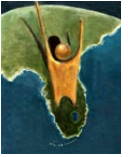




Vol. 6 No. 7, July 2017 Jim Peterson, Rick O'Keefe, Editors

The Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

# Freethought News



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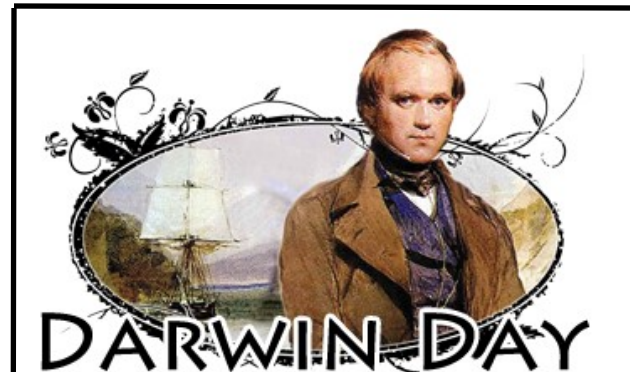
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\* TB-CoR member

Coming for **Darwin Day**, next February:

## The Evolution of Human Happiness

The Board of Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason is pleased to announce the theme for our 2018 annual celebration of science, secularism, and human progress. We have been negotiating with some of the leading researchers and authors in this field and are highly encouraged to report we are very excited about the talent we will bring to this event. And you will be too. Forthcoming editions of this newsletter will have important details on what you can expect.



### Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason

#### Calendar

[Rick O'Keefe](#)

#### Web site

Jim Peterson

#### Newsletter

[Jim Peterson](#)

#### Special Projects

Mark Brandt  
& Bill Norsworthy

See our event website at:

[www.evolvetampa.com](http://www.evolvetampa.com)

See the full roster of the  
Leadership board  
on Page 5.

This publication online at:

[www.tampabaycor.net](http://www.tampabaycor.net)

### National Pride and Human Solidarity

As we approach our national holiday, it is time to consider the meaning of our country. Our short history encompasses the greatest material prosperity ever visited on humankind, the rise of democracy and equality, the test of reason, and the great disappointment with the tenacity of ignorance and mendacity.

Through it all, we cling to our history, and the rule of law, no matter how unreasonable. We persist as our best minds and stoutest hearts have persisted. In the face of war and depression, and the corrosive temptations of apparently easy wealth and easier corruption, we have kept a tinder of hope - the recognition of our common humanity - alive in the chaos of our political rivalries. Still, we struggle to define ourselves, and in that struggle resides the America we seek.

JP

Charles Darwin was not only a great scientific thinker. He was fascinated by the relationship between human beings and other animals. He foresaw the false ideological evils for which natural selection might be used in justification and warned against such misunderstanding. He was also sensitive to the private and social upheaval that the theory of evolution would cause: revealing that human beings all belong to one common family and relating us to all other living things came at the cost of displacing humanity from the central, divine position we had previously occupied. Despite his personal caution, Darwinism radically re-shaped our intuitions about all living things, and today humanists all over the world can celebrate a defining moment in the naturalization of our understanding of the world. It can well be said that the general principle of evolution applies across the spectrum of natural phenomena including all aspects of human life. Since Happiness is a prime mover of human action, we will attempt to enlarge our understanding of it in February of 2018. Please plan to join us them. More details will be announced shortly.

JP

Happiness

Our 30th Year

# The Humanist Society of the Suncoast News

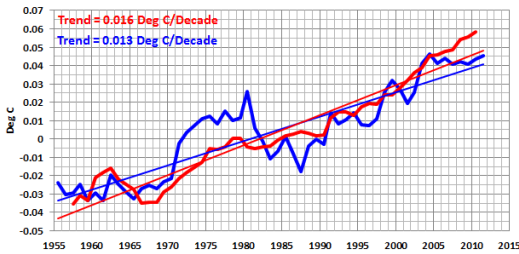
An Epicurean society dedicated to the proposition that the fully examined life is worth living well. Associate organization of the [Humanists of Florida](#), the [AHA](#), [COR](#), & [CSH](#) Find us at [www.suncoasthumanist.com](http://www.suncoasthumanist.com)

**Dunedin Public Library** 223 Douglas Ave, Dunedin, FL

Volume 30 No. 7 July, 2017

## Climate Change - The 97 Percent

Global Ocean Temperature Anomalies - Volume Average 0-2000 Meters (Based on Warming of 0.09 Deg C from 1955-2010 in Levitus et al 2012)  
Annual UKMO EN3, Pentadal NODC  
1955 to 2011 (Base Years = 1955-2006)



**Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming (CAGW)**, more frequently called "Climate Change," is accompanied by dire predictions of imminent calamity. Sea level rise of 10 to 30 feet and more by the year 2100. An atmosphere more in line with the planet Venus. Increased droughts, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. And our children will grow up not having seen snow. HG

**Howard Gray** will discuss the current support of CAGW as predictions of calamity fail to be realized.

**Ed. Note:** Howard will present the kind of propositions we do not usually entertain, but which are very useful to consider if we want to fully understand what is happening to our country and the world. It is not necessary to have a science degree to follow Howard's carefully wrought claims. As in all cases with our guests who are advocates for a certain view, we will pay polite but critical attention, and will be enriched by the experience.

Celebrating

# 30 Years of Humanism

In west central Florida

We are pleased to have Howard offer a contrarian point of view on a subject that has interested us for some time.

The society is A sponsor of the Tampa Bay Post Carbon Council project. See page 5.



**Join or renew Humanist Society of the Suncoast**

### Annual Dues

- E-mail news -Free
- Regular -\$25
- Reg. Couple -\$30.
- Supporter -\$35/40 (With pin above)
- Life -\$200.
- Life Couple -\$250.
- Associate -\$10



Your membership helps keep Humanism alive & growing in the Tampa Bay area A small part of your dues allows us to participate fully as a member organization of the Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason & enables us to support larger & more exciting programs.

If you have questions concerning your dues or status, contact our treasurer, [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com)

If new, please fill out the form; if renewing just indicate your name & any changes from our previous information Thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address -if new : \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Privacy respected)

Send tax deductible (501c3) check made out to:

**"Marios Psomas"**

Memo line: "Humanist Society Dues"  
Humanist Society of the Suncoast, AHA  
1013 Connecticut Rd  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

\*= optional



## Tampa Bay Harvest

**Food: the first kindness & the measure of our Hospitality. Humanists aspire to true friendship with our fellow human beings.** Money is more effective than cans to get the most benefit to the greatest number of people. Thanks to **Glenn Paul**, chair & Jordan Williams. Ed Note: Glenn needs assistance. See Page 17 also. **We need volunteers!** Write to [jim@suncoasthumanist.com](mailto:jim@suncoasthumanist.com)

## Be with us at

([map](#)) The Dunedin Public Library at 223 Douglas Ave. in Dunedin.

**Saturday, July 1 at 2:00 PM**

Many of us go to dinner afterwards at: a restaurant not far from the Library.

## Wedding, Child naming, Memorial?

Florida has a large number of celebrants who are specially trained to solemnize the important life transitions in the Humanist way. <http://thehumanistsociety.org/celebrants/map/#FL>



*Humanists work to build a world in which happiness is the enduring criterion of all policy.*

## What is the Humanist Way?

1. To extend a human centered approach to the critical problems of life & society.
2. To encourage attitudes of kindness, compassion, tolerance & a loving generosity in human relationships, & in our treatment of all life. These attitudes help us to see ourselves in the lives of others, & encourage appreciation for the remarkable diversity of human culture & experience.
3. To develop & popularize the skills of creative & critical thinking that empower people to challenge prejudice, superstition & irrationality in every area of life. Such empowerment enables the individual to reach the highest levels of achievement.
4. To exalt those artistic & imaginative expressions of life which have been the source of the greatest pleasure & enlightenment, & which reflect compelling human truths. Through music, literature, art, dance, & other expressions, we embrace the essence of what it means to be human.
5. To explore the grounds of ethics & morality within the unfolding history of our evolving culture. Such knowledge will enable us to become effective protagonists for the happiness of the individual person. JP

## The Movable Feast

the Humanist Society's monthly social Dinner  
is BACK!

Join us on Sunday, July 16th  
at 5 O'clock at:

### Applebee's

5110 E Bay Dr  
Clearwater, FL 33764  
(727) 539-6388

For map & more info: [http://  
restaurants.applebees.com/fl/clearwater/5110-e-bay-dr.html](http://restaurants.applebees.com/fl/clearwater/5110-e-bay-dr.html)

Kindly RSVP to: (727) 581-2146

Great Conversation and good food, reasonably priced

## Laugh Lines *What the Doctors think* 07-17

The medical community is unable to reach consensus on what to do with America's health insurance situation. Here then is Health Care from the Doctor's Perspective.

Allergists were in favor of scratching it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the anuses in Washington.

Thanks to: *Corrie Purdum Lynch*

## Humanist society of the Suncoast

A chapter of the American Humanist Assoc., Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason, & The Association of Secular Humanist Societies

### Board of Directors.

Meets Sept., December, April

**Jay Alexander,**  
**Steve Brown,**  
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~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~

Jordan Williams, mail Publisher

**Jim Peterson, Editor**  
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**Need Psychological  
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**Lynda Gurvitz,**  
**(727) 725-8820**

**Patricia Walters,**  
**(813) 452-6547**



## Tampa Humanist Association

Meets every third Saturday at, 11:00 AM

### North Tampa Public Library

8916 North Blvd. Tampa, FL 33604 [Map](#)

July 15th, 11 AM

Discussion Leader: **Lucas Hopegood**

As Humanists it is our task to discover the secret world above & within the level of conscious recognition. Using the instruments of reason, & critical thinking, we strive to be at one in understanding both the world that made us, & the one we are inventing.

Each month a new investigation thoughtfully & critically dissects a new intersection of mind & matter. Be part of it.

At present, we are a small, intimate group meeting in a neighborhood library. But we are ambitious, and hope to grow. Ideally, such small discussion groups should appear in every neighborhood. The need is as great as the potential. What is required is a few longtime humanists willing to take on the relatively small effort to secure a library meeting room once a month, post a few notices here and there (including this newsletter), and show up to lead a discussion, share a little knowledge; give something to the future.

As Issac Asimov, our former president, is quoted as saying, "Since you can't take it with you, send it on ahead." Humanism is as much in need of good followership as it is of effective leadership. Now is the time to do your part in either category. We can help.

JP

Learn more about the association at: <http://tampahumanist.com/>



Member, TBCoR,  
Hum Society, & AHA  
affiliate.

# Humanist Psychology

Humanistic, humanism and humanist are terms in psychology relating to an approach which studies the whole person, and the uniqueness of each individual. Essentially, these terms refer the same approach in psychology.

Humanism is a [psychological perspective](#) that emphasizes the study of the whole person. Humanistic psychologists look at human behavior not only through the eyes of the observer, but through the eyes of the person doing the behaving.

Sometimes the humanistic approach is called phenomenological. This means that personality is studied from the point of view of the individual's subjective experience. For [Rogers](#) the focus of psychology is not behaviour ([Skinner](#)), the unconscious ([Freud](#)), thinking ([Wundt](#)) or the human brain but how individuals perceive and interpret events. Rogers is therefore important because he redirected psychology towards the study of [the self](#).

The humanistic approach in psychology developed as a rebellion against what some psychologists saw as the limitations of the behaviorist and psychodynamic psychology. The humanistic approach is thus often called the "third force" in psychology after psychoanalysis and behaviorism (Maslow, 1968).

Humanistic psychology begins with the existential assumptions that phenomenology is central and that people have free will. Personal agency is the humanistic term for the exercise of free will. Personal agency refers to the choices we make in life, the paths we go down and their consequences.

## Pensacola Monument makes Humanists Cross

The American Humanist Association's (AHA) Appignani Humanist Legal Center presented its arguments June 14th before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, seeking [summary judgment](#) in a lawsuit aimed at preventing the continued state sponsorship of a religious monument.

The AHA in conjunction with the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) filed a lawsuit in 2015 on behalf of Pensacola residents who felt that a large cross, located in a city park and maintained by the city government, represented a troubling elevation of the Christian faith above other beliefs. The request for summary judgment, filed in April of this year, prompts the court to make a decision regarding whether the massive Christian display violates the Establishment clause of the First Amendment.

"Binding legal precedent requires the removal of the city's cross," said Monica Miller, Senior Counsel at the Appignani Humanist Legal Center. "Such an overt Christian monolith endorsed and displayed by the city is a clear violation of the Establishment Clause, and today we presented our arguments urging the court to respect all citizens' First Amendment rights."

### Humanist Quotes

*"It is wrong for a man to say that he is certain of the objective truth of any proposition unless he can produce evidence which logically justifies that certainty."*

– T H Huxley, *Agnosticism and Christianity*, 1889

## Change or Warming?

LONDON, June 22 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - When it comes to climate speak, labels seem to matter: the American public - particularly Republicans - are more likely to say they doubt the existence of "global warming" than "climate change", according to researchers at Cornell University.

In a survey, 74 percent of Republicans polled said they believed that climate change is happening, but only 66 percent said they believed in global warming. In contrast, 94 percent of Democrats said they believed in both.

The reasons why people discredit climate science may be because they do not like the policies being proposed to tackle the problem, said study co-author Jonathon Schuldt, assistant professor of communication at Cornell.

"Acknowledging the reality of global warming or climate change may lead to new government regulations on businesses, which goes against core conservative values," he said.

"So, telling a pollster that the phenomenon isn't happening may reflect something about a person's general policy preferences, not just their level of certainty that the global climate is changing."

U.S. President Donald Trump's tweets are less likely to speak about climate change than global warming - which he has described as a hoax. In all, 106 of his tweets mentioned "global warming" and 36 said "climate change", the researchers found.

"Our results suggest that Trump's emphasis on 'global warming' may be an effective rhetorical strategy that resonates with his Republican constituents, who express more skepticism in response to that term in particular," said Schuldt.

But the chasm between Republicans and Democrats on climate science might not be as large as it seems, Schuldt added.

"If you ask people what they think about climate change - not global warming - we find that the partisan gap shrinks by about 30 percent," he said. "There's actually more agreement here than we think."

The effect identified by the researchers is especially relevant given Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, said co-author Peter Enns, associate professor of government.

Trump's announcement on June 1 that he wished to renegotiate the terms of the landmark 195-nation climate deal

was met with dismay by other countries who signed the agreement. Trump has said participating in the accord - which aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels - would undermine the U.S. economy, wipe out jobs, weaken national sovereignty and put his country at a permanent disadvantage.

The Cornell University research was based on a national probability survey of 1,461 U.S. adults carried out in October last year, and published on Wednesday. (Reporting by Alex Whiting @Alexwhi, editing by Megan Rowling; Please credit the **Thomson Reuters Foundation**, the charitable arm of **Thomson Reuters**, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women's rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/climate>)



An autonomous project of the Humanist Society.  
Affiliate of [PCI](#)

## *The Victory of the Commons*

A new world based on community and collaboration is closer than you think. We can steward resources together, in fact, millions of people are doing just that. And not just in the history books. This week, from Kingston, NY, author and activist David Bollier, Co Founder of the Commons Strategy Group, explains what it means to Think Like A Commoner. Then, two activists engaged in Commons projects right now, talk about two very distinct but complementary Commons strategies — one digital in Barcelona, the other rural, in Mozambique. Graça Samo is the director of the Global March of Women and Mayo Fuster is on the faculty of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and a researcher at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Barcelona. The commons are no tragedy, say our guests, they're an opportunity to model ourselves on creativity and shared resources, instead of enclosure. See the video [here](#).

Post Carbon Institute, 613 4th Street, Ste 208, Santa Rosa, California 95404  
See the Humanist Society's environmental website at: [www.TampaBayPostCarbon.com](http://www.TampaBayPostCarbon.com)  
**It's Time to Stand Up for the Climate—and for Civilization!**



The mission of the Center for Inquiry is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. Since 2002, our all-volunteer chapter has served West Central Florida. Won't you support us? [Join our community today.](#)



*Rick O'Keefe,  
Coordinator*

## Planning Ahead

Generally, our monthly schedule is ...

- ◆ General presentation: 2nd Saturday
- ◆ Brandon Skeptical Brunch: 2nd Sunday
- ◆ CFI book club: 4th Saturday
- ◆ Freethinkers Dinner: 4th Monday (or Tuesday)
- ~ & with others ~
- ◆ Free computer repair: every Wednesday & Friday
- ◆ Tampa Bay Thinkers: 2nd Monday
- ◆ Tampa Bay Technology Center: 2nd Tuesday
- ◆ USF Humanities Institute: Varies, evenings
- ◆ And much more

Calendar: [http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa\\_Bay](http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa_Bay)



*Cause & Effect* is the biweekly newsletter of the Center for Inquiry community, covering the wide range of work that your membership helps make possible. (Now on its new schedule, every other Wednesday.)

Keep up with important issues in freethought.

[Become a member today!](#)

Our local community of freethinkers, Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay, is an all-volunteer organization. Members work together to share our humanist comradery in fostering a better world for all people, not just the monetarily successful. Without volunteers, CFI Tampa Bay can do little. Without paying members, we can't afford to accomplish much in the way of socials, speakers, guest film-makers and authors, buying office supplies, etc. Showing up at civic engagements that further our life views is important, especially if our members wear something that says "CFI", such as pins, shirts, signs. Asking friends to our gatherings and to join CFI is valuable in growing our membership. Not being a member but enjoying the activities is a dubious expression of commitment, don't you agree?

The Fall season of 2nd Saturday programs, and special socials begins afresh in September. The Book Club, dinners and luncheons continue, as do cooperative activities with Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason and the Tampa Bay Technology Center. Announcements of our activities usually appear on our Meetup, so you should join it (free) and RSVP to let us know that you read the announcement; RSVPs let us know how many are expected to attend. That way we can obtain the right-sized venue and provide the supplies. Thanks,.

Meetup: [http://bit.ly/CFI-TB\\_Meetup](http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup)

Short video: <http://bit.ly/2spBdsu>

Home page: [http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa\\_Bay](http://bit.ly/CFI-Tampa_Bay)

Contact us: [http://bit.ly/CFI-TB\\_Contact](http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Contact)

Join us with benefits: [http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay\\_Support\\_Us](http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay_Support_Us)



CFI's all new "Point of Inquiry" Podcast

*The flagship podcast of the Center for Inquiry  
is beginning a brand new chapter!*

We want to believe that climate change can be stopped, that humanity can summon the political will to take decisive and meaningful action to avert disaster. But the difficult reality is that even if we make our very best efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is coming. The real question now is how bad are we going to allow it to get?

You can subscribe to *Point of Inquiry* in your podcast app of choice, and if you're already a subscriber, well, *don't go anywhere!*



**Our Mission:** The Center for Inquiry strives to foster a secular society based on reason, science, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values.

**Our Vision:** A world where people value evidence and critical thinking, where superstition and prejudice subside, and where science and compassion guide public policy.

**Our Values:** Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Empathy, Learning, Wonder

## In Religion, Only A Minority Is Right

by J. H. Mckenna, Ph.D.

Polytheism spread over the planet several thousand years ago to produce a *majority* belief among humans. Almost everyone was a polytheist.

Polytheism lasted thousands of years unopposed by a late arriving monotheism. And then, tardy monotheism arrived.

And then several sects and denominations of monotheism arose. Then other new religions emerged. Then several thousand denominations and even newer religions appeared, so that, today, there is no uniformity in religion and no *majority* religious option at all. In religion, your view is inevitably a minority view.

Whoever you are and whatever your view, you are vastly outnumbered by all the other options combined. You are Protestant, but the vast majority of humanity is not. You are Catholic, the vast majority of humanity is not. You are Orthodox, the vast majority is not. You are Muslim, the vast majority is not. You are Hindu, the vast majority is not. You are Buddhist, the vast majority is not. You are Atheist, the vast majority is not. And on and on with many thousands of religious choices.

Such diversity (which is just a pretty word for ‘disagreement’) can only mean that a small minority has the correct view and the vast majority is wrong. That the vast majority is wrong is a very powerful proof that real obstacles exist to firm knowledge. Humanity has a mental defect that permits it to be fooled with fake knowledge about religion. Our brains didn’t evolve to easily recognize metaphysical truth. And so the vast majority of humans can be hoodwinked over the course of an entire lifetime and indeed over the span of millennia. Some ancient creeds that we label ‘dead religions’ flourished for thousands of years before they faded away. Do any of us for a moment think those dead religions imparted to their millions of devotees any true knowledge about the way things really are?

Read the rest [HERE](#).

*Donate or become a member of the Center for Inquiry today, and be a part of the secular resistance.*

[http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay\\_Support\\_Us](http://bit.ly/CFI-TampaBay_Support_Us)



## For People Who Love Science

By [Sam Farooqui](#)

Every now and then (read: at least once every week), I come across some self-professed pro-science denizen of the internet who wants to argue about something or other. Often, they like to cite studies in support of their arguments. On several occasions (to the point that I have lost count of exactly how many occasions), I’ve looked into the methodology of those studies and found that they did not conclusively prove whatever point they were cited to prove. In multiple cases, the studies actually suggested the opposite of whatever claim they had been cited in service of.

Yes, those people “love” science. I have some theories for why this happens so often. They involve presumption of authority and objectivity, lack of scrutiny, fetishism, and as always, media reporting and the systems that hinder accuracy therein.

Often, these people are simply enthusiastic about science insofar as it serves as an authority, which is plenty plausible motive for why they sometimes take a light hand to scrutiny. As someone currently weighing whether or not to enter a field in the social sciences where the methods used can be manipulated to fit desirability or grab headlines, I understand too well how easy it is to misrepresent facts and findings, even when it’s not being done on purpose. Social and evolutionary psychology are absolutely rife with issues like these.

That is why it’s important to demand significantly more intense scrutiny. That is why it’s important to not see science as an entity that stands alone from what we do with it, that we can use as some sort of a trump card, instead of what it actually is: a way to get to truth. That seems to be the common ground between a lot of pro-science people and people who are outright deniers. The difference seems to often just be that the former see science as an inherently (almost miraculously) objective monolithic authority and the latter see it as an inherently suspect monolithic authority.



## RESISTING EXTREMISM IN AMERICA, ONE PHONE CALL AT A TIME.

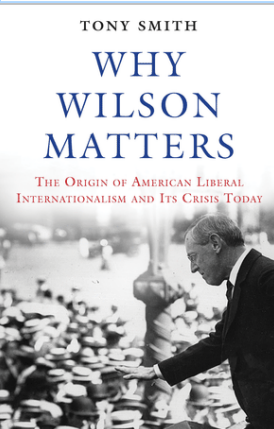
Since its launch in mid-December 2016, **Daily Action** has exploded into a huge phenomenon, with over a quarter of a million subscribers. We make civic engagement easy and painless, with a single action every day—connecting citizens to their legislators with a quick swipe of their phones.

*TO JOIN, text DAILY to 228466 (A-C-T-I-O-N)*

We have been featured in the Washington Post, NBC News, Cosmopolitan, Huffington Post, Vogue (and Teen Vogue too!), Fast Company, and many other outlets. Our calls have directly contributed to the reversal of the GOP's decision to gut the Office of Congressional Ethics and the decision of Customs and Border protection to release the number of detainees it was holding under Trump's travel ban. We placed a record number of calls to oppose Trump's pick for Labor Secretary, who later withdrew his nomination, and even spurred the envy of Clarence Thomas' wife. We have started sending out local actions to subscribers in high-population states, and we've even launched a book club focused on civic activism.

To join, text the word DAILY to the number 228466 (A-C-T-I-O-N). Every morning, you'll receive a text that links you to your Senator, member of Congress, or other appropriate official. You can call when you're walking to the bus stop or brewing your coffee. With a tap of your finger, you can do your part to resist extremism in America.

*(Thanks to Gary Thompson for this tip. ROK)*



[This book](#) traces the history of Wilsonian international liberalism that promotes the safety of democracies and the avoidance of war. Wilson's vision was a strong basis for stability. Unfortunately, political leanings increasingly espoused the imposition of democracies on other nations, with no regard for their cultures. Bush II and Obama equally espoused a neo-Wilsonianism that abandoned Wilson's wise prescriptions, while now, with Trump, the concept of international cooperation and defense of the welfare of democracies have been abandoned. Can America abandon imperialism and isolationism? Can rationalism be restored to government?

### A single voice ... Magnified gets results ~ Laura Moser: Activism one day at a time

The day after the election, Laura Moser, a writer, mother of two and an EDF member, just wanted to stay in bed. She felt scared and full of uncertainty about the world her kids would grow up in. "Did we just throw away our one chance to put the brakes on climate change?" she wondered.

In the weeks that followed, Moser managed her anxiety about the new administration by donating to organizations working to protect people and the planet.

"We're relying on nonprofits like EDF now more than ever," she said.

Still, she wanted to do more. So with the help of her husband's digital media company, she created Daily Action, a text message-based service that educates subscribers about important issues and makes contacting elected officials quick and easy. Daily Action ([dailyaction.org](http://dailyaction.org)) now has over 250,000 subscribers.

"Before I had kids, I used to volunteer a lot," said Moser. "Then I just got too busy. But this election has reminded me that taking care of my kids is bigger than packing lunches and getting them places on time: it's about fighting for a cleaner, safer future or them.

"It's up to us now," Moser added. "Find out what you're good at and do it. Or find out what no one is doing and do it. We all just need to do a little bit more than we have before."

Free inquiry entails recognition of civil liberties as integral to its pursuit, that is, a free press, freedom of communication, the right to organize opposition parties and to join voluntary associations, and freedom to cultivate and publish the fruits of scientific, philosophical, artistic, literary, moral and religious freedom. ~ Paul Kurtz, The Father of Modern Secular Humanism

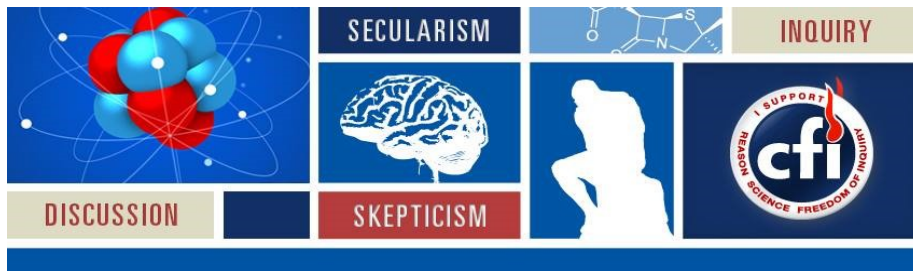
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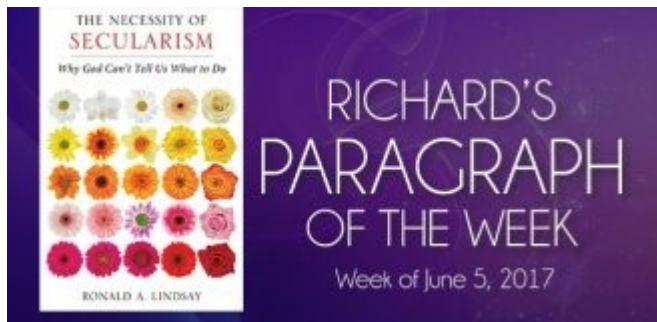
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# Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science



## University of South Florida Humanities Institute



For engaging speakers & socials, check the calendar next Fall: <http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities>

Select lectures are available on YouTube.

Can one truly claim to be educated without a broad knowledge of the Humanities? No!



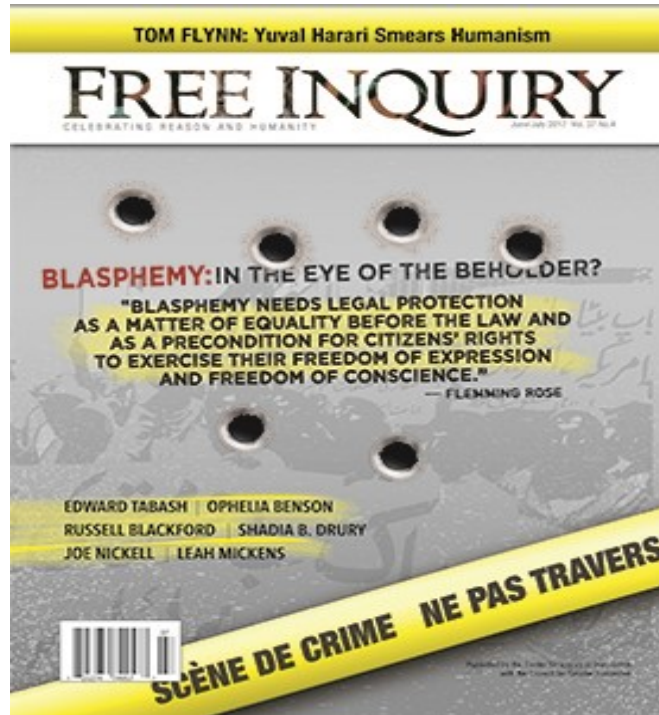
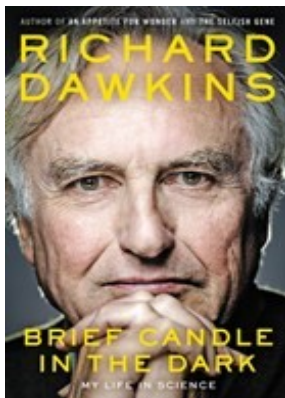
“And, by the way, when Jesus announced that we should cut off body parts, he was telling others to harm themselves. There were entire monastic orders that castrated themselves because Jesus said in Matthew 19:12 that “he that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” Every year in the United States we read about one or two men who mutilate themselves in order to prove their obedience to Christ. In my opinion, that is immoral.” – Dan Barker, *Life Driven Purpose*, pg 60.

Support science & reason; become a member today! *Membership starts at only \$25/year.*

Click the Flame to learn more.



**Richard Dawkins' NEWEST book!**  
*Exclusive* autographed copy for only \$36.95 plus S&H. Few are left. Go to: [www.evolvetampa.com](http://www.evolvetampa.com)



CFI's local [Meetup](#) makes it easy to view & RSVP to our activities & some affiliated events. The value to us of your joining our Meetup is that we need to know how many folks expect to attend an activity. Some programs are limited in seating; some require ordering books, etc.; some are open only to paid-up CFI members; & some require prepayment.



Founded in 1988 by *Gary P. Posner, M.D.*, Tampa Bay Skeptics is a nonprofit educational & scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal & fringe-science claims, & the dissemination of factual information about such claims. [Read More!](#)



## Answering Vaccine Skeptics, [SkepDoc's Corner, Harriet Hall, June 14, 2017](#)

The anti-vaccine movement is full of conspiracy theorists who deny the evidence for the effectiveness of vaccines, call vaccines “poisons,” think doctors and manufacturers (in collusion with the government) only promote vaccines to boost their incomes, and blame vaccines for all manner of adverse events. These vaccine denials must not be confused with vaccine skeptics, many of whom are intelligent, well-educated people who trust science but who have legitimate questions and concerns about one or more vaccine. Many of these concerns turn out to be myths promulgated by people who appear to be experts and who sound convincing but who are not reliable sources of information. It’s hard for laymen, and even for many doctors, to distinguish the trustworthy sources of information from the untrustworthy. Here are some short answers to some of the most common objections to vaccines. Read the article [here](#).

## Chiropractors: Pro and Con, [SkepDoc's Corner, Harriet Hall, June 1, 2017](#)

In a recent [article](#) in *The New York Times*, pediatrician Aaron Carroll asks us to rethink our biases against chiropractors when it comes to treating bad backs. He points out that lower back pain is a common problem that usually resolves over time, and that interventions that focus on relief of symptoms and allow the body to heal are ideal. He claims that spinal manipulation therapy (SMT) is as effective as medical therapies and as safe, if not safer.

There is a remarkable disconnect between compelling anecdotal evidence and controlled scientific studies. Chiropractors and patients are convinced that SMT works because they have *seen* it work. I have seen it work too. I watched a patient hobble painfully into the exam room, barely able to walk and complaining of excruciating pain. A few minutes later, after spinal manipulation by a physical therapist, he was standing tall, walking normally, and reporting complete relief of his pain. Yet when controlled scientific studies are done, they find little evidence of effectiveness. One study found that SMT was no more effective than giving the patient a pamphlet on back care. A Cochrane review found that SMT was no better than sham interventions. The most favorable systematic review found an improvement in pain, but only of about 10 points on a 100-point scale. So what’s going on here? Read the article [here](#).

“We must find ways to convey the beauty and mystery of science to more people. It is for this reason that Stephen Jay Gould, Isaac Asimov, Carl Sagan, Edward O. Wilson and Jacob Bronowski are among my personal heroes. Turning their back on comfortable scientific studies addressed to their colleagues, they turned instead to the public and shared with us their celebration of the human spirit embodied in science and reason. To quote Raymo again (*Skeptics and True Believers*, p. 252), their motto was: “If there be a skeptical star I was born under it, yet I have lived all my days in complete astonishment.” That should be *our* motto as well.” ~ Terry A. Smiljanich, TBS

## [CSICon is Returning to Las Vegas for 2017](#)

October 26-29, join luminaries such as James Randi, Richard Dawkins, Eugenie Scott, Richard Wiseman, Lawrence Krauss, and master of ceremonies George Hrab for *the biggest skeptics’ event of the year*, returning triumphantly to the Excalibur Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, the city of illusions. CSICon 2017 will be packed with fascinating talks and presentations, dazzling entertainment, and fun social events with fellow skeptics.

This October, get away from the fake news and conspiracy theories filling up your news feeds at CSICon 2017: Your alternative to alternative facts. Register/details: [http://bit.ly/2qTcf3j\\_CSICon2017\\_Registration](http://bit.ly/2qTcf3j_CSICon2017_Registration)

## Recommended Reading

Click on the book's [image](#) for more info

NEW ANSWERS TO OLD QUESTIONS

### Living the Secular Life

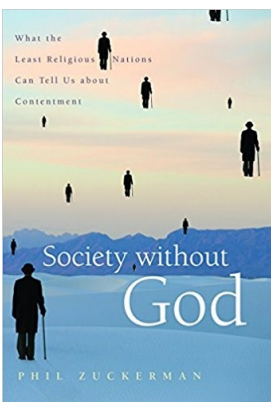
PHIL ZUCKERMAN

“As secularism becomes more prominent and self-confident, its spokesmen have more insistently argued that secularism should not be seen as an absence — as a lack of faith — but rather as a positive moral creed. Phil Zuckerman, a Pitzer College sociologist, makes this case as fluidly and pleasurably as anybody in his book, *Living the Secular Life*.”

—David Brooks, *The New York Times*

“*Society Without God*” offers a unique perspective on the active debate regarding the necessity of religion . . . By turning to one of the most secular societies in the world, Scandanavia, Phil Zuckerman offers an empirically grounded account of a successful society where people are happy and content and help their neighbors without believing in God. The book is fluently written and highly illuminating. It offers an accessible entry to important questions in the study of religion and secularism.”

—Michael Pagis, *Journal American Academy of Religion*



### WOMEN BEYOND BELIEF

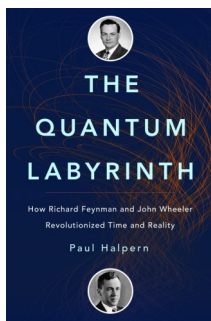
Discovering Life without Religion



Edited by Karen L. Gust, PhD

Women have made great strides toward equal rights over the past hundred years, especially in the West. But when considering the ongoing fight over reproductive rights and equal pay—and the prevalence of sexual violence and domestic abuse—it is clear that a significant gap still exists. With scripture often cited as justification for the marginalization of women, it is time to acknowledge that one of the final barriers to full equality for women is religion. But religion’s negative impact on women has been less studied and discussed. This book is a step toward changing that.

Let’s travel back in time to September 1939. WW II had just begun in Europe. The Wizard of Oz captivated moviegoers’ imaginations with its revolutionary cinematography, portraying mysterious lands where strange rules applied. At Princeton, another kind of magic was about to begin: a complete rethinking of time & reality, led by extraordinary physicists: John Wheeler & his student Richard Feynman. Their mission: rescue quantum physics from its mathematical contradictions & establish what are fundamental ingredients of the universe.



The Crafty Freethinker . . . Yorkshire lass born and bred, currently living in the Sunshine State. Maker of fine Secular Jewelry, and lifelong freethinker, my work can be seen by clicking on the image at left.



## The Matt Cooper Memorial Humanist Lending Library

Humanist Society members (only) can select the number of the book you wish to borrow, and send it to Marios Psomas at: [marios\\_psomas@hotmail.com](mailto:marios_psomas@hotmail.com) Then pick it up at the next meeting. **Be sure to return it!** Donations appreciated.

### # TITLE

1. The Expanding Circle
2. In Gods we Trust
3. Why Evolution is True
4. The Second World
5. Denialism
6. The Selfish Gene
7. Democracy Incorporated
8. The Upside Irrationality
9. The End of Growth
10. **The God Delusion**
11. All That We Share
12. Sex, Time, and Power
13. Sex at Dawn
14. What liberal Media
15. The End of Faith
16. **Plan B**
17. The Portable Atheist
18. Open Society
19. Non Believer Nation
20. God on Trial
21. Natural Experiments of History
22. The Missionary Position
23. Life Inc
24. **A brief History of Time**
25. Breaking the Spell
26. **The Philosophy of Humanism**
27. The Quotable Atheist
28. 50 Reasons People Believe In God.
29. Mathematics and Politics
30. Stealing Elections
31. The God Virus
32. What Every American Should Know About World Rossi
33. Imagine There’s no Heaven
34. Hidden Order
35. What the Dog Saw
36. Sway
37. The Better Angels of our Nature
38. Letter to a Young Contrarian
39. Hot, Flat, and Crowded
40. Gaming the Vote
41. Subversion Fable
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44. **Why People Believe Weird Things**
45. The World is Curved
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48. **How We Believe**
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52. Autobiography of Mark Twain
53. Science Friction
54. Genius
55. Inevitable Illusions
56. Demon Haunted World
57. Being Right Is Not Enough
58. Loser Takes All
59. Taking Back Politics
60. What Happened in Ohio?
61. Autobiography of Mark Twain
62. The Skeptics Annotated Bible
63. **12 Vol Complete Works**
64. On Religious Liberty
65. The God Makers
66. Inevitable Illusions
67. Ain’t Nobody’s business If You Do
69. Bonk
70. What Money Can’t Buy
71. Financial Shenanigans
72. Sex & God
73. Best American Non required Reading
74. Reporting at Wit’s End
75. Corporations are not People
76. Could I Vote Mormon for president?
77. Culture of Honor
78. Rot on the Vine
79. **Thoughts of a Freethinker**

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Nisbett – Cohen  
Stenesh

\* Essential works

Evolve Fish is a good source for freethought goodies: Pins, jewelry, posters, buttons, bumper stickers, t-shirts, etc. <http://evolvefish.com/>

To access more Freethought history & perspectives, you may wish to check out Frank Prah’s, Freethought Library. Contact [fpahl@verizon.net](mailto:fpahl@verizon.net)

# Atheists of Florida, Inc.



**Tracy Thomas, Chair - Al Hann, Pres, Judy Adkins, VP**

Join members of our Tampa chapter at our Headquarters / Recording Studio Building at 5103 So. Westshore, Tampa

See [AoF Meetup](http://aof.meetup.com) for details Website: <http://aof.ngo>

AoF is a comfortable & safe place in which to find rewarding new friendships, to discover hidden potentials, & make a positive contribution to your own humanity as well as that of others. We are pleased to offer legal assistance with church state separation issues as an important focus.

For many people, atheism represents the most focused & powerful criticism of the philosophical worldview with which most of us were raised. It is liberating for the same reason it attracts the enmity of those who are committed to the closed & changeless narrative of unexamined traditional beliefs. JP

## Time for Atheist History Month?

Despite being written out of large parts of history, atheists thrived in the polytheistic societies of the ancient world – raising considerable doubts about whether humans really are “wired” for religion – a study suggests. atheism – which is typically seen as a modern phenomenon – was not just common in ancient Greece and pre-Christian Rome, but probably flourished more in those societies than in most civilizations since. So how do we teach our friends and neighbors about the long standing existence of atheists in the community? How do we educate the community that atheists are not “devils”?

Find out and discuss what we can do on **Sunday, July 9, 2017** 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at Atheists of Florida Headquarters 5103 S West Shore Blvd, Tampa, Fl. **For information see our comprehensive web site:** <http://aof.ngo>

## St Pete Atheists // Freethought Group

Moderated by: Gary Thompson

Contact: [easy8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:easy8@tampabay.rr.com)

On the web: <http://atheists.meetup.com/209>

- \* Provide intellectual & emotional support to each other & to others in our community who share our philosophy.
- \* Foster humanistic moral values & ethical behaviors.
- \* Promote a naturalistic worldview wherein beliefs must be verified by a scientific examination of evidence.
- \* Defend the separation of church & state at all levels of government as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.
- \* "To Smell the Roses Along the Way"

Ever wonder what Florida Freethought groups are doing?



Now you can easily know. Atheists of Florida have a new freethought Calendar:

<http://AtheistsOfFloridaInc.org/calendar/>

## Be a Celebrant!

Do you like to help people celebrate milestones in their life? Do you want to help someone when they lose a friend or family member?

Consider becoming a celebrant. An atheist celebrant.

### An Atheist Celebrant?

An Atheist celebrant officiates and assists with a secular or civil ceremony, such as a wedding, a service to welcome new family members, coming-of-age rituals, end of life services, etc. Celebrants work with people to create a secular experience intended to be uniquely personalized, deep and loving, based on the person's personal philosophy, and not the celebrant's. A celebrant may have suggestions on how to approach the occasion, and if appropriate, the venue and setting, music, and textual sharing's.

### Why do we have rituals?

According to [The Journal of Cultural Anthropology](https://culanth.org/curated_collections/4-ritual) ([https://culanth.org/curated\\_collections/4-ritual](https://culanth.org/curated_collections/4-ritual))

*"Ritual is arguably a universal feature of human social existence: just as one cannot envision a society without language or exchange, one would be equally hard-pressed to imagine a society without ritual. And while the word "ritual" commonly brings to mind exoticized images of primitive others diligently engaged in mystical activities, one can find rituals, both sacred and secular, throughout "modern" society:...."*

According to the UNESCO webpage "[Social practices, rituals and festive events](https://ich.unesco.org/en/social-practices-rituals-and-00055)" (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/social-practices-rituals-and-00055>):

*Rituals "... are significant because they reaffirm the identity of those who practice them as a group or a society and, whether performed in public or private, are closely linked to important events...."*

### Want to be an Atheist Celebrant?

If you are interested in becoming an AOF celebrant, see: [celebrants.aof.ngo](http://celebrants.aof.ngo) or contact us at 478-227-5263.



AMERICAN  
ATHEISTS

Convention in Charleston, South Carolina  
August 19th to the 21st. 2017

[www.atheists.org](http://www.atheists.org)

Bonus! Total eclipse of the sun.

*Be there with friends.*

## Tampa Bay Thinkers



Discussing serious matters since 2008. Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, every 2nd Monday, monthly at 7 PM.

**July 10**

**Topic: A I - Can it be Controlled?**

See our Meetup site: [www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/](http://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-thinkers/) for more info.

## Humanist Families of Greater Tampa

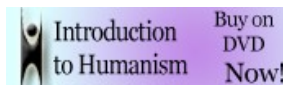
**Jennifer Hancock** started this organization several years ago. It uniquely serves Humanist families with a variety of wonderful programs throughout the year. There is a strong emphasis on creative childrearing. Here, you can make connection with other families dealing with the problems of living in a society that is still hostile to an explicitly Humanist Way of life. Jennifer is author of several books including: *The Humanist Handbook*, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, & her latest book, *The Bully Vaccine*.



Humanist Families organizes social outings every month. These are opportunities to do something fun, socialize & enjoy each other's company. Sometimes we go to a park, sometimes a museum, sometimes we go swimming. Our group has grown over the past year to the point we now organize Tampa area outings & Manatee/Sarasota area outings every month.

Throughout the year we host parties like Darwin Day in February, World Humanist Day in June, Freethought Day at Disney in October & Carl Sagan Day in November. Among our spin off groups, is a Parenting Beyond Belief group which gets together to discuss the challenges of raising children without religion. We are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).

See more at: <http://www.Jen-Hancock.com>.



## The Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers



The **MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH)** community was created for atheist & secular humanist military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, their families & retired military residing in the Tampa Bay area. MASH provides a valuable & much needed resource in which you will find common ground to socialize, discuss issues, & draw emotional support from like-minded members.

**Local Contact:** Chris  
( [christbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:christbrown@yahoo.com) )  
MSgt, USAF (Retired)

Co-Organizer:  
**MacDill Atheists & Secular Humanists (MASH) MacDill AFB**

On the web at: [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info)



## USF Freethinkers

Join [Freethinkers@USF](mailto:Freethinkers@USF) for genuine, conversational discourse & a communal atmosphere.

Freethinkers@USF is a cosmopolitan collective of USF students promoting critical thinking & pluralism through dialogue & reasonable inquiry. Join the official group & vote on upcoming discussions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreethinkersUSF/>



## Tampa Bay Computer Society & Doc's Café



*We repair member's computers Free!*

Lectures, discussions, & hands-on demonstrations of the humane use of technology. 300 S Duncan Ave Suite 275, Clearwater, FL 33755. [Map](#)

Check out *Doc's Café* to discuss serious ideas & issues.

Find us at:  
[www.tampa-bay.org](http://www.tampa-bay.org)

## Humanistic Judaism



### of Tampa Bay

Meets monthly,  
usually at a local library  
Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library  
2902 W Bearss Ave, Tampa, FL 33618

Visit their [Meetup](#)  
or [email to Jeff Lipkes](#)



The mission of the [Secular Coalition](#) is to increase the visibility of & respect for non-theistic view-points in the State, & to protect & strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

**Bill Norsworthy**, is our Florida representative.

Please sign up [here](#).

Volunteer activists are wanted, needed, & appreciated!

See page 7 for more information on our Secular Coalition activities around the National day of Reason. SC wants **you** to represent the voice of thousands of the people of reason in the halls of power.

As our government undergoes its quadrennial crises of morphology, the secular coalition is needed to remind citizens & officials alike that ours is indeed a secular society. But to preserve its character from the predations of zealots requires your involvement.



## ACLU of Greater Tampa Bay

In the wake of the 2016 outbreak of toxic algae in the St. Lucie River and Estuary and along Florida's Treasure Coast, the ACLU of Florida was asked by members in the region and several environmental organizations to investigate the state's record of transparency with regard to the dissemination of information about the potential grave danger to the public health posed by the algae flow. Specific concern was expressed about the state's performance in delivering needed information evenly to all citizens in affected areas, and whether the state understate scientific evidence of dangers to public health.

The following report was researched with the help of local residents, scientists, media sources, and those state employees who cooperated with an ACLU of Florida investigator.

[DOWNLOAD REPORT](#)



<http://instituteforscienceandhumanvalues.com/index.htm>

It is a gross mischaracterization of the wide latitude of freedoms that houses of worship enjoy in the United States to claim that their rights of free speech are being abrogated by the Johnson Amendment. These claims mask the more sinister intentions to channel money directly into political campaigns to influence elections. In 2016, Rev. Jerry Falwell, Jr. was quoted in the New York Times saying that repealing the Johnson Amendment would “*create a huge revolution for conservative Christians and for free speech.*” It is simply false to claim that churches and other houses of worship cannot engage in political speech or that pastors as individuals are unfairly fettered. Houses of worship can engage in political speech, and clergy are free to speak their mind in their personal capacity. The limit on 501(c)(3) organizations, including houses of worship, pertains only to abstaining from endorsing or opposing candidates in political campaigns. [More](#)



Toni Van Pelt

**Toni** is currently engaged in a campaign for the presidency of the National Organization for Women. We have always been impressed by what an extraordinarily accomplished person she is, and by the critical values and essential skills she has used to further her Humanist aspirations. We wish her the best of the luck she very much deserves.

JP



Clearwater, Florida

## UU Humanists of Clearwater

Usually every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12:30

We are a group of Unitarian Universalists committed to a humanistic & non-theistic worldview. Meetings are scheduled once a month & are usually held on the third Sunday of most months from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, after UU services.



## A Humanist Discussion group in East Tampa !

### UU Humanists of Tampa

Public Discussion, 2nd Wednesday eve from 7 -9 PM, & on the 4th Sunday Morning 9:45 - 10:45.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa  
11400 Morris Bridge Rd. Tampa, FL 33637

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# Tampa Bay CoR

TAMPA BAY COALITION OF REASON



## The Secular Academy

The Secular Academy has new online classes at [SecularActivism.Org](http://SecularActivism.Org)

Dr. Richard Carrier's one-month course on [Moral Reasoning from Theory to Practice](#) is offered during June – \$69.

Dr. Jon Mills' new one-month course on [Inventing God: The Psychology of Belief](#) is offered during June – \$69.

Classes at [SecularActivism.Org](http://SecularActivism.Org) are accessible online 24/7, so you can participate at any hour of the day when you have some time. There's nothing 'live' to be missed, and you aren't using video, just text-based forums. Instructors respond individually to all questions and love extended conversations.

-- The Secular Academy is a project of Partners for Secular Activism, a 501c3 nonprofit educational organization started in 2014 by John Shook, PhD. For several years Dr. Shook worked with the founder of secular humanism, Paul Kurtz, to develop online education for the growing secular community. Take a look at his new book on [science's epic victory over religious ignorance](#).

Know someone interested in earning a master's degree? The 'Science and the Public' program from the University at Buffalo, NY, is a part-time and completely online Masters of Education degree. This is America's only entirely online program for the secular promotion of science and science-based policy - [gse.buffalo.edu/online/science](http://gse.buffalo.edu/online/science)

## Promoting Action & Unity in the Tampa Bay Area

Join the Freethought Organizations of the Tampa Bay Area: groups that promote serious secular discussion & activity about important issues in our area & beyond.

Substantive & exciting new activities are now offered to the Tampa Bay area that were not possible for most organizations before.

Every year we sponsor events as Darwin Day in February, Solstice day in December, and other activities all year long.

We are especially grateful to the national office of the United Coalition of Reason & its director, **Jason Heap**.

You may recall that UCoR was the major impetus to getting a large number of billboards erected in Tampa Bay & across the nation with such messages as "You can be good without God. Millions are!"

*TBCoR is an alliance of groups identified with the secular / freethought / Humanist / Atheist movement.*

As this momentum continues to grow, we will keep you informed of developments .  
JP

**Contact: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)**  
**Or see, <http://tampabaycor.net/>**  
**Or, <https://unitedcor.org/coalition-of-reason/tampa-bay/>**



October 20th of this year will mark the beginning of the statewide Florida Humanist Conference in Orlando. Your TB-CoR will be an exhibitor there and we expect to see a goodly contingent from our area. The event features an long list of outstanding and exciting speakers, and three (3) comedy acts! For more information and to register for the conference, go to: [www.freeflo.org/](http://www.freeflo.org/)

Register by July 31 for Early Bird prices.



Toni Van Pelt,  
ISHV



Bill Norsworthy,  
UUCH



Mark Brandt,  
UUCH



Chris Brown,  
MAF



Jenn Hancock,  
GTBHF



Rick O'Keefe,  
CFI, TBS



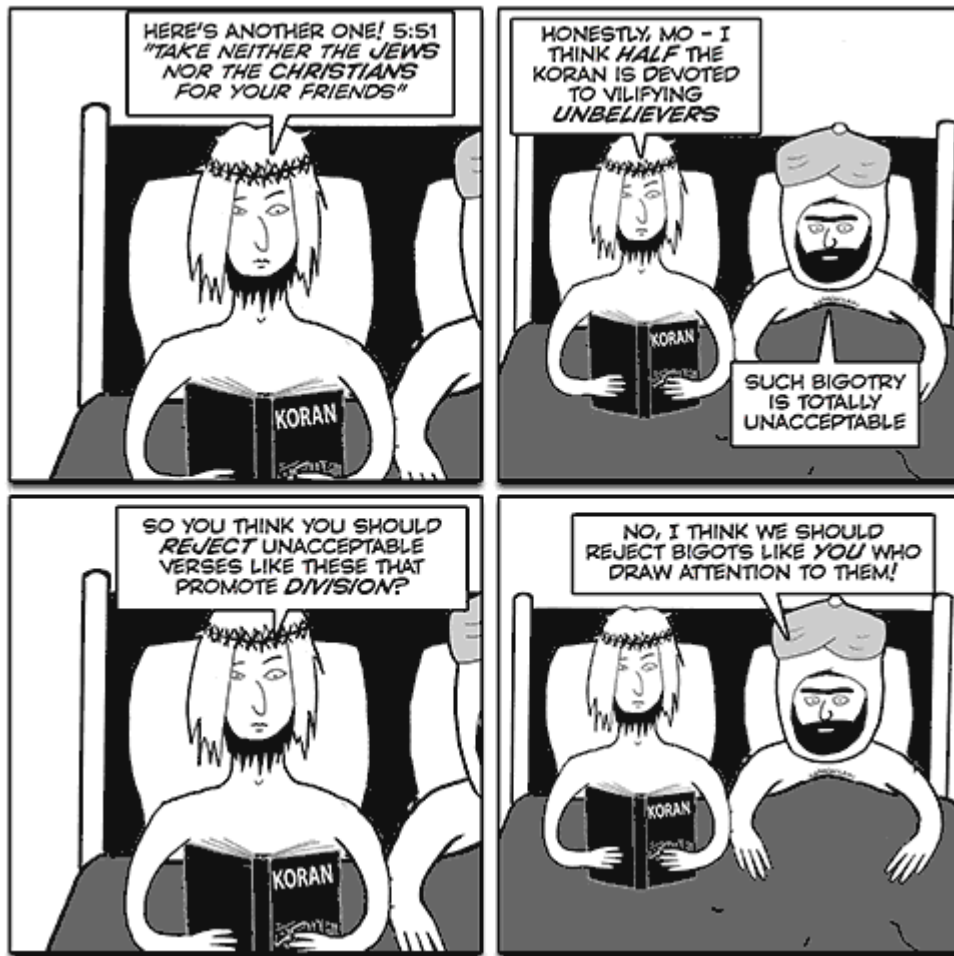
Jim Peterson,  
HSS, TBPC



Al Hann  
AoF

### TBCoR Leadership Team 2017

Editorial E-Mail: [tbcor@metrodirect.net](mailto:tbcor@metrodirect.net)



© Jesusandmo.net



Humanistic studies is a multi-disciplinary human science for which humanist values are a source of inspiration. It combines insights gained from philosophy, psychology, sociology, religious and cultural sciences, theory of science and methodology.

Humanistic Studies explores how people respond to existential issues. What makes life worth living? What is the meaning of happiness and prosperity? Which moral and ethical choices are open to us? How do we cope with suffering and sorrow?

Humanistic Studies furthermore explores important contemporary social, political and ethical issues. What does a pluralist society entail? How can we define quality of care and education? How can we pursue sustainable development? How can human rights be guaranteed?

**UVH is a university in Utrecht, Netherlands specialized in the Humanist tradition of the west. See [More](#).**

## The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc.

(SPAC), has been meeting continuously since 1927. It was incorporated in 1979 as a nonprofit, tax deductible organization.

For almost 50 years SPAC has provided free educational programs for its members & the public. For additional information send your emails to:

[spaceaminer@gmail.com](mailto:spaceaminer@gmail.com)

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday of each month (except November & December when it is on the third Friday) at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL, at 8:00 P.M. Meetings are open to the public. [Calendar](#)



**François Arago**, the first to show in 1810 that the surface of the Sun and stars is made of incandescent gas and not solid or liquid, was a prominent physicist of the 19th century. He used his considerable influence to help Fresnel, Ampere and others develop their ideas and make themselves known.

He made many personal contributions to physics, astronomy, geodesy and oceanography, Arago was also an important and influential political man who, for example, abolished slavery in the French colonies. As a humanist, he had very broad cultural interests on a wide range of subjects.

## M.A.R.S. – Tampa Astronomy Club

Welcome to the [Museum Astronomical Resource Society](#), also known as the M.A.R.S. astronomy club. M.A.R.S. is sponsored by the [Museum of Science & Industry \(MOSI\)](#), in Tampa, Florida. We are also members of both the [Astronomical League & Night Sky Network](#). This site provides club news & astronomical information to our membership & to the public.

There's only one thing the people of M.A.R.S. enjoy more than observing the heavens... that's sharing it with others! Whether you are new to astronomy & curious about how to experience it, or a seasoned veteran looking for an active club to spend observation time with. We invite you to attend a meetings as our honored guest.

Monthly meetings are normally held on the 3rd floor of MOSI in the Science Works Theater, & take place on the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Meetings are free & open to the public.

**Details & RSVP:**

<https://www.meetup.com/MARS-astronomy-club-at-MOSI/>



## Assistance for homeless people.

**Your help is sought** for a new project in which all freethought organizations can contribute to relieve a particularly important need for homeless people; the necessity for personal cleansing and oral hygiene products. Almost everyone who goes for tooth cleaning receives a “goody” bag with typically; a toothbrush, paste, and flosser in it. But since most of us usually buy our preferred brand of such things, we just put the bag in the closet. Likewise, when staying in a hotel, every room gets more soaps and cleansers than we can use. Grab the surplus and bring them home. Also, there is a need for feminine hygiene products, deodorant, surplus reading glasses, and a variety of other common, unused, non-prescription products.

You can help! **Atheists of Florida** is leading a campaign that involves all TB-CoR organizations, to gather and distribute these items through police departments, soup kitchens, and other non-religious venues to those in need.



Do you have hotel size **soaps, body wash** and **shampoos** you don't need? We cannot use big bars of soap or shampoo, and none that have been opened.



How about **toothbrushes** and **toothpastes** from your dentist? (they don't have to be as small as the one in the picture. Again, they must not have been opened.)

Other items of personal hygiene can be included.

Just bring any of these items to your next meeting (any meeting will do, it will get to us.) Group leaders will see to it that these items will get to the place they will do the most good. Don't have any of these but want to help? Just give the head of the group a **\$1** to help provide one homeless person with some personal hygiene products.

Your participation can also involve serving as liaison person for your group.

And, you can go to [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and buy items cheap in larger quantity, and have it shipped to you. Bring them in, then encourage others to participate.

This is a wonderful opportunity the true spirit of social responsibility that secularists have at every level. For more details, write: [helping@aof.ngo](mailto:helping@aof.ngo).

In all ways...

## The Secular Life begins with care for the Human Person



## Tampa Bay Coalition of Reason – July 2017 Calendar



This is produced from preliminary information. *Check the individual Web sites to insure the event is being held, when & where ....* We are not liable for changes, errors, or omissions. Compiled by Rick O'Keefe & Jim Peterson.  
Your **RSVP** is requested, & often is required for admittance. *Meeting planners need this information.*  
**Check for more events + details on the Coalition of Reason Web site at: <http://www.tampabaycor.org/>**



2nd Sunday, 2 PM	BRANDON–CFI Sunday Freethought Social	Skeptical interests with critical thinkers. Click to <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	             
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Atheists of Florida, Inc.	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup">http://bit.ly/AOF-Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	S TAMPA– Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc..	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup">http://bit.ly/TampaBaySkeptics-Meetup</a>	
1st Saturday, 2 PM	DUNEDIN– Humanist Soc. of the Suncoast	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists">http://bit.ly/Suncoast-Humanists</a>	
3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM	E. CLEARWATER– UU Clearwater Humanists	Details: <a href="http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists">http://bit.ly/UUC-Humanists</a>	
TBA – various activities at MOSI	E. TAMPA– Museum Astronomical Resource Society (MARS) at MOSI	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi">http://bit.ly/1Psc2Pi</a> Other events: <a href="http://bit.ly/MARS-home">http://bit.ly/MARS-home</a>	
TBA - numerous events—this semester	E. TAMPA– Humanities Institute at USF	See <a href="#">Web site</a> for full listing of many events & calendar. <a href="http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities">http://bit.ly/USF-Humanities</a> Locations vary! <b>Page 11.</b>	
4th Monday, 6 PM	N. PINELLAS AREA– CFI Freethought Supper	<b>RSVP is required.</b> Seating is limited to 25! <i>For CFI &amp; TBS paid members.</i> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
3rd Saturday, 11 AM	NE TAMPA – Tampa Humanist Assoc.	Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists">http://bit.ly/TPA-Humanists</a>	
4th Saturday, 10:30 AM;	NW HILLSBOROUGH– CFI Readers Book Discussion	Limited to <i>10 paid-up CFI members.</i> <b>RSVP is required. Must have read the book under discussion to attend.</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
3rd Monday, 7 PM	NW HILLSBOROUGH– Tampa Bay Thinkers	Lively discussions. <b>RSVP</b> here: <a href="http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers">http://bit.ly/TPA-Bay_Thinkers</a>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 PM general meeting. Many more events monthly.	ST. PETERSBURG– Astronomy Club	For several dates, locations, & details: <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Home</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar">http://bit.ly/StPete-Astronomy-Calendar</a>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday plus various other times/venues	TAMPA BAY REGION– Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay	Details & <b>RSVP</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup">http://bit.ly/CFI-TB_Meetup</a>	
TBA – various activities	TAMPA BAY REGION– Humanist Families	<b>RSVP</b> here: Family outings & other activities. Details & <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN">http://bit.ly/1Ps9MaN</a>	

**2018 Freethought Cruise With Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker**

<https://freethoughtcruise.wordpress.com/> Lvs. Port Canaveral March 3-7, 2018

