freethinkers of Contra Costa County](#) have once again scored a victory in Atheism's march towards public acceptance and respectability. The City of Concord's annual Fourth of July Parade will again feature an ATHEIST entry this year. All local Atheists and Atheist organizations are encouraged to come out and celebrate Atheist Pride in this very public and very civic event. Let's show up in force and make a strong community statement on Saturday, July 4, 2009!

Please [let us know](#) if you want to march in the parade. It starts at Noon, so you'll need to be there before that. We're also looking for a convertible to lead the group. We have reserved Baldwin Park in Concord – we can have 120 people! The parade and park are within 1 mile of the Concord BART station. The parade is in Todos Santos Plaza at Noon and we'll have the two bbq's fired up by 1pm. We're providing the grilling and paper products. Please bring your own beverages (alcoholic containers are not permitted), bbq food items and a side dish to share.

Please come out and join us as we celebrate our country and support the separation of church and state!

San Francisco Atheists now on Facebook



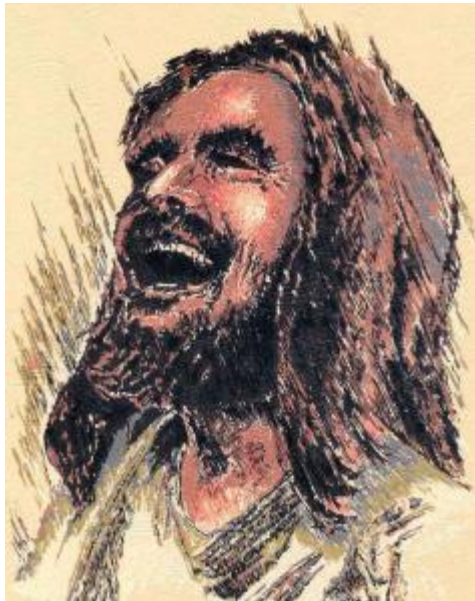
If you are one of the 200 million and growing members of social networking website **Facebook**, join our new "Group" on the site. [Click here to see the San Francisco Atheists Facebook group](#) and show your support by joining the group!

[American Atheists also has a Facebook Group page.](#)

Our new site is growing and it's a handy place to join a discussion, post items and comments, see upcoming events, and to network with other Bay Area Atheists.

Facebook is free, but you do need to become a Facebook member before joining a Facebook Group. Signing up is quick and easy.

Joke Of The Month



Top Ten Signs You're a Fundamentalist Christian

10 - You vigorously deny the existence of thousands of gods claimed by other religions, but feel outraged when someone denies the existence of yours.

9 - You feel insulted and "dehumanized" when scientists say that people evolved from other life forms, but you have no problem with the Biblical claim that we were created from dirt.

8 - You laugh at polytheists, but you have no problem believing in a Triune God.

7 - Your face turns purple when you hear of the "atrocities" attributed to Allah, but you don't even flinch when hearing about how God/Jehovah slaughtered all the babies of Egypt in "Exodus" and ordered the elimination of entire ethnic groups in "Joshua" including women, children, and trees!

6 - You laugh at Hindu beliefs that deify humans, and Greek claims about gods sleeping with women, but you have no problem believing that the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary, who then gave birth to a man-god who got killed, came back to life and then ascended into the sky.

5 - You are willing to spend your life looking for little loopholes in the scientifically established age of Earth (4.5 billion years), but you find nothing wrong with believing dates recorded by Bronze Age tribesmen sitting in their tents and guessing that Earth is a few generations old.

4 - You believe that the entire population of this planet with the exception of those who share your beliefs -- though excluding those in all rival sects - will spend Eternity in an infinite Hell of Suffering. And yet consider your religion the most "tolerant" and "loving."

3 - While modern science, history, geology, biology, and physics have failed to convince you otherwise, some idiot rolling around on the floor speaking in "tongues" may be all the evidence you need to "prove" Christianity.

2 - You define 0.01% as a "high success rate" when it comes to answered prayers. You consider that to be evidence that prayer works. And you think that the remaining 99.99% FAILURE was simply the will of God.

1 - You actually know a lot less than many atheists and agnostics do about the Bible, Christianity, and church history - but still call yourself a Christian.

Quote Of The Month



“To hate man and worship God seems to be the sum of all creeds.”

-- **Robert Green Ingersoll**, *Some Mistakes of Moses*, 1879

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