

## San Francisco Atheists

For our April monthly meeting, we are pleased to welcome Lance Goller, former Jehovah's Witness, sharing 'A Tale of Two Cults'. Lance's family joined the JW's when he was merely 3 years old. Thoroughly brainwashed into the JW world, Lance grew up a firm believer and was baptized at the age of 14. Lance spent nearly 3 years at 'Bethel', JW's headquarters in New York, and later attended an exclusive missionary school known as 'Gilead'. It was at Gilead School (which can only be described as a 5-month-long indoctrination session) that Lance's doubts, long suppressed, began to percolate, a process that unfortunately took 5 years to break through the brainwashing. Finally, at the age of 37, Lance realized that he had been raised in a cult, and within months, gave up his beliefs in the Bible, deities, the flood, and creationism (in that order).

Lance will discuss growing up JW (aka the 24-year-old virgin), inside JW HQ, the awakening process (what it took to leave), and why JW's are cultlike and dangerous. His YouTube channel is [ExGileadMissionary](#).

Please join us on **Saturday April 27**

Schroeder's Restaurant, 240 Front St., rear dining room  
Meet at 4:30 pm to eat/drink/socialize. Program at 5 pm.  
Near the Embarcadero MUNI/BART station

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In memorium-- **Tony Haze**, longtime Atheist activist, died on March 30. After battling AIDS for several years, he decided to end his life peacefully. While Tony was never comfortable in a group setting, he contributed over many years to the promotion of Atheism and state/church separation through his art projects. He will be missed.

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**We Are Atheism** is sponsoring fundraisers to assist victims in both Boston and Texas. "*Atheists Giving Aid* exists to respond in tragedies like these and provide a resource for non-believers (and others) to give money that will make it to the victims and their families without passing through ANY religious affiliated organizations." Please consider contributing— click on the donate tab on their [website](#).

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Coming up soon:

SFA will once again host a booth at the [How Weird Street Fair](#) on Sunday April 28. Music, dancing, art, vendors, costumes, and general SF zaniness in SOMA.

May 2 is the [National Day of Reason](#), scheduled to oppose the National Day of Prayer, "to celebrate reason and to raise public awareness about the persistent threat to religious liberty posed by government intrusion into the private sphere of worship."

[Ha Ha Heathens](#) comedy with Keith Lowell Jensen and friends return to the Punch Line on May 29.

Tickets are now available for [SkeptiCal](#) in Berkeley on June 15.

Save the dates: SFA Summer Solstice picnic June 22 and the [Atheist Film Festival](#) September 14.

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Last month our speaker **Herb Masters** shared some great local science education resources. To learn more, explore these sites:

For an amazing science calendar, news on this year's Bay Area Science Festival, and to sign up for the nifty **SciSchmooze** newsletter, visit [Bay Area Science](#).

[Bay Area Skeptics](#) hosts local meetings on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month.

[Atheist shoes!](#) And other fun stuff from Berlin.

The next **Skeptic's Toolbox** will be August 8-11 in Eugene, OR. Details TBA.